



National pg3 Production of improved sunflower seeds



National Pg 4 SADC member states meeting in Zanzibar



National Pg 5 Spina bifida and hydrocephalus conditions



Page 13



Key power project work at 10pc level, 1.2trn/- paid out up to now

By Henry Mwangonde

THE construction of the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project has reached 10-percent level with about 1.2trn/- being paid to the contractor so far, it was said yesterday.

Speaking during a meeting with a group of retired government officials yesterday, the coordinator for the project Stephen Mande said the implementation was supposed to have reached 16-percent by now but procurement processes were delayed as various equipment must be bought abroad, he said.

The payments made so far represent 18-percent of all the money expected to be paid to the contractor until the project is completed by 2025, he asserted.

The retirees under their umbrella body

“The payments made so far represent 18-percent of all the money expected to be paid to the contractor until the project is completed by 2025

Saidia Wazee Tanzania (SAWATA) sought to meet the country's power utility firm, Tanesco to learn more about the project.

The Arab Contractors Co. was given contract to design and construct the 2,100-MW project, involving building a dam and appurtenant structures, with expected reservoir length of 100 km and a reservoir area of about 1,350 square km. The dam height is about 134 m.

Upon completion, the dam is expected to double the country's power generation capacity.

In remarks given by the SAWATA Secretary General, Ambassador Nyasugura Kadege said the information they have received about the project was vital for their understanding and usage.

“We were just hearing about the project from the media but now we are fully aware of what it is and how it is going to operate,” she added.

Tanzania qualifies to export 3T minerals

IN the United States, the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required manufacturers to audit their supply chains and report use of conflict minerals



Workers with heavy construction equipment making progress in expansion of the New Bagamoyo Road to four ways from Morocco to Mwenge at Kijitonyama-Science area in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi.

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA can now export Tin, Tungsten and Tantalum (3T minerals) after putting in place mining control and traceability mechanism. Deputy Minister for Minerals Stanlaus Nyongolo told editors in Dar es Salaam yesterday that Tanzania's certificate of origin for the export of the minerals will be unveiled during the Tanzania

Minerals and Mining Investment Conference 2020 slated for Dar es Salaam this weekend.

Tanzania becomes the fourth country in the Great Lakes region after the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi to issue certificate of origin for the sale of the minerals.

“The minerals which normally stay together are found in Kyerwa and

TURN TO PAGE 2



Tanzania becomes the fourth country in the Great Lakes region after the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi to issue certificate of origin for the sale of the minerals

Minister lays out indicative prices, urea supply outlook

By Guardian Reporter

AGRICULTURE minister Japhet Hasunga has announced a cut in the price of urea fertilizer from 57,500/- to an indicative price of 51,700/- per 50 kg bag, a ten percent decline.

He revealed this to reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam when presenting report on the availability of fertilizer in the country.

He said in the 2018/19 farming season the average price of urea fertilizer was



“The price to farmers has gone down regionally from 54,000/- in July 2019 to an average of 51,700/- in November, a drop of 2,300/- or four percent for a 50 kg bag

57,500/- per 50 kg bag. As a result of efforts to find ways to reduce fertilizer prices, including importing the farming input through a competitive tender process through the Bulk Procurement System (BPS), urea fertilizer prices had now gone down to 51,700/-.

The price to farmers has gone down regionally from 54,000/- in July 2019 to an average of 51,700/- in November, a drop of 2,300/- or four percent for a 50 kg bag, he

TURN TO PAGE 2

Land plots seller lady shakes Mbeya City

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

MBEYA City is feared to have more and more common engaged in selling land plots they don't own, which has spurred an increase of land conflicts, where a suspected woman even reached the State House in Dar es Salaam.

This has the potential effect of holding back the city's growth, which would send ripples for the trade environment across the Southern Highlands zone.



Investigations by this paper

have shown that common have been selling land plots that have not been improved, or those abandoned, whilst other have been selling open areas, and a woman was lately paraded as a kingpin in those incidents.

John Mwaipungu, a resident of Ilemi in the city said some common have been sending building materials such as sand and aggregate at sites of plots that have been abandoned and

TURN TO PAGE 2

PALM VILLAGE | Plot 119 Mwai Kibaki Road | Palmvillage.co.tz | 0659 800 800 | 0624 880 880

Shopping Mall, Mikocheni

2BR | 3BR | 4BR APARTMENTS AND DUPLEXES

FLEXIBLE PAYMENTS PLAN
ZERO INTEREST RATE

Panoramic seaview | Value for money investment | Sample apartments ready for viewing

MALL NOW OPEN

Woolworths, Vodacom, One, DM Cafe, RUPHI, Gadget Care, Little More, Charls, Norbros Collections



Tanzania qualifies to export 3T minerals

FROM PAGE 1

Ngara districts in Kagera Region," he said without divulging amounts of the deposits.

Nyongo noted that small scale mining activities are ongoing in the two districts, with an investor having already put up a smelter in the area.

He pointed out that the sale of the minerals collectively referred to as 'conflict minerals' is restricted globally because of the history of being used to fund conflicts.

Global efforts to end the illicit trade of 3T minerals began in the early 2000s with Great Lakes Region countries meeting in Dar es Salaam in 2004 and signing a protocol outlining presale requirements including issuance of certificates of origin.

It is a culmination of long term collaborations and partnerships on the basis of international and regional initiatives to support the formalization of the 3T artisanal mining sector, he stated.

It was also designed to promote efforts to develop and implement traceability, observe due diligence and supply chain transparency for the three minerals, he elaborated.

Nyongo said the investment conference scheduled to take place at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre will be in tandem with a mining sector exhibition starting tomorrow.

The 3Ts and gold ore extracted from eastern DRC that passed through a variety of intermediaries before being purchased led to international restrictions on their sale.

These minerals are essential in the manufacture of a variety of devices, including consumer electronics such as smartphones, tablets and computers.

Extraction and sale of diamonds in the proximity of the Great Lakes and West Africa was seen to encourage violence, thus earning the nickname 'blood diamonds.' They had virtually identical conditions with the 3T minerals and several initiatives were brought at the United Nations level to curb the trade and arrest the warlords.

Even petroleum can be a conflict resource, with the Middle East extremist group ISIS said to have used oil revenue to finance its expansion in Iraq and Syria.

International efforts to reduce trade in conflict resources aim at reducing incentives to extract rare minerals and raise armies to facilitate that activity, experts say.

In the United States, the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act required manufacturers to audit their supply chains and report the use of conflict minerals to federal government agencies.



Fukuza Njaa group of Butata village in Musoma rural, Mara region clears their farm by means of oxen over the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister lays out indicative prices, urea supply outlook

FROM PAGE 1

On the availability of the fertilizer, the minister said during the 2019/20 farming season the country's needs stood at 586,604 tons, but this month urea availability was 491,659 tons or 84 percent of total needs.

Between July 1 last year and early this week a total of 17,832 tons of fertilizer and supplements was manufactured locally, of which 17,157 tons was produced by Minjigu firm and

10 other factories, and 675 tons in fertilizer supplements were manufactured by ABM of Tanga.

About 305,729 tons of various kinds of fertilizer was imported into the country, of which 95,325 tons was urea fertilizer and 57,410 tons was DAO fertilizer, equivalent to 50 percent of all fertilizer imported for the year.

From July 2019 to this month the availability of fertilizer stood at 136,163 tons of DAP and 100,720 tons of other kinds in-

cluding NPK, SA, CAN, MoP and others.

More than 70,000 tons of fertilizer including 8,800 tons of DAO and 58,357 tons of urea is expected to be imported within this month, the minister underlined.

This will make fertilizer availability cross 100 percent of the country's needs, thus farmers are assured of enough fertilizer availability for the whole of the 2019/20 farming season.

Indicative urea retail prices

for most northern and eastern regions will be ranging from 44,800/- to 53,400/- per 50 kg bag.

He said for the western, Southern Highlands and Lake zones urea fertilizer will sell between 50,000/- and 57,300/- per 50kg bag, with the prices taking effect today and will be in use until the government sets out new prices.

"Remember that these are ceiling prices at the warehouse level, wholesale and for farm-

ers in respective areas. Hence traders can sell the fertilizer at lower prices so long they sell fertilizer of the same quality," the minister explained.

In case transport cost differences arise in some areas to the detriment of indicative prices, regional and district commissioners need to sit with fertilizer committees to adjust prices in tandem with the obtaining situation. The point is to ensure that the fertilizer is available to farmers, he added.



Agriculture minister Jophet Hasunga (C) addresses journalists about the fertilizer (UREA) price guide for the 2019/2020 season in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Right is Fertilizer Regulatory Authority managing director Dr Stephan Ngailo and institutions services director Moses Mabamba. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt directs Ukerewe council to resolve Negoma forest reserve boundary dispute

By Guardian Reporter, Ukerewe

UKEREWE District Council has been directed to resolve the boundary conflict in Negoma Forest Reserve by setting aside 27 hectare of the area to people living in the reserve.

The decision has been arrived at following the boundary dispute involving 57 households that were said to be well inside the 650 hectare forest reserve owned by the district council and adminis-

tered by Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS).

The 57 households claim that they have been in the area since 1939 and they were not consulted on the actual boundaries when the council entered into partnership with TFS in 2015.

Speaking to the wanchi at Negoma village in Ukerewe district, deputy minister for natural resources and tourism Constantine Kanyasu directed TFS to meet the costs of fresh demarca-

tion exercise to exclude the 27 hectares to be given to the villagers.

According to the 2012 national census Ukerewe Island had a population of 3,000,000 but now it is estimated to have a population of 450,000 in the 530 square kilometer island.

Kanyasu said it's difficult to relocate the villagers from their settlements due to inadequacy of land in the island that has a high population growth rate.

Lake zone regional police chiefs in joint move to fight against crimes

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Geita

REGIONAL police commanders (RPCs) in lake zone have come up with a new strategy to jointly fight criminal actions including killings.

The officials reached the agreement yesterday here during the meeting which brought together RPCs and regional criminal officers (RCOs) from Tabora, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mwanza, Geita and Kagera.

Speaking at the meeting, Geita RPC Mponjoli Mwaburambo said that

the police force has a role to ensure that families live in peace by addressing conflicts that arise due to superstitions.

"Superstitious beliefs cause unnecessary conflicts within families that sometime lead to killings of innocent people, so we should among other things, educate the public on the importance of avoiding such beliefs," Mwaburambo noted.

For their parts, the RPC for Simiyu, senior assistant commissioner of police (SACP), Henry Mwaibambe

and RCO for Mwanza, senior superintendent of police (SSP), Faustine Mafwele vowed to execute their duties as per professional ethics and oaths which include protecting people and their properties.

Earlier, head of special operations of the police force, senior assistant commissioner of police (SACP), Mihayo Msikhela urged the officials to strengthen efforts and make sure that they fight against criminals in their areas.

Land plots seller lady shakes Mbeya Region

FROM PAGE 1

after a decent time - sometimes up to six months - they sell them away.

"Sometimes the common even obtain the collaboration, often unknowingly, of local government officials who stamp their documents without ascertaining the true owners of the plots," he stated.

Regional commissioner Albert Chalamila yesterday directed Mbeya District Commissioner William Ntinika to put to use all government organs via the defense and security committee to hunt down land plots common and bring them to face justice.

He gave the directive at a rally in Gombe South after police arrested one woman, Atuganile Kalenge, who is suspected to have conned some residents in the area.

He said the lady, after conning the residents ran away to the State House in Dar es Salaam to explain to President Magufuli that her life is being threatened and that she had no faith with the police force in Mbeya region.

"Following complaints from many people I have discovered that this lady is a swindler. She even dared to go to the State House to lie to the president that her life was in danger....we in the government cannot tolerate this at all," the RC said.

He said after the lady presented her complaints to the president, the latter called the RC and directed him to deal with her complaints, "but after coming to this area, I discovered that the lady was a mere swindler."

He said he ordered the lady to be sought for wherever she was and at government expense, and

already the police have arrested her.

After her arrest, RC Chalamila decided to bring her to the area where more than five other people came forward claiming she also conned them, naming other common who they say are her associates.

He said the government does not oppose residents buying land plots to build houses even if the areas have not yet been officially approved, but prefers that people build houses with a sense of security.

He ordered the arrest of three other people mentioned by residents at the rally and also alleged to have conned several individuals.

He warned local government officials that that whoever will be proved to have assisted in the swindling by using government rubber stamps will be severely dealt with.

Defending herself at the rally, Kalenge said she decided to sell the said plots to various people after being told to do so by the owner of the area whom she simply mentioned as Mzee Mwanjisi.

She however said after selling the plots and remitted the money to the older resident, he turned on her and started threatening her life, hence she decided to run away to Dar es Salaam to the president to seek protection as her life was being threatened.

The land tribunal assessor for Itezi Ward, Luitico Mwakapesa said that on several occasions the lady appeared before the tribunal and each time she appeared to be in the wrong, but the tribunal decided that her issue is better handled by the Land Division of the High Court.



Chaani constituency representative Nadil Abdullatif (L) shares a light moment with Zanzibar minister for constitution and justice Khamis Juma Mwalimu at Chukwani in Zanzibar on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Rahma Suleiman

Ministry, banks to boost production of improved sunflower seeds - officials

By Francis Kajubi

MINISTRY of Agriculture has reached an agreement with a number of commercial banks to finance small and large producers of sunflower seeds through a pilot project that will kick off before May this year.

The ministry is about to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB), NMB Bank, and CRDB Bank to finance the state owned Agriculture Seed Agency (ASA) and Silverlands Tanzania for production of hybrid sunflower seeds as the government seeks to explore the global market share that is rooted in quality of the product.

This was said on Tuesday during the roundtable meeting organized by TADB and brought on board bankers' top officials. The meeting which was meant to address the dilemma between farmers and financial institutions was themed: 'Inclusiveness of Financial Institutions in Supporting of Industrialization Agenda through Agriculture Sector'.

It is estimated that production of sunflower seeds by local breeders stands at between 25 and 30 per cent while the demand doubles the figures way far.

TADB managing director, Japhet Justine said that the capacity by seeds producers across the country is not

promising for the industrialization move hence the globe competition.

"The most challenge we face is the ability of small holder farmers to produce enough seeds which can be processed by the factories. That ability goes with poor quality seedling;

So we came to realize that if there is a one black box that we need to address is investment in seedling and our question was is it a public investment or a private one" said Justine.

Commenting on the reasons behind poor appetite of banks towards financing the sunflower subsector, NBM Bank's Senior Relationship Agribusiness Manager John Machunda who spoke on behalf of the Tanzania Bankers Association, said that the sunflower subsector is vague for lenders to invest their money.

"The sunflower sector has no working instruments and to us that is a big risk we have been avoiding to suffer. Even the price discovery mechanism of the cash crop is yet not proper, there is double standard in pricing from one area to another of the same country," said Machunda.

He further cited competition between small and large producers of seeds and oil as another setback for the lenders to venture into the sub-sector, noting that large producers are liable to VAT, while small producers are

exempted to it which poses inflexibility on the market hence pose doubts to lenders of issuing long term loans.

For his part, Deputy minister of Agriculture, Hussein Bashe said: "The pilot project for financing production of hybrid sunflower seeds will start soon before May as some procedures of the agreement between bankers and the ministry are being finalized."

According to Bashe, Tanzania needs at least 5,000tons of sunflower seeds a year to meet the demand of the market but had been producing a maximum of only 30 per cent of it.

He said that nearly 1bn/- is need to finance the pilot project but was not ready to reveal how much was really needed from the commercial banks for the pilot project to be implemented. He however said that factories demand 900,000tons of sunflower seeds for processing sunflower oil but currently they are fed with only 250,000tons.

"As I speak, huge quantities of hybrid sunflower seeds are being imported from countries like Russia whereby a farmer is forced to pay 30,000/- for a kilogram. In order for us to produce sunflower oil that meets the global standard we must produce high quality seeds and the ministry has seen seeds as starting point to exploring the global market share," he added.

500,000 households in Dar to benefit from bio-ethanol

By Aisia Rweyemamu

OVER 500,000 households in Dar es Salaam will benefit from bio-ethanol, a clean, safe and cost-effective source of energy.

Developed by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the project will be executed in two-phases, whereas the first phase will include the making of 110,000 ethanol stoves which also uses fuel. The remaining 390,000 stoves will be distributed in the second phase.

The stoves will be distributed to households in Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni, Temeke, Ilala, Kinondoni and Ubungo districts.

Implemented in collaboration with the Vice President's Office - Environment division and Ministry of Energy, UNIDO part-

ners with Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to implement the project and promote the use of bio-ethanol as a clean, alternative fuel for cooking in Tanzania.

Speaking during the bio-ethanol project briefing workshop yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Paul Harris, the project's Technical Director from UNIDO said the target is to distribute the stoves to half million of Dar es salaam households.

"The GEF focal area is climate change under the outcome of promoting innovation, technology transfer and supportive policies and strategies" he said.

He said, ethanol cooking technology is a clean technology with single or double burner option that can take place inside the house with no spillage or danger.

Harris noted that Tanzania De-

velopment Bank (TIB) is responsible for verification of sales of the subsidized stoves to the households as well as management of subsidy funds.

He said the stove including two bottles of fuel will be sold at a price of between 50,000/- and 90,000/-. The price includes a subsidy of US \$10.

"One of the key outcomes expected from this initiative is the growth of a local fuel grade ethanol production and distribution industry that can utilize potential agro-residues and feed stocks which are available in the country," he said.

Frida Mlingi, Managing Director, Consumer's Choice Ltd—a private sector company commissioned to distribute the fuel and stoves, said they will start distributing the stoves at Tabata ward

in Ilala district. Mlingi said the stoves will be distributed to 20 wards and 131 streets in the city.

She said, currently ethanol fuel is available in Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro and Kilombelo (Ilovo).

UNIDO Project Coordinator (Energy and Environment), Victor Akim said the project aims to promote bio-ethanol as alternative clean fuel for cooking in Tanzania.

Akim said, the project is implemented in Tanzania in order to reduce the use of charcoal and fire wood as a cooking energy and adopt the best clean cooking energy which is environmental friendly. In Tanzania over 85 per cent of population depend on biomass energy for their cooking needs and more than 70 percent of urban dwellers rely specifically on charcoal.

Bloomberg Philanthropies announces US\$240 mn support under global road safety initiatives

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald, Stockholm

THE Bloomberg Philanthropies has announced an additional support of US\$240 million under global road safety initiatives seeking to prevent accidents to more than 600,000 people and 22 million injuries.

The support will save lives and prevent injuries in both low and middle income countries around the world.

Bloomberg Philanthropies is a Global Initiative that works with the world's leading road safety organizations to implement road safety activities and coordinate with in coun-

try governmental and non-governmental organizations. Kelly Henning, Director of Public Health at Bloomberg Philanthropies made the announcement on Tuesday in Stockholm Sweden where the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety is taking place. Themed "Achieving Global Goals 2030" the conference brought on board 1,700 delegates from more than 140 countries including ministers, senior officials from United Nations agencies and representatives from civil society, academia and the private sector.

The investment also includes a new awards

competition to shine a light on low-and middle income countries that have made exemplary progress in road safety.

Since 2007, the initiative has saved an estimated 312,000 lives and prevented up to 11.5 million injuries.

"As we gather for the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, we should keep in mind that these deaths and injuries are completely preventable," he said noting after more than a decade of working with international and in-country partners, the organization is now aware of the policies and interventions that save lives," Henning added.

She added: "By increasing our commitment, we can double our impact by leveraging the many lessons we have learned and adopting new approaches that we believe will accelerate progress".

Tanzania has been among beneficiaries of the Bloomberg support since 2015 with focus on tackling challenges that contribute to increased fatalities, including speeding, drink and drive, use of helmet, use of child restraints and wearing of seat belts.

In 2015, Bloomberg Philanthropies launched phase two of the Initiative for Global Road Safety which will address road traffic safety in ten cities (Accra, Addis Ababa, Bandung, Bangkok, Bogota, Fortaleza, Ho Chi Minh City, Mumbai, Sao Paulo, and Shanghai), five countries (China, India, Philippines, Tanzania, and Thailand), and four vehicle market regions (Africa, Latin America, India, and Southeast Asia) with the primary goal of reducing road traffic fatalities and injuries.

BEAUTIFUL HOME FOR SALE

PERFECT HOME FOR YOUR FAMILY

LIVING ROOM

KITCHEN

DINING ROOM

3 BED ROOMS

MASTER TOILET

VERANDA

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY ON PLOT NO. 435 BLOCK G TEGETA NYAISHOZI - DAR ES SALAAM CITY

CONTACT - MR. EMSLEY RAYMOULT

PHONE CALL: +255 755 774910

21563001

Visit Visit Visit Visit

15TH EDITION

TANZANIA TRADE SHOW

INTERNATIONAL TRADE EXHIBITION

21 - 23 FEBRUARY 2020

DIAMOND JUBILEE HALLS

MALIK RD, UPANGA, DAR-ES-SALAAM

TANZANIA, 10.30 AM to 6.00 PM (DAILY)

Exhibitors Displaying Over 200 Products from various countries

SUPPORTED BY

Organized by Federation of Indian Export Organisations
www.fieo.org

ISO 9001:2008

INCORPORATING

BEAUTY AFRICA 2020

Tel : 0754 207 440 / 0787 473 520 Email: info@tanzaniatradeshow.com



Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu negotiates his way as he goes down moments after he had climbed Nyerere hill during his visit to Handebezuya inheritance cultural caves in Ukerewe district yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Zungu: NEMC performed well despite drawbacks

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has done a big job to the nation's development despite many challenges that would have otherwise hampered its performance, Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office Mussa Zungu, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He told journalists after a familiarisation tour of Dar es Salaam NEMC premise that the council had charged its responsibilities well in protecting Tanzania's environment despite many challenges on the way.

