



RIGHTS



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Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (C) cuts a ribbon in Dodoma yesterday to inaugurate a policy and law public education programme. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Nida: 3 million people have not yet re-registered their SIM cards

Biometric registration is meant to get rid of dishonest SIM card users and registration agents who harbor malicious intentions, including committing crimes

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) said yesterday that about three million people with National Identification Numbers (NIN) have not registered their phones, with only 17 days remaining before the December 31 deadline for biometric registration of mobile telephone lines.

TCRA Director General James Kilaba told journalists that the said number of people own 5,599,610 biometrically unregistered telephone lines.

Kilaba said out of the over 47 million telephone lines in the country which are

owned by 21.1 million people, 19,681 million lines owned by 7.6 million people have been biometrically registered.

"The small number of those registered is a result of lack of knowledge on how to register themselves with the National Identification Authority (NIDA) and get a national ID," he said.

He called upon people who have registered with NIDA and have not been given their IDs to send a text message to 15096 and write their first name, second name, date of birth, month and year.

Back in April President John Magufuli during a Mbeya region tour asked TCRA

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Former PM elected president of Algeria

ALGIERS

FORMER Algerian Prime Minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune (pictured) has been elected president in a vote marred by protests.

The 74-year-old succeeds Abdelaziz Bouteflika, who was forced to resign in April after two decades in power.

Tebboune took 58 per cent of the votes in Thursday's election, on the basis of

figures released by the country's electoral commission.

Tebboune and the four other candidates were criticised for being closely linked with the former president Bouteflika, who stepped down following interminable massive demonstrations.

Anti-government rallies have continued, however, with protesters demanding the sweeping away of the entire political establishment.

Thousands of people took to the streets of the capital, Algiers, on Thursday to protest against the election.

Tebboune served as housing minister under President Bouteflika and then had a brief spell as prime minister.

Electoral officials say about nine million people voted - a turnout of about 40 per cent.

"The turnout is satisfying and it will give the new president enough backing to implement his reforms," said Ahmed Mizab, a commentator on state television.

Tanzania, Kenya to coordinate efforts in economic diplomacy

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA and Kenya have promised to continue cooperating in ensuring their countries' development and strengthening economic diplomacy.

Giving a speech to mark the 56th anniversary of Kenya's independence, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi said Tanzania and Kenya are like brothers and will continue to cooperate to see economic diplomacy is strengthened at all times.

"We - Tanzania and Kenya are blood brothers hence we wish you well in bringing development to Kenya. But you must also know that Kenya's development means Tanzania's development."



I would like to say that the unity and solidarity has spurred development among the two countries. We must remember that unity is strength and our goal is to cooperate between us and with all the nations in the world

Prof Kabudi said, noting that developments recorded in the two countries will also benefit neighbouring Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, the broader East African Community (EAC).

In return, High Commissioner Dan Kazungu commended Tanzanian authorities for the unity and solidarity it has shown to Kenya which has been a stimulus for the development of the two countries.

He said: "I would like to say that the unity and solidarity has spurred development among the two countries. We must remember that unity is strength and our goal is to cooperate between us and with all the nations in the world."

Kazungu stated that Tanzania will continue to be special to Kenya owing to the solidarity it has been

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Germany gives UN 57bn/- for DRC, Burundi refugees

By Guardian Reporter

GERMANY is providing euros 22.5m (more than 57bn/-) to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in support of Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) refugees hosted in Tanzania.

UNHCR said in a statement yesterday that the funding will support refugee programmes in the country as Tanzania hosts refugees mainly from DRC and Burundi residing in three camps in Kigoma region.

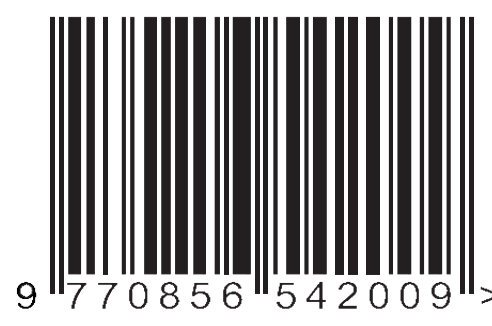


"This funding from the Federal Republic of Germany comes at a very critical time when we need to step up our support for refugees and the host communities in the three refugee camps in Kigoma," said Chansa Kapaya, UNHCR Representative to Tanzania.

"I am very grateful to the Government and the people of Germany for their unwavering support for refugees hosted in Tanzania," he said.

She said the funds will enable UNHCR continue to support the Government of Tanzania in its

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Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) director general Dr Amos Nungu (L) and Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology deputy principal Dr Najat Mohammed, signing an MoU in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the implementation of a project relating to the development of a National Biodiversity Data Portal. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Nida: 3 million people have not yet re-registered their SIM cards

FROM PAGE 1

and NIDA to work on the challenges that have emerged during the exercise to ensure everyone registers.

Early this year, the government directed that SIM card holders must be registered biometrically, with biometrics increasingly being used as a "know your customer" tool for keeping fraudsters out of the customer base, particularly for telecoms.

In March last year TCRA launched a pilot project to register Sim cards using the technology in an exercise conducted in Zanzibar and Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Coast, Singida, Tanga and Iringa regions.

Biometric registration is meant to get rid of dishonest Sim card users and registration agents who harbor malicious intentions, including committing crimes.

In September, telecom service providers decried the low turn up of phone users, saying this arises from

slow issuance of national identity cards by NIDA.

The Tanzania Mobile Network Operators (TAMNOA) in collaboration with TCRA launched a biometric registration campaign in a bid to ensure that no one is left unregistered ahead of the 31st December deadline.

Home Affairs Minister Kangi Lugola declared in the National Assembly last month that no simcard will be switched off for lack of biometric registration on the basis of a national identity card or number, saying the exercise will be a continuing process.



The small number of those registered is a result of lack of knowledge on how to register themselves with the NIDA and get a national ID

Germany gives UN 57bn/- for DRC, Burundi refugees

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obligations as an asylum country to ensure that refugees have the basic and essential services such as shelter, education, healthcare, sanitation and hygiene.

The monies will also be spent for the prevention sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

It is envisioned that the generous contribution of the German government will also be used to support refugee access to alternative energy sources and to support environmental initiatives in the refugee hosting region, the UN agency noted.

Jörg Herrera, Chargé d'Affaires of Germany in Tanzania said his country was happy and proud to support UNHCR in its invaluable work to meet the needs of refugees from Burundi and the DRC hosted in refugee camps in Western Tanzania.

"At the same time we commend Tanzania for its tremendous effort in

receiving and providing shelter for refugees from these two neighboring countries for many years."

Germany has been steadfast in its partnership with UNHCR and since 2017 it has contributed some 39.2 million euros in support of families forced to flee from their homes in Burundi and the DRC.

With limited opportunities to earn a living, refugees in Tanzania are almost totally dependent on humanitarian assistance. More funding is thus required to meet the ever-growing needs.

Currently, UNHCR operations in Tanzania require \$126 million and with this contribution from Germany only just over a third of that figure is available, agency officials affirmed.

Tanzania currently hosts approximately 278,000 refugees and asylum seekers from the two countries. About 85 per cent of them live in the three refugee camps in Kigoma region where this assistance is directed.

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showing to Kenya socially, politically and economically.

"It is remembered that in April this year when the two Heads of State met in Arusha we succeeded to remove 25 trade obstacles out of 37, and this proves how Tanzania and Kenya are brotherly nations who are bent on strengthening trade between them," he elaborated.

Kenya accounted for 15 of the non-tariff barriers while Tanzania's share

Tanzania, Kenya to coordinate efforts in economic diplomacy

stood at 22.

Official data show that Kenyan exports to Tanzania dropped to a 10-year low of Kenya Shillings 28.5 billion in 2017, but reversed to Sh29.7 billion in 2018. Kenya sold goods worth Sh42.7

billion to Tanzania in 2014.

Imports from Tanzania to Kenya rose from 12.8bn/- in 2016 to 17.8bn/- last year, narrowing the trade gap between the two nations.

Under the terms of the East Africa

Common Market, free movement of goods, people, labour, services and capital within member countries is supposed to be observed for citizens of the member states or businesses registered in any of the partner states.

Famine stalking millions in South Sudan, says UN

JUBA

THE United Nations World Food Programme has said it needs \$270 million to feed hungry 5.5 million people in South Sudan, where droughts and flooding have destroyed crops and livestock.

According to the UN, the \$270 million will feed hungry South Sudanese in the first half of 2020 and avert mass starvation in the world's youngest country.

"Every factor is in place for there to be famine in 2020 unless we take immediate action to expand our deliveries in areas affected by floods and others affected by food loss", said Matthew Hollingworth, the programme's country director.

"We need to pre-position food around the country in the next two to three months", he noted.

Hollingworth said road access to many remote communities would be impossible after the rain season sets in. The government declared a state of emergency in late October in Bahr El Ghazal, Greater Upper Nile and Greater Equatoria after months of flooding, the programme said.

Nearly 1 million people are directly affected by the floods and the water has not receded in many places, it said.

"The scale of the loss from the

harvest is enormous", Hollingworth said from Juba.

Fields with 73,000 tonnes of sorghum, millet and corn have been lost, as well as tens of thousands of cattle, chickens and goats on which families depended for survival, he said.

Acute malnutrition rates in children under the age of 5 have raised from 13 per cent in 2018 to 16 per cent this year, Mr Hollingworth said.

"They have gone above the global emergency threshold of 15 per cent", he said.

Water-borne diseases are spreading, although cholera has not been detected.

"It can only get worse because of the situation and environment people are living in", Hollingworth said.

Civil war broke out in oil-producing South Sudan in 2013, less than two years after the country gained independence from Sudan following decades of war.

The conflict that killed an estimated 400,000 people and forced millions from their homes.

Inter-communal fighting still occurs in pockets hit by the flooding, Mr Hollingworth said.

"Hunger and desperation bring instability when resources are stretched to the extent that makes an already unstable situation much worse", he said.



Dr John Jingu, Permanent Secretary in the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry, addresses members of faculty from various colleges at a workshop on 'Early Childhood Development Through Folk Development Colleges' held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

KAMPALA

Border tension: Uganda, Rwanda officials to meet in Kampala today

A meeting between Uganda and Rwanda that should have taken place on October 17 as a follow up to the September 16 one in Kigali to ease tension between the neighbouring countries is scheduled to take place today.

"Uganda and Rwanda will tomorrow (Friday) hold a follow-up meeting at Speke Resort Munyonyo to the

one held in Kigali in September to concretize the issues in the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Luanda, Angola in Aug 2019," Uganda government spokesperson, Ofwono Opondo tweeted on Thursday before he added that the meeting will be attended by the delegations from Angola and DR Congo who are the facilitators to the Luanda MoU.

According to Opondo, all delegations have confirmed their participation through Uganda's Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Following mediation by Angola's President Joao Lourenco and a first meeting in Kigali where top government officials from both sides spent half a day locked in talks negotiating a path to normal

diplomatic relations, Uganda agreed to organise the second meeting within 30 days, which elapsed on October 17 before it was postponed.

The meetings are meant to fast-track the implementation of an agreement signed in August by both President Paul Kagame and President Museveni in Angola, to end two-year long hostilities between the neighbours.

Key on the agenda for the Kampala meeting is further discussions on the reopening of the two East African nations' common border for goods and people.

The border has been closed since late February, and Rwanda stopped its citizens from crossing into Uganda and restricted the entry of Ugandan goods into the country.

Business community and communities in both countries have suffered effects of the impasse over the border closure.

Ugandan exporters are desperate to access their Rwandan and Burundian markets, while Rwandan markets have run out of stock of popular Ugandan products especially beverages and foodstuffs, cement and consumables, with no adequate or in certain cases expensive alternatives.



Former National Assembly Speaker Anne Makinda (3rd-L) presents a National Health Insurance Fund membership card to a Dodoma resident yesterday at a sensitisation meeting in Chemba District meant to mobilise people to join the Fund. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

JICA reiterates continued readiness to lend support to rice sector in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

JAPAN International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has reiterated its commitment to continue supporting Tanzania's rice sector as the country is set to launch the National Rice Development Strategy Phase II" (NRDS II) next week.

According to FAOSTAT (UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's statistics) in 2017, Tanzania was the 4th largest rice producer in the African continent, producing 2.87 million tonnes per year after Nigeria (9.86 million tonnes), Egypt (6.38 million tonnes), and Madagascar (3.1 million tonnes).

A statement from JICA availed to the media yesterday stated that "On 16th December 2019, the "National Rice Development Strategy Phase II" (NRDS II) will be launched by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Dodoma. JICA has supported the government's initiative through direct and indirect technical and financial supports."

The national strategy aims to double the area under rice cultivation from 1.1 million ha (2018) to 2.2 million ha by 2030; double the on-farm rice productivity from 2.0 t/ha to 4.0 t/ha by 2030, and reduce the post-harvest losses from 30 percent to 10 percent by 2030.

"JICA's support to NRDS II is in line with the African regional initiative called the "Coalition for African Rice Development" (CARD) launched at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 2008. During the 10 years of implementing the CARD Initiative, rice production in sub-Saharan Africa doubled from 14 million tonnes to 28 million tonnes in 2018," read part of the statement.

Successful achievement of CARD led to launching of CARD phase II at TICAD7 which was held in Yokohama, Japan, in the end of August 2019, together with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). CARD 2

aims at doubling the rice production in sub-Saharan African countries from the 28 million tonnes of 2018 to 56 million tonnes by 2030. Tanzania, through NRDS II, will be one of the most significant contributors to achieve that African regional goal in 2030.

Since the 1970s, MoA and JICA have jointly contributed to improving rice cultivation technology and irrigation development. The cooperation started from Kilimanjaro Region and then expanded to the entire country. Over 100 irrigation schemes (adding 20,000 ha) across Tanzania have been rehabilitated and/or constructed through the "Small Scale Irrigation Development Project" (SSIDP; ODA Loan project) since 2013. Additionally, a series of technical cooperation projects have over the years facilitated sustainable development in the rice sector.

Currently, trained irrigation engineers, officers and Irrigators' Organisations (IOs) engage in the appropriate management of formulation, construction, operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities according to Comprehensive Guidelines (CGL) through the "Project for Capacity Development for the Promotion of Irrigation Scheme Development under DADPs phase 2" (TANCAID2; Technical Cooperation) since 2014.

Above 43,000 farmers in more than 200 areas participated in rice farming training conducted by the "Project for Supporting Rice Industry Development in Tanzania" (TANRICE2; Technical Cooperation) since 2012. Those farmers are field-demonstrators of the rice farming technologies achieving about 40 percent production increase, of taking Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB)'s loans to rehabilitate the irrigation facilities by their self-help efforts, and/or by investing in agricultural machinery, such as combine harvesters, rice milling machines, or tractors.

Prematurity leading cause of deaths among children under five - experts

By Henry Mwangonde

Out of the 2 million children born every year in the country, 200,000 are born prematurely with the number adding up 40-percent of those who die a month after birth.

Speaking when addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam a pediatrician with the Agakhan Hospital Yasser Abdallah said 10-percent of children are born before reaching 37 weeks.

"The number of premature births

contributes to a large extent the number of children who die before reaching one year," he said.

Dr Abdallah said those who live after births are at risk of contracting various diseases as well as disabilities.

"At the Agakhan we usually have at least 10 percent of cases where children are born with one and a half kilogramme, with about 70 to 100 children every year," he said.

He however said their progress is positive because 95 percent of them

survive and only five percent die.

He said most of them die due to various challenges after death saying as experts they are looking at how they can reverse the situation in collaboration with other hospitals.

The Head of Pediatric department at Agakhan Hospital Mariam Noorani said about 100 to 150 children are born at the hospital every year.

Newborns are perhaps the most

vulnerable population the world over. Preterm or babies born too early, less than 37 weeks gestation, are particularly at risk.

Currently, prematurity is the leading cause of death among children under five around the world, and a leading cause of disability and ill health later in life.

There are approximately 9500 premature infants who die annually in Tanzania which equates to approximately one per hour.



Abbas Abdulrahman (L), Tigo's territory manager in the southern highlands zone, presents a dummy cheque for 5m/- to Iringa resident Desteria Malole after she emerged a winner in the firm's ongoing year-end raffle dubbed 'Kishindo cha Funga Mwaka' raffle. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania to filter 'Human Rights' issues

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

Tanzania is committed in assuring that its citizens enjoy economic, social and cultural rights, however there are some 'rights' that will not be condoned in the country since they go against cultural and traditional values, it was revealed here.

Opening the National Human Rights Dialogue in Arusha, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Minister, Dr Augustine Mahiga, said not everything which is spelled as 'Human Rights' actually translate into such, because there are some issues applicable only in western countries but can translate into horrid things when forced onto Tanzanian culture.

Dr Mahiga insisted that, the country was on the 'right tracks' in the applicability and realisation of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, that entail among other issues, the right to health, education, good governance, social well-being, freedom of expression, movement and entertainment.

"Tanzania rolled out free basic education from primary to secondary level of education, but it has not ended there it has also ensured that students joining higher institutions of learning are provided with

loans to see them through their semesters," explained Mahiga.

The National Human Rights Dialogue was organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in partnership with the Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (TCHRAGG). The CHRAGG chairman, Mathew Mwaimu said for any country to forge ahead, culturally and economically, it is important for its people to enjoy all rights vital to their survival and productivity.

"Tanzania is the only country in Africa with the National Health Insurance Coverage scheme for all its residents," pointed out Mwaimu, adding that there are many ways in which the fifth phase government can be lauded for the realisation of basic human rights for the citizens.

Meanwhile, Godfrey Mulisa, who represented the Resident UNDP representative in Tanzania stated that, decentralised governance, freedom of the media and speech were vital components in realising human rights in any country.

James Mbatia, Member of Parliament with the opposition NCCR-Mageuzi party, presented a paper on the 'Right to free education, and how Tanzania is striving to

accomplish this endeavour.

Dr Ayub Rioba, the managing director of the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation moderated the opening session which was graced by the Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) Richard Kwitega.

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Duties and Responsibilities:-

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- Prepare and submit documentation for legal action to be taken by the Company against defaulting tenants
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Morogoro

Heavy rains destroy over 200 acres of farmland in Monduli

By Correspondent Wankyo Gati, Monduli

MORE than 200 acres of various crops have been destroyed by heavy rains that continue to pound in Mbaash village, Selela ward in Monduli District, Arusha Region.

Monduli District Commissioner, Idd Hassan Kimanta said the area has about 480 acres under cultivation but now large swathes have been flooded, the situation that has made their lives difficult.

This was said yesterday by DC Kimanta after visiting some of the flooded areas and added that the government in the district is already taking emergency measures to control the situation including evaluating how to divert the flooded water to save other farms.

He noted that measures include restoring communications between areas not under floods.

He said the rains that were still pounding in Arusha Region have caused extensive devastation to road infrastructure which is the main lifeline from Loliondo to Arusha City.

Acting Manager of Tanzania Rural Roads Agency (TARURA) from Monduli District Council, Eng Janeth Erasto Mhokera said due to rains the agency has embarked on deliberate steps to restore communication services in the villages, adding they have been working together with villagers to divert flooded water so as to salvage other cultivated area from floods.

She added that road contractors have also been working round the clock to repair all damaged sections of the roads.

Meanwhile, Selela Ward Secretary, Emmanueli Nitalani said the destruction of crops from the rains is extensive, the situation that has left farmers desperate.

Bibie Elikaa and Mollel Laizer, both farmers from Engaruka Ward said apart from destroyed road infrastructure, the rains also swept away many acres of their farms, the situation that immerses them deep into poverty.

The duo also asked the government to provide them with maize which they can buy at affordable prices and assist them in salvaging their crops.

They have also asked the government to provide them with seeds so that they can replant their farms with fresh crops especially at the moment when the rains are still falling.



The duo also asked the government to provide them with maize which they can buy at affordable prices and assist them in salvaging their crops



Passengers on a Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport bus destined for Kimara wait for an alternative one at Magomeni Kagera yesterday after the one they had boarded broke down. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

UNICEF to help 59 million children in emergencies in 2020

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will next year support children in countries with protracted conflicts, climate related extreme weather events, natural disasters and health emergencies that affect entire generations of children.

According to the organisation, the number of countries experiencing conflict is at its highest point since the

adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

Children have become frontline targets, resulting in death, serious injury and lasting trauma. Humanitarian emergencies also deprive children of health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and other basic needs.

Humanitarian Action for Children 2020 underscores the urgency of protecting children in crisis from all such threats to their lives, well-being

and dignity.

Innovative and cost-effective initiatives such as community-based education provide alternative learning opportunities for children when schools are too dangerous to attend.

UNICEF also provides training for community members, including teachers, to cope with traumatic events themselves and nurture children under stress. UNICEF and partners have responded to emergencies in

61 countries so far in 2019, providing humanitarian assistance to around 29 million children.

In the first eight months of the year, UNICEF provided humanitarian assistance to nearly 29 million children.

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNICEF worked with local partners, community and religious leaders, the media and businesses to bring life-saving information about the Ebola virus.

In Mozambique, after two devastating cyclones, UNICEF improved access to safe water. But the challenges persist. UNICEF is providing immediate lifesaving assistance to children impacted by emergencies while also providing children with the support to better cope, to recover from the horrors they've lived through, and ultimately to thrive again.

Ultimately children need peace to thrive. It is critical for children

that efforts to end today's seemingly endless armed conflicts are redoubled. But children cannot wait for protection - while wars continue, we must never accept attacks against children.

Thirty years since the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and 70 years since the four Geneva Conventions - the international legal bedrock to protect civilians in war - it is time to say "Enough! Stop attacks on children."



Roza Lembris of Lengast in Manyara Region's Naisiyai ward airs her grievances on transport-related and other challenges facing their village. This was at a meeting called by Simanjiro district commissioner Zephania Chaula on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Police in Kilimanjaro initiates road safety training to students

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

POLICE Force in Kilimanjaro Region have embarked on a new drive to provide special road safety training to primary and secondary school children in Moshi Municipality in a move aimed to improve road traffic safety and cut down the rate of accidents.

Speaking during the training here yesterday, the Kilimanjaro Regional Traffic Officer (RTO), Superintendent of Police (SP) Zauda Mohammed explained that, the training entailed the good use of the road by pedestrians, road safety and first aid skills.

She said the force has taken up the decision as commitment to saving people's lives especially the lives of primary school children who are mostly exposed to road risks when going and coming back from schools.

"We had this kind of trainings to the primary pupils and secondary school students during this holiday, and the exercise will continue to all districts of Kilimanjaro Region for sustainable roads safety," she said.

SP Zauda noted that most of the roads accidents are caused by reckless drivers who don't abide to road

regulations.

Data show that 80 percent of accidents are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent of the road accidents are caused by the mechanical problems of the vehicles, 6 percent of the road accidents are caused by climate change, while only 2 percent of the road accidents are caused by bad infrastructures.

"My appeal to all drivers particularly government drivers, and other road users is to abide to all road regulations to avoid unnecessary road accidents," she said.

The police official explained that, there are other new road signs like deaf sign and disabled signs, among many others, appealing the drivers to participate in various road safety and vehicle users' trainings to learn them.

"This is not the end, my office will continue providing various training on road safety, road user's guiding trainings for sustainable road safety in our region," she added.

Speaking with this paper, one of the students from Igguno High School in Singida Jonas Mzava said the training has opened his eyes particularly on the new road regulations and new road signs for disabled people.

By Guardian Reporter, Lindi

Contractor given 23 days to hand over irrigation scheme

The Agriculture Minister, Japhet Hasunga, has issued a 23 days ultimatum to contractors who are constructing the Nanganga Irrigation Scheme in Ruangwa to ensure they finish the project on the said time or else the government will not hesitate to take serious measures against them. The minister made the directives

yesterday during his two days tour of Lindi Region.

Minister Hasunga said the project which involves the construction of a banner at river Lukuredi, and a main 2675 meter drain which was supposed to be finalised this year but has not been completed yet.

"The contractor requested that he be added five months and later requested another one month but has not completed the job, this is unacceptable we cannot tolerate this," he said.

Speaking when he addressed residents of Namanga ward in the district, minister Hasunga said many

irrigation projects in the country are non-complete because most of the contractors do not finish their tasks.

"It is not acceptable that the prime minister is working hard to ensure the country is developed but his home area is lagging behind," he said.

The Nanganga irrigation project is part of the 16 projects of the Small Scale Irrigation Development Project (SSIDP III) which is being undertaken by the government through National Irrigation Commission (NIRC).

During the tour minister Hasunga also toured and inspected the

Narunyu irrigation scheme at Mtama which has 12000 hectares suitable for farming.

Development of irrigation schemes is one of the initiatives that have enabled the agricultural sector to contribute more in the socio-economic development of Tanzania.

'Dialogue' on GBV hears students call for end to caning in schools in Tanzania

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

SECONDARY school students in the country have for the government to ban corporal punishment at schools saying it affects their learning process.

They came up with the advice at the dialogue forum on promoting safe school for secondary school students as part of the commemoration of sixteen days of activism against gender based violence (GBV).

The dialogue was jointly organised by Women in Law and Development (Africa), WILDAF and 'Vijana Pambana Pata Maendeleo Rukwa' VIPAMARU under the sponsorship of Freedom House and Pact.

The aim of the dialogue according to WILDAF Advocacy Officer Neema Meremo was to create awareness on the importance of sixteen days against GBV, discuss alternative punishment as a strategy to enhancing teachers' skills in using positive discipline during the learning process.

Meremo said they also discussed about factors which will promote protective skills in order to ensure students remain safe at school and understand their rights.

Maliki Abdurahman from Tandika Secondary School said some teachers give them punishment that would them to a point that they don't feel comfortable to attend school over fears of being punished again.

She advised that when students commit mistake teachers should sit down with them and understand why they have been stubborn at school and find alternative ways of molding their behavior instead of using corporal punishment as the only way to find solution.

Mwanaidi Fais of Makumbusho said corporal punishment cannot be a solution to repair the student's

behaviours instead teachers should learn the best way they can do to control students without using heavy punishment when a student misbehave or commit mistakes.

"It is true that there are circumstances when a student seems to be very stubborn at the class or school but when it comes to punishment we don't support that because there are some teachers who beat student to the extent that you may think that he is beating a thief or a bandit," he said.

Miriam Katara of Mzimuni said so many times teachers give tough punishments to the students who have committed common mistakes that can be solved by alternative punishment instead of beating him or her.

"You may find that a student commits a minor mistake like to make noise in classroom but teachers provide a harsh punishment in a way that creates tension and fear to other students. We don't support corporal punishment and we propose alternative way to change students' behaviours."

Noela Elias from Turiani Secondary School said teachers at her school give tough punishment to the extent that some students miss their studies to the next day due to pain.



We don't support corporal punishment and we propose alternative way to change students' behaviours



Dr Serafini Patrice (L), acting chief medical officer for Temeke District, receives a donation of patient monitoring equipment worth 12.6m/- from Swissport International CEO Yassin Mrisho in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Our ports will never slip back to the old days - Kamwelwe

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

THE Works, Transport and Communications Minister, Isaack Kamwelwe, says operations of the country's ports will never go back to the position they were placed by some corrupt elements.

