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High Commissioner lauds EOTF



# Sort out gas procurement dispute, JPM tells ministry

President Magufuli was responding to a complaint by Taifa Gas Managing Director Hamisi Ramadhani who expressed fears on the BPS system saying it was going to discourage business competition

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed the Ministry of Energy and suppliers of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to agree on the mode of procuring the product after the two sides differed on the decision by the government to adopt the bulk procurement system (BPS).

The Head of State was speaking in Dar es Salaam when he officially launched an LPG processing plant and warehouse worth 150bn/- at Kigamboni.

Dr Magufuli urged the two sides to find a solution to the matter so that it is a win-win agreement to ensure the government was getting

taxes and the mode agreed upon is favourable to investors.

"I cannot say anything on this matter because it is the first time I am hearing it but what I can say it is for you to sit down and come up with a solution which will be beneficial to all sides," he said.

President Magufuli was responding to a complaint by Taifa Gas Managing Director Hamisi Ramadhani who expressed fears on the BPS system saying it was going to discourage business competition.

The government announced plans to introduce BPS in LPG procurement to ensure

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President John Magufuli passes by Taifa Gas Tanzania Limited LPG tanks accompanied by the firm's board chairman, Rostam Aziz (to his left), moments before inaugurating them at Vijiwani in Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni suburb yesterday. Photo: State House



# DP Ruto assassination bid saga: MP Moses Kuria admits key role

NAIROBI

Gatundu South MP Moses Kuria says he initiated meetings at La Mada Hotel where the alleged assassination plot against Deputy President William Ruto (pictured) was discussed.

Kuria said yesterday that the meetings at the hotel located along Thika Road brought together political leaders and senior government officials from Mt. Kenya area to discuss the region's development agenda.

"I am the one who initiated the meetings,

including the choice of La Mada Hotel. I coordinated development issues for the region including MPs, senators, CSs, professionals and business people. There have been several meetings to discuss development issues in the region," said Kuria.

"I believe it is our legitimate right to sit down and resolve our issues. These are not our personal issues; they are a response to concerns on the ground. I also know Rift Valley leaders, CSs and professionals meet at Weston Hotel and in Karen; same with Nyanza and everywhere else. Strong regions lead to a strong Kenya," Kuria stated.

He spoke a day after four Cabinet Secretaries were summoned by the Directorate of Criminal Investigations for grilling over the alleged plot to kill Ruto.

The four CSs are Peter Munya (Trade), Sicily Kariuki (Health) Joe Mucheru (ICT) and James Macharia

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# TPA unveils plans for Dar port as a regional facility

By Songwa wa Songwa

THE Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) yesterday unveiled a strategy it is implementing to transform the Port of Dar es Salaam into a leading port in Africa from mid next year.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the opening of the third Africa Ports Expansion Summit, TPA's director of marketing and public relations Francisca Muindi said the status of Tanzania's principal port is set to change for the better next July when ongoing revamping works are completed.

The works under the Dar es Salaam Maritime Project include expansion of depths and widths in



**The port will be able to receive Panamax vessels--the biggest ships that cannot dock in the facility now**

the facility's berths.

"The port will be able to receive Panamax vessels--the biggest ships that cannot dock in the facility now," she said.

Enhanced handling capacity goes hand in hand with procurement of state of the art loading and offloading equipment to enhance efficiency, Muindi said.

But expansion and equipment alone cannot perform any magic but manpower, the manager declared.

"We are training staff in key departments to be able to drive the transformation," she said.

TPA is also implementing a marketing plan that

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# TARURA loses three after ghastly highway collision

By Correspondent Friday, Simbaya, Iringa

THREE employees of the Tanzania Rural and Urban Roads Agency (TARURA) have died and two others seriously injured after a car they were travelling in collided with another vehicle along the Iringa-Dodoma highway.

The TARURA workers were travelling from Iringa to Dodoma where the vehicle they were travelling in, a Toyota Hilux property of the agency collided with a lorry at Izazi Ward in Iringa district, Iringa Regional Police Commander Juma Bwire (pictured) said.

He named those who died as Rodrick Urio (35) the Tarura driver, a resident of Dar es Salaam, Joyce Mlay (45) and Jamadi Mikata (32) all workers of the agency.

Those who were injured are Ernest Mgeni (49) and Gervas Myovela (44), both residents of Mbozi district in Songwe region. They are now receiving treatment at the Iringa referral hospital.

The driver of the lorry, one Amos disappeared after the accident and the police has launched a manhunt for him.

The bodies of the deceased were handed to

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Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein presents a trophy to his predecessor, Dr Amani Abeid Karume (R), at the 107th anniversary of the Scouts movement celebrated at Zanzibar's Maisara grounds yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## Sort out gas procurement mode, JPM tells ministry

FROM PAGE 1

reliable supply and facilitate price regulation, taking into consideration the fact that over the past five years Tanzania has witnessed a steady increase in LPG consumption.

The move was also aimed at

addressing illegal refilling of cylinders, which is discouraging legitimate investment in cylinders and distribution networks.

Bulk importation of the commodity, which is used to generate power for vehicles and as

domestic fuel, will be administered by the Petroleum Bulk Procurement Agency (PBPA), which already handles petroleum importation.

But the suppliers expressed concerns over the government's move saying that the current

procurement system was more suitable for competition.

Speaking on the new facility the MD said LPG will be affordable to every household. "Anyone who can afford charcoal can also use LPG as cooking energy," he asserted.

## Sahara Group stresses need for more investment in Africa's E&P business

PARIS

A leading international energy and infrastructure conglomerate with operations in over 38 countries across Africa, Middle East, Europe and Asia has called on oil and gas businesses in Africa to intensify exploration efforts.

It told delegates to the Oil and Gas Council's Africa Assembly in Paris (June 24-25) that doing so would guarantee reserve replacement and enhanced capacity to meet growing demand and global competition.

Making the appeal was Asharami Energy managing director Olajumoke Ajayi, whose firm is a Sahara Group upstream affiliate.

The Assembly is recognized as the region's most influential corporate development, strategy, finance and investment gathering bringing together the African energy industry community with the financiers and investors backing innovative projects across the continent.

The event offers networking meant to sharpen business strategies and solidify competitive positions in the African industry.

Industry insiders say renewed interest in the African oil and gas industry is setting 2019 up as a turning point for the region, and hence the theme for this year's Assembly: "New Beginnings: The Resurgence of African E&P".

With the presence at the event of the 400-plus senior executives, including 60 speakers, the organisers were upbeat that the world would hear from the continent's key players responsible for moving industry-changing projects forward.

Asharami Energy's Ajayi said Africa's large volumes of undiscovered oil and gas make the continent a veritable frontier for investment, adding that operators "need to adopt new technology, explore alternative cost-saving measures, ensure sustainable community relations, and build diverse multidisciplinary teams to ensure successful exploration projects".

Ajayi made a presentation on "Renewing Players Commitment to Exploration and the Importance of Community Engagement in Capital Intensive Projects".

She cited the downturn in global oil prices and the corresponding negative effect on investor funds and returns as factors that have made many E&P (Exploration and Production) companies in Africa cut down on investments, delay Final Investment

Decision or totally stop embarking on new capital projects.

"Producing companies consequently continue to pump oil from operated mature fields, thereby depleting existing reserves with non-corresponding efforts for reserve replacement via new exploration discoveries," said Ajayi, adding: "The big question remains whether or not E&P players should commit to exploration and how players can justify this commitment in the face of lower oil prices."

She said the compelling case for the relevance of hydrocarbons in the future, in addition to huge investments on new technology, was that responsible and intentional community engagement would play a significant role in creating a stable and conducive environment for exploration and production.

"Sahara Group's exploration success story is being driven by a combination of technology, innovation and community management expertise," she noted, adding: "At Sahara, we are intentionally committed to creating a sustainable balance between our projects and host communities to ensure the creation of shared value for all stakeholders."

Going by the PwC Oil and Gas Review for 2018, proven oil reserves in Africa have stayed at the same level of 7.5 per cent of global reserves. The report also notes that exploration activity continued to decline in 2017.

"The consequences of modest recovery in exploration spending and a continued decline in new discoveries are unavoidable and imminent," the report says.

"The International Energy Agency and various players in the oil industry have warned of demand exceeding supply as oil demand continues to grow and investment in projects is deferred," it says, adding that the continent's oil and gas consumption is predicted to rise by 45 per cent, increasing its global share 5.1 per cent by 2050.

The Asharami Energy executive said strategic community engagements eliminate community interference in operations of capital projects that may lead to significant downtime.

She underlined the need to ensure that the host community understands its role as a project stakeholder and treats projects as commonwealth source for the people.

"It is crucial to reduce security breaches as community representatives serve as infrastructure surveillance outfits," she said.

## DP Ruto assassination bid saga: MP Moses Kuria admits key role

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(Infrastructure). They are accused of holding secret meetings at the aforementioned hotel to plan how to eliminate DP Ruto.

"This investigation will be the deciding point. There are only two outcomes, if it turns out that CSs sat to

plan the murder, how can I work with such a government? If it turns out that the DP fabricated the claims, how can I work with people who sit down to plan propaganda?" Kuria remarked.

"I am ready to record a statement with the DCI over the assassination claim," the legislator added.

## TARURA loses three after ghastly highway collision

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the TARURA manager for Iringa and later taken to Dodoma for burial arrangements.

The RPC said the cause of the accident was negligence by the lorry driver who failed to control his vehicle, as it moved from its side to the other side.

The number of civil servants killed in road accidents involving government vehicles this year is now said to have reached 45.

Government vehicles have become notorious for frequently being involved in fatal accidents, with drivers being torn between adhering to road safety rules and sticking to tight work schedules.

In November 2018, seven people were killed after two government vehicles collided at Sejeli in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region.

The accident involved a vehicle with the registration number STL 6250 belonging to the National Audit Office of Tanzania and another with the registration SU 41173 belonging to the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF).

In July last year, two senior communications officers with government ministries, Shadrack Sagati (Trade, Industry and Investment)

and Hamza Temba (Natural Resources and Tourism), were killed after the vehicles they were travelling in veered off the road and rolled over, in separate incidents.

Another crash involved a government vehicle taking Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla from Arusha to Dodoma.

In May 2018, three senior officials of Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) were killed in a road crash near Chalinze in Coast Region in a head-on collision between their official vehicle and a lorry.

And in March last year, six members of the Zanzibar House of Representatives sustained injuries after their official vehicle overturned at Bwawani area along the Dar es Salaam-Morogoro highway.



**He named those who died as Rodrick Urio (35) the Tarura driver, a resident of Dar es Salaam, Joyce Mlay (45) and Jamadi Mikata (32) all workers of the agency**



Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen, holds copies of the first two volumes of the African Human Rights Report presented to her by the President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Justice Sylvain Ore. The envoy was on a familiarisation tour of the Arusha-based Court yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TPA unveils plans for Dar port as regional facility

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seeks to ensure that Dar es Salaam port's traditional markets do not fall into the hands of competitors.

"We have offices in Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi where staff have been tasked to maintain the markets," she further noted.

Workers and agents in foreign countries also have the duty of informing customers of ongoing improvements and expected increased capacity and efficiency beginning next year, Muindi said.

The Port of Dar es Salaam is positioning itself as the port of choice in a bid to wrestle competition from the neighbouring port of Mombasa, Beira in Mozambique and several ports in South Africa that have major hinterland client states, the manager intoned.

Hosted by the Tanzania Ports Authority, the two-day event which ends today brings together over 100 experts from ports, ministries, maritime authorities, shipping and logistics companies, cargo and freight forwarders, agriculture, banks, barge operators and international technology providers to discuss USD22 billion worth of port expansion plans across Africa.

With more than 490 ports spread across the African coasts, the potential of the continent's shipping sector is massive, considering the fact that over 90 per cent of trade is through the sea. However, organisers of the event noted that lack of sufficient investments in port terminal infrastructure has for the last decade been a major inhibitor to expansion and growth. Additionally, port capacity issues, inefficient handling time, inadequate traffic management and poor security are key aspects to be addressed in order to take full advantage of the economic potential of the ports and shipping sector.

In addition to the conference, the event features exhibition by giants in the sector including Franki Keller, Chatham Partners, Ammico, IHC, SAAB, Bedeschi, Amzone, Prysmian Group, Dynapac, Khatib & Alami, RM Offshore & Marine Engineers Ltd and many more.





Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa congratulates Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (L) and deputy minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji after the winding up of debate on the estimates of the ministry's Budget for financial year 2019/2020 in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

## MPs seek more road projects to ease Dar's traffic congestion

THE Members of Parliament yesterday expressed concern over the traffic jam along Dar es Salaam City centre and Mbagala, calling on the government to act swiftly and solve the situation.

It all started during a supplementary question from Mbagala MP, Issa Mangungu who had argued that the traffic jam along the road is just unbearable due to the ongoing construction projects.

He wondered what the government was doing to avert the situation since the problem impacts negatively on the people's economic activities.

This prompted that Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai who also chipped in, calling on the government to see how best to save Mbagala residents from the long hours on the road.

"The traffic jam along the Kilwa road up to Mbagala is just unbearable and it is sad that it takes over four hours

from city centre to Mbagala" said, the Speaker, urging government to do something.

Special Seats MP, Salma Kikwete (CCM) who also stood on a supplementary question wanted the government to carry out construction project on the road at night.

She argued that the traffic jam on the road causes serious economic impacts on development activities in the southern part of the country.

"Why can't the government borrow a leaf from other countries where construction activities on such busy roads are undertaken during the night, allowing people use them during the day," she argued.

In response, the deputy minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Elias Kwandikwa said the government would consider taking the advice from

the House, noting that the government was aware of the plight facing Mbagala residents.

Earlier, in the basic question, the Mbagala MP, said Kilwa road section at Rangi Tatu-Kongowe-Mikwambe is dilapidated and very narrow, wondering when it would be repaired.

"What is the government plan to build the road in four lanes from the current two lanes?" he asked.

The deputy minister responded that the 3.8 kilometres road from Rangi Tatu-Kongowe is part of the regional road from Kongowe-Mikwambe-Kibada-Mji Mwema to Kivukoni (17.55 kilometres), currently under construction.

He said the Rangi Tatu-Kongowe stretch has been earmarked for expansion to four lanes also involving the construction of Mzingo bridge.

## Seven Guardian scribes nominated for the 'journalism excellence' awards

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

SEVEN journalists from The Guardian Limited (TGL), publishers of The Guardian and Nipashe newspapers, have been nominated for the 2018 Excellence in Journalism Awards in Tanzania (EJAT).

According to EJAT organising committee chairman Kajubi Mukajanga, the panel of seven judges led by Kiondo Mshana nominated a total of 81 journalists in various categories.

Chairman of the EJAT committee Kajubi Mukajanga told reporters in a press conference yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the number of nominees had increased in the year 2018 to 81 contrary to number of nominated journalists in 2017 who were 57.

He said that the judges scrutinized 644 entries in 20 categories for EJAT.

Mukajanga added that, the judges' committee shows there is an increase of nominees in the television, where there are 20 nominees in this year contrary to 15 nominees in the 2017.

"While the number of journalists nominated from radio station has also increased from 11 nominees in 2017 to 20 this year. The increase has also seen in the print, while there are 46 nominees contrary to 19 who were announced in 2017," Mukajanga explained.

TGL journalists who are on the shortlist are Felister Peter, Aisia Rweyemamu, Marco Maduhu, Elizabeth Zaya, Ashton Balaigwa and Sanula Athanas.

"One among the challenges we met with while reviewing the entries is the lack of consistency by many journalists, some of them started a good story but they failed to continue completing it," Mukajanga explained.

He also said that other journalists wrote good stories but failed to show what specific impacts he or she wanted to express to the public. "There are few who managed to write stories that brought impacts to the public."

According to Mukajanga, Professor of law and political analyst from the University of Dar es Salaam Chris Maina will be the guest of honour at the awards ceremony scheduled to take place in Dar es Salaam on June 29th this year.

The team of judges was led by former Guardian limited managing director Kiondo Mshana who was the chairman, other judges included Dr Joyce Bazira who was the secretary of the team, Pudenciana Temba, Asha Dachi, James Gayo, Selemani Mpochi and Hassan Mhelela.

The EJAT 2018 has been coordinated by Tanzania Media Fund (TMF), MISA-TAN, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF), Media Owners Association of Tanzania (MOAT), Union of Tanzania Press Club (UTPC), HakiElimu, SIKIKA, and ANSAF.

## African business executives pledge support for anti-graft war

NAIROBI

BUSINESS leaders from the Sub-Saharan African region yesterday renewed commitment to support the war against graft that is responsible for the loss of about 30 percent of the continent's GDP.

The executives who attended the Africa Business Ethics Conference here said they will rally behind government-led efforts to stamp out corruption which is to blame for stagnating economic growth and jeopardizing security and cohesion.


"Corruption is a threat to growth of businesses and continues to hamper efforts to address poverty and inequality in many African countries," said Lee Karuri, chairman of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) Foundation.

"The private sector is therefore committed to assist governments root out graft through legislation and public awareness on the vice," he declared.

Kenya is hosting a two-day Africa Business Ethics Conference attended by industry executives, policymakers, scholars and campaigners to discuss innovative ways of enhancing private sector participation in the anti-graft war.

The conference that runs from June 25 to 26 has been organized by KEPSA Foundation through its Multi-Sectoral Initiative Against Corruption (MSIAC) and the Centre for International Private Enterprise (CIPE).

Lars Benson, the CIPE Regional Director for Africa said that strong legislation combined with political goodwill and engagement of citizens is key to eradicate corruption.



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# Government sets aside 38bn/- for construction of road in Dodoma

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has set aside 38bn/- for the construction of Dodoma ring road following the government's relocation to the political city, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Elias Kwandikwa told the lawmakers that Dodoma City has been given special attention now than any other time in history.

He said the focus is to improve the infrastructures, not only in the city alone but the entire region, adding that there are many people visiting it since the government moved here.

The deputy minister was responding to a supplementary question from Chilonwa MP Joel Makanyaga (CCM) who had wanted to know the plans to renovate roads leading to his constituency.

"I would like to tell the House that a lot of plans are underway to improve infrastructures in Dodoma as a whole and over 38 billion/- has been set aside for roads construction," he said.

Earlier, in his basic question, the lawmaker had wanted to know when the government would renovate the road linking Mbelezungu and Majeleko villages.

The deputy minister in response said the ten kilometres road is under the Tanzania

Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) and deserves periodical maintenance through the road funds.

He said currently, the government has carried out feasibility study which revealed that it needs at least 288.9 million/- for upgrading the road.

Shifting the government to Dodoma was part of President Magufuli's pledges during the 2015 campaigns, where he vowed to implement the plan which remained in papers for many years since the era of the First President, Julius Nyerere who initiated the idea.

Dodoma was declared as the capital of Tanzania in 1974. Despite the declaration, Dar es Salaam remained the central administrative and the most prominent city in the country.



**I would like to tell the House that a lot of plans are underway to improve infrastructures in Dodoma as a whole and over 38 billion/- has been set aside for roads construction**



Tanzania Ports Authority's Director of Marketing and Communications, Francisca Muindi, cuts a ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday to signal the opening of meeting of stakeholders called to deliberate on the expansion of ports in Africa. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

By Guardian Reporter

## EALA passes additional EAC budget proposals for 2018/2019 fiscal year

MEMBERS of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) have passed a supplementary budget amounting to USD 390,000 for the Financial Year 2018/19.

The Supplementary budget is (to be utilized) for the repair and maintenance of the EAC headquarters in Arusha and to facilitate negotiations with development partners during the financial year ending 30th June 2019.

Out of the said amount, USD 305,000 will support the maintenance of the bloc's headquarters while the balance (USD 85,000) is to support the negotiations for development partners.

With it, the Assembly also passed the EAC Supplementary Appropriation (No 2) Bill, 2019. The passage of the EAC Supplementary Bill was preceded by a report presented to the House by Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee, Hon Abdikadir Aden. The House then dissolved itself in a Committee to consider the 'nuts and bolts' of the Bill before its eventual passage.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 132 of the

Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and Rules 66 and 75 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Chairperson, Council of Ministers presented to the House and read for the first time the EAC Supplementary Appropriations Bill (2), 2019 on the 20th day of June, 2019. In the same vein, the Chairperson Council of Ministers laid on table the Financial Statement for the Supplementary Budget for the FY 2018/2019.

According to Hon Aden, at its sitting held on 8th June 2018, in Nairobi, Kenya, the Assembly passed a total budget of USD 99,770,716 for the East African Community for the FY 2018/2019. In addition to this, during the 4th Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 4th Assembly held from 16th February - 8th March 2019, in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, the Assembly approved a Supplementary budget amounting to USD 12,679,598.

The chairperson further informed the House that during the consideration and approval of the budget, most organs and institutions of the EAC remained with a number

of unfunded priorities due to budgetary constraints. "Over the course of the financial year, the unfunded priorities continued to affect the effective functioning of these organs and Institutions", the chair added.

The committee was informed that in FY 2018/2019, the People's Republic of China granted the EAC USD 200,000 under the framework agreement on technical cooperation between the EAC and government of Peoples' Republic of China. USD 115,000 of the grant provided was allocated to transport and works to engage development partners to support implementation of Heads of State infrastructure projects among others.

The Council therefore sought for approval of USD 85,000, part of the unallocated balance of the Chinese government grant to convene the joint technical experts meeting of energy, finance and EAC affairs to agree on the roadmap for the next ten years.

Isabelle Ndahayo represented the Council of Ministers during the

debate. Meanwhile, the debate on the substantive budget amounting to USD \$11,450,529 for the Financial Year 2019/2020 will continue this afternoon.

The EAC budget is themed: "Transforming lives through Industrialisation and job creation for shared prosperity. According to the chair of Council of Ministers, the priority interventions for FY 2019/2020, will focus on the consolidation of the Single Customs Territory and promotion of intra and extra EAC trade and export competitiveness, development of regional infrastructure, effective implementation of the Common Market Protocol and the enhancement of regional industrial development.

Other areas include the implementation of the roadmap towards the EAC Monetary Union, institutional transformation focusing on implementation of the institutional review recommendations and improvement of performance management at the EAC organs and institutions.

## AfDB hosts masterclass on women's skills for development of businesses

PRETORIA

THE fourth Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA)/Entrepreneurium masterclass began here on Monday, aimed at improving women's skills in business development and financial management.

A total of 40 business women, who came through an online application

process, were lined up for the two-day masterclass, which was to cover financial planning, lean start-up methodology and business model canvassing. A mentoring and coaching session would meanwhile help participants to broaden their skills.

The masterclasses are jointly conducted by AfDB and Entrepreneurium, a pan-African foundation

that invests philanthropic capital in the training and financing of women and young entrepreneurs.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, AfDB regional director general Kapil Kapoor queried development agendas that discriminate 50 per cent of the population on regulation, skills development and access to information.

"We would like to put gender at the forefront of our development agenda to cause a transformation that is inclusive. This is a forum where the bank can do differently to bring about this transformation," he said.

The training forms part of AfDB's goal of supporting over a thousand women entrepreneurs in six African countries. Training has already been conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon and Kenya, and is under way in Tunisia.

From the first three countries, applications for financing are being reviewed with a view to supporting the most promising projects.

Despite being the second largest economy in Africa, South Africa has very high levels of unemployment (59 per cent youth, 29.5 per cent women), huge disparities in income and too many unskilled youth and women.

Many South African youth and women face numerous challenges that include unaffordable bank fees for those on low incomes, a lack of trust in financial institutions, and informal borrowings.

Access to finance in South Africa remains a challenge,

especially to black African women. Some of the major obstacles are inadequate financial literacy, the banking sector's fear of their perceived risks of lending to women, economic empowerment targets that exclude women's enterprises, and inadequate or inappropriate bank products.

Entrepreneurium has been working with women entrepreneurs throughout Africa since 2004 and has trained over 2,000 entrepreneurs.

Frédéric Ndirabacu, the foundation's chief operating officer, said at the event: "We developed this programme to support and empower resilient and innovative women entrepreneurs all across the African continent, because they have a right to the same opportunities as men to build their financial autonomy in a sustainable way."

AFAWA is a creative new initiative meant to mobilise over \$3 billion of financing for women-empowered businesses in Africa, with a view to reducing the vulnerability of women's businesses vulnerability and liberating unused human potential for sustainable and equitable growth.



### CONSULTANCY POSITION FOR GENDER EQUALITY TECHNICAL SPECIALIST TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA (GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA)

PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited (PwC) invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest to provide consultancy services as the Gender Equality Technical Specialist under the Global Affairs Canada-funded Field Support Services Project (FSSP) Tanzania.

The specialist will provide analysis and advice on the planning, design, management, monitoring and coordination of the Government of Canada's development assistance programming and policy dialogue in Tanzania (among other tasks).

Launched in June 2017, Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy recognizes that supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the best way to build a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous world. The Gender Equality Technical Specialist will play an integral role in the implementation of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy in Tanzania.

Candidates will be evaluated based on the following key qualifications and experience:

- Bachelor's degree from a recognized university. A qualification higher than a bachelor degree will be an added advantage.
- A minimum of 4 years of professional work experience as technical expert and advisor on gender equality, of which at least two years are in relation to international development work in developing countries, preferably Tanzania or East Africa region.
- Experience providing gender equality technical advice and support on complex international development programs and projects in one or more of the following sectors: education, health, inclusive economic growth and inclusive governance.
- Experience in providing written gender equality analysis and comments on program/project proposals, implementation plans, progress reports and evaluations.
- Experience in engaging in technical forums and policy dialogue on gender equality issues with development partners and government officials.
- Experience in carrying out research and analysis of systemic and emerging gender equality issues and trends.
- Knowledge and deep understanding of gender equality and empowerment of women and girl's issues in Tanzania

The following skills and competencies, while not essential, are assets for the work to be performed. Candidates should demonstrate them to the extent possible:

- Strong research, analytical and writing skills
- Strong skills in leadership, teamwork, networking, coordination and intercultural communication
- Advanced professional proficiency in English
- General professional proficiency in Kiswahili

Strong candidates will be offered a competitive rate.

Interested candidates should obtain a detailed description of these services by sending request email to [procurement@fssptz.org](mailto:procurement@fssptz.org) specifying in the requests as follows: "Consultancy position for FSSP Gender Equality Technical Specialist."

Requests for further information will be received up to three working days prior to the last submission date, 12 July 2019. Any request received later than that may not be responded to.

FSSP Manager

### Jipatie Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro kwa Bei Elekezi za Rejareja kama Ifuatavyo:-

- Nusu Lita (500ml) – TSHS. 500/=
- Lita Moja na Nusu (1.5L) – TSHS. 1,000/=
- Bei Hizi Elekezi ni Kwa Nchi Nzima
- Maji ya Kunywa ya Kilimanjaro ni Maji ya Kuaminika Kila Siku

Inaleta hisia ya ndani unayoijua mwenyewe

KILIMANJARO  
DRINKING WATER

Maji ya kuaminika kila siku





# A total of 379 weighing scales approved in on-going WMA verification operation

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

WEIGHTS and Measure Agency (WMA) in Mwanza region has verified and certified a total of 379 special weighing scales to be used in this year's cotton buying season that started some few weeks ago.

WMA Mwanza Regional Manager, Albogast Kajungu told The Guardian here yesterday that verification and certification of the equipment were done starting March until May this year.

It is only that number of the weighing scales that have been approved and given permit to be

used by Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOs) to buy cotton from farmers and not otherwise, Kajungu noted.

He said that they are now undertaking special operation to ensure that weighing scales are fit for the use in the sense that seals are intact and there is no tempering with them.

"The operation started on 17th this month and until now we have managed to inspect 44 AMCOs in Magu district and 10 in Kwimba district where one of them has been found using unverified and uncertified weighing scale," he noted.

He revealed that the equipment were also

not in the list of verified and certified weighing scales to be used for buying cotton and it has been tempered with intending to steal from farmers.

Giving more details, he pointed out that the weighing scale was stealing three kilos in every 20 kilos a situation he described as unfair to farmers and set back their development as they invest a lot of time as well as other resources to grow the crop.

In that regard, leaders of Bucha Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Society which is at Chasalawi Village, Bupamwa Ward, Kwimba Dis-

trict have been arrested in connection with the discrepancies including its chairman and two clerks, he said.

He has urged AMCOs to ensure that they use only verified and certified weighing scales when buying cotton from farmers and avoid tempering with them as that is a criminal offence.

nal offence.

Speaking at the emergency meeting of cotton stakeholders in Mwanza city recently, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa directed WMA to make sure that they verify and certify weighing scales to be used in buying cotton in this season.



United Bank for Africa supplies officer Aneth Ainea (L) presents to EATV producer Deogratius Kithama sanitary pads in support of the 'Namthamini' (literally, I value her) campaign coordinated by EATV and meant for secondary school girls across Tanzania. The ceremony was held at Mikochehi in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of EATV

## COPS AUCTION MART & COURT BROKERS LTD. NOTICE/PUBLIC AUCTION

Cops Auction Mart & court brokers limited pursuant to the instruction from CRDB BANK PLC, Sumbawanga Branch we will conduct Public Auction of Landed Properties/Assets pledged as collateral to secure a Bank loan in the recovery of debt from the default borrowers in the recovery of debt from the defaulted borrowers. The auction will take place after fourteen days (14) of this notice as the assets location on the date and time as shown below:-

S/N	CLIENT NAME	COLLATERAL TYPE	AUCTION DATE	Time
1.	Emmanuel David Kamwela	Landed Property Plot No. 420, Block 'R' with CT No. 3083 - MBYLR, LO No. 97278, LD No. AARR/S/LD/2416 Katandala Area, Sumbawanga Municipality.	16/07/2019	From 9:00 A.M
2.	Patrick Simeluta Kasi	Landed Property Plot No. 1252, Block 'OO' with CT No. 26322 - MBYLR, LO No. 381218, SMC/L.13259 Hali ya Hewa area, Sumbawanga Municipality.	16/07/2019	From 9:00 A.M
3.	Vicent Alfred Manyika	Landed property Plot No. 217, Block 'U' with CT No. 10431 - MBYLR, LO No. 173228 Kristo Mfalme area, Sumbawanga Municipality.	16/07/2019	From 9:00 A.M
4.	Baraka Katemba Stanley	Landed property located at Mtakuja Village (Kirando), Nkasi Municipality.	17/07/2019	From 9:00 A.M
5.	Shida Yaled Sinkala	Landed property Plot No. 95, Block 'H' with CT No. 10158 - MBYLR, LO No. 173190, LD No. NKS/DC/LD/03 Isunta area, Namanyere urban area.	18/07/2019	From 9:00 A.M

### AUCTION CONDITIONS:-

- The Properties/Assets will be sold on as is where is basis and in the state as it is
- A successful bidder will need to deposit 25% of the value price of the asset immediately on sale and the balance thereof paid within fourteen days (14) from the date of auction, payment shall be made by cash or Bankers Cheque
- If the down payment of 25% is not made on auction, but the balance is not paid on expiry of fourteen days (14) from the date of auction, the down payment shall be forfeited to the Bank and the property concerned shall be re-auctioned
- All the applicable TAX and transfer fees of the ownership shall be borne by the purchaser.

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## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVISION OF TRUSTEE SERVICES FOR THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETS DEVELOPMENT TRUST (AMDT)

The Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) is supported by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland and Sweden as a long-term facility with a life span of at least 10 years. The goal of the Trust is to increase incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people in Tanzania.

The Programme Investment Committee (PIC) of AMDT now invites legal or professional firms with international repute and with experience in providing Trustee services to large-scale and multi-funder programmes such as AMDT, to bid for the position of Trustee for AMDT. The contract will be for a period of three years effective from the date of execution.

Interested firms (both local and international) are invited to submit their proposals as per the full Request for Proposal (RFP) document obtainable from AMDT's website ([www.amdt.co.tz](http://www.amdt.co.tz)) under the **Downloads** tab, or by requesting the RFP through the following email [procurement@deloitte.co.tz](mailto:procurement@deloitte.co.tz)

Proposals, Technical and Financial, must be received via email no later than 03rd July 2019 at 10:00 Hours local time (Tanzania). Details of submission requirements are provided in the downloadable Request for Proposal document.