NEMC, he said, firmly protected the environment without becoming a stumbling block in the implementation of the national industrialisation agenda.

He pledged to support the council in taking further steps to protect Tanzania's environment.

"I congratulate NEMC on how it has fulfilled its duties in a situation fraught with the many challenges I have been told.

They have protected environment without demoralizing the many investors who have come forward to invest in our country because of good policies," he told reporters, adding that although he has been a minister for a very short time, the talks he had with NEMC workers were a source of motivation and he was determined to carry on with vigour the work of his predecessors.

The minister said he appreciated the need for making NEMC a full-fledge authority with powers to prosecute, punish and make decisions without having to pass through a very long process.

"I have a feeling that making NEMC a full-fledged authority will be a good thing for our country. I will take all that I

been told to right places so that decisions that are beneficial to our nation can be made," he pledged.

The minister has also visited places associated with NEMC offices in Dodoma and has talked to foreign envoys in connection with Tanzania's efforts towards protecting environment.

NEMC Director General Samuel Gwamaka said the minister's visit was a very well come development because, he said, the council has forwarded to the Vice-President's Offices expert recommendations for the government to consider.

"We want all people to live in a friendly environment. I have taken advantage of the minister's visit to explain our plans, what we are doing and the challenges we are meeting on the way. His visit is very important to us. We shall work with renewed dynamism and therefore increase efficiency," said Dr Gwamaka said.

Africa faces new debt crisis - Prof Adam

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA is among three countries in sub-Saharan Africa which are classified as either 'in debt distress' or at high risk of falling into 'debt distress', according to Oxford University lecturer Prof Christopher Adam.

Prof Adam said on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam at a public lecture entitled "Is Africa Facing a New Debt Crisis? The event was organised by the Institute of Fi-

nance Management (IFM).

He said other countries are Senegal and Uganda and those at high debt distress were Cameroon, Ethiopia and Zambia while Gambia, Mozambique and South Sudan were in distress.

The don named some countries including Tanzania has put much focus on domestic borrowing, in deed it is good decision because it goes directly to build infrastructures that will give returns," he said.

"However, on doing so it must ensure that domestic borrowing does not crowd out financing for private sector projects which is one of the engines of the county economy," he advised.

The don said countries must borrow due to some differences in some of public infrastructures designed to boost growth and the trade balance.

Others are sums involved are too great to be met solely from taxation - could be infrastruc-

ture projects (standard gauge railway) or 'human capital' (investment in schools and hospitals).

Another factor was new resource discovery that requires exploratory investment. He detailed that what matters is not the absolute amount of debt but its level relative to the income of the country (GDP) and whether the economy as a whole can generate the resources to service the debt.

According to him, the difference is between the total cost of imports (used in consumption and investment) and all other sources of financing such as exports, aid flows, remittances and reserves.

Prof Adam said further that it order to re-stabilize (or reduce) external debt-to-GDP, the country's GDP growth must increase.

Moreover, the cost of borrowing must fall and/or and the trade balance needs to increase

meaning there must be more exports compared to imports.

For his part, Dr Mohamed Suleiman from the IFM who was the chairman, said the public lecture was part of the institute's role to conduct public lectures to share experiences and knowledge.

"It is not the first time, the institute had conducted such a public lecture, adding that more such lectures will come," he said.

"An over-reliance on commer-

cial public debt exposes sovereign balance sheets to greater rollover and exchange rate risks. Also, an increase in debt from domestic creditors could crowd out financing for private sector projects," according International Monetary Fund (IMF).

So far Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are among the top 50 countries in the world that are highly indebted to China, according to US-based research firm Brookings Institution.

Disasters effects take centre stage at SADC conference

By Guardian Reporter

PERMANENT Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, coordination and Investment) Dorothy Mwaluko said there is the need for all sectors to participate in the fight against the effects disasters within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries.

Opening a meeting of SADC permanent secretaries whose portfolios are concerned with disasters, Mwaluko (pictured) said the effects are often severe to the society and that what is needed it to take early preventive measures.

She said all these countries have experiences in disasters, hence it is in her expectation that they will finalize the task given for the preparation of reports for convening a meeting for ministers charged with disasters to be held on February 21 this year.

In the meeting the Permanent Secretaries will prepare reports to show viable strategies and programmes on how SADC have been prepared in facing up to disasters in the region.

SADC Deputy Executive Secretary on Zonal Cooperation Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo explained that disasters' effects including deaths, destruction to property and infrastructures have impacted nearly all SADC countries.

He said it is important for these countries to cooperate in the preparation of strategies for disasters management.

The Ag Permanent secretary in the Office of the Zanzibar Vice President Abdallah Hassan Mitawi told meeting participants that the countries has accorded great importance to the issue of the management of disaster effects as that is proven by the attendance of 15 out of 16 SADC countries.



Vacancy: Program Officer
Position: Program Officer
Location/Station: Dar-es-Salam- Tanzania
Contract: One Year

Background

Kilimo Trust (KT) is a not-for-profit organization working on agriculture for development across the East Africa community.

We are headquartered in the Republic of Uganda, with affiliated subsidiaries in Tanzania, Rwanda and Kenya. Our core business is to structure national and regional trade in agricultural products for enhanced wealth, food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers and other Value Chain actors. Ultimately, want to contribute to transformation of food and nutrition security in the EAC Region

Kilimo Trust is now looking for highly motivated; skilled and talented person to fill the above vacant position.

If you are such a person, please visit www.kilimotrust.org and click on Vacancies to get the details.

Closing Date: 28th February 2020

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania

For Wildlife Research, Education & Conservation

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jane Goodall Institute Tanzania (JGI-TZ) is a reputable and rapidly expanding non-governmental organization committed to wildlife research, conservation, socio-economic development and environmental education. Founded in 1977, the Institute advances the vision and work of her founder Dr. Jane Goodall by continuing the chimpanzee research and inspiring communities to conserve the natural world we all share. Currently the Institute is seeking to recruit a suitably qualified and competent Tanzanian to fill the following vacant position:

Job Position: Veterinary Laboratory Assistant
Work Station: Gombe National Park, Kigoma

Main responsibilities will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Assist biological and medical scientists in laboratories to set up, operate, and maintain laboratory instruments and equipment, monitor experiments, make observations, calculate and record results.
- Analyze organic substances, such as blood, Fecals and urine.
- Assist veterinary officer in laboratory, primarily faecal sample processing and necropsies.
- Coordinate with field assistants and researchers in faecal sample and datasheet collection.
- Assist in maintaining laboratory supply and sample inventories.
- Learn to identify individual chimpanzees.
- Learn methods of observational data collection and assist with data translation, processing, and analysis.
- Minimum of 10 hours per week in field observing chimpanzees and collecting samples.
- Enter data into online web-based database and spreadsheets.
- Assist researchers (PhD students and professors from Tanzania and abroad) with research projects.

Minimum Required Qualifications and Experience:

- Applicant must be a holder of BSc. in

Biotechnology and Laboratory science (BLS), BSc. Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (MBB) or other Science-related fields from recognized institutions.

- Must be familiar with various techniques in samples processing i.e. Examining samples to identify parasites, utilizing fecal processing techniques for microscopy and other microscopic techniques.
- Should possess other laboratory skills with experience of setting up, running and reading lab tests and operating lab instruments.
- Proficiency in written and spoken Kiswahili and English.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office including Word and Excel.
- Hardworking and commitment to work.
- Positive attitude-oriented person.
- Good interpersonal skilled person.

Application Procedure:

All applications should be submitted together with the most recent Curriculum Vitae (resume), copy of relevant certificates, testimonials, three names of reputable and current referees, mobile phone number, e-mail address, and should be send to the below e-mail address:

Send by e-mail to:

E-mail: jgi-tanzania@janegoodall.or.tz

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview.

Deadline: Seven (7) days from the date of the first appearance of this advertisement on the newspapers.

JGI Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and considers all applicants on the basis of merit without regard to race, national or tribal origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, and marital status.

QUALIFIED WOMEN ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.



NBC Ltd marketing manager Alina Maria Kimaryo (2nd L) addresses a media conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the bank's Ibuka Kidedea na Malengo Account campaign monthly draw and prize-giving ceremony in Dar es Salaam. Five winners scooped a brand new motorbike each. Others from left are: gaming board of Tanzania inspector Masuli Masudi; NBC liability manager Dorothea Mabonye; Malengo campaign manager Mtenya Cheya and one of the December draw bodaboda winners Rosemary Kibodya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Morogoro secondary schools science labs to cost 90 million/-

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

AUTHORITIES in Morogoro have embarked on construction of 59 science laboratories worth 90m/- in all secondary schools across the Municipality in an effort to encourage students to go for science subjects.

Construction of the facilities is funded by government through the Education Programme for Results (EP4R).

Morogoro Municipal Mayor, Paschal Kianga made the revelation when tabling the municipals budget estimates for the 2020/2021 financial year during the Full Council meeting held in Morogoro recently.

He informed that during the year, through EP4R programme, the government is expected to provide 146,600,000/-, of which 90,000,000/- will be channeled to the labs construction project.

"We arrived to the decision following the increased number of students as well as improved pass rates in last year's Form Two national examinations, the pass rate increased to 89 percent in 2019 from the previous 88 percent in 2018," he disclosed.

According to Mayor Kianga, the laboratories will be used by secondary school students pursuing Physics, Chemistry and Biology subjects. He said the labs are constructed at all secondary schools within the municipal.

He said Tanzania will need more scientists in future as it gears to become an industrialised nation.

Sabasaba Ward Councillor, Mudhili Shoo suggested that to speed up construction process, each of the wards should be given its own funds. He was concerned that giving the monies to ward officials will facilitate purchase of construction materials and monitoring of fund's expenditure.

Morogoro District Executive Director, Sheila Lukuba, said efforts to improve learning environment at primary and secondary schools started in the past financial year where the government disbursed 571,600,000/- through EP4R.

"We spent the funds for renovation of 34 classrooms and constructed seven new classrooms and 8 pit latrines at different public schools", said Lukuba.

Morogoro Regional Education Officer, Eng Joyce Baravuga said the region is facing a shortage of science teachers. He said efforts were made to ensure a good number of teachers for arts subject where the number has currently reached 798 compared to 380 teachers for science subjects.

He said due to the shortage, the region introduced online science learning sessions in more than 20 schools. He noted that e-learning enables a teacher to reach a good number of students at once, and provide them chances to discuss and share ideas.



We arrived to the decision following the increased number of students as well as improved pass rates in last year's Form Two national examinations, the pass rate increased to 89 percent in 2019 from the previous 88 percent in 2018

Jafo pleads for more help to families with children born with big heads

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

MINISTER of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government -RALG) Selemán Jafo said he's disheartened over the lack of appropriate medical strategies for children born with big heads, or 'spina bifida and hydrocephalus' conditions.

He expressed his concern here on Tuesday when inaugurating the offices of Nutrition International in support of government's resolve to relocate national activities to the capital city.

He said people born with these

health conditions are never visited to assess the severity of the challenges they face except during various occasions.

"If you visit families faced with these challenges, particularly the women you will find that they do not participate in economic activities as all the time they carry the children on their backs," he said.

He added: "Unfortunately we do not visit these families, we only meet them on occasions that portray their plight, the challenge is huge, I ask for cooperation from various stakeholders over the issue."

However he said malnutrition lev-

el for children has gone down from 50 percent in 1991 to 32 percent at present, and added that even the 32 percent is still high hence the government and other development stakeholders should make more efforts to further reduce the level.

Jafo lauded Malnutrition International for implementing nutrition project in the country's 12 regions with 69 districts and advised them to work together with the government to reach more districts.

Nutrition International Resident Director Dr Daniel Nyagawa said the institution has been working together with ministries of Health

and RALG in dealing with nutrition issues to women, children, pregnant women, infants and adolescent groups.

For his part, Nutrition International Director General Joel Spicer said opening offices in Dodoma and working together with the government will help in fighting the malnutrition challenges in the country.

Nutrition International Director for Africa Zone Dr Richard Pendame said the institution's headquarters are in Dakar, Senegal, but due to persuasion from of the Director General he implemented the decision to establish an office in Tanzania.

FAMILY FUN

starts with great fares

Getting the family onboard has never been easier with the promise of an exciting holiday. Fly Emirates to many incredible destinations with our special offer. Book by 2 March 2020.

DESTINATION	ECONOMY CLASS RETURN FROM USD*	BUSINESS CLASS RETURN FROM USD*	FIRST CLASS RETURN FROM USD*
Dubai	411	1,420	3,999
Delhi	669	2,689	4,916
London Heathrow	799	3,221	5,700
Kuala Lumpur	830	4,068	5,957
New York	953	3,960	6,496

FLY BETTER



*Terms and conditions apply. Valid for sale from 20 February to 2 March 2020 for travel from 20 February until 30 November 2020. Fares to selected destinations are inclusive of all taxes and surcharges. Fares may differ due to currency fluctuation and/or government tax regulations as per journey booked. Blackout periods, flight restrictions and other terms and conditions apply. For more information, please contact your local travel agent, call Emirates on +255 22 211 6100 or visit emirates.com/tz



Minister of state in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Zungu (L) listens to the national environment management council director Dr Samwel Gwamaka when the minister visited NEMC offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

National museum designates February 27th as Maji Maji war warriors' commemoration day

By Getrude Mbago

THE National Museum of Tanzania has announced February 27th as the day for commemoration of warriors who died during Maji Maji war in 1906.

The Maji Maji Rebellion Day will be commemorated each year, according to Director General of the National Museum, Dr Noel Lwoga. This year, the celebrations will be conducted from February 22nd to 27th in Songea, Ruvuma region.

Addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Dr Lwoga said before the climax of the Maji

Uprising Day, there will be a number of activities during the week including exhibitions by local entrepreneurs, traditional and cultural demonstration from various tribes.

He said the commemorations will be graced by the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Christina Mndeme.

"February 27th is memorable to the people of Songea and Tanzania in general as it is on this day the German colonial rulers executed the leaders of the Maji Maji Rebellion—one of Africa's greatest wars, fought between 1905 and 1907," he

noted.

Dr Lwoga said they have organised a forum on 25th February where stakeholders from various parts of the country will meet, discuss and learn about the historical war.

Stakeholders are also expected to engage in discussions over the importance of honouring the country's historic events.

Dr Lwoga said the celebration also aim at making positive contribution towards enhancing general knowledge of the local historical heritage sites.

"On February 26th delegates will visit some of the tourists'

attractions and heritage sites found in Songea including the Maposeni area where the war warriors were taking water to reinforce their power during war," he said.

According to him, traditional chiefs from across Tanzania and those from neighbouring countries of Zambia and Malawi will attend the event.

He said during the climax day, there will be special walk from Maji Maji War warriors' graves to Maji Maji Museum with a special mourning parade from Tanzania People's Defense Force (TPDF).

Tanzanian youth shortlisted for this year's C'wealth Youth Awards

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN youth Salvatore Kessy has been announced among 16 finalists from 12 countries shortlisted for this year's Commonwealth Youth Awards.

Sixteen extraordinary individuals include innovators, activists and entrepreneurs.

Kessy was nominated by a pan-Commonwealth judging panel that met last week and selected the top individuals in each of the awards in four regional categories.

The judging panel included high commissioners, development experts and youth leaders from across the Commonwealth.

Focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-4) on quality education, Kessy created the 'SmartClass', an online platform which matches low-cost qualified and vetted tutors to students interested in learning basic skills such as numeracy, literacy, computing, agriculture and languages.

The offline platform allows users to book face-to-face tuition through a text and the group tuition model allows learners to book tutors collectively and reduce costs. The platform has 5,000 active registered tutors and 20,000 learners in Tanzania.

Commonwealth's Head of Social Policy Development, Layne Robinson said: "Their talent paired with tangible solutions sends a strong signal that they should be equal partners in the development agenda, not passive allies."

He added: "With now only 10 years remaining to imple-

ment the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, the Commonwealth takes great pleasure in bringing these young people's invaluable efforts to the global stage so their leadership can inspire others and accelerate meaningful youth participation."

This year, the awards received more than 500 entries from 40 countries. Of those shortlisted, the top candidate from each region will be named as a regional winner.

One of these four regional winners will become the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year 2020.

All 16 finalists will each receive a trophy, a certificate and £1,000 to expand the scope of their projects.

The regional winners will each earn a trip to London to attend the awards ceremony on 11 March 2020 and will receive £3,000. The overall pan-Commonwealth winner will take home a total of £5,000.

The awards recognise outstanding young people whose innovative projects have made a real impact in helping their countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The other 2020 finalists are Joshua Ebin (Nigeria) focusing on SDG 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production, Galabuzi Brian Kakembo (Uganda) focusing on SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, Elizabeth Wanjiru Wathuti (Kenya) focusing on SDG 13 - Climate Action and Sheikh Inzamamuzzaman from Bangladesh focusing on SDG 4 - Quality Education.

The list includes Vedant Jain (India) focus on SDG 4 - Quality Education, Jaya Rajwani (Pakistan) focusing on SDG 5 - Gender Equality, Hafiz Usama Tanveer (Pakistan) concentrating on SDG 6 - Clean Water and Sanitation, Lalita Gopaul (Guyana)-SDG 13 - Climate Action, Sowmyan Jegatheesan (Canada)-SDG 15 - Life on Land, Stephen McCubbin (Jamaica)-SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and Samuel Neil (Jamaica) focusing on SDG 4 - Quality Education.

Finalists from Pacific includes Sagufta Janif (Fiji) focusing on SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production, Broderick John Mervyn (Fiji)-SDG 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Rinesh Sharma (Fiji)-SDG 2 - Zero Hunger and Fusi Masina Tietie (Samoa) focusing on SDG 5 - Gender Equality.



The awards recognise outstanding young people whose innovative projects have made a real impact in helping their countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED



CANCELLATION OF LICENCES GRANTED TO SIX TELECOMS COMPANY LIMITED

(Issued under Section 22 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306)

WHEREAS on 13th January, 2006 the Authority issued to **SIX TELECOMS COMPANY LIMITED** (herein referred to as the **LICENSEE**) licences for International Network Facilities and International Network Services (herein referred to as the **LICENCES**);

AND WHEREAS the **LICENSEE** has repeatedly failed to pay regulatory fees as required under Section 15 (1) of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306, and international call termination charges as per Regulation 12(1) (b) and (d) of the Electronic and Postal Communications (Telecommunications Traffic Monitoring System) Regulations, 2013; acts which amount to material breach of the licence conditions as per Section 21 of the Electronic and Postal Communications Act, Cap. 306;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Section 6(3) of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act, Cap. 172, the **AUTHORITY** consulted the Minister for Works, Transport and Communication on the cancellation of the **LICENCES**;

NOW THEREFORE, by powers vested upon it by the Law, the **AUTHORITY** hereby informs the public that the **LICENCES** issued to **SIX TELECOMS COMPANY LIMITED** are hereby cancelled.

ISSUED UNDER THE SEAL OF THE AUTHORITY ON
20TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020.

ENG. JAMES M. KILABA
DIRECTOR GENERAL

Meatu planning to build onions market to prevent levy evasion

By Guardian Correspondent, Meatu

MEATU District Council in Simiyu Region through its 2020/21 budget has allocated 40m/- for the construction of onion market to eradicate evasion of the crop's levy by buyers.

Onion production in the district is fast growing particularly in Isenga and Mhanuzi wards injecting more than 60m/- to the council's coffers.

The budget was approved yesterday at a special council meeting that solely sat for the purpose.

Earlier, presenting the budget draft, the

Council's Planning Officer Gervas Amata said they have allocated the amount for the construction of the market at Mwangwila village in Mhanuzi Ward.

He said Isenga and Mwangwila villages lead in onions growing while more than three other villages have started production of the crop.

He said lack of one centre for selling onions that come from farms has contributed to evasion of levy, hence denying the council of revenue.

The council's chairman Pius Machungwa said the building of the market will help the council increase its revenue as farmers and buyers of

the crop will interact at the market.

Machungwa appealed to officials engaged in levy collection to work both hard and methodically in the collection of onions levy in the area as buyers have been following farmers to purchase the crop off the fields.

Meatu District Council approved 35b/- budget for the financial year 2020/21.

'Govt spent over 5bn/- on educational facilities for students with disabilities'

By Correspondent Allan Ntana, Tabora

THE government has spent a total of 5.9bn/- for buying teaching and learning facilities for students with hearing impairment and other disabilities in secondary schools.

This was revealed yesterday by the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Avermaria Semakafu when she was addressing 186 secondary school teachers from 14 regions who are attending a seminar on sign language and deaf pedagogy in Tabora Region.

Dr Semakafu (pictured) said the government has put more effort to improve special needs education by supplying learning facilities to all secondary schools which enroll students with hearing impairment or any other disability.

She added that the strategy aims to improve learning, teaching and training on sign language and deaf pedagogy in secondary schools by imparting remarkable knowledge and skills to teachers.