Kamwelwe said this yesterday during his visit to Bukoba and Kemondo ports in Kagera Region.

He said after many ports ceased their operations for a long time due to various challenges including corrupt elements for self gains, the government has begun reviving all of those that had ceased operating and refurbishing those that were operating.

He said: "Efforts by President John

Magufuli in refurbishing ports and ships are being made at a great speed, ships are being transformed and become new - in particular MV Victoria and MV Butiama which by April next year will start operating.

"I have come to inspect renovation work being done and must say the work is going on well and I congratulate Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) for the tremendous work." He added: "Our leisurely mode of passenger transport that got lost for many years is now coming back, MV Victoria will now offer service in the Lake and will sail to as far as Kenya and Uganda."

Speaking about renovations to the railway transport, Kamwelwe said as of now the government has embarked

on reviving it to become just like road transport.

He said they are preparing a document that will later be discussed in a cabinet meeting and then in Parliament to allow transporters to buy railway wagons for transporting their own cargo.

He said: "Business people will be buying wagons to transport their goods and we shall be charging the cost for using our permanent way, the aim is to push the sector to new borders for the country's economic development."

Early this week, Lake Victoria Port manager, Morris Machindiuza said the government is improving marine transport services in the area so as boost intra-regional trade and tourism

activities in Lake Zone regions.

He said completion of the Nyamirembe port in Chato District Geita Region will boost intra-regional trade as it is set to start handling transfer cargo to neighbouring Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from March next year.

The TPA official stated that Nyamirembe port will bolster tourism activities as the area borders Burigi-Chato National Park, and the Rubondo Island. He said historically, the port started operations in 1960 and by 1967 it was placed under Tanzania railways Corporation (TRC), and in 1997 it was placed under the Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL).



Removal of sand apparently meant to enable the repair of this section of Dar es Salaam's Old Bagamoyo Road well in progress, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

KINSHASA

CASES of the deadly Ebola virus have risen in the Democratic Republic of Congo where health care workers remain largely cut off from the disease's hotspots since militants attacked their camp, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday.

Ebola is highly contagious and spreads through bodily fluids.

Militia fighters in eastern Congo killed four people and wounded several in attacks on two Ebola response centres two weeks ago, in what responders described as a serious setback to efforts to contain the epidemic.

"Insecurity is one of the main challenges that we are facing because

Ebola spreads in Congo after militants attacked treatment camp, WHO reports

it prevents us (from reaching) the communities to protect them against Ebola," Dr Michel Yao, WHO incident manager, told a Geneva briefing.

A helicopter is to be used as an air bridge to ferry epidemiologists and vaccinators to insecure areas and bring them back the same day, he said. More than 20 people from the stricken Biakato mine area were vaccinated on Thursday, he said.

"When we cannot access the community, we cannot perform

surveillance activities including vaccination that has been one of the key innovations that help us really to stop the spread of this country to others," Yao said.

There have been 3,340 Ebola cases including 2,210 deaths in the world's second largest epidemic that was declared in August 2018, WHO figures show.

An Ebola survivor fell ill with the disease for a second time in eastern Congo, the Congolese health

authorities said on Sunday, saying it was not yet clear if it was a case of relapse or reinfection.

The man died in a village near Beni, Yao said.

WHO said that the majority of the 27 new cases were linked to a single chain of transmission, in which that man was a potential source of infection for 17 people.

It was the second time that Ebola virus had been documented in the man within six months, it said.

Police officers' training lands support from UN

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania Police in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has started equipping their officers with special Formal Police Unit (FPU) refresher courses to enable them to perform well in various peace keeping operations.

Speaking during the official launching of the two-week course at the Tanzania Police School-Moshi (TPS-Moshi), the Chief Instructor from the force, deputy commissioner of Police (DCP) Ally Lugendo said that Tanzania has a unique history and capability and has played an exceptional role in peace protection in various countries in Africa.

He said that a total of 723 police officers have participated in different UN-Peace Keeping Missions for over the past 20 years.

Commenting on the police trainings, the acting Chief Commandant (CO) of the TPS-Moshi, Senior Assistant commissioner of Police (SACP) Germini Mushi explained that, his school is the only military college which provides basic military training to the police officers in the country.

He said that among the major improvements made by the police force includes the change of training techniques at the TPS-Moshi from 'knowledge to the competence based' which involve sending trainees to the field work in the community before they complete their trainings and make evaluation to enhance their services of combating crimes.

SACP Mushi said, though there are many improvements of the 'Police Carrier' in the institution's curriculum, his institution has a very long history since 1920's (during the colonial rule) and after Independence of this country in December 9, 1961 to date.

"Police training school was at first established in the country in 1921 in Morogoro Region under the colonial rule..." SACP Mushi explained.

He further explained that, in 1930, the college was moved to Dar-es-

Salaam along Kilwa Road area in the City before moved to Moshi area, in Kilimanjaro Region in 1954.

"By the middle of 1954, the Police Profession College was moved here in Moshi where at first was called the 'Police Training School (PTS), before changed its name to 'Chuo Cha Usalama-CCU (literally means 'Security Institute'..." ACP Mbushi further explained.

According to the TPS-Moshi Chief, the college was then renamed to the very popular name 'Chuo Cha Polisi-Moshi (CCP), literally means the police training college.

"From there, our college became very popular with the 'CCP' name, but early in 2010 the college began to be called 'The Moshi Police Academy (MPA) after being officially registered by the National Council of Vocational Education (NACTE).

He said "This is the only military college which provides basic military training to the police officers in the country, so every police officer you see elsewhere in Tanzania (Mainland and Zanzibar Isles) has been taught his/her 'Police Profession' at this college."

In addition, SACP Mushi said in consistent with the teaching the police officers in the college, MPA has also been invited to train police officers in various countries including Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Uganda and Rwanda at different times.

Meanwhile, the UNITAR representative in Tanzania, Joe freddie Bategereza explained that, they have facilitated the Tanzania police force to train some of their officers of different ranks so as to understand international police skills before they are sent in different UN-Peace Keeping Missions.



Police training school was at first established in the country in 1921 in Morogoro Region under the colonial rule...

COSTECH, DIT endorse MoU on development of biodiversity data portal

By Aisia Rweuyemamu

THE Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) for the implementation of a project dubbed Development of a National Biodiversity Data Portal (NBDP) for sustainable economic development.

The project aims to develop a sustainable online NBDP based on Atlas of Living Australia (ALA) open source software to enhance data publication, sharing and analysis and establishing a fully equipped biodiversity data portal that will be hosted at COSTECH.

The NBDP is a three years project, jointly implemented by DIT and COSTECH, funded by JRS biodiversity foundation based in USA.

The project has two phases, planning phase took place between July 2018 and Nov 2019 this year and implementation phase started effectively from October this year to Sept 2024.

Speaking shortly after signing the MoU, DIT Deputy Vice Chancellor Finance and Administration, Dr Najat Mohammed, said the portal will mobilise and consolidate data from various existing scattered literature including records available from global data facility.

She added that the portal will compile a list of existing data from various institutions and make them easily accessible and compatible.

"Biodiversity data is important for coordination of various economical and environment activities in the country," she explained.

Speaking on behalf of DIT principal, Dr Mohamed said biodiversity data is vital for the development of any nation because without living things there is no life.

Speaking at the event, Costech Director General Dr Amos Nungu said data on biodiversity is essential in

studying the dynamics and impact of various changes to environment.

Dr Nungu said, in implementing the project, Costech will play a coordination role in popularization of the portal to stakeholders and the general public in collaboration with DIT

The DG explained that despite the fact that Tanzania is endowed with high biodiversity and various studies have been conducted most of data on biodiversity in Tanzania are not accessible.

Briefing about the highlight of the project, Prof Preksedis Ndomba, a Principal of DIT said most of data on biodiversity in Tanzania are not accessible due to insufficient data publishing infrastructure at the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) national code of Tanzania (TanBIF) hosted by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology.

"The data on biodiversity is essential in studying the dynamics and impact of various changes to environment and for socioeconomic development," Prof Ndomba explained.

The principal said the project will compile a list of existing data from various institutions and make them easily accessible and compatible.

He said among the DIT roles in implementing the project is to provide technical expertise in design, development, management and maintenance of the envisioned National Biodiversity Data Portal and Provision of Training on the use of the portal in collaboration with TANBIF

Prof Ndomba mentioned another role as to mobilise funds in collaboration with DIT to sustain the National Biodiversity Data Portal after its development.

The principal added that the biodiversity information will help in food security, sustainable livelihoods and sustainable ecosystem - Natural and Agriculture, urbanization.



This is the wreckage of a Toyota Harrier involved in a road crash with a lorry at Oldonyosambu in Arumeru District, Arusha Region, yesterday. There were no immediate reports of casualties. Photo: Correspondent Daniel Sabuni

53 held in Tarime over involvement in FGM

By Guardian Correspondent, Mara

FIFTY-THREE people in Tarime District, Mara Region have been arrested for performing female genital mutilation (FGM) to 15 girls and circumcision to 200 boys using eight knives while some of the culprits have been infected with HIV.

Speaking to reporters in Tarime this week, the District Commissioner, Mtemi Masafiri said the circumcisions for 2019 also involved a death of a Form II student at Itile Secondary School.

"These cruel acts were performed

by young people where before schools were closed they went to two schools and forced students to give them money, and on November 14 this year the youths killed a student with a spear, five of them have already been arrested while three others escaped to Kenya. We have already communicated with Kenya authorities on the matter," said Mtemi.

Mtemi said already 29 people have appeared in court and investigations are still ongoing, adding that one of them had used eight knives to circumcise 200 boys and had continued to do so

while he knew he was already infected with HIV.

"These acts are widespread and are assisted by traditional elders from the Wairegi tribe. They were given advice through many seminars on FGM but they don't want to change, from now on, if anyone refuses to change we will arrest him/her and take them to court," he added.

Mtemi said the conditions of the 15 girls who were underwent the cut worsened; they bled a lot and had to be rushed to a hospital for treatment, they are now recovering and are at the

Association for Termination of Female Genital Mutilation (ATFGM) centre at Masanga.

The ATFGM managing director Sister Stella Mgaya said they have been facing huge opposition from the traditional elders as they see the institute is against their customs, especially on FGM.

He said: "Some of the boys who were administered with safe circumcision were repeatedly grabbed and taken for traditional circumcision for the second time by force, the issue has escalated to the point of enmity between AFGTM and the society."



With pineapples now in abundant supply in Dar es Salaam and various other parts of Tanzania, it calls for some ingenuity for small traders to reach customers. Chief photographer Selemani Mpocho captured this scene on a remote street in the city's densely populated Manzese suburb.

By Guardian Reporter

NGO talks girls into pursuing engineering

A not for profit organisation 'Women and Electronics Tanzania (WOET)' has embarked on a programme aimed to inspire young girls enter into the engineering field and support them to bring innovative changes in communities and the nation at large.

Dubbed "E-Clinic" the project will be implemented in various schools encouraging and capacitating girl students to chip in and take science subjects and later be change makers.

Although the first female engineers in Tanzania graduated in 1976, official statistics show that female engineers constitute 10 per cent only in the country.

Emma Kabali, founder and chairperson of WOET said the project will be operated and run by schools, in collaboration with WOET in ensuring that students, especially young girls get

the inspiration, access and practical experience in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Speaking during the event to award various students who performed well in an 'Essay Writing Competition', Kabali noted that the low number of female engineers is mainly caused by women's lack of interest in science subjects.

She also urged the government to increase its investment in youth and science to enable the country have enough stock of experts and not depend much on experts from foreign nations.

According to her, one of the issues that were outlined from many participants of the competition was the lack of inspiration and role models in the field of STEM.

Speaking on the essay competition, Kabali said that a total of 67 essays were received and passed through a panel of judges' review; set up by professional in STEM- teachers, engineers, nurses and technology enthusiast.

She said the essay's theme was to answer why do we have less number of girls and women in STEM fields?

The competition was in three categories; category 1 for Form One and Two; category 2 for Form Three and Four and category 3 for Form Five and Six.

During the event, Nisha Nkya from Feza Girls Secondary school; Mary Kibira from Jangwani Secondary School and Harkripa Kaur Azimar from Agakhan Mzizima Sec School emerged overall winners in category three, two and one respectively.

Meanwhile, Margaret Munyagi, the first female registered engineer in Tanzania encouraged young girls who have passion in science and engineering to be confident and study hard to achieve their dreams.

WOET is an organisation of young women which aims to bring awareness, inspire and empower young girls and women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

Its mission is to empower young women in STEM from the classroom to the boardroom; This can be achieved through motivational and inspirational talks, tech-competitions for young girls in school, networking, mentoring and edu-tech (practical learning/ experimentation and internships).

Red Cross pleads for immediate action as millions face hunger in Southern Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

HUNGER is threatening the lives of 11 million people in Southern Africa due to deepening drought in the region.

Red Cross teams across Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia are scaling up their response to emergency and crisis levels of food insecurity.

Dr Michael Charles, Head of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said: "This year's drought is unprecedented, causing food shortages on a scale we have never seen before in the Southern Africa cluster. We are seeing people going two to three days without food, entire herds of livestock wiped out by drought and small-scale farmers with no means to earn money to tide them over a lean season."

The countries with the most significant increase in food insecurity from last year are Zambia and Zimbabwe, with 2.3 million and 3.6 million people respectively suffering from acute food shortages.

There is a major gap in investment in resilience and community-level capacities in countries hardest hit, including Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini, Botswana, Lesotho and Namibia have this year declared drought emergencies.

In Eswatini, 24 per cent of its rural population is suffering from food shortages. The situation is set to worsen due to late or no rain in the region and crop production is down by 30 per cent for the 2019/2020 harvest.

In October, the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal in Zambia to bring relief to those most affected by the persistent drought and is now widening its appeal for emergency funding to cover a further four countries affected by unprecedented levels of drought

and hunger.

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement already has ongoing operations on food insecurity in Eswatini, Namibia, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe reaching 207,055 people (41,411 households).

This newest appeal will broaden its reach to eight southern African countries and will target individuals not reached by other interventions in the region.

"There is a major gap in investment in resilience and community-level capacities in countries hardest hit, including Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini," Dr Charles said.

He added: "As a humanitarian collective, we must take immediate action to respond to millions who face imminent starvation. Even more importantly, it is our responsibility to strengthen communities' resilience and ability to adapt to the current challenges. Otherwise, we will never end hunger in the region."

The IFRC is calling for 7.7 million Swiss francs to mitigate the food crisis in the region. The overall objective of the multi-country Emergency Appeal is to provide immediate food assistance and livelihood recovery support to the most affected households in the targeted communities for a period of 14 months.



There is a major gap in investment in resilience and community-level capacities in countries hardest hit, including Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini

Over 3 million residents of Tanzania, Kenya to benefit from AfDB's €345 million road construction funding

By Guardian Reporter

OVER three million people in Tanzania and Kenya will benefit from a €345 million financing package for road construction support from the African Development Bank (AfDB).

The Bank's support for the Mombasa-Lunga Lunga/Horohoro and Tanga-Pangani-Bagamoyo roads Phase I, is in the form of African Development Bank and African Development Fund loans and represents 78.5 percent of the total €399.7 million project cost.

The European Union contributed a grant of €30 million, 7.7 percent of the total project cost, to the government of Kenya.

The road is a key component of the East African transport corridors network, connecting Kenya and Tanzania.

Once completed, the roads will help producers, manufacturers and traders as they will be able to move goods more quickly and cheaply. In addition, farmers and fishermen will benefit from improved access to local and regional markets and amenities, including better schools and health centers.

"The project will have spillover benefits for hinterland countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan that depend on Mombasa as gateway to global markets," said Hussein Iman, the Bank's Regional Sector Manager for infrastructure, private sector, and industrialisation.

"We are confident that we can all work together to accomplish this important task and other projects in the future," Nnenna Nwabufo, the bank's Acting Director General for the East Africa region, said at the signing.

The bank's support will also provide roadside trading facilities for sellers, half of them women who currently operate in disorganised and unsafe conditions.

The road crosses regions with high rates of youth unemployment. In light of this, the project includes a vocational training component for 500 unemployed youth (half of them women) to acquire marketable skill and improve their economic prospects.

The bank anticipates that the

intervention will boost regional integration by reducing transit times, facilitating trade and the cross-border movement of people, opening access to tourist attractions. The project will also link the ports of Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Mombasa, and stimulate the blue economy in coastal areas.

This first phase involves the construction of 175 km of road sections: the 121 km Mkanga-Pangani road section in Tanzania and the 54 km Mombasa-Kilifi road section in Kenya.

The project includes a vocational training component for 500 unemployed youth (half of them women) to acquire marketable skill and improve their economic prospects.

The intervention is a priority item in the bank's Eastern Africa Regional Integration Strategy (EA-RISP), the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) of both countries and aligns with two of the Bank's High 5 priorities - integrate Africa and improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

Regional integration is a priority for Kenya, and Tanzania. However, poor infrastructure has been a major constraint.

This week, the bank witnessed the signing of a \$440 million agreement between Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the government of Kenya for the first phase construction of a bridge connecting Mombasa island and Likoni, a major international port area of East Africa.

The Mombasa Gate Bridge will be the longest cable-stayed bridge in Africa, providing a critical link over the Indian Ocean along the just approved Mombasa - Lunga Lunga/Horohoro and Tanga - Pangani - Bagamoyo corridor phase I.

The total amount of co-financing is expected to be more than \$1.2 billion when subsequent phases of the project are concluded - the largest co-financing agreement between the bank and JICA.

The bank's portfolio in Tanzania as at the end of November 2019 comprises 21 public and 2 private operations with a total commitment of 1.82 billion euros.

As at the end of November 2019, the bank's portfolio in Kenya comprises 27 public and 7 private operations with a total commitment of 2.7 billion euros.



Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe (C, foreground) breaks into a dance alongside Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) director general James Kilaba (R, in tie) and mobile phone technicians shortly after opening a seminar in Mwanza earlier this week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

UN Women Tanzania has underlined the importance of pushing for gender equality in all sectors including colleges and universities, if Tanzania is to make significant progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It emphasises on an increased awareness of gender equality and SDGs to schools and colleges to enable students have deeper understanding on it for the group to be able to fight violence in their areas.

Hodan Addou, the UN Women representative to Tanzania made the call during the students' dialogue on youth perception on SDGs number 16 yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

It was organised by United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Commissioner for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG).

Addou said students are an important group in the society that needs to have the understanding of how the SDGs are implemented in their country through data and statistics in order to influence changes in the society.

She said students are supposed to

UN Women says gender equality key to achieving sustainable development goals

have awareness on SDGs number 16 and the impacts of violence against women and discriminatory laws that affect women socially, politically and economically.

"It is important for scholars to be aware of incidences of violence to women and discriminatory laws like marriage act and citizenship act that deny women their right and to develop mechanisms for addressing them," she said.

The representative said that in order to attain the intended goal number 16, both private sector, academia and other stakeholders needs to work together and to localise the general understanding of SDGs to local community, but also every individual needs to take action on it to ensure implementation of SDGs are effective.

Recent research has shown that women who have been subjected to violence by their partners have greater chances of having a low birth

weight baby, are at much greater risk of depression and more likely to have an induced abortions. They are also more likely to be living with HIV.

International standards recognise violence against women as a form of discrimination and require states to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish all acts of violence against women perpetrated by any actor.

Meanwhile, CHRAGG vice chairperson Mohamed Khamis said the event was meant to bring together students to engage in peer to peer discussions on understanding of SDG 16 and to establish future engagement with them in ensuring that SDGs are understood and implemented effectively.

"The dialogue provide opportunities for students to deep their understanding on violence against women and its impacts, and as relevant actors they will be able to investigate and come up with solution to combat

all forms of violence against women including abuse, exploitation and harmful practices against girl-child," he said.

The dialogue is in line with the 16 days of campaign on violence against women and the International Human Rights Day featured by the theme of Youth standing up for Human Rights and the Role of Youth in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Sabitina Makweta a third year student at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) pursuing bachelor degree in Political Science and Administration said there is a need for the government and other stakeholders to spread the awareness of SDGs to students in order to understand the position of the country in the goals.

"The dialogue has come at a right time as students needs to understand about the escalating incidence of violence against women, and suggest how they can help the society to address them," she said.

Farmers benefit from knowledge on cassava cultivation in Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

HUNDREDS of farmers in Zanzibar have started benefiting from new skills and knowledge on cassava and sweet potato cultivation, weed management, agronomy and the use of improved seeds. Deputy Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, in-charge of agriculture, Mansura Mossi Kassim said this on Wednesday when officiating annual general meeting of cassava and potatoes researchers.

The official described cassava as the second food crop after rice in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Citing some of the data, the deputy principal said that Zanzibar produces 65 tonnes of cassava and 55 tonnes per year.

"This shows that there are many farmers who are engaging in food crop production such as cassava and potatoes. Some of the crops are sold overseas, Kassim said, adding that the increase in crop production has been contributed by the uptake of new farming techniques. In the past, he said that farmers weren't equipped with better technology designed to scale up crop production, the situation that ended up with many of them getting few crops.

"As the ministry we're encouraging farmers into modern agronomic practices to boost production per piece of land," he said, encouraging many farmers to apply farm inputs when growing different crops.

One of the meeting participants, Mombeki Wiston expressed his hope that the effective use of better agronomic practices will take Zanzibar farmers to the next level in terms of development.

He however said that the African Cassava agronomy initiative, which is being executed in twelve countries, has also contributed to the current achievement.

Coordinator of the project from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, Dr Bernard Vanlauwe, cited lack of farm inputs as one of the challenges thwarting development of the sector.



As the ministry we're encouraging farmers into modern agronomic practices to boost production per piece of land



Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) has a word with his Home Affairs counterpart, Kangi Lugola, at Mwanza Airport yesterday. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

TIC welcomes investors to potential productive areas in southern regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in southern highland zone has welcomed investors to invest in various potential and productive areas which are already allocated for them.

Venance Mashiba, regional manager in southern highland zone said the southern regions have enough land which is potential for investment, cited an example of Mbeya Region where there is a number of designated areas for gold, fruits, milk and fish processing industries.

Mashiba said that the availability of those areas is based on the effort by TIC in mobilising councils in the country to allocate the potential areas for investment.

According to him, Chunya district has allocated a total of 450 acres of land suitable for construction of gold processing factory, and 66.4 acres of land have been allocated in Busokero council for fruit and dairy processing.

He said in Mbeya city council, a total of 74,169 acres have been allocated for industries and in Kyela about 100 acres have been set aside for the construction of fish, rice and palm processing.

Mashiba said the region also has allocated 3,805 acres for the construction of a dry port, expected to be a major support in facilitating the movement of cargo within the region and in neighbouring countries.

He further said that in Mbarali District, 37 acres have been allocated suitable for construction of agricultural and steel processing plants. In Rungwe council there are 37 acres allocated for construction of dairy and fruit factories and for the construction of the

international banana market.

He said the TIC and the authorities in southern highland regions have been working together in promoting investment in the region and attracting investors to grab the investment opportunities available in the area.

The Tanzania Investment Center was established in 1997 by the Tanzania Investment Act as the main state institution to coordinate, encourage, promote and facilitate investment in Tanzania and advise the government on investment policy and investment related issues.

The centre's vision is to become a premier Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) capable of creating and sustaining ever-increasing investment flows and create competitive investment environment that promotes Tanzania as the prime investment destination of choice in Africa.

The centre has the task to contribute to the sustainable economic development of the country through attraction of new investment and maximising its impact to the economy.



Mashiba said that the availability of those areas is based on the effort by TIC in mobilising councils in the country to allocate the potential areas for investment

Promise by Nigeria on visas merits serious consideration

WARM and cold winds are blowing at the same time for African integration and, depending on the day's media headlines, it is hard to tell which way the continent is going - whether towards less integration or more.

After the horrendous xenophobic attacks in South Africa on foreigners of African descent that eke out a living there, and without regard to whether they were there legally or otherwise, spirits were down as to expectations of integration.

Nigeria was one of the more affected countries when foreigners' shops were ransacked in Durban and various other places, and perhaps it should not be surprising that the country is trying to show the way out in such matters.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has declared that his government will give all African travellers visas on arrival from January, dropping the requirement that they apply in advance. He said the gesture showed Nigeria's commitment to free movement of Africans within Africa.

The announcement comes five months after Nigeria signed a deal aimed at promoting free trade on the continent, which has also been signed by a good number of other countries, just like the non-visa requirement rule.

But when Nigeria moves to ratify or comply with the terms of that agreement, the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) accord, that is different. Even then the move by President Buhari is only about movement of people, not goods.

While Africa still has a largely protectionist environment when it comes to movement of goods, that there are tariffs all over the place though we also have customs union arrangements for instance in the East African Community, gestures like the free movement of people are positive.

They enable Africa to generate

people to people contacts that help change attitudes about people next door, not just neighbouring countries but also within a country.

There are criticisms on the President Buhari's doorstep that Nigeria is still protectionist, which in that sense undermines the vision of pan-African unity.

There is a point in that criticism, but long ago such disputes were cleared or balanced by the view that intense reduction of the presence of the nation-state leads not into greater African unity but into chaos. Localised economic interests, often the most objectionable in their outlooks, create empires.

The case of Nigeria has invited a certain amount of debate, as reports say the country closed its land borders in August, in which case businesses fail to conduct cross-border trade by road.

Buhari has explained that there is onerous smuggling of goods into Nigeria, undermining government efforts to make the nation self-sufficient, especially in the production of food.

These are arguments that can't be dismissed with a wave of the hand, as each country needs to determine its particular situation and what policy it takes on such matters.

For instance, Tanzania restrained the sale of maize across its borders until recently, after seeing that closing borders was hampering agro-sector investments year after year.

Going by African Development Bank data, last year saw Africans need visas to travel to 51 per cent of other African countries. They could get visas on arrival in just 24 per cent of states and did not need visas in 25 per cent of the countries.

According to the figures, tiny (going by surface area) states lead in visa waivers while large economies lag behind. This is well worth thinking - and doing something concrete - about.

Let's develop our ports alongside ensuring safety of marine vessels

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) has lately been elaborating on efforts it says are being made to strengthen the ports it operates in the country's segment of Lake Victoria.

It says many of the ports had either been dormant or were running below capacity owing to various factors, the most conspicuous being the state and availability of infrastructure like berths, roads, buildings for passenger lounges and warehouses.

The ports include major ones in Mwanza city, Musoma municipality and Bukoba municipality, while among the 'smaller' are Nyamirembe in Chato District, Geita Region; Lushamba in Buchosa District, Mwanza Region; and Magarini in Muleba District, Kagera Region.

A highly placed TPA official has states the obvious by saying that the refurbishing of these ports will increase their capacity in handling both passengers and cargo, thus attracting bigger numbers of all manner of users.

