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Centres to develop technological solutions



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PM to grace International Youth Day Today



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SADC Countdown three days to go



US confirms Ebola cure, Congolese scientist smiles for 43 yrs of work

KINSHASA

CONGOLESE scientist Prof Jean-Jacques Muyembe was all smiles on Tuesday when he announced the confirmation of the most effective ever Ebola drug.

He was the happiest man on earth for a reason: he has been on a mission to find a cure for Ebola for the past 43 years. Currently the General Director of the National Institute for Biomedical Research of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) he was part of the team at the Yambuku Catholic Mission Hospital that investigated the first Ebola outbreak in August 1976.

The outbreak occurred in Yambuku and surrounding areas in what was then Zaire. There were 318 cases out of which 280 were fatal. Since then, Prof Muyembe who was born in 1942 has never researched anything else but cure for Ebola.

The reason is that since then there have been repeats of outbreaks in the DRC as well as other African countries where his experience in fighting the hemorrhagic fever was needed.



From now on, we will no longer say that Ebola is incurable," said Prof Muyembe, whose institute oversaw the trial. "These advances will help save thousands of lives"

"From now on, we will no longer say that Ebola is incurable," said Prof Muyembe, whose institute oversaw the trial. "These advances will help save thousands of lives."

The trials which began in November last year involved four drugs but two emerged the most effective. All Ebola treatment units will now use the two monoclonal antibody drugs, he said.

More than 90 per cent of infected people can survive if treated early with the two most effective drugs.

On Tuesday, two people cured of Ebola using the experimental drugs were released from a treatment centre in Goma, eastern DRC, and reunited with their families.

The US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAD), which co-sponsored the trial, said the results are "very good news" for the fight against Ebola.

The drugs, named REGN-EB3 and mAb114, work by attacking the Ebola virus with antibodies, neutralising its impact on human cells.

They are the "first drugs that, in a scientifically sound study, have clearly shown

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Put funds into agriculture, SADC women farmers' NGOs demand



Mufti of Tanzania Sheikh Abubakar Zuberi (4th R) leads prayers for survivors of the Saturday oil tanker disaster at Msamvu in Morogoro region who are admitted at the Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam after he paid a visit on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent John Stephen

Honest Mseri, the ANSAF Programme Officer emphasized that investing in agriculture will boost economic growth as well as poverty reduction. He said the government must inject more money in the sector to enable it grow at the required six percent per annum compared to the current growth of three percent annually

By Felister Peter

SMALL holder farmers in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) have appealed for governments to prioritize investment in agriculture for food security and ensure land ownership rights.

Farmers are concerned that most governments in the SADC region are yet to implement the 2014 Malabo Declaration which requires them to allocate around 10 percent of their total budget to agriculture.

"We want agriculture to be prioritized and not considered as an alternative activity. Governments should also invest in research to come up with quality seeds that are suitable for specific types of soil," said Jovitha Mlay, Campaigns Manager for Oxfam Tanzania.

Mlay made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a public debate on Food Justice and Land Rights organized by Oxfam Tanzania, the Agricultural



Mlay asserted that most governments in SADC set a small amount of budget funds for research with agricultural budgets cut every year

Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF) and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under the Southern Africa People's Solidarity Network (SAPSIN).

Participants were to come up with agricultural sector resolutions that would be included in Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) recommendations to the 9th SADC Heads of State and Government summit scheduled for Saturday and Sunday in the city.

The theme for the events under SAPSIN was "Rebuilding People's Movements within Southern Africa's Climate, Political and Socioeconomic Emergencies: Towards Radical Democratic Alternatives and a Just Transition."

Mlay asserted that most governments in SADC set a small amount of budget funds for research with agricultural budgets cut every year.

SADC agro-sector organizations work to enable small holder farmers have a common voice and stand when demanding action on various issues including land ownership. "The right to own land especially for smallholder farmers who are mostly women is crucial for the country's economic growth and food security," she declared.

She said that most food consumed in the country is produced by small holder farmers, and among them around 60 percent are women.