Dr Semakafu cherished Archbishop Mihayo University College in Tabora (AMUCTA) for hosting such a tremendous seminar for two consecutive years, hence urged the participants to make thorough use of the knowledge shared.

She clarified that the training had targeted to capacitate secondary school teachers with the knowledge of sign lan-



guage and deaf pedagogy so as to enable them communicate thoroughly with all students in their classes.

"Such trainings should be provided to all teachers whose school enroll students with deaf impairment so as to accelerate the government efforts on providing quality education to all children including those with disability in all regions," she said.

She insisted that after the training, Quality Assurance Officers from the Ministry of Education will visit all schools to assess performance of the teachers who attended the training as an upshot to the retreat.

People with Disability Training Coordinator from the Ministry of Education

Greyson Lazzaro said that communication between teachers and students through sign language is a big challenge to many so the training will bring remarkable improvements.

AMUCTA Deputy Principal for academic affairs Professor Henry Mnzale applauded a good job done by the government through the Ministry of Education for facilitating such training to secondary school teachers every year.

He clarified that the training gives a room to participants to learn important issues like sign language used in Tanzania, deaf pedagogy, audiological assessment, inclusive education, deaf diversity, psychology and assessment of hearing impairments needs.

Send money from
4,500/ = TSH transfer fee*.

Check out our exchange rates.



**Western
Union**

*Western Union also makes money from currency exchange. When choosing a money transmitter, carefully compare both transfer fees and exchange rates. Fees, foreign exchange rates and taxes may vary by brand, channel, and location based on a number of factors. Fees and rates subject to change without notice. © 2019 Western Union Holdings, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Saving the world's languages from extinction is extremely essential

INTERNATIONAL Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance held on 21 February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism. First announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999, it was formally recognised by the United Nations General Assembly with the adoption of UN resolution in 2002. Mother Language Day is part of a broader initiative to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world as adopted by the UN General Assembly on May 16, 2007 in UN resolution, which also established 2008 as the International Year of Languages. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh. In Bangladesh 21 February is the anniversary of the day when Bangladeshis fought for recognition for the Bangla language.

It has been observed throughout the world since 21 February 2000. The declaration came up in tribute to the Language Movement done by the Bangladeshis then the East Pakistanis.

When Pakistan was created in 1947, it had two geographically separate parts: East Pakistan currently known as Bangladesh and West Pakistan currently known as Pakistan. The two parts were very different to each other in sense of culture, language, etc. The two parts were also separated by India in between.

In 1948, the then government of Pakistan declared Urdu to be the sole national language of Pakistan even though Bengali or Bangla was spoken by the majority of people combining East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (now Pakistan). The East Pakistan people protested, since the majority of the population was from East Pakistan and their mother language was Bangla. They demanded Bangla to be at least one of the national languages, in addition to Urdu. The

demand was raised first by Dhirendranath Datta from East Pakistan on the 23 February, 1948, in the constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

To demolish the protest, the government of Pakistan outlawed public meeting and rallies. The students of the University of Dhaka, with the support of the general public, arranged massive rallies and meetings. On 21 February 1952, police opened fire on rallies. Salam, Barkat, Rafiq, Jabbar and Shafur died, with hundreds of others injured. This is a rare incident in history, where people sacrificed their lives for their mother tongue.

Since then Bangladeshis celebrate the International Mother Language Day as one of their tragic days. They visit the Shaheed Minar, a monument built in memory of the martyrs and its replicas to express their deep sorrow, respect and gratefulness to them.

International Mother Language Day is a national holiday in Bangladesh. The resolution was suggested by Rafiqul Islam, a Bengali living in Vancouver, Canada. He wrote a letter to Kofi Annan on 9 January 1998 asking him to take a step for saving the world's languages from extinction by declaring an International Mother Language Day. Rafiq proposed the date as 21 February to commemorate the 1952 killings in Dhaka during the Language Movement. "21st February - The International Mother Language Day".

Languages are the most powerful instruments of preserving and developing our tangible and intangible heritage.

All moves to promote the dissemination of mother tongues will serve not only to encourage linguistic diversity and multilingual education but also to develop fuller awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions throughout the world and to inspire solidarity based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

The need for social justice is supreme

SOcial justice is a concept of fair and just relations between the individual and society, as measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity, and social privileges. In Western as well as in older Asian cultures, the concept of social justice has often referred to the process of ensuring that individuals fulfill their societal roles and receive what was their due from society. In the current global grassroots movements for social justice, the emphasis has been on the breaking of barriers for social mobility, the creation of safety nets and economic justice.

Social justice assigns rights and duties in the institutions of society, which enables people to receive the basic benefits and burdens of cooperation. The relevant institutions often include taxation, social insurance, public health, public school, public services, labor law and regulation of markets, to ensure fair distribution of wealth, and equal opportunity.

Interpretations that relate justice to a reciprocal relationship to society are mediated by differences in cultural traditions, some of which emphasize the individual responsibility toward society and others the equilibrium between access to power and its responsible use.

Hence, social justice is invoked today while reinterpreting historical figures such as Bartolomé de las Casas, in philosophical debates about differences among human beings, in efforts for gender, ethnic, and social equality, for advocating justice for migrants, prisoners, the environment, and the physically and developmentally disabled.

While the concept of social justice can be traced through the theology of Augustine of Hippo and the philosophy of Thomas Paine, the term 'social justice' became used explicitly in the 1780s. A Jesuit priest named Luigi Taparelli is

typically credited with coining the term, and it spread during the revolutions of 1848 with the work of Antonio Rosmini-Serbatini. However, recent research has proved that the use of the expression 'social justice' is older even before the 19th century.

World Day of Social Justice (Social Justice Equality Day) is an international day recognising the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender equality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections.

Many organisations, including the UN, American Library Association (ALA), and the International Labour Organisation, make statements on the importance of social justice for people. Many organisations also present plans for greater social justice by tackling poverty, social and economic exclusion and unemployment. The United Nations General Assembly has decided to observe 20 February annually, approved on 26 November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice.

The declaration focuses on guaranteeing fair outcomes for all through employment, social protection, social dialogue, and fundamental principles and rights.

Ideal topics for teaching students about the need for social justice include (but are not limited to) childhood poverty, global citizenship, human rights, and sustainable development.

A series of lessons are available by country with the United Nations and other programs. Oxfam's food for thought global food system that then has the opportunity for students to share their thoughts and experiences. The lesson plans and collections available are for students of all ages.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 255 686 101335 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ipppmedia.com



The natural environment must be safeguarded for sustainable common future and livelihoods

By Dr. Felician B. Kilahama

THE Almighty God did a wonderful job in six days and rested the seventh day as stipulated in the Holy Scriptures. God created the world that possesses dry land; water bodies such as lakes, dams, rivers and wetlands but also the Oceans and Seas. Additionally, God the creator, positioned forests above the land composing different types of tree species and other natural vegetation; and below the ground placed various minerals including different types of soils. The Oceans are a home for various types of fisheries and other living creatures and other matters like coral reefs and mangrove species. The atmosphere is composed of various gases for instance nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide (gesiukaa). In nutshell, all of these form the Natural Environment created by God for the benefits of human and the wildlife. Under any circumstances, I'm compelled to thank and honour the Almighty God for the wonderful creations completed in six days including the human-beings created in his image. The Almighty God became amused with the creations and placed the first humans; Adam and Hawa to manage and control all the resources above and below the ground; in water and the oceans and in the atmosphere.

In 2017, Pope Francis issued a "Pastoral Letter" known as "LAUDATO SI". Through this invaluable initiative, the world was cautioned about the importance of natural environment for our wellbeing. The Pope clearly indicated that "natural environment is like the sister who devotes her life for others and like a good mother stretching her arms to safeguard us". Despite that, the state of environment worldwide, as of today, is not good as it used to be more than fifty years ago. Although the general tendency is to associate population explosion with environmental destruction; experiences indicate that it is mainly due to unsustainable utilization of natural resources including also poor farming and animal husbandry practices (not living friendly with the environment). It is true, globally population is increasing (now about 7 billion people) however, and this is used as kind of camouflage to continue the habits of destroying the



natural environmental base in the context of fighting poverty and hunger. Nevertheless, in doing so without bothering to seriously care about the natural environment, we generate weaknesses in the ecological systems thereby endangering our livelihoods and survival of other flora and fauna species.

Pope Francisco's "LAUDATO SI" of 2017 reminded our mandatory duty to protect the environment and emphasized that land in our natural mother producing beautiful and flowering plants for the good of humans and other creatures. This demonstrated that if the natural environment shall be sustained, all the time, we shall continue breathing fresh oxygen, and getting food, water and required rains during the rainy seasons. However, based on the realities in Tanzania, "natural environment" has been seriously destroyed leading to high rates of forest and land degradations hence the environment, instead of caring us, is observed to fight back. The environmental situation is also not appealing in the developed nations due to frequent occurrences of natural disasters. This is an indication that the state of environment in developing countries has been worsening (due to global-warming associated with climate change) since the industrial revolution era.

While Tanzania is affected by impacts of climate change like droughts or floods

including rainfall during January and February 2020, leaves a lot to be desired. Again heavy rains during these months are very unusual particularly for the two rainy seasons (bimodal) regions. On the same footing developed countries continue facing disasters like unpredictable tsunamis and tornadoes including disastrous fires like that erupted in Australia during January 2020 destroyed forests and caused loss to properties.

Significant increase in industrial activities for the purposes of establishing strong economic base has led to ecological disorders due to increased quantities of CO2 into the atmosphere leading to increasing global warming and climate change. Since 1992 heads of states and governments, who are members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes (UNFCCC), together with global experts on climate change; have been meeting annually looking for amicable solutions against impacts of global warming and climate change yet it is 27 years in a row but no solution reached. Again, Pope Francisco through "LAUDATO SI" warned the world that "nothing in the world that does not have links to human-beings". Based on that view, global warming and climate change are challenges faced by all countries despite the state of development reached. The world is faced with increasing environmental pollution and critical destruc-

tion of natural forests and woodlands. Hence it is the responsibility of all countries making sure that global warming and impacts of climate change are highly contained for the good of all.

All countries should endeavour to control economic activities that are likely to accelerate global warming in excess of 20 Celsius annually. Together we should struggle to make our economies more responsible by using climate friendly sources of energy like hydropower, wind or geothermal. Additionally, human activities that endanger environmental stability like farming up-to edges of river banks and establishing habitats in floods' vulnerable areas including wildlife corridors should be avoided. Furthermore, environmental education is emphasized in schools and colleges as well as to the society and general public as a whole. What is needed is sustainable farming practices and livestock husbandry while maintaining the environment green (conservation farming and livestock keeping practices).

In principle the need is to have positive changes in perceptions and behaviours to environment, which is there to safeguard our wellbeing. That is why Pope Francisco in 2017 warned that "there are more scientific developments, modern skills and fast economic growths however, if these aspects are not well linked to society advancements and integrity, such developments can easily humiliate people". This warning is reminding global societies to live friendly with the environment otherwise the latter will seriously backfire.

There is still room to make positive changes firstly; we should accept existing situations; then take appropriate steps to stop environmental degradations. Secondly, tree planting efforts are scaled up including expanded forest extension services.

The focus should include urban dwellers so that if one secures a plot, be encouraged to plant some trees for shade, fruits and/or ornamental purposes. The society should join government efforts to restore degraded lands through in-situ conservation to encourage natural regeneration or through tree planting. The national target is to restore 5.2 million hectares by 2030. Green economy is possible in Tanzania therefore, make sure you care the environment so that it will also take care of you; nothing is impossible under the sun.

Dr. Felician B. Kilahama is the chairman of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania (WCST)

Why AU members fail to contain the spread of illegal guns in Africa

By Gaudensia Mngumi

IN October 2014, the fifth African Union (AU) high level retreat on the promotion of peace, security and stability in the region gathered in Arusha where the delegation came up with a resolution, 'Silencing the Illegal Guns in Africa by the year 2020.'

The delegates worked out and deliberated the basic issues aiming at saving Africans mainly the younger generation from the wars, political instability and social unrest which has been tormenting the continent for decades. The purpose was to promote peace and security, thus finally the noble AU initiative was adopted in February 2019.

A year has passed now since the adoption of the strategies and it was crucial for AU to take up that step in a bid to make the African continent a better place to live.

Silencing the illegal guns project is unavoidable as the current spread of firearms in Africa entails challenges of endless civil wars and inability of governments to settle and operate with full mandate all over their territories.

For example, as the silencing of firearms initiative has not been adopted, the National Government in Libya is based in Tripoli while the eastern part of the country is occupied by militia commander Khalifa Haftar.

The Tripoli government is unable to operate in full all over the territory because the spread of arms has divided the country between the government based in Tripoli while other militias are occupying other cities particularly Benghazi, along with Sirte, etc.

Despite the fact that the international community has taken action regarding the Libyan political crisis which is centered between Haftar and the government in Tripoli, yet the challenges of spreading of arms has continued to pose the



African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat. File photo

possibility of having two ruling groups in that country with different political loyalties.

Likewise, in the Democratic Republic of Congo as in Libya, the Felix Tshisekedi government is based in Kinshasa while there are militia controlling territory where they exact punitive operations killing hundreds in Beni in the eastern Region and Kasai region in the southern part, causing the areas to be no go zones. A series of attacks have been carried out by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) or ADF Nalu causing precarious living conditions in Congo on a daily basis.

Not only that but the spread of firearms has facilitated the formation of militia groups, destructive brigades in the content of a billion plus population.

The spread has caused the invention and expansion of militia groups in like ISIS, the 3R rebels (Return, Reclamation and Rehabilitate) that has been involved in wreaking havoc in the Central Africa Re-

public (CAR) while ADF or ADF Nalu has been a big thorn in Congo, Boko Haram in Nigeria and Al Shabaab in Somalia, that launches attacks in different parts of Eastern Africa particularly in Kenya and Uganda.

Since 2014 the Boko Haram militias have been operating illegally in Northern Nigeria and since then school girls, children and women have been abducted, raped and civilians murdered particularly in the states of Borno and Maiduguri.

Civil wars have been the order of the day in some parts of Africa like Somalia. Guerrillas have been fighting, causing instability and lack of state protection in some regions. As a result people have continued to die while others are pushed into internal migration (forced displacement).

The situation has subjected people to harsh treatments, attacks and deaths, while some found their ways into refugee camps.

The spread of illegal guns in Africa has been a challenge to continental and to international community resources, forced to spend much more resources and time to protect civilians against militia attacks,

instead of focusing or investing in developmental projects.

For instance, the formation of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is an epitome of how much money has been invested in fighting the rebels in Somalia.

Together with AMISOM the continent has been witnessing the formation of MONUSCO - the French acronym for the UN Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to send peace keeping troops in the DRC.

While the AU has adopted the silencing fire arms initiatives just over a year now, Western media reports say that more than 7m people are at risk of violent crises as by June 2020 in Sahel region, caused by irregular armed forces infesting the region.

Civilians in the Sahel are facing major challenges such as insecurity, hunger and most likely to flee their homes. Attacks are reported in Burkinafaso, Libya, Mali, Senegal and some regions in Mauritania, northern Nigeria, and specific parts of Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Eritrea and South Sudan.

AU zero tolerance to unlawful fire arms that comes after 12 years of implementation of the African Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) which was adopted in 2007 in Addis Ababa, is a project that aims at institutionalizing and domesticating democracy and good governance in Africa. This would have aided efforts to end commotions in the region.

When the AU adopted the charter in January 2007 the intention was to promote democracy, transparency, free, fair and credible elections, proper and procedural constitution changing and amendments.

Other objectives related to ensuring health for the people, environment protection, youth development, gender balance, human rights and the rule of law in Africa.

But, the implementations of ACDEG among member states has been sparing, with AU members in the entire SADC region looking down upon the charter. Most

states have neither signed nor ratified it, despite that NGOs in the continent work with global platforms like Actionaid Global to lobby for the implementation of the charter. With little attention to domesticating the charter, ACDEG and zero tolerance to illegal guns program will automatically fail.

Dr Damian Shumbusho of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Dar es Salaam says the AU should ensure the implementation of ACDEG. It should regard it as a vehicle to propel and to encourage implementation of the values of good governance and democracy that would have taken away bad governance and promote democracy, peace and stability. In this case there would have been no spreading of the firearms tormenting Africans today.

Dr Shumbusho challenges AU member states that they do not commit themselves to what they agreed in the charter, hence coming up with new initiatives all the time.

He articulates the view that since most African leaders are custodians of longevity in office, whenever they get into public office they start worrying about being removed from power by their opponents.

As a result they start cracking down on operations of political parties, and in some cases opposition leaders are destroyed as well.

Silencing all illegal firearms in Africa will be effective if leaders will fight corruption and use public resources for people's development.

It is sad because most of them lack the political will to fight graft, they don't like vibrant media, strong civil societies ... all of which are prerequisites for accountability as envisioned in the African Charter of Democracy, Elections and Governance.

"If resources will continue to be used to create perfect environments for corruption, promoting undemocratic tendencies like longevity in office and muzzling effective oversight and accountability mechanisms and tools, efforts to silence illegal fire arms, Africa will hardly bear fruit, no matter how committed those efforts will be," the don remarked.

Let's not fear artificial intelligence, let's embrace it

By Tshilidzi Marwala

A MID the worldwide panic over the coronavirus outbreak, an important breakthrough in the health sector happened last week that might have gone unnoticed. It was announced that a drug to treat obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) was created entirely by artificial intelligence (AI). OCD, an anxiety condition in which people have recurring, unwanted thoughts, ideas or sensations (obsessions), that make them want to do something repetitively, is among the underrated mental ailments affecting human beings.

In an unprecedented move last week, the first non-man-made drug molecule produced by Japan's Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma and Exscientia in the UK is being tested in humans. Where a typical drug would take five years to develop, this was completed in just 12 months - a remarkable feat that could prove to be a game-changer for the pharmaceutical industry.

The drug was created by using a set of steps, which AI was able to work through faster than any human could. Leading AI company Exscientia's chief executive, Andrew Hopkins, explained that there were a lot of precise decisions needed to engineer a drug and that the algorithms used could be applied to any disease. AI is the art of building intelligent machines using data and algorithms. An algorithm is a set of rules that instructs a computer to perform a task.

As the chief executive of Scorpion Computer Services, Walter O'Brien noted, "humans have 3% human error and a lot of companies can't afford to be wrong 3% of the time anymore, so we close that 3% gap with some of the technologies. The AI we've developed doesn't make mistakes."

We have also seen the capabilities of AI in responding to the coronavirus, which emerged in China earlier in 2020. In the subways in Beijing, passengers are being screened for symptoms of the virus by AI and temperature scanners. This is the very nature of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), which is an industrial era that is characterised by intelligent machines that are connected and blur the divisions between humans and machines.

Of course, the 4IR is not just confined to healthcare. Following the Academy Awards on 10 February 2020, a debate raged on about whether AI could create an Oscar-worthy movie. After all, AI was recently used to create an artwork considered such a masterpiece that it sold for \$432,500 at British auction house Christie's. An Oscar does not seem quite so far-fetched.

It was announced in 2019 that computer-generated imagery (CGI) would be used to bring the deceased actor James Dean back to life in digital form for a Vietnam war movie called Finding Jack. Using thousands of images and footage of Dean, AI will create a virtual version of the Hollywood star that can be used in films and videogames. While recreating an actor for an entire movie is new, the technology has been noticeably used in Hollywood over the last few years.

CGI was used to complete Carrie Fisher's scenes in Star Wars after her death during filming. Robert de Niro was de-aged in The Irishman using similar technology. These developments are just one aspect of film-making, and perhaps in a few years, we will have films featuring the AI-recreated Madiba in his own voice and image.

It is unsurprising then that just this week US President Donald Trump announced that billions of dollars of the government's budget had been earmarked for AI research and development over various government agencies, including \$1-billion for non-military AI research. This, of course, is part of a game of catch up with China, which has the most considerable AI capabilities in the world - and which Forbes magazine has touted as the first AI superpower.

Last week, when President Cyril Ramaphosa took up his post as Chairman of the African Union (AU), he called for the establishment of an AI Forum in Africa. Why are we shifting gears towards these technologies? As Ramaphosa put it, "the 4IR presents our continent with great opportunities. The uptake of digital technologies will lead to improved competitiveness and provides fresh opportunities for inclusive growth. Millions of our continent's young citizens are digital natives and we must drive a skills revolution to enable Africa to take a



quantum leap into the economy of the future."

With a push towards the 4IR and the remarkable achievements that have already been made, why is there such fear associated with it? This, perhaps, is best explained by worries that the robots are taking over. This is not entirely unfounded. Substantial disruptions will affect all industries and the entire systems of production, management and governance, and will undoubtedly transform all aspects of 21st-century life and society, which will result in massive job losses with machines taking over many functions done by human beings.

Global consultancy firm McKinsey predicts that the 4IR will displace 800-million workers in 42 countries. Much of this disruption has already been seen in the banking industry, for instance. In 2019, many in the sector were ready to embark on what was expected to be the biggest strike in 99 years in the banking sector, following thousands of retrenchments and the closure of branches. This came after various banks announced that software robots would automate

different work processes, which would substitute the work of humans.

It is not just low-skilled, repetitive jobs that are being automated, but high-skilled jobs are at risk too. As US politician Andrew Yang put it, "automation is no longer just a problem for those working in manufacturing. Physical labour was replaced by robots; mental labour is going to be replaced by AI and software."