We say kudos to the national ports authority for the various initiatives it has been devising and implementing, with a view to breathing new life into transport services in Lake Victoria.

The lake is strategically situated, at least if one were to consider most of the relatively fast-growing economies in the eastern, southern and central Africa 'sub-continent' - and hence the great need for TPA to do its utmost to meet the rise in demand for its services.

But while we wholeheartedly commend TPA, we feel compelled to give a word of caution to both the agency itself and other institutions

commonly working in collaboration it.

These include Marine Services Company and Tanzania Railways Corporation as well as the relevant regulatory authority, and the advice relates to the fundamental importance of always placing a premium on the safety of passengers and cargo.

The sounding the caution assumes even greater relevance considering that, as the level of activities in our ports rises so will the number of passengers and the volume of cargo - and even the remotest indication of clumsiness or tolerance of shoddy work would cost the nation a fortune.

There is no need to go over the top about that if recent history of mishaps in Lake Victoria is to serve as any lesson. Many still remember the tragic sinking of MV Bukoba 23 years ago, whose cause was cited as overloading at the port of departure.

As happened, only a few years later, cargo ferry MV Nyamageni sank in the same lake - with the death of 20 people. It was claimed that the vessel was defective and had been officially barred from operating - but then see what happened!

And just over a year ago, at least 228 people died when their overloaded ferry - MV Nyerere - capsized in the lake somewhere between Ukerewe Island and Ukara Island.

So we strongly recommend that the idea should not be just about strengthening our ports so that they can handle more cargo and passengers.

Rather, safety considerations should supersede all others. After all, to what good would 'efficiency' be unless safety is its most important component?

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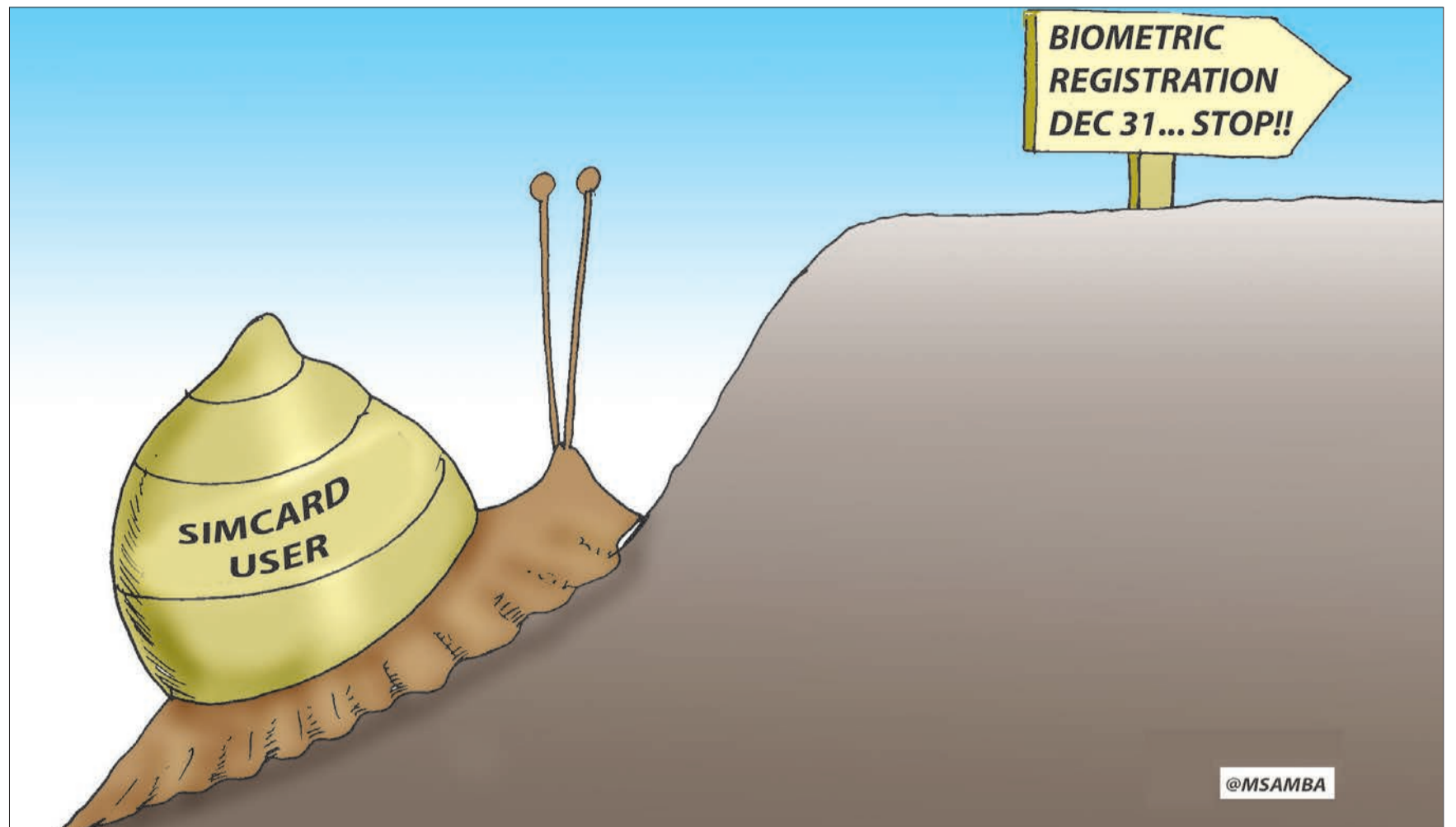
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Bleak prospects for cyclone victims in Mozambique resettlement sites

BY PHILIP KLEINFELD

WHEN José Antonio's house was flattened and his farm flooded by Cyclone Idai, the government of Mozambique offered him space in a resettlement village. He hoped to receive a new house and a job in the neighbourhood. Instead, he found a tent in a forest.

Back-to-back weather disasters - Idai in March and Cyclone Kenneth in April - left hundreds of Mozambicans dead and almost 2.2 million in need of urgent assistance. Around 90,000 cyclone survivors have since been relocated to 66 supposedly permanent resettlement villages.

The new neighbourhoods are meant to protect victims from future disasters: they are built away from low-lying, flood-prone areas that have long left people here vulnerable to windstorms, ocean surges, and floods.

But aid groups say the resettlement process was "rushed" through by a government eager to look proactive during an election year, and point out that many months after people started arriving, the sites still lack basic humanitarian necessities.

Many resettlement sites - like Mutua, where Antonio lives - are located in remote rural areas, leaving residents dependent on food supplied by aid agencies and with few long-term employment prospects beyond what they can hawk to each other.

Most of these new neighbourhoods have no schooling beyond first or second grade, insufficient access to healthcare services, and lack communal spaces that would help them feel more like home.

Mutua resident João Manuel used to be a driver but lost his licence during Idai and doesn't have enough money to buy a new one.

At Mutua, most of the roughly 2,000 residents are still living in emergency tents that heat up like ovens during the scorching hot days and are unlikely to withstand the coming rains, let alone another cyclone like Idai.

Roughly 30 families have already left, according to residents, while dozens who arrived on a bus last May took one look at the sprawling, sand-swept site - chiselled out of a forest - and turned straight back home.

"They realised it wasn't a place to live," said João Manuel, a Mutua resident.

This isn't the first time Mozambique has experimented with resettlement following a natural disaster. After heavy flooding stuck central Mozambique in 1977, the government built scores of new villages for hundreds of thousands of people.

Successive floods brought successive resettlements, "with some good experiences and some bad ones", recalled Álvaro Carmo Vaz, a professor



Mutua resettlement site used to be forest land before roughly 2,000 residents arrived here in May. Photo: Philip Kleinfeld/TNH

of engineering at Mozambique's Eduardo Mondlane University.

Vaz explained how many residents left the old sites when promised infrastructure failed to arrive, and how others drifted between the new sites and their former villages, which lay in flood plains where the soil was naturally richer and more plentiful.

After Idai and Kenneth - among the worst weather-related disasters to ever hit southern Africa - aid agencies warned that months of rigorous site planning would be needed to figure out where to put the neighbourhoods. But with elections down the road, the government was in a hurry.

By mid-June, more than 100 temporary accommodation centres for displaced people were closed and residents given a simple choice: be resettled or return home. Tens of thousands chose the first option. Many were disappointed.

Three kilometres from the nearest neighbourhood, Mutua was already occupied when Antonio and the other residents first arrived in May: by monkeys, gazelles and poisonous snakes hanging in trees and bushes.

Months later, the site has started to show signs of human settlement: there's an animal farm with a few ducks running around, a barber shop, a tailor and vendors selling biscuits and drinks outside their tents.

But there's little else. Most people remain in worn-looking shelters that make the site look more like a refugee camp than a neighbourhood. With no electricity, residents say they get bitten by snakes at night - and robbed by people they cannot identify.

A temporary learning space has been set up, but it can only cater for children in first or second grade. Older children trek three kilometres each morning down an unlit dirt path. Some concerned parents have stopped their children from going.

Jobs here are non-existent. Antonio used to be a trainee mechanic, but in Mutua there are no cars or trucks to

fix. Relocated inland, fishermen have lost access to the sea. Farmers are now seven kilometres from their fields.

"We used to have our farms. Now we rely entirely on food from aid groups," said Fernando Moisés, a 23-year-old with a young child.

Even the aid groups agree that the food provided is insufficient. Residents say that one HIV-positive man in Mutua passed away in October because he wasn't getting enough nutrition from bland rations of oil, beans and cassava flour.

"Time and again resettled residents have told our colleagues that they don't have enough to eat," said Vittorio Infante, humanitarian policy and advocacy advisor at Oxfam.

Though some resettlement sites are located closer to villages with rudimentary services, many are even more remote than Mutua and have even worse services, according to recent site assessments by the UN's migration agency, IOM.

Most aid groups have focused their attention and resources around Beira, a port city of roughly half a million people on Mozambique's east coast - but the sites are spread out across a large geographical area, some close to the western border with Zimbabwe.

That has left several places with no schools or medical services whatsoever, and many more with insufficient supplies of water, mosquito nets, mats, blankets and basic hygiene products.

In some neighbourhoods, aid workers said children walk up to eight kilometres to the nearest school. In others, 11-year-olds are attending classes intended for those aged six to seven because the high school is too far and that's all that's offered on-site.

Sick residents face similar challenges accessing health clinics, in some cases having to walk 15 kilometres. The distance has forced some residents with chronic illnesses like HIV and tuberculosis to stop taking their medication altogether.

Plots of land for agriculture are meanwhile not being issued fast enough by the government, creating further concerns about future food security as the new harvest season begins. Many residents have taken to farming outside their tents.

Aid workers reported that, erected in a hurry, the 'ad hoc' resettlement sites have been planned with little input from residents. Few have central markets, spaces for community events or much character at all.

"There are no activities, no sports or culture," said Edouard Salvadore, another Mutua resident.

The poor state of the sites is set to be tested with the rainy season already under way in Mozambique. Neither residents nor aid workers said the tarp and pole tents the majority of people are still living in are likely to fare well.

Attempts to build drainage systems were put on hold at some sites because aid groups discovered unexploded artillery left behind after Mozambique's civil war. At least two sites were also built in areas still at "high risk" of future flooding.

At Mutua, residents said they that fear a bridge one and a half kilometres away may collapse or disappear under water - as it has in past rainy seasons - cutting the site off from neighbouring villages.

Rather than resettling people, some agencies and donors have prioritised initiatives that allow people to adapt better to their flood-prone areas: reconstructing houses in a more resilient way, for example, or developing stronger early warning systems for future disasters.

But donors and aid groups have by and large focused their efforts on emergency relief, leaving little budget for reconstruction. Most residents choosing not to be resettled have patched up their houses using the same materials that blew apart when the two cyclones hit.

In the absence of work prospects, the concern is that those resettled will soon return home - as has happened many times in the past. According to the IOM (International Organisation for Migration), just 11 per cent of residents surveyed said they expected people to stay in the sites permanently.

But the memories of Idai still haunt many people here. Antonio, the Mutua resident, lost friends and loved ones in April. Some died stranded on their roofs, while others drowned in a crocodile-infested river. He said he will stay put in Mutua - whatever the personal cost.

"Seeing your family dying," he said, before a short pause, adding: "I won't be able to go back there."

• Philip Kleinfeld filed this dispatch for The New Humanitarian newsletter from Mutua resettlement site in Mozambique

South African Constitutional Court strikes a decisive blow against rape

By Omphemetse S Sibanda

FINALLY, while the country was engaged in dealing with power cuts and the inability of our government to come up with a tangible solution to the crisis, the acting justice Rammaka Mathopo in the case of *Tshabalala v S; Ntuli v S* (CCT323/18; CCT69/19) [2019] ZACC 48 (11 December 2019) took an unprecedented step of dealing a decisive blow to the crime of rape and other forms of sex and gender-based violence (SGBV). What is pleasing and striking about this judgment is that Mathopo AJ did not have to engage on foreign case law to set what will, in history, be regarded as one of the most ground-breaking and fearless judgments of our times.

The Constitutional Court dissected the law on common purpose doctrine (or the Joint Criminal Enterprise Doctrine as called in other jurisdictions), engaging South African scholarly sources. And among the sources consulted is that by leading Professor J Burchell (*Burchell Principles of Criminal Law* 5 ed, Juta, Cape Town 2016) and Professor CR Snyman (*Snyman Criminal Law* 5 ed, Lexis-Nexis, Durban 2008), with the latter's approach on the application of the doctrine of common purpose in rape cases discarded as antiquated.

I must admit upfront that though this is a much-needed landmark decision developing the common law of rape and the doctrine of common purpose, we should expect some jurisprudence scholars, critics, advocates, and other jurists to ponder on the real import of the judgment.

While some laud the decision, others may argue that the judgment, which is a form of Extended Common Purpose Doctrine, has no doctrinal lineage in South Africa. At the same time, it would be a mammoth task to provide doctrinal and normative grounds on, what I term, the Extended Doctrine of Common Purpose expounded in *Tshabalala v S; Ntuli v S*, which must be rejected.



Coming back to the essence of my article: The system of patriarchy and its ills, through the sexist application of the common law Doctrine of Common Purpose, has been chipped away. The law of common purpose in South Africa has just taken the right turn in SGBV.

As noted by Mathopo AJ: The facts of this case demonstrate that various households were robbed of their personal belongings, occupants attacked gratuitously and in some instances, women were raped indiscriminately. Appallingly, one of the women complainants was visibly pregnant. Another complainant was a young girl who was 14 years old.

This cavalier attitude demonstrates callousness on the part of perpetrators. To jettison the sound doctrine as the applicants urge us to, would do a grave

injustice to direct and indirect victims of gender-based violence. This would give power to men or perpetrators who have raped women with impunity in the knowledge that the doctrine would not apply to them. [Para 55]

In this case, the applicants argued that "under the common law, the crime of rape is an instrumentality offence which, by its nature, can only be committed by a male using his own genitalia, and not by an individual who is merely present when the offence is committed and by his conduct (through his association or active participation) either promotes, encourages or facilitates the successful commission of the offence". This argument, which in legal terms is called the "instrumentality argument" has been dealt a big blow by Mathopo AJ.

"The instrumentality argument has no place in our modern society founded upon the Bill of Rights. It is obsolete and must be discarded because its foundation is embedded in a system of patriarchy where women are treated as mere chattels", held Mathopo AJ [para 54]. Endorsing or supporting the instrumentality argument against applying common purpose is regarded by the Constitutional Court as illogical and not making sense. The instrumentality defence loophole in rape cases is now fully closed.

In supporting the judgment of Mathopo AJ, Victor AJ also highlighted the instrumentality argument shows the pervasiveness of gender inequality and formalised patriarchy in the South African jurisprudence with "... a number of embedded patriarchal gender norms in the procedural rules of evidence in relation to rape". [Para 80] There is no place for archaic, discriminatory, patriarchal and sexist substantive and procedural legal principles and rules in the South African law viewed within the mandate of the Bill of Rights. This judgment confirms that rape victims, in particular women, also have the right to equality, security, dignity, security and the fundamental freedom to be free of SGBV.

After this judgment, the law now is that rape is no longer only penetrative sexual offence. In simple words, you no longer need to penetrate your victim with your genitalia or an object to be charged and convicted of rape as a perpetrator. If X rapes W while his friend, Z assists him by restraining W, but without himself having intercourse with her (or him), Z is a co-perpetrator, as opposed to an accomplice, to the rape of W. In my view, henceforth we cannot talk of accomplice to rape. In fact, the judgment should be read to include as co-perpetrators of rape those who incite rape.

Therefore, if Z is sitting with his friend X at a night club and talks X into following W to the bathroom to rape her, the courts must convict Z too as co-perpetrator of the rape committed by X. Clearly, in such a case, Z associated himself with the rape of W by X through intentional encouragement to rape. Him not having

followed W to the bathroom with Z cannot be a defence to escape criminal liability for the rape of W.

This decision has strengthened South Africa's hand in SGBV. What people need to understand is that the degrees of participation are no longer cast in stone in the form of the so-called accomplice, inciter, perpetrator and co-perpetrator. Under the new law following *Tshabalala v S; Ntuli v S*, your lack of dissociation from the crime of rape by others and the aggravating circumstances involved may render you liable as a perpetrator and not as an accomplice as was the case under common law. The new approach to the application of the doctrine of common purpose in rape cases is a huge boost in the fight against SGBV. Society's yearning for the government to criminalise the behaviour of people involved in or associating themselves with SGBV is no longer a pipe dream.

Often, concurring and dissenting judgments in a case are not given the prominence they deserve. In this case, I was attracted by the concurring judgment of Khampepe J, because I read it as a reminder that rapists are not marked on the forehead nor is rape perpetrated by scoundrels of the society. "... you cannot tell that someone is a rapist by their mere physical appearance or their standing in the community or their relationship to you", stated Khampepe J [Para 75].

As part of the broader movement to combat SGBV, every woman or person must appreciate the possibility that her rapist may be her beloved father, the most trusted brother, the dependable uncle, the rich guy next door, her most handsome boyfriend or partner, the admired political leader in the community, the famous guy or celebrity in the community, the loved musician, the gardener who has been with the family since you were a five-year-old child, the famous prophet or pastor in church, that kind-hearted male colleague, and the man who just won the boss of the year award.

As Khampepe J explicated: The notion that rape is committed by sexually deviant monsters with no self-control is misplaced. Law databases are replete with cases that contradict this notion. Often, those who rape are fathers, brothers, uncles, husbands, lovers, mentors, bosses and colleagues. We commune with them. We share stories and coffee with them. We jog with them. We work with them. They are ordinary people, who lead normal lives... The idea that rape is committed by monsters and animals may have adverse effects in that it may lead to the reinforcement of rape myths and stereotypes. [Para 74] Now that this and other judgments have continued to break steadily the legal constraints of SGBV, what can we do as a society to help eradicate sexist norms and patriarchal frameworks?

To answer my own question, I am indebted to Victor AJ in this case, who said that: "Continual vigilance within a constitutional context is necessary in relation to any remaining obstacles" [Para 83]. During the peak of SGBV, President Cyril Ramaphosa and his ministers, for instance, voiced support for doing whatever is possible to deal decisively with SGBV.

My advice to them is that among other less expensive ways is to make a call to the law faculties in South Africa, through the Southern African Law Deans Association (SALDA), to do their patriotic best in identifying sexist norms and patriarchy embedding principles of law and alert the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development to reform the law.

If we are to thwart SGBV, all hands must be on deck and law faculties must start to play meaningful roles.

DM

If wealth is justified, so is a wealth tax

By Katharina Pistor

ECONOMIC inequality has moved to the top of the political agenda in many countries, including free-market poster children such as the United States and the United Kingdom. The issue is mobilising the left and causing headaches on the right, where wealth has long been viewed as worthy of celebration, not as demanding justification.

But today's concentrations of wealth do demand justification. In 2018, Forbes listed three billionaires among its top 10 most powerful people in the world. Next to heads of state Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, one finds not only the Pope, but also Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Google co-founder Larry Page. All three owe their power not to public position or spiritual influence, but to private wealth.

As contenders in the Democratic primary for the 2020 US presidential election, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts have promised to impose new taxes on the super-wealthy.

Warren's wealth-tax proposal – a levy of 2% on every dollar of net worth above \$50 million, rising to 6% for fortunes greater than \$1 billion – has ruffled billionaires' feathers. According to Gates, he has paid more in taxes than almost anybody – some \$10-billion. And while he would consider it "fine" if that figure had been doubled to \$20-billion, he believes a much higher tax would threaten the incentive system that led him (and others) to invest in the first place.

For his part, Michael Bloomberg, the founder of the Bloomberg news empire, a former mayor of New York City, and now a Democratic presidential contender himself, argued that a wealth tax might be unconstitutional, and that it would turn the US into the likes of Venezuela. And not to

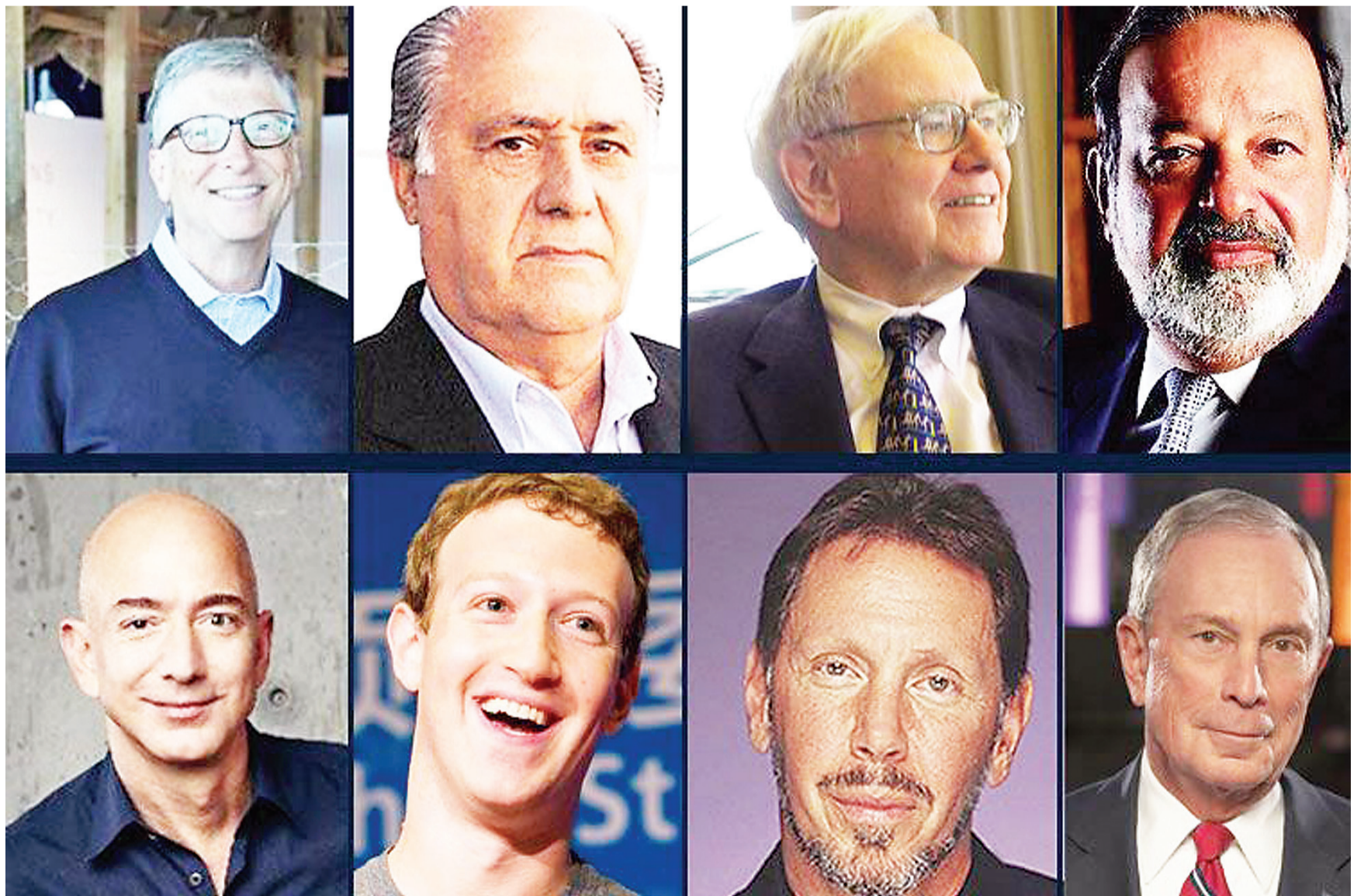
be outdone, Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg has suggested that taxing billionaires' wealth would lead to worse outcomes than leaving it where it is, implying that the ultra-wealthy know better than the peoples' elected representatives how tax revenues should be spent.

Note the sense of entitlement underlying each of these reactions. Each man's billions, we are told, belong to him; he earned the money and should therefore get to decide how to spend it, be it on philanthropic projects, taxes, or neither. The billionaires tell us they are willing to pay a fair share of taxes, but that there is some undefined threshold where the incentives to innovate and invest will be thrown into reverse. At that point, apparently, the ultra-wealthy will go on strike, leaving the rest of us worse off.

But this perspective ignores the fact that accumulated wealth is largely a product of law, and by implication of the state and the people who constitute it. As economist Thomas Piketty demonstrates in his 2014 book, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, the rich today hold most of their wealth in financial assets, which are simply legally protected promises to receive future cash flows. Take away legal enforceability, and all that remains is hope, not a secure asset.

Moreover, the private empires over which today's billionaires preside are organised as legally chartered corporations, which makes them creatures of the law, not of nature. The corporate form shields the personal wealth of the founders and other shareholders from the corporation's creditors. It also facilitates the diversification of risk within a company, by allowing discrete pools of assets to be created, each with its own set of creditors who are barred from making claims on another asset pool, even though the parent company's management controls all of them.

Further, the company's own shares can be used as currency when acquiring other companies. When Facebook bought WhatsApp, it covered \$12-billion of the \$16-billion purchase price with its own shares, paying only \$4-billion in cash. And, as with Facebook, corporate law can be used to cement control by founders and their affiliates through dual-class share structures that grant them more votes than anyone else. As such, they need not fear elections or takeovers of any kind.



Finally, companies whose assets take the form of intellectual property (IP) and other intangibles tend to rely even more on the helping hand of the law. As of 2018, 84% of the market capitalisation of the S&P 500 was held in such intangible assets. It takes a legal intervention to turn ideas, skills, and knowhow – which are free to be shared by anybody – into exclusive property rights that are enforced by the full power of the state. And in recent years, Microsoft and other US tech companies have boosted their earning power significantly by promoting US-style IP rules around the world through the World Trade Or-

ganisation's body for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

To be sure, there are good reasons for states to adopt laws that empower private agents to reap the rewards of organising businesses and developing new products and services. But let's call a spade a spade and a (legal) subsidy a subsidy.