**Only successful bidders will be contacted.**

215283201



SVERIGES AMBASSAD

Embassy of Sweden - Dar es Salaam

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Embassy is responsible for representing and promoting Swedish interests in Tanzania and has approximately 40 employees. The overall tasks of the Embassy include supporting business and trade, development cooperation, and consular and visa services.

The Section for Administration, Consular Affairs and Migration consists of 13 staff members and is responsible for a range of tasks including operational and financial planning, budget, logistics and maintenance. The section is also in charge of consular affairs and migration.

### ARCHIVIST/CONSULAR ASSISTANT

We would like to invite applications from suitably qualified candidates for the position of Archivist/Consular Assistant. The job holder will report to the Third Secretary.

#### Duties and responsibilities:

The role involves duties related to the Embassy's archive and handling of public and official documents as well as assisting in consular cases.

Specifically, the Archivist/Consular Assistant will support the third Secretary with:

- Registration, filing and case management of public and official documents.
- Handling consular cases
- Provides written and oral replies to public inquiries on consular issues.
- Second hand responsibility for the receptionist
- Perform other duties assigned by the Head of Chancery and Third Secretary.

#### Qualifications, Skills and Experience:

- Degree in archiving, document handling or relevant field.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Minimum 2 years relevant experience in administration and archiving
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Demonstrated experience and proven skills of working in internet based office management systems and programmes.
- Strong administrative attention to detail and good knowledge of digital and traditional archival procedures.
- Excellent interpersonal communications and team working skills.
- Merits include proficiency in Swedish and/or Swahili as well as experience from similar organisations.

If you are interested in this exciting and career rewarding opportunity, e-mail us your CV and cover letter as one attachment (Maximum 5 pages). Your cover letter should explain your suitability for the job. Please, do not include your certificates. Write "ARCH" in your e-mail subject line. The deadline is 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted

We regret the vacancy is not ideal for fresh graduates.

Executive Search and Selection Division  
Prospect Africa Limited  
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215295001



## Tanzania experts in Ghana for this year's Africa International Data Protection and Privacy forum

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 1,000 experts from around the world, including Tanzania, will be gathering in Ghana this week to address a key challenge facing Africa's digital future - data privacy.

Kicked off on Monday, the Africa International Data Protection and Privacy Conference brought on board national authorities from African Member States, as well as policy makers, data protection officers (DPOs) and data protection and privacy experts.

According to a statement issued yesterday, Africa has great potential to profit from a digital transformation that could provide much-needed jobs and improve access to quality services, including finance, healthcare, education and agriculture.

Home to the youngest population in the world, Africa is progressing rapidly in digital adoption. Underpinned by rising mobile connectivity, the continent has recorded the highest growth globally in Internet access, moving from 2.1% in 2005 to 24.4% in 2018. According to the GSMA the "mobile economy" is forecasted to reach 76% (US\$ 214 billion) of the overall African GDP by 2020.

The right approach to data privacy will be critical to building trust in new technologies and systems, but there is a need to accelerate the progress being made. Countries across Africa are at varying points on their journeys towards enacting Data Protection and Privacy laws. Less than 15 out of 54 countries in the region have passed a Data Protection Law.

Tanzania is reportedly working on a proposal for a data privacy law, although it's not clear when this will be published. A data privacy law would help Tanzania to seize the opportunities arising from digital transformation.

If drafted in the right way it can give companies the flexibility they need to innovate and operate efficiently while also protecting people's data, and giving individuals greater confidence in new technologies.

To support countries and other stakeholders move forward as they consider Data Protection and Privacy, the GSMA released its new 'Guiding Principles for Smart Data Privacy Laws' at the Africa International Data Protection and Privacy Conference.

"Establishing the right approach to data privacy is critical to Tanzania's digital transformation," said Jean-Francois Le Bihan, Public Policy Director, Sub-Saharan Africa, GSMA.

"To be successful, Tanzania must protect individuals while allowing organisations the freedom to innovate and secure positive outcomes for society. Data privacy laws should put the responsibility on organisations to identify and mitigate risks while remaining flexible, technology- and sector-neutral and allowing data to move across borders easily.

"Without adhering to these guiding principles, poor data privacy enforcement could put at risk the US\$ 214 billion mobile economy Africa has the potential to reach by 2020. Tanzania has the opportunity to harness the digital economy as a driver of growth and innovation. If it fails to seize the opportunities, it runs the risk of economic isolation and stagnation."



**Establishing the right approach to data privacy is critical to Tanzania's digital transformation**



Muhimbili National Hospital gynaecologist Dr Vicenti Tarimo (R) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on recent improvement in services available at the referral medical facility's Intensive Care Unit. With him is Midwifery and Reproduction in-charge Mugara Mahungururo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Over 6,393 Tanzanian children, 4865 boys and 1528 girls were living and working on the streets in some six towns in the country since 2018, the deputy minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children, Faustine Ndugulile told the National Assembly yesterday.

He said the government realised the magnitude of the problem after conducting a survey in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Mbeya, Dodoma, Arusha and Iringa regions.

Ndugulile however told the lawmakers that between October 2018 and March, 2019, a total of 2,702 children were given various services as follows Arusha (330), Dar es Salaam

## Over 6,000 Tanzanian children living in high-risk conditions - government

(475), Dodoma (337), Iringa (313), Mwanza (770) and Mbeya (447).

He said the services was in terms of medication, food, accommodation, taken back to school as well as uniting them with their families.

The deputy minister was responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Mgeni Kadika (CUF) who argued that there are many children living and working on the streets in the country wondering what the government was doing to help them.

"What is the government doing to help save this nation's workforce who

are in dire need of help?" she asked.

Responding the deputy minister explained that so many factors contribute to children living on the streets, naming them as family conflicts leading to separation between parents, violence as well as poverty at family levels.

He also noted that through collaboration with other stakeholders, the government has continued with public education on the importance of raising up children in proper manner, especially on those living and working on the streets.

The deputy minister added that the government will constantly help parents understand more about parenting and protection of children. It will also continue with research to establish the main causes children living on the streets and see how to solve the problem.

He called upon parents and the entire society to ensure protection and upbringing of children, adding that the local government authorities should also have mechanisms to control children from moving into the streets.



Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development CEO Dr Donath Olomi (R) poses for a photo in Dar es Salaam at the weekend with some of the winners of a competition on renewable energy. They are (from-L) Leonard Kushoka, Anyelwisy Mahenge and Philip Mtui. This was shortly before talks between Shell Tanzania officials and stakeholders from various sectors. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Shell Tanzania wins hearts of environmentalists for its work on alternative energy

By Guardian Reporter

STAKEHOLDERS from different sectors have commended Shell Tanzania for promoting and pioneering environmental conservation and use of alternative energy as ways of mitigating effects of climate change in the country.

Speaking shortly after a meeting organised by the company to discuss matters related to climate change and use of alternative energy, many stakeholders congratulated Shell Tanzania for being at the forefront to promote better use of the energy in question to protect environment.

Representative from the Vice President's Office (Environment), Joseph Qamara, said the government would continue to cooperate with all stakeholders on conservation matters to shun disasters emanating from climate change.

"We recognise efforts by Shell Tanzania and other stakeholders in promoting environmental conservation by promoting tree planting and use of alternative sources of energy," Qamara said.

The discussions also involved winners of a special contest of protagonist producers of renewable energy that was coordinated by the Vice President's Office - division of Environment, whose creativity aims at scaling up alternative use of cooking energies in Tanzania.

Shell Tanzania awarded 300 million shillings to the first winner, 200 million shillings to the second winner and 100

million shillings to the third winner as part of morale booster in promoting renewable energy through a period of three years.

The Managing Director of Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED), Dr Donath Olomi, also congratulated Shell Company, saying the discussion was of great benefit as it brought together all the key stakeholders who discussed the matter openly.

Dr Olomi said government's participation was important in ensuring Tanzanians use renewable energy instead of charcoal and firewood, a move that would help reduce environmental degradation caused by deforestation.

On his part, Managing Director of Shell Tanzania, Marc den Hartog said there was a need for Tanzanians to embrace changes and switch to alternative energy, saying that was the only remedy for increased impacts of environment degradation which includes drought among others.

"We (Shell Tanzania) will continue to collaborate with the government and other stakeholders in making sure that the environment is protected and arrest all the conditions that instigate climate change," he said.

He emphasized that climate change matters should be given special attention to ensure that all stakeholders come together to further that course as a way of saving the country from its negative impacts.

By Guardian Reporter

## Ambassador praises EAC, pledges Norway's support to integration

NORWAY'S Ambassador to Tanzania, Elisabeth Jacobsen has lauded the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat for the good work that has led to the attainment of several achievements, and assured the Secretary General of her country's commitment to continue supporting the integration process.

The envoy made the remarks yesterday in Arusha where she was accredited as the Norwegian Ambassador Extraordinary and

Plenipotentiary to the East African Community.

Jacobsen said that there was a growing interest and knowledge about the EAC, which she noted was setting the stage for closer cooperation. She said that Norway views the Community as an important partner especially in efforts aimed at ensuring peace and security in the region.

She expressed her country's interest

towards supporting integration agenda particularly in areas such as peace and security, human rights and intra-regional trade among the EAC Partner States.

"We consider EAC as an important player in economic and political development in the region and I assure you of our continued support to the integration agenda," said the envoy.

For his part, EAC Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko hailed the existing cordial relations between the EAC and Norway. Amb Jacobsen welcomed the continued support from Norway saying it had enabled the Community to achieve its ambitious agenda.

Amb Mfumukeko also shared the steady progress made by the Community in promoting integration

through the four pillars as set out in the EAC Treaty, namely the: Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation, adding that the achievements attained so far were due to political goodwill among the EAC Heads of State.

Present at the accreditation ceremony were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of

Productive and Social Sectors, Christophe Bazivamo, and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Executive Secretary, Said Ally Matano.

The East African Community is an intergovernmental organisation composed of six countries in the African Great Lakes region in eastern Africa: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.





Permanent Secretaries from various ministries on a site visit to the Stiegler's Gorge project in Coast Region on Monday. Photo courtesy of Maelezo

## European Commission funds Africa on innovative energy

LISBON

The African Development Bank has announced a EUR 40 million investment from the European Commission for the Facility for Energy Inclusion (FEI), a new platform for financing small-scale renewable energy sources in Africa.

The announcement was made to energy sector stakeholders at a sideline event held during the recent Africa Energy Forum, which was held here.

The bank and the European Commission, in partnership with Lion's Head Global Partners and Fieldstone and the Lusophone Renewable Energy Association, presented the Facility to participants at the Forum.

FEI is a \$500 million financing platform spearheaded by AfDB to catalyse financial support for innovative energy access solutions.

FEI On-grid, a targeted USD 400 million fund, supports improved energy

access through the development of small-scale renewable energy generation and mini-grids across Africa.

The Off-Grid Energy Access Fund (OGEF), a targeted USD 100 million fund, meanwhile supports off-grid energy distribution companies and boosts their long-term capacity to access capital markets at scale.

Joao Cunha, Manager for Renewable Energy Initiatives at AfDB, said FEI had been developed to offer debt instruments including in local currency to companies providing affordable, clean and sustainable access to underserved communities in the sub-Saharan region.

"Through FEI, we aim to increase co-financing and private sector investment in innovative on-grid and off-grid clean energy access solutions, and consequently move faster on our Light Up and Power Africa priority to achieve universal energy access in Africa by 2025," said Cunha.

The event was attended by the renewable energy investor community, including representatives of various development finance institutions (DFIs), international and African commercial banks, project developers and sponsors.

The event saw FEI fund managers guide project sponsors and developers in attendance through project selection criteria and financing terms of the specific FEI windows.

In December 2018, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission (DG DEVCO) approved a EUR 25 million investment to the FEI On-Grid window, EUR 13 million into the FEI OGEF window, and EUR 1.6 million to support the Fund's Technical Assistance Facility, which aims to build investee capacity in structuring and executing transactions in African capital markets.

These investments are expected to

provide junior equity to strengthen FEI's capital structure, and enable FEI to fundraise from a range of commercial and private investors.

"FEI is a great example of how the European Union has been developing innovative financing initiatives together with financial partners such as the African Development Bank, to stimulate and de-risk private sector investments without which we won't be able to address the growing energy demands and provide access to sustainable energy in sub-Saharan Africa," said Hugo Van Tilborg, Head of Infrastructure, and AfDB Liaison at the EU.

The European Commission's contribution further underscores AfDB's focus on building strong partnerships with diverse organisations in order to provide a wide range of grant and investment instruments to fast-track sustainable energy access across the continent.

## Ambassador Chana impressed by EOTF support for women in small businesses

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE High Commissioner of Tanzania to Kenya, Pindi Chana, has commended the Equal Opportunities for All Trust Fund (EOTF) for supporting women entrepreneurs in the country.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during opening of basic entrepreneurship training, Chana said that women plays a crucial role in development.

The training was organised by EOTF and supported by Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Tanzania Youth Alliance (Tayoa), A-Z, Bayport Financial Services and Kioo Limited.

Ambassador Chana said for the past 22 years EOTF has supported thousands of women entrepreneurs to reach their goals.

"For the past years, this organisation has helped 4,983 women entrepreneurs to participate in various trade exhibitions which enabled them to sale goods worth 1.1trn and orders amounting to 364m/- this is a commendable job and they deserve congratulations," she said.

She also said that EOTF focuses on empowering the disadvantaged segments of the population in Tanzania by providing opportunities to attain a better life, economically, legally, educationally and socially.

For her part, the EOTF chairperson, Anna Mkapa, said the training would enable women participants to gain knowledge and participate fully in the country's industrialisation drive.

She said women will discuss chal-

lenges facing them in markets, standards related issues, and how to penetrate the East African market.

"The nature of topics which will be presented will enlighten them with entrepreneurship skills which most of the women do not have," she said.

EOTF chairperson said that the training has been prepared to equip women with more knowledge so that they reach the highest stage of entrepreneurship.

According to her, participants will also get information regarding family health and how to avoid HIV Aids, cancer and dengue fever.

Mkapa said they have noted great changes among women entrepreneurs who have been supported since the organisation was established.

She said most of them have established sustainable business, build modern houses, pay fees for their children and access health services for families.

She called on state, private sector, international organisations, civil and religious institutions to join them in this noble task of saving women from poverty, diseases and ignorance.

**“The nature of topics which will be presented will enlighten them with entrepreneurship skills which most of the women do not have**

## Japan Tobacco International, Leaf Services (JTILS)

JTI is a leading international tobacco company with operations in more than 130 countries. It is the global owner of both Winston, the number two cigarette brand in the world, and Camel, outside the USA and has the largest share in sales for both brands. Other global brands include Mevius and LD. With its internationally recognized brand Logic, JTI is also a major player in the e-cigarette market and has, since 2011, been present in the heated tobacco category with Ploom. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, JTI employs close to 40,000 people and was awarded Global Top Employer for four consecutive years.

A diverse company that makes excellence the standard and constantly looks to the future. Our purpose is to, **To passionately provide moments of pleasure, to support consumers' freedom of choice and to make a positive difference in all that we do.**

JTI Global Supply Chain function is integral to achieving this goal. Set up in 2009, Leaf Services aims to source the best tobacco and reliably supply quality leaf that underpins our global success. We have a vision to become recognized as a global leader in sustainable leaf supply with a mission to source the best tobacco at the best cost. In Tanzania, our key operations are in Tabora & Morogoro regions respectively.

As a certified Top Employer 2019, we are a part of a global community of forward-thinking organizations that continue to strive for only the best people practices and commitment to optimizing and improving our business performance.

You can play a key part in securing a safe and prosperous future for JTI and yourself.

### Agro-Forestry Coordinator

You will be joining the Agronomy Department reporting to the **Agronomy Technical Manager in Tabora.**

This position is responsible for:

**Assist in working out reforestation requirements and implementation of strategies on tobacco production demand** through Working with Agronomy Technical Manager and LPT base in a professional manner controlling with fluidity all aspects related to Agro-forestry.

**Database creation of all JTILS contracted growers involved in agroforestry** through highlighting GPS coordinates, survival rates, planning, coordinating and monitoring of distribution of all agroforestry matters, reforestation support and reporting, reforestation training & evaluation and overseeing JTILS TAP Program.

**Managing all JTILS tree seedling production in all JTILS and PS nurseries** including, numbers, sowing, germination, rearing, logistical organization, distribution of seedlings and all casual labour matters relating to JTILS and PS tree seedling production grower base within his allotted regions/areas.

**Understand the Health and Safety risks** and follow all operational controls to prevent incidents, actively participate in health and Safety training programs, understand legal and JTI EHS requirements associated with their work and comply with all rules and demonstrate safe behaviour and actively report ideas for improvement and report unsafe conditions.

Any other duties as directed by the Line Manager

### Key Requirements

- University Diploma in Agriculture/ Forestry
- Minimum of 4 years Work Experience
- Fluency in English and Swahili (Spoken and Written)
- Computer literacy including use of Microsoft Office products (Excel, PowerPoint, and Word)
- Understanding of tobacco industry and its operations

### Area Manager

You will be joining the Agronomy Department reporting to the **Leaf Production Manager in Tabora.**

This position is responsible for:

**Liaising with farmer organizations** to identify and contract farmers, coordinate field days and attending in association meetings with and reporting to the Leaf Production Manager.

**Registration of facilitated farmers** through identification and assessments, distributing farm inputs to farmers, reconciliation of records and monitoring loan recovery.

**Providing Crop Estimates** by monitoring what is taking place in the industry among competitors and farmers and monitoring of weather conditions and rainfall.

**Coordinating the movement of tobacco bales from farm gate to sales floor** with farmers and transport association and monitoring tobacco sales.

**Initiating best practices** through eliminating child Labour and NTRM through farmer sensitization and identifying the relevant risks within the department and ensuring measures control are in place to prevent employees from being injured, health and safety training are provided to all required personnel, understand legal and JTI EHS requirements and ensure compliance and taking initiative in promoting a safety culture

**Overseeing Field Supervisors and Field Technicians** through assigning areas and farmers to technicians, monitoring and evaluation of their work in the field, movement of vehicles and motorcycles and all company provided equipment and ensure they are well maintained and used in line with JTI policies.

### Key Requirements

- Bachelor Degree in Agriculture and related fields
- Minimum of 5 Years Work Experience in the Tobacco industry
- Fluency in English and Swahili (Spoken and Written)
- Computer literacy including use of Microsoft Office products (Excel, PowerPoint, and Word)

All qualified candidates should visit our official recruitment website [jobs.jti.com](http://jobs.jti.com) and search for the Agro-Forestry Coordinator and Area Manager positions to apply or send their detailed CV and cover letters through [JTILS.recruitment@jti.com](mailto:JTILS.recruitment@jti.com) by **4th of July 2019**. Only shortlisted Candidates will be contacted further.





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## Poor nutrition and health lead to reduction in overall quality of life

**M**ALNUTRITION is a condition that results from eating a diet in which one or more nutrients are either not enough or are too much such that the diet causes health problems. It may involve calories, protein, carbohydrates, vitamins or minerals. Not enough nutrients is called undernutrition or undernourishment while too much nutrients is called overnutrition.

Malnutrition is often used to specifically refer to undernutrition where an individual is not getting enough calories, protein, or micronutrients. If undernutrition occurs during pregnancy, or before two years of age, it may result in permanent problems with physical and mental development. Extreme undernourishment, known as starvation, may have symptoms that include: a short height, thin body, very poor energy levels, and swollen legs and abdomen. People also often get infections and are frequently cold.

Undernourishment is most often due to not enough high-quality food being available to eat. This is often related to high food prices and poverty. A lack of breastfeeding may contribute, as may a number of infectious diseases such as gastroenteritis, pneumonia, malaria, and measles, which increase nutrient requirements.

Researchers have warned on the presence of a type of malnutrition that severely affects the digestion system in children but with little physical symptoms like kwashiorkor.

The study that was conducted by 11 researchers from various countries, including four from Tanzania, has found that children with this type of malnutrition develop infections in their stomach, leading to impaired digestion but do not look sick nor do they suffer from diarrhea and vomiting

as symptoms.

Sharing the findings of the study yesterday at Haydom Hospital in Mbulu, Manyara region, one of the researchers Estomih Mduma said that many children could be suffering from this hidden type of malnutrition because its victims look pretty fine physically but really sick in the stomach.

"If your child looks fine and playful, that does not mean that it is not malnourished. That child could be suffering at unnoticeable rate but with severe consequences," he said.

The scientists are now working on the next stage—to find ways of curbing this hidden health challenge that is silently taking a toll on children unnoticed, the researcher noted, elaborating that 53 per cent of deaths of children below five years worldwide relate to malnutrition.

Manyara Regional Medical Officer Dr Damas Kayera said health officials in the region have a lot to do to improve nutrition because Manyara is one of the worst affected regions in Tanzania.

"The rate of stunting in Manyara is 36 per cent which is above the national average rate of 34 per cent," Dr Kayera said.

In 2015, more than 2.7 million Tanzanian children under five years of age were estimated to be stunted and more than 600,000 were suffering from acute malnutrition, of which 100,000 were severe cases. It is estimated that the country will lose USD20 billion by 2025 if the nutrition situation does not improve.

In contrast, by investing in nutrition and improving the population's nutritional status, the country could gain up to USD 4.7 billion by 2025. Under nutrition is wrecking children's lives. Globally, 161 million chronically undernourished children are not getting the right nutrients and care at the right time.

## World ought to drum up importance of the fight against drug abuse, illicit trafficking

**T**HE International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a United Nations International Day against drug abuse and the illegal drug trade. It is observed annually on 26 June, since 1989. The observance was instituted by General Assembly Resolution of 7 December 1987.

On 26 June 1987, two important texts (Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control and Declaration of the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking) were adopted at the International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which was held in Vienna during 17-26 June 1987. The Conference recommended that an annual day should be observed to mark the importance of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Both the dates 17 June and 26 June were suggested, and in the later meetings 26 June was chosen and written into the draft and final resolution.

The UN's 2007 World Drug Report puts the value of the illegal drug trade at US\$322 billion a year.

Drug abuse is a major issue in Tanzania. In 2011, the drug control commission which is dealing with drug abuse issues reported that the number of people who are addicted ranges from 150,000 and 500,000. Most of the people who are involved in drug abuse in Tanzania are youths, who are often involved in trafficking and consuming illegal drugs like cannabis. The common illegal drugs in Tanzania are khat, marijuana, heroin, cocaine,

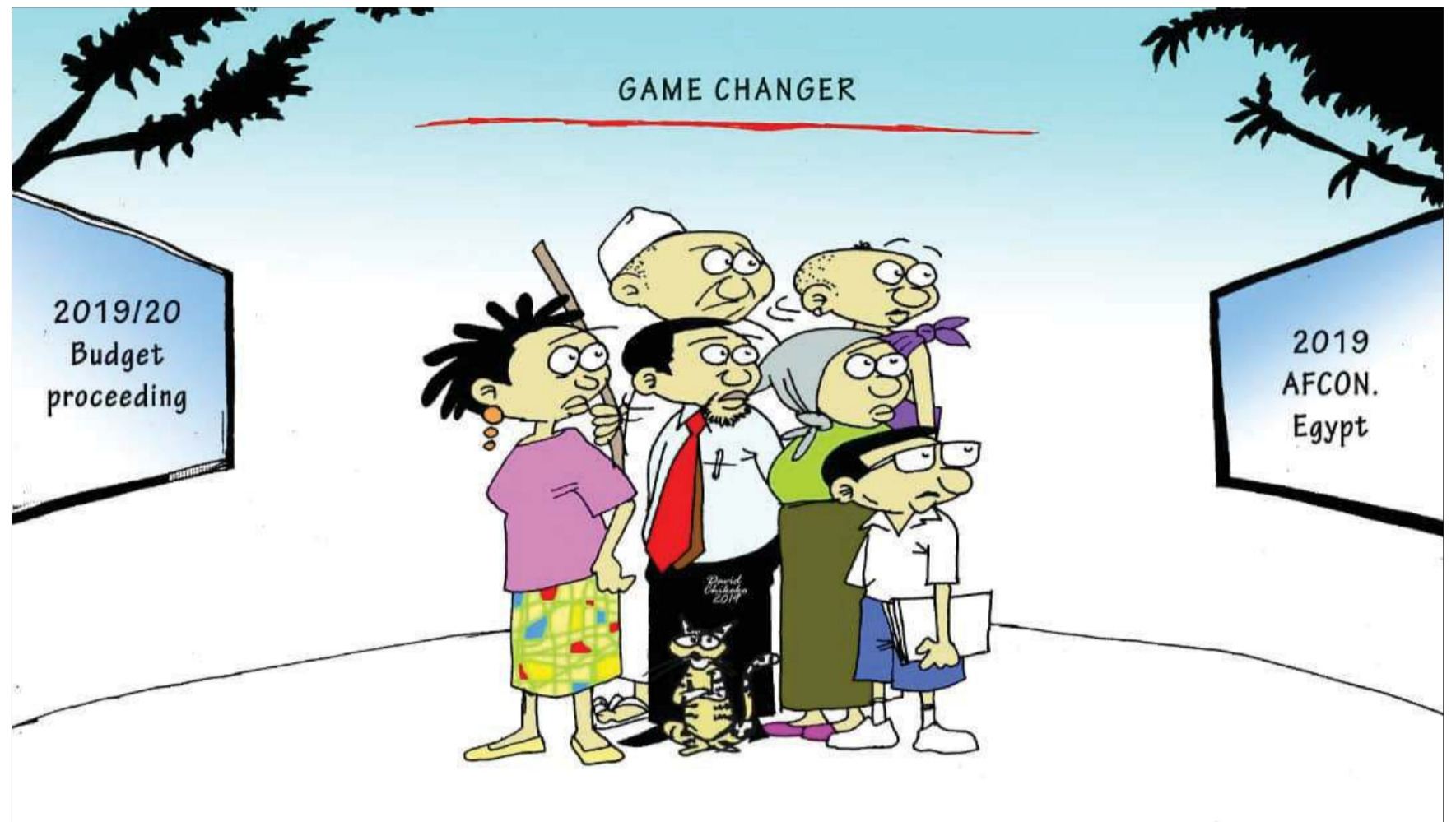
and cannabis.

Illegal drugs are available in Tanzania due to the transmission of drugs across the country borders to the nearby countries like Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, and Rwanda. There was a time some of the regions were cultivating drugs like cannabis, some of those regions are Arusha, Tanga, and Mara. The government decided to destroy all the plantation and caught the people who were engaging in such activities of cultivating illegal drugs.

The government established a Drug Control Commission to deal with prevention of drug abuse and trafficking. It also provides opportunities for Non-Governmental Organizations to help in preventing drug abuse in the community.

The major cause of drug abuse in Tanzania is easy accessibility and availability of drug abuse among regions of the country.

In Tanzania, there are numbers of sober house centres in different regions, which provide treatment and consultation to drug addicts. They receive a number of people who are addicted and live with them for a certain period of time, depends on how one is affected. On the other hand, the government through the ministry of health, community, development, gender, elderly, and children provides support to the hospitals and sober houses. For instance, Mwananyamala Hospital in Dar es Salaam also provides treatment for drug addicts and sometime uses methadone as a treatment for addiction.



# The trouble with the proposed miscellaneous amendments...

By Mshabaha Mshabaha

**T**HE National Assembly is currently just about to begin working on proposed amendments to a series of laws. Work on the proposed changes is supposed to be done urgently using rules normally meant to govern emergencies or crisis.

Overall, taken together, the laws in question generally regulate how organisations, particularly those in civil society, are managed by the government and affect how freely citizens can express their views, participate in decisions that affect them and hold their representatives accountable.

We hear a lot about civil society, but just what is it and what does it do? This name is used for organisations working in the interest of the citizens but operating outside of the governmental and private sectors.

What has civil society in Tanzania contributed - and what does it continue to contribute? Well, civil society provides services directly in that it cares for people with particular diseases, makes sure less fortunate children still get access to books, and provides care and support to the elderly.

In this role, civil society works directly with the government, helping to build government health centres, water sources and schools.

Civil society helps the government get feedback on its decisions and actions either from an organisation with certain expertise directly or by collecting views from citizens, different groups and different areas.

Civil society organisations often help by coming up with new ideas and solutions to problems that they can try out before advising the government on whether they work or not.

Civil society provides an honest constructive mirror to help the government understand how well they are doing and how to better serve the people.

Civil society works to make society more equal by protecting those who often have a harder time being heard or accessing opportunities.

Civil society organisations help people learn. They generate new knowledge and share this with citizens and leaders so that it can contribute to progress and development.

As organisations, civil society employs thousands of people, pays hundreds of millions of shillings



in tax, and contributes millions of shillings to the local economy by buying products and services.

Unfortunately, these laws present a threat to civil society in Tanzania for three major reasons. One has to do with a basic principle known as fair play.

In government, there are many officials who play the role of a referee in a soccer match. And yet the referees in government are always hired by one particular team. This means that we must take great care not to allow them too much power over the other teams or players.

In the proposed changes to the law, there are at least three cases of appointed officials being able to decide to close down organisations based on their own feelings, suspicions or thoughts.

And what if, for example, when you came to play your next match you were told that all teams with stripes on their players' shoes were no longer considered teams and could not play?

In these proposed amendments, what it means to be an NGO, a society or a company has been changed - and many of us do have stripes on our shoes, so we won't be able to play anymore!

Two relates to the modalities of

changing the rules. In the proposed amendments, it is as if the entire rules of the game will have changed - as to who is allowed to play, what game, what the pitch is like, whether we use hands or feet...

But then the players are only given a very short time to learn the new rules, adjust their team accordingly and start scoring goals again. These things should be revised with discussion and consultation, and allow people time to adapt.

Reporting requirements, acceptable activities for different types of organisations, and who they report to will change for many organisations. However, very little time is given for them to make the required adjustments.

Three: No complaining... And while all of this is happening to the game you play or love, you are not meant or supposed to complain about it or get together with your peers to try to solve what you see as problems. Parts of some of these changes to the law could be said to have been designed to exert more control over what is said or seen, how people come together.

This is visible directly in the clauses of the law: societies that threaten good governance will be deregistered (by

the Minister) and all posters in public places will have to be approved by a Film Board. This is also apparent in the reaction by the authorities to the advocacy currently coming from civil society organisations.

Overall, we believe that it is important to coordinate all the different organisations and actors in the country, and this is a critical part of the government's job.

We need to make changes carefully and thoughtfully, with enough time to think and imagine. Otherwise, we will start with good intentions but emerge with unintended consequences. And these can take years to correct.

In essence, all we are asking for is more time: time to ensure that we are not making things worse instead of better, time to collect and incorporate the views of all those affected and time to manage the changes to come.

Even when we think about these proposed changes being made to a sport we love, we can feel why this time they would be important. In this case, the game is about justice and progress. Surely, taking time to make wise and dignified choices is the only right way to proceed.

*The writer is national coordinator of ChangeTanzania, an online social movement.*



# Blockchain releases farmers from the collateral trap

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe

A JAMAICAN start-up has an innovative solution to help smallholder farmers—many of whom do not have the collateral demanded by financial institutions to access loans—build a track record of their production that is proving better than collateral.

FarmCredibly creates a record for farmers based on their production and they do not even need to leave the work on their farms to create this, founder Varun Baker tells IPS.

Blockchain is a decentralised, digital ledger initially developed for the cryptocurrency bitcoin. It works through a series of digitally connected records where information can be shared openly and publicly verified through a cluster of computers.

The decentralised nature of blockchain means that information is not stored in one place but on many computers or databases. The information is also time stamped. As such, if information is changed it has to be done through the system and cannot be deleted or changed at one point without the other databases of the information also being updated.

Using the block chain technology, farmers can plan their production based on the actual market demand. Distributors in turn safely source produce from many farmers with a reliable track record, says Baker.