So where does South Africa currently stand on the 4IR? Earlier in 2020, a report by Deloitte found that while C-suite executives were on board with the concept of the 4IR, many had not managed to draft an action plan to turn goals into reality and that there was a disconnect in translating the 4IR priorities into business practices. This has also rung true for states. The Presidential Commission on the 4IR (PC4IR) is drafting the 4IR strategy for South Africa.

Already more than 20 countries have strategies in place. As South Africa, we ought to prime our people, systems, organisations and regulatory structures to create the fit-for-purpose en-

vironment for the 4IR. Furthermore, we ought to look at coordinating, overseeing and giving strategic direction to the momentum that is required. Additionally, we ought to invest in human capital, establish the National AI Institute, secure and avail data to enable innovation, incentivise future industries, platforms and applications of 4IR technologies. We also ought to build 4IR infrastructure, as well as review and amend, or create legislation in line with 4IR.

There is a way to go for this to unfold. Our foray into the 4IR is still in its infancy, but as we have seen with the rapid pace of change globally, it is an urgent task. The focus now needs to be on subverting our fears around job losses - or the fightback from the robots we have seen in one too many blockbusters - and creating an environment that fosters this disruption. We can fight our fears by embracing 4IR. After all, if we had covered in doubt throughout the industrial revolutions that came before this one, we would still be trapped in the dark ages and society as we know it today would seem far-fetched.

As former US President Franklin D Roosevelt put it: "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."

Five reasons the news business is struggling - and how to fix it

By Styli Charalambous

ANYONE remotely connected to the news media industry is aware of the oncoming meteor aimed at our world. As the clock counts down, some of the institutions responsible for training leaders have begun responding to the need of enabling media people with the skills that will help charter their organisations to safety and prosperity. One such course is the Executive Education Course at the Craig Newmark School of Journalism at CUNY. And after my first mind-expanding residency, it's a bit clearer to me why the news media world is in trouble.

We think we're special.

Putting aside the socio-economic consequences of the failing news industry and just focusing on the business side of things for a moment, let's take a look at the disruption engulfing us. This is a global meltdown happening at a rate we can't quite fathom. In the space of a decade the industry has lost half its workforce and more than half its main source of revenue. Because of that, we think we're special. But we're not, really.

All successful businesses eventually face the reckoning of disruption from new kids on the block. In 1965 the average lifespan of a Fortune 500 company was 33 years. By 2026 it's estimated to drop to just 14 years. Stuff is getting real for everyone. It's just rare that an entire industry faces it on a global scale and jammed into a single decade.

The concentration of pain we are feeling now is due in part to the disruption-facilitating nature of the internet and also the ability of the industry to operate successful regional and national oligopolies that could crush competitor upstarts. That period of uninterrupted or limited competition, lasting generations, meant the dam walls burst at about the same time for everyone in the business of news.

There are many contenders for the title of the "root of all evil" for the news media. I will take my cue from innovation scholars and posit that it is the multi-generational success of the industry that has brought it to its knees. It's known as the "success syndrome" and popularised by the recently deceased Clayton Christensen's "Innovator's Dilemma". This is briefly explained as when a business becomes successful, it does everything it can to grow profits in those operations because that's what works (and too many organisations let accountants make big decisions). But this success has a dark side: it hates innovation because the two are about as compatible as a Pelosi-Trump fundraiser.

Radical, industry innovation is extremely difficult to implement in an organisation that is successful because everything needed to incubate innovation is just about the antithesis of what is required to squeeze out marginal gains in operational efficiency. Only those organisations with proper plan-



ning, organisational design and senior leadership buy-in, achieve this time and again. Think Amazon, Apple, IBM and others who start off being successful with one thing, and sur-thrive by innovating into new products, and markets.

When the big disruption came we thought we were different from every other company that got disabled by disruption. But that was just our oligopoly speaking.

• Not knowing the difference between strategy and operational efficiency

I'll admit that in the haze of a decade in hustling to sustain a news media startup, I doubt I would have been able to explain the difference between strategy and operational efficiency; leadership and management. So many lines blur in a founder's startup role, and with such extreme, constant pressure I wonder if I'd be able to implement the theory even if I studied it. But it is also indicative of the lack of training and investment in our development that we skimmed out on.

(Cheat sheet: leaders are responsible for the strategy that differentiates the business and making space for innovation. Or choosing the tracks the train should run on. Managers are responsible for the operational execution of that strategy and making sure the train is on time).

Our excuse was a startup teetering on the edge, but speaking to colleagues from much bigger newsrooms it became clear that lack of management and leadership training is an indictment of the industry. Again, our success over decades made us think

we knew everything we needed to know about our world. We assumed complete knowledge, that the big white object on the horizon wasn't an iceberg.

The struggle to be honest and vulnerable enough to admit our knowledge deficiency is holding us back. Some of us don't yet know what we don't know, so it is also incumbent on the training institutions to update curricula to better meet the needs of an industry that has a lot of catching-up to do and not much time to do it in.

Good leadership and management doesn't happen by osmosis or having years of experience in organisations that failed to invest in either. They are skills that can be learnt, but the luxury of time and budgets is fast running out.

After many years of struggling to make payroll, we finally made some big bets in training, development and innovation. What felt like big bets at the time paid off in multiples and had us kicking ourselves that we hadn't done so sooner. Ours is an industry that has pathologically under-invested in the development of our managers and leaders. Something we desperately need to change.

• A lack of innovation is a lack of leadership

Want to see a news media executive squirm? Buy them lunch and ask them what their R&D budget is. Again, the root (canal) of our problems stems from our

past successes. Why spend good money on innovation when we only have a handful of competitors and we "own" the channel to our readers/viewers/listeners? Amazon, for years, invested way more than its rivals in R&D and as a result, can lay claim to the title of most innovative company on earth. It has successfully incubated companies or entered into new markets where it now operates as global leader. Less colourful business practices aside, Jeff Bezos has made innovation part of Amazon's DNA and it's driving their continued success in areas beyond selling books.

The seminal document on innovation in the news industry in the digital transformation era, is, without doubt, the 2014 Innovation Report by the New York Times. Honesty, vulnerability and willingness to change are the key ingredients to many of life's challenges.

And so it was for the New York Times, which set out a new path in 2014 after their "come to Jesus" moment. Making the consummate investment in, and space for, innovation is the responsibility of leaders of any business, especially so for those who enjoy success.

That our industry has failed to innovate is the Scarlet Letter of our leaders and no one else. We can't all be the New York Times but it is a beacon of what can be achieved by doing the work to identify the strategies for success, making investments in data

and innovation and unleashing the flywheel effect that great content can spark.

• We like cookie-cutter. And bright, shiny things

A Reuters research report published in 2019 reflects our continuous pivot to this and that bright shiny thing that would save us. The pivot to scale, then the pivot to user-generated content, platforms, video and ultimately the pivot to readers. Or what Brian Morrissey at Digiday likes to call the "pivot to reality". But as with most realities, it bites. The "shiny things report", as it has become known, laments the absence of research-based strategising and rushing off after the next saviour trend. Paywalls run a high-risk of being the next bright, shiny thing that fails to save us.

The allure of paywall subscriptions is that it's a cookie-cutter solution with readily available technical solutions. The problem, however, is that subscriptions is a "winner takes all" game in which local news outlets, or even national outlets in foreign countries, compete with the New York Times and Washington Post for the same slice of their news subscriptions budget. Our cookie-cutter addiction will only result in half-baked solutions.

The real solutions lie in audience-centric models that rely heavily on listening, and data to understand them.

In his book, *Geeks bearing Gifts*, Professor Jeff Jarvis proclaims "death to mass media!" or more specifically, our treatment of readers as a single mass that will benignly accept our assumed needs of their news requirements. Assumptions of people who may not think like us, look like us or share our life experiences and opportunities.

Membership is a model (one that I am particularly biased towards) that uses these principles of audience-centricity and engagement, but also means each implementation is unique. And much harder to get right, often requiring an evolutionary approach to editorial and community building. The local news problem in the US is way worse than I originally thought and the membership model is a possible solution. But there don't seem to be many takers because there aren't any cookie-cutter shortcuts in this space.

• People

"Whom the gods want to destroy, they send 40 years of success." That Aristotle could pen something 2,000 years ago foretelling the root cause of successful business failures in the modern era, speaks volumes about the nature of humans.

If one common thread binds all these reasons for problems the news industry is facing, it's people. Organisations are made up of people (for now). What struck me most during our residency was how almost every newsroom represented in our class identified with the challenges laid out in the New York Times Innovation Report. That report shows that humans, and the problems we create, mark us like a bad tattoo we thought was a good idea on a drunken night out in Bangkok.

Culture can be a miracle binding agent or it can become a poison pill. The bigger a company becomes, the harder it is to create and maintain the desired culture, especially with regards to innovation. People are averse to change - even companies that were once innovative can lose their edge, as years and good leaders roll on by. In 1972, the US retail giant Sears accounted for 1% of US GDP with one in two US households owning a Sears credit card. A company that successfully innovated and regenerated multiple times since 1893, is now obliterated. What changed? People.

We are visual creatures - and if revenue and reader graphs are going up and to the right, something inside us makes us think it'll carry on in a linear, orderly and perpetual fashion. People are many things but orderly and linear we are not, and without an ongoing plan to keep evolving and innovating, our game will be up.

Short-termism: whether it be profit-chasing over readers' needs, or print profits over digital transformation, it's hard, and brave to look past the horizon. Especially when you have quarterly earnings, hedge-fund shareholders and pesky analysts with misaligned interests circling overhead. Short-term thinking is people thinking.

To choose to invest in something that could cannibalise and appears to have an addressable market way smaller than the current successful operation is counterintuitive to how we think. Long-term could mean just a couple of years in the state we find ourselves in.

But at least it's better than the next two quarters. It is only in the realm of the longer-term that reader interests and shareholder interests align. It is there we must direct our strategic thinking and focus. It's exceptionally difficult to do when the bloodletting is happening all around and long-term capital is hard to source. But that's what we signed up for. And it ain't tiddlywinks.

AGENCIES

Understanding South Africa's agriculture trade patterns

By Wandile Sihlobo

THE prospects for South Africa's agricultural exports in 2020, particularly of maize, wine and fruit, are on the up. However, the red meat sector is an industry that is still on the back foot because of biosecurity concerns.

After reaching a record level of \$10.6-billion in 2018, South Africa's agricultural exports fell by 8% year-on-year (y/y) in 2019 to \$9.8-billion. This, however, was unsurprising as agricultural production data for 2019 showed a notable decline in a number of exportable commodities because of the drought.

The temporary ban on exports of livestock products and wool in 2019, following the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease at the start of the year, also contributed to the decline in exports. Be that as it may, the top exportable agricultural products for 2019 included citrus, wine, grapes, apples and pears, sugar, macadamia nuts, wool and maize.

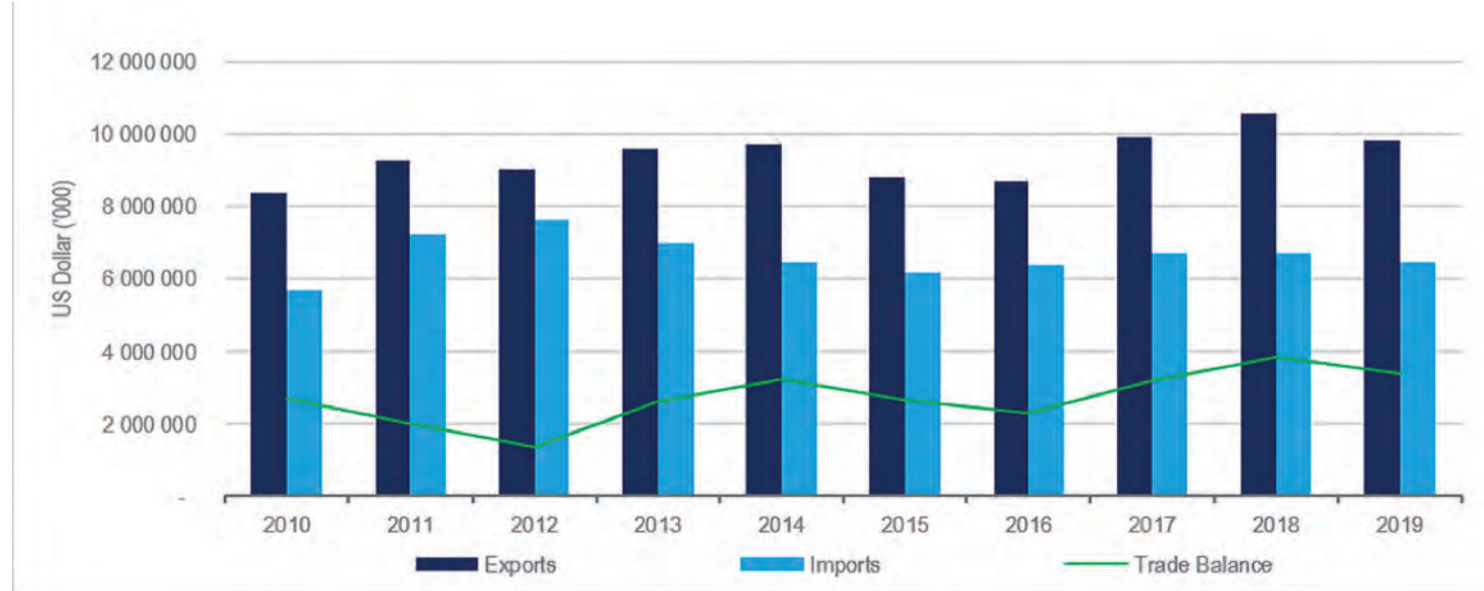
Over the same period, South Africa's agricultural products imports declined by 4% y/y to \$6.4-billion.

This was underpinned by the decline in the import value of rice, meat, wheat and palm oil. But these products remained among the top imported agricultural products in value terms. Overall, this subsequently led to a 12% y/y decline in South Africa's agricultural trade surplus to \$3.4-billion, as shown in Exhibit 1 below.

South Africa's agricultural trade

From a destination point of view, the African continent and Europe continued to be the largest markets for South Africa's agricultural exports, respectively absorbing 41% and 26% of total exports in 2019, measured in value terms. The leading products to these markets were beverages, fruit, vegetables, sugar, wool and grains.

Asia is also an important market for South Africa's agricultural exports, demanding a 24% export share in 2019. Wool, fruit, grains, beverages, vegetables and meat were the leading products exported to this region. The Americas and the rest of the world (ROW) accounted for 5% and 4% shares, as



South Africa's agricultural trade

shown in Exhibit 2 below. Exports to these regions were also dominated by fruits, beverages, vegetables, sugar and grains.

Looking ahead

South Africa's agricultural exports could recover somewhat in 2020. The improved weather conditions have led to an increase in

summer crops' area plantings and prospects of a bigger maize harvest, which is an exportable commodity. The South African wine grapes production is also set to increase in 2020, thus contributing to a larger wine volume output.

There is also general optimism about the 2020 harvest in the fruit industry, which supports our view

of possible improvement in agriculture exports. The industry that is still on the back foot because of biosecurity concerns is the red meat sector. There is currently a ban on South Africa's livestock products (including red meat) exports because of the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak that occurred towards the end of 2019.

Policy considerations

The South African government and private sector players have embraced a vision of expanding labour-intensive agricultural sectors as part of a broader development strategy. This is to be an export-driven initiative. Such sectors are mainly horticulture and

to a certain extent, field crops.

Fortunately, the top-value agricultural exports over the past five years were also within these sub-sectors, which means that South Africa is on the right path in its agricultural development strategy.

With that said, while a 24% share of South Africa's agricultural exports goes to Asia, as previously noted, there is still potential to expand participation in that market. With India and China headlining the growth potential in Asia and the Far East, this region overall is significant enough to warrant more attention, especially given that there is currently no preferential market access for South Africa's agricultural sector in this region.

South Africa is having to compete with the likes of Australia and Chile, which have secured trade agreements that have afforded them a significant competitive advantage which could end up threatening South Africa's market share and future growth. Therefore, South Africa should continue to engage these countries for greater market access to agricultural products.

Agencies

Chinese firm donates assorted items to Isimani flood victims

By Guardian Reporter

A Chinese conglomerate with interests in almost all sectors - Sunshine Group has donated food and non-food items to last month's flood victims in Isimani constituency in Iringa region.

The donated items included

food, and shelter materials, which were collected from different well-wishers in Dar es Salaam. The donation is part of rebuilding the lives of people who were affected by the floods due to the last month's rains.

Vice president of the Sunshine Group, Betty Mkwasa said that

the humanitarian assistance included cooking oil, clothes and blankets to the victims to lessen their suffering and support their recovery from the disaster.

Mkwasa said that Sunshine is a group of companies operating in Tanzania, "hence we felt

responsible of helping our colleagues here. We're aware that this support won't address all challenges that people have, but it will help a bit to reduce those challenges."

"I call on other Tanzanians and well-wishers to chip in and assist the needy people in this area," she

suggested.

Chief executive officer of Sunshine, Leo Lee said the support reinforces the current relationships between Tanzania and China. "Tanzanians and Chinese have been living as friends for years, so this support is a gesture of that relationships."

Germina Lukuvi, the wife of Isimani MP, William Lukuvi commended the group for the support saying it will help to restore hope of the flood victims.

Sunshine Group Limited was established in Dar es Salaam. After a careful and detailed market research and considering our

own advantage and experience, we set up our main business scope, which includes agricultural products trading, livestock and meat trading, construction material trading, logistics, manufacturing. Specific subsidiaries are established which are specialized in different businesses.

Kahama small miners upbeat on joining NSSF

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

SMALL miners in Kahama district, Shinyanga region have shown interest to join the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) so as to benefit from medical expenses coverage accorded within six months after registration and contributions.

They said since miners are prone to frequent accidents in the mines NSSF medical security benefits will be a great help to them.

Kahama special region NSSF manager Aisha Nyemba explained yesterday when speaking to reporters in her office, in which she also said miners have had no habit of having social security coverage as they are uncertain of their lives.

She visited the small miners in various mining areas and talked to them on joining NSSF as security for their later lives but many of them claimed they are reluctant to do so as they are just dead people in waiting.

However Nyemba said since 2000 up to now they have 14,872 customers from

the mining sector of whom 3,636 pay their monthly contributions, the figure that is small compared to those who registered themselves with the fund.

"It's impossible for the big number of people in the group that have registered, but those actually paying contributions is small - from 14,872 to 3,636, even if some of them have died," she added.

She also said a big group of miners that had joined but stopped paying contributions were those from Bulyanhulu and Buzwagi gold mines who had their employment terminated after closure of the mines.

However she appealed to owners of private institutions who do not remit contributions for their workers to ensure they do so and added that Kahama district has many people who are in employment but many firms do not remit contributions.

She said more than 500 tobacco and cotton farmers from 36 primary cooperatives (AMCOS) in Ushetu District, Shinyanga Region have joined NSSF.



Journalists encouraged to use social media tools effectively and properly

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

MEDIA personnel have been urged to learn how to effectively and properly use social media tools in the dissemination of information in order to remain relevant in the era of digitisation.

A consultant from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Nuru Hassan Chuo made the call yesterday here when speaking at

the training on communication and visibility to change makers from five local radios in Tanzania.

He called on scribes to ensure they respond to emails and missed calls on time as failure to do so would see them lose opportunities.

He shared his testimony over how he had in the past missed a job opportunity from an international media outlet simply because he failed to check his emails on time.

"I went to check my email a week later only to find out that I had missed a lifetime opportunity as a ticket and a contract had been sent for me to go to Burundi but failed to respond on time. I vowed ever since that I would make sure I buy a good phone where I can check my mails," said Chuo.

Ally Nyamkinda, a change maker from Mazingira community radio also shared a testimony over how he had lost an opportunity

abroad simply because he failed to sign the contract and to send it on time. "I got a job and a contract was sent via email for me to sign and seal the deal but delayed to see the email and by the time I tried to sign, it was too late. I learnt the hard way and I now check my email after every 30 minutes just to ensure I don't miss anything," said Nyamkinda.

Sebastian Okiki, another facilitator for the day called upon journalists to ensure that they put

a fine line between a professional and family life by using two separate mobile phones to ensure that they do not miss anything.

"Make a point to have two separate mobile phones where your clients would know when to communicate with you as trying to respond to business issues while at home may be tricky where you may find as if someone bothers you and you may fail to communicate well and thus lose your clients," stressed Okiki.

UNESCO under its SDC Project has convened the four days capacity building session where the lake zone brings together change makers from the five community radio stations namely Kahama FM, Mazingira FM, Sengerema FM, Storm FM and Kwizera FM respectively.

The training is among the four packages within the sustainability program conducted by UNESCO where similar sessions are conducted in Zanzibar, Dodoma and

Arusha. UNESCO with the financial support from SDC supports 25 community radios as well as the Network of Community Media in Tanzania (TADIO).

The support is meant to ensure that people in Tanzania, especially the poor, women and girls, have the capacity to make informed decisions on issues that affect their daily lives based on access to relevant, culturally appropriate, gender responsive accurate information and knowledge.

Sudan to host Nile Day 2020 celebrations

KHARTOUM

THE Nile Basin Initiative (NBI), in collaboration with the Sudan, is organising the Regional Nile Day 2020 celebrations to take place in Khartoum.