While Bezos, Bloomberg, Gates, and Zuckerberg may be savvy entrepreneurs, they also have benefited on a massive scale from the helping hand of legislatures and courts around the world. This hand is more contingent than the invisible one immortalised by Adam Smith, because its vitality depends on a widely shared belief in the rule of law. The erosion of that belief, not a tax, poses the greatest threat to billionaires' wealth.

BM

Coordinated global action is the best way of controlling the fall armyworm

ROME

DEALING with transboundary pests is tricky at the best of times. Standards, practices, capacity levels and engagement vary across countries and regions, and responses are often ad hoc and ineffective. However, matters become even more complex when the pest in question flies over borders, threatens the food security and livelihoods of millions, and causes severe environmental and economic damage along the way. Fall Armyworm is such a pest.

Step forward the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with the "Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control", a pioneering initiative that aims to mobilize USD 500 million over 2020-22 to take radical, direct and coordinated measures to fight Fall Armyworm at a global level.

A brief introduction to Fall Armyworm

Fall Armyworm is an invasive moth originating in the Americas. It prefers to eat maize but also feeds on 80 or more other crops, including rice, sorghum, millet, sugarcane, vegetable crops and cotton. Once established in an area, Fall Armyworm is almost impossible to eradicate and very difficult to stop spreading - a sprightly adult can fly up to several hundred kilometres! Indeed, since its arrival in West Africa nearly four years ago, Fall Armyworm has already spread across the African continent; and beyond Africa, to more than a dozen Asian countries, including China and India. Europe could be next.

It's hard to calculate the global extent of Fall Armyworm damage but,



Fall Armyworm larva feeding and damaging maize plant. File photo

based on 2018 estimates from 12 countries, maize yield losses in Africa could be as high as 17.7 million tonnes annually. This equates to 40 percent of Africa's annual maize yield or USD 4.6 billion. The most direct impact is on the continent's smallholder maize farmers, most of whom rely on the crop to stave off hunger and poverty.

What is the Global Action?

FAO's new Global Action for Fall Armyworm Control will massively scale up FAO projects and activities to reach out to hundreds of millions of affected farmers. The Global Action has three key objectives: i) establish global coordination and regional collaboration on monitoring, early warning, and Integrated Pest Management of Fall Armyworm; ii) reduce associated crop losses; and iii) lower the risk of further spread.

The Global Action will target the three regions that have experienced a Fall Armyworm invasion in recent years - Africa, the Near East and Asia

which uses artificial intelligence to help farmers with smartphones detect Fall Armyworm damage and choose appropriate response actions. As a near real-time data centre, FAMEWS allows for better estimates on pest spread and crop damage, which helps in targeting interventions.

There is no one-size-fits-all remedy. Combating Fall Armyworm will require bespoke, science-based solutions that take account of the specific context of each infested area. However, knowing what works best, and where, will require further research. Local knowledge and the decades' worth of experience of dealing with Fall Armyworm in the Americas will also be important guides.

An auspicious beginning

It is fitting that the launch of the Global Action came just two days after the official opening of the FAO-led United Nations International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH). The IYPH underlines the importance of plant health to both planetary and human health, and urges action against the further spread of pests and diseases, particularly due to climate change, trade and other factors.

Ultimately, the success of the Global Action, IYPH 2020 and other plant health initiatives will be determined by the ability of a broad range of stakeholders to work together for a common goal. FAO will play a lead role in driving this partnership model and, in the words of FAO Director-General, Qu Dongyu, commit "to putting the knowledge, experience and lessons learned from stakeholders and partners at the service of farmers throughout the world to stem the global threat of this pest".

IPS

Knowledge sharing, innovation and research

Paramount in the Global Action will be coordinated efforts to spread knowledge and information to smallholders affected by Fall Armyworm, especially through the establishment or scaling up of dedicated national task forces. These task forces will both bolster and go beyond current FAO initiatives, such as the Farmer Field School programme, reaching into the most isolated communities.

The Global Action will also promote biological pest control and other innovative field practices, as well as technologies such as the open source Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) tool,

- and align with FAO's new data-driven Hand-in-Hand Initiative, which aims to support achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals by pairing the most developed countries with those with the highest poverty and hunger rates.

Child in a refugee camp thought video games fell from heaven...

By Emily Vaughn

LUAL Mayen, CEO of Junub Games, says that before he taught himself how to code at a refugee camp, "I never thought video games were made by people. I thought they just fall from heaven."

Lual Mayen, a video game developer based in Washington, DC, remembers the first time he saw a computer. He was just a child at the time.

It was 2007, and his family was registering for benefits at a refugee camp in Uganda, where they had settled after fleeing civil war in South Sudan. He didn't tell anyone at first, but he says that in that moment he knew in his heart that he wanted to learn to code.

More than a decade later, Mayen is garnering international recognition from Facebook and the global gaming community for an innovative video game that brings players into the life of a refugee. The latest version of the game - called "Salaam", which means "peace" in Arabic - was due for release on Thursday this week.

But before that could happen, Mayen had to get his mother to take him seriously. He says that when he eventually confessed his dream to her, she laughed at him.

He explains further: "She looked at me like I was crazy. 'What are you going to do with a computer? Who's gonna train you?' But because she was a mother to me, she didn't discourage me."

Mayen says his mother quietly began putting away part of her earnings from mending clothes for other refugees at the camp. After three years she saved US\$300 and surprised him with a laptop.

Mayen was astonished and grateful for the gift, but he says it also came with a downside. He worried that if he didn't take advantage of his mother's gift, she would take his or his brothers' desires less seriously. Also, he wasn't sure where to begin learning to use it.

His first hurdle to mastering the computer was simple but significant: finding a place to charge it. He eventually found a generator in a distant part of the refugee camp, and says he walked three hours each direction to get there - every day.

Next, he needed instruction. He couldn't access the Internet, but a friend gave him coding tutorials loaded onto a flash drive. That same friend also gave

him a copy of his first video game: Grand Theft Auto.

Mayen says he was drawn to the game, which is famously violent, "but I felt like this is what is actually happening in my country. This is war". He started to wonder what if, instead of a game that encourages players to take violent actions, "I could make the same thing happen, but for peace and conflict resolution?"

That was the inspiration for the mobile phone game, Salaam, which he spent the following months creating. In the game, players take on the identity of a refugee escaping a conflict zone and have to gather resources like food and medicine while running away from violence to stay alive.

Mayen shared the game on his Facebook page, and that's when he started attracting international attention. Most notably, more than 26 million people watched via livestream as he was named a Global Gaming Citizen at the 2018 Game Awards in Los Angeles, for using gaming to promote "positivity" and community.

Even within that category Mayen is a standout, says Leo Olebe - the global director of games partnerships at Facebook, which co-developed the Global Gaming Citizen category for the Game Awards. "In the games business, it's really easy to fall back on orcs and goblins," says Olebe, adding: "It's really hard to take this throughline of peace and conflict resolution and carry it through everything that you do. And Lual does that. It's mind-blowing stuff."

Mayen is now focused on bringing Salaam to a larger audience by releasing an enhanced version on Facebook Instant Games, through the company he created, Junub Games. His vision is to use the game to inspire empathy for refugees.

And he says he's working on a charitable component so that when players make in-app purchases of extra resources in the game, a portion would go to a grassroots organisation at a refugee camp. As people pay to "stay alive" a little longer in the game, they're supporting actual refugees' lives.

Olebe says so-called social impact games like Salaam fall under a category that has the potential to push the industry to expand its definition of success.

"Lual is actually making a difference in this world by inspiring people to be better," he says, elaborating: "That's a very different and important metric relative



South Sudanese refugee Lual Mayen explains his video game during a visit to NPR in Washington, DC. Photo: Catie Dull/NPR

to retention rates or the lifetime value of a player or other things people talk about more often in the games industry."

"I don't even know how you place a value on helping somebody better understand the world. He (Lual) is playing a whole different game altogether," notes Olebe.

Games where a player takes on another person's perspective or becomes immersed in a specific environment can be beneficial in building positive interpersonal relationships, according to Tammi Kral. Kral is a research assistant at the Centre for Healthy Minds at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who is not affiliated with Junub Games or Salaam.

Kral says that as video game developers explore the potential for games to inspire "prosocial" behaviour, they would do well to collaborate with psychologists and behavioural scientists who understand the impact of games on specific brain networks.

The video game also comes at a time when the (US President Donald) Trump administration has slashed the number of refugees who will be permitted to resettle in the US in the coming year by nearly half to 18,000 - a record low since the modern refugee programme was es-

tablished in 1980.

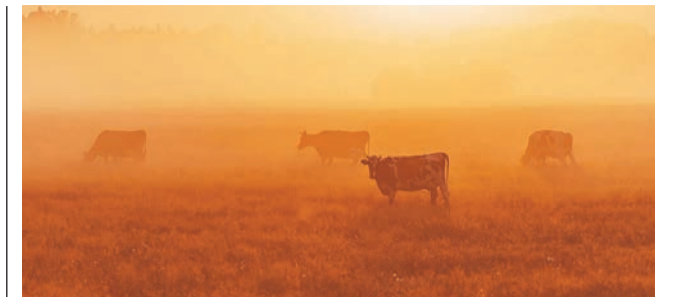
Building empathy for refugees is especially pressing "under an administration that overtly expresses anti-immigrant sentiment and promulgates harmful policies against refugees and immigrants," says Rachel Landry, acting director of refugee resettlement and asylum policy and advocacy at the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The IRC is a global humanitarian aid, relief and development non-governmental organisation. Founded in 1933 as the International Relief Association, at the request of Albert Einstein, it provides emergency aid and long-term assistance to refugees and those displaced by war, persecution or natural disaster.

The agency is currently working in some 40 countries, where it resettles refugees and helps them become self-sufficient. It focuses mainly on health, education, economic wellbeing, power, and safety.

Consisting of first responders, humanitarian relief workers, international development experts, health care providers and educators, the IRC has assisted millions of people around the world - roundabout 26 million in 2016 alone.

NPR



A cattle truck has just rattled past my window, which reminds me ... excuse me while I pop into the kitchen to marinate those steaks for tonight's braai. DM

The planet, the farmer and the madness of fighting a lost battle

By Tony Jackman

A sheep truck has just changed to a halt outside my window. I first heard the rattle of its railings as it slowed, then the baa, baa, baa of sheep huddled in their metal transportation, possibly to the slaughter; we presume that they cannot know it, and are merely oblivious of their unknowable fate. That may not be the case, though I'm not going to ask my neighbour Johann, whose truck-for-hire it is, as I'd rather not know the beasts' fate. For the guilty conscience, you understand.

I do get the irony that on a Friday morning I might see a bakkie rattling along the street and wince for the fate of the three woolly occupants at the back, then that night light a fire and braai some chops. As if the two things are unrelated - with lack the sheep is off for the shearing, you might hope, and anyway, those chops came from a packet in the supermarket fridge. The mind has a way of blocking out all the in-between bits. As it happens, shearing is done on the farm, then the wool is sorted to go for auction or sale, often to China (when they aren't banning SA wool because of an outbreak in Limpopo or elsewhere very far from your Eastern Cape farm where your meat was raised). This will bring the farmer the annual wool cheque, on which much of the farm has to run for very long months.

Maybe the rattled sheep are headed for the abattoir. But they may just as well be being shipped to a farmer elsewhere who has bought them, there being a great need among the more hard-pressed to sell their stock or, more bluntly, as some of them put it candidly, to liquidate their assets. Or headed for auction, where their fate rests on the needs of whoever's buying them - if they're in luck, that's a sheep farmer in a good rain area who can afford to fatten them up for the inevitable. But it'd be a reprieve at least. Or they could be en route to a feedlot, where sheep are fed a formula diet that may preclude their owner from naming their meat Karoo Lamb, if plans reach fruition to shackle farmers to a madly strict spider's web of rules designed to ensure that the customer is sold proper Karoo lamb, and not merely the best lamb from the Karoo that the drought-embattled farmer can manage to produce. Again, the end result is the slaughter. That's the lot of the embattled Karoo sheep farmer: shackled, and hobbled, by the need for rules, where good practice and commonsense ought to be enough. I'm not saying vegan activists and climate activists don't have a case - they absolutely do. The damage to the planet is set out sensibly in the following video by The Economist, which argues that if cows were a country, they'd be the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases on the planet.

A lot of food, it is maintained, is wasted to feed animals which we then eat. Bear in mind where the word

"husbandry" comes from. A sheep or cattle farmer's business is to "put the ram to the ewes", as the sheep farmer, or grazer in Australian parlance, might say, in order to create more animals to feed until maturity (yet more costly during times of drought, when the "free" grazing of the veld is not available, so has to be supplemented with very expensive bought feed). So a lot of effort and expense is gone to so that we have the lamb and mutton the market demands. And that global market is way beyond massive.

I do hear those people in their fancy city butcheries and others in academia who charge that it is just not good enough to finish a sheep off in a feedlot - where they're fattened up with manufactured feed to please or appease the market, saving the original farmer a lot of money and probably enabling him to stay afloat - because the meat won't be as "Karoo" as it "should" be. But it's not as simple as that in the real life of the poor farmer fighting drought and debt. There's a six-year-plus drought going on all around them. There's nothing on the veld the beasts can eat. The rainclouds come and the rainclouds go, leaving no gift behind them. What the hell is the farmer supposed to do? Let the sheep starve until their gaunt carcasses are strewn all over the veld? If I were that sheep, please, send me to the feedlot.

Ah, the vegan might say, but we shouldn't be farming them anyway. Because The Planet. And therein lies a massive and insulting presumption. I get that this must be hard reading if you're a vegetarian or vegan. We're from different planets, admitted. And the planet is key in this story. We all want to save it. Even meat-eaters use eco-friendly recyclable bags for their shopping and separate their bottles and plastic from their paper goods and leftover food. Yet suddenly we find ourselves the Enemy, the Culprit, spoken about as if we're a Pariah, an Unconscionable, an Untransformable.

I watched this video in growing horror the other day:

This vegan activist's ideology - that's what it is - is more important to her than sharing food at table with her own father; even though she does not have to eat meat while he does. People who are not vegan are "people who eat dead animals" or "eat the body of an animal". And vegan activists are on a mission to turn the entire planet into a vegans-only space. (Can you imagine?) Well, best you find us another planet then. Hardcore vegans - and I do imagine that there are plenty of vegans who are happy to eat their seitan, kale and meat-free "meat" at a table with the meat-eating people they love - are but a fraction of the world's populace, despite the growth of the "movement", and we know what happens when a minority takes control of a government, don't we? Orwellian vistas come into view, and they're ever grim and bleak.

Malawi farmers nurture soils, grow incomes with conservation agriculture

LILONGWE

KASSIM Massi and Joyce Makawa have learned how conservation agriculture nurtures the soil of their 2.5-acre farm in Lemu, Malawi, and helps them to better cope with regular dry spells and storm rains.

With four children and two grandchildren, their livelihoods depend on rainfed crop farming, in particular maize, the main staple in Malawi, and a few goats and free-range poultry.

The International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) introduced them to conservation agriculture, along with five other families in their community.

"I have learnt a lot from this experiment. I can see that with crop rotation, mulching and intercropping I get bigger and healthier maize cobs. The right maize spacing, one seed at the time planted in a row, creates a good canopy which preserves the soil moisture in addition to the mulch effect," Massi explains.

He added: "The mulch also helps to limit water runoff when there are heavy rains. I don't see the streams of mud flowing out of this plot like for my other field where I only planted maize as usual on ridges".

Massi and Makawa started small, on a quarter acre, testing maize and maize-pigeon pea intercropping under conservation agriculture. Later they diversified to a maize-groundnut rotation with pigeon pea alleys, while introducing different drought-tolerant maize varieties on their plot.

Pigeon pea and groundnut are legume crops that enrich the soil in nitrogen via nodules that host specific bacteria called rhizobia in their root systems. Massi and Makawa also put layers

of maize stalks and groundnut haulms on the ground after harvest, creating a mulch that not only enriches the soil in organic matter but retains soil moisture and improves soil structure.

While they got only two bags of 50kg maize grain from their conventionally tilled maize field, they harvested almost three times more maize grain plus three bags of groundnuts, and two and half bags of pigeon peas from the 0.1 hectares grown under conservation agriculture. "This plot has become our food insurance and we plan to expand it."

"Building healthy soils over the years is one of the great impacts of conservation agriculture," explains Christian Thierfelder, an agronomist with CIMMYT in Zimbabwe. "With no tillage, legume rotation or intercropping and crop residue management, a beneficial soil pore structure is developed over time. This enables water to infiltrate into the soil where it is available for plant growth in times of drought or during in-season dry spells."

Under the GIZ-funded out scaling climate-smart technologies to smallholder farmers in Malawi, Zambia & Zimbabwe initiative, the different ecosystem services that soils bring have been measured against the typical ploughed maize monocropping system.

Fifteen year-long experiments show that 48.5mm more water infiltrates per hour under no-till as compared with the conventional method. Soil erosion is reduced by 64% for riplined-seeded maize with legume intercropping.

At the Henderson Research station in Zimbabwe where soil erosion loss has been quantified, it means 90 metric tons per hectare of topsoil saved over twelve years.

"Conservation agriculture is good for the soil,



and it is good for the farmer. The maize-legume intercropping under conservation agriculture provides very good financial return to labor and investment in most rural communities we worked with," Thierfelder notes.

There is growing recognition of the importance of soils in our quest for sustainability.

Soils play for instance an important role in climate regulation. Plants fix carbon dioxide (CO₂) through photosynthesis and when those plants die and decompose, the living organisms of the soil, such as bacteria, fungi or earthworms, trans-

form them into organic matter.

That way, soils capture huge quantities of the carbon emissions that fuel climate change. This soil organic carbon is also essential for our food security because it retains water, and soil nutrients, essential for growing crops.

The quantity of carbon soils capture depends on the way farmers grow their crops. Conservation agriculture improves soil biodiversity and carbon sequestration by retaining crop residues as mulch, compared to conventional practices.

"Research shows that practices such as con-

servation agriculture can restore soil organic carbon at the level of four per thousand when farmers apply all principles of conservation agriculture: no-till, soil cover and crop diversification," explains Marc Corbeels, agronomist seconded to CIMMYT from Cirad.

Increasing soil organic content stocks globally by 0.4% per year is the objective of the "4 per 1000" initiative as a way to mitigate climate change and improve food security. At global level, sequestering 0.4% more soil organic carbon annually combined with stopping deforestation would counteract the annual rise in atmospheric CO₂.

"The overall soil organic carbon sequestration potential of conservation agriculture should however not be overestimated," Corbeels warns. "Carbon sequestration is complex and context-specific. It depends for instance on the type of soils and the initial soil organic status, and the crop and biomass productivity as enough crop residues should be produced."

"Now farmers in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe are facing prolonged drought and, in some parts, farming communities got hit by flash floods. With degraded and barren soils in this tropical environment, it is a disaster. In my experience, more than mitigation, improved climate resilience is a bigger benefit of conservation agriculture for the farmers", Corbeels says.

Rwanda gives crucial lessons on the worth of health workers

By Sarita Santoshini

ON a sunny morning in October, Christine Umuhiza stood outside her brick house chatting with a neighbour - a young mother holding her infant by the hips. For most women in this small village of fewer than 200 people in Rwanda's eastern province, Umuhiza is both neighbour and maternal guide.

Dressed in a long brown skirt, black polka-dotted top, and a printed scarf tied to her neck, she was fresh and chirpy for a long day of work. Beyond the banana plants that surround her house, scatterings of mud and brick buildings - some with accompanying sheds for livestock - peppered the landscape of unpaved red clay roads in the traditional farming community.

Umuhiza used to be a subsistence farmer. But for the last decade, the 38-year-old single mother of two teenagers has worked voluntarily, seeing on average at least two pregnant women a day, for 1-2 hours each. Her clients are all from the village, which in 2009 elected Umuhiza as a community health worker (CHW) known as Animateur de Santé Maternelle or ASM.

"Earlier a woman would go from pregnancy to childbirth without a single visit to a health facility, putting their lives and that of their children at risk. There were so many deaths," Umuhiza recalled. "Now I ensure that a woman goes through pregnancy and delivery equipped with everything ... all the information about check-ups, family planning ... dangerous symptoms. It has changed a lot of lives."

Back in 2005, when she was pregnant with her youngest child, Umuhiza remembers there being no CHW in the village. She went for a few prenatal check-ups but eventually gave birth at home. Immediately after, she experienced severe pain and bleeding and had to be taken to the health centre as a result.

"So much has changed since then," she said. "The main change is that we now educate and mobilise women to take care of their health during pregnancy and go to the health centres."

As part of her work, Umuhiza had scheduled a session the following day to teach new mothers how to prepare a balanced diet for their young children. That weekend, she would do regular home visits with her three pregnant clients, all of whom were a quick mobile phone call away in case she needed to rush to their side for an emergency.

Today, there are about 60,000 CHWs across the country, almost four in each village, including an ASM like Umuhiza who is responsible for infant and pre and postnatal maternal care. About 66 percent of CHWs are women, according to Diane Gashumba, the minister of health.

Rwanda's community health programme was started in 1995. The year before, genocide against the Tutsis left nearly a million people dead. It also devastated health infrastructure: facilities were destroyed, health workers fled or were killed, and public services broke down.

It is the first contact the commu-



Christine Umuhiza in her backyard in Kirehe district, where she is a community health worker supporting infants and pregnant women. Photo: Agencies

nities have with the health sector ... These are strong leaders of our health system because they live in the community ... They know the people they are taking care of. And they have their trust.

Diane Gashumba, Rwandan health minister stated that the government acknowledges the role that CHWs have played in reducing maternal deaths.

"It is the first contact the communities have with the health sector ... These are strong leaders of our health system because they live in the community ... They know the people they are taking care of. And they have their trust," said Gashumba.

Rwanda's maternal mortality rate drastically decreased from 1,020 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000 to 290 in 2015. By achieving this, it became one of the few countries to meet the United Nations millennium development goal 5A, to reduce maternal mortality by at least 75 percent over the 25-year period.

In referral and district hospitals, which were packed with pregnant women during daylight hours, staff acknowledged the contribution CHWs make.

"The decentralized health system means that a woman can go to a community health worker who is her neighbour, instead of coming all the way to the health center," said Patient Ngamije, the director general of Kirehe district hospital. "We are not worried because they are trained and they practise it."

Umuhiza scrolled through the overflowing message folder on her phone with one hand, while referring to a code guide book held in the other. She has been working with a mobile phone since 2010, when the Rapid SMS system began to be extended countrywide.

Using mobile technology for work is now second nature to her, she said. The system is meant to record real-time information on key maternal and neonatal health indicators with an aim of preventing undue loss of life.

From the start of a woman's pregnancy for up to 1,000 days - until her child is two years old - Umuhiza is responsible for following up on her health and recording details related to check-ups, treatments and immunisations, among other things. She is aware and intrigued by the fact that the SMS

reaches all the way to officials at the topmost level of the government.

"If for some reason I get busy with something and forget to follow up on a client, I receive an SMS with reminders and asking for updates. It gets me up and running on my feet immediately," she said, laughing.

Like Umuhiza, Concessa Mukeshimana also sees clients at home, in her living room that has been informally designated as a consultation space. On a table next to her sofa, the 42-year-old stores thick registers with details of all her clients, government-issued guidebooks, several rapid diagnostic test kits used to detect malaria, a batch of medicines and contraceptive injections, among other things.

Mukeshimana was elected a CHW over a decade ago. Her responsibilities began with only malaria care for children below the age of five without the use of any equipment, and have since grown to include other diseases and age groups.

Now, on average, she sees at least five clients a day. The number goes up to 10-15 when it is busy. People arrive at their convenience, she says; there is no fixed appointment time and they

sometimes overlap. This can be challenging for the CHWs who strive to give each client privacy. But they make do with what they have because they see value in the work they do.

"Just imagine, I only have primary education but the kind of diseases I can provide care for, because of the training I have received, are the same as someone who has passed the university," Mukeshimana said. "It makes me proud of this work."

Mother-of-four Marsarena 'Muzaka' Muzakamargwanice, was Mukeshimana's first adult client after the government extended the community-based malaria treatment programme in 2016 to include children over the age of five and adults. She remembers being constantly unwell and making regular runs to the health centre. After each of her pregnancies, and almost every other year, the 36 year old was bed-ridden for days, sick with malaria and scared for her life.

As a subsistence farmer, there was no time for or knowledge about malaria prevention at that time, she said. "The health centres focused on treatment but they did not have the time and resources to teach so many of us about prevention." In 2016, following her last pregnancy, she fell ill again. "When I heard she's unwell, I visited her as a friend and neighbour, but also as a client," said Mukeshimana, explaining that women who have given birth are "our topmost priority" to be followed up with at home.

On seeing Muzaka bid-ridden with high fever, Mukeshimana asked for the villagers' assistance to get her home where she stayed her for malaria with a rapid diagnostic test that detects the presence of a malarial parasite through a blood sample. On testing positive, she administered Muzaka medicines for the next three days. Once she was well and able to care for her children again, Mukeshimana also taught her some malaria prevention methods.

Some 11 million pregnant women were infected with malaria in sub-Saharan Africa last year, according to the recently released World Malaria Report 2019. As a result, more than 900,000 children were born with low

Children to no longer bear with bitter ARVs

By Verah Okeyo

MEDICS and caregivers will no longer have to worry about children rejecting or spitting out bitter ARV drugs.

This is because Kenya is among six countries that will receive the "four-in-one" strawberry flavored paediatric HIV drug, according to manufacturers of the drugs.

The communications office of Geneva-based Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDI),

which manufactures the drug alongside Indian company Cipla, told Nation that once the medicine is approved, Kenya alongside Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Senegal will receive it.

DNDI received a \$17.3 million grant for their paediatric HIV programme from another non-profit, Unitaid, a substantial amount of which was channelled into the programme.

DNDI wrote on their website on

November 29 that "Quadrimume is currently under review by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in children between three and 25kg bodyweight." This announcement comes after Dr Catherine Ngugi, the head of National Aids and STIs Control Programme (Nascop), attended a week-long Icasa conference in Rwanda last week and held meetings with DNDI to solidify the agreement to have the medication come in Kenya.

Health CS Sicily Kariuki wrote to Nation: "We are working for Kenya to be among the first countries to roll out this treatment." Dr Ngugi stressed that they were "hopeful that the medicine will come to Kenya by July 2020."

The medicine will be a relief from the bitter tasting Lopinavir-Ritonavir, known by its generic name, Kaletra, which children spit out or refuse to take altogether. Kaletra also requires refrigeration, a requirement that many

mothers cannot meet.

Dr Patrick Oyaro, an HIV expert and CEO of Health Innovations Kenya, participated in the study and told Nation that when children spit Kaletra out, it contributes to their developing resistance to the medication due to an incomplete dosage.

Dr Ngugi also said the drug will boost Kenya's ambitious 90-90-90 target, which seeks to have 90 per cent of all children living with HIV diagnosed, 90 per cent

of those diagnosed HIV+ receiving treatment, and 90 per cent of those children receiving treatment achieving viral suppression by 2020.