Banking the under banked In 2017, Baker and his team won a blockchain Hackathon competition organised by international IT company IBM and NCB, a major commercial bank in Jamaica for their idea of developing a tool which enables under banked farmers access loans and micro-investments.

In 2018, FarmCredibly entered the AgriHack competition organised by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and they emerged winners.

"Our strength is in technology and one big part that excites me about now and the future is the adoption of



Financial inclusion services can help boost the productivity of smallholder farmers in Africa. Pictured here is maize farmer from Nyamandlovu District, Zimbabwe. Credit: IPS

blockchain technology which can be a complicated subject for people," Baker admits. "In our pitch, we simplified the value in using blockchain which is in enforcing the integrity in information. This still sounds really complicated, but the same idea is put more eloquently by a Jamaican songwriter who said 'you so can fool some people some time but you cannot fool all the people all the time,' and this is the value we want to bring to agriculture."

Working with farmers 10 years ago, Baker had encouraged them to use mobile applications for good record keeping and documenting their work on their farms. But in many cases farmers were reluctant to use any online or mobile device in the field.

Today Baker sees the potential of using blockchain technology to release farmers from the burden of using apps themselves.

The technology is designed in a way that farmers can build a profile on themselves based on the data that other people have so they do not have to change anything about what they are doing, Baker explains.

Through FarmCredibly, Baker forms partnerships with companies that farmers already do business with. Input suppliers, buyers, agro-processors, hotels and supermarkets have

loan through FarmCredibly to buy nursery supplies to start growing his own seedlings.

"I believe in the use of technology as it helps greatly in doing the same thing better and more efficiently," Buchanan tells IPS. "That way with the same amount of resources more can be done. This is very good also as it increases my income and makes success more sure."

Buchanan grows hot and sweet peppers, corn and sweet potatoes on part of his 10 hectare farm. With funding, he would be able to transition his produce and mostly grow hot peppers, which have a guaranteed market.

"My limiting factor is access to funding," Buchanan laments. "I am not alone...this is the dilemma of so many farmers. Before the blockchain intervention I could only put a quarter of a hectare of sweet potatoes in production...now I have 1.11 hectare. Because of this too I am working on the capacity to supply other farmers with seedlings. The income from this will be used back in the farming operation to assist me with buying irrigation supplies to establish a block of hot peppers."

While financial inclusion is on the rise thanks to mobile phones and the internet, nearly two billion people globally remain unbanked while two-thirds of them own a mobile phone that could help them access financial services. This is according to a World Bank 2018 report on the use of financial services. It also finds that men remain more likely than women to have a bank account.

Digital technology can take advantage of existing cash transactions to bring people into the financial system, the report finds. For example, paying government wages, pensions, and social benefits directly into accounts could bring formal financial services to up to 100 million more adults globally, including 95 million in developing economies. Currently, 86 percent of Jamaica's population is under banked, meaning they do not have access to loans.

IPS

valuable information on farmers that helps support their production record.

"We use this information to build up a profile on behalf of the farmer, which means once a farmer is ready to get a loan at the bank, it is an easier process for them because suddenly they have a track record. This is something that can work for even unbanked people who have no credit history at all," Baker says as he takes on the challenge of convincing lenders that this is valid information that reduces risk when it comes to providing loans in agriculture.

"In my experience lenders find agriculture a risky business and we are trying to convince people that we are lowering risk in this area which provides massive economic value across the world," says Baker who is currently using funding from the CTA and Development Bank of Jamaica to run a pilot project in Jamaica to facilitate loans for farmers to be more productive.

For many years, smallholder farmer, Kevin Buchanan from Clarendon Parish, south of Jamaica, battled to obtain loans because he did not have the collateral demanded by banks. Thanks to a digital profiling of his production he recently received a 385-dollar micro

## Dirty oil crisis over for Russia, but contagion felt on high seas

MOSCOW/LONDON

IN the opinion of Russian officials, the oil contamination crisis that disrupted flows from the world's second-largest exporter of crude this spring is long over.

But a closer look at a dozen tankers containing dirty Russian oil suggests that for the buyers, the debacle has a long way to run and will cost them hundreds of millions of dollars.

Two months since buyers discovered Russia was shipping oil contaminated with organic chloride, which is designed to boost output but can destroy refining equipment, less than half of the tainted crude loaded on tankers has found end-users.

More than 1 million tonnes worth around \$500 million remains homeless, zigzagging between Europe and Asia. In China, buyers have refused to take dirty Russian oil, forcing trader Vitol to send a cargo back to Europe.

The Chinese development has not previously been reported.

That means buyers are struggling to place oil even at discounts of \$10-15 per barrel - or \$10-15 million per regular Suezmax tanker - to the current, regular price of \$65 a barrel.

"I'm not willing to risk our equipment just for cheap crude," said an oil trader with a North Asian refinery.

Buyers have also paid millions of dollars in demurrage charges as tankers are stuck with the dirty oil, preventing ship-owners from sending them on new voyages.

Russia has promised to compensate buyers after they file claims post-sale.

"The problem is that this oil is often impossible to sell. So how can I file a claim?", a Russian oil buyer said.

"Sometimes you have a feeling that Russia has moved on from the issue. There was a meeting with buyers at the beginning of June. Since then, we've had no communication whatsoever," another major buyer said.

The Russian Energy Ministry and

Transneft did not respond to a request for comment.

### CHINA SAYS "NO"

News of the dirty oil broke in late April when buyers from the Baltic port of Ust-Luga and along the Druzhba pipeline to Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belarus and the Czech Republic discovered organic chloride content 10-20 times above normal levels.

After several weeks of debate, Russian pipeline monopoly Transneft pledged to pay compensation to Russian producers such as Rosneft, Surgutneftegas, as well as Kazakhstan, for contaminated oil.

Those producers shall in turn compensate Western buyers including oil traders Vitol, Glencore, Trafigura and oil majors Total, Shell, BP, Eni and PKN Orlen, among others.

Hopes were high that China and India would take a big chunk of dirty oil - as at least 800,000 tonnes began to sail from Europe to Asia - but those have not materialized.

Five trading sources said Chinese customs authorities had told buyers not to take crude with organic chloride content above the Russian standard of 10 parts per million. Some cargoes had as much as 100-200 ppm. The authorities declined to comment.

Suezmax Chios I, fixed by Vitol, has been floating around the Suez for a month, initially set to be sold to an independent Chinese refiner, but is now heading back to Europe with no final buyer, according to traders and ship-tracking data.

Another Vitol Suezmax, the Sonangol Rangel carrying 140,000 tonnes of contaminated Urals, was bought by Chinese independent refiner Bora Group initially for its mainland Dalian plant, but is now heading to storage near Malacca.

A very large crude carrier (VLCC) with 270,000 tonnes, Glencore's Amyntas, also went to Singapore instead of China. So far, only Sinopec has been allowed



An oil storage tank of Russian oil pipeline monopoly Transneft is pictured at the Baltic Sea port of Ust-Luga, Russia February 26.

to import dirty crude - in the 2-million-barrel VLCC New Comfort - into Ningbo-Zhoushan, eastern China, because it bought the oil in early April before the contamination news broke, trading sources said. The vessel is due to arrive in China on July 12.

Sinopec, Vitol and Glencore declined to comment.

### STEEP DEMURRAGE BILLS

In Europe, a limited number of buyers dared to refine the oil including Spain's Repsol, Swedish Preem and Finnish Neste Oil, according to traders and Refinitiv Eikon flows data. They are estimated to have taken 600,000 tonnes.

Dirty oil needs to be diluted before being refined, sometimes one tainted barrel with 20 barrels of clean oil.

"We took a cargo to one of our refineries. It's still being refined and is likely to be for several more months," a trader with an oil major told Reuters.

Meanwhile, at least four cargoes of

100,000 tonnes each are anchored at various European ports and have yet to find a home.

Demurrage costs for the tankers have exceeded \$1 million per vessel, four trade sources said.

In one such example, the FSL Shanghai ship chartered by BP has zigzagged between the European ports of Ventpils and Rotterdam since loading in Ust-Luga on May 2.

As of Monday, it still had no buyer and had paid \$1.3 million in demurrage charges to date with every new day costing an extra \$25,000, trading and shipping sources said.

BP did not respond to a request for comment.

Total's Mendeleev Prospect vessel has been anchored near the Polish port of Gdansk since April 27, while Glencore's Searuby and Searanger vessels are anchored near Turkey's Aliaga and the UK shore.

Agencies

## 'Unilateralism will be supported by very few'

By Zhong Sheng

THE US has received broad objection from the international community during the past year as it widely instigated trade frictions regardless of international rules.

However, the extreme pressures exerted by Washington intimidated no country. On the contrary, the largest victim of the US unilateralism and trade protectionism ended up to be the rule-based multilateral trading system.

It is especially true as the 14th Group of 20 (G20) summit in Osaka, Japan is around the corner. More than any other issue, the US attitude toward trade has placed stress on the forum, conflicting with the group's traditional commitment to an international trading order underpinned by low tariffs and the WTO, said an article published on the website of the US think tank Council on Foreign Relations.

According to the article, since 2018, the US administration has enacted or threatened higher tariffs on Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Turkey, and the EU, G20 members that together account for over half of the world's economy.

Behind the big stick of US tariffs is the rising unilateralism in the country's foreign policies. Compared with its usual acts to impede the reform of global governance within the multilateral system, the US went further retrograde. It frequently withdrew from international organizations, arbitrarily broke the rules and smashed the global governance system.

When dealing with diplomatic issues, some politicians in Washington screamed that the US is making the strongest military in the history of the world stronger still, which means everybody has to make room for America.

Every policy presents a tradeoff, said Former US Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew and Columbia University scholar Richard Nephew in an article published on Foreign Affairs. Yet US officials seem to have adopted the belief that the United States is so large and powerful that the laws of economic and political gravity no longer apply to it, they added.

The world is not a wrestling pit where muscles and power rule. Zero-sum mentality and unilateralism will be supported by few, let alone dominating. Some US politicians have blindly resorted to extreme egoism, trampled on rules and undermined global governance system, and such arbitrary acts have been widely condemned by the international community, which suggests that unilateral thinking is far lagged behind by the trend of time. Falling from the moral high ground of global governance, the US is no longer the arrogant "City upon a Hill".

The international system's demand for rules is not decreasing, but constantly growing. At present, the world is facing constant ups and downs of global hotspot issues, as well as non-traditional security challenges such as climate change, cyber security and refugee crisis. In addition, unilateralism and protectionism are also on a rise.

No country is able to solve all these problems independently. Joint efforts within

mechanisms are indispensable for each country to effectively cope with challenges.

Moreover, living in the same global village, one might have his beard burnt by blowing out the lamp of others. The impacts placed on the globe by US unilateral policies have no doubt reinforced such perception.

Global countries share broad consensus regarding to what kind of an international rule system should be built. In the 21st century, to uphold a vision of global governance featuring extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, settle global affairs by the peoples of the world through consultation, and actively advance the democratization of global governance rules is not only a basic request of international justice, but also a necessary demand raised by the changes of the international landscape.

Upholding the multilateral banner of the UN and giving full play to the constructive role of multilateral mechanisms such as the WTO, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the G20, will offer institutional support for the operation of the international system and mechanism guarantee for coping with global challenges.

"It is true that we are slowly moving towards a multipolar world, and that is in itself a very positive evolution. But as history tells us, multipolarity alone does not guarantee peace. Europe was multipolar 100 years ago, but the multilateral framework for cooperation and problem-solving was not there, and the result was a catastrophic world war," remarked Secretary-General of the UN António Guterres at the plenary session of the St Petersburg International Economic Forum. What he said is worth pondering.

Two clear logical clues have been revealed by China's reaction to the China-US trade dispute: the country's resolution to safeguard the core national interests and the basic interests of the people, and the commitment to the protection of international rules. The two logical clues reflect dialectical unity that China has a clear demarcation for its own interests and the future of the world. The country deeply knows that a rule-based international system conforms to the trend of time and is also where the fundamental interests of reach country lay.

That is why China has won wide support for its stand. UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond recently described China as a "crucial bilateral partner" with a "vital role" in championing the rules-based multilateral order, saying that the UK will work with China to safeguard the multilateral trade system.

Hammond's remarks are both a resolute denial to some country's request to exert pressure on China, and recognition to China's just position. "As the world is confronted with grave challenges and when human being is at a crossroad with a choice to make, all the countries need to check out the sense of responsibility and take concrete actions rather than standing on the sideline, and work together to take the fate of human being in our own hands," said Chinese President Xi Jinping at a global governance forum co-hosted by China and France in March.

Joint efforts within

People's Daily



## As violence flares in Burkina Faso, refugees trickle into Ghana

Bawku West district, Ghana

SALIMATA Kali is still looking for her husband, six months after she was forced to flee Zoaga, a small town in southern Burkina Faso near the border with Ghana. She fled because of communal violence.

The Burkinabe army had been providing security after an initial flare-up, she says, but tensions had erupted over chieftaincy issues, with rival groups laying claim to the local regency, and the bloodshed looked like it was set to return. That's when she decided to run away with her children.

"When the conflict happened, my husband ran away and until now, I don't know where he is," Kali told Al Jazeera through an interpreter.

She is among hundreds who have fled to Bawku West in northeastern Ghana this year amid rising violence.

Kali is keeping up hope but others fear the worst.

The violence left a trail of destruction, according to the asylum seekers, as houses were burned and livestock and grain were stolen.

"I lost a lot. Donkeys, cattle, foodstuff, uncountable ... My son was also killed and, because of the violence, I could not bury him in the village. I heard I was next to be killed so to save my life, I had to run here," said Ouari Botzabit, an elderly man.

While locals and asylum seekers estimate the number of arrivals in Bawku West at around 700, the Ghana Refugee Board told Al Jazeera it has been able to

account for just under 300.

But in recent weeks, a different group of Burkinabes have arrived in north-west Ghana - more than 1,000 people, according to the refugee board.

The latest arrivals have also reported violence at home but unlike the group in Bawku West, they are yet to be granted asylum-seeker status as security checks are carried out.

In total, Ghana hosts about 13,500 refugees and asylum seekers, the refugee board says.

In Bawku West, Kali's group has found safety under the watchful eyes of military personnel from Ghana's armed forces. But life is hard. The local areas where they have settled are struggling to cope with the influx.

"If you have two rooms, you offer them one. But because of the huge numbers, some of them have to sleep outside at night," says John Akugre Anyagre, an assemblyman for the area.

Sleeping outside exposes refugees to diseases such as malaria and as the rainy season begins, experts fear for their safety. Without documents and money, the new arrivals cannot access Ghana's national health system, which would cover treatment and medicine.

The government of Ghana, local chiefs and the UN refugee agency have been able to provide irregular food aid but more permanent shelter is yet to arrive.

"The two key things now are shelter and food and we are going to provide assistance in that direction," said Tetteh



Ghana hosts about 13,500 refugees and asylum seekers. File photo

Padi, programme coordinator for the Ghana Refugee Board.

Rising insecurity  
Asylum seekers' testimonies fit into a wider pattern of insecurity in Burkina Faso.

On Saturday, gunmen attacked villages in northern Burkina Faso, killing 15 according to Cherrif Sy, defence minister, who blamed "armed terrorists", according to the AFP news agency.

In April, more than 60 people died in intercommunity clashes in the north of the country.

The Burkinabe government

says armed groups are exploiting existing community tensions as part of an expansionist move

Since April, there have been at least four reported attacks on churches in the country, killing 18 worshippers and two priests. No group has claimed responsibility for these attacks.

In May, four hostages were rescued by French troops that are now operating across the Sahel region. More than 400 people have been killed in attacks since 2015 - according to a tally by the AFP news agency, which reports

that at least 1,000 people have found refuge in Ouagadougou, the capital.

Western governments have warned their citizens against visiting the country's north, with the UK's foreign office advising "against all but essential travel to the rest of Burkina Faso, including the capital Ouagadougou".

Insecurity is stirring unease in neighbouring countries, and concerns deepened earlier this month when a Burkinabe man, allegedly armed, was arrested in a Ghanaian church near the border.

Local media in Ghana reported the arrest of another Burkinabe man, also believed to have been armed, days later in a border town.

And earlier, in May, Ghana's port and harbour authority confirmed that two Ghanaian truck drivers transporting goods were shot near the Mali-Burkina Faso border.

Prior to these incidents, security agencies had met with leaders of the Christian community to discuss how to protect places of worship.

Free movement is among the key principles of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), West Africa's regional bloc.

In a statement to Al Jazeera, David Eklou, Ghana's police spokesperson, said: "There are combined efforts with sister security agencies to prevent any terrorist activities in Ghana with the police in the lead."

"The goal is to deter, detect and disrupt any terrorist activities within Ghana and around our borders. We are also raising public awareness on personal security to make Ghana an unattractive destination for such activities."

For now, long-standing ethnic ties have seen the asylum seekers warmly welcomed in Ghana's north.

## World's poorest nations weighed down by fastest growing populations

UNITED NATIONS

WITH a new report projecting a rise in population, specifically in Asia and Africa, the United Nations has warned that continued rapid population growth presents enormous challenges for sustainable development in the world's 134 developing nations.

Among them, the heaviest impact will be on the 47 least developed countries (LDCs), described as the poorest of the world's poor, and the 57 small island developing states (SIDS), including 20 "territories" which are non-UN members, largely vulnerable to continued economic hardships and environmental hazards.

In an interview with IPS, Dr Benoit Kalasa, Director Technical Division at the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said LDCs are among the world's fastest growing - and many are projected to double in population between 2019 and 2050 - putting pressure on already strained resources and challenging policies that aim to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensure that no one is left behind.

For many countries or areas, including some Small Island Developing States, he pointed out, the challenges to achieving sustainable development are compounded by their vulnerability to climate change, climate variability and sea-level rise.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the region that is expected to account for more than half of the world's population growth over the coming decades, the number of babies projected to be born between 2020 and 2050 (nearly 1.4 billion) exceeds the number born between 1990 and 2020 by more than 50 per cent.

Excerpts from the interview:

**IPS: Will the projected increase in population have an impact on the implementation of the 17 SDGs which have a 2030 deadline?**

**Dr KALASA:** A rapidly increasing number of births poses particularly significant challenges for countries striving to expand services for mothers and newborns (SDGs 1, 3 and 5).

A growing number of infants foreshadows growing numbers of school-aged children and adolescents and youth in the future. In the 47 LDCs, the number of adolescents and youth aged 15 to 24 years is projected to grow from 207 million in 2019 to 336 million in 2050.

Leveraging the opportunity presented by the demographic dividend depends critically on investing in the health and education (SDGs 3 and 4) of the young people who will soon join the labour force, and on ensuring

their successful integration into the labour market, with full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8).

Many of the countries with the highest levels of maternal mortality and the greatest unmet need for family planning continue to experience growth in the number of women of reproductive age.

Programmes to expand access to family planning must keep pace with population growth just to maintain current levels of coverage.

In all countries and areas, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women requires eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women (SDG 5), promoting female education (SDG 4), and ensuring that women have access to safe and effective means of family planning (SDG 3), as well as equal access to the labour market (SDG 8), social security and the political process (SDGs 8, 5 and 16).

Persons aged 65 or over make up the world's fastest-growing age group. Virtually all countries are anticipating an increase in the percentage of older persons in their populations.

Countries need to plan for population ageing and ensure the well-being of older persons by protecting their human rights and economic security and by ensuring access to age-appropriate health care services, lifelong learning opportunities, and formal and informal support networks (SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 16).

**IPS: Is the anticipated increase in world population by 2 billion in the next 30 years a positive or negative factor?**

**Dr KALASA:** While the projected addition of two billion people in the next 30 years poses challenges to the implementation of the 2030 agenda, it also brings a tremendous opportunity.

With human rights-based, quality sexual and reproductive health service provision, sufficient investment in education and health of young people, and gender equality, and promotion of the rights choices and well-being of older persons and immigrants, we will realize the demographic dividend and ensure the rights and choices of a new generation.

**IPS: How reliable is the UN's population estimates?**

**Dr KALASA:** The UN Population Division has been estimating and projecting the world's population since 1951. The estimates are based on all available sources of data on population size and levels of fertility, mortality and international migration for 235 countries or areas.

For each revision, any new, recent



but also historical, information that has become available from population censuses, vital registration of births and deaths, and household surveys are considered to produce consistent time series of population estimates for each country or areas from 1950 to today.

For the 2019 revision, the latest assessment, 1,690 population censuses conducted between 1950 and 2018, as well as information on births and deaths from vital registration systems for 163 countries and demographic indicators from 2,700 surveys were considered.

The availability of new information contributed to revising recent, as well as past, popula-

tion estimates and demographic indicators.

It is worth mentioning that the quality of population estimates and projections hinges on the collection of reliable and timely demographic data, including through civil registration systems, population censuses, population registers, where they exist, and household surveys.

The 2020 round of national population censuses, which is currently underway, will provide critical demographic information to inform development planning and to assess progress towards the achievement of the SDGs.

**IPS: What is the impact of international migration?**

**Dr KALASA:** International migration can be a transformative force, lifting millions of people out of poverty and contributing to sustainable development in both countries of origin and countries of destination.

Facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, while reducing incentives for irregular migration, is the best possible way to harness the full development potential of migration (SDGs 8, 10 and 16). Addressing the adverse drivers of migration, such as poverty, insecurity and lack of decent work, can help to make the option of remaining in one's country viable for all people.

Ensuring women's right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children is at the center of our agenda.

**IPS: Whatever happened to the 1960s concept of Zero Population Growth (ZPG)?**

**Dr KALASA:** The ICPD Programme of Action (the International Conference on Population and Development) called for voluntary and rights-based family planning. At UNFPA, we counter any notion of "population control" and warrant that future generations never take a hard-won human right for granted.

Ensuring women's right to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children is at the center of our agenda.



## IT firm scoops East Africa's 'Brand Leadership' award

By Guardian Reporter

A Dar es Salaam-based IT firm—DataVision International has scooped the East Africa's Brand Leadership 2019' for providing quality Information and communications technology (ICT) services in the region.

The firm received the award, which was issued by the 'World Marketing Progress' last week in Dar es Salaam, whereby winners were nominated from 100 companies from East Africa.

DataVision International won in the area of professional consulting services. The awards are aimed at recognising individuals and organisations that have done extraordinary things in various sectors by a global re-known award entry World Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Day.

DataVision International chief executive officer (CEO) Geoffrey Mwajonga described the award as key in scaling up services in Tanzania and region at large.

"This awards takes us to the

world and takes us back to our work places emotionally we are empowered to do more than what we have done," he said, lauding the contributions made by users of the companies services in and outside the country.

Recently, DataVision International was named as one of the key players in the sector for transforming education through technology.

This follows its active participation in facilitating a study, which was designed to test whether self-directed learning using technology can enable children to learn reading, writing and math skills outside the traditional classroom.

The study project involved 3,000 children aged between 7 and 10 from six districts in Tanga Region and in 2017, children were given tablets, which were installed with special software that assist children to learn without teachers' support.

The result was that half of the students were able to read, write and count without teachers' support.

As a result, the ICT firm's representatives participated at the event organized to award winners of Global Learning X-Prize' Challenge held recently in Los Angeles, USA.

DataVision's business development executive, Bwigane Mulinda, described the project as key in scaling up country's education sector through ICT at the time when the country faces shortage of teachers.

She said being part of the study, the international community looks Tanzania as key player in technological transformation particularly in encouraging children to learn reading, writing and mathematics on tablets.

During the global event, Kit-kit School from the U.S. and Onebillion from the U.K were declared co-winners of the XPRIZE, and went away with US\$10million for developing the best learning app through its project that empowers children with reading, writing and counting skills.



DataVision International payment solutions consultant Maclean Mwajonga (2nd-L) receives the 'East Africa Brand Leadership 2019 Award alongside the company's business development executive, Bwigane Mulinda. The World Marketing Progress award was presented at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## DTBi creates thousands of direct, indirect jobs

By Guardian Reporter

IN complementing government's efforts of creating employment for the youth the Dar Teknohama Business Incubator (DTBi) has incubated 42 innovative SME tech companies which had created 311 direct tech jobs and more than 8,500 indirect job opportunities.

This includes direct jobs—full time employment, and indirect jobs—contractors, agents, and other part-time workers, said Makange Mramba, Dar teknohama business incubator project manager.

He said: "Taking into consideration the magnitude of the problem, DTBi in collaboration with the Royal Danish embassy designed a project known as Tanzania Digital In-

novation Youth Empowerment Programme (TADIYE), which intends to reach urban and rural youth in imparting entrepreneurship knowledge via mobile devices to leverage the value created by the digital mobile technology in Tanzania."

DTBi is an initiative established by the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, the private sector and the World Bank through infoDev. It provides support to start-ups such as mentoring/coaching, shared office space, access to market, financial resources and other businesses supportive services designed to accelerate start-ups success, and create jobs and hence overall wealth creation.

He described incubator as the focal point that would accelerate the successful development

of ICT entrepreneurial companies by providing an array of businesses supportive resources and services.

In addition, the project manager said: "To the economic development benefits that would be created for the entrepreneurs themselves, they would provide direct and indirect job opportunities, contribute to creation of incomes to the government coffers and spearhead innovative in techno-entrepreneurship in Tanzania."

Citing the 2012 national population and housing census, Makange said that the Tanzanian Labour force (ages 15 - 64) is 23,466,616, which is equivalent to 52.2 per cent of the total population; and the youth (ages 15 - 35) is 15,587,621 (equivalent to 66.4 per cent of the labour

force).

"The unemployment rate amongst young people aged 15 - 24 years in Tanzania is 13.4 per cent. Unemployment is also higher amongst young women (14.3 per cent) than amongst young men of the same age, 12.3 per cent (MKUKUTA Poverty and Human Development Report, 2011).

"One of the reasons for the above could be that most of the rural youth grow up in a culture that does not typically support entrepreneurship and which has inadequate credit facilities. Therefore, youth entrepreneurship education and training is important to developing countries such as Tanzania if the majority of the youth who are jobless and those underemployed are to be empowered economi-

cally," he said.

TADIYE according to the project manager, is a programme that is implemented by DTBi in partnership with the Royal Danish embassy to address the youth and young girls unemployment challenges as stated above.

The programme runs from June, 2018 through December, 2019. Its goal is to empower youth with entrepreneurship and digital literacy and skills that will enable them to take advantage of opportunities offered in a digital economy to generate wealth, create jobs and increase the number of sustainable enterprises.

As a means of ensuring the entrepreneurship knowledge and skills reach the intended beneficiaries in an effective

and efficient way, DTBi through its incubated innovative start-up (MagilaTech) came up with an innovative state of the art mobile on-line learning platform known as Business Entrepreneurship Skills Platform (BESP) as a tool to be used to facilitate dissemination of the knowledge. Further to this innovation, DTBi in collaboration with an eminent consultant in the entrepreneurship field developed the learning content composed of eight entrepreneurship and business modules.

A team of experts from government and private sector later validated these modules before they were uploaded in BESP.

Makanga said: "This application can be accessed and

installed in any smart phone device from anywhere around the country and once it has been installed, the user can access and navigate through, even if the mobile device is offline."

He further said that the training content will be offered for free to the youth on their mobile phone wherever they are during the pilot phase and learners will be able to get certificates of attendance once the modules are fully covered.

According to Makanga, participants will have an opportunity to win up to 20million Tanzanian shillings in the business plan innovation challenge.

"Winners of the business plan innovation challenge will be attached to a mentorship and coaching programme until the end of the programme."

## African insurance leader's pledge to focus on low-income earners hailed

By Guardian Reporter

A PLEDGE made by the Association of African Insurance Supervisory Authorities (AAISA) Vice-President Baghayo Saqware to develop insurance products for low-income earners in Tanzania has been positively hailed by potential beneficiaries.

Kagera vanilla and coffee grower, Ferdinand Bigirwa, said insurance cover for crops of small-holder farmers would be a good thing but many farmers neither have insurance nor do they know much about insurance, adding that farmers of his calibre would be reluctant to get into arrangements with insurance companies that want regular amounts of from farmers.

"We need education on insurance and its benefits to us because

we do not want to lose the little money we earn. We grow crops and this is risky business. Coffee or vanilla or potatoes do not give us regular incomes," he said over the phone yesterday from Bukoba. But he conceded that health insurance has proved the importance of insurance in Tanzania.

Bigirwa is the Chairman of WAKUVI, small farmers groups in Missenyi District Council.

Peter Lanya, a former TCCIA Dar es Salaam Regional Chamber Vice-Chairman (Agriculture) seems to support Bigirwa's argument.

Lanya once told an interviewer that "Agriculture is a very tricky business."

Lanya supported his contention by arguing that many agricultural experts were not ready to transmit knowledge to farmers; neither

were they empowered to support smallholders.

"Secondly, Tanzanian farmers have no guarantee of harvesting sufficient crops because they depend on rainfall, not irrigation... Our crops fail to meet standards of foreign consumers. Moreover, stocks offered for export are insufficient to meet the bulk orders."

Agriculture is the biggest employer of Tanzania's economically active population.

Issa Ranadhani Mumba, a Kariakoo petty trader in Dar es Salaam, said petty businesses yield little to allow traders to involve themselves in insurance business. "True we are low-income earners; but this is a hand-to-mouth business. They must tell us how much they want from us for the insurance covers they want to buy,"

he said

Dr Saqware, who was recently elected Vice-President of the Association of African Insurance Supervisory Authorities (AAISA) in a meeting held in Johannesburg, South Africa, has pledged to encourage innovation to local content in developing various insurance products for low-income earners in Tanzania. Dr Saqware is Tanzania's Commissioner of Insurance and Director General of Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA).

The second general assembly and annual meeting of AAISA re-elected Boubacar Bah, president of the association. Bah is Guinean Director of Insurance. AAISA, currently groups together 24 African insurance supervisory authorities.



A food vendor 'kills two birds with one stone' by doubling as mat weaver as she waits for customers at Gerezani in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

## IOM helps 30,000 people in Yemen rebuild shelters destroyed by floods

SANA'A

MORE than 80,000 people in Yemen have been impacted by heavy rains and floods since late May. Among those most affected are displaced communities whose makeshift shelters have failed to weather the storm, exposing them to serious danger.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is distributing emergency aid items to flood survivors, particularly

displaced families, in the worst-affected governorates: Aden, Abyan, Hajjah, Ibb and Taizz.

The world's largest humanitarian crisis has been compounded by severe natural hazards. Every year, the people of Yemen feel the full force of extreme weather, including floods and cyclones. Over 1.1 million of the 3.65 million people displaced across the country are living in the five governorates, which experienced the heaviest rains this

year.

As an initial response in all the governorates hit, IOM is distributing emergency shelter kits, which include wood, plastic sheeting, rope and tools, to nearly 30,000 people with damaged or destroyed temporary shelters.

The agency is also distributing blankets, mattresses, buckets, kitchen sets and sleeping mats to help these families set up their shelters. The vast majority

of those receiving emergency shelter and household kits are living in displacement sites owing to the conflict.

Eight months ago, the conflict forced 36-year-old father of seven Abdullah Al-Jumai from his home in Haradh to Shafer within Hajjah governorate. He and his family were displaced again within the Shafer locality by heavy rainfall a few weeks ago.

Describing it as a tragedy, Abdullah said: "We were sleeping

under trees during the rain," adding that proper shelter was all the family hoped for currently. IOM started distributing aid to flood survivors in Hajjah on Sunday - June 23.

A woman at an IOM distribution centre in Hajjah, 60-year-old Namja Isaa, described how for the past year her family, displaced to Shafer, lived in a shelter made of plastic sheets and grass. "In Yemen, we call them Aushash (hut) but it could not

withstand the rain, so we became homeless," she said.

Aden and Abyan governorates also experienced some of the heaviest rainfall in years. Displaced people's shelters were destroyed, and flooding meant that the few belongings displaced families had were damaged.