Honest Mseri, the ANSAF Programme Officer emphasized that investing in

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Amnesty: SADC summit needs resolutions to protect PWAs

By Guardian Reporter

AMNESTY International has called on leaders of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to ramp up efforts to protect the security of people with albinism during their 39th meeting which takes place in Dar es Salaam this week.

It is estimated that 150 people with albinism have been killed in countries such as Malawi, Tanzania, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo since 2014 for their body parts, with Tanzania having reported the highest number of killings (76) for the same period. There are tens of thousands of people with albinism across the SADC region.

In a statement issued yesterday, Amnesty International appealed to SADC leaders to adopt a regional solution, to ensure a coordinated security response for people with albinism across southern Africa.



Criminal justice failures, such as poor handling of cases and evidence, have driven the impunity and persistent crimes against this vulnerable group

Deprose Muchena, Amnesty International's Regional Director for Southern Africa, said that across the SADC region, people with albinism continue to live in fear of being killed or abducted for their body parts. "These waves of violent attacks are fuelled by the false and dangerous myth that body parts of people with albinism can make someone rich."

"SADC leaders must tackle the root causes of these targeted attacks by criminal gangs across the region. They must use this summit to send a clear message that those who perpetrate these attacks will be brought to justice, and turn the tide against these horrendous crimes."

Attacks on people with albinism include mutilations, kidnappings and attempted kidnappings. Victims have been lured across international borders, including being brought from countries like Malawi having been found in

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Endangered antelope species sighted around Mt. Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IT IS now official that Tanzania is home to a very rare antelope species that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

The first sighting of these antelopes - named Abbott's duiker - hails back to 2003, but now a team from Germany's Julius-Maximilians University has captured them on camera.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species,

says it can be classified as endangered because there are so few - and yet a team of researchers have recorded footage of the previously-undocumented animal on Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Footage shows them amid the vegetation alongside a number of other animals, and provides fresh insight into the area's biodiversity.

The discovery of the rare animals is likely to trigger both local and international conservation efforts within the Kilimanjaro National Park to

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Put funds into agriculture, SADC women farmers' NGOs demand

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agriculture will boost economic growth as well as poverty reduction. He said the government must inject more money in the sector to enable it grow at the required six percent per annum compared to the current growth of three percent annually.

Mseri affirmed that despite the various efforts by the government in improving the sector, like establishing a national strategy to reduce post harvest losses, more has to be done to ensure availability of quality seeds, fertilizers and extension officers.

For the government to post a single extension officer at every village, it needs an additional 20,000 extension officers, as of now 25 percent small holder farmers use quality seeds, and only 10 percent of total cultivated land has fertilizer applied to it.

"Investments in agriculture should be increased to reduce poverty. The government has been allocating less than five percent of the total budget for agriculture. It is only in the 2011/2012 fiscal year when it allocated 8.1 percent of the budget to the crucial sector," the activist underlined.

He highlighted on the need to control post harvest losses to ensure food security, noting that food production stands at 16 million metric tonnes while formal sector storage capacity is 2.7 million metric tonnes.

The national strategy to reduce post harvest losses was launched by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan on

August 1 at the Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi, Simiyu region when inaugurating the 2019 agricultural trade fair (NaneNane).

Jeche Benenia, a small holder farmer from a rural women's organization - Women and Land - based in Harare said that the right of land for women is vital as they cannot fully engage in agriculture if they do not own the land.

"Governments should support women to acquire land in their own names to be able to produce. Consultations should be done before setting crop prices to enable farmers to benefit from their sweat," the activist noted.

Anna Oloishuro from Tanzania urged the government to facilitate women practice modern agriculture, with the use of organic seeds. She said organic seeds are not poised to affect the quality of soil compared to imported ones.

A paddy farmer, Edna Kioywe said that emphasis should be placed on the production of organic seeds which are now scarce. Investing on irrigation will help farmers produce enough for food and a tradable surplus since they can cultivate four times annually, she specified.