She said that, at the moment, the viral suppression for children in "not that good". In 2017, Nascop reported that only 67 per cent of children below nine years and 66 per cent aged 10 to 19 had achieved virally suppression. This is far below the 90 per cent target. Kenya has received praise for its

fight against HIV, but there are challenges that the country has not surmounted. One of those is access to paediatric friendly medicine.

Paediatric HIV is considered neglected diseases-no wonder DNDI got involved because not many companies manufacture drugs for it. The country has been participating in the pilot study- still run by DNDI- to try better tasting medicine in children since 2015.

Democracy suffers when legislatures don't share information

By Alicestine October

ONE of the key ways in which we can assert ourselves as citizens beyond the ballot box is through national Parliament and the provincial legislatures whose main job is to hold the government to account through proper oversight. But the Auditor-General's (AG) latest findings, it can be argued, is also an indictment on those tasked with tracking and keeping government departments accountable for how they spend public money – our public representatives in the legislatures.

Legislatures are after all the flagbearers of representative and participatory democracy, but too often the very institutions meant to give us wings, are what bog us down.

From decisions to close down schools or to build a new hospital – as citizens we should be able to know what decisions are taken and what questions are asked in provincial legislatures about issues that may impact communities. We are also entitled to the answers and should be able to raise our own questions through our political representatives about issues that affect us.

In a time of State Capture and institutional collapse, it has never been this crucial for every South African to insist on the constitutional principles of a People's Parliament. Government departments such as health and education where provinces and national government have concurrent powers, often have the biggest budgets at the provincial level and among the most important service delivery responsibilities. In a department like health, the difference between good and bad spending can make the difference between life and death.

Take the provincial Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal as a case in point.

The Office of the AG in its latest report found that this department, by the 2018/19 financial year, incurred more than R12-billion in irregular expenditure – more than any other provincial health department.

The biggest chunk of the irregular expenditure in the KZN Department

of Health was on radiology equipment contracts. The way these contracts were managed had direct consequences for the public dependent on cancer treatment in the public health sector.

So, insisting on accountability is not only a rand-and-cents-lost-argument, but can be a life-and-death issue that cuts to the heart of the democracy and the citizens at the centre of it. And it is the responsibility of these provincial legislatures to hold these provincial departments of health to account.

Escaping public scrutiny
Since 2014, under the administration of former President Jacob Zuma, the scuffles between EFF MPs and Parliament's security officers during sittings of the National Assembly became a regular feature on television screens and propelled national Parliament into the living rooms of most South Africans.

Provincial legislatures, however, are a different ball game altogether. It often reminds one of a black hole where politicians are sucked in and only pop out again when it is election time.

Provincial legislatures are institutions where very important decisions are taken. Yet, they have for a very long time managed to escape public scrutiny.

The very essence of participatory and representative democracy lies in the relationship between citizens and the public representatives they elected to represent them. And too often, a mockery is made of this idea of a People's Parliament or a People's legislature.

Let us remind ourselves of one of the biggest tragedies in the public health sector in democratic South Africa – the needless death of 144 mental health patients during the Life Esidimeni crisis a few years ago.

And we almost did not know their names. It was through a tip-off in 2015 that an opposition party member of the provincial legislature (MPL), Jack Bloom started asking questions in the Gauteng Legislature. By then, families of the patients and organisations such as Section27 and Sadag (South African Depression and Anxiety Group) also tried to stop the moving of patients to various



Citizens are entitled to answers and should be able to raise questions through their political representatives about issues that affect them, says the writer. File photo

NGOs.

But it was in the Gauteng legislature where answers were demanded. By November that year, Bloom told the then MEC for Health in Gauteng Qedani Mahlangu that her plans to end the Life Esidimeni contract was a "colossal mistake, a looming disaster". Using questions to Mahlangu in the legislature, Bloom managed to get the first death count – it was 36. Mahlangu maintained it was death by natural causes. From there, what later became known as the Life Esidimeni tragedy escalated into an arbitration hearing that still haunts us as a nation.

On luck, charm and guessing games

So, what did the Life Esidimeni tragedy teach us about the efficacy of oversight in provincial legislatures?

The whistleblower got in touch with a member of the provincial legislature. The MPL raised this issue and asked a series of questions and made statements in the legislature – without which we would have known a lot less about the impact of this government decision.

By using questions in the legislature Bloom, along with the families and the civil society organisations, managed to get the necessary media attention on the issue. This would eventually lead to a heart-wrenching arbitration hearing that picked at the scab of all that is wrong in the public accountability chain, but also showed how important oversight

mechanisms in provincial legislatures can be.

Yet, today, upon visiting the website of the Gauteng Legislature, there is only one media release posted of the Standing Committee on Health in the Gauteng Legislature for 2019. The last question paper loaded on the Gauteng Legislature was in 2017, and clicking on the link takes one to a blank page. In the event that there is an actual question paper loaded, it would only contain the questions to the members of the provincial executive council and not the much-needed and critical answers.

In other provinces, like the Eastern Cape where the distance to the legislature is a major issue for many residents, who have to travel to Bisho to attend proceedings, technology can make a huge difference. However, the link to the website of the provincial legislature was recently not working. So, again the people the institution should serve are at a disadvantage. Trying to access and get an idea on the nature and outcome of deliberations during committee meetings or sittings in legislatures by reading the minutes of proceedings afterwards can also turn into a tedious guessing game as the information shared is often overly cryptic.

As a matter of course, legislatures are failing to share their work with us and breaking the social contract we have with politicians. We have good reason to be angry when legislatures operate as if democracy is an endless guessing game about what is happening with issues that affect our lives. The very

idea of a People's Parliament or the People's legislatures is, after all, grounded in constitutionally mandated transparency and access.

Unlike national Parliament, proceedings in provincial legislatures are not routinely televised. Even for experienced journalists, getting the recordings of committee meetings in these legislatures are often a balancing act between charm and sheer luck. After having successfully navigated the maze that is the administration of most provincial legislatures – you often (if you're very lucky) will find the designated clerk responsible for the recordings of proceedings or the clerk in charge of documents or parliamentary questions and answers tabled – but then these officials often are not very forthcoming with what should essentially be publicly accessible documents once it is tabled in the legislature. Many do not understand, or choose not to understand, the constitutional mandate of legislatures and its lifeblood – the people.

Missing the point

It is not just the general public at a disadvantage, but also the media. Recently after a Spotlight tweet on the frustrations of having to rely on an opposition party to get a sense of the issues raised in the legislature around health, the Gauteng MEC for Health Dr Bandile Masuku replied on Twitter that his department would publish the questions and answers asked in the legislature on Twitter. Not to be upstaged, Western Cape MEC for Health Nomafrench Mbombo also declared on the same Twitter thread that she would follow suit. She never did.

However well-intentioned, this misses the point. It should not be up to the executive to ensure the public has access to something as basic as the questions and answers posed in the legislature.

Parliamentary questions are one of the most important measures to hold the executive to account. It gives us a glimpse into the cracks in good governance that can easily become gaping holes eating away at the foundations of democracy. It can help predict the Life Esidimenis and help stop the bleeding of billions lost in irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditure. So, the need for a public magnifying glass by, but also on, these legislatures remains high.

Something needs to give.

Political will to do the right thing in government will not magically appear overnight. This is South Africa, after all. We need to be vigilant. We need as many eyes as possible guarding the cookie jar and our democracy – from those constitutionally mandated to be the watchdogs over government, but also down to each one of us watching over the watchdogs.

We have to restore and ensure that all the links in the accountability chain work and remove this air of mystery around provincial legislatures that's not leaving democracy much breathing room. And it can start with something as simple as publishing a question and answer posed in a legislature that can arm all of us with information.

MC

The ignoble fall of a Nobel Peace Prize winner

UNITED NATIONS

APPEARING before 17 judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Aung San Suu Kyi, the de facto civilian leader of Myanmar, became a public apologist for the military government of Myanmar which has long been accused of genocide and forcing over 730,000 Rohingya Muslims to flee to neighboring Bangladesh since a 2017 crackdown.

She was now ingloriously reduced to the point where she was defending the same military junta she battled for decades, which helped her win the Nobel Peace Prize back in 1991, while she was campaigning for democracy at the same time.

And her appearance before the ICJ was also meant to boost her popularity at home while plotting a meticulously laid path for re-election in 2020 – this time misusing the halls of justice in The Hague?

Dr. Simon Adams, Executive Director of the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, told IPS: "This case marks the final ignoble fall of Aung San Suu Kyi from Nobel Peace Prize winner to genocide denier and defender of Myanmar's murderous military."

It is a shocking fall from grace and dignity in the pursuit of domestic political power, he added. He also pointed out that this case is "truly

historic".

"Myanmar's responsibility for genocide is being discussed in front of the International Court of Justice and the eyes of the world. The Gambia should be congratulated for having the intestinal fortitude to take this case forward when so many states and superpowers did not," he added.

He said any other signatory to the Genocide Convention could have filed this case but only The Gambia had the courage to do so. This case is about establishing the historical truth of Myanmar's state responsibility for genocide against the Rohingya.

Dr Adams said the ICJ could issue provisional measures that actually have an impact on the ground inside Myanmar and could help ease the persecution of the Rohingya.

And symbolically this ICJ case is devastating for Myanmar's military. The whole world is discussing their atrocities. Their sense of impunity is looking a little less flimsy than they hoped, he declared.

Responding to the statement made by Aung San Suu Kyi at the ICJ, Nicholas Bequelin, Amnesty International's Regional Director, said: "Aung San Suu Kyi tried to downplay the severity of the crimes committed against the Rohingya population. In fact, she wouldn't even refer to them by name or acknowledge the scale of the abuses.



International Court of Justice in The Hague. Credit: United Nations

Such denials are deliberate, deceitful and dangerous."

The exodus of more than three quarters of a million people from their homes and country was nothing but the result of an orchestrated campaign of murder, rape and terror. To suggest that the military 'did not distinguish clearly enough between fighters and civilians' defies belief, Bequelin noted.

"Likewise, the suggestion that Myanmar authorities can currently and independently investigate and prosecute those suspected of crimes under international law is nothing but a fantasy, in particular in the case of senior military perpetrators who have enjoyed decades of total impunity," he declared.

Dr Tawanda Hondora, Executive Director of World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP), the organisation that houses and coordinates the work of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), told IPS Aung San Suu Kyi's concession that "...under the circumstances, genocidal intent cannot be the only hypothesis" is reason enough for the ICJ to impose an injunction against Myanmar for the well documented atrocities that have been committed in the country.

He said Aung San Suu Kyi must do the right thing and concede to the imposition by the ICJ of interim measures against Myanmar

prohibiting its security forces from persecuting the Rohingya."

"The Gambia must be applauded for lodging a complaint calling for the protection of the Rohingya in Myanmar."

"The Rohingya minority in Myanmar have suffered terribly at the hands of the military regime but unlike Aung San Suu Kyi's they are not in a position of power and have needed the goodwill of The Gambia."

Referring to the paralysis in the UN Security Council, Dr Hondora said the leaders of the US, Russia, China, the UK and France – countries that constitute the UNSC P5 – should be ashamed that it has fallen on the Gambia a small country struggling with the aftereffects of the rule by a tyrant, Yahya Jammeh, to seek justice for the Rohingya"

The World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy has called on the UN General Assembly to stand as one against states and others that commit offences that shock the conscience of humankind.

"The UN General Assembly must push for real and effective reforms of the UN system so that we can realise our collective ambition for the world to Never Again suffer such unimaginable atrocities," he said.

Meanwhile, in a statement released here, the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect said a decision on the request for

provisional measures can be expected within weeks. According to Article 94 of the UN Charter, judgments of the ICJ are binding and the UN Security Council can take collective action to ensure that they are upheld.

Members of the Security Council should name the crime committed against the Rohingya and actively ensure that any provisional measures imposed by the Court are expeditiously implemented.

During her remarks the Nobel Peace Prize winner acknowledged the disproportionate use of force in the context of an "internal armed conflict," but denied genocidal intent, the Global Centre said.

Tellingly, Aung San Suu Kyi did not use the word "Rohingya" once during her statement. Human rights specialists have argued that Myanmar's official denial of Rohingya identity is inextricably linked to their policy of persecution, the denial of universal human rights and ultimately to the genocidal actions of the military in Rakhine State during August-December 2017.

On 9 December Canada and the Netherlands issued a joint statement welcoming the ICJ case and expressing their "intention to jointly explore all options to support and assist The Gambia in these efforts."

The writer can be contacted at thalifdeen@ips.org

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT

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

3 Letter word: HHT, HUG, DEI, LEE, EYE, YET, EBB, TOP
4 Letter word: NONE, SIGH, REAP, TSAR, SAGE, LIRA, ISLE, ERTS, LEDA
5 Letter word: NDUGU, NEEDEY, NASTY,
6 Letter word: USAGES, NEIGHS, AGENTS, PRIMAL, NETTER, BRANDY
7 Letter word: STUDENT, TUSKERS,
8 Letter word: SERENGETI, DISCREDIT, NYASALAND

WORD FIT

1. Unit of currency in East Africa (8)
2. Deprived, weakened (12)
3. Director (6)
4. Lecture (8)
5. Purchasers concealing others (5,6)
6. Curved inlet of sea (3)
7. Largest lake in Ethiopia (4)
8. Make music with voice (4)
9. Make music with voice (4)
10. Regular (5)
11. Capital city of Austria (6)
12. Ice crystal flakes (4)
13. Make somebody very angry (6)
14. Essential part (4)
15. Ballet dancer's skirt (4)
16. Metallic element (4)
17. Vetch plant (4)
18. Examination (4)
19. Unexpected gap (6)
20. Fur trimming for robes (4)
21. Salt waters of Earth (3)
22. Brought in country illegally (8)

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD #1717

Clues: Across
1. City lacking center (6,4)
2. Deprived, weakened (12)
3. Director (6)
4. Lecture (8)
5. Purchasers concealing others (5,6)
6. Curved inlet of sea (3)
7. Largest lake in Ethiopia (4)
8. Make music with voice (4)
9. Make music with voice (4)
10. Regular (5)
11. Capital city of Austria (6)
12. Ice crystal flakes (4)
13. Make somebody very angry (6)
14. Essential part (4)
15. Ballet dancer's skirt (4)
16. Metallic element (4)
17. Vetch plant (4)
18. Examination (4)
19. Unexpected gap (6)
20. Fur trimming for robes (4)
21. Salt waters of Earth (3)
22. Brought in country illegally (8)

Down:
1. City lacking center (6,4)
2. Deprived, weakened (12)
3. Director (6)
4. Lecture (8)
5. Purchasers concealing others (5,6)
6. Curved inlet of sea (3)
7. Largest lake in Ethiopia (4)
8. Make music with voice (4)
9. Make music with voice (4)
10. Regular (5)
11. Capital city of Austria (6)
12. Ice crystal flakes (4)
13. Make somebody very angry (6)
14. Essential part (4)
15. Ballet dancer's skirt (4)
16. Metallic element (4)
17. Vetch plant (4)
18. Examination (4)
19. Unexpected gap (6)
20. Fur trimming for robes (4)
21. Salt waters of Earth (3)
22. Brought in country illegally (8)

BUSINESS

Capetonian shares her plans to summit Mount Kilimanjaro on her wheelchair

CAPE TOWN

IT was after Tarryn had taken up a new job at a hotel to consult about accessibility and public spaces that she heeded the call to summit, because "it's just become more and more evident how places are not accessible to people with disabilities and when certain measures are taken, they are not taken properly."

So Tarryn says she is undertaking this journey to prove the age-old sentiment that "your attitude determines your altitude." She adds that there are certain things that we can't help, like a mountain - it's there, but most barriers that exist are actually manmade barriers. It's the way spaces are being designed.

"The [climb] is to really to highlight that as people with disabilities, we don't need pity, we need agency and that together - which is why I won't be pushing myself up I'm going with a team - we are able to overcome challenges," she says.

The summit to Mount Kilimanjaro is to raise funds for a children's centre in Tanzania. Tarryn says there's also a universal message for everyone. "It's

about highlighting people's ability," she says. "If someone with a different [ability] can go on to take these kinds of challenges, so many people can step away from their excuses or their comfort zones to [have] a better mental attitude to face their personal mountains."

In preparation for the journey, Tarryn is undergoing structured physical training with a team of medical professionals who are sponsoring their training. "I started working with the biokinetic team and we work together twice a week and of course in between, I also have training that I need to do. That's on the physical side."

"Mentally I kind of just don't think about it too much, I believe that there's no use trying to mentally project something I've not experienced before. So my mental attitude is: we'll confront the challenge as we go, when we are there and just get past one challenge after the next," says Tarryn.

She says she has received mounds of support on her social media platforms ahead of the summit which will take place next year. "We all need to feel that we can conquer challenges and I think that whenever we see

someone being able to do something [we thought was impossible], it kind of ignites a question in us: 'well they are able to do all of that, what's my excuse?'"

This initiative started in 2014, by organiser Lee Wyser and her friend. For the 2020 summit, Lee says she has secured funding for four of the seven athletes in their team. "I certainly do

not wish to leave anyone behind," says Lee. She adds, "It is more important for me to ensure that these athletes reach the summit. Each athlete will have a story to tell and my dream is

to help make their dreams come true and with that open the doors for many other physically challenged athletes to realise that summiting Kilimanjaro is possible if they just believe."



Capetonian Tarryn Tomlinson.

RECOGNITION

Climate activist Greta Thunberg is Time 2019 person of the year

MADRID

GRETA Thunberg, the Swedish teenager who became the voice of conscience for a generation facing the climate change emergency, was named on Wednesday as Time magazine's 2019 Person of the Year.

The 16-year-old first made headlines with her solo strike against global warming outside Sweden's parliament in August 2018. "We can't just continue living as if there was no tomorrow, because there is a tomorrow. That is all we are saying," Thunberg told Time.

The magazine interviewed Thunberg aboard the sailboat that took her from the United States to Europe after a hectic 11-week North American trip to several US cities and Canada. Swedish youth climate activist Greta Thunberg told world leaders: "you have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words."

Thunberg has taken her disarmingly straightforward message - "listen to the scientists" - to global decision-makers, accusing them of inaction. The Swedish activist was in Madrid as the award was announced, at a UN climate forum tasked with saving the world from runaway global warming.

"The politics of climate action are as entrenched and complex as the phenomenon itself, and Thunberg has no magic solution," Time wrote in the interview. "But she has succeeded in creating a global attitudinal shift, transforming millions of vague, middle-of-the-night anxieties into a worldwide movement calling for urgent change. "She has offered a moral clarion call to those who are willing to act, and hurled shame on those who are not."

"I want you to panic"

Within months of launching her lonely "School Strike for the Climate" protest outside the Swedish parliament Thunberg was spearheading global demonstrations by young people and demanding environmental action from world leaders.

"I want you to panic," she told CEOs and world leaders at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland in January 2019. "I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act." Her words spread like wildfire online.



Greta Thunberg

The daughter of an opera singer mother and an actor-turned-producer father born, Thunberg has faced severe criticism - the latest from Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who dismissed her as a "brat" - and been subjected to a swarm of online conspiracy theory.

Some mock her youth or try to discredit her because of her Asperger's syndrome, a diagnosis she has never hidden. Her diagnosis means that Thunberg "doesn't operate on the same emotional register as many of the people she meets," Time magazine wrote.

"She dislikes crowds; ignores small talk; and speaks in direct, uncomplicated sentences. She cannot be flattered or distracted" - and according to the magazine, "these very qualities have helped make her a global sensation."

Thunberg says she is mystified by the hostility of some of the reaction to her. "I honestly don't understand why adults would choose to spend their time mocking and threatening teenagers and children for promoting science when they could do something good instead," she wrote on Twitter in September. "Being different is not an illness."

She also insists that she has "not received any money" for her activism. And with 12 million followers on her Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts, she continues to rack up high-profile supporters, from Barack Obama to the Dalai Lama and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

RESISTANCE

Woman stands up to gym bullies in an open letter for fat-shaming her

LONDON

TRYING to get fit and healthy is hard enough without having to factor in the possibility of being mocked at the gym.

A health and fitness club can be an intimidating environment for some and no one wants to be watched and ridiculed while they work out. One woman who discovered she was a target of three gym bullies penned the most empowering open letter to the women who made fun of her, reports British Glamour.

She titled the letter posted on Reddit, "The overweight girl at the gym," and opened with a direct statement: "I'm the fat girl." According to the letter, it was her first week at the gym and she had noticed three other women who exercised after working hours just like her.

"Today I found out they have been snap chatting pictures of me and making fun of me, but I don't mind," she began. "I'm glad that you haven't gone through what I've been through. I used to be in shape, I broke my hip and had to give up all exercise."

Then my grandma got sick and I took care of her full time, I couldn't leave her alone because I had no help, so I gained more weight," she revealed. According to her, she continued, talking about emotional eating and self-love: "Then she died, and I ate my feelings and gained more weight."

I don't hate myself, or my body. I love who I am, and that took me my entire life to be able to honestly say those words. I love myself," she confessed. "It really sucks that society, and your parents raised you that it was okay to try to hurt someone that's trying to better themselves instead of trying to lift them up but I'm not mad. Thank you for reminding me to keep pushing after I had a really long day," she added.

Body confidence coach Michelle Elman wrote a compelling Instagram letter addressing fat-shaming at the gym. She underlined the importance of making the gym a fat-friendly environment. "Never laugh at anyone in a gym, ever," she reiterated.

A child therapist commented on the open letter on Reddit, highlighting how some adults do not grow out of the bullying stage. "Yes... this is horrible. I am a therapist for children and see bullying incidents like this so often. The sad part is that many people don't grow out of this bullying stage... and then become adults."

They take the easy route to make them feel better for whatever insecurities they have," she said. One woman sent her an encouraging message letting her know that she is not the only "non-model" at the gym. "I'm the girl whose skin is hanging off her all over the place."

At my last gym there was a gorgeous woman whose shoulders and upper arms would make a dude jealous; gorgeous to my eyes but obviously not in it for the svelte femininity aspect. Another woman had somehow misplaced one of her legs (her replacement was pretty cool looking though). Another worked out in a hijab. We're out there. The sisterhood of the non-models at the gym. We're with you," she reassured her. Have you ever been body-shamed at the gym?

SUCCESS

Egyptian startup Bekia raises 6-dollar figure investment

CAIRO

A tech-powered waste management services startup, Bekia, has recently raised a six-dollar-figure investment from Oman Technol-

ogy Fund. This Cairo-based startup scored this investment following its partaking in the VC's Wadi OTF Accelerator program.

The Egyptian startup operates by serving as a marketplace where peo-

ple can exchange household waste and get rid of their unused items.

On an earlier statement, the startup said that it plans to use the investment gained to increase its operational efforts. It also targets

the expansion throughout Egypt, beginning with the coastal city of Alexandria.

Founded in 2017 by Alaa Afifi, Bekia first launched its services in 2017. The startup aims to help

the Egyptians to get rid of their waste, as Egypt is one of the biggest waste producers in the world. Egypt generates more than 100 M tons of waste yearly, according to statistics.

LEISURE

Kempinski GM on his love for cigars, food, shoes

NAIROBI

BENEATH the professional in a pinstripe suit matched with an elegant tie and serious demeanour, Roberto Simone is a totally different man. The Italian hotelier is punny, if a little boisterous, an easy-going fellow with a soft spot for fun, food, fashion and anything in-between.

At 53, his charm and humour have only got better. One moment he will be tickling you with a witty remark, and the next he will be unpacking deep economics and the world of commerce, his forte. The cluster general manager of Villa Rosa Kempinski and Olare Mara Kempinski describes food and cigars as his "main weaknesses." A refined foodie, he likes to eat everything everywhere.

From Coya to Nobu and Hakasan and other such high places, Simone has tried out them all. Appealing to his taste buds, therefore, takes unquestionably great food, he notes. The only thing he can't give up is espresso, and wherever he travels, he takes his coffee making machine with him.

In Kenya, Simone indulges in quality, classic fine dining, saying that he's awed by the country's expansively rich cuisine landscape. He notes that Kenya's diversity make it complete "from a gastronomical point of view."

Lunch at Fat Duck in Berkshire, London and Arzak at St Sebastian in Basque, Spain, are his most memorable dining experiences, both which he describes as sublime. The subject of cigars, particularly, lights up his countenance.

"Putting me in a cigar shop

is like putting kids in a candy shop," he says with amusement, joking that he used to smoke "like hell" before. His passion for cigars began in the 1990s when he worked as a bartender in Milan. Soon, he became a cigar sommelier. Famous Milano tycoons would hire him to do private cigar collections for them – he does so to date.

Simone stills loves to indulge a cigar, which he buys from limited editions of top brands. "Cigar is like wine. The type of tobacco used, how it's rolled and the maturation period vary from cigar to cigar. By smoking different brands, you get the full experience."

I engage him in fashion talk, which is the right thing to do because, well, Signor Simone is a dandy. "Fashion runs in our DNA," he says in reference to Italians. "I like fabrics, colour and bespoke tailored outfits." His suits are made by a private tailor in Shanghai, using Italian fabrics. He buys all his shoes from St Jermyn Street in central London, an iconic thoroughfare near Piccadilly famed for designer footwear.

"I buy about four pairs from different brands on every occasion. No one touches my shoes. I brush them myself using a special and fascinating English way," he says. So, what is this fascination with shoes?

"Good shoes make you feel better about yourself," he explains. "A good pair would last six or seven years. I work for 14 hours a day, which requires me to be in elegant, comfy and durable shoes," he adds.

Simone is a disciple of Hermès Paris brand of ties "which I buy in shops in the airport."



Every trip for him is an opportunity to add a new tie to his large and pricey collection, to which he is sentimentally attached.

It's no wonder then that 20 per cent of his earnings go to his looks. "I believe in self-reward," he says. "I love to look good." And elegance is signor's signature. Simone is as adventurous as they come, and describes himself as "a typical Italian boy from a typical Italian background."

"A mama's boy, if you like," he adds, giggling wryly. I'm jolted slightly when he says he is single. Questions flood my mind. Has he had someone before? What has taken him so long? "I had someone before, but things didn't quite work out," he reveals. So, is he dating now?

"I have somebody I like," he responds with a chuckle, add-

ing that "things aren't defined yet." For someone without a family, so where is home then? "When I meet my friends and homies in Bangkok, Dubai and Shanghai, I feel at home. When I'm in California for my studies, I feel at home. I also occasionally visit my mother in south of Italy."

Kenya's trajectory

He swears by travel, and in 2018 alone, Simone flew to 20 countries, both for work and recreation. A few days ago, he was in Abu Dhabi for the Formula One grand finale race. Simone's best illustrates global citizenry. The Italian was born in Switzerland, went to school in the UK and has worked in 12 different countries, visiting more than 50 others in the process.

He speaks Italian and English and fluent Portuguese.

He regrets having not "bothered to learn French when he had the time." Learning "this beautiful language" is one of the items in his bucket list. "By travelling, I meet key people in the professional world from whom I draw inspiration for our business," he says.