IOM has said it will continue to support flood-affected families beyond the current ongoing emergency shelter and house-

hold kits distribution, based on the needs of flood-affected communities - as assessed by the Shelter and Non-food Items (S-NFI) Cluster.

IOM is also supporting the S-NFI Cluster Common Pipeline, in partnership with the Cluster, to pre-position emergency shelter and household kits, which will enable cluster partners to support 5,780 flood-affected families across Yemen.



BY RICHARD CHELIN AND NAOMI TITE

## SA must dig deeper for a solution to illegal mining

FOR organised crime groups, illegal mining is a lucrative enterprise. In South Africa it's often linked to human smuggling and trafficking, illegal weapons and explosives, tax evasion, money laundering, corruption and gang-related activities.

At this year's Mining Indaba, South Africa's Minister of Mineral Resources Gwede Mantashe and Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Ado both deplored the threat of illegal mining in their respective countries, but differed on how to address the problem. While Mantashe preferred legalising illicit mining by issuing licences, Akufo-Ado advocated banning artisanal and small-scale mining for a limited period.

Akufo-Ado noted how a two-year ban had previously helped curb illegal mining, and heavily polluted rivers had 'showed signs of being restored to health.' In addition to the ban, small-scale miners were being trained in responsible mining, while alternative livelihood resources were provided to others.

In 2017, Ghana commissioned a 400-member contingent to combat illegal mining, and introduced a two-year ban in the most affected regions of the country. By the time the ban was lifted in December 2018, it was reported that around 1 687 illegal miners had been arrested.

However the government was criticised for having an excessively heavy-handed approach towards both illegal and small-scale miners. Soldiers were reportedly involved in extortion. Most of those arrested were miners and those who bought the gold from them. Other key players in the criminal network – those who launder or export the illegal gold – were left untouched and returned to their operations once the ban was lifted.

Illegal mining costs South Africa's economy around R21 billion annually. Other risks are the temporary closure of commercial mines, illegal miners who are trapped underground, and the death of or injuries to illegal miners. The increasing prevalence of violence



between competing, heavily armed syndicates is another area of concern.

In the long term, government's focus is on legalising the status of illicit miners.

To tackle issues on the ground, a multi-agency National Coordination and Strategic Management Team was established in June 2010. Mantashe told the Mining Indaba that the increase in permit applications by small-scale miners was a sign of the team's success. Despite government efforts though, illegal mining – especially of gold – is a growing threat, as recent research on Zama Zamas by the ENACT project showed.

Legalising illicit mining is often a preferred option. It promotes the goals of the African Mining Vision's action plan which was adopted by African heads of state in 2009. These include creating a 'mining sector that harnesses the po-

**Poverty propels most illegal miners into the industry, but ruthless criminal syndicates are equally responsible. File photo**

tential of artisanal and small-scale mining to advance integrated and sustainable rural socio-economic development.'

However legalisation comes with its own challenges. Although most illegal miners are propelled into the field by socio-economic circumstances, there is also a need to understand the criminal syndicates involved. These networks often use any means necessary to extract as much gold as possible.

A former section commander in the South African Police Service's Explosives Unit, talking on condition of anonymity, explained that 'the majority of these guys [illegal miners] are criminals and they would not think twice to shoot police and escape the rule of law.'

In this instance, illegal mining is motivated by profit and those involved will do anything to escape punishment. Legalising the activity is unlikely to reduce the threat. As the police officer emphasised, this would be tantamount to 'legitimising crime at the cost of the rule of law.'

The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (20 of 2002) aims to regulate artisanal mining, but has had limited impact on illegal mining. A critical problem is that illegal mining is not clearly defined in the legislation.

The police's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation notes gaps in the law relating to the transportation and/or possession of precious metals and diamonds

in transit areas. Illegal miners who are caught can be charged only with trespassing, and receive fines as low as R50. The National Coordination and Strategic Management Team has been tackling this problem.

It aims to ensure that illegal miners and syndicate members can be prosecuted on more serious charges under the Prevention of Organised Crime Act.

Because illegal mining is connected to other forms of organised crime, syndicate members must be the focus for law enforcement.

Most efforts currently target the miners, who are easily replaced if they are arrested.

Illegal miners sell gold to buyers who often live in the surrounding

area. Ciaran Ryan, a mining expert, suggests that a way to deal with these buyers is to introduce them into the formal economy by making them licensed gold dealers. In this way, they would be liable to pay tax on the gold and precious metals.

Syndicate leaders are of course more difficult to apprehend. To reach them, inter-agency collaboration is needed between law enforcement, the mining industry, the Department of Mineral Resources and immigration. All these stakeholders need to show commitment and practical action to address the range of problems posed by illegal mining in South Africa.

ISS

## Low-income countries pay over 20 times more for generic drugs

UNITED NATIONS

A recently-released report by the Washington-based Center for Global Development (CGD) shows that generic drugs, like omeprazole (used to treat heartburn), can cost 20-30 times more in low and middle-income countries than in high-income countries.

Rachel Silverman, a researcher with CGD who worked on the report, told IPS that "There is a lack of competition at the country level, even for basic, off-patent generic medicines. One firm can sometimes control 85% or more of the market share for specific drugs or therapy classes in some countries."

The report also points out that low and middle-income countries purchase more expensive branded medicine. Often, these unbranded drugs are not as trusted to be real.

There are laws to regulate unbranded medicine and ensure its quality, but Janeen Madan-Keller, a researcher at CGD, alongside Silverman, told IPS that it's more an issue of a lack in enforcement.

"There are typically laws on the book about the quality of medicines...but regulatory agencies in many countries are ill-equipped and under-resourced to effectively enforce quality standards," said Madan-Keller.

Silverman points to the private sector and calls upon them to ensure quality control. "Pharmaceutical companies have an ethical responsibility to ensure that their products are safe and effective," said Silverman.

But for Silverman, the problem is bigger than the private sector alone can handle.

"Health product markets are extremely susceptible to market failure—from asymmetric information, barriers to entry, and forms of anticompetitive behavior, among other issues," Silverman said.

Silverman and Madan-Keller think the solution lies in a combination of an expansion of programs already in place and the introduction of resources from institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) already aims to counteract some of the problems addressed in the report through the Collaborative Registration Procedure (CRP).

According to the WHO, the measure aims to accelerate the registration of finished pharmaceutical products (FPPs) thus "ensur[ing] that much-needed medicines reach patients more quickly."

But the CGD report sees this program as only being a step in the right direction. The report explicitly calls for a "reform [of] WHO guidance and policy to support modern and agile procurement policy and practice."

Silverman believes that an expansion of the CRP by the WHO would be "a global fix to the problem of burdensome country-by-country registration processes that impede market entry and competition."

Asked for a comment, Fadela Chaib, of WHO told IPS, "We have not seen the report so we cannot comment at this stage."

### Financing of Health Products

The report also analyzed the different forms of funding for health products across countries. The three forms considered in the report are donor financing, the private sector, and government funding.

Donor financing takes first place in the level of funding for health products provided in low-income countries.

But donor financing contains both good and bad elements. It has been beneficial in providing a reduction in cases of HIV and malaria, but the large-scale politics behind donor financing has had some ill-effects.



"In countries like the US and UK, domestic politics drives a lot of uncertainty about the level of aid year-to-year," says Silverman.

She worries that this uncertainty "trickles down to the recipients of donor-based medicine, limiting their capacity for accurate medium- to long-term planning."

Silverman points to the concentration of purchasing power in only a few hands as another potential problem of donor financing.

It can lead to a lack in access to

necessary supplies that can have detrimental effects, sometimes leading to deliver delays of life-saving medicines.

This is a potential shortcoming of a method called pooled purchasing, which combines several small buyers into one larger entity (giving it more power) which then purchases things, like medicines, on behalf of those small buyers.

But the researchers at Toulouse School of Economics and CGD think that, when done well, pooled purchasing can be benefi-

cial because it drives down costs.

With small buyers making small purchases, Silverman says "This can introduce large transaction costs, that are typically passed down to the consumers; it also reduces purchaser negotiating power to secure better prices."

The report argues that at a national level, pooled purchasing would be able to reduce drug prices by up to 50-75 percent because small buyers can have more purchasing power, which in turn drives down the prices of health

products.

While in low-income countries, donor financing accounts for half of procured health products, in higher income countries, there is a stronger reliance on government procured products.

The transition between donor financing and government procured health products can be rocky, with middle-income countries often seeing limited financing from donors or the government.

Silverman says that in these countries, "Most families turn to the private sector where the quality of medicines can be unreliable and prices can be very high—and they often pay out of pocket."

In low-middle-income countries, the private sector procures around 80% of all health products.

"This is sometimes called the 'missing middle' problem; countries are 'too wealthy' to receive substantial donor resources, but they have not yet built robust universal health coverage systems to provide health services and financial risk protection to their citizens," Silverman says.

The transitions countries go through levels of funding that could be smoothed over if donor financing was not cut off as soon as a country has enough income. The researchers at CGD believe that there should be continued support for low-middle-income countries, even after government funding increases.

Finding this balance of funding during transition periods and the expansion of protections for those in need of life-saving medicines is now left open to the global health community, and to UN agencies like the WHO.

IPS



## INNOVATION

# UK digital firm brings Wefarm platform right to local farmers

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

A digital platform providing peer to peer farmers consultation backed by expert advice introduced in the country last April is proving popular with over 60,000 regular subscribers so far.

Wefarm's General Manager for Tanzania, Nicholous John and Field Head, Cyrilla Anton said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the platform which is product of UK based start-up, Wefarm Limited, is rapidly becoming popular in Mbeya and Songwe regions where the pilot phase took place.

"Farmers can communicate and share knowledge about problems that they face among each other through

feature handsets," John said noting the service which also involves the government's extension officers, is completely free of charge.

He said the platform which was first introduced in Kenya in 2016 before proceeding to Uganda in 2017, has proved popular in the region with over two million subscribers in the two countries. "We simply provide a platform where farmers can ask each other pertinent questions facing them and get responses through text messaging," the Wefarm Tanzania General Manager added.

He further revealed that the platform will officially launch in the country this Friday when the company will now expand its services throughout the country. "Through our field ambassadors,

media especially community radios, we hope to recruit between 300,000 and 350,000 farmers by the end of this year," John stated.

In her remarks to back the Wefarm Tanzania chief's comments, Anton said the farmers who are subscribed to Airtel, Tigo and Vodacom can access the platform currently as plans are underway to accommodate other network customers.

"Halotel subscribers will soon come aboard because the process to incorporate the network is in final

stages," Anton stated while pointing out that through the platform the farmers also meet supplies of agro-inputs and other products.

She said through Wefarm's market place which is already in operation in Kenya and Uganda, supplies who constitute brand product manufacturers get to know where demand for their product is and arrange bulky supply mechanisms which help them cut distribution costs.

"This service will launch in Tanzania sometimes

next year to allow farmers get used and trust the platform first," the Tanzania Field Head noted. Commercial suppliers of goods and services pay a commission that ensures that Wefarm sustains its into the foreseeable future.

Originated in UK, Wefarm is already the world's largest farmer-to-farmer digital network, with more than two million farmers using it in Kenya and Uganda who share more than 40,000 questions and answers every day.



Wefarm founder and CEO Kenny Ewan

## EXTREME

# CEOs of tax-evading firms face travel ban in Kenya

NAIROBI

CEOs and other top managers of tax-evading companies could soon be barred from flying out of the country if the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) gets new powers proposed in the Finance Bill 2019.

Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich has proposed amendments to section 45 of the Tax Procedures Act, 2015, to include all "tax representatives" of an organisation, effectively expanding the list of company officials against whom KRA can issue departure prohibition orders (DPO) until outstanding tax is paid in full or arrangements for payment are made.

A circular sent by the taxman to all its employees says the "tax representatives" of a company will include the CEO, managing director, company secretary, treasurer, trustee, resident director or similar officer of the company acting or purporting to act in such position.

"The proposed amendment enhances the effectiveness of the DPO -- It will ensure that tax representatives of companies whose controlling members are not resident in Kenya do not evade their responsibilities of ensuring that taxes from the companies are accounted for," says KRA in the circular.



Kenya's Treasury Secretary, Henry Rotich.

If passed into law by Parliament, the changes will expand KRA's scope in going after officials of companies being investigated for tax evasion, increasing their success rate in tax recoveries. Audit and advisory firm PKF East Africa says the proposed change will mean that all senior managers of companies lose indemnity and will now be held responsible for tax liabilities of the firms that they lead.

"This poses risk to the tax representatives and is aimed at creating responsibility for

tax compliance across the senior leadership of corporations," says PKF in its post-Budget review. KRA currently has powers to issue departure prohibition orders only when they have reasonable grounds to believe that a person may leave Kenya without paying tax due under their name or in a company in which they have a controlling stake.

Some of those who have felt the force of the KRA's travel bans over tax disputes include Motor dealer Foton East Africa's managing Di-

rector Da Li and Libya Oil Kenya general manager Duncan Murashiki.

The new proposal will now see KRA cast the net wider as it seeks to not only bring more people into the tax net but also ensure higher tax compliance among the firms and individuals already captured in its records.

PKF director James Mulili said the new law could result in instances where the entire senior managers of companies have their travel documents, such as passports, seized so that they remain in Kenya to answer to any tax improprieties.

"Before, the Companies Act placed responsibility on certain company directors when it comes to corporate responsibility," said Mr Mulili. Mr Rotich has also proposed a penalty of Sh2 million or two-year imprisonment or both as a general penalty for tax non-compliance. This, KRA says, will ensure there are no offences under the Act or Regulations that has no penalties.

Ernst & Young tax partner Christopher Kirathe said KRA may have had difficulties in nailing down appointed representatives of tax-paying firms when controlling travel. "If there is an imminent risk that would lead to loss of tax, the representative will now be caught. The law as it is now has a loophole and

does not catch the representative and maybe company owners have been exploiting this to evade tax," said Mr Kirathe.

KRA has come under increasing pressure to raise more taxes for the ever-expanding national Budget as well as debt obligations. In the financial year running from July 2019 to June next year, the Treasury has set a target for KRA to collect Sh1.8 trillion in taxes to fund the Sh3.1 trillion Budget that was presented in Parliament mid this month.

The statement of Actual Revenues and Net Exchequer Issues published last Friday shows the taxman collected Sh1.289 trillion in taxes by the end of last month. This leaves a Sh315 billion hole in the government's Budget given that the Treasury's revised target for 2018/2019 financial year was Sh1.605 trillion. KRA had been given an initial target of Sh1.69 trillion before this was revised downwards.

The taxman says that it will also benefit from the proposal to add registration of mobile money paybill and till numbers as well as registration of membership by professional bodies to the list of transactions that will require tax PINs. This, it says, will give it access to data on active professionals and other self-employed taxpayers to ensure tax compliance.

## RESTORATION

# Zim dollar returns, a decade after it became worthless

HARARE

ZIMBABWE has brought back its own currency, the Zimbabwe dollar, just over a decade after its usefulness was destroyed by hyperinflation.

In regulations published Monday by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe the country said that currencies including the US dollar and the South African rand, in use since 2009, will no longer be accepted as legal tender. A local quasi currency, bond notes, that was introduced in 2016 but can't trade outside the country, and their electronic equivalent, the RTGS dollar, will now be known as the Zimbabwe dollar.

Zimbabwe abandoned the Zimbabwe dollar after inflation reached an estimated 500 billion percent in 2008, according to the International Monetary Fund. While the country has since used a basket of currencies from the continent and abroad as well as bond notes and the RTGS, some government departments and agencies have until recently demanded payment in the greenback.

The central bank made it clear in its announcement that money held in foreign-currency accounts will not be affected, but the step will be greeted with alarm and memories

of the lives wrecked and pensions and savings lost in 2008. Recollections of what effectively became a barter economy in a country where a suitcase full of bank notes was needed to purchase a pair of jeans will be hard to erase.

"Any attempt by the officials to bring a new currency would require confidence," said Jee-A van der Linde, an economist at NKC African Economics in Paarl, South Africa. "People aren't sure that there's something backing the currency.

There's no way that something like this will be maintained. People will not trust the currency. It will promote more off-market activity even more if that's possible."

Zimbabwe's official currency trades at a discount on the street. In February the central bank introduced the RTGS and said it and bond notes would no longer be pegged to the US currency. This precipitated a rapid depreciation in both the newly introduced interbank rate and the black-market value. Inflation, at 97.9%, is now at its highest since at least 2008.

This "will worsen the situation," said Christopher Mugaga, the chief executive officer of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce. Companies "with real dollars will simply go underground," he said.



A Zimbabwe citizen brandishes worthless Zim Dollar bills before being banned in 2008.



## SUGGESTION

# Pilots want Treasury to allow TAA, TCAA return 30pc of revenue for training

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Treasury should allow the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) and Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) return up to 30 percent of their annual collections to invest in training of aviation personnel such as pilots and engineers.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the ongoing 2nd National Civil Aviation Forum, Tanzania Pilots Association Secretary General, Captain Khalil Iqbal said the country is facing serious shortage of aviation personnel while the industry is growing rapidly thanks to President John Magufuli's revival of state carrier, Air Tanzania Company Limited.

Capt Iqbal said if this year's theme of 'Taking civil aviation industry in Tanzania to the apex' is to be realized, TAA and TCAA should be allowed to return between 25 and 30 percent of their annual revenue collection instead of remitting 100 percent to Treasury.

"It is important that the government allow TAA and TCAA invest in training of personnel because its expensive to training people like pilots and aviation engineers," Capt Iqbal argued saying the two regulatory bodies collect large sums of money annually which is remitted to Treasury.

He further advised that the government should also put in place regulations that encourage financial institutions to lend or sponsor students who pursue such disciplines as a matter of urgency because civil aviation is be-



Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe

coming an important aspect in the lives of Tanzanians.

"By putting in place a conducive environment to allow poor parents afford to send their children to expensive aviation colleges, the government will play its role in ensuring that the local aviation industry has enough qualified pilots and engineers," the TAPA chief executive argued.

He warned that shortage of commercial aviation pilots and engineers is impacting heavily on the aviation industry because many qualified personnel are retiring while those still in services also need brush up training to meet modern needs.

Speaking at the forum, Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Isack Kamwelwe promised that the government will work on the proposal being floated by experts while ordering TAA and TCAA

to convene similar meetings in various zones of the country to get such constructive views.

"You must go out and organize such for a with tour operators, tax drivers and hotel staffs to discuss various issues relating to aviation industry, the main challenges they have and how both institutions can help Tanzania become a middle-income country," Engineer Kamwelwe ordered.

He suggested that such meetings should be held in main zonal cities of Arusha, Moshi, Mbeya and Mwanza and others to listen to what stakeholders have to say in improving the aviation industry. "As Tanzania is striving to become a semi-industrialized middle income country by 2025, you should ensure that you involve people with different backgrounds to contribute their views," Eng Kam-

welwe stated.

Deputy Rector of National Institute of Transport (NIT), Dr Prosper Mgaya said while training pilots and aviation engineers alone is not enough, the institute wants private companies and government agencies allow them obtain field attachment to get practical experience.

Dr Mgaya urged aviation companies that have planes to collaborate with training institutions to allow students pursuing aviation course to get field experience needed to get employed in the commercial aviation industry.

"Also when you employ our students please give us feedback on their performance so that we can understand what the market need in real time," he advised noting that NIT also needs to regularly update its training manuals in line with advances in technology.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa greeting NMB Bank Plc Southern Zone Manager Janeth Shango and other zonal managers who visited the Natona Assembly in Dodoma earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NMB Bank.

## INVESTMENT

## Mena Fintech Association hatches plan for expansion in wake of launch in Abu Dhabi

DUBAI

A not-for-profit group, set up to represent the growing number of FinTech firms in the Middle East and North Africa, plans to expand its operations in the region with dedicated government lobby teams and a global talent exchange programme, among other initiatives, after launching in Abu Dhabi this week.

"We are focusing on what elements make up a complete FinTech ecosystem in the region, and what makes that conducive to growth," Nameer Khan, chairman and founding board member of Mena Fintech Association, told The National.

Some of those elements are an understanding of relevant laws and regulations among FinTech players, a diverse talent pool and connections with parties such as financial institutions, central banks, governments, law firms and educational bodies, he said.

The association this week struck deals aimed at broadening its activities and building global partnerships to attract FinTech investment to Mena.

It signed alliances with German development finance bank Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Giz) to explore how FinTech can boost financial inclusion, and with the American University in Dubai to help improve FinTech-related skills and education.

It also signed a partnership with Anghami, the Arab music streaming service, to launch a Fin-

Tech podcast available to Anghami's 50 million-plus subscribers in Mena.

FinTech, or financial technology, is disrupting traditional financial services through the deployment of advanced technology to speed up transactions, cut costs and better serve customers at all times of day no matter where they are. Banks and others are looking to collaborate with FinTech operators to 'future-proof' their businesses, or risk becoming obsolete as tech-enabled rivals provide cheaper, faster services.

Arabian Gulf financial centres - including free zone Abu Dhabi Global Market, where Mena Fintech Association is registered - have responded by launching accelerator programmes to stimulate growth of FinTech start-ups, and by enacting regulatory frameworks to govern the fast-growing sector.

The FinTech sector in the Middle East and Africa is forecast to make up 8 per cent of financial services revenue by 2022, driven by customer demand and increased investment, according to a report last November by US technology company Accenture in partnership with Dubai accelerator FinTech Hive.

"As the FinTech ecosystem in the region grows, the community needs to collaborate more closely for a common effective voice to interact with the likes of regulators, policy makers and institutions," said Richard Teng, chief executive of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of ADGM, in a statement on Monday.

## EXPANSION

# afriQloud cloud service launches in Uganda

KAMPALA

PAN-AFRICAN connectivity provider, BringCom, in partnership with science and technology investor, Imprimatur Capital, and European edge cloud software company, GIG Technology, have together introduced afriQloud to provide the African technology industry with cloud sovereignty.

afriQloud has been launched in Uganda and will provide local and international customers with "an innovative and secure distributed edge cloud service."

Hans van Linschoten, founding partner of Imprimatur Capital Africa and chief executive officer of afriQloud said: "We see significant potential in the growing African cloud market where an estimated \$2 billion is being spent in cloud this year, and we're excited to bring this service to the continent. By the

end of 2019 we will complement the few developed markets clouds with a powerful and local distributed cloud in at least 15 countries. This ensures data sovereignty for institutions and governments within Africa's shores."

According to afriQloud, most of Africa's content on the internet is currently hosted on servers outside the continent. "Implementation of edge cloud computing services in Africa has been adversely affected by lack of reliable and secure connectivity from various service providers. The cost of setting up ICT infrastructure with improved data latency and minimised downtime has also contributed to the slow adoption of cloud solution across the continent," the company stated.

Mark Simmonds, Chairman of GIG Technology added: "Although cloud adoption is predominantly

private, the African markets are generating a growth of 30% in public cloud sales. Few other ICT market segments in the African tech ecosystem have the potential of adding an incremental \$2 billion in top line revenue over the next 5 years." The Sub-Saharan Africa region is showing signs of increased maturity and responsiveness towards cloud adoption, according to Grant Bennett, Country Manager for SUSE South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. And this presents service and support providers in Africa with a clear opportunity.

Bennett said based on research the company conducted a few months ago, only about 11% of respondents said they either didn't have a cloud strategy in place or had no idea what their management strategy was.

"About 76% of the market is saying they have a

cloud strategy and it's actually active (in terms of) where they are going to take the business forward. They've realised there is certainly a value around that ... I think it's up to the partners, SAP and ourselves, to show them how to derive that value."

Fabrice Langreny, chief executive officer of BringCom, said, "Opening up of the global market will require African companies and organisations to be equally competitive in deployment of e-solutions, scalability, secure data accessibility and connectivity in line with international standards."

Willem Hendrickx, CEO of GIG Technology: "We believe in partnerships and the creation of local economy using our cloud technology. Having assessed the cloud readiness of different African markets, we are thrilled to launch in Kampala."

Van Linschoten continues: "We have hit the ground

and we intend to keep up the pace. This service in Africa is long overdue. In a few months, we will expand our service in East Africa - Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia will be afriQloud active very soon. We are working through channels in Southern Africa as well - Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique are our next target markets. And of course the West African region is good and ripe for the plucking. Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Cameroon - we'll be present in all these countries this year! We're very much looking forward to working with tech start-ups, MNOS, ISPs, government institutions, banks and financial institutions, universities - there is much to be done, and the time to begin is now." afriQloud also aims to have the Edge Cloud installed in cities and tech hub ecosystems which hosts a high number of start-ups and developers.



A visual illustration of afriQloud CEO, Hans van Linschoten.

## SUCCESS

## Vodafone Egypt secures lucrative healthcare platform contract

CAIRO

VODAFONE Egypt has secured a contract valued at 2.3-billion Egyptian pounds to develop a digital platform to support the country's new primary healthcare system.

The new system is understood to be based on the UK's NHS and Vodafone Egypt will leverage support from the UK Department of International Trade.

Liam Fox, Britain's Secretary of State for International Trade said, "That's why we've stood by Vodafone as it sought and secured this contract

which, as part of the Egyptian government's reforms, will help revolutionise healthcare for people here - it is the beginning of an Egyptian NHS for the Egyptian people."

Vodafone will also work with DXC Technology, which already provides IT infrastructure services across the NHS supply chain, to develop the digital platform.

The platform will be piloted in Port Said before being introduced in four other governorates, then across Egypt. Vodafone has 40 million subscribers in Egypt.

The company was recently issued a fine of €528,000 by the country's National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NITRA) for interruption of telecoms services on the network for several hours across different areas.

Vodafone Egypt attempted to compensate subscribers with minutes and provided additional megabytes for the interruption, but it was not enough to avoid the regulator's sanction. "The decision to fine was in accordance with the articles of the license granted to the company by the Egyptian authorities," NITRA stated.







## WORLD

## 'US sanctions on Khamenei mean end of diplomacy'

TEHRAN

IRAN yesterday slammed the Trump administration over new US sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and other top officials, with the Foreign Ministry saying the measures spell "permanent closure" of diplomacy between Tehran and Washington.

President Donald Trump enacted the new sanctions on Monday against Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates. US officials also said they plan sanctions against Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency on Tuesday quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying that Trump's move means the end of diplomacy between the two countries.

"The fruitless sanctions on Iran's leadership and the chief of Iranian diplomacy mean the permanent closure of the road of diplomacy with the frustrated US administration," Mousavi said.

The new action is "imposing hard-hitting sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the office of the Supreme Leader of Iran and many others," Trump said.

He alleged that the supreme leader "ultimately is responsible for the hostile conduct of the regime."

The Ayatollah is Iran's utmost authority who has the last say on all state matters.

The sanctions imposed by the order will deny Iran's leadership access to financial resources, blocking them from using the US financial system or accessing any assets in the US.

Washington said it would also impose sanctions on Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif later this week.

"Trump's desperate administration is destroying the established international mechanisms for maintaining world peace and security," Mousavi tweeted, reports Reuters.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin revealed in a press conference that the new executive order will freeze billions of additional dollars in Iranian assets.

Mnuchin also said Trump has instructed him to designate Zarif "later this week."

The newly signed executive order has allowed Mnuchin to impose sanctions on officials appointed to their position by the Iran's supreme leader.

Trump said Monday's move came after "a series of aggressive behaviors by the Iranian regime in recent weeks" including shooting down a US drone, which he described as "not good and not appropriate."

Iran said the US drone was fly-



US President Donald Trump holds up a signed executive order to increase sanctions on Iran, in the Oval Office of the White House, on Tuesday, in Washington. Trump is accompanied by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, left, and Vice President Mike Pence. (AP)

ing over southern Iran. Washington said it was downed in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf.

Also on Monday, US Treasury announced that it has blacklisted eight senior commanders of Navy, Aerospace, and Ground Forces of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), citing their supervision over the IRGC's "malicious regional activities."

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of those individuals that are in the US or in the possession or control of US persons must be blocked, said the Treasury in a statement.

While intensifying the economic pressure on Iran, Trump avoided further stoking the already tense military tension in the region.

"We do not seek conflict with Iran or any other country," he said on Monday, adding that he looks forward to "discussing whatever I have to discuss with anybody that wants to speak."

Zarif, in response to the US new sanctions, said in a tweet that the hawkish senior US officials close to Trump "despise diplomacy, and thirst for war."

Iranian ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi, meanwhile, told reporters in New York that Iran would not accept talks with the United States while it is under the threat of sanctions.

Tensions remain high in the region over Iran's downing of a US military drone last week and Trump's decision to abort imminent military strikes against Iran in retaliation.

Over the past month, Washington has beefed up its military forces in the Middle East, which Iran described as a disturbing element.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that military intervention of the US in the region has caused problems for the nations, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Ties between the US and Iran have deteriorated significantly after Washington walked away from the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and reimposed energy and financial sanctions, which had been removed under the deal, on Iran.

Iran has suspended parts of its commitments subject to the nuclear deal and has threatened to go further.

Agencies

## Parliament ready to support no-deal Brexit, Johnson says

By Bloomberg

BORIS Johnson said he believed the British Parliament would now support a no-deal Brexit, even as senior figures in his Conservative Party warned they had the numbers to stop him if he tried to push one through.

Johnson, a former foreign secretary, and the favorite to succeed Theresa May as prime minister, used a BBC interview to argue that the drubbings that both his Conservative Party and opposition Labour Party received in the European elections had left members of Parliament determined to get Brexit done.

"I think Parliament now understands that the British people want us to come out," Johnson said. "And I think that MPs on both sides of the House also understand that they will face moral retribution from the electorate unless we get on and do it."

Johnson, who has been criticized for shunning media interviews and debates, will give another interview on Tuesday on LBC radio at 9:30 am. His rival Jeremy Hunt called him a coward on Monday for avoiding scrutiny.

Johnson said his Brexit strategy is to use the threat of no-deal to persuade the European Union to remove the controversial Irish border backstop from the Withdrawal Agreement that May negotiated. Crucial to that is convincing the EU, which has said it won't move on either of these points, that Britain is serious about a no-deal.

## Strategy divide

Johnson's problem is that many MPs believe a no-deal Brexit can be stopped. Defence Minister Tobias Ellwood told the BBC that he was certain those who oppose a no-deal Brexit had the numbers. "I think a dozen or so members



of Parliament would be on our side, would be voting against supporting a no deal, and that would include ministers as well as backbenchers," he said.

Speaking on BBC Radio yesterday, Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd said Ellwood's estimate was "about right -- I think it's slightly less than that."

On Monday, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke went further, saying he'd be willing to vote against the government in a confidence vote if that was neces-

sary to stop a no-deal Brexit.

And while Johnson is right that the EU elections are leading Labour to shift its position, it might not be in the direction that he's counting on. Earlier Monday, the party's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, signaled another move toward a full commitment to a second referendum, twice telling May it was the best course.

Although a handful of Labour MPs have been willing to rebel against their party line to back May's Brexit deal, they say persuading them to back a no-deal departure would be harder, especially if the salesman were Johnson.

## Tax cuts

The focus of Johnson's campaign is Brexit, but he's also made promises to cut taxes. A report on Tuesday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies said his proposals to raise tax thresholds would cost 20 bil-

lion pounds a year (US\$25 billion), and benefit higher earners most.

After a weekend of difficult headlines about his private life after police were called to his partner's London apartment early Friday morning, Johnson said he would never discuss his private life. He left his second wife last year, and has a long history of extra-marital affairs.

Johnson said his plan for his first day in office if he became prime minister would be to "make sure that we have a plan that will convince our European friends and partners that we are absolutely serious about coming out."

He has built his campaign around a commitment to get Britain out of the EU by Oct. 31, but in his limited public appearances, he has wobbled on the firmness of that pledge. Indeed, some of his supporters have left his office convinced he won't go for a no-deal Brexit.

Agencies

## Kremlin says PACE's decision on Russia does not indicate shift in attitude towards Crimea

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin does not regard the decision made by the Parliamentary Assembly of Europe to let Russia's delegation take part in the June session of the Assembly as a sign the European countries have been changing their attitude to Crimea's reunification with Russia, presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said when asked if the PACE resolution permitting the Russian delegation to take part in the June session indicated the European countries were beginning to recognise Crimea's reunification with Russia.