While addressing media representatives, Sudan's Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources, Prof Yasir Abbas Mohamed Ali, noted that February 22 marks a milestone in the history of Nile cooperation.

"It is on this date that for the first time, all independent, sovereign riparian countries of the Nile committed themselves to work together and harness the potentials of the shared river to promote cooperative sustainable socio-economic development of their countries," he said.

He said the celebrations whose theme is, 'Joint Investments on the Nile for Regional Transformation', will among other things showcase some of the joint investment projects facilitated by NBI and implemented by the Member States, thus demonstrating to riparian communities, the feasibility of Nile cooperation.

Cases in point include the 200 MW volume of power trade through the Ethiopia - Sudan Interconnector commissioned in 2015 by the Heads of State of the two countries and benefiting nearly 1.4 million households in both countries.

At least 500 Nile Basin citizens and friends of the Nile are expected to participate in the celebrations.

These include Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the Nile Basin countries (Nile Council of Ministers); representatives from NBI Member States embassies in Khartoum, and officials

from Ministries whose activities touch on the management and development of the shared water resources, namely Water, Environment, Energy, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, Finance. Others are Members of Parliament, Development Partners, Researchers, Academia, Civil society, Youth, Media, and school children.

Sudan is hosting the Regional Nile Day event for the second time, the first being in 2015. The celebrations, which will take place at Friendship Hall, will start with a brass band-led march.

A number of activities have been lined up including an exhibition by various partners showcasing achievements and on-going works in water and water related activities, speeches different dignitaries focusing on the theme for the day, traditional cuisine and dance as well as performance by school children.

Later in the afternoon, Ministers in charge of Water Affairs in the NBI Member States together will have a roundtable meeting to discuss how to accelerate implementation of the different investment projects prepared by NBI on behalf of the Member States.

The annual Nile Day event provides an opportunity to increase awareness of the importance of basin-wide Nile Cooperation in jointly taking good care of and utilising the shared Nile Basin water and related resources for win-win benefits.

This is in addition to enhancing awareness about the consequences of non-cooperation as well as the challenges of Nile cooperation. The day also serves to expose participants to the rich and varied cultures, which exist within the Nile Basin.



Sudan minister of irrigation and water resources, Prof. Yasir Abbas Mohamed Ali (centre), addresses the media ahead of the Nile Day 2020 celebrations in Khartoum. Looking on is Eastern Nile Technical Regional Office (ENTRO) executive director Fekahmed Negash.



MARKET TRENDS
DCB Skonga account comes with extra benefits in education financing

page 14

Thursday 20 February 2020



Sunil Kaushal, Africa and Middle East chief executive for Standard Chartered.

StanChart says rising project finance and digital tech investments will drive regional growth

DAVOS

Saudi Arabia's economic diversification push, the financing of new infrastructure projects and the requirement for investment into digital technologies will drive growth for Standard Chartered in the region over the next decade.

Sunil Kaushal, the UK bank's chief executive for Africa and the Middle East, said it would play to its strength in terms of "bringing overseas capital in different forms and different structures to the right projects and for the right entities."

The increased role of the private sector as a result of the opening up of the Saudi economy is a "win-win" for Standard Chartered, which has traditionally been strong in emerging markets. We see ourselves as being the bridge for foreign capital to come in and support and build and grow with the Saudi story, the Vision 2030," he said.

A year ago the bank received approval from the kingdom's regulators to start operations there, filling a critical gap in its regional network. "We are in the process of now implementing on that licence. Saudi authorities have been fantastic, very, very co-operative, very proactive, we've got all the support from them. It is a big change from what things were in the past," he said, speaking to The National during the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

Mr Kaushal expects the bank to have "fairly healthy growth across the region." "Our focus will be on infrastructure and project finance – that's a big element of it," he said. Over the next decade "you are going to see a lot of privatisation happening, linked to the diversification and the demand for capital will remain solid."

The digital push will require investment, as will a greater emphasis on sustainability and achieving the UN sustainable development goals, Mr Kaushal said. "That's going to be massive in terms of doing the right thing but also finding the right projects where this capital can come in. Renewables, clean energy, industrialisation, innovation, mobility [and] digitalisation.

"There is a massive demand, there is huge capital but you've got to do it in a sustainable manner. That's very important because that is where the demand is for the future, you can't do it in a traditional way." However, there remains the risk of the impact of continuing geopolitical tensions in the region. In major markets like the US or China, "if there is a really sharp slowdown [we may] recalibrate some of our plans".

"Right now we don't see that risk. We don't see a risk of recession," he said. The high level of debt that has been taken on by emerging market sovereigns and at the corporate level is also something to monitor. "If there is a big shift in sentiment that can have a cascading impact," he said, although underlining that the bank's outlook is optimistic.

"We are in some of the most exciting markets. We are very well positioned to really achieve whatever is left in terms of our strategic turnaround. It is very disciplined. It is a quality and very disciplined growth."

Rabobank says NMB's CEO recruitment on schedule

By The Banker Reporter

THE recruitment process of a new NMB Bank Plc's chief executive officer who will replace Ineke Bussemaker who left over a year ago is in its final stages, the Netherlands based holding company, Rabobank has said.

Bussemaker who led the bank for four years before her departure in December 2018, was briefly replaced by Albert Jonkergouw, another Dutch national who left mid last year after reaching retirement age.

"Since the departure of Ineke Bussemaker, NMB Bank is in the process of recruiting a new CEO. We would like to affirm that the bank continued to be the most profitable bank in Tanzania, in fact, it has this position for over a decade now, and we're confident the bank will continue to do well in the years to come," said Rabobank spokesperson, Joris Hoff.

Hoff said in an emailed while responding to The Guardian's questions that the recruitment of NMB Bank's CEO is currently at advanced stage. "It has taken some time because we were looking for the best suited person to take charge of this role. The process should be finalized soon, and once done we will



Former NMB Bank Plc's managing director, Ineke Bussemaker.

be in a position to communicate to our customers and shareholders across," Hoff noted.

Questions have been raised by experts and lawmakers as to reason behind the largest bank's failure to confirm its next CEO with Ruth Zaipuna and Filbert Mponzi playing an acting role at different times since Jonkergouw's departure.

Rabobank has a controlling stake at NMB with over 34 percent shares followed by Treasury which has 31 percent and the public with other minority shareholders retaining the 35 percent stake.

Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee recently demanded answers from NMB board and Treasury as to reasons behind the delayed appointment of the CEO who is an important management personality steering the company to success.

But despite its lack of a full time CEO, the country's largest bank by branch network, number of clients, deposits and profits posted a whopping over 148bn/- gross profit last year against 97bn/- posted in 2018.

The Dar es Salaam based lender has over 224 physical branches in over 95 percent of the country's administrative districts backed by over 400 ATMs and hundreds of NMB Wakalas.

Yetu Bank seeks to raise 2bn/- in second IPO for expansion purposes

By Francis Kajubi

SEEKING to extend its services to more regions in the domestic market, Yetu Microfinance Bank Plc has floated a second initial public share offer (IPO) seeking to raise at least 2bn/- by mid April

this year.

Yetu Microfinance Bank's Managing Director, Altemius Millinga said in Dar es Salaam this week during the launching of the IPO that his management is targeting to open branches in Mbeya, Njombe and Tanga

regions.

The bank which is listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange's enterprise growth market has its headquarters in Dar es Salaam where it has three branches with one branch only in Morogoro region.

"In 2015, Yetu Microfinance Bank floated its first IPO in the market and later listed its shares at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange's enterprise growth market window and was able to raise 3.1bn/-," Millinga said.

He said the bank's over 3.6

million shares will be selling at 550/- each, which is lower than 605/- which is the price at DSE. Millinga said the IPO is also targeting at allowing ordinary Tanzanians to have a stake in their economy through the DSE listed bank hence being part of the financial service beneficiaries playing part in growth of the microfinance sector.

The bank's performance has been impressive since being listed over four years ago net assets value tripling to 19bn/- as of December last year from 7bn/- in 2014. In 2018, its loan portfolio stood at 12.6bn/- with 712mn/- from 376mn/- in 2016.

"The increase in profitability has gone abreast with increase in return to shareholders where we paid dividend of 42/- per share in 2016, then 64/- in 2017 and 37/- last year, with return on equity standing at 8.8 percent," the CEO added.

In remarks to launch the IPO, Minister of State Prime Minister's Office responsible for investment, Angellah Kairuki said the financial sector has been contributing 4.14 percent to gross domestic product but needs to contribute more.

She commended Yetu Microfinance Bank Plc for sustainable growth but also decision to float shares at DSE which allows Tanzanians from all walks of life to actively participate in ownership of their economy.

"I commend DSE for the support in mobilizing companies of different sizes and from all over the world to list at the bourse. I call upon the DSE management to reconsider a special window that will enable savings and credit cooperative societies to list and grow their capitals," Kairuki said.

The bank is a public limited company that was incorporated in 2013 to take over the business of the Youth Self Employment Foundation. YOSEFO was a credit only microfinance institution for 14 years before being transformed into a microfinance bank.



Yetu Microfinance Bank's Managing Director, Altemius Millinga.

Amana asks clients to delay access to funds by 6 months

NAIROBI

Asset manager Amana Capital is set to extend freeze on the withdrawal of funds by a further six months as the aftershocks of Nakumatt's collapse weighs it down.

Amana, through NatBank Trustee & Investment Services, has proposed in a notice to its clients detailing the

agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting on February 28. If the proposal is adopted by shareholders, Amana's clients will have to wait longer before they can access their money.

Amana's shilling fund has remained frozen in the last two years amid reports that it lost Sh275 million in a commercial paper of the failed Nakumatt Holdings. This has frustrated clients

who had been accustomed to recalling their capital in a matter of days when entering similar investment vehicles.

The notice outlined part of the agenda of the EGM as to "update on the status of funds invested in the different class of units. Seek the consent of the Class B unit holders and pass...the extension of the moratorium period of Class B of the money market fund by a

further six months up to and including August 6, 2020," said the notice shared by the trustees.

"Creation of Class C shares and update on the Nakumatt Commercial Paper investment." The notice comes five days after the Capital Markets Authority (CMA) placed a 28-day freeze on the withdrawal of funds from Amana Capital to cushion it.

Nakumatt defaulted on the commercial paper among other classes of creditors, sparking major write-offs among banks, suppliers, insurance firms and high net-worth individuals. The CMA's move to place a 28-day freeze on the withdrawal of funds last week followed a decision by regulator that requires money market funds to disclose where they have invested clients' cash as well

as the terms of those deals.

This follows revelations of investment gambles that have lost investors billions of shillings in the past. CMA acting chief executive Wycliffe Shamiyah said the regulator plans to audit the committees that make investment decisions after they realised some of the funds were being controlled by lone rangers.

DCB Skonga account comes with extra benefits in education financing

By The Banker Reporter

PARENTS and guardians can deposit 12 months in their children's DCB Mini Skonga account to get a three year guarantee for education funding.

DCB Commercial Bank Plc's Commercial Director, James Ngaluko announced in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that the new product is an innovation that created an extra slot in DCB Skonga account to cover education related costs of pupils and students.

Ngaluko said unlike the original DCB Skonga package in which parents needed to save for their children aged between 1-17 years, the revised DCB Mini Skonga only needs 12 months of monthly instalment payments.

"Under the DCB Mini Skonga package, a parent is assured of education of the child from the monthly contributions, and in addition, the children will continue to get sponsorship for three

years in the event that the parent suffers from disability or dies," said Ngaluko.

He said parents joining the new edition can also continue contributing through the older version of DCB Skonga under which they guarantee their children's education sponsorship up to university level depending on the programme selected.

Ngaluko further elaborated that the new product serves many low-income Tanzanians who are uncertain of the fate of their children's education in the event of death or disability which cripple their capacity to pay school fees and other expenses.

"Through the DCB Skonga package parents can choose their monthly contribution amount in order to be assured of the education of their children," he added while inviting parents and guardians to utilise the account.

"We at DCB give priority to products that help support efforts of the government that have benefits to majority of



DCB Commercial Bank's commercial director, James Ngaluko (C), the bank's managing director, Godfrey Ndalaha and director of marketing, Rahma Ngassa (R) during the launch of DCB Mini Skonga account in Dar es Salaam last year. Photo courtesy of DCB.

the people. Education is an important investment in our lives, so it is our hope that people come and open Skonga accounts in order to be assured of their children's education needs in future," Ngaluko stressed.

Backing Ngaluko's arguments, DCB's Head of Marketing and Communication, Rahma Ngassa said through the two products, customers are assured of security of their money, assurance of education of children up to university level, a hefty annual bonus payment, access to emergency loans of up to 50 percent of contribution, and funeral insurance in case of death of account holder, spouse or child.

"I call upon parents to take care of their children's future by signing up with DCB Skonga accounts, because on top of the educational benefits, in case a customer manages to contribute continuously without interruptions during the whole contract term, the bank will reimburse the whole deposited amount," she noted.

Telco to award online products bidding clients up to 5m/-

By The Banker Reporter

TIGO subscribers who bid for products through their mobile phones stand a chance of winning various products valued at up to 5m/-.

Announcing the new promotion dubbed, 'Bid-2-win' in Dar es Salaam this week, Tigo Tanzania Limited's Digital Services Specialist, Ikunda Ngowi said the innovative and rewarding service allows customers to stand a chance of buying an item with a unique lowest bid.

Ngowi said from the service, customers will be also stand a chance of innovative and entertainment products such as Samsung A30, A70, A50 smartphones, Home Internet routers as well as Sony PlayStations. The lowest bid for all items starts from 1000/-.

"We are happy to introduce this service into the market and we believe this service will give every Tigo customer the opportunity to access digitalized products at a very competitive price. This concept is fair and gives every customer an equal chance to win various prizes based on the unique value of the product," she said.

Ngowi said as a market leader in digital lifestyle transformation, Tigo come up with the 'Bid-2-win' product to offer customers affordable products which will give them all the reasons to enjoy and live the digital lifestyle.

"We understand our customers' needs and we act proactively to provide solutions that will positively impact how they experience communications services. This service allows customers to simply bid for the product and let them win one of the products and we believe through this service we will pave the way towards accessing digital technologies in the country," added Ngowi.

She encouraged customers to participate the promotion noting that each bid a customer sends will be charged only 50/- with the highest bidder standing a chance of winning the item. There will be one winner every week.



Tigo Tanzania Limited's Digital Services Specialist, Ikunda Ngowi speaks at the launch of 'Bid-2-win' promotion in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Left is the Value Added Services Specialist Fabian Felician. Photo: John Badi

Mobile banking, agents cut ATMs in Kenya to six-year low

NAIROBI

The number of automated teller machines (ATMs) in Kenya has dropped to a six-year low as bank customers increasingly turn to agency, internet and mobile banking.

Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) data shows that banks closed 70 ATMs in the year to December 2019, remaining with 2,459 units. This is the lowest ATM count since February 2014, reflecting the growing use of alternative means of accessing cash and paying for goods and services.

The shift has also been quickened by the banking sector's pursuit of cost-saving technologies to boost their profitability in an environment where a legal cap on lending rates had slowed down loans and earnings. The cap imposed in September 2016 was removed last November to spur lending.

"The increase in use of technology by banks has been driven mainly by stiff competition among the banks. The banks have had to adopt cost-effective delivery channels in offering financial services to ensure efficiency and maintain their market shares," CBK said in its report.

Lenders reckon that while ATMs require upfront capital investments to acquire the machines and lease space, they depreciate at 20 percent annually while agency and mobile banking have no such commitments. According to the CBK, 19 commercial banks and five microfinance banks (MFBS) had contracted 59,578 and 2,026 agents respectively across the country by December 2018.

The fall in ATM numbers points to the waning popularity of the once revolutionary technology that was introduced in Kenya in the 1990s to decongest banking halls. ATMs offered customers the first escape route from long banking queues and banks installed more machines as customer appetite grew, growing from 1,581 in July 2009 to a peak of 2,626 in June 2016.

However, customers are now increasingly turning to other alternative channels such as transacting via mobile phones, which is proving more convenient than ATMs, given the growing number of a mobile telephony agents to 235,168 in September. Kenya had more than 16 million active mobile phone deposit accounts in 2018, which was nearly a third (28.9 percent) of the 55.27 million deposit accounts in the sector.

CBK data shows Kenyans moved Sh4.35 trillion through their mobile phones last year, a 9.3 percent jump from the preceding year. This was 3.7 times more than the Sh1.17 trillion that was transacted in 2011.

More Kenyans are also using cards to transact, including at points of sale, and for online transactions. The fall in ATM use is in line with global trends as was observed by Retail Banking Research, which found that the number of ATMs installed worldwide fell by one percent to stand at 3.24 million in 2018.

SA's rising country risk adds to rates pressure - Reserve Bank

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's rising country risk is putting upward pressure on interest rates, even as inflation expectations are dropping, with credit-rating companies contributing to the negative sentiment, according to the Reserve Bank.

Moody's Investors Service cut its 2020 economic growth forecast for South Africa to 0.7% from 1% on Monday and said the country's relatively high real interest rates are constraining expansion. The ratings company is the only major one that still considers South Africa's debt investment grade and after it changed its outlook to negative in November, that assessment is at risk.

Credit-rating companies are contributing to a view in financial markets that South Africa is riskier than in the past, Chris Loewald, a member of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee and head of economic policy development and research at the Reserve Bank, told lawmakers in Cape Town on Tuesday. Based on credit-default swaps, markets are already pricing in South Africa as below investment grade.

"The higher South African

premium creates upside pressure on rates, which is difficult to ignore," Loewald said. "Lower risk would create space for lower rates." The inflation-targeting central bank has often drawn criticism from politicians and labour unions who say it should be doing more to bolster an economy stuck in its longest downward cycle since at least 1945 and reduce unemployment that's at 29%. While the MPC reduced its key interest rate by 25 basis points in January, the real rate, which adjusts for price growth, remains above 2%.

Africa's most-industrialized economy hasn't expanded at more than 2% annually since 2013 and neither the central bank nor the National Treasury see it reaching that level by 2022.

A government report on Wednesday will probably show inflation quickened to the fastest pace in more than a year in January. Still, it remains close to the 4.5% midpoint of the target range. South Africans are getting used to lower inflation and price-growth expectations are coming down, Loewald said. "The trajectory of inflation, the risk factors, feed into the way monetary policy is thought about," he said. "South African growth challenges go far beyond monetary policy."



Chris Loewald, a member of South African Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Committee.

Tax Justice report ranks Angola as second most secretive country in the world

By The Banker Reporter

ANGOLA is only second to Maldives as the world's second most secretive country in the world when it comes to banking and financial services.

The 2020 edition of the Financial Secrecy Index by Tax Justice is the first edition to rank Angola, the only African country on the top ten in as far as secrecy is concerned. The Tax Justice FSI said although the country plays a minor role in the global provision of financial services to non-residents, it remains highly secretive.

Angola ranked as the 35th biggest enabler of financial secrecy in the world and received a secrecy score of 80 out of 100 - the second highest secrecy score of any country, after Maldives.

The report however said the global total of all financial secrecy measured by the Financial Secrecy Index has shrunk by a hefty 7 percent since 2018. This reduction is equivalent to erasing from the 2018 edition of the index the contributions of both Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates - which had ranked 1st and 9th respectively.

The reduction means less room for practices like secretive banking, anonymous shell company ownership or anonymous real estate ownership, which in turn means less room for money laundering, tax evasion and huge offshore concentrations of illicit and untaxed wealth.



Angolan President, João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço.

The Financial Secrecy Index 2020 shows that the biggest reforms have been in automatic exchange of information and beneficial ownership registration, whereas reforms in country by country reporting have been weak. These three areas of reform, also known as the "ABCs" of tax justice, have gained the most attention from campaigners, tax experts and policymakers in recent years.

The FSI bases each country's secrecy score on 20 indicators, each of which is scored out of 100. The average of the 20 indicator scores becomes the country's overall secrecy score. The 20 indicators belong to four cat-

egories, one of which tracks countries' performance on automatic exchange of information among other practices, another tracks performance on beneficial ownership registration and two track performance on country by country reporting.

The greatest reduction in indicator scores occurred on the category measuring countries' implementation of automatic exchange of information, which saw countries on average reduce their scoring by nine marks out of 100.

This is primarily due to more countries automatically exchanging information under the Common Report-

ing Standard. Countries on average reduced their scoring on ownership registration, including beneficial ownership registration, by 4 marks out of 100. The two categories of indicators tracking performance on country by country reporting, however, saw little improvement from countries. On average countries reduced their scores on both categories by 0.4 marks out of 100.

Liz Nelson, a director at the Tax Justice Network, said: "The sweeping reforms that were made in recent years and have led to a global curbing of financial secrecy were considered to be impossible to achieve when the first Financial Secrecy Index was published a decade ago. However, progress on country by country reporting remains slow, leaving unchecked the rampant tax abuse that disproportionately undercuts the people who start out with less opportunities in life to begin with. Women, minorities and disabled people are more likely to pay the price of the bill left behind by tax abusers and be locked out of leading a meaningful and fulfilling life. The OECD currently has a once-in-a-century opportunity to reform an international tax system that has allowed financial secrecy to flourish."

"While countries have dragged their feet on introducing public country by country reporting, corporations around the world have voluntarily begun to publish their country by country reports under the new GRI tax stand-

ard.15 The GRI tax standard published last year delivers the highest quality of public country by country reporting data, as formulated by experts from all stakeholder groups including multinationals and accounting firms. We urge the OECD to take onboard the robust transparency measures that responsible businesses and civil society groups have voluntarily rallied behind."