Driving to Naivasha and Maasai Mara are his favourite pastimes. Lamu though tops his list of local destinations "because of its authenticity." Here, he swims and savours a quiet time. Only three months into the job, which he says he loves to bits, Simone appears to have gelled perfectly. After all, he has worked "in four different continents and one ocean."

So, how unique is his Kenyan challenge?

"Delivering experience as an hotelier in Kenya is exciting and quite easy," he says. How

so, I ask him. "Fifty per cent of the skills required in this and any other job are people skills," he explains. "Kenya has plenty of human capital in terms of talent, skills and motivation. When I walk around the hotel in the morning, I meet enthusiastic staff who are constantly striving to meet their personal career goals."

Before his appointment in August, Simone had first visited Kenya in 2011. Having grown up partly in south of Italy, he admits that his perception of the world was limited. Did that affect how he viewed Kenya?

"I came to Africa from India where I had been exposed to multiple cultures," he recounts. "Over the years, I've learnt to avoid any preconceptions about a country I haven't travelled to. This makes it easier for me to adapt."

Wherever he works, Simone says he builds human relations for a seamless stay. "My experience in one country prepares me for the subsequent duty," he adds. The hardest part of his job? To motivate every member of the team to deliver to the expected standards, he says. "The drive to deliver the hotel's objectives differs among the staff. It's my job to motivate them," he adds. At his age, does he think his life has changed? If so, in what ways?

"In my 20s, I was a bit conservative. I didn't take risks then. In my 30s, I became bolder and took risks. In my 40s, I became a heavy risk-taker. I am almost crazy in my 50s," he adds, exploding into hilarity.

He goes on: "I like to plan like an 18-year-old professional. This helps me to set new goals and to take on challenges from

a different standpoint."

Who does he look up to? Three people buoy him. In hospitality, Ali Kasicki former general manager of Peninsula Hotel in Los Angeles, and Michelle Obama "for her fearlessness and oratory." Indian tycoon and former chairman of Tata Group Ratan Tata too is a huge influence on him "for his contribution to make India an industrial country it is today."

He believes Kenya's trajectory as a preferred hotel business destination is rising, enhanced by relative stability, good weather and the convergence of global brands "which has given Kenya a lot of visibility globally." A lot of marketing still needs to be done to cement Kenya's position, he observes.

"Ten years ago, many hotels in Dubai and UAE had more Filipino and Asian staff. Today, the best hotels in these countries are managed by Kenyans," he notes. Does he fear that his contribution to the Kempinski brand may not stand out owing to its sheer size? Not at all, he says. "Kempinski as a hotel brand is run by a collection of individuals. Their individual efforts contribute to the overall success of the business," he argues.

His legacy? To invest in the right talent for continuity of the business, he says. He may come from a football-mad country, but the sport doesn't have any effect on his adrenaline. "If I had an hour and a half to spare, I'd rather read my favourite books, swim or watch a tennis match," he notes. His favourite tennis player? "Roger Federer. Period."

OUTSTANDING

Miss Universe 2019 earned her crown in local designer's showstopping gowns

JOHANNESBURG

BIJI - La Maison de Couture is a South African label that prides itself on dressing exceptional women, including those who have won Miss World and Miss Universe.

This morning South Africa woke up to the historical news that Zozibini Tunzi is the first black Miss South Africa to win Miss Universe. And we had been rooting for her since her journey to earn this prestigious title began.

Channel24 reports that "Sunday 8 December saw the crowning of the 68th Miss Universe at the Tyler Perry Studios in Atlanta, Georgia, USA," making Zozibini the "third South African to win the Miss Universe crown."

Miss Universe 2019, Zozibini, cruised her way through the road to the crown in local design duo Biji - La Maison de Couture's custom gowns - a fashion house that has been around since 1990 not too long before our infant democracy was birthed.

Speaking to Channel24, Zozibini Tunzi told us about her preparations for the Miss Universe pageant and her excitement to get on that stage. According to this Joburg-based designers' website, "Biji and Laura are a professional couture fashion design team who create bespoke wedding and special occasion gowns."

With an Instagram bio that reads: "A designer of luxurious, one of a kind gowns worn by exceptional women who breathe life into my craft," - it's certainly fitting that Miss Tunzi became an ambassador of the nation adorned in Biji creations.

The first dress by the local designers that we saw Miss Universe in, was this ombre beaded block fringe dress, that the esteemed designer explained was inspired by the "South African earth's minerals," adding "this gown is entirely beaded by hand using four



Miss Universe 2019 Zozibini Tunzi, of South Africa, onstage at the 2019 Miss Universe Pageant at Tyler Perry Studios.

shades of beads mixed at varying degrees of intensity to create this ombre effect on illusion mesh. It took around 450 hours of hand beading to complete the look for her."

She then walked the runway during the preliminary stages of the pageant in another one of Biji La Maison's creations - a cape dress lined with a sequined African geometric print.

Biji - La Maison de Couture finally shared in Zozibini's big moment last night when she was crowned with the Miss Universe 2019 brand-new "Power of Unity" crown, while clad in this showstopper created just for her, of course.

"We are so unbelievably proud to be South African right now! @zozitunzi You are just a walking phenomenon!! Your energy and your elegance set you apart from everyone else! Thank you for having us be a part of this journey with you! You looked absolutely sensational in all the dresses we designed and created for you!!," the designer wrote on Instagram.

This is the same label that dressed outgoing Miss Universe Catriona Gray, when she sat on the panel of judges that picked Zozibini Tunzi as our official Miss South Africa 2019. The designer also dressed the top 12 finalists for Miss SA this year among other top tier designers Anel Botha, Galluzzi e Gini, Orapeleng Modutle, Salomie Couture and Warrick Gautier. And it's clear that the relationship with the role models pageants create, has been one worth holding onto with much pride.

Miss World SA 2018 Thulisa Keyi, also adds to the list of dashing mannequins that have brought this label's creations to life. She was seen in one of the design duo's gowns when she competed in the Miss World pageant in Sanya, China. Speaking of Miss World, Biji has also dressed former Miss World (2014) Rolene Strauss for her various appearances, including the night she handed over her crown to Miss Spain in 2015.

Former Miss SA Tamaryn Green, was also parading a custom Biji La Maison gown when she appeared in Sarie Tydskrif this year, reimagining the Duchess of Sussex Meghan Markle's reception gown in this royal blue hue.

And of course, everyone's favourite queen (besides Zozibini Tunzi) Bonang Matheba - who has been the glamorous, inimitable host of Miss South Africa for the past two years - has also stunned in Biji - La Maison outfit.

When she isn't elegantly rocking Louis Vuitton and Saint Laurent, Bonang can often be caught creating a stir in local designers' garments such as Gert-Johan Coetzee, Thebe Magugu, and Biji - La Maison.

MILESTONE

Rwanda's electric motorcycle company marks 250,000km

KIGALI

AFRICA'S first electric vehicle company, Ampersand, celebrated 250,000 kilometers travelled by its 20 motorcycle taxis in Rwanda.

The distance—equal to circling the Earth more than 6 times!—is proof that electric motorcycles

work in Africa and are ready to be scaled. In attendance were Infrastructure Minister Amb. Claver Gatete, U.S. Ambassador Peter Vrooman, German Ambassador Thomas Kurz, Head of DFID Rwanda Sarah Metcalfe, and Director General of REMA Coletha Ruhanya.

In Rwanda, more than half

of all vehicles on the road are motorbike taxis. But these motorbikes are not cheap, the fuel they burn is expensive, and they produce serious amounts of pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. But Ampersand, the Rwanda-based company, has the solution:

"With our electric motorcy-

cles and battery-swap model, we make it cheaper to buy and operate an electric motorcycle than a petrol motorbike. Going electric can already double a driver's income now, and leapfrog Africa towards a zero-carbon future," said Josh Whale, Ampersand Founder and CEO, at the Kigali event.

Based in Kigali, Ampersand assembles and finances electric motorcycles (e-motos) that are cheaper, cleaner and better performing than the 5 million petrol motorcycle taxis currently in use across East Africa. Ampersand's vehicles deliver superior driving performance and emit 75 per cent less carbon than pet-

rol motorcycles, with zero tail-pipe emissions.

Since its launch in May 2019, twenty Ampersand e-motos have been operating on a commercial basis, taking passengers and goods across Kigali. Drivers rent batteries from a network of Ampersand charging stations around town that they swap out

in less than two minutes.

"The whole team at Ampersand is incredibly proud of this achievement. We've proven that our electric motorcycles, assembled locally in Rwanda, can replace petrol bikes while doubling drivers' incomes, reducing harmful emissions, and saving drivers time," says Whale.

OUTSTANDING

Children of the stars wear Mumbai diamantaire Harakh Mehta's jewels for Paris's famed debutante ball

MUMBAI

BEHIND the 20 young debutantes who are invited to Paris's Le Bal gala every year are a pride of famous parents, a froth of haute couture designers and one hand-picked jeweller.

This year, Mumbai diamantaire Harakh Mehta custom-created the jewels worn by each young "deb" last month, including American heiress Kayla Rockefeller; Chinese actor Jet Li's daughter Jane; Bollywood actor Sanjay Kapoor's daughter Shanaya; Spanish musician Julio Iglesias's twins; Jimmy Choo co-founder Tamara Mellon's daughter Araminta; and a few European princesses.

"I had been following the Le Bal event for a number of years. After expressing my interest to its chief executive [Ophelie Renouard], I went to Paris, and made a presentation of Harakh's workmanship," says Mehta, who hails from Palanpur's age-old jewellery community and is a fourth-generation diamond merchant - his family runs Bombay Jewellery Manufacturers, while his great-grandfather set up a gemstone sourcing business in Antwerp.

Mehta's own company, Harakh, creates haute joallierie pieces for discerning luxury seekers from all over the world. "I was also keen to get involved with Le Bal because most of Harakh's current clients are the age of these girls' mothers, and at some point, I felt we were missing the voice of the youth," he adds candidly. "I wanted to better understand the preferences of

millennials and Gen Z, and how they perceive jewellery."

Accordingly, Mehta spoke to each of the women two months before the event, and then began furiously sketching and designing a 100-piece collection of earrings, necklaces, bangles, rings and tiaras, worth about \$10 million. Of course, bespoke pieces are part of the ethos at Harakh, which has a dedicated team of 15 karigars (artisans) working on its one-off commissions and in-house collections.

"When I started the company, I selected only one or two craftsmen from the [family's] team of 500, those who I believed had not only the potential to create high-end jewellery, but also the mindset to achieve the level of quality to stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world," he says. "Then I interviewed a man whose mum's father was one of Bengal's most famous karigars, and I realised the skills and genes passed down over the generations is an important trait in this field. I am proud



Harakh Mehta, centre, with the debutantes from Le Bal 2019.

of my karigars; they have magic in their hands and feel the joy of creation."

Joy is what Harakh means, and is a quality Mehta imbues in all his collections, which he says "have some link to a moment of happiness I felt, especially in my childhood".

The Cascade line, for instance, is a celebration of the Mehta family's road trips to Lonavala when they would make pit stops to bathe in the waterfalls gushing down the Ghats on the way to the hill station. The Ghungroo collection, meanwhile, is an ode to Mehta's 5-year-old daughter, who was "wild with joy" upon being awarded her first pair of ghungroos (anklets) by her Kathak dance teacher.

Alongside, buyers get a reflection card with each piece, "where I share the journey of how I created the collection it belongs to, albeit through a spiritual lens. For Ghungroo, for example, it's patience because Kathak is a dance that needs an infinite amount of discipline," Mehta explains.

CREATIVITY

Lebanese jeweller designed the Miss Universe 'Power of Unity' crown

DUBAI

WHEN it was designed earlier this year, the Miss Universe 2019 crown was meant to "represent the interconnectedness of the world's communities". On December 8, it did just that when Miss South Africa Zozibini Tunzi was crowned Miss Universe by the Philippines's Catriona Gray, who placed atop her head the Power of Unity crown designed by a Lebanese jewellery house based between the UAE and the United States.

The family-run jewellery and watchmaker Mouawad was established in Beirut in the early 1900s, and this year partnered with the Miss Universe Organisation to create three crowns for Miss Universe, Miss USA and Miss Teen USA.

Pascal Mouawad, co-guardian of Mouawad, said: "Our creative journey with the first official Mouawad Miss Universe crown took empowerment of women as its key inspiration. This had to be a crown that was not only fit for a queen, but which carried with it a powerful message. It represents the coming together of women from across the world, united in their commitment to do good and to make the world a better place."

Co-guardian Fred Mouawad added: "The crown's name Power of Unity is a message to the world to unite in the cause of humanity."

Tunzi's crown features an intricate design of gold vines, petals and leaves crafted from 18K gold and studded with 1,770 diamonds weighing 167K.

The centre stone is a staggering 62.83K shield-cut diamond in canary yellow, fittingly unearthed from a Botswana mine. The crown is valued at \$5 million.

Since its inception more than a century ago, Mouawad has acquired a number of im-

portant diamonds including: the 54.21K round brilliant-cut, fancy vivid yellow Mouawad Dragon; the 111.11K Kimberley Star; and the 51.38K, traditional round brilliant-cut Dynasty diamond, originally cut from The Romanovs, a 179K rough discovered in 2015.

The company has also collaborated on jewellery designs with celebrities including Heidi Klum and has accessorised Gigi Hadid, Kendall Jenner, Nicole Kidman Angelina Jolie, Kate Winslet and Elizabeth Taylor.

Record-breaking pieces Empowering crowns and precious stones aside, the House of Mouawad has several Guinness World Records to its name. The Mouawad Flower of Eternity Jewellery Coffin, for instance, was named the most valuable jewellery box in the world in 2016, valued at \$3.5 million. It features 542.39K of white and yellow diamonds, 293.24K of white and pink sapphires, 200.6K of rubies, and 1,799.75K of lapis lazuli.

In 2013, the jeweller created the Incomparable, then the world's most valuable necklace, featuring the flawless deep-yellow Incomparable Diamond, which was discovered in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1980 by a young girl. The necklace was valued at \$55 million.

A third famed piece from 2010 is the Mouawad 1001 Nights Diamond Purse that, at \$3.8 million, was named the world's most expensive handbag.

The heart-shaped purse, has 4,517 diamonds (105 yellow, 56 pink, and 4,356 colourless diamonds) with a total weight of 381.92 carats.

As the fourth generation, our job is to be the gatekeeper of Mouawad and make sure the company lives for the next [century]," Pascal told The National.



Miss Universe 2019 Zozibini Tunzi wears the Power of Unity crown

MONDAY - FRIDAY
STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	
MONDAY 09 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Sherehe za uhuru - (mubashara) 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:45 Sanaa na wasanii rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:00 Movie: Hazard 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi 18:45 Kesho leo 19:00 Alya ya jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology 21:10 Dakika 45 22:00 Insta Bet 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 CNN International
TUESDAY 10 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:30 Jungu kuu rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Mjue Zaidi 12:55 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International
WEDNESDAY 11 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 10:55 Habari za saa
THURSDAY 12 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo rpt: Utelezi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo rpt: Utelezi 11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt: 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Mjue Zaidi 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Kipanya chooni 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Uchumi na biashara 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina rpt 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 21:00 The Base 01:30 CNN International
FRIDAY 13 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa
SATURDAY 14 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mapishi rpt 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 15:30 Igizo rpt: Mtego 16:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi 16:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Mtego 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangweka 21:30 Kesho leo 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 CNN International
SUNDAY 15 Dec	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Vocho 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seondok 16:45 Igizo rpt : Utelezi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mkaguzi 20:00 Habari 21:05 Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: My angel 00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot

CAPITAL

Mon 09 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
 09:00 Sherehe za Uhuru - (live)
 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
 Where is Elisa?
 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
 Series rpt: Godwin
 16:30 Business Edition
 17:30 Meza Huru
 19:00 Drive it
 19:30 Eco@Africa
 20:00 Aibu yako
 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?)
 Where is Elisa?
 21:30 Capital Prime News

Frid 13 Dec

06:00 Al Jazeera
 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?)
 Where is Elisa?
 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
 Series rpt: Life is a teacher
 16:00 The Monday Agenda rpt
 17:30 Meza Huru
 19:00 Drive it
 19:30 Eco@Africa
 20:00 Aibu yako
 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?)
 Where is Elisa?
 21:30 Capital Prime News

WORLD

US House committee delays Trump impeachment vote

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS delayed an impeachment vote by a US House Committee just before midnight on Thursday, incensing Republicans and setting up a showdown over President Donald Trump's future for the following day.

The committee had been expected to approve two articles of impeachment late on Thursday, setting up a vote by the Democratic-controlled House next week that is expected to make Trump the third president in US history to be impeached.

Instead, as the clock ticked toward midnight, Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler sent lawmakers home for the night and said members would return to vote the following day at 10 am ET (1500 GMT).

Asked why the votes did not occur late Thursday, House Judiciary Democrat Mary Gay Scanlon said "the American people deserve to see the vote."

The scheduling appeared to have nothing to do with the substance of the impeachment fight nor was it a sign that Democrats lacked the needed votes. But it outraged Republican leaders, who said afterward many had been

planning travel home on Friday and would now have to reset their schedules.

Doug Collins, the top Republican on the panel, appeared shocked by the announcement and immediately reacted with anger, saying the rescheduling was done so Democrats could hold their vote when more voters would be watching on television.

"This was the most bush league thing I have seen, forever," Collins told reporters. "This committee is more concerned about getting on TV in the morning than it was finishing its job tonight and letting the members go home. Words cannot describe how inappropriate this was."

Democrats had expected to wrap up the hearing early in the evening, but Republicans, led by Collins, proposed a series of amendments that had no hope of passage.

Republicans offered hours of remarks on their amendments, frequently repeating the same prepared commentary and often veering into other topics that ranged from natural gas drilling to the state of the economy.

The committee's debate began Wednesday evening.



From left, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-NY, House Financial Services Committee Chairwoman Maxine Waters, D-Calif, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel, D-NY, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif, and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass, announce they are pushing ahead for two articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump – abuse of power and obstruction of Congress – charging he corrupted the US election process and endangered national security in his dealings with Ukraine, at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday. (AP)

Much of the impeachment focus has been on a July 25 phone call in which Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to investigate Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

That is the basis for a charge by Democrats that Trump abused power.

Trump has also instructed current and former members of his administration not to testify or produce documents, leading senior officials like Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to defy House subpoenas. Democrats say that behavior constitutes obstruction of Congress, forming the basis of the other impeachment charge.

Trump denies any wrongdoing and has condemned the impeachment inquiry as unfair. His Republican allies in Congress argue that there

is no direct evidence of misconduct and that Democrats have conducted an improper process that did not give the president an opportunity to mount his own defense.

If the House impeaches Trump, who is charged with abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, he would then go on trial in the Senate.

The Republican-led chamber is unlikely to vote to find the president guilty and remove him from office.

Republicans on the committee said that there were no crimes alleged in the impeachment articles and that "abuse of power" had become a catch-all for Democratic complaints about Trump.

"This notion of abuse of power is the lowest of low-energy impeachment theories," said Republican Representative Matt Gaetz.

Agencies

UN General Assembly backs Russia's arms control resolution

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations General Assembly yesterday almost unanimously adopted a Russia-proposed resolution on strengthening the system of treaties and agreements on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

Some 179 states, including the United States, voted in favour of the resolution, and no country voted against it. Only Ukraine, Georgia and Palau abstained from the vote, a TASS correspondent

reported.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in his September address at the UN General Assembly that the adoption of the document, drawn up after the termination of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, was one of Russia's priorities at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly.

The document calls for "seriously considering negative consequences that the termination of the treaties and agreements on arms control, disarmaments and



non-proliferation would entail." The resolution welcomes the

UN's role in holding talks on this issue.

It also appeals to the UN Secretary-General to "continue providing assistance that may be needed to protect the integrity of deals on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation and also for enhancing the system of these agreements."

In his interview with TASS in November, Vladimir Yermakov, director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control,

who led Russia's delegation to the UN General Assembly's First Committee, described the document as "a very serious instrument that will help resolve real problems."

According to the Russian diplomat, the document has no specifics as to the types of weapons to be reduced, because "it is a subject of a separate discussion." Such resolutions "have political nature and are geared to create favorable atmosphere in the area of arms control," he noted.

Agencies

UK Labour Leader Corbyn to step down as crushing defeat looms

LONDON

LABOUR leader Jeremy Corbyn said yesterday he would stand down as his party faced its worst electoral defeat in 84 years, but he did not set a date for his departure and added he would remain in charge during a period of reflection.

An exit poll and early results showed Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party were set for a resounding victory in Britain's election, allowing him to deliver Brexit on Jan. 31.

Critics blamed a collapse in support in traditional Labour strongholds on Corbyn's equivocation over Brexit, and said many voters had cited their dislike for him on doorsteps across the country.

That leaves Labour, a 100-year-old party born out of the trade union movement, wrestling with what went wrong and what to do about it.

"I will not lead the party in any future general election campaign," Corbyn (pictured) said in his north London constituency, where he comfortably held on to his seat. The 70-year-old described the election results as "very disappointing.

"I will discuss with our party and ensure there is now a process of reflection on this result and the policies that the party will take going forward."

Asked whether she thought she would retain her seat in the northern city of Stoke-on-Trent, a Labour bastion, the party's candidate Ruth Smeeth bluntly replied: "I've definitely lost."

She placed the blame firmly on Corbyn's shoulders.

"He should have gone many, many months ago."

The exit poll showed voters had gone with Johnson's "Get Brexit Done" promise and pro-market philosophy and rejected left-wing veteran Corbyn, who had promised a second Brexit referendum and a radical expansion of the state.

Corbyn, an avowed socialist who took control of the party after a bruising 2015 election defeat, has shifted Labour sharply away from the centre ground that underpinned three Labour majority governments led by Tony Blair.

During four years in charge, he has built an ultra-loyal support base, pushing centrist members to the fringes and



creating an ideological schism that critics say has alienated many of its traditional working-class voters.

An ardent pro-Palestinian activist, he has also been accused of failing to address accusations of anti-Semitism among his supporters.

"Corbyn was a disaster on the doorstep ... everyone knew he couldn't lead the working class out of a paper bag," said Alan Johnson, who served as a senior minister under Blair.

HEARTLANDS DECLINE

Underlining the likely looming battle for the fu-

ture of the party, Corbyn-loyalist Richard Burgon said the party should not turn back toward the centre-ground.

"We need to fight back, not triangulate," Burgon, Corbyn's justice spokesman, said.

"People on the doorstep weren't complaining about our policies, and we wouldn't have had the policies ... if it weren't for Jeremy's leadership," he said, blaming the focus on Brexit and negative media coverage of Corbyn.

But early results showed that Labour's heartlands in former industrial areas of central and northern England - areas that typically voted for Brexit - had swung towards Johnson's Conservatives.

Labour lost seats it has held for decades like Blyth Valley in northern England, which had been Labour since it was formed in 1950 and Wrexham, the Welsh seat that had voted Labour each election since 1935.

Corbyn did not address the exit polls as he arrived to hear the results in his own north London electoral seat, but weary Labour candidates taking in the scale of their defeat made it clear that he would have to face eventually.

"I am devastated, I don't know how you could have any other reaction other than being utterly heartbroken," Labour's Jess Phillips said. "This is not a time for easy answers as much as I wish it was."

Agencies

Kremlin says no grounds to hope London seeks to build good ties with Russia

MOSCOW

KREMLIN Spokesman Dmitry Peskov believes there are no grounds to hope that the United Kingdom is set to build good relations with Russia after the Conservative Party won a majority in Britain's general election.

"We took into account information on the Conservatives' victory," Peskov told reporters yesterday. "Certainly, each time we want to hope that political forces in any country, which win the election, will adhere to the ideology and focus on building good relations with our country," he noted. "I don't know how these expectations are appropriate in case with the Conservatives' victory."

The UK's ruling Conservative Party secured the majority in the House of Commons, the lower house of the British parliament, in a snap election on December 12.

The party led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson has obtained 337 seats out of a total of 650 seats. The simple majority will enable the Tories to shape politics without regard to other parties.

Agencies



Peaceful development stressed at Nanjing Massacre memorial

NANJING

A SENIOR Communist Party of China (CPC) official said yesterday that China wishes to stay on the path of peaceful development as it held a national memorial ceremony to mourn the 300,000 victims of the Nanjing Massacre.

Huang Kunming, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks while attending the ceremony in Nanjing, capital of Jiangsu Province in east China.

The Chinese people are resolute to keep the history firmly in mind, never forget the past, cherish peace and build the future, Huang said.

He said those victims and martyrs can feel comforted by the great achievements toward prosperity and strength made by the Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC in the past decades since New China was founded in 1949.

"No force can stop the Chinese people and the Chinese nation from forging ahead," Huang said.

At the ceremony, China's national flag flew at half-mast. At around 10 am, sirens started to blare. On the streets, drivers parked their cars and honked; pedestrians stood still and observed a moment of silence.

A total of 82 young people recited a declaration of peace and citizen representatives struck the Bell of Peace. Thousands of white doves representing hope for peace were released to fly over the memorial square of the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders.

Pinning a white flower, more than 8,000 people from all walks of life attended the ceremony.

In 2014, China's top legislature designated Dec 13 as the national memorial day for the victims of the Nanjing Massacre, which took place when Japanese troops captured the city of Nanjing on Dec. 13, 1937 and brutally killed around 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed soldiers in over six weeks, making it one of the most barbaric episodes of World War II.

"WE LOVE PEACE"

Weather-beaten but determined, 92-year-old Ge Daorong, a survivor of the massacre, silently mourned for the victims outside the memorial hall.

Survivors like Ge are living witnesses of the slaughter; yet the number of registered survivors has decreased to 78 so far this year.

Ge was only 10 when Nanjing fell to the Japanese invaders. He managed to live by taking refuge in the Safety Zone during the mass killing, but his three uncles were not so lucky. Though it has been 82 years, the pain of losing beloved families still hurts.

"I hope all kids in the world would never experience what I went through," said the old man. "And the future generations should never forget history."

Since the 1980s, Ge Daorong has devoted himself to sharing his story. He wrote nearly 100,000 characters of what he witnessed and titled it "Remembering History."

Ge Fengjin, son of Ge Daorong, went to Japan on behalf of his father for testimony meetings this year, to convey the truth and remind people to never forget history. "We are different, but we share the same purpose - to keep the peace," he said.

Since 1994, a total of 55 survivors have visited Japan to tell their stories. The Chinese government has preserved the survivors' testimonies, recorded in both written and video documents. The documents on the massacre were listed by UNESCO in the Memory of the World Register in 2015.

"We love peace. We wish there will be no war in the world anymore," said Xia Shuqin, another survivor.

Xinhua

Rationality the basis for maintaining China-US relations

HOW China and the U.S. should avoid misapprehension and improve mutual understanding, and in particular, how some Americans should avoid irreparable and destructive results because of the lack of understanding of and prejudices against China, are important tasks that must be addressed properly, as the two countries face certain difficulties and challenges at a critical moment of bilateral relations.