"It is hardly possible to say that the prevailing point of view has changed. But in this particular case we are determined to stay patient and to systematically explain the Crimean issue until our foreign partners change their mind," Peskov (pictured) said.

He pointed out that European officials were beginning to express different points of view on this score. He also recalled that "Crimea is an integral part of Russia and its constituent territory and that no Crimea-related issues were a subject for discussion with any country."

On Monday, PACE adopted a resolution allowing Russia to participate in the assembly's session in June. The decision was passed by a 118-majority vote with 62 nays and 10 abstentions. Later, on June 25 the participants in the PACE's summer session challenged Russia's powers in the organization. Now, in accordance with the organization's rules a report on restricting powers will be drafted and put to the vote on June 26.

PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier said the delegation whose powers were in question was free to participate in the organization's activities but was unable to vote on its issue.

The Russian delegation in April 2014 was stripped of its right to vote, participate in observer missions and hold seats on PACE leadership bodies due to the events in Ukraine and Crimea's reunification with Russia.

In 2015, PACE twice considered the idea of restoring the Russian delegation's rights only to tighten sanctions in the end. In response Russia refused to participate in PACE activities on such conditions and in 2016-2018 refrained from applying for confirmation of its powers.

Agencies

## Zimbabwean traders try to grasp implications of ending foreign currencies

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN traders were trying to grasp the implications of a new law gazetted on Monday outlawing the use of foreign currencies.

Some of the streets in the central business district, which are usually full of money changers, were generally quiet up to mid-day as many traders stayed away.

Those who opted to come reported the slight fall of the exchange rate to as low as 1 US dollar to 9.00 RTGS dollars from a high of 1 US dollar to 11.30 RTGS dollars at the weekend.

A trader in First Street Mall said not many people were selling, and not many people were buying either, as they sought to establish the meaning of the Statutory Instrument gazette by finance minister Mthuli Ncube on Monday.

"The announcement that was made yesterday (Monday) has really upset things. We don't know what is happening and many traders have not yet been given the going rate of the day by their handlers. So they are staying away until the dust settles," said the trader.

Retailers under the banner of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Retailers (CZR) welcomed the government pronouncement, adding that they also supported measures taken by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) to stabilize the interbank foreign currency market.

"The dilemma was exacerbated by the demand for US dollars for domestic transactions even for goods ordinarily manufactured in Zimbabwe yet about 96 percent of the workforce earn their wages and salaries in local currency," said CZR president Denford Mutashu in a statement yesterday. "Many had to offload the RTGS dollars or bond notes as soon as they laid their hands on it," he said.

He said the country had to move on and embrace its own currency and have independence in monetary policy formulation and implementation with the RBZ playing the lender of last resort role in sync with the ongoing fiscal policy reforms.

Retailers and wholesalers are urged to change over forthwith and immediately abandon selling goods and services in US dollars or any foreign currency as it has been outlawed. Non-compliance will attract unnecessary and unwanted attention to one's brand by authorities, he warned.

Xinhua

## No-confidence motion submitted against Japanese PM Abe's Cabinet

TOKYO

FOUR Japanese opposition parties and a group jointly submitted a no-confidence motion against the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the Lower House yesterday.

The leaders of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), the Democratic Party for the People, the Japanese Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Reviewing Group on Social Security Policy met yester-

day morning.

They agreed to introduce the motion to clarify their aim to remove Abe's Cabinet from power, saying the Cabinet continues to "deceive the public on domestic and foreign affairs, and is jeopardizing people's lives and security." CDP leader Yukio Edano said they all agreed on the move to demonstrate their opposition to the Abe administration.

The ruling camp is expected to vote down the motion in the chamber's plenary session in the



afternoon.

Acting secretary-general of the main governing Liberal Democratic Party Koichi Hagiuda said the ruling camp deeply appreciates the Cabinet's efforts, adding that the Cabinet does not deserve to be censured and ousted, and the ruling coalition will reject the motion.

The political battle is heating up one day before the ordinary session is set to end on Wednesday. Japan's public broadcaster NHK's latest opinion poll shows that the

approval rating of Abe's Cabinet is 42 percent, down 6 points from two weeks earlier. The disapproval rating is 34 percent, up 2 points.

The poll comes ahead of an Upper House election expected to take place in July. When asked about the outcome of the upcoming election, 21 percent of the respondents hope for an increase in the number of the ruling parties' seats; 30 percent hope the opposition parties advance; and 44 percent said neither.

Xinhua

## Equal-footed dialogue is the only way for win-win cooperation

By Wu Yuehe

WHAT does Washington's imposition on \$300 billion worth of more imported Chinese goods mean to the American people?

The possible price hikes of consumer goods, such as mobile phones, laptops, clothing, footwear, toys and gaming equipment will make American enterprises and consumers feel worried because their days will be different.

On June 17, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) kicked

off a seven-day hearing, seemingly respecting public opinion. Such hearings have been held several times since the U.S. provoked the trade dispute with China.

However, it seems that tariffs will still be the trend, though they may lead to an increase in commodity prices, impact employment and disrupt corporation supply chains, as stated by industry representatives in their speeches during the hearings and the letters of opposition submitted to the USTR before each hearing.

So far, Washington has slapped

25% tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods.

During this round of hearings, the USTR received more than 2,000 written comments and talked with about 300 company and industry representatives. Some research institutes even testified with analytical data.

Consulting firm Trade Partnership Worldwide, LLC, said in a report prepared for the U.S. Consumer Technology Association that if the new tariffs were imposed, American consumers would pay over \$8.1 billion more for cell phones and over \$8.2 billion more

for laptops and tablets.

China accounted for about 75 percent of the total cell phones and over 90 percent of the total laptops and tablets imported into the U.S., according to Trade Partnership Worldwide.

On any alternative location for production such as the U.S. and any alternative supplier, the American small business owners said earnestly that there is no other viable alternative. Some of them even cried worrying about what they are going to face.

Some large American enterprises have written letters to the govern-

ment, asking the latter to bring the tariffs to an end.

"We urge the U.S. government not to impose tariffs on these products," Apple Inc. said in a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

The company said it's responsible for 2 million jobs in the U.S. and reminded the government that it had pledged to invest \$350 billion in the American economy over five years.

The U.S. government's tariff increase will affect all its products, impact its global competitiveness, and reduce its U.S. economic contribution, Apple

said.

The painful truth is that American people are not the one to make decisions. The decision makers, however, disappointed them again and again.

"If there's a better idea than tariffs I'd like to hear it. I haven't heard it," Lighthizer told Senate Finance Committee at a congress hearing.

To justify the trade dispute they provoked, some American politicians said they did so to protect people's livelihood, but the truth is that they never paid attention to the interests of the American people. **People's Daily**



# Yemeni rebels blocking food for thousands - UN

CAIRO

YEMEN'S rebels last month turned back a World Food Program shipment meant to feed some 100,000 families in the war-torn nation that's been pushed to the brink of starvation, a spokesperson for the aid agency said yesterday.

The rejection of the shipment came as the WFP was in tense talks with the rebels, known as Houthis, who had blocked the agency's attempt to register millions of Yemenis in need of aid by using biometrics as a means of preventing food aid theft. The WFP has mainly blamed the rebels for stealing the food aid. The rejected shipment will also deprive thousands of families of badly needed aid.

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of the capital, Sanaa, by the Iranian-backed Houthis who drove out the internationally recognized government. Months later, in March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition launched its air campaign to prevent the rebels from overrunning the country's south.

In the relentless campaign, Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties and killed thousands of Yemeni civilians. The Houthis have used drones and missiles to attack Saudi Arabia and have targeted vessels in the Red Sea.

As the world's worst humanitarian disaster unfolded, aid agencies rushed



A man feeds children halas, a climbing vine of green leaves, in Aslam, Hajjah, Yemen. (File photo)

to help, risking getting caught in the middle between the warring parties.

Last week, the WFP partially suspended aid as talks with the Houthis went nowhere and after the agency accused the rebels of continuing to loot aid and using millions of dollars of international donations for their war economy.

The suspension affects 850,000 people in Sanaa, where the WFP says

the bulk of the looting takes place. WFP has been sending food aid worth 100,000 million dollars a month to Yemen.

The rebels, who control northern Yemen, responded with a fierce media campaign against the WFP, accusing it of sending spoiled food.

On Sunday, the Houthi-run news agency SABA quoted Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a high rebel official, as ac-

cusings the WFP of trying to cover up spoiled food and expired aid. Al-Houthi had been advocating for WFP cash donations in place of what he said was "corrupted food."

The WFP says some of the food held for long in areas controlled by the rebels had indeed gone bad.

The Associated Press obtained the copy of a letter from WFP chief in Yemen, Stephen Anderson, notifying the

Houthis on June 11 that the agency is in the process of getting rid of over 200,000 tons of expired flour held by the rebels at the Sanaa airport.

The letter said the WFP was planning to destroy the flour at a Sanaa dump.

Last month, the rebels ordered over 8,000 tons of flour sent by the WFP out of the Red Sea port of Hodeida, claiming it was contaminated with dead insects. A subsequent check on the cargo, now docked in Oman, showed it was clean, the WFP spokesperson added.

"WFP can't tolerate groundless rejection of essential humanitarian cargo when millions in Yemen face malnutrition and starvation," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the incidents.

The AP reported last December that armed factions on both sides of the conflict were stealing much-needed food aid, diverting it to their fighters or reselling it for profit. Some groups are blocking deliveries to communities they view as their enemies, the AP found.

Days before aid suspension, David Beasley, WFP executive director, told the U.N. Security Council that the agency in late 2018 uncovered "serious evidence that food was being diverted and going to the wrong people" in the capital of Sanaa and other Houthi-controlled areas.

Agencies

## Russian security chief slams attempts to put Iran on par with IS as inadmissible

JERUSALEM

RUSSIA strongly rejects all attempts of putting Iran on par with the Islamic State (a terrorist organization outlawed in Russia) and calls on the United States and Israel to show restraint and readiness for reciprocal steps, Secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev said yesterday.

Patrushev participated yesterday in trilateral talks in Israel's Jerusalem on the Syrian conflict settlement jointly with US National Security Advisor John Bolton and head of the Israeli National Security Council Meir Ben-Shabbat.

"In the context of the statements made by our partners with regard to a major regional power, namely Iran, I would like to say the following: Iran has always been and remains our ally and partner, with which we are consistently developing relations both on bilateral basis and within multilateral formats," Patrushev said after the trilateral meeting, which lasted for more than two and a half hours.

"This is why we believe that it is inadmissible to describe Iran as the major threat to the regional security and, moreover, to put it on par with the Islamic State or any other terrorist organization," Patrushev stated.

The head of the Russian Security Council stressed that Iran is a significant contributor to the fight against terrorism and the settlement of the conflict in Syria, including within the frames of the Astana format.

Agencies

## Rwanda receives five critically endangered black rhinos from Europe

KIGALI

FIVE critically endangered black rhinos from Europe safely landed in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, early Monday.

The rhinos will be released into Akagera National Park, in eastern Rwanda, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) said on a Twitter

post.

The move, facilitated by a collaboration among the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, the government of Rwanda, and African Parks, a non-governmental conservation organization, is the largest ever translocation of rhinos from Europe to Africa, a joint statement said last week.

A chartered cargo plane carrying the five rhinos touched down at Kigali International Airport early Sunday. Officials from the conservation department at RDB, and African Parks, which jointly manages Akagera National Park with the RDB, witnessed the arrival.

"The translocation of these rhinos to Rwanda is a big boost to

our tourism sector, which is our country's largest foreign exchange earner," Eugene Mutangana, head of the RDB conservation department, told Xinhua in a telephone interview. The rhinos will be closely monitored for months in bomas before they are released to the wild in Akagera National Park, Mutangana said.

The five rhinos, three female and two male, and between two and nine years old, came from Safari Park Dvur Kralove of the Czech Republic, Flamingo Land of the United Kingdom and Ree Park Safari of Denmark.

They have been gathered at Safari Park Dvur Kralove since November 2018 before departing for

Rwanda on Sunday.

Since 2010, Akagera National Park has undergone a revival, with poaching practically eliminated, allowing for key species to be reintroduced, including lions in 2015, which have since tripled in number, and rhinos in 2017, a decade after they were last seen in Rwanda.

Xinhua

## China, African countries vow to enhance cooperation

BEIJING

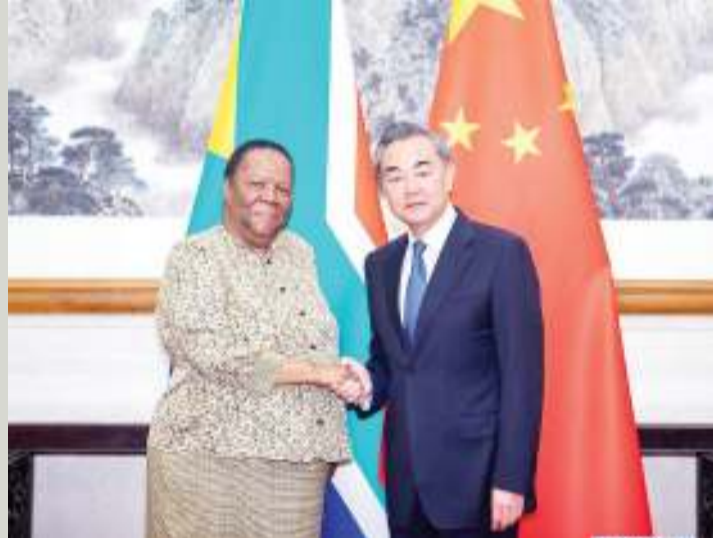
CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held respective meetings with foreign ministers from nine African countries on Monday, and they pledged efforts to strengthen cooperation and uphold multilateralism.

The foreign ministers are Naledi Pandor from South Africa, Palamagamba Kabudi from Tanzania, Ezechiel Nibigira from Burundi, Aurelien Agbenonci from Benin, Nhial Deng Nhial from South Sudan, Mamadou Tangara from Gambia, Joseph Malanji from Zambia, Luis Filipe Tavares from Cape Verde, and Gbehzohngar Findley from Liberia.

The African foreign ministers are in Beijing to attend the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on the China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with the aim of better implementing the outcomes of Beijing Summit in 2018.

While holding talks with Pandor, Wang hailed the solid mutual trust and deep-rooted traditional friendship between China and South Africa.

Wang said China and South Africa, both as major representatives of emerging markets and developing countries, should jointly safeguard the missions and principles of the United Nations Charter, champion multilateralism, uphold basic norms governing international relations, and oppose



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets with South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. (Xinhua)

any form of unilateralism and bullying, to promote world peace, development and prosperity.

Pandor said South Africa and the whole African continent, as China's partners for jointly resisting unilateralism and bullying practice, would stand together with China in safeguarding multilateralism and an open, inclusive global trade system.

In the meeting with Kabudi, Wang expressed China's readiness to work with Tanzania to keep high-level exchanges, and avail the opportunity of jointly building the Belt and Road and the Coordinators' Meeting to ensure better outcomes in bilateral cooperation.

Calling the Beijing Summit of the FOCAC a milestone, Kabudi said Tanzania is willing to facili-

tate cooperation in infrastructure construction, industrial capacity, and in cultural, educational sectors and other areas.

In respective meetings with Nibigira, Agbenonci, Nhial and Tangara, Wang said the current international situation is complex but China's determination to strengthen its solidarity and friendship with African countries remains unchanged.

Nibigira said Burundi agreed to work with Tanzania to support China on issues concerning the Belt and Road and the Coordinators' Meeting to ensure better outcomes in bilateral cooperation.

Agbenonci said multilateralism was now the only correct choice. Only through multilateralism can the voice of small and medium-

sized countries, especially African nations, be heard, he said.

Nhial said South Sudan thanked China for its help in various fields, especially its support and contributions to the peace process in South Sudan.

Tangara said since the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and Gambia, bilateral cooperation in various fields had developed fast, and Gambia can be trusted as a sincere partner of China.

When holding separate meetings with Malanji, Tavares and Findley, Wang said China would continue to uphold justice and pursue the shared principles of sincerity, results, affinity and good faith.

China's cooperation with Africa is sincere and selfless, and has no geopolitical purposes, said Wang, adding that China had always followed the principle of non-interference, provided aid as Africa needed, carried out South-South cooperation, and helped achieve common development.

He said China-Africa cooperation was conducive to Africa's infrastructure construction, economic and social benefits, and self-development.

"Africa offers a grand stage of cooperation between different countries, not an arena of major powers' game," said Wang, adding that "African friends will get a right conclusion on who truly attaches importance to, respect, and support Africa."

Xinhua

## COMESA to prioritise sanitary, phytosanitary investment to promote cross-border trade

NAIROBI

COMMON Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member states plan to prioritize sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) investment to promote cross-border trade.

Thierry Mutombo, director for investment, promotion and private sector development at COMESA, said almost 70 per cent of the reported non-tariff barriers in the region are constituted by technical standards and SPS measures.

"Investments in SPS capacity in COMESA are still very low both in the public and private sector, and most countries lack coherence in the establishment of SPS priorities and related investments," Mutombo (pictured) said during a high-level meeting on SPS capacity-building.

To fully exploit the existing trade and market access opportunities, the trading bloc must address constraints to cross-border trade, Mutombo said.

He said evidence from analytical work and studies points to a number of causes of SPS-related non-tariff barriers, which undermine trade, industry competitiveness and market access.

"These include varied SPS standards and regulatory frameworks across member states, absence of good regula-



tory practice and common risk-based approaches to underpin legislation and regulations and import conditions required to ensure predictable, legitimate, harmonized SPS frameworks," Mutombo said.

According to the trading bloc, COMESA countries face SPS-capacity challenges like poor awareness on SPS obligations and responsibilities in the private and public sectors, and inadequate capacities to negotiate equivalence and mutual-recognition agreements for market access within the bloc.

Chris Kiptoo, permanent secretary at Kenya's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, said the subject of SPS standards is a crucial element

of Kenya's trade policy.

"Compliance with SPS measures has opened tremendous export opportunities for Kenyan producers and exporters, both at the intra-regional trade level and at the international level," Kiptoo said.

He said Kenya has made tremendous strides in the formulation of plans, policies, laws, regulations, strategies and institutional frameworks that provide for protection of human, animal and plant life and health, which has enhanced the competitiveness of the country's exports in the domestic, regional and international markets over the years.

National budgets occasionally do not have sufficient resources to address all national priorities and needs, which requires hard choices to be made between competing investments that may all be required to bring appreciable benefits in terms of export performance, agricultural productivity, environmental protection and public health in the longer term, Kiptoo said.

"Thus, cross-sectoral collaboration and prioritization of investments becomes important," he said. "The diversity of strengths and weaknesses on the continent demands greater collaboration between countries that belong to the same free trade area." Xinhua

# Tariffs put American businesses under huge pressure

By Zheng Qi

PATRICIA Phillips, president of a chemical manufacturer SNP Inc., said her company is in a life-or-death situation because of the additional tariffs proposed by the U.S. government on Chinese imports.

Phillips made the remarks on June 20, the fourth day of the seven-day public hearing on Washington's plan to impose additional tariffs on nearly \$300 billion worth of more Chinese imports held by the Office of the United States

Trade Representative (USTR).

Located in North Carolina, SNP specializes in producing sodium alginate products. Chinese companies are the most important suppliers of raw materials for SNP, Phillips said.

Her father passed away a few days ago, but she must attend the hearing at this crucial moment, expressed Phillips, almost weeping.

Phillips said her company was set up with painstaking efforts by her father 58 years ago, and they have been working very hard all these years to

make SNP what it is now.

It is the second time for SNP to take part in the public hearings. Phillips hurried to attend her father's funeral immediately after she stated her views in front of the officials at the hearing.

With facts and data, U.S. business owners from various fields including textile, chemical industry, medical field, clothing, glasses, jewelry, and sport products, elaborated on the irrationality of the tariffs and the importance of Chinese supply chains.

Founder and CEO of a design and development company of high-end women's lingerie in Massachusetts brought some of the company's products to the hearing.

Each of the products was handsewn with 30 to 45 pieces of cloth, which requires high standards of manufacturing techniques.

She had investigated 14 countries other than China, but none of which can meet her company's requirements for production, according to the CEO, who told the officials

about her experiences of trying to find substitutes for Chinese manufacturers.

She said that workers in these countries do not want to do such tedious jobs which involve handcraft like hand sewing and beading. Some worker couldn't meet the company's quality standards, and some factories couldn't deliver goods in time.

Ryan McFarland, founder and CEO of Strider Sports International Inc., was born in a family which was familiar with bike racing. In order to

build a suitable bike for his son, McFarland made a balance bike by himself and hence set up the brand Strider, which has sold more than 2.5 million bikes around the world.

McFarland's success owes much to Strider's cooperation with a manufacturer in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province. Today, the U.S. government's plan to impose additional tariffs on more Chinese imports pose a serious problem for Strider, which has shelved its domestic expansion and recruitment plan in the U.S.

Doug Hill, president of AFX Helmets, drove over 1,000 kilometers to the hearing from Michigan. Showing People's Daily motorcycle helmets of his company, Hill explained that the products contain patented technologies of his company's manufacturing partner in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province.

The partner's high-tech materials not only make the helmets lighter, but enhance the protective performance of the helmets, said Hill.

People's Daily





Lamine Diack

## France to try former IAAF boss Diack and his son

PARIS

LAMINE Diack, once one of the most influential men in Olympic sport, has been ordered to stand trial in France for his alleged role in a system of corruption, extortion and doping cover-ups during his reign at the top of athletics.

Diack was head of the IAAF for nearly 16 years. Arrested in France in 2015, he will be tried on charges of corruption, influence-trafficking, and money laundering, a French judicial official said on Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the planned trial.

The money-laundering charge, alone, carries a potential jail term of up to 10 years. The 86-year-old Diack has been under orders to stay in France since his arrest. The trial date has not been fixed but is not expected before next year.

Also ordered to stand trial was one of Diack's sons, Papa Massata Diack. He has emerged as a central figure in French judicial probes of suspected corruption involving the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games and other sports events. The judicial official said the younger Diack will stand trial for complicity in corruption and money laundering. Believed to be living in Senegal, he could be tried in absentia. At France's request, the international police agency Interpol has issued a wanted notice for him.

As IAAF president, Lamine Diack presided over an era when Usain Bolt, in particular, made track and field wildly popular. But Diack's legacy, and the IAAF's credibility, took a beating after he stepped down in 2015, replaced by Sebastian Coe, with his arrest and subsequent revelations of athletes being blackmailed and of doping cover-ups.

At least a half-dozen athletes, mostly Russian, are thought to have been told that their suspected doping could be hushed up, allowing them to continue competing, if they paid up. The head of France's financial prosecution service told The Associated Press in 2015 that Diack pocketed more than 1 million euros (\$1.1 million) from the alleged cash-for-silence scheme.

Since then, more evidence has emerged suggesting that as much as \$3.5 million may

have been allegedly squeezed out of Russian athletes to hush up their doping. A letter detailing payments from Russia that was seized during the investigation and forms part of the case says those who paid include now-banned top Russian race-walking coach Viktor Chegin and some athletes who worked with him, according to a judicial official who also spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the probe. Chegin was banned for life in 2016.

At the time of his arrest, Diack was the highest-profile name in sports pursued by the French prosecution service. It has become extremely active in going after suspected corruption in sports, using its broad powers to investigate marquee events, including the award of the 2018 soccer World Cup to Russia and the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

Investigators for the World Anti-Doping Agency concluded in 2016 that Diack and his sons, hired during his reign as IAAF consultants, formed a "powerful rogue group" within the governing body. Their report claimed Diack was "responsible for organizing and enabling the conspiracy and corruption that took place in the IAAF. He sanctioned and appears to have had personal knowledge of the fraud and the extortion of athletes."

Evidence from WADA triggered the launch of the French probe of Diack and his associates. French investigating magistrates overseeing the investigation have also ordered trials for Valentin Balakhnitchev, a former IAAF treasurer, and Alexei Melnikov, a coach who led Russia's long-distance running program.

They, too, could be tried in absentia because Russia generally refuses to extradite its citizens. Balakhnitchev will be tried for corruption and money laundering; Melnikov for corruption. They have been banned from track and field for life. An IAAF ethics committee imposed life bans in January 2016 for an alleged conspiracy to extort money from Russian runner Liliya Shobukhova, a former winner of the Boston, Chicago and London Marathons who later turned whistleblower.

Also to be tried in France for corruption are Habib Cisse, a former legal adviser to Diack, and Gabriel Dolle, who was the IAAF anti-doping director.

AP



Naomi Campbell

## Naomi Campbell says racial diversity in fashion should not be just a trend

LONDON

RACIAL diversity in fashion has improved in recent years, but the industry must not treat it like a catwalk trend, British model Naomi Campbell told Reuters in an interview.

One of fashion's most recognisable faces, Campbell has long spoken of discrimination in the industry where she has worked for 33 years.

The 49-year-old Campbell was the first black model to appear on the covers of French Vogue and Time magazine. She was also the first black model on the cover of American Vogue's key September issue.

Asked how the industry had changed, Campbell said: "In so many ways, but most importantly the diversity. It's finally ... sunken in but now we hope people don't think it's in for a trend, like clothes are in for a season and out for a season, that's not going to happen."

"It's improved absolutely. I can't say it hasn't. I do think there's always more room for improvement ... There's still some ways to go," she added referring to equal pay.

Campbell began her career as a teenager and has modelled for fashion heavyweights, such as Versace, Chanel, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, among many others. She has also championed African designers and co-produced April's Arise Fashion Week in Lagos, Nigeria.

Asked if African designers were finally getting recognition, she said: "We're on our way, we're not there yet, but we're

getting the platform ... they deserve to have."

On designer labels improving their green credentials as public environmental awareness grows, Campbell said most brands were "very aware of sustainability."

"I feel that everyone is consciously aware now and trying to do their part. It's amazing, you go on set now to do shoots and it has to be a non-plastic shoot."

One of the five major supermodels of the early 1990s, Campbell has featured on the covers of more than 500 magazines. However she wrote in this month's British Vogue she only recently began feeling more at ease in her own skin.

"Just because I'm a model doesn't mean that I felt comfortable," she told Reuters.

"If I would put on something that was figure hugging and I had to go outside and get a taxi in New York City, I'd always tie a cardigan around my waist because I felt a little self-conscious."

Campbell founded charitable organisation Fashion For Relief in 2005, hosting catwalk shows to raise funds for causes that have included victims of Hurricane Katrina and Typhoon Haiyan.

She began her charity work with late South African president Nelson Mandela, who referred to her as "honorary granddaughter."

The British Fashion Council on Monday said Campbell would receive the Fashion Icon Award at December's Fashion Awards in recognition of her industry contribution and charity work. Campbell said the award was "an honour and thrill."

Asked about Britain's impending departure from the European Union and its impact on the country's fashion industry, London-born Campbell said: "How's Brexit going to affect the country on the whole is what I care about."

"I don't think divide is good in any situation and there is a divide and when there's divide there's unrest, and unrest is not good."

But she added that she hoped there would be more opportunities in fashion.

"When people say global to me and I ask them if they mean are they in Africa and they say no, they're not global to me ... So if this is going to open up the territories that were not included ... then I'm for it in our fashion industry."

REUTERS

## Federer looks to turn number nine Wimbledon dream into reality

LONDON

HISTORICALLY, emotionally and statistically, Roger Federer remains the man to beat at Wimbledon even at the 21st time of asking.

Forget the creaking knees and advancing years – the Swiss will be 38 in August – not many in SW19 will bet against their adopted favourite achieving Wimbledon history with a ninth men's title to equal Martina Navratilova's record singles mark.

Victory would consolidate his position as oldest male champion, a record he set in 2017 when he won his eighth title without dropping a set at the age of 35 years and 342 days.

Federer's cheerleaders will point to the confidence gleaned from 2019 tournament wins on the hard courts of Dubai – his 100th ATP title – and Miami.

This year's Wimbledon lead-up



has been wrinkle-free after a positive showing at the French Open, where he lost in the semi-finals to Rafa Nadal, and his traditional grass tune-up at last week's Halle Open, where he triumphed for the 10th time.

But look through the glass differently and 2019 may tell a whole new story.

Perhaps Federer's decision to compete at Roland Garros for the first time in four years was actually an acknowledgement that his great powers are waning.

Federer knows that every opportunity to boost his Grand Slam

tally of 20 trophies must be grasped or risk being eclipsed by the rejuvenated Nadal.

### 'HARD TO BEAT'

The Spaniard's victory in Paris took his Grand Slam total to 18 while Novak Djokovic has won three of the last four blue-riband events to bring his career tally to 15.

It is possible to make a strong case for all three, with Nick Kyrgios last week making special mention for Federer, whom he predicted will "be hard to beat" on his favourite surface.

Former French Open finalist Alex Corretja is another who has flagged up Federer.

"Federer played a great claycourt season, which gives him the belief he can win Wimbledon again," said the Spaniard.

Grass has always suited Federer's aggressive style, which is based on

footwork, pace and ability to find sharp angles.

Perhaps the only remaining question is whether the Swiss has the stamina to slug it out against the game's young guns.

As always the aim remains to win but now it is to do so without expending too much energy.

Last year there were signs that the balance is more difficult to achieve and the eight-times champion squandered match points against Kevin Anderson before exiting in the quarter-finals.

Despite Anderson's raw power, few at Wimbledon expected Federer to lose that day because for so many years Wimbledon victories came so naturally.

All that can be said with certainty is that should anyone beat the man who has already pocketed \$124 million in prize money, he should consider himself champion in waiting.

REUTERS

## Hamilton says governing body should decide F1 rules, not teams

LONDON

FIVE-TIMES world champion Lewis Hamilton said decisions about Formula One's rules should be left in the hands of the governing body rather than teams with vested interests.

Speaking after his victory in a procession French Grand Prix on Sunday, the Mercedes driver felt the sport was in a mess and drivers could play their part in getting it back on the right track.

Hamilton attended a meeting of teams, Formula One management, the governing FIA and tyre supplier Pirelli in Paris on June 13 along with Renault driver Nico Hulkenberg and Grand Prix Drivers' Association head Alexander Wurz.

It was the first time the Briton, winner of 79 races, had attended and he said he realised the responsibility he had as a multiple champion.

He was also critical of the current decision-making process.

"The way it is set up, just from watching when I was there, it's not good," he said. "It's really not good. They won't like me saying that. I see the mess that we're in, I see it every year."

"I think ultimately the FIA, they're the governing body and they need to make all the decisions," added the 34-year-old Briton.

"The teams shouldn't be involved in that, in my opinion because the teams will all want to do something for themselves."

"It's the same in football; if all the football teams sat in a room and said the sport should be like this, they would push and pull for their own benefit," he said.

"Whereas if you get central group of people telling us, like the FIA for example, that their sole job is to make



Lewis Hamilton

the sport great again... they should just have the power and they should make

the decisions." RISK OF BIAS

Hamilton said those running the sport should come from outside because of the risk of bias.

There has been speculation for some time in the paddock that Mercedes principal Toto Wolff could replace Formula One chairman Chase Carey after 2020. The Austrian has said he is not contemplating any change.

FIA president Jean Todt was Ferrari team principal in the era of Michael Schumacher.

Formula One is planning a major rules revamp from 2021 but presentation of the new sporting, technical and financial regulations has been pushed back to the end of October.

Commercial rights holders Liberty Media want to level the playing field with a budget cap and a more equal distribution of revenues among the 10 teams and say there is now broad agreement on that.

Ross Brawn, a former Mercedes team boss and Ferrari technical director as well as title winner with his own eponymous team, has been overseeing the process.

Only the top three teams – Mercedes, Ferrari

and Red Bull – have won races since the V6 turbo hybrid era started in 2014.

Hamilton felt he had been listened to at the meeting and described it as "really constructive".