Recommendations:

The FSI 2020 shows that robust international standards on transparency can be effective in driving meaningful progress. The Tax Justice Network is recommending three immediate actions: Counter-measures. Governments are increasingly recognising the harmful consequences of financial secrecy, and have begun to take action to reduce it. To truly stamp out financial secrecy, meaningful counter-measures are now needed against jurisdictions and their economic actors that refuse to cooperate - regardless of their economic power.

Corporate tax transparency: As the OECD reviews its standard for country by country reporting this year, they must address the major technical flaws of current standards and converge towards the new Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) tax standard. Governments, including those of the EU which have repeatedly delayed, must follow the lead of major companies that are now voluntarily reporting such data, and make publication mandatory.

Anonymous ownership: The Finan-

cial Action Task Force must add public registration of beneficial owners and legal owners of all legal vehicles to its binding recommendations.

Alex Cobham, chief executive at the Tax Justice Network, said: "The world has started to win the fight against financial secrecy, and that's good news for everybody. Financial secrecy has kept drug cartels bankable, tax abuse feasible and human trafficking profitable - but the majority of countries are now making it clear that this is not the world we want. Creating a fair world that treats all members of society as equals means reprogramming our financial and tax systems to run on transparency, not secrecy, making it impossible for criminals and elites to go uncounted and making sure countries are well-resourced and well-governed to support everyone to lead a meaningful and fulfilling life. We still have a lot of work to do ahead - our governments must keep their foot on the pedal.

"It is deplorable, however, that in the face of this progress, an Anglo-American axis of secrecy has actively chosen to double down on the practices that exacerbate corruption, tax abuse and global inequalities. Polling18 shows that people in the US and UK favour greater transparency and progressive taxation - but if their governments are unwilling to deliver this, then responsible policymakers elsewhere must actively consider countermeasures."

Merger deals slump in China as investment bankers sit at home

HONG KONG

Investment banking is all about building relationships and providing that personal touch. With the coronavirus rippling through China, bankers confined to home offices can't do much of either, meaning deals are grinding to a halt in the world's second-largest economy.

The virus outbreak, whose death toll has topped 1,700, has barred many dealmakers from travelling to China, making client meetings and on-site due diligence nearly impossible. Announced mergers involving a Chinese company dropped to \$25.9 billion so far this year, the lowest for the period since 2014, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It's a similar story on the equity front, with just one initial public offering in the last 30 days in Hong Kong.

"It's inevitable that there are delays in deal execution as a result of restrictions on travel and office closures which continue to disrupt business activities," said Sze-shing Tan, a principal in the mergers practice at law firm Baker McKenzie Wong & Leow in Singapore.

The list of delayed deals is growing. Auto parts maker Chongqing Sokon Industry Group said in a filing to Shanghai's stock exchange that the virus outbreak "has had a direct impact" on its planned takeover of Dongfeng Motor Corporation's joint venture through a 3.85 billion yuan stake sale. The target firm, based in the hard-hit Hubei province, hasn't been able to update its financials as on-site audit and verification has been suspended.

First Quantum Minerals has delayed the sale of its Zambian operations because the virus outbreak is preventing face-to-face meetings with potential Chinese buyers, the Canadian company said last week. The asset has drawn interest from companies including Jiangxi Copper, sources have said.

In Hong Kong, where many bankers and lawyers are also confined to home offices, restaurant operator Daikaya Group Holdings cancelled its IPO, while Chinese biotech firm InnoCare Pharma postponed investor meetings for its planned Hong Kong listing. The move, which could delay the entire share sale,



Grace Tso, a partner at Baker McKenzie in Hong Kong.

doesn't bode well for other IPO candidates in the pipeline. 58 Home, the maid and home-maintenance service owned by China's Craigslist equivalent 58.com, delayed its planned US IPO as the coronavirus outbreak cripples customer demand.

China's domestic IPO market has charged forward though. Twelve companies have priced offerings this month, with a combined value of \$2.8bn, according to Bloomberg data. The momentum might not last long as these listings were cleared before the Lunar New Year holiday, when concerns over the virus surged.

For dealmakers, the deadly virus is exposing the limits of technology. In an era of digital banking and lightning-fast electronic trading, some transactions still require a hand shake and face-to-face contact. Pitch meetings, due diligence and regulatory reviews are best done in person. It's a service industry after all, much like the restaurant business: You can't

do a billion-dollar deal over WeChat, said one banker, referring to China's popular communication app.

Tales from the frontline include an investment banker surnamed Chan, who used to spend three of five days in the mainland, but is now grounded in Hong Kong as his firm has temporarily prohibited employees from visiting China. The travel ban has put his prospective client meetings on hold and he's returning to a half-empty office as some of his colleagues who previously travelled to China are on a 14-day quarantine. He's been trying to follow up with clients on deal proposals over emails but he's not getting much response.

A Beijing-based banker, surnamed Sheng, shares similar frustrations. He is working from home but said it's impossible to pitch deals over the phone. Worse still, the travel ban could delay fund-raising because auditors and bankers aren't able to carry out on-site due diligence in China.

Meanwhile, an IPO lawyer based in the former British colony said he's been conducting video calls with clients to get some early preparation work done. However, deals that were more advanced and nearing a listing hearing or marketing stage are being held up. It's tough to prepare accounts without travelling.

Still, outside China, some deals are progressing. British supermarket chain Tesco is inviting suitors to the second round bidding of its operations in Thailand and Malaysia worth more than \$7bn. Central Group, a conglomerate with businesses spanning from department stores to hospitality, raised more than \$2bn through a spin-off of its retail arm in Thailand.

"In southeast Asia our M&A pipeline is as strong as it has been over the last five years and we continue to see a number of billion-dollar-plus IPOs," said Gregory Thiery, head of Southeast Asia investment banking at Morgan Stanley.

Central Retail, controlled by the Chirathivat family, is among several companies pursuing billion-dollar IPOs in Southeast Asia. Billionaire Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, Thailand's richest person, is also considering a listing of his brewery business in Singapore, while PTT Oil & Retail Business plans to kick off its IPO process this year.

"Having a strong Asean franchise is a good hedge against any potential China slowdown," said David Biller, head of Asean banking, capital markets and advisory at Citigroup, who added that its revenue in southeast Asian investment banking has increased by double digits in the last year.

The M&A activity is centered on energy, consumer, transportation as well as banking and insurance, according to Morgan Stanley's Mr Thiery. That's partly because global private equity firms are becoming more active and multinational corporations are selling their non-core assets in this part of the world.

KKR, for example, is exploring a potential sale of a Singaporean provider of intermediate bulk container Goodpack for about \$2bn. Malaysia's sovereign fund and Norwegian telecoms firm Telenor have revived talks on a potential deal involving Malaysia's Axiata Group, just a few months after the carriers scrapped negotiations on a broader merger of their Asian operations.

The strong presence of wealth management clients in the region also means there's significant cash to be deployed, underpinning deals, according to Nicolo Magni, head of global banking for southeast Asia and India at UBS Group.

"Logistically in the current context, it may take longer for these cross-border deals to proceed but they will get done," Magni said. Back in Hong Kong and China, even as dealmakers extend their holidays or stock up on masks, they remain optimistic that a second-half rebound is likely once the virus subsides and travel resumes. Yet the threat of a washed-out 2020 looms if the impact drags on for months.

Absa Bank says almost 5m customers use Kenya mobile app

NAIROBI

Kenya's Absa Bank has moved most of its customers onto its mobile banking platform, which it sees as a major driver for future growth, chief executive Jeremy Awori said on Wednesday.

When the bank first launched its digital app known as "Timiza" - Kiswahili for "Achieve" - in March 2018, it attracted 300,000 customers. By the end of the year it had 3 million users, with lending standing at 10 billion Kenyan shillings (\$98.91 million).

"We have seen our app grow in leaps and bounds. We are now roughly under 5 million customers, and we really are looking forward to growing that number in the future," Awori told a news conference.

The bank, formerly known as Barclays Kenya, says it has about 800,000 customers who are yet to sign onto Timiza. Absa Kenya, which is part of South Africa's Absa Group, posted a pretax profit of 8.18 billion shillings in the first nine months of 2019, compared with 7.72 billion shillings in year-earlier period.

Kenyan lenders have in recent years turned to technology as they try to counter competition from mobile phone-based financial services such as from telecoms operator Safaricom's M-Pesa platform, which had 23.6 million users as of last September.

Absa's mobile banking app's competitors include those run by KCB Group's, NCBA Group and Equity Group. Pressure to use mobile banking services increased further when the government imposed a cap on commercial lending rates in 2016 that ate into bank profit margins forcing banks to search for new ways to grow their businesses. The cap was scrapped at the end of last year.

Absa Group operates in 12 countries in Africa where it plans further expansion, including to Nigeria where it has a representative office. "Clearly any ambition to be a pan-African bank cannot be realised without a clear strategy for Nigeria," said Absa Group chief executive officer Daniel Mminele, who added it was too early to say when or what form the entry would take. (\$1 = 101.1000 Kenyan shillings).



Absa Bank Kenya CEO, Jeremy Awori.

WORLD

Pompeo seeks to assure African partners as US weighs troop cuts

By Bloomberg

SECRETARY of State Michael Pompeo sought to reassure African allies that the US is committed to fighting the spread of Islamist militancy even as the Trump administration weighs cutting troops stationed across the continent.

Security concerns have been a key focus of Pompeo's trip this week to Senegal, Angola and Ethiopia, his first visit to the continent as secretary of state.

He acknowledged that a troop review is under way, but said the US would work with partners and explain its decision -- comments that suggested the US is indeed planning a pull-back.

"We'll make sure that we get it right," Pompeo said in response to a question during a briefing with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Gedu Andargachew in Addis Ababa on Tuesday.

"I'm confident that we can get the

right force posture, the right risk for the United States, and still deliver on peace and security that is important for the region."

African officials have voiced concerns about the possibility that the US will pull out its troops even as militants gain ground in the Sahel region and the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab group stages deadly attacks in Somalia and Kenya.

Among the most vocal leaders urging the US to stay has been Senegalese President Macky Sall, whom Pompeo met Feb 16. In a briefing alongside Pompeo that day, Senegalese Foreign Minister Amadou Ba said the two sides have "talked about the need to be present in the area."

The US has about 6,000 troops in Africa, according to a defense official, including those guarding diplomatic facilities. The biggest contingent is based at a US facility in Djibouti.

In late January, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the US wouldn't with-



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (left) shakes hands with Ethiopian Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu Andargachew, at the Sheraton Hotel in Addis Ababa on Tuesday. (AFP)

draw all its troops from Africa, but acknowledged a review is under way.

Terror Threat

General Stephen Townsend, head of US Africa Command, last month testified that the US would have to coordinate with the French and other European allies on any change in the American troop posture. He said that the terrorist threat in Africa "is very serious" and "on the advance."

"There won't be big surprises," Pompeo said in a speech Wednesday in Addis Ababa.

Pompeo's reassurances in the face of expected cuts constituted one of a few dissonant notes during his trip to Africa, the first by such a senior Cabinet-level official since Rex Tillerson crisscrossed the continent in early 2018 days before he was fired.

That time, Tillerson had to do cleanup after reports circulated that President Donald Trump had denigrated African nations.

This time, Pompeo traveled to Africa shortly after the administration added four African countries -- Nigeria, Sudan, Tanzania and Eritrea -- to a list of countries subject to severe visa restrictions, in a move that the Nigerian foreign minister said "blindsided" his government.

Also last week, the administration proposed a budget that would slash the State Department's funding by more than 20%, with heavy cuts to disaster relief and bilateral aid.

Pompeo defended the travel restrictions during a stop in Angola, arguing it was a security matter that "in no way conflicts with America's deep desire to increase our contact." And in Ethiopia, he announced US\$8 million in aid to address fallout from massive locust swarms that have devastated crops.

Instead, Pompeo has focused on boosting the private sector and ties between American and African businesses.

That theme has given his visit to the three African countries a different flavor than his other trips abroad.

Pompeo's stops in Senegal and Angola included meetings with entrepreneurs and business leaders, and he's repeatedly warned against the perils of corruption and the power of economic cooperation to fuel growth.

As a sign of that commitment, Jim Richardson, the State Department's director for foreign assistance, has accompanied Pompeo on each of his stops.

Agencies

US attorney general considering quitting over Trump tweets

WASHINGTON

US Attorney General William Barr is considering resigning over President Donald Trump's tweets about Justice Department investigations, a source familiar with the situation told Reuters on Tuesday.

Barr (pictured) has told people close to Trump about his concerns, but it was not immediately clear if Barr had told Trump directly, the Washington Post added in a report.

Australia's PM denies being pressured by Trump over probe

"He has his limits," the newspaper quoted one person familiar with Barr's thinking as saying.

Barr may be sharing his position with people close to Trump in hopes the president gets the message and stops tweeting about the Justice Department's criminal investigations, the Post said.

The White House and the Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Post report.

Trump said on Tuesday he had total confidence in Barr, who last



week said in an interview that Trump's tweeting habit had made it impossible for him to do his job. "I do make his job harder ... I do agree with that," Trump told re-

porters before boarding Air Force One. "The attorney general is a man with great integrity."

Last week senior Justice Department officials withdrew an earlier sentencing recommendation for longtime Trump friend Roger Stone, who was found guilty in November of seven counts of lying to Congress, prompting upheaval within the department.

More than 1,000 former department officials have now called for Barr to resign.

Trump has used Twitter to at-

tack the four prosecutors who had argued the case as well as the judge presiding over it.

Barr said in an ABC interview on Thursday that he could not do his job "with a constant background commentary" and that it was "time to stop the tweeting about Department of Justice criminal cases."

While Trump offered words of support for Barr, he also spoke enthusiastically about tweeting. "Social media for me has been very important because it gives me a voice," he said.

Agencies

Boris Johnson is told to rein in top aide after racism row

By Bloomberg

BORIS Johnson was under pressure from colleagues in the UK's ruling Conservative Party to discipline his most senior adviser as an escalating dispute over allegations of racism threatened to engulf his government.

Senior Tories, including current and former ministers, spoke out after Andrew Sabisky -- an official hired to work in the prime minister's office -- quit over his claims that black Americans are intellectually inferior to their white counterparts.

The blame for recruiting Sabisky fell on Dominic Cummings, Johnson's chief adviser, who launched a high-profile drive to attract "weirdos and misfits" to join his effort to revolutionize the way British government works. It is the latest in a series of contro-

versies involving Cummings since he went to work with Johnson last year.

Last week, Cummings was blamed for a plan to strip the Treasury of its independence over economic policy, which prompted Sajid Javid to resign as chancellor of the exchequer after a disagreement with Johnson.

The senior adviser, who masterminded the pro-Brexit campaign before the 2016 referendum, had earlier clashed with Javid and others in government over his unorthodox methods and confrontational approach.

'Unorthodox Way'

The furor comes at a critical time for Johnson's government, as it prepares to open negotiations with the European Union on a future trading agreement, and it threatens to overshadow the



prime minister's domestic agenda. "It's incumbent upon the prime minister to keep Dominic Cummings on a tight rein," former minister Caroline Nokes said in an interview. "When an adviser becomes a story, then clearly there's a problem."

Business Minister Kwasi Kwarteng said Johnson's office must "ensure this doesn't happen again" and needs to review the

process for vetting potential recruits. Problems arise when "you get people who slip through the net, who are recruited in perhaps an unorthodox way," Kwarteng told Sky News. "I think the vetting will be much more severe."

Speaking privately, another minister accused Cummings of turning the government into a circus and described him as a corrosive influence. The minister

said Johnson's team must ensure recruits are far more rigorously vetted, and added that it would be best if Cummings left the government.

Johnson's government won a large majority in December's general election, putting him in a powerful position to shape the country and drive his reforming agenda through Parliament. Cummings said he wants to shake up the way the government works by recruiting "unusual" people with "different skills and backgrounds."

In a 3,000-word blog post last month, Cummings said there is "little need to worry about short-term unpopularity" given the size of Johnson's majority. It seems some of his Conservative colleagues in Parliament and in government disagree.

Agencies

Trump commutes Blagojevich sentence, pardons junk bond king Milken

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump came under fire on Tuesday for commuting the sentence of Rod Blagojevich, the ex-Illinois governor convicted of trying to peddle Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat.

Trump also pardoned Michael Milken, once considered Wall Street's "junk bond king," along with six others, and commuted the sentences of another three people. The recipients of clemency had been convicted on charges ranging from defrauding the federal government to theft.

Blagojevich (pictured), a Democrat who appeared on Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" reality television show while awaiting trial, began serving a 14-year sentence in 2012 after being convicted of wire fraud, extortion and soliciting bribes while governor.

"That was a tremendously powerful, ridiculous sentence," said Trump, a real estate developer who produced and starred in the NBC show before clinching the Republican presidential nomination and winning election to succeed Obama in the White House in 2016.

Within hours, the Chicago Tribune quoted a U.S. Bureau of Prisons statement saying Blagojevich "is no longer in custody" at a federal detention center in Colorado.

Chicago television station WGN-TV aired footage of the former governor, his once jet-black hair now white, at Denver International Airport as he was making his way home.

"I'm profoundly grateful to President Trump. It's a profound and everlasting gratitude," Blagojevich told reporters. "He didn't have to do this, he's a Republican president."

Blagojevich, 63, was removed from office in 2009 after prosecutors said he tried to sell or trade the U.S. Senate seat Obama vacated after winning the 2008 presidential election.

Trump's decision was criticized by both Democrats and Republicans, although some Democrats supported the move. "Blagojevich is the face of public corruption in Illinois, and not once has he shown any remorse for his clear and documented record of egregious crimes that undermined the trust placed in him by voters," five Republican congressmen from the state said in a joint statement.

Trump's pardons come two days before the expected sentencing of his long-time friend Roger Stone on Thursday, amid speculation the president could pardon him as well.

"The pardoning of these disgraced figures should be treated as another national scandal by a lawless executive," said Democratic U.S. Representative Bill Pascrell, referring to Blagojevich and Milken.

Milken was indicted in 1989 in an insider trading probe. After pleading guilty to securities violations, he paid \$1.1 billion and served about two years in prison.

Since then has headed the non-profit Milken Institute, focusing on a wide span of research, including curing cancer, public health, aging, California and financial markets. Each year the titans of finance flock to the Milken Institute Global Conference, where fund managers and marketers woo prospective investors and philanthropies make pitches for funding.

Agencies

China sees more newly recovered coronavirus patients than new infections for first time

BY 19 Feb., in mainland China, altogether 74,185 confirmed cases have been reported, among which 14,376 cured and discharged from hospital, 2,004 died, and 57,805 still under treatment. There are altogether 5,248 suspected cases pending test results in mainland China as of 19 Feb.

There are further good news. The first one is the number of cured and discharged from hospital (1,824) exceeds the number of new confirmed cases (1,749) for the first time yesterday.

The second one is the number of new confirmed cases outside Hubei Province dropped to 56 yesterday, which is only 6.3% of the number in peak time, marking a 15-day decline.

Thirdly, no new confirmed case was reported in eight province-level administrative regions in China on 19 Feb., including Shanghai, Hainan, Qinghai, Guizhou, Xizang, Xinjiang, Liaoning and Gansu.

By 18 Feb., in 19 Chinese cities, all COVID-19 patients had been cured and discharged from hospital.

Fourthly, the mortality rates of the COVID-19 nationwide and in areas outside Hubei remain low, only 2.7% and 0.66% by 19 Feb.

The WHO's international team of experts is currently working in China. WHO Health Emergencies Programme executive director Michael Ryan concluded that China's measures against the COVID-19 outbreak are a correct strategic and tactical approach.

Experts say reverting to 10 states will revitalise South Sudan peace process

JUBA

SOUTH Sudanese experts said the recent decision by President Salva Kiir to cut the number of states from 32 to 10, demonstrates the much-needed political will to push the peace process forward.

The peace process had stalled over the disagreement on the hitherto contentious issue of states and their boundaries.

President Kiir last week took the region and international community by surprise, when he dissolved the former 32 states he decreed in 2015.

The main opposition group, Sudan People's Liberation Movement-In Opposition (SPLM-IO) led by former

First Vice President Riek Machar had disagreed on several occasions with the government over the number of states.

The SPLM-IO prior to the latest compromise was in favor of reverting to the previous 10 states which had been in existence before the outbreak of conflict in December 2013 while the government insisted on having the 32 states.

Machar's group, despite welcoming Kiir's gesture on the current 10 states, protested the creation of additional three administrative units which include Abyei, Ruweng and Pibor areas.

Jacob Chol, professor of politics at University of Juba, told Xinhua in Juba that the return to the 10 states is a pop-

ular demand of the people.

"The opinion poll that was conducted by the Independent Boundaries Commission (IBC) sampled about 2,000 South Sudanese and out of these, about 1,500 South Sudanese indicated that they want to return to the 10 states. That option was brushed aside because some hardliners in the government had wanted just to use a national euphoric and sort of tribalized presentation to show that people are for the 32 states," said Chol.

He said the unprecedented move will help redeem President Kiir's image within the region and international community.

"It's a decision that has helped President Kiir to change or brush away the

image as President of South Sudan who was not moving to compromise on certain important things in the peace process," he said.