Peter Walker, a Senior Partner Emeritus at McKinsey & Company recently published a book titled *Powerful, Different, Equal: Overcoming the Misconceptions and Differences Between China and the U.S.* The book dialectically analyzes the stereotyped and prejudiced

reports on China by western media and reveals the U.S. misunderstandings of China.

It advocates for rational understanding of China's development and the prevention of strategic miscalculations, so that responsible choices for both parties and the world can be made. The opinions of the book are a warning to some U.S. politicians.

In this book, Walker gives a deep insight into China's harmoniousness, pragmatism and collectivism, saying that the basis for these principles is China's long-lasting traditional culture and social reality. Such point of view is also shared by many Americans who have visited China and truly understand China.

The unique features of a local environment always give special characteristics to its inhabitants. The historical tradition of China to seek the common good and harmony without uniformity determines that the country has a different and unique perspective for its own development and international exchanges.

Running uninterrupted till now, the Chinese civilization has never been exclusive but kept evolving with inclusiveness. China is committed to implementing ideal governance and benefiting the world, and always welcomes the visits of people around the globe. It is willing to increase mutual understanding and carrying out mutually beneficial coop-

eration with all countries for the joint building of a community with a shared future for humanity.

Chairman Neil Bush of the George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations, who has visited China over 100 times, firmly believes that not every country can be governed by the same system, as every country has its own reality and is at its own development phase. Countries should establish proper governance systems in accordance with their actual conditions, according to the chairman.

U.S. commentators once noted that for China-U.S. relations, filling the recognition gap between the two cultures is as important as narrowing their trade

deficit. Over 26 million Chinese people have visited the U.S., but less than 1 million U.S. people have visited China. These two figures given by Walker explain Americans' lack of understanding of China, and even some elite Americans know nothing about China and its governance.

The U.S. society is troubled with party conflicts and vote-related private profits, and that's why some U.S. politicians are not able to comprehend the constant stand of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to prioritize national and people's interests and its hope that other countries can well solve their own problems. The U.S. has never been invaded in history, which is why some U.S.

politicians can't understand the firm determination of the Chinese people, who had suffered invasion and colonization since the modern time, to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

These U.S. politicians who put individualism first, can hardly stand in the shoes of the Chinese governors in China, a country in pursuit of collectivism, whose aim is always to make the life of the Chinese people better. China's commitment to peaceful development and a national defense policy that is defensive in nature is incomprehensible for these U.S. politicians busy seeking imaginary enemies and absolute military advantages.

People's Daily



Chinese construction workers perform soldering operations at a construction site of China-Laos railway project. (XINHUA)

BRI helps build lasting economic and trade relations

ECONOMIC and trade cooperation between China and related economies under the Belt and Road Initiative has flourished over the past six years, boosting China's highlevel opening-up and further opening up of the global economy, according to senior commerce ministry officials.

Qian Keming, vice-minister of commerce, said the BRI has made significant contributions to the global economy and humanity development, and has been receiving positive responses from an increasing number of countries and international organizations.

"Based on the principle of achieving shared growth through dialogue and collaboration, BRI upholds the 'Silk Road spirit' of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit," Qian said.

"It has created a new space for the world economy, built a new platform for international trade and investment, raised up new practices in global economic governance, made new contributions to the well-being of people in the world, and contributed China's wisdom for building a community with a shared future for humanity."

Chu Shijia, director-general of the comprehensive department at the commerce ministry, said trade between China and the BRI economies has been expanding, with two-way investments increasing and key projects progressing.

And establishment of overseas economic and trade cooperation zones have accelerated, and cooperation mechanism enhanced.

Currently, China has inked 198 cooperation documents with 167 countries and international organizations under the BRI and established working relations with seven countries on unimpeded trade and with 44 countries on bilateral investment cooperation, to quickly resolve the problems in bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The country has also established e-commerce cooperation mechanisms with 22 countries and signed third-party market cooperation agreements with multiple countries.

Economic and trade cooperation has been a cornerstone of the BRI with data from the past six years proving the success of the mechanism, said Chu.

Latest data from the General Administration of Customs showed that the growth in China's trade with the BRI economies was higher than the overall growth during the first 11 months this year, as imports and exports with the BRI-related economies reached 8.35 trillion yuan (US\$1.19 trillion), up 9.9 percent year-on-year, and accounting for 29.3 percent of China's total foreign

trade. The cumulative trade volume between China and BRI economies has exceeded US\$7.5 trillion and China is the largest trading partner for 25 of these economies, Chu said.

The accumulated investment of Chinese enterprises in BRI-related areas stood at US\$110 billion, with the value of newly signed overseas contracted projects exceeding US\$750 billion.

During the first 10 months, China's nonfinancial direct investment in BRI economies surpassed US\$11 billion, and the value of newly signed overseas contracted projects amounted to more than US\$110 billion.

Direct investment into China from BRI-related countries and regions stood at US\$50 billion, with more than 21,000 foreign enterprises being set up. In the first 10 months of this year, BRI-related countries directly invested US\$6.1 billion into China and established nearly 4,500 foreign enterprises.

Chinese companies have invested US\$34 billion in overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in related countries, and about 4,500 Chinese companies have established operations in the cooperation zones. They have paid US\$2.8 billion as taxes and fees to local governments and created more than 300,000 jobs for local people.

Key projects involving construction and operation of ports, railways, highways, and bridges among many other projects along the Belt and Road area have also been making achievements as expected.

The country also has signed five free trade agreements with 13 BRI economies. This year, China has upgraded free trade agreements with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Singapore and Chile, signed an FTA with Mauritius and concluded negotiations with New Zealand for an upgrade of the FTA between the two countries.

The protocol of the second phase of China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement also came into effect this year, and 15 member countries of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership also have accomplished conclusion of negotiations as a whole.

Both of the officials made the remarks at a book release function in Beijing last week. The book A Bright Shared Future ... Stories Along the Belt and Road is the first in a series of stories related to the Belt and Road Initiative. The book has been compiled by the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce and a second volume will be launched soon.

Xinhua

US missile test confirms INF Treaty was ruined at Washington's initiative – Kremlin

MOSCOW

THURSDAY'S test of a ballistic missile carried out by the United States was evidence that Washington intended to ruin the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

"We've said more than once that the United States has been making preparations for violating the INF Treaty.

This [missile test] clearly confirms that the treaty was ruined at the initiative of the United States," Peskov told the media yesterday.

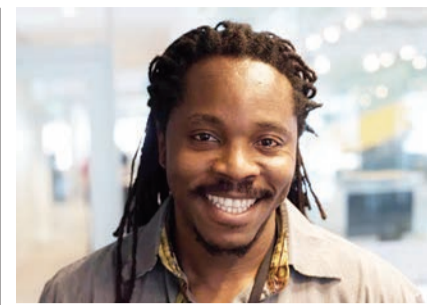
"I'm not in the position to make any comments [on the missile test] from the technical standpoint and the missile's parameters and characteristics," he added.

On December 12, the US Department of Defense carried out a flight test of the

ground-based ballistic missile (non-nuclear configuration) at the US Air Force base Vandenberg, California. Until just recently Russia and the United States had been prohibited from developing such weapons in accordance with the INF Treaty.

This agreement lost force on August 2 following the United States' unilateral pullout.

Agencies



Sierra Leone's education minister David Senghe

West African court voids Sierra Leone's ban on pregnant schoolgirls

LAGOS

WEST Africa's top court on Thursday ordered Sierra Leone to revoke a ban on pregnant girls in school, a move activists hope could lead to challenges against similar laws across Africa.

The continent has the highest adolescent pregnancy rates in the world, and 18 African countries require pregnant girls to drop out of school.

Sierra Leone's ban was adopted in 2015 as teenage pregnancies rose during an Ebola epidemic. Critics say it has increased stigma for pregnant girls and sent thousands back in their studies.

The government has argued that allowing pregnant girls to attend school would tire them out, expose them to ridicule and encourage others to get pregnant.

Sierra Leone's education minister David Senghe declined to comment on whether the government would respect the ruling. Previous Sierra Leonean governments have ignored decisions by the ECOWAS court.

The government has created part-time centers where pregnant girls could study but the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) court in Nigeria ruled that this was not sufficient.

"The Court holds that the establishment of separate schools for pregnant girls with four taught subjects operating three days a week is discriminatory and a violation of the right to equal education," the ruling stated.

"This is a great victory and will set a strong precedent across Africa," said Judy Gitau, the head of women's rights group Equality Now, which brought the case. "We're confident (the government) will make a decision to lift the ban."

Patience Aminata, who was kicked out of school three years ago at the age of 17, said she hoped to return.

"If a girl gets pregnant, she has every right to further her education because it leads to success, not just for her, but for her whole family," she said. "This ruling means it's not too late for me either."

Agencies

LONDON

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson won a resounding election victory yesterday that will allow him to end three years of political paralysis and take Britain out of the European Union within weeks.

The Brexit divorce represents Britain's biggest political and economic gamble since World War II, cutting the world's fifth largest economy adrift from the vast trading bloc and testing the integrity of the United Kingdom.

With results in from all but one of the 650 parliamentary seats, the Conservatives had won 364, their biggest election win since Margaret Thatcher's 1987 triumph.

Labour, led since 2015 by the veteran socialist Corbyn, had won just 203 seats, the party's worst result since 1935.

For Johnson, who had faced gridlock in parliament and focused his campaign on a vow to "Get Brexit Done", victory was a vindication.

"We will get Brexit done on time by the 31st of January, no ifs, no buts, no maybes," he told supporters at a rally in London.

"Leaving the European Union as one United Kingdom, taking back control of our laws, borders, money, our trade, immigration system, delivering on the democratic mandate of the people," he said, reprising the refrains of his successful Brexit referendum campaign of 2016.

Sterling soared, on course for one of its biggest one-day gains in the past two decades.

Nearly half a century after Britain joined the EU, Johnson faces the challenge of striking new international trade deals, preserving London's position as a top global financial capital and keeping the United Kingdom together.

That last goal looks more challenging, with Scotland voting for a nation-



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

alist party that wants an independence referendum, and Irish nationalists performing strongly in Northern Ireland.

"Boris Johnson may have a mandate to take England out of the European Union. He emphatically does not have a mandate to take Scotland out of the European Union," said Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

Her Scottish National Party (SNP) won 48 of Scotland's 59 seats in the national parliament.

RED WALL CRUMBLES

In England, the Conservatives won large numbers of seats in the opposition Labour Party's so-called Red Wall, declining industrial heartlands once hostile to Johnson's party.

Brexit, which has shattered old party loyalties and divided Britain along new fault lines, was the cause of the shift. In the Red Wall, a majority of voters favoured leaving the European Union and rejected Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn's ambiguous stance on the issue.

In a symbolic win, the Conservatives took Sedgefield, once held by former Prime Minister Tony Blair, Labour's most successful leader.

Educated at Eton, the country's most elite private school, and known for his

bombastic rhetoric, Johnson seemed to critics to be an unlikely candidate to win over working class communities, but Brexit helped him redraw the electoral map.

In his victory speech, he struck a rare note of humility as he addressed voters who had deserted Labour in his favour.

"Your hand may have quivered over the ballot paper before you put your cross in the Conservative box, and you may hope to return to Labour next time round, and if that is the case, I am humbled that you have put your trust in me," he said.

US President Donald Trump was quick to congratulate Johnson.

"Britain and the United States will now be free to strike a massive new Trade Deal after BREXIT. This deal has the potential to be far bigger and more lucrative than any deal that could be made with the E.U.," Trump wrote on Twitter "Celebrate Boris!"

NO MORE DELAYS

Johnson, 55, will now be able to lead Britain out of the EU by Jan 31, 10 months after the original deadline of March 29, which was repeatedly pushed back as a gridlocked parliament failed to take any clear decisions on Brexit.

However, with the complex task of negotiating his country's future relationship with the bloc still ahead of him, he may struggle to reunite a divided nation.

Many voters regard him as a populist charlatan who played fast and loose with the facts and made unrealistic promises.

But his landslide win marks the ultimate failure of the anti-Brexit camp, who tried to thwart the 2016 referendum vote through complex legislative manoeuvres and could not convert huge anti-Brexit street protests into a coherent political strategy. Agencies

Agencies

Africa sees big transfer in economic, trade, development fields - Egyptian presidency spokesman

ASWAN, Egypt

AFRICA experiences very big transformation in many fields including economy, trade and development, said Bassam Radi, spokesman of the Egyptian presidency, in an exclusive interview with Xinhua on Thursday.

"In the past, Africa's agenda was busy with solving the chronic problems of civil wars, border conflicts and other domestic war," Radi (pictured) said on the sideline of a forum in Aswan on Sustainable Peace, Security and Development in Africa that was inaugurated on Wednesday.

"Now, Africa talks about economic, trade and development issues as well as maintaining infrastructure, communication, technology, innovation, youth and women," he added.

He hailed the forum "a high-level platform for exchange of opinions,



and crystallization of proposals and initiatives with regard to African issues."

Radi explained that the forum in the Egyptian city of Aswan is different from other similar ones because "it focused on promoting the post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable development in Africa after bolstering security and stability in the countries hit by wars."

"There is dire need for cooperation and coordination with the interna-

tional players to revive the ailing economies of the countries plagued by conflicts," he said, noting those cases should be tackled in a special way that fits the conditions of these countries.

Radi believed that the African Union has mechanisms to activate the proposals, saying the free trade agreement enforced recently is "a suitable frame for economic, trade and investment cooperation among the continent countries."

On Wednesday, Egypt and the African Union signed an agreement for hosting the African Union Center for Reconstruction and Development (AUC-PCRD) in Cairo, which will focus on the reconstructions of certain countries. "Hosting the AUC-PCRD center will be very essential in the context of the post-war development," Radi said, noting the center will help solve the funding problems.

"Connecting peace with sustainable development aims at encouraging and stimulating the international funding institutions to help and fund the developmental projects in Africa," the presidency spokesman explained.

These investments will be translated into global benefits by transporting the African products to and from Europe, he said.

Commenting on the African-Chinese-Egyptian cooperation, Radi said Egypt is keen on coordinating efforts with the Chinese side for promoting development in Africa.

"The forum, as one of the tools for gathering the African leaders, politicians, peace makers and development partners, will enhance the investment of the diversified African resources and create more means for achieving sustainable development," he added.

Xinhua

US practices to undermine harmony, prosperity of Xinjiang doomed to failure

THE so-called "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" passed by the U.S. House of Representatives triggered huge indignation and condemnation from all walks of life in China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

This act exposed the evil intention of the U.S. to undermine the social harmony and stability of Xinjiang, and hurt the feelings of all ethnic groups in the region, experts said, adding that any plot to set Xinjiang in chaos is doomed to fail.

By distorting the facts and distorting China, the U.S. is indeed containing the development of China under the guise of religion and human rights protection, said Mehmet Abudual, deputy director and associate research fellow of the history research department

of Xinjiang Academy of Social Sciences.

Such scheme planning to destruct the ethnic relations in China and undermine the social prosperity and stability in Xinjiang will never succeed, the deputy director noted. He believes that no slandering can stop the steps of the people in Xinjiang toward unity and progress; no rumor is able to cover the fact that Xinjiang is seeing improved human rights protection; and no plot is able to disturb Xinjiang's efforts for development and prosperity.

Abudulrekep Tumniat, President of Xinjiang Islamic Institute introduced that Xinjiang has over 24,000 mosques, 29,000 Islamic religious officials, and 103 Islamic associations at autonomous region, prefecture and county levels. The

freedom of religious belief is comprehensively enjoyed, and reasonable religious demands are effectively satisfied as well, he added.

The so-called "Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2019" is indeed offering support for terrorism and holding a candle to the devil, Tumniat remarked, saying that the arbitrary act of the U.S. will only end up hurting itself and the others.

"Between 1990 and the end of 2016, separatists, religious extremists and terrorists plotted and carried out several thousand acts of terrorism in Xinjiang, which have been detrimental to the life and property of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang and have trampled on people's dignity," said Li Juan, director of the legislative affairs commission of the People's Congress of Xinjiang Uyghur Auton-

omous Region.

Under the banner of human rights protection, some U.S. politicians are practicing double standard on countering terrorism, which is connivance and even encouragement for terrorist acts, Li said, adding that Xinjiang-related issues are not about human rights, ethnicity or religion, but about fighting violence, terrorism and separatism.

Xinjiang has always promoted the rule of law, and conducted counterterrorism and de-radicalization in accordance with the law. Thanks to these measures, no terrorist incidents have occurred in Xinjiang for nearly three years, so the rights to life and development of the people of all ethnic groups are protected, and their sense of gain, happiness and security are improved.

Memet Abliz is a merchant who has been running his business at Xinjiang International Grand Bazaar for 17 years. "I witnessed how the bazaar turned from a farm produce fair into a mall and then into a site of attraction. Huge changes happened," the merchant said.

"However, there were no people or business here when the bazaar was threatened by severe terrorism. Thanks to the harmony and stability nowadays, this place is once again crowded, and is even visited by foreigners. Our revenue goes higher day by day," Abliz said.

Memet Juma, the imam, or the person who leads prayers at the Id Kah Mosque in Xinjiang's Kashgar told People's Daily that serial terrorist attacks in Kashgar once hurt many innocent people, and his father was killed by religious extrem-

ists.

"As a clerical worker, I know clearly that religious extremism has nothing to do with religion. We must have a clear understanding of the evil essence and severe harm of terrorism and religious extremism," Juma said.

"The educational and training centers established in Xinjiang, where residential vocational training is offered, are in line with the spirit and requirements of the rule of law in China, and also reflects the ideas and principles of counterterrorism and de-radicalization as practiced by the international community," remarked Zuliati Ismail, dean of the School of Marxism of Xinjiang University.

She said that these centers instruct the trainees to recognize their mistakes, and de-radicalize

tion is reflected in every aspect.

"Most of the trainees have acquired practical skills and improved their competence in job hunting. After graduation, some of them work for enterprises while some start their own business, and some even resume education in medium and higher vocational schools. There's no doubt that the educational and training centers in Xinjiang are successful," she remarked.

"Everyone at the center was happy, and was willing to take part in study and recreational activities," said Tunisa Met, who once received education at an educational and training center in Hotan, a major oasis town in southwestern Xinjiang.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



U.S. team player Justin Thomas, left, celebrates with his playing partner and captain, Tiger Woods, on the 18th green in their foursomes match during the President's Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Club in Melbourne, Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. (AP Photo)

Americans rally late to only trail by 3 in Presidents Cup

MELBOURNE, Australia

JUSTIN Thomas delivered the biggest moment for an American team desperate for one Friday in the Presidents Cup.

He holed an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole, dropped his putter and looked over at his partner – U.S. captain Tiger Woods – and then borrowed a line from former NFL receiver Terrell Owens.

“I love me some ME!” Thomas screamed at Woods, who also dropped his putter and moved in for a hard hug.

All the Americans gained was momentum. The International players are going so well at this Presidents Cup that they took its largest lead after any session in 16 years, and felt like that was the worst they could do.

Building on a 4-1 lead after the opening session at Royal Melbourne, they quickly won two more matches in foursomes.

Louis Oosthuizen and Adam Scott rallied from 2 down by winning five of the next seven holes and closed out Dustin Johnson and Matt Kuchar in the opening foursomes match Friday.

Patrick Reed heard it from the crowd again, including shouts of “Patrick Cheat” for his rules violation last week in the Bahamas. Far tougher on Reed and Webb Simpson was the International team of Marc Leishman and Abraham Ancer, who seized control on the back nine to win, 3 and 2.

At one point, the board was filled with black-and-gold, the new colors of this inspired International team led by Ernie Els.

It had to settled for a 6 1/2-3 1/2 lead. Patrick Cantlay and Thomas each birdied the 18th hole to win matches. Gary Woodland and Rickie Fowler rallied from 2 down with three holes to play to earn a halve.

“It’s perspective, isn’t it?” Els said. “I’ve got to look at where we are. It’s easy to just look at where we could have been, because it was looking really unbelievable. We tie this afternoon.”

Els then considered the Americans have a 50 1/2 – 22 1/2 advantage in foursomes in winning the last seven times, and maybe it wasn’t all that bad.

“We’re in a very good position,” Els said.

The International team had its largest lead through two sessions since it won at Royal Melbourne in 1998, the only time it has won the Presidents Cup. It also had a three-point lead going into Sunday singles in South Africa in 2003, the year of the tie.

Even so, the Americans felt momentum shifting.

“We dug ourselves out of what could have been a big hole,” Thomas said.

The match tied going to the 18th, Thomas drove into light rough on the right, and Woods followed with a great shot that landed near the hole and rolled out 18 feet. Hideki Matsuyama missed his 25-foot speedy birdie chance, and Thomas had the last putt for the

win.

“We were both screaming,” Woods said. “It was a phenomenal moment, and it was priceless. So I’m glad we were able to experience it together.”

Equally important was Cantlay, who second shot into the par-5 15th set up birdie to square the match. Xander Schauffele gave him a chance at the winner with an approach into 15 feet on the final hole, and Cantlay knocked it in.

That was the first point. The biggest moment belonged to Thomas because it was one more point that got the U.S. team a little bit closer.

“I’ve been fortunate to make a lot of putts,” Thomas said. “But to do it with my captain and teammate was awesome.”

Woods tied Phil Mickelson for the record by winning his 26th match in bine Presidents Cup appearances. Mickelson played in 12.

Woodland and Fowler capped off the late comeback. They were 2 down with three holes to go when they birdied the 16th and 17th holes to square the match against Sungjae Im and Cameron Smith. It ended with the first draw of these matches.

“Momentum is huge,” Woodland said. “That was a huge half-point. Any time you can scrape out something ... we did it. Now we have to regroup. We have 36 ahead of us tomorrow and hopefully go out and flip this a little bit.”

The International team was buying the momentum. It paid more attention to the leaderboard.

“What are we, 6 1/2-3 1/2 up? It’s very early,” Leishman said. “They made a couple good putts on 18, definitely give them that, but I don’t think you get momentum with two putts. We played pretty well the first two sessions. Yes, today probably didn’t finish off the way we wanted to but we still halved the session. They made a couple putts at an important time, but if they feel that, that’s great.”

Reed, meanwhile, is never bashful about egging on the crowd when playing away from home. He made a birdie on the 11th hole, and as he heard it from the crowd, Reed cupped his hand to his ear, then pretended to use his putter as shovel. Walking up the 16th fairway, two spectators yelled at him to look at their shirts that read, “We love a Tiger, but not a Cheetah.”

Reed declined interview requests after the round. He gets another dose of it Saturday, as Woods sent out Reed and Simpson for the third straight session.

Woods will be nothing but a captain Saturday morning. He took himself out of the lineup, sending Thomas in the first match out with Fowler for fourballs. Eight points are available Saturday, followed by 12 singles on Sunday.

AP

Why Samatta will need a ‘big heart’ to continue playing for Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

TAIFA Stars captain Mbwana Samatta appears to be entering a tricky period of his playing days, not on account of any error of his own but failure to complement his successful seasons at KRC Genk with similar successes for Taifa Stars. There is no objective premise for this to be the case, and at any rate it may already have been realized in the fact that Tanzania appeared for the first time in the finals of the Africa Cup of Nations during his captaincy, albeit with the plaudits going to Nigerian coach Emmanuel Amunike. The fans, and many TFF officials, want this pace kept.

Permanently, that is. This latter clause is the difficult part of the matter as it would have been enough to take note of the fact that during his captaincy and to an extent, by his contribution, Tanzania reached AFCON finals for the first time after 40 years, almost to the hour. This view wasn’t sustained, and instead it was interpreted that Tanzania had ‘left’ the stage of not being able to qualify to qualifying, and thus the next ‘stage’ would be to do even better than before. It is the same mood that one saw with national club champions Simba SC, in their upsets this year.

For ‘aficionados,’ this sort of situation comes up with many good players, or say those who attain iconic status in their home fan base when they play abroad and obtain exceptional fame and ranking in their clubs, winning trophies, etc. Samatta is in that rank though for a decidedly modest premier league by UEFA standards, as the cream of Belgian



Mbwana Samatta

players don’t feature for their home clubs, leaving plenty of room for incomers like Samatta to make a real impression. But within Belgium and the repeated successes of KRC Genk since Samatta came in, he is great.

It needs no soccer expertise to discover that scarcely do players equal their club status with the national team clamour back home, as the two are entirely different settings where no real comparison can be made.

At times the difference actually becomes a problem, when a country nearly tasks a player with achieving, whereas no country in the world can collect a side that equals a top UEFA Champions League side, as clubs can choose from all over the world, not countries. In some happy cases the success is already there and they just work to defend it.

That is why Mohammed Salah is

unlikely to come under pressure to bring trophies to Egypt because they already had so many, and if they fail it will not be down to one person, or for that matter his team mate Sadio Mane with Senegal. Now does Algeria excessively look upon Riyad Mahrez to make the difference, and even closer to home, Kenya has a number of noted UEFA level players and don’t look upon anyone to deliver. If Tanzania had welcomed Dutch star Yusuf Poulson and some other youths with foreign citizenship Samatta would be much less noticeable.

In that sense there is a danger for the Tanzanian national side to start breaking up just as it seems to be tasting success, because pressure is being piled up on its talismanic striker. We all know how Lionel Messi has continually found it difficult to play for Argentina as the fans wish that he converts Argentina into Barcelona

and win the same trophies, whereas nearly all South American countries can equal Argentina in soccer stars, but hardly any Argentina club equals Barcelona or any top Spanish club for that matter. In that case the screaming is pointless, it is soccer alchemy.

Precisely because of this impatience that Tanzania should be as successful as Mbwana’s club if he puts up the same performance as in that club side, his ability to turn out for the national team could hit a glitch within no time. Too many pundits are trying to acquire some notoriety and a touch of expertise in showing the coach and indeed the football federation what to do with the player, and a relatively ineffective coach has been advising starting him from the bench. And as if this ill wishing was taking its toll, the latest outing KRC Genk made it in UEFA it fell 0-4 and he was substituted early in the second half. It is as if divinity was leveling Genk down, for us.

At 27 years of age the player ought to have quite a few more days with Taifa Stars but the poor and declining appreciation for his efforts could give him second thoughts. Incidentally the fans do not realize that with his talismanic position in Taifa Stars adversary teams are likely to assign tough tacklers on his side every time the ball comes his way, which excessively widens chances of his being injured, before any other player has to worry about it. If he takes these risks for nothing and substitute coaches for first division sides in Tanzania spell the rule for him, he could find it reasonable to quit. He already has one AFCON finals to his credit and can’t need another.

Doncic’s triple-double lifts Mavs past Pistons in Mexico

MEXICO CITY

LUKA Doncic’s Spanish was flawless. His game was pretty good, too.

Doncic scored 41 points and posted his eighth triple-double of the season, Seth Curry added a season-high 30 points off the bench and the Dallas Mavericks topped the Detroit Pistons 122-111 on Thursday night in the opener of the NBA Mexico Games.