"We need to be at the next meeting. Part of the next chain of emails is happening, even if it's just small things," he said.

"I'd love to be able to look back and say I was a part of helping that positive change for the fans that are watching Formula One... not just a driver and the titles, but someone who actually cared about the sport."

Brawn said he was happy Hamilton had confirmed his willingness to contribute.

"We know well that Formula One needs to make an important change in direction if it wants to maintain its position as one of the most followed sporting spectacles in the world," said the managing director for sport.

"It will be great to have an input directly from the drivers."

REUTERS



## Cameroon player pulled out of Cup of Nations due to possible heart defect

CAIRO

STRIKER Joel Tagueu has been withdrawn from Cameroon's squad at the Africa Cup of Nations after a medical examination revealed a possible life-threatening heart defect, the country's soccer federation said in a statement on Monday.

The 25-year-old, who plays for Portuguese club Maritimo, had an "anomaly in his coronary artery detected by team doctor William Ngatchou which risks his life if he were to play," the Cameroon Football Federation said.

"On the advice of the doctor, the coach (Clarence Seedorf) has decided not to risk the player, who is leaving the tournament."

The doctor first detected the possible defect when Cameroon held a pre-tournament training camp in Qatar and subsequent examinations confirmed his suspicion.

"The news was greeted with a lot of sadness in the camp. The staff and the players could not hold back their tears," the statement added.

As Cameroon have yet to play their first game at the tournament, they can still replace Tagueu.

The holders begin the defence of their title against Guinea Bissau in Ismailia on Tuesday.

The risk of heart failure during the game is an emotive issue for Cameroon, whose midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe collapsed and died while playing for the Indomitable Lions at the 2003 Confederation Cup in France.

Foe, only 28, collapsed on the field and lost consciousness during the semi-final against Colombia at the Stade de Gerland in Lyon.

After attempts to resuscitate him on the pitch, medics spent 45 minutes at the stadium's medical centre trying to restart his heart, and although he was still alive when he arrived there, he died shortly afterwards.

He was later found to have suffered from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a heart-related disease.

REUTERS

## Kalu okay after heart scare, says Rohr

ALEXANDRIA

NIGERIA head coach Gernot Rohr says striker Samuel Kalu is okay after he collapsed in training on Friday night and was rushed to hospital immediately.

There were fears that the forward who turns out for French club Bordeaux might have some heart condition, but that was dispelled after checks in an Alexandria hospital.

Kalu played no part in Nigeria's opening game against Burundi on Saturday as a precaution but was at the stadium in support of the team.

Coach Gernot Rohr speaking to CafOnline after the match said the striker was okay.

"Kalu had a problem on Friday when he fell as we were doing some drills on corner kicks. He was rushed to hospital and fortunately, the doctors said it was a problem of dehydration, not a heart problem. He didn't drink enough," Rohr noted.

"But he is okay now, he is in high spirits. We will wait for more green-light from the medical team before we can decide whether he can play. He is okay. The rest is up to the medics," further stated the German coach.

Kalu indeed affirmed that he was okay, leaving the team's dressing room after the game with a smile and a thumbs up when asked whether everything was fine.

Rohr said his team has been hit with sickness with defender Shehu Abdullahi coming off after just 39 minutes in the game against Burundi on Saturday.

"We had some sick players coming in here because of the weather when we were training in Asaba. But I believe they will be okay and we can have a fully fit team," stated the tactician.

Nigeria play their next game against Guinea on Wednesday in what is expected to be a tough duel.

CAF

## Cameroon face inquiry and possible action after England defeat

PARIS

CAMEROON face an inquiry and possible disciplinary action from soccer authorities after a 3-0 loss to England in the last 16 of the women's World Cup on Sunday when they reacted furiously to two VAR decisions, initially refusing to restart the game.

After England's second goal was ruled offside then allowed after a VAR review, several Cameroon players remonstrated with the referee and for a long time refused to restart the match.

They thought they had pulled a goal back early in the second half, only for VAR to again rule against them for a marginal offside - sparking more chaotic scenes.

The ill-tempered contest, which involved strong challenges throughout and an horrific tackle on England's Steph Houghton, also saw an incident where Cameroon defender Augustine Ejangue spat on the arm of England forward Toni Duggan.

A spokesperson for soccer's world governing body said on Monday: "FIFA is currently looking into the matter at this stage".

FIFA's disciplinary body is likely to examine some of the incidents as part of its routine review of matches, while Isha Johansen, chair of the women's football

committee for the African Football Confederation (CAF), said her body will open an inquiry.

"Whilst remaining proud of our African teams that participated in the FIFA Women's World Cup, yesterday's match between England and Cameroon reflected badly, not only on African women's football but African football on the whole," said Johansen, who is also president of the Sierra Leone FA.

"It is an issue which will be addressed and dealt with at the appropriate levels of governance," she added in a statement.

England manager Phil Neville has heavily criticised the behaviour of his side's opponents.

"I am completely and utterly ashamed of the opposition," said the former Manchester United player.

"If that was my team - and it will never be any of my players - they would never play for England again.

"Those images are going out worldwide about how to act, the young girls playing all over the world that are seeing that behaviour. For me, it's not right," he added.

Cameroon coach Alain Djeumfa pointed the finger at the referee, calling the defeat a "miscarriage of justice".

REUTERS



# Superstar Mo Salah seeks first goal at Cup of Nations in Egypt

CAIRO

SUPERSTAR Mohamed Salah gets a second chance to score his first goal at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations when hosts Egypt face the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group A on Wednesday.

The recent Champions League winner with Liverpool was unable to convert several chances against Zimbabwe last Friday as Egypt won 1-0 in the opening match of the tournament.

"Mohamed Salah was among those who missed chances, but I was satisfied with our performance," admitted Mexican coach Javier Aguirre.

Victory over the Congolese, who performed poorly when losing 2-0 to Uganda, could clinch a last-16 place for the Egyptians with one match to spare.

Here, AFP Sport previews the Group A double-header with Uganda playing Zimbabwe in the first match in Cairo, and the Group B showdown between Nigeria and Guinea in Alexandria.

Egypt v DR Congo  
After four days of small crowds, a capacity 75,000 crowd is expected in Cairo to cheer Egypt as they seek a third win in four Cup of Nations meetings with the DR Congo.

There will be contrasting pressures on the teams with the Pharaohs eyeing a second-round place and the Leopards fighting for survival after a horror first outing.

"We must learn to handle the pressure of being among the favourites in order to realise our goal of becoming African champions," said Aguirre.

DR Congo came to Egypt as one of the most unpredictable qualifiers having finished third in 2015 only to make a timid quarter-final exit two years ago.

"We let our country down against Uganda," confessed captain Youssef Mulumbu. "It was a bitter lesson for us and we plan to correct the situation quickly."

Uganda v Zimbabwe

Having won a Cup of Nations match for the first time in 41 years, Uganda coach Sebastien Desabre has warned his Cranes against overconfidence when they confront Zimbabwe.



Ivory Coast's Jonathan Kodjia, center, scores his side's opening goal during the African Cup of Nations group D soccer match between Ivory Coast and South Africa in Al Salam Stadium in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, June 24, 2019. Ivory Coast won 1-0. (AP Photo)

"It was wonderful to win after such a long time, but we must keep our feet on the ground and remain humble and focused," warned the Frenchman.

"I was very impressed by Zimbabwe against Egypt and nothing less than a top-class performance from us will deliver three more points."

Should Uganda and Egypt triumph, both will be guaranteed last-16 places, leaving Zimbabwe and DR Congo to try and fill one of four spots reserved for the best third-place finishers. "Our brave performance against Egypt is history and only a victory over Uganda will bring us back into contention for automatic qualification," said Zimbabwe coach Sunday Chidzambwa.

Guinea v Nigeria

Neither team impressed in their Group B openers with Nigeria one-goal winners over debutants Burundi and the defensive weaknesses of Guinea exposed when held by Madagascar, another newcomer.

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr blamed illness for a lacklustre showing and it took an exquisite backheel pass from Ola Aina to set up substitute Odion Ighalo for a late 1-0 win.

"Some players started training only a few days before the match after becoming ill due to the change in climate from wet Nigeria to hot Egypt," said Rohr.

"We are thrilled to be here after failing to qualify for the last two Cup of Nations and I expect a much better performance against a very good Guinea side."

AFP



## Madagascar enjoy moment in the sun despite behind-the-scenes turmoil

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt

MADAGASCAR'S Jean Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa boasts one of the most eye-catching names at the Africa Cup of Nations but all the more remarkable has been the rise of one of the continent's also-rans into a side continuing to upset the odds.

The midfielder has played his part in bringing Madagascar to their first major tournament, perhaps inspired by his famous namesakes Romario and Roberto Baggio who were on opposite sides in the 1994 World Cup final between Brazil and Italy.

"My parents decided," he told ESPN recently. "I don't know exactly why, but they were the two best players (at the 1994 World Cup which was won by Brazil in a penalty shootout)."

Until recently one of African soccer's minnows, Madagascar surpassed expectations by holding Guinea to a 2-2 draw in their opening match and next face fellow debutants Burundi on Thursday knowing a win would put them close to the last 16.

Yet, only five years ago, they had slumped to 187th out of 211 in the FIFA world rankings after being routinely eliminated from Africa Cup of Nations and World Cup qualifying tournaments in two-leg preliminary round ties.

These included a 7-1 aggregate thrashing by Cape Verde in the qualifiers for the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations and a 4-1 thumping by Equatorial Guinea in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

A country possibly best known for its unique wildlife and ecosystems, Madagascar's footballing fortunes began to change after Frenchman Nicolas Dupuis was appointed coach in 2017.

Like his players, Dupuis spent most of his playing and coaching career in the lower reaches of the French league.

He spent five years at French fourth tier side Yzeure in his previous job, enjoying a brief moment of fame when they beat Ligue 1 side Lorient in a French Cup match in 2013.

On taking charge, the 51-year-old quickly began looking for recruits among the country's Diaspora and the 23-man squad in Egypt includes six players born in France and 10 who play for French clubs.

Other players are scattered around the globe, playing club football in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, South Africa, Thailand, Algeria, Bulgaria and the United States.

Madagascar were also helped by a decision from the Confederation of African Football (CAF), whose beleaguered president Ahmad Ahmad is Malagasy, to enlarge the finals from 16 to 24 teams.



Jean Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa

BACKSTAGE TURMOIL

All of this has happened despite turmoil behind the scenes.

In November last year, FIFA intervened in the Malagasy football federa-

tion, alleging that elections had not been properly conducted, and set up a so-called normalisation committee to supervise its day-to-day running.

In the meantime, Ahmad's CAF presi-

dency has run into trouble.

In an unprecedented move, FIFA has taken over the running of CAF in the wake of corruption allegations, and an ethics investigation has been launched into Ahmad.

Ahmad, who is also a FIFA vice-president, did not respond to requests by Reuters for comment on the allegations against him.

Despite the turmoil, Dupuis has just got on with his job, although he has complained that the federation starts projects but fails to finish them.

"An academy was launched but failed to get off the ground," he told the French edition of the goal.com website last year. "Here, they start well and let things fall apart."

But qualifying was the high point of his career.

"Even if I enjoyed some (success) in the Coupe de France, it does not compare to this," he said.

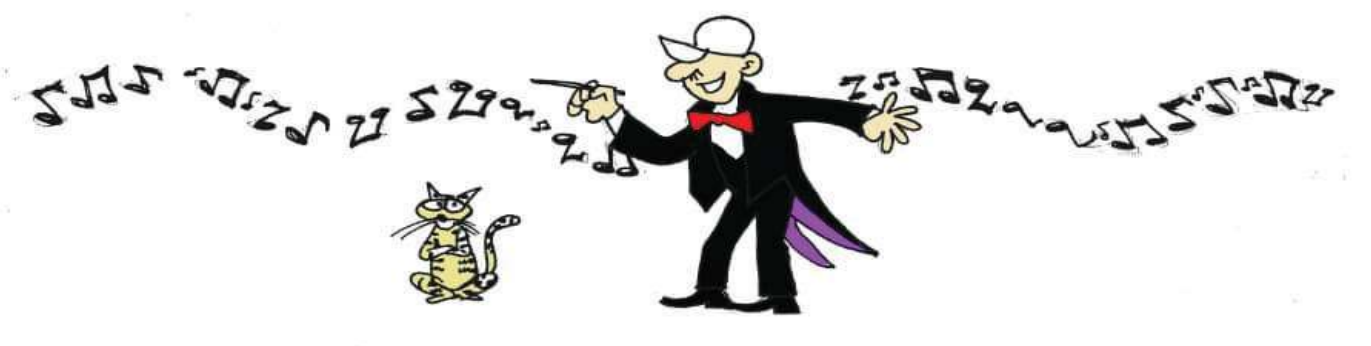
"A qualification for the Africa Cup of Nations is something significant, especially in a country that has never done it before. This is a level I had never reached before."

Watching the team take the field against Guinea gave him goosebumps, he revealed.

"We came to play without any complex," he said. "We will have to work, let ourselves go and say that it is possible to qualify in the round of 16."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Superstar Salah seeks first goal at Cup of Nations in Egypt

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, and Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbembe (2nd L), in a group photo with KCB Bank employees at a fundraising ceremony for the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. KCB Bank donated 11,500,000/- for the squad, which is taking part in the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Egypt. PHOTO: GUARDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

## Women's game advancing at U-20 level ahead of COSAFA Championships

CAPE TOWN

THE teams that compete at the inaugural 2019 COSAFA Under-20 Women's Championship in Port Elizabeth from August 1-11 will have the opportunity to build towards the FIFA World Cup in this age-group next year.

It is a perfect and rare opportunity for players in this age-group to get competitive international football outside of continental qualifiers, and one that a number of COSAFA nations have seized on.

Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, hosts South Africa, East African guest nation Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have all confirmed that participation, while the eighth side will be named before the draw on July 3 at COSAFA House in Johannesburg.

Teams will potentially enter the qualifiers for the World Cup, likely to be staged in India, next year, and do so with some strong preparation under their belt.

Botswana and South Africa were the only COSAFA sides to enter the last set of qualifiers, with the latter falling at the final hurdle against old enemy Nigeria.

Zambia have also been recent participants though, as have Namibia and Mozambique.

The Under-20 Women's World Cup has been played every two years since 2002 but has never had a participant from the COSAFA region.

In fact, the only African nations to appear have been Nigeria, Ghana and DR Congo, a target for all Southern African sides to reach.

FIFA's Technical Study Group at the last finals in France in 2018 made special mention of the huge progress made in this age-group in women's football, and none of the African teams will want to be left behind.

"We can confirm the concrete progress that women's football is making from a technical, tactical and fitness point of view. Such improvement is to a great extent due to the excellent coaching we are seeing across all confederations," said Branimir Ujevi, the Head of the FIFA Coaching & Player Development Department, which is responsible for the TSG.

Patricia González, Head of TSG and Women's Football Technical Programmes Manager, detailed the developments in the women's game at this level.

"On the one hand, goalkeepers are actively contributing to their teams' build-up play, and overall we saw solid defensive structures and players with a great sense of anticipation, such as Japan's Hana Takahashi," she said.

"On the other hand, we witnessed a remarkable ability and attitude by the attackers to make the most out of the few chances that came their way. Patricia Guijarro, the tournament's top scorer and best player, as well as Emelyne Laurent, are prototypes of clinical finishers.

"The great tactical flexibility shown by the majority of teams confirms that players at U-20 World Cup level are increasingly mature," added González.



Taifa Stars

## Defeat to Harambee Stars unthinkable for Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TAIFA Stars' left fullback Gadiel Michael has bemoaned the possibility of the neighbours Kenya edging out his side as 'unthinkable'.

He echoed a belief shared by many Tanzania's soccer fans who were left frustrated after witnessing their side put up one of the worst performances seen in this edition of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament.

Tanzania play Kenya tomorrow in their second group match of the on-going AFCON tournament knowing a win will keep their hopes of making it to the second round alive.

The left full back said: "We have regrouped as players and we know these are our peers, we know each other."

"Losing against them would be a disaster not only to players but also the entire nation."

Michael, popularly known as Gadiel, added that tomorrow match will decide their destiny in the group, calling it a tough contest due to the neighbouring rivalry between the two East African countries.

Tanzania and Kenya go into their Group C game on Thursday with identical records,

meaning that bar shocking upsets in their final matches, this encounter could decide who ends bottom of the group. Both teams lost and conceded two goals in the opening group games, putting them completely level.

It is a high stake game for Taifa Stars' coaching panel and players.

There is no hiding place at this stage and Taifa Stars must either raise their game several levels or confirm the passage back home with one game to play which could end up with another loss in the hands of the formidable Algerians on Monday.

Even though coach Emmanuel Amunike endured a lot of criticism when he announced his final squad for Egypt, by overlooking fans' favourite like Ibrahim Ajibu, Shiza Kichuya and Jonas Mkude, he must have been shocked by the level of criticism thrown at him after Sunday's drab showing against Senegal.

Losing to the best ranked team in Africa is by no means a dishonour, in fact most Tanzanian predicted a Senegal victory but were understandably angry at the team's performance.

The fact that the team could barely string four passes and ended up without registering a single shot on target stirred up indig-

nation from every angle.

Former Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juma Nkama, went as far as saying there are allegations of coach Amunike team selection being influenced by a football agent who wanted to see two players in the starting eleven in the first half.

That was ridiculous and a step too far and I hope Amunike does not get to hear about such baseless allegations.

For Amunike the task ahead is to take forget about Senegal and prepare his boys for a show down with Kenya in which many Tanzanians share the same sentiments like Gadiel that defeat is unthinkable.

The fans know the limitations of their team and players, most do not have unrealistic expectations but this is Kenya we are facing not the dreaded North or West African teams.

For many fans, victory against Kenya will be enough for Taifa Stars AFCON tournament sojourn to be considered a relatively successful campaign after a 39-year long wait.

Kenya might have a better head to head record but they are within our level, we can match them pound for pound in all departments.

## Morogoro boxer keen on emulating Cheka

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO professional boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, has pointed out he is eager to turn into a worthy successor for famous domestic Super Middleweight boxer, Francis Cheka, who hails from the region.

The up-and-coming boxer disclosed the plan to The Guardian at Nashera Hotel in the region last weekend.

Jaylaan, who fights in the Middleweight division, noted he has taken part in seven bouts, winning five and losing the rest.

He beat Abdallah Jang'olo by knock-out three years back and went on to record a similar win over Tino Masoud in the second fight, ending the bout in the third round.

Jaylaan again notched a knockout victory over Masoud in a re-match, the former then cruised to victory over Shaban Kidedeza.

In the fourth bout, he beat Abdallah Bebito by points in a six-round fight. Jaylaan's two defeats came in bouts against Ramadhan Ramadhan and Nasibu Msafiri.

Jaylaan, whose bouts took place in Morogoro, was adamant he wants to win national titles and successfully take over from Cheka.

The boxer noted he has been training the former world champion, who also held national titles in the Super Middleweight division, and has been learning tactics from the latter with a view to posting more wins.

"I hope to win belts, I'm training in a better facility that motivates me to work hard," he said.

He disclosed his training sessions include morning and evening jogging sessions. He said he runs long routes to gain fitness.

He added he will take part in a fight in August to evaluate the effectiveness of his three-month training regime.

He called for firms and well-wishers to invest in boxing since the sport is not as expensive as some of sports disciplines. The boxer noted transferring a modern boxing ring from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro costs 500,000/-.

"I congratulate the management of Nashera Hotel for giving me space for training, this has motivated me to work hard in an effort to repay them with victory in fights," he noted.

He also expressed his sincere regards to the hotel's manager, Nabona, for supporting the region's boxers.

He called on the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) leadership to focus on nurturing the sport's talents in all regions in the country.

The officials, he insisted, should not solely put their efforts in hosting fights in Dar es Salaam. Veteran boxing coach, Zacks Mwiseba, who trains Jaylaan, disclosed the boxer in in good shape, he is fearless and disciplined.

Mwiseba noted he is optimistic the boxer will fulfill his dream of becoming a worthy successor for Cheka.



Morogoro professional boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, poses for picture at Nashera Hotel in Morogoro recently shortly after training to prepare for a bout scheduled for August. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV DADAZ**  
**TODAY @11:00**  
**WEDNESDAY DADAZ**  
 10:59 Jikani Na Jane  
 11:00 DADAZ (live)  
 15:00 FUNGUKA  
 16:30 #HASHITAG  
 17:00 S5ELEKT  
 17:55 Kurosa  
 18:00 eNews  
 18:30 Music  
 19:00 EATV SAA 1  
 19:30 MUJADALA  
 20:00 EPL REVIEW  
 21:30 Mid Week Movie

**DADAZ** This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

**eastafrica RADIO**  
 05:00 EA Breakfast  
 09:00 Supamix  
 12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
 13:00 Planet Bongo  
 16:00 EA Drive  
 20:00 Kipenga  
 21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**



## INNOVATION

# UK digital firm brings Wefarm platform right to local farmers

By Finnigan wa Simbeye

A digital platform providing peer to peer farmers consultation backed by expert advice introduced in the country last April is proving popular with over 60,000 regular subscribers so far.

Wefarm's General Manager for Tanzania, Nicholous John and Field Head, Cyrilla Anton said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the platform which is product of UK based start-up, Wefarm Limited, is rapidly becoming popular in Mbeya and Songwe regions where the pilot phase took place.

"Farmers can communicate and share knowledge about problems that they face among each other through

feature handsets," John said noting the service which also involves the government's extension officers, is completely free of charge.

He said the platform which was first introduced in Kenya in 2016 before proceeding to Uganda in 2017, has proved popular in the region with over two million subscribers in the two countries. "We simply provide a platform where farmers can ask each other pertinent questions facing them and get responses through text messaging," the Wefarm Tanzania General Manager added.

He further revealed that the platform will officially launch in the country this Friday when the company will now expand its services throughout the country. "Through our field ambassadors,

media especially community radios, we hope to recruit between 300,000 and 350,000 farmers by the end of this year," John stated.

In her remarks to back the Wefarm Tanzania chief's comments, Anton said the farmers who are subscribed to Airtel, Tigo and Vodacom can access the platform currently as plans are underway to accommodate other network customers.

"Halotel subscribers will soon come aboard because the process to incorporate the network is in final

stages," Anton stated while pointing out that through the platform the farmers also meet supplies of agro-inputs and other products.

She said through Wefarm's market place which is already in operation in Kenya and Uganda, supplies who constitute brand product manufacturers get to know where demand for their product is and arrange bulky supply mechanisms which help them cut distribution costs.

"This service will launch in Tanzania sometimes

next year to allow farmers get used and trust the platform first," the Tanzania Field Head noted. Commercial suppliers of goods and services pay a commission that ensures that Wefarm sustains its into the foreseeable future.

Originated in UK, Wefarm is already the world's largest farmer-to-farmer digital network, with more than two million farmers using it in Kenya and Uganda who share more than 40,000 questions and answers every day.



Wefarm founder and CEO Kenny Ewan

## EXTREME

# CEOs of tax-evading firms face travel ban in Kenya

NAIROBI

CEOs and other top managers of tax-evading companies could soon be barred from flying out of the country if the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) gets new powers proposed in the Finance Bill 2019.

Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich has proposed amendments to section 45 of the Tax Procedures Act, 2015, to include all "tax representatives" of an organisation, effectively expanding the list of company officials against whom KRA can issue departure prohibition orders (DPO) until outstanding tax is paid in full or arrangements for payment are made.

A circular sent by the taxman to all its employees says the "tax representatives" of a company will include the CEO, managing director, company secretary, treasurer, trustee, resident director or similar officer of the company acting or purporting to act in such position.

"The proposed amendment enhances the effectiveness of the DPO -- It will ensure that tax representatives of companies whose controlling members are not resident in Kenya do not evade their responsibilities of ensuring that taxes from the companies are accounted for," says KRA in the circular.



Kenya's Treasury Secretary, Henry Rotich.

If passed into law by Parliament, the changes will expand KRA's scope in going after officials of companies being investigated for tax evasion, increasing their success rate in tax recoveries. Audit and advisory firm PKF East Africa says the proposed change will mean that all senior managers of companies lose indemnity and will now be held responsible for tax liabilities of the firms that they lead.

"This poses risk to the tax representatives and is aimed at creating responsibility for

tax compliance across the senior leadership of corporations," says PKF in its post-Budget review. KRA currently has powers to issue departure prohibition orders only when they have reasonable grounds to believe that a person may leave Kenya without paying tax due under their name or in a company in which they have a controlling stake.

Some of those who have felt the force of the KRA's travel bans over tax disputes include Motor dealer Foton East Africa's managing Di-

rector Da Li and Libya Oil Kenya general manager Duncan Murashiki.

The new proposal will now see KRA cast the net wider as it seeks to not only bring more people into the tax net but also ensure higher tax compliance among the firms and individuals already captured in its records.

PKF director James Mulili said the new law could result in instances where the entire senior managers of companies have their travel documents, such as passports, seized so that they remain in Kenya to answer to any tax improprieties.

"Before, the Companies Act placed responsibility on certain company directors when it comes to corporate responsibility," said Mr Mulili. Mr Rotich has also proposed a penalty of Sh2 million or two-year imprisonment or both as a general penalty for tax non-compliance. This, KRA says, will ensure there are no offences under the Act or Regulations that has no penalties.

Ernst & Young tax partner Christopher Kirathe said KRA may have had difficulties in nailing down appointed representatives of tax-paying firms when controlling travel. "If there is an imminent risk that would lead to loss of tax, the representative will now be caught. The law as it is now has a loophole and

does not catch the representative and maybe company owners have been exploiting this to evade tax," said Mr Kirathe.

KRA has come under increasing pressure to raise more taxes for the ever-expanding national Budget as well as debt obligations. In the financial year running from July 2019 to June next year, the Treasury has set a target for KRA to collect Sh1.8 trillion in taxes to fund the Sh3.1 trillion Budget that was presented in Parliament mid this month.

The statement of Actual Revenues and Net Exchequer Issues published last Friday shows the taxman collected Sh1.289 trillion in taxes by the end of last month. This leaves a Sh315 billion hole in the government's Budget given that the Treasury's revised target for 2018/2019 financial year was Sh1.605 trillion. KRA had been given an initial target of Sh1.69 trillion before this was revised downwards.

The taxman says that it will also benefit from the proposal to add registration of mobile money paybill and till numbers as well as registration of membership by professional bodies to the list of transactions that will require tax PINs. This, it says, will give it access to data on active professionals and other self-employed taxpayers to ensure tax compliance.

## RESTORATION

# Zim dollar returns, a decade after it became worthless

HARARE

ZIMBABWE has brought back its own currency, the Zimbabwe dollar, just over a decade after its usefulness was destroyed by hyperinflation.

In regulations published Monday by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe the country said that currencies including the US dollar and the South African rand, in use since 2009, will no longer be accepted as legal tender. A local quasi currency, bond notes, that was introduced in 2016 but can't trade outside the country, and their electronic equivalent, the RTGS dollar, will now be known as the Zimbabwe dollar.

Zimbabwe abandoned the Zimbabwe dollar after inflation reached an estimated 500 billion percent in 2008, according to the International Monetary Fund. While the country has since used a basket of currencies from the continent and abroad as well as bond notes and the RTGS, some government departments and agencies have until recently demanded payment in the greenback.

The central bank made it clear in its announcement that money held in foreign-currency accounts will not be affected, but the step will be greeted with alarm and memories

of the lives wrecked and pensions and savings lost in 2008. Recollections of what effectively became a barter economy in a country where a suitcase full of bank notes was needed to purchase a pair of jeans will be hard to erase.

"Any attempt by the officials to bring a new currency would require confidence," said Jee-A van der Linde, an economist at NKC African Economics in Paarl, South Africa. "People aren't sure that there's something backing the currency.

There's no way that something like this will be maintained. People will not trust the currency. It will promote more off-market activity even more if that's possible."

Zimbabwe's official currency trades at a discount on the street. In February the central bank introduced the RTGS and said it and bond notes would no longer be pegged to the US currency. This precipitated a rapid depreciation in both the newly introduced interbank rate and the black-market value. Inflation, at 97.9%, is now at its highest since at least 2008.

This "will worsen the situation," said Christopher Mugaga, the chief executive officer of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce. Companies "with real dollars will simply go underground," he said.



A Zimbabwe citizen brandishes worthless Zim Dollar bills before being banned in 2008.



## SUGGESTION

# Pilots want Treasury to allow TAA, TCAA return 30pc of revenue for training

By Beatrice Philemon

THE Treasury should allow the Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) and Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) return up to 30 percent of their annual collections to invest in training of aviation personnel such as pilots and engineers.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the ongoing 2nd National Civil Aviation Forum, Tanzania Pilots Association Secretary General, Captain Khalil Iqbal said the country is facing serious shortage of aviation personnel while the industry is growing rapidly thanks to President John Magufuli's revival of state carrier, Air Tanzania Company Limited.

Capt Iqbal said if this year's theme of 'Taking civil aviation industry in Tanzania to the apex' is to be realized, TAA and TCAA should be allowed to return between 25 and 30 percent of their annual revenue collection instead of remitting 100 percent to Treasury.

"It is important that the government allow TAA and TCAA invest in training of personnel because its expensive to training people like pilots and aviation engineers," Capt Iqbal argued saying the two regulatory bodies collect large sums of money annually which is remitted to Treasury.

He further advised that the government should also put in place regulations that encourage financial institutions to lend or sponsor students who pursue such disciplines as a matter of urgency because civil aviation is be-



Works, Transport and Communications minister Isack Kamwelwe

coming an important aspect in the lives of Tanzanians.

"By putting in place a conducive environment to allow poor parents afford to send their children to expensive aviation colleges, the government will play its role in ensuring that the local aviation industry has enough qualified pilots and engineers," the TAPA chief executive argued.

He warned that shortage of commercial aviation pilots and engineers is impacting heavily on the aviation industry because many qualified personnel are retiring while those still in services also need brush up training to meet modern needs.

Speaking at the forum, Minister for Works, Transport and Communication, Isack Kamwelwe promised that the government will work on the proposal being floated by experts while ordering TAA and TCAA

to convene similar meetings in various zones of the country to get such constructive views.

"You must go out and organize such a with tour operators, tax drivers and hotel staffs to discuss various issues relating to aviation industry, the main challenges they have and how both institutions can help Tanzania become a middle-income country," Engineer Kamwelwe ordered.

He suggested that such meetings should be held in main zonal cities of Arusha, Moshi, Mbeya and Mwanza and others to listen to what stakeholders have to say in improving the aviation industry. "As Tanzania is striving to become a semi-industrialized middle income country by 2025, you should ensure that you involve people with different backgrounds to contribute their views," Eng Kam-

welwe stated.

Deputy Rector of National Institute of Transport (NIT), Dr Prosper Mgya said while training pilots and aviation engineers alone is not enough, the institute wants private companies and government agencies allow them obtain field attachment to get practical experience.

Dr Mgya urged aviation companies that have planes to collaborate with training institutions to allow students pursuing aviation course to get field experience needed to get employed in the commercial aviation industry.

"Also when you employ our students please give us feedback on their performance so that we can understand what the market need in real time," he advised noting that NIT also needs to regularly update its training manuals in line with advances in technology.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa greeting NMB Bank Plc Southern Zone Manager Janeth Shango and other zonal managers who visited the Nationa Assembly in Dodoma earlier this week. Photo courtesy of NMB Bank.

## INVESTMENT

## Mena Fintech Association hatches plan for expansion in wake of launch in Abu Dhabi

DUBAI

A not-for-profit group, set up to represent the growing number of FinTech firms in the Middle East and North Africa, plans to expand its operations in the region with dedicated government lobby teams and a global talent exchange programme, among other initiatives, after launching in Abu Dhabi this week.

"We are focusing on what elements make up a complete FinTech ecosystem in the region, and what makes that conducive to growth," Nameer Khan, chairman and founding board member of Mena Fintech Association, told The National.