"The president will be relieved from the international pressure, and will also change his own image from the global view on how they used to look at him to be a president who decides without listening to other people," disclosed Chol.

He noted that Machar should be very happy with this latest development, after the former warring parties failed twice to form the transitional unity government on time, due to disagreements on the states and security arrangement. "This gesture by President Kiir is going to build trust and

confidence during the negotiations although there will be challenges on the security arrangement. But if they work together they can easily address those challenges," added Chol.

James Okuk, lecturer of political science at the University of Juba, said the decision to revert to 10 states has set the political will which had been missing to move the peace process to its conclusion.

"It is the right choice, because that has now reset the political will that has been missing all along. So from here, things will move positively toward the formation of the transitional unity government. They may not meet the deadline on Saturday, but they may meet it partially, meaning they could

now pass the constitution and sign it into law within a few days," said Okuk.

"Based on that constitution, the president can now appoint himself, first vice president and the rest of the four vice presidents," he noted.

He said the issue of the newly created administrative areas is just being used as a decoy for negotiation purposes but the main issue is the 10 states.

"The administrative areas have been attached only for negotiation purposes by these politicians because, in the end, they are benefiting. If they compromise it means they compromise with something in their interests, that's why it's not a big deal. The big deal is the 10 states," he said. **Xinhua**

China-Africa friendship valuable as gold

By Li Yingqi, People's Daily

OVER 1,000 students from 10 primary and middle schools in Mathare Slums, Nairobi, capital of Kenya gathered at a square on Feb. 6 to show their support for China and Wuhan, epicenter of the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak.

Holding banners reading "We are together with you" "I love you, China" and "Together, we can defeat coronavirus", they expressed their deep friendship with the Chinese people.

China and Africa, fighting side by side and sharing weal and woe, have forged a brotherly friendship of shared destiny. While the Chinese government and people are fighting the novel coronavirus epidemic, their African counterparts, as good friends, partners, and brothers, have expressed their sympathy and firm support for China in various ways.

Leaders of many African countries have sent messages of sympathy to China. They highly evaluated China's effective measures of epidemic prevention and control, and sent hope that the Chinese people will overcome the difficulties.

Recently, African foreign ministers attending the 33rd Afri-



Medical workers from southwest China's Yunnan province pose for a picture before leaving for Xianning, central China's Hubei province to aid the novel coronavirus control efforts, Feb. 12. Photo by Li Faxing, People's Daily Online

can Union (AU) summit made a unanimous voice to support the government and people of China for their efforts to control the spread of the novel coronavirus and its ramifications.

AU Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat noted that at this moment, Africa feels what the Chinese people feel and stands with them with solidarity. China and Africa have always been a community with a shared future, and the African people will not just sit by and watch how the whole Chinese

nation is fighting against the epidemic. Equatorial Guinea has donated \$2 million to China; the government of Ghana has sent 10,000 pieces of N95 masks to Wuhan; and staffs at the at headquarters and branches of Standard Bank Group of South Africa wore red outfits to show support for China.

In addition, a foreign student from the Republic of Benin named Glele Aho Letonghan volunteered to join the emergency team at Jinxian Hospital in southeast China's Jiangxi prov-

ince, and Munyaradzi Gurure, a foreign student at Guangxi University of Finance and Economics from South Africa, started serving as a volunteer to disinfect the train station of Yulin, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

Such assistance offered by African countries and people is warm and sincere, demonstrating the priceless relations between the two sides.

Such relations were forged at critical moments. After the Ebola virus raged throughout



"Mom, you are the best!" Six-year-old Shen Youman (left) tells his mother Sheng Qiuping, head nurse of People's Hospital in Deqing county, Huzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, who is about to leave for Hubei to aid the novel coronavirus control efforts together with other 7 medical workers from the county. Photo by Xie Shangguo, People's Daily Online

West Africa in March 2014, some western countries closed their embassies in three virus-hit countries and evacuated diplomats and nationals.

The Chinese government was among the first to offer help, deploying 23 charter flights to deliver emergency supplies and sending over 1,000 medics to the epidemic areas. Chinese embassies, diplomats and medical experts stayed there with the African people.

They fought side by side with

the African people day and night until the final victory against the Ebola epidemic was achieved. This has left a deep impression in the history of China-Africa friendship.

Now, when China encounters a hard time because of the novel coronavirus, its African friends have sent messages of sympathy to express their support and care for China and the Chinese people, and extended their gratitude for China's selfless assistance for them to get through

hardships. The heartfelt words demonstrate their sincere ties with China, and will be honored in the history of China-Africa friendship.

The mutual assistance offered by China and Africa through good times and bad has always been shining like gold. Such a friendship is deeply rooted in the hearts of the Chinese and Africans, as a solid foundation and inexhaustible strength for the building of a closer China-Africa community with a shared

Another 6,000 medical staff arrive in Hubei from around China

By People's Daily Reporters

Nearly 6,000 medical staff from over 10 provinces in China arrived at the Wuhan Tianhe International Airport in epicenter Wuhan, central China's Hubei province on Feb. 9, marking the largest single-day number of medics' arrivals at the airport since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

A total of 41 aircraft landed at the airport that day, from 1:50 a.m. to 23:50 p.m.

The 8th batch of medical staff sent by east China's Shandong province was among the 6,000 medics. The medical team has 303 staffs coming from 153 hospitals across the province, and they are deployed at the "Fang Cang" shelter hospitals converted from gymnasiums, exhibition centers and sports centers in Wuhan.

Before their departure, Liu Yongtao, head of the medical team, stressed that members on the team must take extra care while working in Wuhan. "Fang Cang hospitals are built to treat patients with mild symptoms, but the large number of patients there would pose a huge challenge for quarantine and protection," Liu explained.

So far, nearly 20,000 medical staff have been sent to Hubei to treat patients, and those working in the worst-hit areas are all elites from across the country.

Wuhan is a key region for epidemic prevention and control, but the number of infections is still on a rise in several surrounding prefecture-level cities. These cities, facing a severe shortage of medical resources and less attention from the society, have successively run out of relief mate-



A woman surnamed Zheng, who has been under medical quarantine and observation, gives birth to a baby girl weighing 3.45 kilograms through cesarean section at around 3 p.m. Feb.7 at the Third People's Hospital in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu province. Photo by Shi Wei, Xia Chenxi, People's Daily Online

rials, and some even asked for emergency rescue.

On Feb.7, a special mechanism body on fighting the novel coronavirus outbreak under the State Council, China's cabinet, held a news conference, introducing a national "pairing-up support for Hubei" policy launched by the National Health Commission (NHC) that aims to increase medical supplies and better satisfy patients' demands in non-capital cities of the province.

Under the mechanism, 16 cities in Hubei province have been partnered with a province or municipality that will offer assistance.

The targeted assistance will ease the pres-

sure of epidemic control through national efforts, meet the urgent need of Hubei and curb the spread of the virus as fast as possible. Besides, it can also integrate medical resources inside and outside the province and improve the 16 cities' medical competence in a short period of time.

The "pairing-up support for Hubei" policy triggered huge sensation on Chinese social media where netizens from Hubei extended their appreciation to the nation and received strong supports from the people in the rest of the country. Such warmth is a token of the brotherly ties of the Chinese people.

This is not the first time for China to introduce partner assistance. After a major



An employee of Kangda Intercontinental Medical Equipment Co., Ltd. based in Meishan bonded zone, Ningbo, east China's Zhejiang province assembles a CT scanner as the country is in great demand of the machines amid the novel coronavirus epidemic, Feb. 11, 2020. Photo by Chen Zhangkun, People's Daily Online

earthquake struck Wenchuan, Sichuan province in 2008, Chinese provinces and municipalities including Beijing, Guangdong, Shandong and Zhejiang responded immediately, and helped the people there rebuild their home on the ruins.

Besides, in the nationwide poverty alleviation campaign, eastern and western provinces and regions collaborated with each other, while government departments, enterprises and public institutions at all levels teamed up with assigned impoverished regions. Under such mechanism, poverty-stricken areas across the country received abundant assistance in human resource, finance and materials.

Facts proved that partner assistance is an

effective strategy in the face of major tasks. The whole set of mechanisms is aimed at overcoming difficulties with nationwide efforts, which reflects China's leading position in governance.

Concentrating efforts on major tasks is a significant advantage of the Chinese political system and the national governance system, and also a forceful weapon to win the battle against the epidemic.

With the rapid development of the virus, the entire nation is mobilized to join the prevention and control of the epidemic. In this war where failure is not tolerated, victory is waiting ahead as long as greater strength is gathered and more solid efforts made.

WHO chief defends China for receiving praise over epidemic control

By Zhang Penghui, People's Daily

"LOOKING back, effusive praise has been given to China. Has the Chinese government approached the WHO to ask it to stand up and say that China is doing a good job?"

That is a question thrown by a western journalist to WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a news conference after a global research and innovation forum held by the UN health body in Geneva, Switzerland on the night of Feb. 12, local time.

Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, China has taken prompt and effective measures.

The epidemic situation has shown positive changes and the prevention and control work has achieved notable outcomes thanks to the country's hard work. Such achievements have been recognized and highly praised by the WHO and many foreign countries.

However, some countries blew the epidemic out of proportion and made overreaction. Certain foreign media outlets, rendering threats and creating panic, even called black white and made groundless attacks on China, which is exactly indicated by the above question raised.

The question was later answered by the WHO chief with facts. "The pathogen was identified in a record time and immediately they (China) shared the sequence. When they shared the sequence (with the WHO), it helped other countries to prepare the diagnostic tools to test cases.

That by implication means, they have helped in preparing other countries and in preventing the problem from growing. Because when you don't test or diagnose, cases will be missed and local transmission can be established," Tedros explained.

Later, Tedros introduced a successful case of cooperation



A volunteer (right) checks information of a citizen for epidemic prevention and control in Donghai county, east China's Jiangsu province, Feb.15, 2020. On that day, about 12,000 volunteers in Donghai county stayed at their posts in the heavy snow. Photo by Shao Guangming, People's Daily Online

between China and Germany to prevent the virus from spreading.

returned to Shanghai and she was found positive. Then the Chinese authorities immediately notified Germany that the positive person had visited Ger-

many and that they had to take action. And Germany took that information and immediately took action to prevent any serious problem, and that's why

now things are under control in Germany," he said.

"It's very important to appreciate a country or an individual qualified for something you see. It's the truth," Tedros noted.

"We were in this board room for a board meeting (the 146th session of the Executive Board) and almost all member states were praising China for what it did.

And they had a reason that China took action massively at the epicenter at the source of the outbreak. Its shutdown of the Wuhan city helped in preventing cases from being exported to other provinces in China and the rest of the world. And I remember a board member from the UK who said that that this is heroic, because when you shut down city and province like that, it has consequences, economically, and so on, serious consequences. The actions of China are making us safer," said the WHO chief. Acknowledging countries for

the right things they did helps in two ways, Tedros noted.

"One, it helps them to continue doing the right thing they are doing; and secondly, it helps other countries recognize the good practice that country which is recognized is doing and they can learn from that country" he stressed, adding that China doesn't need to ask to be praised. "It was not, it is not."

"We have met the President (Chinese President Xi Jinping). We have seen the level of knowledge he has on the outbreak; we saw firsthand that he is leading the outbreak directly.

You know, we always ask for political commitment, political leadership, that's what we have seen. So, don't you appreciate that kind of leadership that's really committed?"

In the spirit of Whitney: Houston Hologram tour set to begin



In this Sept. 15, 2004 file photo, recording artist Whitney Houston performs at the 2004 World Music Awards at the Thomas and Mack Arena in Las Vegas. AP Photo

BURBANK, CALIF.

WHITNEY Houston is about to appear on the concert stage again.

Eight years after her death, a holographic Houston will embark on a European tour that starts in England on Feb. 25 and runs through early April, with U.S. dates expected to follow.

"Now is just the right time," said Pat Houston, the singer's sister-in-law, former manager and the executor of her estate, which is producing the show in collaboration with BASE Hologram. "In the spirit of Whitney, I know we're doing all the right things right now."

Last week, a few dozen members of the media were given a dress-rehearsal preview in Burbank, California of most of "An Evening With Whitney: The Whitney Houston Hologram Tour," which features a Houston projected onto a nearly invisible scrim on a stage with real dancers and a live backing band.

The concert set includes most of her biggest hits – "How Will I Know," "Saving All My Love For You," "I Will Always Love You," along with some unexpected rarities, including a cover of Steve Winwood's "Higher Love" that Houston first recorded three decades ago.

The show, which was first conceived five years ago, used a body double along with hundreds of hours of Houston performances and extensive CGI synthesizing.

"We created the hologram the same way they did Carrie Fisher in the 'Star Wars' movie 'Rogue One,'" said Marty Tudor, CEO of BASE Hologram, which has previously revived performing versions of dead singers including Roy Orbison and Maria Callas. "It's lengthy, it's tedious, it's a big, complicated process, but I think it worked."

The ambitious performance is the modest brainchild of Whitney Houston herself, in at least one respect.

While on her final European tour, she had an "unplugged" section of her show, with a stripped down band and minimal fanfare. Houston liked that so much that shortly before her death at age 48 on the eve of the 2012 Grammy Awards, she expressed a desire to one day do an entire tour that way.

That concept became the model for the hologram concert.

"This is something that she wanted to do," Pat Houston said after the media preview of the show. "I get very emotional watching this, because it is so, so close to what she wanted. The only thing missing is her, physically."

On first appearance it's clear how far holographic technology has come since previous iterations like Tupac's holographic stint with

Snoop Dogg at Coachella in 2012, with little of the flickering unreality audiences expect. Houston's appearance in a gold gown looks magically realistic.

The limits are more apparent as the concert goes on, with the projection beam visible and Houston's movements minimal, but those shortcomings are unlikely to bother the hardcore fans the tour is likely to draw.

Houston was never one for elaborate choreography or flashy moves anyway, and her small gestures – a quivering jaw on long-held notes, fluttering fingers for vocal flourishes, are all captured here.

"Whitney didn't dance a lot, but when she did do her little moves, they were so perfectly Whitney," said Fatima Robinson, who choreographed the show. "We did lots of studying her behavior in her videos. We would study her movements, and find the best moments in some of the live videos that just really embody her."

The show still features plenty of dancing, via four backup dancers and two moving backup singers, all of whom occasionally interact with the hologram.

But Houston mostly preferred to let her voice do the work, and that part of the show works seamlessly, through a blend of studio takes and live performances. Close listeners may think they're hearing the album version of a hit before it swerves into seemingly spontaneous moments that give it a live feeling.

The sound crew also found moments of between-song patter from Houston that were eternal enough to use for the new show.

"May God bless you and keep you, and let us pray for peace, and pray for the answer," she says toward the end of the set.

The production may be most effective when it embraces its holographic possibilities – including having Houston swarmed in a shimmering shower of golden sparks during the climactic performance of "I Will Always Love You."

Dressing the Houston hologram provided its own set of problems and possibilities.

"The first thing is, you can't do black," Timothy Snell, who oversaw the wardrobe for the show, said with a mock gasp. "And black and sparkles are your first go-to. But Whitney also loved color."

Along with the gold gown, her outfits include a shimmering orange jumpsuit and a floor-length pink flowered coat.

"She liked to look sophisticated and timeless," Snell said. "And those timeless looks really show up here."

AP

Stadium racism gradually declines but player reactions quite selective

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

RACIST interjections and contentions about what to do occasionally raises its head in the UEFA zone, with a recent incident involving a black player featuring for the Portuguese side Porto, Moussa Marega, who walked out of the pitch. There was something of a paradox about the incident, as the player scored an excellent goal and since he was a target of booing off the pitch, celebrated his goal by pointedly patting his hand, that is, crediting his prowess to his racial heritage. That earned a yellow card from the referee as a contravention of rules in which case the player opted to call it quits.

His comrades did all they could to dissuade him from his precipitous decision but in vain, which left a few things in doubt – or hanging – in the minds of observers. Was his walking out a vindication of his protest and trying to exult in his racial features, or was it a demonstration of the same racial stereotypes that inform the booing crowds or elements in premier league crowds? Did the walking out serve the interest of protesting against racism or perhaps fed the same racial stereotypes?

One way of looking at it is to try and figure out what would have been the reaction had it been Mbwana Samatta who made that gesture, walking out in an away match, as most probably he wouldn't face such an atmosphere on home ground. It is plain guesswork what would be the reaction of the fans, in which case that same situation engulfs those of his country, and it doesn't make a difference if he has an auxiliary nationality or adopted one in Europe. There are some differences, though.

Those in Europe, having adopted nationalities tend to be more courageous, even dismissive of what takes place, as they have their home clubs and fan bases, in most cases town between those appreciating them and the bad ones. Those from outside don't have



Moussa Marega

much choice as they don't have the same work rights as those who in terms of nationality are indigenous, so they are likely to accommodate, and if anything stay on the sidelines if the pitch is negative. Picking quarrels wouldn't help with someone who needs a residence permit, but someone who feels that he belongs to a particular city has wider options. If he is being insulted by fans of another city he can do this or that in respect of racial abuse, and walking out is one.

In that case if the Porto player doesn't have a European nationality it would be quite brave for him to walk out on his club, as that would soil his name with other clubs were he to be offloaded for misbehavior. And for one thing the fans are like schoolchildren, that once they

know one is easily irritated and provoked, they can start a cat and mouse game of booing and walking out, so that they laugh all the way to the bar and well into the night. It isn't something that a mature player would encourage, as it would do little to uplift his career or chances of his club.

There is an expression that says 'don't argue with a fool; people won't notice the difference,' in which case it remains vital that African players abroad seek to the utmost not to be provoked by racist abuse by pockets or far right sympathizers. Often racial abuse is a pursuit of dignity for someone who has no other cause to fall back upon except some primary or natural group in society to which he belongs – hence racially abusing a black

player as not belonging to that race. At the same time, as it is the case with racists, underlining that he is most lucky to get a playing position in a European club. He would be even intimating that a white player should be there instead – at least reducing the danger the black player poses.

With more and more black players featuring in most top premier league sides, there is no way but racism having to decline, for one can't have Liverpool at heart and remain a far right militant detesting blacks and Arabs. That would be a Liverpool fan who would be glad to see Sadio Mane or Mohamed Salah injured and not on the team for that day or for the rest of the match, which doesn't make sense. The very need to have the players in good health implies that one likes them already, which helps to cure the racism that is cultivated by far right groups there.

Sports is an arena that unites the world's youth more than anything else – for instance education, religion or politics, and it is in that context that racism was gradually defeated. First there was Jesse Owens whose four gold medals in the Munich Olympics when the Nazi regime was the height of its glory and readying for World War II took dictator Adolf Hitler out of the stadium so not as to hold his hand and give the medals. From the one no books were needed against the so-called superior race, and subsequently there has been Pele, Muhammad Ali, Mike Tyson, Venus and Serena Williams, Michael Jackson, before adding the political emancipation arising from the work of legends like Nelson Mandela, Koffi Annan or Barack Obama. The world is fusing as one but we still have irreducible racism.



Dar es Salaam's Yassin Ridhiwani Ally (R), shows journalists an exercise book he uses to keep records of football games before betting with SportPesa at a press held in the city on Tuesday. He emerged as the SportPesa Jackpot winner last Sunday and got over 437m/- in cash prize from the firm. Sitting (L) is SportPesa Board of Directors' Chairman, Tarimba Abbas. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

SportPesa wins praise for better organization of Jackpot

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

YASSIN Ridhiwani Ally, who won the SportPesa Jackpot last week, has expressed regards to the game's organizers. SportPesa, for presenting cash prize to him within a short time.

Ally, who is based at Ubungu in Dar es Salaam, got over 437m/- in cash prize from SportPesa when he placed right bets on 13 soccer games.

"I thank God for this win because there were many people who took part in the game, I in the end was the only winner and, therefore, I have not shared the cash with anyone else, I have as well already received the prize," he said.

"The last match I had placed

bet on pitted Brescia against Udinese, I had bet the teams will settle for a draw, Brescia had been leading 1-0 on the 80th minute, I was indeed confused given I believed I will end up placing right bets on 12 matches but, believe it or not Udinese's Rodrigo De Paul leveled matters for his team on the second minute of added time, I first threw my mobile phone down, I was truly happy, I hardly expected I will place right bets on 13 matches.

"Placing the bets on an exercise book was an approach I deployed to win. It helps a lot given it helps a participant keep records of previous matches. In most cases I bet when my family is asleep. I had been looking forward to building a good house

for my kids, with this cash I will work hard and see to it I fulfil my plan.

"Transferring my kids to a better school had equally been among my plans. I also looked forward to improving my business, I will then invest in farming and animal keeping after improving my business. I have big plans for this cash and I pray God will help me fulfil them."

He added: "I appeal to Tanzanians to bet with SportPesa as the company is genuine. I won last Sunday and I have received cash prize in my bank account."

"I therefore would like to prove to all people that are either taking part in betting with SportPesa or wish to bet with the firm they should not hesitate

to do so, SportPesa are honest, they present cash prize to you without any hassle.

Ally said: "I spent 2000/- to place bets, I eventually won over 437m/-, what are you waiting for?"

SportPesa Jackpot cash prize now totals 203,654,480/-. Anyone can participate in the Jackpot by placing right bets on 13 games and win the cash, the firm revealed.

The Jackpot participant can also get bonus when he place right bets on 10, 11 and 12 games out of the 13 games.