Doncic finished with 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the Mavericks, who at 17-7 are off to their best 24-game start since posting the same mark at this point of the 2014-15 season.

“He picked us apart,” Pistons coach Dwane Casey said.

Curry scored 18 points in the second quarter alone for Dallas. The Mavericks trailed by seven late in the first half, then went on a 14-0 run before intermission and eventually led by as many as 24.

Curry became the first Dallas reserve to score 30 off the bench since Jason Terry had 34 against San Antonio on Jan. 29, 2012.

“Even when Detroit was playing zone, our guys were making an effort to drive-and-kick, drive-and-kick and find Seth ultimately for the shot,” Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. “Real happy for him. He did everything. He drove it. He shot it. He made a couple good plays on the breaks. He made a couple good passes. He was a huge contributor tonight.”

Doncic’s eight triple-doubles already match his total from last season. Kristaps Porzingis added 20 points for the Mavericks, who outrebounded Detroit 52-34.

“I think we’re getting better and better every day,” Doncic said. “He’s going to get better. I’m going to get better. And with us two, the team is going to get way better.”

Andre Drummond led the Pistons with 23 points and 15 rebounds. Derrick Rose scored 19 points and Markieff Morris added 16 for Detroit, which got 12 from Tony Snell and 10 apiece from Christian Wood and Blake Griffin.

“Back to the drawing board,” Casey said. “Dallas is a great team. Rick’s done a heck of a job with that team. But we missed a lot of shots that we normally make. And then defensively, I thought we missed a lot of rotations.”

It was the 29th game in Mexico since 1992, the most of any country other than the U.S. or Canada in that span and came on a night where the NBA announced that Capitanes – a Mexico City-based team in that country’s top pro league – will be joining the G

League starting next season.

“Playing out here was incredible,” Drummond said. “The atmosphere was outstanding.”

Doncic addressed the Mexico City crowd pregame – to their delight – in flawless Spanish, before turning the microphone over to Griffin. “Hola, Mexico,” was the extent of Griffin’s Spanish offering, as he grinned and a very amused Doncic looked on standing a few feet away.

The night didn’t get much easier for Griffin from there: He shot just 3 for 16, and 1 for 10 from 3-point range.

Doncic, meanwhile, went on to post his second 40-point triple-double of the season. He’s the first player in NBA history to have multiple 40-point triple-doubles before turning 21; he doesn’t celebrate that birthday until Feb. 28.

Meanwhile, in Boston, Joel Embiid answered the criticism from a couple of Hall of Famers in the most productive way possible.

After Shaquille O’Neal and Charles Barkley said Embiid wasn’t playing up to his potential, the 76ers center conceded that they were probably right. Then he produced one of his best games of the year: a season-high 38 points along with 13 rebounds in a 115-109 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday night.

“All of the stuff he has been dealing with he handled like an adult, with humility. And he responded in a dramatic way,” Philadelphia coach

Brett Brown said. “He was dominant, was a leader and one of his best games as a Sixer.”

Embiid scored 16 points in the fourth quarter, hitting five of six free throws in the final 26 seconds after Boston scored seven straight points to erase most of a nine-point deficit. With Philadelphia leading by four in the final 15 seconds, he blocked Daniel Theis’ shot to help clinch it.

Earlier in the week, Barkley said Embiid is the toughest matchup in the league, but he doesn’t take advantage of it. O’Neal said on the TNT broadcast that Embiid shouldn’t settle for 22 points a game, his current average, but should aim for more like 28 or 30.

“I like when I get criticized,” Embiid said after the game. “For them to say I have the potential to be the best player in the world, and I haven’t shown that yet, I need to play harder.”

Celtics center Enes Kanter said he approached Embiid during the game and told him not to worry about the criticism.

“He’s one of the best big men in the league,” said Kanter, who scored a season-high 20 points with nine rebounds. “I told him, ‘Hey, don’t worry about it.’ I told him to just go out and play your game.”

Tobias Harris had 23 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for the Sixers, who won their fourth straight game and their eighth in nine tries.

Kemba Walker scored 29 points for Boston, which lost at home for the

first time all season. Gordon Hayward scored 19.

LATE RUNS

After helping the Sixers hang around for three quarters, Embiid dragged them to a 106-97 lead with just over two minutes left. Walker hit three free throws, then Kanter scored on a tip-in and Hayward hit a fall-away jumper with to make it 106-104 with 61 seconds left.

It was 110-106 when Tatum made a rainbow 3-pointer over Embiid to make it a one-point game.

But Embiid hit his foul shots, and then gave the 76ers a stop on defense to help them pull two games ahead of rival Boston in the Eastern Conference. “In the fourth quarter, I haven’t been the closer these guys have needed me to be this whole season,” Embiid said.

EARLY LEAD

Walker scored 12 points in the first quarter, when the Celtics opened an eight-point lead before Philadelphia scored eight in a row to tie it. Boston scored the last six points of the first and the first basket of the second to make it 36-28, but that lead didn’t last, either.

It was a three-point game at halftime, then back-and-forth in the third before the Sixers began to pull away in the fourth.

AP



Dallas Mavericks’ Luka Doncic, right, dribbles the ball against Detroit Pistons in the second half of their regular-season NBA basketball game in Mexico City, Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019. (AP Photo)

'Clasico will be played', says Barca president Bartomeu

MADRID

BARCELONA president Josep Maria Bartomeu said on Thursday the Clasico against Real Madrid next week will not be postponed again, amid renewed fears of unrest around the fixture.

Protestors from the Catalan separatist movement, Democratic Tsunami, have called for a "massive" protest outside Camp Nou, where Barcelona are due to play against Real Madrid in La Liga on December 18.

Spain's most prestigious fixture was originally scheduled for October 26 but had to be postponed following a wave of pro-independence demonstrations in the city.

"I can say that the Clasico will be played, it will not be postponed again," Bartomeu said at a Christmas press event in Barcelona.

"It is everyone's responsibility to ensure it goes ahead. We know that we live in a complicated period in Catalonia but that can be compatible with sport.

"Our stadium is a place for free expression, it always has been, and that is why we want to send out a message of normality and calm.

"The club is preparing for the Clasico with complete normality and we tell our fans to come with their family and friends.

"Together we have to deliver a Clasico that is a celebration of sport and of people. We want peace and calm."

Democratic Tsunami have urged protestors to gather at four points around Camp Nou from 4:00 pm (1500 GMT), four hours before kick-off.

"In an exceptional situation, we should act in an exceptional way," said a statement from the group on Tuesday.

The rally is the latest in a series of demonstrations that began two months ago when Spain's top court jailed nine Catalan separatist leaders over their role in a failed 2017 bid for independence. (AFP)

Martínez's impressive form could cost Inter Milan

MILAN

INTER Milan might just lose out to Barcelona again.

The Italian club was eliminated from the Champions League following a 2-1 loss to Barcelona on Tuesday, and the Spanish club was reportedly so impressed by Lautaro Martínez's performance that it is ready to activate the Inter forward's 111 million euro (\$123 million) release clause.

Martínez ran the Barcelona defense ragged, set up Romelu Lukaku's equalizer and also had two goals ruled out for offside. He also scored when the two clubs faced each other in October.

"We are Inter Milan, with an important history - like Barcelona - and we don't have to necessarily sell anybody," Inter CEO Giuseppe Marotta said. "We want to grow, so we want to concentrate on our youngsters like Lautaro Martínez or Lukaku, they are interesting and young and we want to grow with them.

"But as you know, the future of a player is in their heads. If Lautaro wants to stay with us, we are happy with that, if he will be attracted by the ideas of other clubs we will evaluate the situation. At the moment he is very tied to Inter and we are proud."

Martínez signed a contract until 2023 when he joined Inter from Racing Club last year and there is already talk of improving that deal to keep him at the club.

The Argentina forward scored

nine goals for Inter last season but has exploded this campaign and has already found the back of the net 13 times in a formidable partnership with Lukaku under coach Antonio Conte.

"There is the right chemistry between them," Marotta said. "Antonio Conte, a proven winner, knows how to get the best out of them."

That partnership could prove crucial to keeping Martínez at the club.

"Inter is my home. I spend most of my life here and that for me matters a lot," Martínez said. "Everyone has shown me affection from the very first day and that is fundamental for a player and a man."

Martínez and Lukaku's partnership has been key to Inter reaching the top of the Serie A standings. The club is two points above eight-time defending champion Juventus.

Inter visits Fiorentina on Sunday and hosts Genoa in its final match of the year.

"We can't make the mistake of dwelling on this defeat too much," Inter defender Cristiano Biraghi said. "It's part of the game. We're professionals. Sunday will be a good test of our maturity as a side.

"Florence is a difficult place to go, the atmosphere is always intense when big teams play there and the home team feed off that. They're not on the best form and because of that they'll want to give even more."

AP

India's young guns have football hairdos, Rohit says

MUMBAI

INDIA's young cricket guns like Hardik Pandya and KL Rahul are styling their hair like footballers in reflection of their love of the game, senior teammate and modestly quaffed Rohit Sharma said on Thursday.

The 26-year-old Pandya, who is recovering from a lower back injury following an operation in October, remains popular among young fans with his quirky hairstyles, tattoos and in-your-face attitude.

Rahul, the face of a trendy clothing brand who played a key role in India's series-clinching win over West Indies on Wednesday, is known for his smart fashion sense.

"The young guys who have come into the team like Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Hardik Pandya, they all follow football," Rohit said after being named India's ambassador of La Liga club Real Madrid.

"They do watch all these footballers, their hairstyle and what they do with their hairstyle."

Rohit, a swashbuckling opener who

leads the Twenty20 batting chart jointly with skipper Virat Kohli, is a self-confessed Zinedine Zidane fan.

"This is not because I am associated with La Liga. I used to love Zinedine Zidane, I watched him play and that's how I started watching football regularly," said Rohit.

"Real Madrid is again (my best club) because of the skill and passion, how they play and how much skills they have within the group."

Another big football fan in Indian cricket is Mahendra Singh Dhoni who also co-owns a team in the Indian Super League besides showcasing his soccer skills in charity matches.

Rohit rates the 38-year-old Dhoni, who has kept mum on rumours surrounding his retirement after skipping all the series following India's World Cup exit, as the number one footballer in the Indian team.

"There are lots of them actually, we have got Zlatan Ibrahimovic in our squad as well, that's Ishant Sharma. M S Dhoni is the number one football player."

AFP

Greenwood, Saka star as United and Arsenal youth shine in Europa League

PARIS

TEENAGER Mason Greenwood again grabbed his chances for Manchester United, scoring twice in a 4-0 thrashing of AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday.

Earlier Arsenal came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2 at Standard Liege and also make sure of a place in the last 32 as Group F winners.

With Wolves, who crushed Besiktas 4-0, also advancing, English clubs ended with a full house in Europe with the three Europa League entries following the Premier League's four Champions League teams into the knockout rounds.

Spanish clubs also completed a full set when Getafe joined already-qualified Sevilla and Espanyol by scoring three times in the last 14 minutes to beat Krasnodar 3-0 in a showdown for second place in Group C.

However, Bundesliga leaders Borussia Mönchengladbach and Italian power Lazio made surprising exits.

At Old Trafford, in a battle for top spot in Group L, Alkmaar matched a youthful United side until the 53rd minute when veteran Ashley Young smashed the home team ahead.

Greenwood pounced on a loose ball to snap the second into the corner of the net. After Greenwood was fouled, Juan Mata converted a penalty.

Then the Spaniard set up Greenwood for another crisp low left-footer inside the post.

"Mason's a different class as a finisher," said United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjær.

"If there's anything around the box you expect him to get a shot off and on target, he's good at creating space for himself and right-foot, left-foot it doesn't matter."

Alexandre Lacazette and Bukayo Saka were on target in the space of three second-half minutes as Arsenal survived a scare to win their group.

They lived on their nerves as Eintracht Frankfurt were poised to knock them off top spot when the Germans led Guimarães 2-1.

However, the Portuguese side, already eliminated, scored twice in the last five minutes to claim a 3-2 win. "Saka was amazing, he's a tremendous talent," said Arsenal caretaker coach Freddie Ljungberg.

Liege took the lead just after half-time when a speculative Samuel Bastien shot took a huge deflection.

The goal meant Arsenal had failed to keep a clean sheet in their last 13 matches in all competitions.



Young forward Greenwood bagged a brace and Ashley Young and Juan Mata were also both on target as Ole Gunnar Solskjær's side eased into the knockout stages. (Agencies)

It got worse after 69 minutes when Selim Amallah made it 2-0 off another deflection as Liege looked for the unlikely scoreline of 5-0 which would put them through and Arsenal out.

However, Lacazette calmed Arsenal nerves after 78 minutes when he headed in a cross from Saka.

- Late drama - Three minutes later, the impressive Saka levelled with a fine finish from the edge of the box.

On a night of late drama, Gladbach conceded in the 91st minute to lose 2-1 to Istanbul Basaksehir and drop from first to third in Group J and out of the competition.

Marcus Thuram had given the Germans

a 33rd minute lead. Irfan Can Kahveci replied before half time and Enzo Crivelli hit the late winner after a goalmouth scramble.

Basaksehir topped the pool. Roma, held 2-2 at home to Austrians Wolfsberg, were second.

In a straight shootout for second in Group H in Razgrad, Bulgaria, substitute Nikolay Signevich scored five minutes into added time to give Ferencvaros a 1-1 draw with Ludogorets.

The Hungarians finished one point ahead of Ludogorets in second place behind Espanyol.

Celtic, fresh from winning the Scottish League Cup last weekend and already as-

ured of making the last 32, lost 2-0 at Cluj who went through as Group E runners-up behind the Scots.

Lazio, third in Serie A, were knocked out after a 2-0 loss at Rennes in the same group.

Rangers got the draw they needed with a 1-1 home draw against Young Boys of Berne in Group G.

Alfredo Morelos gave the home team the lead but in the 89th minute Borna Boric put into his own goal to deprive the Glaswegians of first place in Group G.

That went to Porto who beat Feyenoord 3-2 in a game in which all the goals came in the first 33 minutes.

AFP

Neymar and Mbappé's partnership could take PSG far in Europe

By JEROME PUGMIRE, AP Sports Writer

AS the world's two most expensive soccer players, Neymar and Kylian Mbappé already stand apart.

On the field, they have a harmony which could take Paris Saint-Germain far in the Champions League after three straight seasons of failing to even reach the quarterfinals.

Evidence of their growing understanding was fully displayed in the 5-0 home win against an albeit weak Galatasaray side in the Champions League midweek.

Mbappé set up Neymar with an exquisite back-heeled pass, and Neymar returned the compliment with a defense-splitting ball to send the electrifying Mbappé through on goal. They also combined in setting up PSG's opening goal for Mauro Icardi.

"The real Neymar is back," Le Parisien newspaper said on Thursday.

But for how long? The worry for PSG is if the relationship between Neymar and Mbappé becomes rather too exclusive, to the detriment of teamwork and the exclusion of teammates. The concern is that against far better sides later in the competition, this will be too predictable and work against PSG.

Of Neymar's 57 completed passes against the Turkish side, 17 of them went to Mbappé. Hardly any went to Icardi, the other striker - although much of his game is about movement off the ball to open up space for others.

Before Icardi's opening goal, which came after 32 minutes, it seemed at times as if Neymar and Mbappé were having a 2 vs. 2 kickabout on a local park, such was their tendency to pass to only each other.

There is no denying that with its two biggest stars fully fit, PSG looks an ominous side.

Neymar set up Mbappé's goal last Saturday in a 3-1 win at Montpellier, where they also combined superbly for Icardi's score.

They have not played much together this season because Neymar sat out the first few games of the season as he tried to push through a move back to Barcelona, which sold him for a world record 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017.

Neymar then picked up another niggling injury while with Brazil, keeping him out for six weeks. The good news for coach Thomas Tuchel is that, after two seasons of constant injury breaks, Neymar appears close to his best once again.

In the past four games he's scored three, set up three, and been involved in starting moves for other goals.

Tuchel hoped Neymar would be fully fit by January, but he's ahead of schedule.

"Ney has improved physically," Tuchel said. "He's accelerating more often."

This is a crucial and destructive part of Neymar's game: Sudden bursts from midfield and pulling away from his markers over the first 10-20 meters.



PSG's Neymar, left, celebrates with PSG's Kylian Mbappé after scoring his side's opening goal during the French League One soccer match between PSG and Nantes at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2019. The goal was disallowed on a VAR (video assistant referee) decision. (AP Photo)

He does not have the speed of Mbappé, who can maintain his lightning pace for more than 50 meters without dropping off. But once Neymar does pull away then his silky skillset, and much under-rated strength, become factors that make him incredibly hard to stop in full flow.

Tuchel can take further encouragement from the fact Neymar was even tracking back and trying to tackle Galatasaray players, a sign he may finally be understanding the need for better teamwork and more selflessness. Ney-

mar, however, showed against Montpellier that he still has an irritating need to showboat and verbally provoke opponents.

"He's a bit petulant, a bit haughty with everyone," Montpellier striker Andy Delort said. "I told him he needs to respect people. When everyone idolizes you, then you need to show the right education."

Mbappé, then 18, joined PSG from Monaco in a deal worth 180 million euros (\$200 million). He netted his 100th club

goal on Wednesday, one week before his 21st birthday.

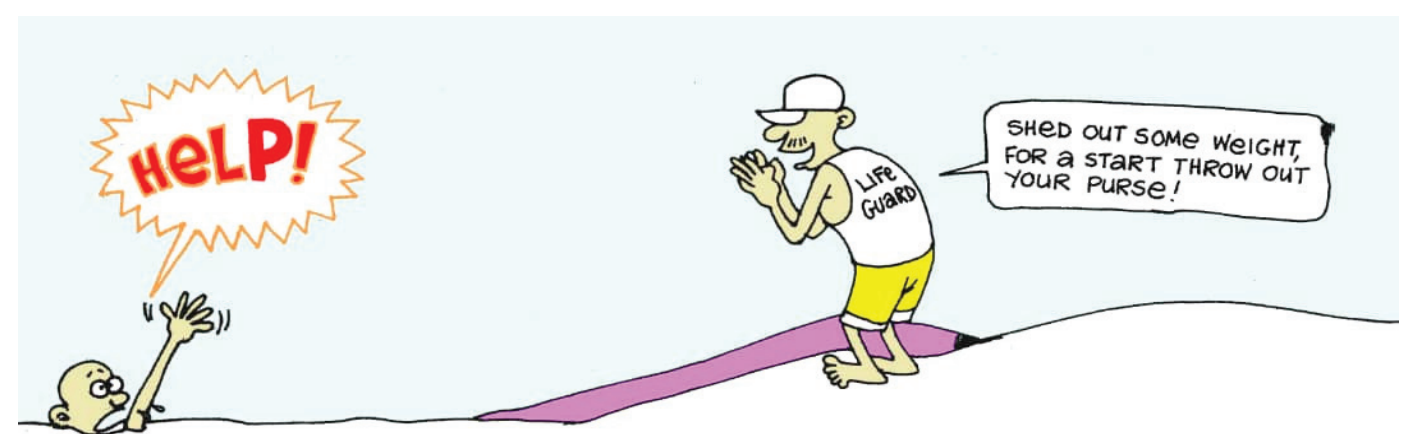
Mbappé was desperate for Neymar not to rejoin Barcelona.

Now that he has stayed, they both need to justify their hugely costly partnership by taking PSG far in Europe.

The cash-rich club has only once reached the semifinals. That was in 1995, long before the current Qatari ownership bought the club in 2011.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Greenwood, Saka star as United and Arsenal youth shine in Europa League

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



FK Blue Marlins Club swimmer, William Sanford (C), pictured with his trophy after finishing top in the just ended National Junior Swimming Championship, which took place in Dar es Salaam. He has been flanked by Gervas Sayi of Bluefins (L) and Max Missokia of Dar Swim Club. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BLUEFINS CLUB

Bluefins Club swimmers improve times in junior championships

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

THE leadership of an up-and-coming swimming club in Tanzania, Bluefins, has disclosed it has been satisfied with the club's swimmers' performance in the recently concluded National Junior Championships, which took place in Dar es Salaam.

Bluefins finished second after collecting 1,5217 points in the competition, which featured 10 clubs from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Taliss-IST finished first with 1,736 points and Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC) finished third after collecting 779 points.

Apart from finishing in the second position, Bluefins' swimmer, Sahal Harunani, won the overall trophy for the swimmers aged between 10 and 11 while his counterpart, Isaac Mukani, finished second.

Also in the age category is Christian Fernandes (10) who was placed fifth. Bluefins swimmer Aminaz Kachra finished second for swimmers aged 10 and 11 to win a trophy and fellow swimmer Aaliya Takim was placed fifth in the same category.

According to results issued by Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA), Bluefins swimmer Natalia Ladha also won the trophy for swimmers aged 12 after collecting 150 points.

Natalia joined the club one day before the competition. She previously featured for Taliss-IST.

Another swimmer who made wonders in the competition was Gervas Sayi (10), also a Bluefins' swimmer.

He took the event by storm after finishing in the second position to win the trophy.

Sayi made a debut in the sport as well as the National Junior Swimming Championships.

The club's founder cum head coach, Rahim Alidina, said the team's success was the result of the commitment of swimmers, parents, coaches and leadership.

Alidina said the club fielded many young swimmers in the event and did well as some of them won medals while others improved their personal best time.

He said the club has many up-and-coming swimmers, noting that they believe in a few years to come they would attain the top position in the domestic event.

"We do not have experienced swimmers, but committed ones, this is our weapon in any swimming competition. Our task is to make them stars and feature for the national teams," he said.

"We have reasons to celebrate this spectacular performance at the event. It was very competitive, considering the presence of slightly experienced swimmers, but we are over the moon that we finished second," he said.

Mushtaq Ahmed vows to 'revive' Yasir Shah's career

RAWALPINDI

MUSHTAQ Ahmed has promised to "revive" the career of Yasir Shah, who has been released from Pakistan's squad after being left out of the XI for the first Test against Sri Lanka.

Mushtaq, the former Pakistan leg-spinner, is with the PCB as a consultant, contracted to work with spinners at all levels, from age-group to national team, for 120 days over a 12-month period. Yasir will work with Mushtaq at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore, and rejoin the Pakistan squad ahead of the second and final Test in Karachi, which begins on December 19.

Yasir has endured a slump in form of late, picking up four wickets at an average of 100.50 on the recent tour of Australia, while conceding close to five runs an over. In his last Test series before the Australia tour, in South Africa in 2018-19, he picked up just one wicket at an average of 123.00.

In the last Test Pakistan played before the South Africa tour, against New Zealand in December 2018, Yasir became the fastest bowler in history to 200 Test wickets, breaking the 82-year-old record of fellow leg-spinner Clarrise Grimmett.

AGENCIES

Company to support Dar Para swimming coaching course

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

PREPARATIONS for Tanzania's first ever basic Para swimming coaching course, slated for Monday in Dar es Salaam, have been boosted financially by Desmi Africa Ltd.

The course will be held at Nordic Schools and Ramadhan Namkoveka, the course coordinator, disclosed yesterday that Desmi Africa Ltd has agreed to sponsor the course.

He, however, stopped short of disclosing the amount of sponsorship, saying the sponsors have advised the issue should be confidential.

He thanked the company for the sponsorship which he said will enable the course to run smoothly and he asked other companies, organizations and individuals to emulate a good gesture from Desmi Africa Ltd.

"On behalf of Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) I would like to thank Desmi Africa Ltd for their supports and hoping that they will support further events which will involve Para swimmers," he said.

He said it is the committee's hope that support from the company will motivate other firms and individuals to support the course which is expected to bring together 30 coaches and 15 Para swimmers.

"We still have a gap in our budget, we ask companies, organizations and individuals to support us financially and materially," he said.

On his remarks, Managing Director of Desmi Africa Ltd, Leslie Andrews, said they are delighted to support Para swimming in the country.

He disclosed the sponsorship will promote and develop Para swimming activities in Tanzania.

He further said that Desmi Africa Ltd is one of the Denmark's oldest companies that have a long history of supplying goods, and offer reliable solutions.

The core products of Desmi, he disclosed, are development, manufacture, sales and services of marine and industrial process pumps.

"When we received news that TPC is looking for sponsorship for the basic course, we did not hesitate to support them," Andrews noted.

"We are one of Denmark's oldest companies that have a long history of supplying goods and reliable solutions, our core products are development, manufacturing, sales and services of marine and industrial process pumps, our Sub-Saharan headquarters are here in Tanzania hence the support to the course is, to us, a means of giving back to the society," he said.

He further said his company is in forefront of supporting development initiatives as well as Para sports activities in the country.

"We feel it's our responsibility as company to help to lay foundation for Para swimming activities so that one day Tanzania Para swimmers can make it on the international stage, to reach that level is a process, but we must start with training coaches and train the swimmers professionally," he said.



CRJE basketball team's player, Wen Lungjang (R), gets the better of TZJCC team's Zhu Feng when the teams clashed in a tournament, which has brought together outfits made up of Chinese experts working in Tanzania, held at Nation Indoor Stadium in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA



A section of sports officials feature in a sports marketing seminar, which took place in Morogoro recently. The seminar, organized by Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) through Olympic Solidarity, was attended by national sports associations' leaders from both Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

TOC displeased by national sports associations' officials' failure to attend meetings

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Olympic Committee (TOC) has expressed its displeasure at failure by leaders of some of national sports associations to attend the committee's meetings and instead delegates officials who make less contributions.

Filbert Bayi, TOC secretary general, issued the statement prior to welcoming the committee's president, Gulam Rashid, who was the guest of honour at the opening of a two-day sports marketing course, which took place in Morogoro early this week.

The seminar was organized by TOC with funding from International Olympic Committee (IOC) through its solidarity Fund.

He said TOC has been organizing seminars for national sports associations' leaders but the officials, instead, delegate junior officials who cannot make any

meaningful decision.

Bayi said it is important for national associations' leaders to attend the seminars organized by his committee as knowledge gained in the seminars can help the officials develop sports in the country.

"It has now become a tendency by our national sports associations' leaders not to attend seminars organized by TOC," he noted.

"Today we are opening a sports marketing seminar, but there is no any of national associations' leaders here, instead they have delegated their juniors, this is not good," he disclosed.

"We want leaders to attend these seminars as the officials are the ones who can make meaningful contributions on how to develop sports from all angles."

Guest of honour, Rashid, attributed the absence of national associations' leaders at the seminar to lack of seriousness by

the leaders.

He said many national associations are failing to promote their brands as the bodies' leaders lack marketing skills.

"Some of national associations' leaders try to introduce their brands but they fail because they don't have marketing skills," he disclosed.

"Such a seminar like this one is important to the development of sports in the country," he said.

Henry Tandau, the seminar's facilitator, said many sports associations' leaders in the country complain of lacking sponsorship from the cooperate world.

The officials, he noted, do not know that they are the ones that should bear the blame for the problem.

He said one of reasons many sports associations in the country lack sponsorship is that their leaders are not ready to invest in their marketing education.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