Some of those elements are an understanding of relevant laws and regulations among FinTech players, a diverse talent pool and connections with parties such as financial institutions, central banks, governments, law firms and educational bodies, he said.

The association this week struck deals aimed at broadening its activities and building global partnerships to attract FinTech investment to Mena.

It signed alliances with German development finance bank Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Giz) to explore how FinTech can boost financial inclusion, and with the American University in Dubai to help improve FinTech-related skills and education.

It also signed a partnership with Anghami, the Arab music streaming service, to launch a Fin-

Tech podcast available to Anghami's 50 million-plus subscribers in Mena.

FinTech, or financial technology, is disrupting traditional financial services through the deployment of advanced technology to speed up transactions, cut costs and better serve customers at all times of day no matter where they are. Banks and others are looking to collaborate with FinTech operators to 'future-proof' their businesses, or risk becoming obsolete as tech-enabled rivals provide cheaper, faster services.

Arabian Gulf financial centres - including free zone Abu Dhabi Global Market, where Mena Fintech Association is registered - have responded by launching accelerator programmes to stimulate growth of FinTech start-ups, and by enacting regulatory frameworks to govern the fast-growing sector.

The FinTech sector in the Middle East and Africa is forecast to make up 8 per cent of financial services revenue by 2022, driven by customer demand and increased investment, according to a report last November by US technology company Accenture in partnership with Dubai accelerator FinTech Hive.

"As the FinTech ecosystem in the region grows, the community needs to collaborate more closely for a common effective voice to interact with the likes of regulators, policy makers and institutions," said Richard Teng, chief executive of the Financial Services Regulatory Authority of ADGM, in a statement on Monday.

## EXPANSION

# afriQloud cloud service launches in Uganda

KAMPALA

PAN-AFRICAN connectivity provider, BringCom, in partnership with science and technology investor, Imprimatur Capital, and European edge cloud software company, GIG Technology, have together introduced afriQloud to provide the African technology industry with cloud sovereignty.

afriQloud has been launched in Uganda and will provide local and international customers with "an innovative and secure distributed edge cloud service."

Hans van Linschoten, founding partner of Imprimatur Capital Africa and chief executive officer of afriQloud said: "We see significant potential in the growing African cloud market where an estimated \$2 billion is being spent in cloud this year, and we're excited to bring this service to the continent. By the

end of 2019 we will complement the few developed markets clouds with a powerful and local distributed cloud in at least 15 countries. This ensures data sovereignty for institutions and governments within Africa's shores."

According to afriQloud, most of Africa's content on the internet is currently hosted on servers outside the continent. "Implementation of edge cloud computing services in Africa has been adversely affected by lack of reliable and secure connectivity from various service providers. The cost of setting up ICT infrastructure with improved data latency and minimised downtime has also contributed to the slow adoption of cloud solution across the continent," the company stated.

Mark Simmonds, Chairman of GIG Technology added: "Although cloud adoption is predominantly

private, the African markets are generating a growth of 30% in public cloud sales. Few other ICT market segments in the African tech ecosystem have the potential of adding an incremental \$2 billion in top line revenue over the next 5 years." The Sub-Sahara Africa region is showing signs of increased maturity and responsiveness towards cloud adoption, according to Grant Bennett, Country Manager for SUSE South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. And this presents service and support providers in Africa with a clear opportunity.

Bennett said based on research the company conducted a few months ago, only about 11% of respondents said they either didn't have a cloud strategy in place or had no idea what their management strategy was.

"About 76% of the market is saying they have a

cloud strategy and it's actually active (in terms of) where they are going to take the business forward. They've realised there is certainly a value around that ... I think it's up to the partners, SAP and ourselves, to show them how to derive that value."

Fabrice Langreny, chief executive officer of BringCom, said, "Opening up of the global market will require African companies and organisations to be equally competitive in deployment of e-solutions, scalability, secure data accessibility and connectivity in line with international standards."

Willem Hendrickx, CEO of GIG Technology: "We believe in partnerships and the creation of local economy using our cloud technology. Having assessed the cloud readiness of different African markets, we are thrilled to launch in Kampala."

Van Linschoten continues: "We have hit the ground

and we intend to keep up the pace. This service in Africa is long overdue. In a few months, we will expand our service in East Africa - Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia will be afriQloud active very soon. We are working through channels in Southern Africa as well - Zambia, Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique are our next target markets. And of course the West African region is good and ripe for the plucking. Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Cameroon - we'll be present in all these countries this year! We're very much looking forward to working with tech start-ups, MNOS, ISPs, government institutions, banks and financial institutions, universities - there is much to be done, and the time to begin is now." afriQloud also aims to have the Edge Cloud installed in cities and tech hub ecosystems which hosts a high number of start-ups and developers.



A visual illustration of afriQloud CEO, Hans van Linschoten.

## SUCCESS

## Vodafone Egypt secures lucrative healthcare platform contract

CAIRO

VODAFONE Egypt has secured a contract valued at 2.3-billion Egyptian pounds to develop a digital platform to support the country's new primary healthcare system.

The new system is understood to be based on the UK's NHS and Vodafone Egypt will leverage support from the UK Department of International Trade.

Liam Fox, Britain's Secretary of State for International Trade said, "That's why we've stood by Vodafone as it sought and secured this contract

which, as part of the Egyptian government's reforms, will help revolutionise healthcare for people here - it is the beginning of an Egyptian NHS for the Egyptian people."

Vodafone will also work with DXC Technology, which already provides IT infrastructure services across the NHS supply chain, to develop the digital platform.

The platform will be piloted in Port Said before being introduced in four other governorates, then across Egypt. Vodafone has 40 million subscribers in Egypt.

The company was recently issued a fine of €528,000 by the country's National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NITRA) for interruption of telecoms services on the network for several hours across different areas.

Vodafone Egypt attempted to compensate subscribers with minutes and provided additional megabytes for the interruption, but it was not enough to avoid the regulator's sanction. "The decision to fine was in accordance with the articles of the license granted to the company by the Egyptian authorities," NITRA stated.







## WORLD

## 'US sanctions on Khamenei mean end of diplomacy'

TEHRAN

IRAN yesterday slammed the Trump administration over new US sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic's supreme leader and other top officials, with the Foreign Ministry saying the measures spell "permanent closure" of diplomacy between Tehran and Washington.

President Donald Trump enacted the new sanctions on Monday against Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and his associates. US officials also said they plan sanctions against Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency on Tuesday quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying that Trump's move means the end of diplomacy between the two countries.

"The fruitless sanctions on Iran's leadership and the chief of Iranian diplomacy mean the permanent closure of the road of diplomacy with the frustrated US administration," Mousavi said.

The new action is "imposing hard-hitting sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the office of the Supreme Leader of Iran and many others," Trump said.

He alleged that the supreme leader "ultimately is responsible for the hostile conduct of the regime."

The Ayatollah is Iran's utmost authority who has the last say on all state matters.

The sanctions imposed by the order will deny Iran's leadership access to financial resources, blocking them from using the US financial system or accessing any assets in the US.

Washington said it would also impose sanctions on Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif later this week.

"Trump's desperate administration is destroying the established international mechanisms for maintaining world peace and security," Mousavi tweeted, reports Reuters.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin revealed in a press conference that the new executive order will freeze billions of additional dollars in Iranian assets.

Mnuchin also said Trump has instructed him to designate Zarif "later this week."

The newly signed executive order has allowed Mnuchin to impose sanctions on officials appointed to their position by the Iran's supreme leader.

Trump said Monday's move came after "a series of aggressive behaviors by the Iranian regime in recent weeks" including shooting down a US drone, which he described as "not good and not appropriate."

Iran said the US drone was fly-



US President Donald Trump holds up a signed executive order to increase sanctions on Iran, in the Oval Office of the White House, on Tuesday, in Washington. Trump is accompanied by Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin, left, and Vice President Mike Pence. (AP)

ing over southern Iran. Washington said it was downed in international airspace over the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf.

Also on Monday, US Treasury announced that it has blacklisted eight senior commanders of Navy, Aerospace, and Ground Forces of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), citing their supervision over the IRGC's "malicious regional activities."

As a result of today's action, all property and interests in property of those individuals that are in the US or in the possession or control of US persons must be blocked, said the Treasury in a statement.

While intensifying the economic pressure on Iran, Trump avoided further stoking the already tense military tension in the region.

"We do not seek conflict with Iran or any other country," he said on Monday, adding that he looks forward to "discussing whatever I have to discuss with anybody that wants to speak."

Zarif, in response to the US new sanctions, said in a tweet that the hawkish senior US officials close to Trump "despise diplomacy, and thirst for war."

Iranian ambassador to the United Nations Majid Takht Ravanchi, meanwhile, told reporters in New York that Iran would not accept talks with the United States while it is under the threat of sanctions.

Tensions remain high in the region over Iran's downing of a US military drone last week and Trump's decision to abort imminent military strikes against Iran in retaliation.

Over the past month, Washington has beefed up its military forces in the Middle East, which Iran described as a disturbing element.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that military intervention of the US in the region has caused problems for the nations, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Ties between the US and Iran have deteriorated significantly after Washington walked away from the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and reimposed energy and financial sanctions, which had been removed under the deal, on Iran.

Iran has suspended parts of its commitments subject to the nuclear deal and has threatened to go further.

Agencies

## Kremlin says PACE's decision on Russia does not indicate shift in attitude towards Crimea

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin does not regard the decision made by the Parliamentary Assembly of Europe to let Russia's delegation take part in the June session of the Assembly as a sign the European countries have been changing their attitude to Crimea's reunification with Russia, presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said when asked if the PACE resolution permitting the Russian delegation to take part in the June session indicated the European countries were beginning to recognise Crimea's reunification with Russia.

"It is hardly possible to say that the prevailing point of view has changed. But in this particular case we are determined to stay patient and to systematically explain the Crimean issue until our foreign partners change their mind," Peskov (pictured) said.

He pointed out that European officials were beginning to express different points of view on this score. He also recalled that "Crimea is an integral part of Russia and its constituent territory and that no Crimea-related issues were a subject for discussion with any country."

On Monday, PACE adopted a resolution allowing Russia to participate in the assembly's session in June. The decision was passed by a 118-majority vote with 62 nays and 10 abstentions. Later, on June 25 the participants in the PACE's summer session challenged Russia's powers in the organization. Now, in accordance with the organization's rules a report on restricting powers will be drafted and put to the vote on June 26.

PACE President Liliane Maury Pasquier said the delegation whose powers were in question was free to participate in the organization's activities but was unable to vote on its issue.

The Russian delegation in April 2014 was stripped of its right to vote, participate in observer missions and hold seats on PACE leadership bodies due to the events in Ukraine and Crimea's reunification with Russia.

In 2015, PACE twice considered the idea of restoring the Russian delegation's rights only to tighten sanctions in the end. In response Russia refused to participate in PACE activities on such conditions and in 2016-2018 refrained from applying for confirmation of its powers.

Agencies

## Zimbabwean traders try to grasp implications of ending foreign currencies

HARARE

ZIMBABWEAN traders were trying to grasp the implications of a new law gazetted on Monday outlawing the use of foreign currencies.

Some of the streets in the central business district, which are usually full of money changers, were generally quiet up to mid-day as many traders stayed away.

Those who opted to come reported the slight fall of the exchange rate to as low as 1 US dollar to 9.00 RTGS dollars from a high of 1 US dollar to 11.30 RTGS dollars at the weekend.

A trader in First Street Mall said not many people were selling, and not many people were buying either, as they sought to establish the meaning of the Statutory Instrument gazette by finance minister Mthuli Ncube on Monday.

"The announcement that was made yesterday (Monday) has really upset things. We don't know what is happening and many traders have not yet been given the going rate of the day by their handlers. So they are staying away until the dust settles," said the trader.

Retailers under the banner of the Confederation of Zimbabwe Retailers (CZR) welcomed the government pronouncement, adding that they also supported measures taken by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) to stabilize the interbank foreign currency market.

"The dilemma was exacerbated by the demand for US dollars for domestic transactions even for goods ordinarily manufactured in Zimbabwe yet about 96 percent of the workforce earn their wages and salaries in local currency," said CZR president Denford Mutashu in a statement yesterday. "Many had to offload the RTGS dollars or bond notes as soon as they laid their hands on it," he said.

He said the country had to move on and embrace its own currency and have independence in monetary policy formulation and implementation with the RBZ playing the lender of last resort role in sync with the ongoing fiscal policy reforms.

Retailers and wholesalers are urged to change over forthwith and immediately abandon selling goods and services in US dollars or any foreign currency as it has been outlawed. Non-compliance will attract unnecessary and unwanted attention to one's brand by authorities, he warned.

Xinhua

## Parliament ready to support no-deal Brexit, Johnson says

By Bloomberg

BORIS Johnson said he believed the British Parliament would now support a no-deal Brexit, even as senior figures in his Conservative Party warned they had the numbers to stop him if he tried to push one through.

Johnson, a former foreign secretary, and the favorite to succeed Theresa May as prime minister, used a BBC interview to argue that the drubbings that both his Conservative Party and opposition Labour Party received in the European elections had left members of Parliament determined to get Brexit done.

"I think Parliament now understands that the British people want us to come out," Johnson said. "And I think that MPs on both sides of the House also understand that they will face moral retribution from the electorate unless we get on and do it."

Johnson, who has been criticized for shunning media interviews and debates, will give another interview on Tuesday on LBC radio at 9:30 am. His rival Jeremy Hunt called him a coward on Monday for avoiding scrutiny.

Johnson said his Brexit strategy is to use the threat of no-deal to persuade the European Union to remove the controversial Irish border backstop from the Withdrawal Agreement that May negotiated. Crucial to that is convincing the EU, which has said it won't move on either of these points, that Britain is serious about a no-deal.

## Strategy divide

Johnson's problem is that many MPs believe a no-deal Brexit can be stopped. Defence Minister Tobias Ellwood told the BBC that he was certain those who oppose a no-deal Brexit had the numbers. "I think a dozen or so members



of Parliament would be on our side, would be voting against supporting a no deal, and that would include ministers as well as backbenchers," he said.

Speaking on BBC Radio yesterday, Pensions Secretary Amber Rudd said Ellwood's estimate was "about right -- I think it's slightly less than that."

On Monday, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Ken Clarke went further, saying he'd be willing to vote against the government in a confidence vote if that was neces-

sary to stop a no-deal Brexit.

And while Johnson is right that the EU elections are leading Labour to shift its position, it might not be in the direction that he's counting on. Earlier Monday, the party's leader, Jeremy Corbyn, signaled another move toward a full commitment to a second referendum, twice telling May it was the best course.

Although a handful of Labour MPs have been willing to rebel against their party line to back May's Brexit deal, they say persuading them to back a no-deal departure would be harder, especially if the salesman were Johnson.

## Tax cuts

The focus of Johnson's campaign is Brexit, but he's also made promises to cut taxes. A report on Tuesday by the Institute for Fiscal Studies said his proposals to raise tax thresholds would cost 20 bil-

lion pounds a year (US\$25 billion), and benefit higher earners most.

After a weekend of difficult headlines about his private life after police were called to his partner's London apartment early Friday morning, Johnson said he would never discuss his private life. He left his second wife last year, and has a long history of extra-marital affairs.

Johnson said his plan for his first day in office if he became prime minister would be to "make sure that we have a plan that will convince our European friends and partners that we are absolutely serious about coming out."

He has built his campaign around a commitment to get Britain out of the EU by Oct. 31, but in his limited public appearances, he has wobbled on the firmness of that pledge. Indeed, some of his supporters have left his office convinced he won't go for a no-deal Brexit.

Agencies

## No-confidence motion submitted against Japanese PM Abe's Cabinet

TOKYO

FOUR Japanese opposition parties and a group jointly submitted a no-confidence motion against the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the Lower House yesterday.

The leaders of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDP), the Democratic Party for the People, the Japanese Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party and the Reviewing Group on Social Security Policy met yester-

day morning.

They agreed to introduce the motion to clarify their aim to remove Abe's Cabinet from power, saying the Cabinet continues to "deceive the public on domestic and foreign affairs, and is jeopardizing people's lives and security." CDP leader Yukio Edano said they all agreed on the move to demonstrate their opposition to the Abe administration.

The ruling camp is expected to vote down the motion in the chamber's plenary session in the



afternoon.

Acting secretary-general of the main governing Liberal Democratic Party Koichi Hagiuda said the ruling camp deeply appreciates the Cabinet's efforts, adding that the Cabinet does not deserve to be censured and ousted, and the ruling coalition will reject the motion.

The political battle is heating up one day before the ordinary session is set to end on Wednesday. Japan's public broadcaster NHK's latest opinion poll shows that the

approval rating of Abe's Cabinet is 42 percent, down 6 points from two weeks earlier. The disapproval rating is 34 percent, up 2 points.

The poll comes ahead of an Upper House election expected to take place in July. When asked about the outcome of the upcoming election, 21 percent of the respondents hope for an increase in the number of the ruling parties' seats; 30 percent hope the opposition parties advance; and 44 percent said neither.

Xinhua

## Equal-footed dialogue is the only way for win-win cooperation

By Wu Yuehe

WHAT does Washington's imposition on \$300 billion worth of more imported Chinese goods mean to the American people?

The possible price hikes of consumer goods, such as mobile phones, laptops, clothing, footwear, toys and gaming equipment will make American enterprises and consumers feel worried because their days will be different.

On June 17, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) kicked

off a seven-day hearing, seemingly respecting public opinion. Such hearings have been held several times since the U.S. provoked the trade dispute with China.

However, it seems that tariffs will still be the trend, though they may lead to an increase in commodity prices, impact employment and disrupt corporation supply chains, as stated by industry representatives in their speeches during the hearings and the letters of opposition submitted to the USTR before each hearing.

So far, Washington has slapped

25% tariffs on \$250 billion of Chinese goods.

During this round of hearings, the USTR received more than 2,000 written comments and talked with about 300 company and industry representatives. Some research institutes even testified with analytical data.

Consulting firm Trade Partnership Worldwide, LLC, said in a report prepared for the U.S. Consumer Technology Association that if the new tariffs were imposed, American consumers would pay over \$8.1 billion more for cell phones and over \$8.2 billion more

for laptops and tablets.

China accounted for about 75 percent of the total cell phones and over 90 percent of the total laptops and tablets imported into the U.S., according to Trade Partnership Worldwide.

On any alternative location for production such as the U.S. and any alternative supplier, the American small business owners said earnestly that there is no other viable alternative. Some of them even cried worrying about what they are going to face.

Some large American enterprises have written letters to the govern-

ment, asking the latter to bring the tariffs to an end.

"We urge the U.S. government not to impose tariffs on these products," Apple Inc. said in a letter to the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

The company said it's responsible for 2 million jobs in the U.S. and reminded the government that it had pledged to invest \$350 billion in the American economy over five years.

The U.S. government's tariff increase will affect all its products, impact its global competitiveness, and reduce its U.S. economic contribution, Apple

said.

The painful truth is that American people are not the one to make decisions. The decision makers, however, disappointed them again and again.

"If there's a better idea than tariffs I'd like to hear it. I haven't heard it," Lighthizer told Senate Finance Committee at a congress hearing.

To justify the trade dispute they provoked, some American politicians said they did so to protect people's livelihood, but the truth is that they never paid attention to the interests of the American people. **People's Daily**



# Yemeni rebels blocking food for thousands - UN

CAIRO

YEMEN'S rebels last month turned back a World Food Program shipment meant to feed some 100,000 families in the war-torn nation that's been pushed to the brink of starvation, a spokesperson for the aid agency said yesterday.

The rejection of the shipment came as the WFP was in tense talks with the rebels, known as Houthis, who had blocked the agency's attempt to register millions of Yemenis in need of aid by using biometrics as a means of preventing food aid theft. The WFP has mainly blamed the rebels for stealing the food aid. The rejected shipment will also deprive thousands of families of badly needed aid.

The conflict in Yemen began with the 2014 takeover of the capital, Sanaa, by the Iranian-backed Houthis who drove out the internationally recognized government. Months later, in March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition launched its air campaign to prevent the rebels from overrunning the country's south.

In the relentless campaign, Saudi-led airstrikes have hit schools, hospitals and wedding parties and killed thousands of Yemeni civilians. The Houthis have used drones and missiles to attack Saudi Arabia and have targeted vessels in the Red Sea.

As the world's worst humanitarian disaster unfolded, aid agencies rushed



A man feeds children halas, a climbing vine of green leaves, in Aslam, Hajjah, Yemen. (File photo)

to help, risking getting caught in the middle between the warring parties.

Last week, the WFP partially suspended aid as talks with the Houthis went nowhere and after the agency accused the rebels of continuing to loot aid and using millions of dollars of international donations for their war economy.

The suspension affects 850,000 people in Sanaa, where the WFP says

the bulk of the looting takes place. WFP has been sending food aid worth 100,000 million dollars a month to Yemen.

The rebels, who control northern Yemen, responded with a fierce media campaign against the WFP, accusing it of sending spoiled food.

On Sunday, the Houthi-run news agency SABA quoted Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a high rebel official, as ac-

cusings the WFP of trying to cover up spoiled food and expired aid. Al-Houthi had been advocating for WFP cash donations in place of what he said was "corrupted food."

The WFP says some of the food held for long in areas controlled by the rebels had indeed gone bad.

The Associated Press obtained the copy of a letter from WFP chief in Yemen, Stephen Anderson, notifying the

Houthis on June 11 that the agency is in the process of getting rid of over 200,000 tons of expired flour held by the rebels at the Sanaa airport.

The letter said the WFP was planning to destroy the flour at a Sanaa dump.

Last month, the rebels ordered over 8,000 tons of flour sent by the WFP out of the Red Sea port of Hodeida, claiming it was contaminated with dead insects. A subsequent check on the cargo, now docked in Oman, showed it was clean, the WFP spokesperson added.

"WFP can't tolerate groundless rejection of essential humanitarian cargo when millions in Yemen face malnutrition and starvation," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the incidents.

The AP reported last December that armed factions on both sides of the conflict were stealing much-needed food aid, diverting it to their fighters or reselling it for profit. Some groups are blocking deliveries to communities they view as their enemies, the AP found.

Days before aid suspension, David Beasley, WFP executive director, told the U.N. Security Council that the agency in late 2018 uncovered "serious evidence that food was being diverted and going to the wrong people" in the capital of Sanaa and other Houthi-controlled areas.

Agencies

# Russian security chief slams attempts to put Iran on par with IS as inadmissible

JERUSALEM

RUSSIA strongly rejects all attempts of putting Iran on par with the Islamic State (a terrorist organization outlawed in Russia) and calls on the United States and Israel to show restraint and readiness for reciprocal steps, Secretary of Russia's Security Council Nikolai Patrushev said yesterday.

Patrushev participated yesterday in trilateral talks in Israel's Jerusalem on the Syrian conflict settlement jointly with US National Security Advisor John Bolton and head of the Israeli National Security Council Meir Ben-Shabbat.

"In the context of the statements made by our partners with regard to a major regional power, namely Iran, I would like to say the following: Iran has always been and remains our ally and partner, with which we are consistently developing relations both on bilateral basis and within multilateral formats," Patrushev said after the trilateral meeting, which lasted for more than two and a half hours.

"This is why we believe that it is inadmissible to describe Iran as the major threat to the regional security and, moreover, to put it on par with the Islamic State or any other terrorist organization," Patrushev stated.

The head of the Russian Security Council stressed that Iran is a significant contributor to the fight against terrorism and the settlement of the conflict in Syria, including within the frames of the Astana format.

Agencies

# Rwanda receives five critically endangered black rhinos from Europe

KIGALI

FIVE critically endangered black rhinos from Europe safely landed in the Rwandan capital, Kigali, early Monday.

The rhinos will be released into Akagera National Park, in eastern Rwanda, Rwanda Development Board (RDB) said on a Twitter

post.

The move, facilitated by a collaboration among the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, the government of Rwanda, and African Parks, a non-governmental conservation organization, is the largest ever translocation of rhinos from Europe to Africa, a joint statement said last week.

A chartered cargo plane carrying the five rhinos touched down at Kigali International Airport early Sunday. Officials from the conservation department at RDB, and African Parks, which jointly manages Akagera National Park with the RDB, witnessed the arrival.

"The translocation of these rhinos to Rwanda is a big boost to

our tourism sector, which is our country's largest foreign exchange earner," Eugene Mutangana, head of the RDB conservation department, told Xinhua in a telephone interview. The rhinos will be closely monitored for months in bomas before they are released to the wild in Akagera National Park, Mutangana said.

The five rhinos, three female and two male, and between two and nine years old, came from Safari Park Dvur Kralove of the Czech Republic, Flamingo Land of the United Kingdom and Ree Park Safari of Denmark.

They have been gathered at Safari Park Dvur Kralove since November 2018 before departing for

Rwanda on Sunday.

Since 2010, Akagera National Park has undergone a revival, with poaching practically eliminated, allowing for key species to be reintroduced, including lions in 2015, which have since tripled in number, and rhinos in 2017, a decade after they were last seen in Rwanda.

Xinhua

# China, African countries vow to enhance cooperation

BEIJING

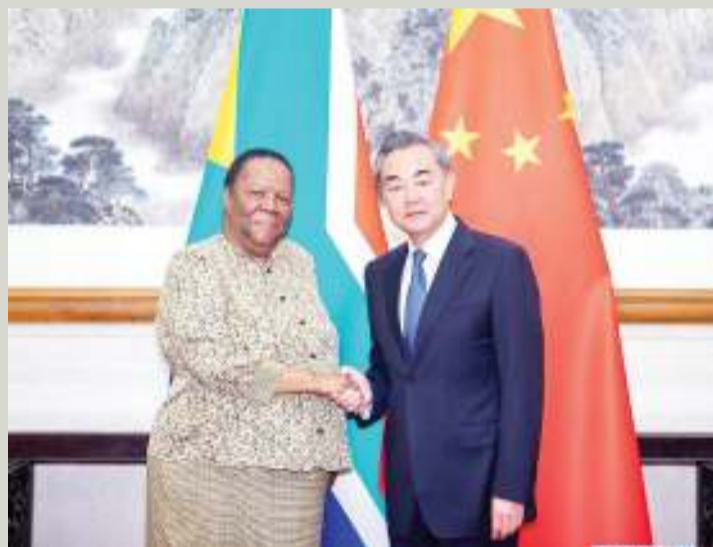
CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held respective meetings with foreign ministers from nine African countries on Monday, and they pledged efforts to strengthen cooperation and uphold multilateralism.

The foreign ministers are Naledi Pandor from South Africa, Palamagamba Kabudi from Tanzania, Ezechiel Nibigira from Burundi, Aurelien Agbenonci from Benin, Nhial Deng Nhial from South Sudan, Mamadou Tangara from Gambia, Joseph Malanji from Zambia, Luis Filipe Tavares from Cape Verde, and Gbehzohngar Findley from Liberia.

The African foreign ministers are in Beijing to attend the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on the China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), with the aim of better implementing the outcomes of Beijing Summit in 2018.

While holding talks with Pandor, Wang hailed the solid mutual trust and deep-rooted traditional friendship between China and South Africa.

Wang said China and South Africa, both as major representatives of emerging markets and developing countries, should jointly safeguard the missions and principles of the United Nations Charter, champion multilateralism, uphold basic norms governing international relations, and oppose



Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets with South African Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor in Beijing, capital of China, on Monday. (Xinhua)

any form of unilateralism and bullying, to promote world peace, development and prosperity.

Pandor said South Africa and the whole African continent, as China's partners for jointly resisting unilateralism and bullying practice, would stand together with China in safeguarding multilateralism and an open, inclusive global trade system.

In the meeting with Kabudi, Wang expressed China's readiness to work with Tanzania to keep high-level exchanges, and avail the opportunity of jointly building the Belt and Road and the Coordinators' Meeting to ensure better outcomes in bilateral cooperation.

Calling the Beijing Summit of the FOCAC a milestone, Kabudi said Tanzania is willing to facili-

tate cooperation in infrastructure construction, industrial capacity, and in cultural, educational sectors and other areas.

In respective meetings with Nibigira, Agbenonci, Nhial and Tangara, Wang said the current international situation is complex but China's determination to strengthen its solidarity and friendship with African countries remains unchanged.

Nibigira said Burundi agreed with the Belt and Road Initiative and would continue to support China on issues concerning China's core interests and major concerns.

Agbenonci said multilateralism was now the only correct choice. Only through multilateralism can the voice of small and medium-

sized countries, especially African nations, be heard, he said.

Nhial said South Sudan thanked China for its help in various fields, especially its support and contributions to the peace process in South Sudan.

Tangara said since the resumption of diplomatic relations between China and Gambia, bilateral cooperation in various fields had developed fast, and Gambia can be trusted as a sincere partner of China.

When holding separate meetings with Malanji, Tavares and Findley, Wang said China would continue to uphold justice and pursue the shared principles of sincerity, results, affinity and good faith.

China's cooperation with Africa is sincere and selfless, and has no geopolitical purposes, said Wang, adding that China had always followed the principle of non-interference, provided aid as Africa needed, carried out South-South cooperation, and helped achieve common development.

He said China-Africa cooperation was conducive to Africa's infrastructure construction, economic and social benefits, and self-development.

"Africa offers a grand stage of cooperation between different countries, not an arena of major powers' game," said Wang, adding that "African friends will get a right conclusion on who truly attaches importance to, respect, and support Africa."

Xinhua

# COMESA to prioritise sanitary, phytosanitary investment to promote cross-border trade

NAIROBI

COMMON Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) member states plan to prioritize sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) investment to promote cross-border trade.

Thierry Mutombo, director for investment, promotion and private sector development at COMESA, said almost 70 per cent of the reported non-tariff barriers in the region are constituted by technical standards and SPS measures.

"Investments in SPS capacity in COMESA are still very low both in the public and private sector, and most countries lack coherence in the establishment of SPS priorities and related investments," Mutombo (pictured) said during a high-level meeting on SPS capacity-building.

To fully exploit the existing trade and market access opportunities, the trading bloc must address constraints to cross-border trade, Mutombo said.

He said evidence from analytical work and studies points to a number of causes of SPS-related non-tariff barriers, which undermine trade, industry competitiveness and market access.

"These include varied SPS standards and regulatory frameworks across member states, absence of good regula-



tory practice and common risk-based approaches to underpin legislation and regulations and import conditions required to ensure predictable, legitimate, harmonized SPS frameworks," Mutombo said.

According to the trading bloc, COMESA countries face SPS-capacity challenges like poor awareness on SPS obligations and responsibilities in the private and public sectors, and inadequate capacities to negotiate equivalence and mutual-recognition agreements for market access within the bloc.

Chris Kiptoo, permanent secretary at Kenya's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, said the subject of SPS standards is a crucial element

of Kenya's trade policy.

"Compliance with SPS measures has opened tremendous export opportunities for Kenyan producers and exporters, both at the intra-regional trade level and at the international level," Kiptoo said.

He said Kenya has made tremendous strides in the formulation of plans, policies, laws, regulations, strategies and institutional frameworks that provide for protection of human, animal and plant life and health, which has enhanced the competitiveness of the country's exports in the domestic, regional and international markets over the years.

National budgets occasionally do not have sufficient resources to address all national priorities and needs, which requires hard choices to be made between competing investments that may all be required to bring appreciable benefits in terms of export performance, agricultural productivity, environmental protection and public health in the longer term, Kiptoo said.

"Thus, cross-sectoral collaboration and prioritization of investments becomes important," he said. "The diversity of strengths and weaknesses on the continent demands greater collaboration between countries that belong to the same free trade area." Xinhua

# Tariffs put American businesses under huge pressure

By Zheng Qi

PATRICIA Phillips, president of a chemical manufacturer SNP Inc., said her company is in a life-or-death situation because of the additional tariffs proposed by the U.S. government on Chinese imports.

Phillips made the remarks on June 20, the fourth day of the seven-day public hearing on Washington's plan to impose additional tariffs on nearly \$300 billion worth of more Chinese imports held by the Office of the United States

Trade Representative (USTR).