The person should visit the company's website www.sportpesa.co.tz to bet with the company.

PSG still 'dangerous', warns record-breaker Haaland

DORTMUND, GERMANY

TEENAGE record-breaker Erling Braut Haaland warned Borussia Dortmund still have it all to do to reach the Champions League quarter-finals even after his two goals sank Neymar's Paris Saint-Germain.

Haaland netted either side of a Neymar equaliser on Tuesday as the Brazilian superstar scored on his return from injury as the French champions crashed to a 2-1 defeat at Dortmund in the last 16, first leg, tie.

"We want to go through, it's going to be a hard game," Haaland said of the return leg in Paris on March 11, "but we are a good team."

"The result is quite a dangerous one, as Paris has a very strong team and can still go through in the return leg."

Haaland's team-mate Emre Can, who alongside Axel Witsel worked tirelessly in Dortmund's midfield to contain Neymar and France striker Kylian Mbappe, said the home side's defence had been key.

"It was a big statement from the team how we defended today. We know it's not over -- it's just half-time," said Can, whose permanent transfer from Juventus was confirmed Tuesday.

However, the night belonged to Haaland who has 11 goals in his first seven games for Dortmund and warned there is more to come.

"I feel like I still can do a lot better," said Haaland.

"I have to work hard to improve to play better at this level."

Having also scored eight goals for Salzburg in the group stages before his 20 million-euro (\$22 million) transfer to Dortmund, Haaland made Champions League history on Tuesday.

His tally of 10 goals in his first seven Champions League matches is now a new record in the competition and makes him the joint top-scorer alongside Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski.

The teenage goal-machine has so far scored 39 times in 29 games this

season for Salzburg and Dortmund.

The 19-year-old had already sent records tumbling since arriving in Dortmund last month when he became the first player to score a hat-trick off the bench on his Bundesliga debut.

His incredible strike for his second goal on Tuesday overshadowed Neymar's return from a rib injury with PSG desperate to break their last 16 jinx having exited at this stage in the competition in each of the last three seasons.

"Important Neymar goal" - Paris defender Marquinhos said Neymar's away goal could prove crucial in the home leg.

"We weren't intense enough with or without the ball and did a lot of things badly, however the goal we got is important for the second leg," he said.

The presence of the world's most expensive player was a major boost for his team, after Neymar missed last season's surprise last-16 loss to Manchester United with a foot injury.

He also sat out the second leg of their defeat by Real Madrid at the same stage in 2018.

PSG's German coach Thomas Tuchel admitted Neymar's lack of match fitness had been a factor in the away defeat, but said his team still has time to find their form.

"Neymar hadn't played for a fortnight, but he is very important for Kylian (Mbappe), there is harmony between them and if Neymar lacks rhythm, it's immediately noticeable," said Tuchel.

"We didn't have enough possession, we made too many easy mistakes, we weren't smart enough and we lost the ball too early."

"It's difficult, but it's 2-1 and we still have a few games left to get back into the rhythm."

His counterpart Lucien Favre echoed Haaland's insistence that the result gives Dortmund only a slender advantage with PSG's passionate home fans set to get behind their team in the return leg.

AFP

Klopp: Rowdy Atletico crowd was a factor on ref

MADRID

JURGEN Klopp has claimed the hostile atmosphere at the Wanda Metropolitano affected his Liverpool team -- and the referee -- in a 1-0 defeat to Atletico Madrid in their Champions League last-16 first leg on Tuesday.

"It was like they could constantly go to the petrol station and we had to drive on one tank," the German manager said. "I don't know if [Atletico manager] Diego [Simeone] saw a lot of the game, because he was constantly animating the crowd."

"We speak about Anfield and the power a stadium can have, and tonight we saw it. They got a result, the stadium wasn't here to see sensational football, they got the result and so they are happy."

The crowd in Madrid also affected the official's handling of the match, according to Klopp.

"It was difficult for the referee to deal with the atmosphere tonight," he added. "There were a lot of situations. I think after 30 minutes three Atletico players were on the ground, they weren't even injured. The ref needs to feel the game a little bit more."

However, Klopp warned that Simeone's side can expect a similar reception at Anfield for the second leg in three weeks time.

"It's only 1-0, we're not 5-0 down," Klopp said. "We don't think it will be easy at our ground. For all Atletico fans who can get a ticket for the game, welcome to Anfield."

Simeone was delighted with a performance that saw his side limit what he called "the best team in the world" to not a single shot on target, despite having 72% possession.

"El Cholo" also pointed to the role of the fans, who had lined the streets with flares to welcome the team on arrival before kick off.

"In the eight years I've been here it hasn't often been at that level"

Simeone said. "We started winning the game when the bus came around the roundabout outside and we saw so many people. It's not my best night, because we haven't won a trophy. But it's emotional. There are nights you don't forget, the best time in the world came here and we won the game."

Saul Niguez scored the only goal of the game just four minutes in, pouncing after Liverpool failed to deal with a corner.

"This is the result of hard work, of never stopping believing, of keeping going, even though no-one believes in us and everyone wants to bring us down" he said. "The atmosphere reminded me of the old nights at [the former Atleti stadium] Calderon."

Liverpool left-back Andy Robertson said Atleti's style of play and the early goal threw them off-kilter.

"We gave them the best possible start and that gets the fans behind them," Robertson told reporters. "Then they start falling over and getting under the skin a bit."

"We put in a decent performance and we know we can be better. We've got a second leg to put it right. They celebrated as if they had won the tie after the game. We have some weeks, then they come to Anfield. We know our fans will be there."

Klopp admitted that he had substituted star forward Sadio Mane at halftime because of fears he might receive a second yellow card and be sent off.

"It's part of football," he said. "I don't like it. The plan today was to get Sadio out of the game with a yellow card, I was afraid his opponent would go down if Sadio even took a deep breath. That's why I took him off."

The Liverpool coach also confirmed that captain Jordan Henderson was withdrawn with ten minutes remaining as a precaution due to a hamstring problem.

Atletico make Liverpool's Supermen look like Clark Kents

MADRID

HOW do you beat Liverpool? Just ask Diego Simeone, the coach who found a way to make Jurgen Klopp's Supermen look like a team of Clark Kents as Atletico Madrid claimed a 1-0 Champions League round-of-16 first-leg win at the Wanda Metropolitano on Tuesday.

Sometimes, old-school tenacity, organisation and a 4-4-2 -- that often derided unimaginative formation -- can achieve what nothing else can. It all worked for Atleti, and their 1-0 win -- courtesy of Saul Niguez's fourth-minute goal -- has set up what promises to be a seismic second leg at Anfield next month.

Klopp had said in the build-up to this game that playing against Atletico is "one of the most difficult things as a footballer" and that "if you don't play at your very best, you have no chance." He was proved right, but if the Liverpool manager thought Atletico were tough to beat in this game, just wait until they turn up at Anfield with a lead to defend.

"I am fine," Klopp said after the game. "1-0 down at half-time, we have the longest half-time break and we will use that."

"Welcome to Anfield. It is not over yet."

Simeone and Atletico may not appeal to the purists, but there is still beauty in the way the team plays, if only for the rigid organisation and never-say-die spirit of the players in red and white stripes.

Sure, the final whistle in Madrid marked only the halfway point in this tie, and Liverpool will go into the return game as favourites to progress to the quarterfinals. But when Liverpool don't win a football match nowadays, it is big news, simply because they have become



Saul Niguez of Atletico Madrid scores his team's first goal past Alisson Becker of Liverpool during the UEFA Champions League round of 16 first leg match between Atletico Madrid and Liverpool FC at Wanda Metropolitano on February 18, 2020 in Madrid, Spain. (Agencies)

such an effective winning machine under Klopp.

Since lifting the European Cup for a sixth time, when beating Tottenham 2-0 at this stadium in last June's Champions League final, Liverpool have added the UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup to their trophy cabinet. They have also built what is likely to be an unassailable 25-point lead at the top of the Premier League on the back of 25 wins in 26 games, drawing the other. But against Atletico, Liverpool ran into a wall of determination and defensive discipline -- as well as some typical Atleti belligerence -- and, all of a sudden, the best team in the world looked as human and vulnerable as everybody else.

Saul's goal, following Liverpool's failure to deal with an Atletico corner, was enough for the Spaniards, who went on to preserve Simeone's unbeaten home record in the Champions League by denying Klopp's men a single shot

on target during the whole game. Just think about that. Not once did Liverpool, with the combined talents of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, force Atleti goalkeeper Jan Oblak into making a save.

It was such a frustrating night for Liverpool that Mane was substituted at half-time after being booked and escaping a red card for appearing to elbow defender Sime Vrsaljko. And then in the second half, Salah was taken off on 72 minutes after an anonymous performance.

But this wasn't simply Liverpool having an off night. This was an occasion when their opponents turned the screw so tightly that they could not find a way to cut loose and play their usual blistering attacking game.

And that was all down to Simeone and his players, who chased and tackled every Liverpool opponent, at times surrounding the likes of Mane and Salah with three defenders

whenever they had the ball. They also made full-backs Trent Alexander-Arnold and Andy Robertson careless in possession and forced the pair into mistakes. Even Virgil van Dijk was made to look anything but flawless by the persistence of Argentine forward Angel Correa.

And it was all played out to a night of raucous noise, inside and outside the stadium, with Simeone conducting the crowd from the touchline and demanding more and more from his players as the game wore on. Klopp was quick to remind Atletico after the game that they must yet overcome the experience of playing at Anfield before thinking about winning this tie, but such is the mentality of Simeone and his players that it is difficult to envisage them collapsing in front of The Kop as the likes of Barcelona, Roma and Manchester City have in recent seasons.

Atletico will relish the opportunity to go there and spend 90 minutes resisting a Liverpool onslaught, throwing their bodies in the way of everything to get the result. They will break up play, commit technical fouls, hound Liverpool's players and make it an ugly encounter. They will pose a unique challenge to Liverpool, and the prospect of a fit-again Diego Costa offering Atletico an attacking outlet, as well as adding to the siege mentality, will make life only more difficult for Klopp's men.

As Klopp said, this tie is not over yet, but there is a distinct impression with Atletico that, rather than fear Anfield, they will actually be motivated by the prospect of dethroning the European champions there. Get set for another pulsating European night at Anfield, but the story might be a different one this time.

(Agencies)

Five ties to watch in the Europa League this week

PARIS

THE Europa League knockout phase begins on Thursday, with VAR being introduced to Europe's secondary club competition for the first time outwith the final for the last 32, first-leg ties. AFP Sport picks five games to watch this week:

- Man Utd in Bruges - Manchester United's Champions League aspirations have been given a major boost in recent days, first with the news of Manchester City's two-year ban from the competition. Then, on Monday, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side beat Chelsea 2-0 away to close to within three points of their opponents in fourth place in the Premier League.

Now they revert their focus to the Europa League, which could also offer them a ticket to next season's Champions League if they reach the final in Gdansk in May and lift the trophy.

United head to Belgium to take on Club Brugge in the first leg of their tie. Beaten by Liverpool in two European finals in the 1970s, Club Brugge are not a side to be taken lightly. They dropped out of the Champions League group stage despite holding Real Madrid away, and are nine points clear atop the Belgian league.

- Arsenal 'deserve our respect' -

Arsenal are unbeaten in their last eight games under Mikel Arteta, although the Gunners' new Spanish boss could do with turning some of his team's many draws into more victories.

Currently in mid-table in the Premier League, last season's beaten finalists travel to face Olympiakos knowing this competition is surely their best bet if they are to return to the Champions League next term.

"They may not have started well in the Premier League this season, but they have great players, are dangerous and deserve our respect," said Pedro Martins, the coach of Olympiakos.

The Greek league leaders dropped out of the Champions League group stage despite holding Tottenham Hotspur to a 2-2 draw in Piraeus.

- Ajax set for battle in Spain -

After enchanting Europe on their run to the Champions League semi-finals last year, Ajax were brought crashing back to earth when they were eliminated from this season's



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

competition in the group stage.

The Dutch champions were then handed a tough Europa League draw against a Getafe side who have been one of the stories of the season in Spain.

The unfashionable outfit from the working-class satellite town just south of Madrid finished fifth in La Liga last season and

are currently third under Jose Bordalas, whose his idol as a youngster was Johan Cruyff.

"They are warriors. They fight for every ball and really give everything," Ajax star Dusan Tadic told Dutch daily Algemeen Dagblad. "They are physically very strong and go beyond the limits if necessary."

It is Getafe's first Euro-

pean knockout tie since they took Bayern Munich to extra time in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals in 2008.

- Will Salzburg survive without Haaland? -

Erling Braut Haaland's eight goals were not enough for Salzburg to qualify from the Champions League group stage, and the Austrians have since lost their striker to

Borussia Dortmund. Japanese winger Takumi Minamoto also departed for Liverpool, leaving them looking seriously weakened for the second half of the season.

Salzburg did sign Swiss starlet Noah Okafor, but their first league game after a long winter break ended in a 3-2 home defeat by title rivals LASK Linz last weekend.

Now Salzburg face Eintracht Frankfurt, meaning a reunion with Adi Huetter, who coached Salzburg to a league and cup double in 2015.

- Celtic fairytale in Copenhagen? -

Celtic have been eliminated at this stage in the last two seasons but should fancy their chances against FC Copenhagen as they head to Denmark.

While Celtic have claimed nine straight wins this calendar year, Copenhagen's first league game of 2020 ended in defeat last weekend.

Current Celtic manager Neil Lennon was a player when the Glasgow giants lost 3-1 on their last trip to Copenhagen in the Champions League in 2006.

His team qualified by topping their group, and of this tie he said: "It's great to have European football after Christmas, and it's a tough draw. It could have been tougher, but it could have been easier."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Atletico make Liverpool's Supermen look like Clark Kents

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Tanzanians urged to appreciate visual artists



Visual artist, Athuman Hamisi, emerged as the winner of a competition dubbed 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020', which was held in Dar es Salaam recently.

Tanga company employees gear up for Kili Marathon

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 30 employees of Tanga Cement PLC are expected to take part in this year's Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon as they mark 17 years since the firm started sponsoring the event.

The Tanga Cement PLC Group Commercial Manager, Peet Brits, said they have been committed to the marathon for all this time because of the quality of the event in terms of organization that makes it always stand out hence attracting participation from all corners of the world.

He said about 20 employees will take part in the Tigo Half Marathon, one senior manager will take part in the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon while a couple others will do the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run.

"Tanga Cement PLC through its brand Simba Cement, has been sponsoring Kilimanjaro Marathon since the race's inception," he said.

He disclosed Kili Marathon has been the favourite sport event to Tanga Cement employees.

He said apart from participation in both running and volunteering at water and sponging points, they also get the opportunity to meet their customers and hear them out.

Brits called on other event organizers to emulate the Kilimanjaro Marathon.

"This event has grown and to me is biggest sports event that has participants from all over the world," he said.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon local Race Director, John Bayo, lauded Tanga Cement for its important sponsorship role in the race.

He said without such partners it was not easy to pull together such a big event consistently for 18 years.

Other sponsors for this year's event include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager-42km, TIGO-21km, Grand Malt 5km, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Unilever, Absa Bank Tanzania Limited.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon's official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWold Security, Precision Air and CMC Automobiles.

Currently, the organizers have closed registration for the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km race and Tigo Half Marathon as capacity has already been reached.

Registration for the Grand Malt 5km Fun Run is still on at number collection points.

Number collection points will be in Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Moshi on cash basis and on a first come first served basis.

as follows Dar es Salaam, Mlimani City- February 22 and 23 February 2020, Arusha Kibo Palace Hotel February 25 and 26, 2020 and Moshi, Keys Hotel - February 27 and 28.

The race will be held at the Moshi Cooperatives University on March 1 and will play host to a IAAF route measured 42km Marathon, a 21km Half Marathon and a 5km Fun run.

The event is organized by Wild Frontiers and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.



Chess players, who are taking part in this year's National Chess League, feature in the round one match at Russian Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

Dar club excels in National Chess League

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DAR ES SALAAM's Alliance Insurance chess team is enjoying the driver's seat in the ongoing National Chess League, which is taking place at the Russia Cultural Center in the city.

The league has 11 teams and after round one and two games Alliance Insurance team has four points. They are followed by My World Pre-School team, Ahead Africa and Pawn Pushers in the second, third and fourth positions respectively, having each posted three points.

Teams placed fifth to seventh are Barketilly, Don Bosco Rising Star and Flash Net, with each collecting two points. Specialized Engineering team have been placed eighth with 1.5 points.

Kamal Steel, HS Computers and Unique have one point each and are placed ninth, 10th and 11th respectively.

National Chess League coordinator, FIDE Master Hemed Mlawa, said he is happy with the level of competition shown by the players in the event.

"The league has started very well and I'm happy with the level of competition shown by players from each club, league organizers expect more entertainment in the coming rounds," he said.

He said the opening game pitting Pawn Pushers against HS Computers match ended in a draw, with the teams posting 2.5 points apiece. The

teams won a point apiece.

The other game saw between Specialized Engineering lock horns with Alliance Insurance, the match ended with Alliance Insurance winning 3.5 - 1.5.

Alliance got two league points, Specialized Engineering team ended with no league point. Mlawa said Don Bosco Rising Star played against Barketilly, the game ended with Don Bosco Rising Star winning 3 - 2.

Don Bosco Rising Star recorded two league points, Barketilly getting 0 league point.

In the Unique versus Kamal Steel match, the game ended with the two teams locked to a draw, posting 2.5 points piece and getting one league point.

The round one's last game saw Ahead Africa take on My World Pre-School, with match ending with the teams locked to a 2.5 - 2.5 draw, they got one league point apiece.

Mlawa said round two games started with a match between Alliance Insurance against Don Bosco, the match ended with Alliance Insurance winning 4 - 1.

Alliance posted two league points, Don Bosco got 0 league point.

HS Computer faced Ahead Africa, the clash ended with Ahead Africa winning 3 - 2. Ahead Africa recorded two league points, HS Computer ended with 0 leagues point.

My World Pre-School played against Unique, the clash ended with My World Pre-School winning 5 - 0.

By Guardian Correspondent

WINNER of the just ended drawing competition, dubbed 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020', Athuman Hamisi, has called for recognition of visual artists in Tanzania.

The 24-year old artist, who is popularly known as Ochu, said the country has many visual artists who can be used to promote tourism and many other things the country has.

Ochu, a self-taught realistic painter, disclosed he has never attended any artistic workshop or seminar, but said the industry has a lot of potential only that many people do not recognize it.

The artist who is based at Mwenge Vinyango in Dar es Salaam, said visual artists in the country also face a number of challenges which include lack of brushes, canvases, pencils and stands for exhibiting their artworks.

"Visual art is a big business in Tanzania only that visual artists and painters, including realistic, acrylic and others, are not recognized," he disclosed.

"I believe we can be used to promote tourism attractions and other things in the country," he said.

Ochu who earns his living through his trade disclosed that due to his passion for visual art and financial challenges his parents were facing, he dropped out of secondary school.

"Since the age of six or so I wanted to be a painter. I grew up with love and passion for arts and, due to this and financial challenges my parents were facing, I did not finish my education," he said.

"I enrolled for English and Arabic courses, the course (English and Swahili) made it easy for me to pursue my childhood dream of becoming an artist."

"Although there are many challenges in the industry I'm able to sustain myself and those around me."

He said he has never exhibited any of his artworks at any gallery both locally and internationally.

He pointed out that his desire is to exhibit some of his artworks at the international level.

"As a Tanzanian realistic painter I have crafted my identity and I'm sure my artworks can grace any stage in this world," he said.

Ochu whose role model is United States of America (USA) acrylic painter Nick Sider said his dream is to become a respected realistic painter in the continent.

He described winning the 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020' as a first step in his efforts to realize his dream.

"I in the past attended other competitions, but I did not win, this time around I have won this 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020'," he said.

"To me this is a first step as my dream is to turn into a top realistic painter in the continent," he said.

Apart from being a realistic painter, Ochu is a Bongo Flava musician and he has many songs to his credit.

Of the songs include Hello, 'Napendwa', 'Naumia' and 'Mbele Yako', which was a tribute to philanthropist, Reginald Mengi, who passed away last year.

Dar set to field eight athletes in Jump Rope Championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA will send eight athletes to the Jump Rope World Championship slated to take place in Canada in July, the sport's association disclosed.

Tanzania Jump Rope Association president, Dennis Makoi, said registration for players set to compete at the championship, which will be held at TD Place Arena in Ottawa, gets underway today.

He said Tanzania will send four boys and girls to the event. He moreover disclosed that those who will seek to compete at the

championship must be ready to pay for their air tickets to Canada.

"Currently discussions with International Jump Rope Union (IJRU) are underway to see who will take care of the athletes' accommodation," he said.

Makoi said the athletes' coach Zawadi Saware will suggest when the camp for the squad will be held.

"The IJRU has extended an invitation for us to send eight players to the world championship which will be held in Canada in July, the process of selecting the players starts tomorrow (today). Those interested should contact Saware

who is the team's coach," he said.

He said the Canada championship will be the very first event where FISAC-IRSF family and World Jump Rope family officially unite.

This will be the fourth time that Tanzania is sending a team to the Jump Rope World Championship.

Tanzania moreover has a junior player Hamsi Kondo who is lately pursuing a career in the sport in the United States of America (USA).

Kondo had performed well at the previous world championship and was offered a scholarship to study in the USA.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