Located in North Carolina, SNP specializes in producing sodium alginate products. Chinese companies are the most important suppliers of raw materials for SNP, Phillips said.

Her father passed away a few days ago, but she must attend the hearing at this crucial moment, expressed Phillips, almost weeping.

Phillips said her company was set up with painstaking efforts by her father 58 years ago, and they have been working very hard all these years to

make SNP what it is now.

It is the second time for SNP to take part in the public hearings. Phillips hurried to attend her father's funeral immediately after she stated her views in front of the officials at the hearing.

With facts and data, U.S. business owners from various fields including textile, chemical industry, medical field, clothing, glasses, jewelry, and sport products, elaborated on the irrationality of the tariffs and the importance of Chinese supply chains.

Founder and CEO of a design and development company of high-end women's lingerie in Massachusetts brought some of the company's products to the hearing.

Each of the products was handsewn with 30 to 45 pieces of cloth, which requires high standards of manufacturing techniques.

She had investigated 14 countries other than China, but none of which can meet her company's requirements for production, according to the CEO, who told the officials

about her experiences of trying to find substitutes for Chinese manufacturers.

She said that workers in these countries do not want to do such tedious jobs which involve handcraft like hand sewing and beading. Some worker couldn't meet the company's quality standards, and some factories couldn't deliver goods in time.

Ryan McFarland, founder and CEO of Strider Sports International Inc., was born in a family which was familiar with bike racing. In order to

build a suitable bike for his son, McFarland made a balance bike by himself and hence set up the brand Strider, which has sold more than 2.5 million bikes around the world.

McFarland's success owes much to Strider's cooperation with a manufacturer in Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province. Today, the U.S. government's plan to impose additional tariffs on more Chinese imports pose a serious problem for Strider, which has shelved its domestic expansion and recruitment plan in the U.S.

Doug Hill, president of AFX Helmets, drove over 1,000 kilometers to the hearing from Michigan. Showing People's Daily motorcycle helmets of his company, Hill explained that the products contain patented technologies of his company's manufacturing partner in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong province.

The partner's high-tech materials not only make the helmets lighter, but enhance the protective performance of the helmets, said Hill.

People's Daily





Lamine Diack

## France to try former IAAF boss Diack and his son

PARIS

LAMINE Diack, once one of the most influential men in Olympic sport, has been ordered to stand trial in France for his alleged role in a system of corruption, extortion and doping cover-ups during his reign at the top of athletics.

Diack was head of the IAAF for nearly 16 years. Arrested in France in 2015, he will be tried on charges of corruption, influence-trafficking, and money laundering, a French judicial official said on Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the planned trial.

The money-laundering charge, alone, carries a potential jail term of up to 10 years. The 86-year-old Diack has been under orders to stay in France since his arrest. The trial date has not been fixed but is not expected before next year.

Also ordered to stand trial was one of Diack's sons, Papa Massata Diack. He has emerged as a central figure in French judicial probes of suspected corruption involving the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games and other sports events. The judicial official said the younger Diack will stand trial for complicity in corruption and money laundering. Believed to be living in Senegal, he could be tried in absentia. At France's request, the international police agency Interpol has issued a wanted notice for him.

As IAAF president, Lamine Diack presided over an era when Usain Bolt, in particular, made track and field wildly popular. But Diack's legacy, and the IAAF's credibility, took a beating after he stepped down in 2015, replaced by Sebastian Coe, with his arrest and subsequent revelations of athletes being blackmailed and of doping cover-ups.

At least a half-dozen athletes, mostly Russian, are thought to have been told that their suspected doping could be hushed up, allowing them to continue competing, if they paid up. The head of France's financial prosecution service told The Associated Press in 2015 that Diack pocketed more than 1 million euros (\$1.1 million) from the alleged cash-for-silence scheme.

Since then, more evidence has emerged suggesting that as much as \$3.5 million may

have been allegedly squeezed out of Russian athletes to hush up their doping. A letter detailing payments from Russia that was seized during the investigation and forms part of the case says those who paid include now-banned top Russian race-walking coach Viktor Chegin and some athletes who worked with him, according to a judicial official who also spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss the probe. Chegin was banned for life in 2016.

At the time of his arrest, Diack was the highest-profile name in sports pursued by the French prosecution service. It has become extremely active in going after suspected corruption in sports, using its broad powers to investigate marquee events, including the award of the 2018 soccer World Cup to Russia and the 2022 World Cup to Qatar.

Investigators for the World Anti-Doping Agency concluded in 2016 that Diack and his sons, hired during his reign as IAAF consultants, formed a "powerful rogue group" within the governing body. Their report claimed Diack was "responsible for organizing and enabling the conspiracy and corruption that took place in the IAAF. He sanctioned and appears to have had personal knowledge of the fraud and the extortion of athletes."

Evidence from WADA triggered the launch of the French probe of Diack and his associates. French investigating magistrates overseeing the investigation have also ordered trials for Valentin Balakhnitchev, a former IAAF treasurer, and Alexei Melnikov, a coach who led Russia's long-distance running program.

They, too, could be tried in absentia because Russia generally refuses to extradite its citizens. Balakhnitchev will be tried for corruption and money laundering; Melnikov for corruption. They have been banned from track and field for life. An IAAF ethics committee imposed life bans in January 2016 for an alleged conspiracy to extort money from Russian runner Liliya Shobukhova, a former winner of the Boston, Chicago and London Marathons who later turned whistleblower.

Also to be tried in France for corruption are Habib Cisse, a former legal adviser to Diack, and Gabriel Dolle, who was the IAAF anti-doping director.

AP



Naomi Campbell

## Naomi Campbell says racial diversity in fashion should not be just a trend

LONDON

RACIAL diversity in fashion has improved in recent years, but the industry must not treat it like a catwalk trend, British model Naomi Campbell told Reuters in an interview.

One of fashion's most recognisable faces, Campbell has long spoken of discrimination in the industry where she has worked for 33 years.

The 49-year-old Campbell was the first black model to appear on the covers of French Vogue and Time magazine. She was also the first black model on the cover of American Vogue's key September issue.

Asked how the industry had changed, Campbell said: "In so many ways, but most importantly the diversity. It's finally ... sunken in but now we hope people don't think it's in for a trend, like clothes are in for a season and out for a season, that's not going to happen."

"It's improved absolutely. I can't say it hasn't. I do think there's always more room for improvement ... There's still some ways to go," she added referring to equal pay.

Campbell began her career as a teenager and has modelled for fashion heavyweights, such as Versace, Chanel, Prada, Dolce & Gabbana, among many others. She has also championed African designers and co-produced April's Arise Fashion Week in Lagos, Nigeria.

Asked if African designers were finally getting recognition, she said: "We're on our way, we're not there yet, but we're

getting the platform ... they deserve to have."

On designer labels improving their green credentials as public environmental awareness grows, Campbell said most brands were "very aware of sustainability."

"I feel that everyone is consciously aware now and trying to do their part. It's amazing, you go on set now to do shoots and it has to be a non-plastic shoot."

One of the five major supermodels of the early 1990s, Campbell has featured on the covers of more than 500 magazines. However she wrote in this month's British Vogue she only recently began feeling more at ease in her own skin.

"Just because I'm a model doesn't mean that I felt comfortable," she told Reuters.

"If I would put on something that was figure hugging and I had to go outside and get a taxi in New York City, I'd always tie a cardigan around my waist because I felt a little self-conscious."

Campbell founded charitable organisation Fashion For Relief in 2005, hosting catwalk shows to raise funds for causes that have included victims of Hurricane Katrina and Typhoon Haiyan.

She began her charity work with late South African president Nelson Mandela, who referred to her as "honorary granddaughter."

The British Fashion Council on Monday said Campbell would receive the Fashion Icon Award at December's Fashion Awards in recognition of her industry contribution and charity work. Campbell said the award was "an honour and thrill."

Asked about Britain's impending departure from the European Union and its impact on the country's fashion industry, London-born Campbell said: "How's Brexit going to affect the country on the whole is what I care about."

"I don't think divide is good in any situation and there is a divide and when there's divide there's unrest, and unrest is not good."

But she added that she hoped there would be more opportunities in fashion.

"When people say global to me and I ask them if they mean are they in Africa and they say no, they're not global to me ... So if this is going to open up the territories that were not included ... then I'm for it in our fashion industry."

REUTERS

## Federer looks to turn number nine Wimbledon dream into reality

LONDON

HISTORICALLY, emotionally and statistically, Roger Federer remains the man to beat at Wimbledon even at the 21st time of asking.

Forget the creaking knees and advancing years – the Swiss will be 38 in August – not many in SW19 will bet against their adopted favourite achieving Wimbledon history with a ninth men's title to equal Martina Navratilova's record singles mark.

Victory would consolidate his position as oldest male champion, a record he set in 2017 when he won his eighth title without dropping a set at the age of 35 years and 342 days.

Federer's cheerleaders will point to the confidence gleaned from 2019 tournament wins on the hard courts of Dubai – his 100th ATP title – and Miami.

This year's Wimbledon lead-up



has been wrinkle-free after a positive showing at the French Open, where he lost in the semi-finals to Rafa Nadal, and his traditional grass tune-up at last week's Halle Open, where he triumphed for the 10th time.

But look through the glass differently and 2019 may tell a whole new story.

Perhaps Federer's decision to compete at Roland Garros for the first time in four years was actually an acknowledgement that his great powers are waning.

Federer knows that every opportunity to boost his Grand Slam

tally of 20 trophies must be grasped or risk being eclipsed by the rejuvenated Nadal.

### 'HARD TO BEAT'

The Spaniard's victory in Paris took his Grand Slam total to 18 while Novak Djokovic has won three of the last four blue-riband events to bring his career tally to 15.

It is possible to make a strong case for all three, with Nick Kyrgios last week making special mention for Federer, whom he predicted will "be hard to beat" on his favourite surface.

Former French Open finalist Alex Corretja is another who has flagged up Federer.

"Federer played a great claycourt season, which gives him the belief he can win Wimbledon again," said the Spaniard.

Grass has always suited Federer's aggressive style, which is based on

footwork, pace and ability to find sharp angles.

Perhaps the only remaining question is whether the Swiss has the stamina to slug it out against the game's young guns.

As always the aim remains to win but now it is to do so without expending too much energy.

Last year there were signs that the balance is more difficult to achieve and the eight-times champion squandered match points against Kevin Anderson before exiting in the quarter-finals.

Despite Anderson's raw power, few at Wimbledon expected Federer to lose that day because for so many years Wimbledon victories came so naturally.

All that can be said with certainty is that should anyone beat the man who has already pocketed \$124 million in prize money, he should consider himself champion in waiting.

REUTERS

## Hamilton says governing body should decide F1 rules, not teams

LONDON

FIVE-TIMES world champion Lewis Hamilton said decisions about Formula One's rules should be left in the hands of the governing body rather than teams with vested interests.

Speaking after his victory in a pre-season French Grand Prix on Sunday, the Mercedes driver felt the sport was in a mess and drivers could play their part in getting it back on the right track.

Hamilton attended a meeting of teams, Formula One management, the governing FIA and tyre supplier Pirelli in Paris on June 13 along with Renault driver Nico Hulkenberg and Grand Prix Drivers' Association head Alexander Wurz.

It was the first time the Briton, winner of 79 races, had attended and he said he realised the responsibility he had as a multiple champion.

He was also critical of the current decision-making process.

"The way it is set up, just from watching when I was there, it's not good," he said. "It's really not good. They won't like me saying that. I see the mess that we're in, I see it every year."

"I think ultimately the FIA, they're the governing body and they need to make all the decisions," added the 34-year-old Briton.

"The teams shouldn't be involved in that, in my opinion because the teams will all want to do something for themselves."

"It's the same in football; if all the football teams sat in a room and said the sport should be like this, they would push and pull for their own benefit," he said.

"Whereas if you get central group of people telling us, like the FIA for example, that their sole job is to make



Lewis Hamilton

the sport great again... they should just have the power and they should make

the decisions." RISK OF BIAS

Hamilton said those running the sport should come from outside because of the risk of bias.

There has been speculation for some time in the paddock that Mercedes principal Toto Wolff could replace Formula One chairman Chase Carey after 2020. The Austrian has said he is not contemplating any change.

FIA president Jean Todt was Ferrari team principal in the era of Michael Schumacher.

Formula One is planning a major rules revamp from 2021 but presentation of the new sporting, technical and financial regulations has been pushed back to the end of October.

Commercial rights holders Liberty Media want to level the playing field with a budget cap and a more equal distribution of revenues among the 10 teams and say there is now broad agreement on that.

Ross Brawn, a former Mercedes team boss and Ferrari technical director as well as title winner with his own eponymous team, has been overseeing the process.

Only the top three teams – Mercedes, Ferrari

and Red Bull – have won races since the V6 turbo hybrid era started in 2014.

Hamilton felt he had been listened to at the meeting and described it as "really constructive".

"We need to be at the next meeting. Part of the next chain of emails is happening, even if it's just small things," he said.

"I'd love to be able to look back and say I was a part of helping that positive change for the fans that are watching Formula One... not just a driver and the titles, but someone who actually cared about the sport."

Brawn said he was happy Hamilton had confirmed his willingness to contribute.

"We know well that Formula One needs to make an important change in direction if it wants to maintain its position as one of the most followed sporting spectacles in the world," said the managing director for sport.

"It will be great to have an input directly from the drivers."

REUTERS



## Cameroon player pulled out of Cup of Nations due to possible heart defect

CAIRO

STRIKER Joel Tagueu has been withdrawn from Cameroon's squad at the Africa Cup of Nations after a medical examination revealed a possible life-threatening heart defect, the country's soccer federation said in a statement on Monday.

The 25-year-old, who plays for Portuguese club Maritimo, had an "anomaly in his coronary artery detected by team doctor William Ngatchou which risks his life if he were to play," the Cameroon Football Federation said.

"On the advice of the doctor, the coach (Clarence Seedorf) has decided not to risk the player, who is leaving the tournament."

The doctor first detected the possible defect when Cameroon held a pre-tournament training camp in Qatar and subsequent examinations confirmed his suspicion.

"The news was greeted with a lot of sadness in the camp. The staff and the players could not hold back their tears," the statement added.

As Cameroon have yet to play their first game at the tournament, they can still replace Tagueu.

The holders begin the defence of their title against Guinea Bissau in Ismailia on Tuesday.

The risk of heart failure during the game is an emotive issue for Cameroon, whose midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe collapsed and died while playing for the Indomitable Lions at the 2003 Confederation Cup in France.

Foe, only 28, collapsed on the field and lost consciousness during the semi-final against Colombia at the Stade de Gerland in Lyon.

After attempts to resuscitate him on the pitch, medics spent 45 minutes at the stadium's medical centre trying to restart his heart, and although he was still alive when he arrived there, he died shortly afterwards.

He was later found to have suffered from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a heart-related disease.

REUTERS

## Kalu okay after heart scare, says Rohr

ALEXANDRIA

NIGERIA head coach Gernot Rohr says striker Samuel Kalu is okay after he collapsed in training on Friday night and was rushed to hospital immediately.

There were fears that the forward who turns out for French club Bordeaux might have some heart condition, but that was dispelled after checks in an Alexandria hospital.

Kalu played no part in Nigeria's opening game against Burundi on Saturday as a precaution but was at the stadium in support of the team.

Coach Gernot Rohr speaking to CafOnline after the match said the striker was okay.

"Kalu had a problem on Friday when he fell as we were doing some drills on corner kicks. He was rushed to hospital and fortunately, the doctors said it was a problem of dehydration, not a heart problem. He didn't drink enough," Rohr noted.

"But he is okay now, he is in high spirits. We will wait for more green-light from the medical team before we can decide whether he can play. He is okay. The rest is up to the medics," further stated the German coach.

Kalu indeed affirmed that he was okay, leaving the team's dressing room after the game with a smile and a thumbs up when asked whether everything was fine.

Rohr said his team has been hit with sickness with defender Shehu Abdullahi coming off after just 39 minutes in the game against Burundi on Saturday.

"We had some sick players coming in here because of the weather when we were training in Asaba. But I believe they will be okay and we can have a fully fit team," stated the tactician.

Nigeria play their next game against Guinea on Wednesday in what is expected to be a tough duel.

CAF

## Cameroon face inquiry and possible action after England defeat

PARIS

CAMEROON face an inquiry and possible disciplinary action from soccer authorities after a 3-0 loss to England in the last 16 of the women's World Cup on Sunday when they reacted furiously to two VAR decisions, initially refusing to restart the game.

After England's second goal was ruled offside then allowed after a VAR review, several Cameroon players remonstrated with the referee and for a long time refused to restart the match.

They thought they had pulled a goal back early in the second half, only for VAR to again rule against them for a marginal offside - sparking more chaotic scenes.

The ill-tempered contest, which involved strong challenges throughout and an horrific tackle on England's Steph Houghton, also saw an incident where Cameroon defender Augustine Ejangue spat on the arm of England forward Toni Duggan.

A spokesperson for soccer's world governing body said on Monday: "FIFA is currently looking into the matter at this stage".

FIFA's disciplinary body is likely to examine some of the incidents as part of its routine review of matches, while Isha Johansen, chair of the women's football

committee for the African Football Confederation (CAF), said her body will open an inquiry.

"Whilst remaining proud of our African teams that participated in the FIFA Women's World Cup, yesterday's match between England and Cameroon reflected badly, not only on African women's football but African football on the whole," said Johansen, who is also president of the Sierra Leone FA.

"It is an issue which will be addressed and dealt with at the appropriate levels of governance," she added in a statement.

England manager Phil Neville has heavily criticised the behaviour of his side's opponents.

"I am completely and utterly ashamed of the opposition," said the former Manchester United player.

"If that was my team - and it will never be any of my players - they would never play for England again.

"Those images are going out worldwide about how to act, the young girls playing all over the world that are seeing that behaviour. For me, it's not right," he added.

Cameroon coach Alain Djeumfa pointed the finger at the referee, calling the defeat a "miscarriage of justice".

REUTERS



# Superstar Mo Salah seeks first goal at Cup of Nations in Egypt

CAIRO

SUPERSTAR Mohamed Salah gets a second chance to score his first goal at the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations when hosts Egypt face the Democratic Republic of Congo in Group A on Wednesday.

The recent Champions League winner with Liverpool was unable to convert several chances against Zimbabwe last Friday as Egypt won 1-0 in the opening match of the tournament.

"Mohamed Salah was among those who missed chances, but I was satisfied with our performance," admitted Mexican coach Javier Aguirre.

Victory over the Congolese, who performed poorly when losing 2-0 to Uganda, could clinch a last-16 place for the Egyptians with one match to spare.

Here, AFP Sport previews the Group A double-header with Uganda playing Zimbabwe in the first match in Cairo, and the Group B showdown between Nigeria and Guinea in Alexandria.

Egypt v DR Congo  
After four days of small crowds, a capacity 75,000 crowd is expected in Cairo to cheer Egypt as they seek a third win in four Cup of Nations meetings with the DR Congo.

There will be contrasting pressures on the teams with the Pharaohs eyeing a second-round place and the Leopards fighting for survival after a horror first outing.

"We must learn to handle the pressure of being among the favourites in order to realise our goal of becoming African champions," said Aguirre.

DR Congo came to Egypt as one of the most unpredictable qualifiers having finished third in 2015 only to make a timid quarter-final exit two years ago.

"We let our country down against Uganda," confessed captain Youssef Mulumbu. "It was a bitter lesson for us and we plan to correct the situation quickly."

Uganda v Zimbabwe

Having won a Cup of Nations match for the first time in 41 years, Uganda coach Sebastien Desabre has warned his Cranes against overconfidence when they confront Zimbabwe.



Ivory Coast's Jonathan Kodjia, center, scores his side's opening goal during the African Cup of Nations group D soccer match between Ivory Coast and South Africa in Al Salam Stadium in Cairo, Egypt, Monday, June 24, 2019. Ivory Coast won 1-0. (AP Photo)

"It was wonderful to win after such a long time, but we must keep our feet on the ground and remain humble and focused," warned the Frenchman.

"I was very impressed by Zimbabwe against Egypt and nothing less than a top-class performance from us will deliver three more points."

Should Uganda and Egypt triumph, both will be guaranteed last-16 places, leaving Zimbabwe and DR Congo to try and fill one of four spots reserved for the best third-place finishers. "Our brave performance against Egypt is history and only a victory over Uganda will bring us back into contention for automatic qualification," said Zimbabwe coach Sunday Chidzambwa.

Guinea v Nigeria

Neither team impressed in their Group B openers with Nigeria one-goal winners over debutants Burundi and the defensive weaknesses of Guinea exposed when held by Madagascar, another newcomer.

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr blamed illness for a lacklustre showing and it took an exquisite backheel pass from Ola Aina to set up substitute Odion Ighalo for a late 1-0 win.

"Some players started training only a few days before the match after becoming ill due to the change in climate from wet Nigeria to hot Egypt," said Rohr.

"We are thrilled to be here after failing to qualify for the last two Cup of Nations and I expect a much better performance against a very good Guinea side."

AFP



## Madagascar enjoy moment in the sun despite behind-the-scenes turmoil

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt

MADAGASCAR'S Jean Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa boasts one of the most eye-catching names at the Africa Cup of Nations but all the more remarkable has been the rise of one of the continent's also-rans into a side continuing to upset the odds.

The midfielder has played his part in bringing Madagascar to their first major tournament, perhaps inspired by his famous namesakes Romario and Roberto Baggio who were on opposite sides in the 1994 World Cup final between Brazil and Italy.

"My parents decided," he told ESPN recently. "I don't know exactly why, but they were the two best players (at the 1994 World Cup which was won by Brazil in a penalty shootout)."

Until recently one of African soccer's minnows, Madagascar surpassed expectations by holding Guinea to a 2-2 draw in their opening match and next face fellow debutants Burundi on Thursday knowing a win would put them close to the last 16.

Yet, only five years ago, they had slumped to 187th out of 211 in the FIFA world rankings after being routinely eliminated from Africa Cup of Nations and World Cup qualifying tournaments in two-leg preliminary round ties.

These included a 7-1 aggregate thrashing by Cape Verde in the qualifiers for the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations and a 4-1 thumping by Equatorial Guinea in the 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

A country possibly best known for its unique wildlife and ecosystems, Madagascar's footballing fortunes began to change after Frenchman Nicolas Dupuis was appointed coach in 2017.

Like his players, Dupuis spent most of his playing and coaching career in the lower reaches of the French league.

He spent five years at French fourth tier side Yzeure in his previous job, enjoying a brief moment of fame when they beat Ligue 1 side Lorient in a French Cup match in 2013.

On taking charge, the 51-year-old quickly began looking for recruits among the country's Diaspora and the 23-man squad in Egypt includes six players born in France and 10 who play for French clubs.

Other players are scattered around the globe, playing club football in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, South Africa, Thailand, Algeria, Bulgaria and the United States.

Madagascar were also helped by a decision from the Confederation of African Football (CAF), whose beleaguered president Ahmad Ahmad is Malagasy, to enlarge the finals from 16 to 24 teams.



Jean Romario Baggio Rakotoarisoa

BACKSTAGE TURMOIL

All of this has happened despite turmoil behind the scenes.

In November last year, FIFA intervened in the Malagasy football federa-

tion, alleging that elections had not been properly conducted, and set up a so-called normalisation committee to supervise its day-to-day running.

In the meantime, Ahmad's CAF presi-

dency has run into trouble.

In an unprecedented move, FIFA has taken over the running of CAF in the wake of corruption allegations, and an ethics investigation has been launched into Ahmad.

Ahmad, who is also a FIFA vice-president, did not respond to requests by Reuters for comment on the allegations against him.

Despite the turmoil, Dupuis has just got on with his job, although he has complained that the federation starts projects but fails to finish them.

"An academy was launched but failed to get off the ground," he told the French edition of the goal.com website last year. "Here, they start well and let things fall apart."

But qualifying was the high point of his career.

"Even if I enjoyed some (success) in the Coupe de France, it does not compare to this," he said.

"A qualification for the Africa Cup of Nations is something significant, especially in a country that has never done it before. This is a level I had never reached before."

Watching the team take the field against Guinea gave him goosebumps, he revealed.

"We came to play without any complex," he said. "We will have to work, let ourselves go and say that it is possible to qualify in the round of 16."

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Superstar Salah seeks first goal at Cup of Nations in Egypt

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Vice President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, and Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbembe (2nd L), in a group photo with KCB Bank employees at a fundraising ceremony for the senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. KCB Bank donated 11,500,000/- for the squad, which is taking part in the Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Egypt. PHOTO: GUARDIAN PHOTOGRAPHER

## Women's game advancing at U-20 level ahead of COSAFA Championships

CAPE TOWN

THE teams that compete at the inaugural 2019 COSAFA Under-20 Women's Championship in Port Elizabeth from August 1-11 will have the opportunity to build towards the FIFA World Cup in this age-group next year.

It is a perfect and rare opportunity for players in this age-group to get competitive international football outside of continental qualifiers, and one that a number of COSAFA nations have seized on.

Botswana, Eswatini, Namibia, hosts South Africa, East African guest nation Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe have all confirmed that participation, while the eighth side will be named before the draw on July 3 at COSAFA House in Johannesburg.

Teams will potentially enter the qualifiers for the World Cup, likely to be staged in India, next year, and do so with some strong preparation under their belt.

Botswana and South Africa were the only COSAFA sides to enter the last set of qualifiers, with the latter falling at the final hurdle against old enemy Nigeria.

Zambia have also been recent participants though, as have Namibia and Mozambique.

The Under-20 Women's World Cup has been played every two years since 2002 but has never had a participant from the COSAFA region.

In fact, the only African nations to appear have been Nigeria, Ghana and DR Congo, a target for all Southern African sides to reach.

FIFA's Technical Study Group at the last finals in France in 2018 made special mention of the huge progress made in this age-group in women's football, and none of the African teams will want to be left behind.

"We can confirm the concrete progress that women's football is making from a technical, tactical and fitness point of view. Such improvement is to a great extent due to the excellent coaching we are seeing across all confederations," said Branimir Ujevi, the Head of the FIFA Coaching & Player Development Department, which is responsible for the TSG.

Patricia González, Head of TSG and Women's Football Technical Programmes Manager, detailed the developments in the women's game at this level.

"On the one hand, goalkeepers are actively contributing to their teams' build-up play, and overall we saw solid defensive structures and players with a great sense of anticipation, such as Japan's Hana Takahashi," she said.

"On the other hand, we witnessed a remarkable ability and attitude by the attackers to make the most out of the few chances that came their way. Patricia Guijarro, the tournament's top scorer and best player, as well as Emelyne Laurent, are prototypes of clinical finishers.

"The great tactical flexibility shown by the majority of teams confirms that players at U-20 World Cup level are increasingly mature," added González.



Taifa Stars

## Defeat to Harambee Stars unthinkable for Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TAIFA Stars' left fullback Gadiel Michael has bemoaned the possibility of the neighbours Kenya edging out his side as 'unthinkable'.

He echoed a belief shared by many Tanzania's soccer fans who were left frustrated after witnessing their side put up one of the worst performances seen in this edition of the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) tournament.

Tanzania play Kenya tomorrow in their second group match of the on-going AFCON tournament knowing a win will keep their hopes of making it to the second round alive.

The left full back said: "We have regrouped as players and we know these are our peers, we know each other."

"Losing against them would be a disaster not only to players but also the entire nation."

Michael, popularly known as Gadiel, added that tomorrow match will decide their destiny in the group, calling it a tough contest due to the neighbouring rivalry between the two East African countries.

Tanzania and Kenya go into their Group C game on Thursday with identical records,

meaning that bar shocking upsets in their final matches, this encounter could decide who ends bottom of the group. Both teams lost and conceded two goals in the opening group games, putting them completely level.

It is a high stake game for Taifa Stars' coaching panel and players.

There is no hiding place at this stage and Taifa Stars must either raise their game several levels or confirm the passage back home with one game to play which could end up with another loss in the hands of the formidable Algerians on Monday.

Even though coach Emmanuel Amunike endured a lot of criticism when he announced his final squad for Egypt, by overlooking fans' favourite like Ibrahim Ajibu, Shiza Kichuya and Jonas Mkude, he must have been shocked by the level of criticism thrown at him after Sunday's drab showing against Senegal.

Losing to the best ranked team in Africa is by no means a dishonour, in fact most Tanzanian predicted a Senegal victory but were understandably angry at the team's performance.

The fact that the team could barely string four passes and ended up without registering a single shot on target stirred up indig-

nation from every angle.

Former Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juma Nkama, went as far as saying there are allegations of coach Amunike team selection being influenced by a football agent who wanted to see two players in the starting eleven in the first half.

That was ridiculous and a step too far and I hope Amunike does not get to hear about such baseless allegations.

For Amunike the task ahead is to take forget about Senegal and prepare his boys for a show down with Kenya in which many Tanzanians share the same sentiments like Gadiel that defeat is unthinkable.

The fans know the limitations of their team and players, most do not have unrealistic expectations but this is Kenya we are facing not the dreaded North or West African teams.

For many fans, victory against Kenya will be enough for Taifa Stars AFCON tournament sojourn to be considered a relatively successful campaign after a 39-year long wait.

Kenya might have a better head to head record but they are within our level, we can match them pound for pound in all departments.

## Morogoro boxer keen on emulating Cheka

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO professional boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, has pointed out he is eager to turn into a worthy successor for famous domestic Super Middleweight boxer, Francis Cheka, who hails from the region.

The up-and-coming boxer disclosed the plan to The Guardian at Nashera Hotel in the region last weekend.

Jaylaan, who fights in the Middleweight division, noted he has taken part in seven bouts, winning five and losing the rest.

He beat Abdallah Jang'olo by knock-out three years back and went on to record a similar win over Tino Masoud in the second fight, ending the bout in the third round.

Jaylaan again notched a knockout victory over Masoud in a re-match, the former then cruised to victory over Shaban Kidedeza.

In the fourth bout, he beat Abdallah Bebito by points in a six-round fight. Jaylaan's two defeats came in bouts against Ramadhan Ramadhan and Nasibu Msafiri.

Jaylaan, whose bouts took place in Morogoro, was adamant he wants to win national titles and successfully take over from Cheka.

The boxer noted he has been training the former world champion, who also held national titles in the Super Middleweight division, and has been learning tactics from the latter with a view to posting more wins.

"I hope to win belts, I'm training in a better facility that motivates me to work hard," he said.

He disclosed his training sessions include morning and evening jogging sessions. He said he runs long routes to gain fitness.

He added he will take part in a fight in August to evaluate the effectiveness of his three-month training regime.

He called for firms and well-wishers to invest in boxing since the sport is not as expensive as some of sports disciplines. The boxer noted transferring a modern boxing ring from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro costs 500,000/-.

"I congratulate the management of Nashera Hotel for giving me space for training, this has motivated me to work hard in an effort to repay them with victory in fights," he noted.

He also expressed his sincere regards to the hotel's manager, Nabona, for supporting the region's boxers.

He called on the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) leadership to focus on nurturing the sport's talents in all regions in the country.

The officials, he insisted, should not solely put their efforts in hosting fights in Dar es Salaam. Veteran boxing coach, Zacks Mwiseba, who trains Jaylaan, disclosed the boxer in in good shape, he is fearless and disciplined.

Mwiseba noted he is optimistic the boxer will fulfill his dream of becoming a worthy successor for Cheka.



Morogoro professional boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, poses for picture at Nashera Hotel in Morogoro recently shortly after training to prepare for a bout scheduled for August. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

## Flexibles by David Chikoko



**EATV** **DADAZ** **TODAY @11:00**

**WEDNESDAY DADAZ**

10:59 Jikani Na Jane  
11:00 DADAZ (live)  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:30 #HASHITAG  
17:00 SSELECT  
17:55 Kurosa  
18:00 eNews  
18:30 Music  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MUJADALA  
20:00 EPL REVIEW  
21:30 Mid Week Movie

**DADAZ** This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

**eastafrica RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**