Eva Daudi noted that there should be a specific forum for small holder farmers in SADC to help women farmers push agendas and discuss the many challenges they face including unreliable markets, storage facilities and value addition.

Amnesty: SADC summit needs resolutions to protect PWAs

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countries like Mozambique.

Criminal justice failures, such as poor handling of cases and evidence, have driven the impunity and persistent crimes against this vulnerable group.

While there have been legal reforms, including changes to the Penal Code and the Anatomy Act to tackle attacks in countries like Malawi and Tanzania, they are yet to yield positive results as people with albinism continue to be targeted by criminal gangs. All this is a massive impediment in addressing human rights violations against people with albinism.

The SADC Parliamentary Forum adopted a motion condemning attacks, abductions, killings and discrimination against persons with albinism across the region during its 45th session in Mozambique on 24th July. Amnesty believes that this is a positive step forward that brings the region closer to genuinely addressing the cycle of human rights violations against people with albinism.

People with albinism continue to face human rights violations including stigma and discrimination, inadequate access to health and education services, as well as other social exclusions.



Vice-President Samia Suluhu Hassan in talks with UN Women Tanzania country director Hodan Addou at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: VPO

Samia urges UN Women to conduct assessment of the 1995 Beijing Declaration

By Guardian Reporter

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan has called upon the United Nations entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women - UN Women to conduct assessment of the 1995 Beijing Declaration that will give a clear picture of the number of women holding various posts in the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

"It is important to have an assessment that will tell us how many women are working at different leadership positions especially in private organisations and institutions", said the Vice President when she held talks with UN Women Representative in Tanzania, Hodan Addou at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Addou was accompanied by the World Bank representative in Tanzania, Denis Biseko.

The VP commended the UN Women for the various efforts in empowering women in Tanzania calling upon them to support more women especially those in the agricultural sector. She said the organisation has been

doing recommendable job in ensuring opportunities for women in different social and development sectors.

Meanwhile, UN Women representative in Tanzania, Hodan Addou commended the government for protecting markets and controlling women and child labour at market places in the country.

Addou told the Vice President that they have organised a women workshop in collaboration with the World Bank that will educate women on business matters as well as how to identifying business opportunities.

The 1995 Beijing Declaration was among other things called upon governments, international community and civil society, encompassing non-governmental organisations and the private sector to empower women and girls by taking action in areas such as poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights, media, environment and the girl child.

US confirms Ebola cure, Congolese scientist all smiles for 43 yrs of work

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a significant diminution in mortality" for Ebola patients, said Dr Anthony Fauci, director of NIAID.

The drug mAb114 was developed using antibodies harvested from survivors of Ebola while REGN-EB3 comes from antibodies generated within mice infected with the disease.

Ebola has killed more than 1,800 people in DR Congo in the past year.

Two other treatments, called ZMapp and Remdesivir, have been dropped from trials as they were found to be less effective.

The trial was conducted by an international research group coordinated by the World Health Organization (WHO) whereby the four experimental drugs were tested on around 700 patients, with the preliminary results from the first 499 now known.

Of the patients given the two more effective drugs, 29 per cent on REGN-EB3 and 34 per cent on mAb114 died, NIAID said.

In contrast, 49 per cent on ZMapp and 53 per cent on Remdesivir died in the study, the agency said.

The survival rate among patients with low levels of the virus in their blood was as high as 94 per cent when they were given REGN-EB3, and 89 per cent when on mAb114, the agency said.

The findings mean health authorities can "stress to people that more than 90 per cent of people survive" if they are treated early, said Sabue Mulangu, an infectious-disease researcher who worked on the trial.



National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (R) presents a contract to TUGHE national secretary Henry Mkunda for the labour council of the Parliamentary Office moments after opening the council meeting in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: National Assembly

Endangered antelope species sighted around Mt. Kilimanjaro

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ensure that they multiply.

"We recorded the Abbott's duiker with our video traps at eleven locations at altitudes between 1920 and 3849 meters for a total of 105 times," says doctoral student Friederike Gebert from the JMU Biocenter.

"There's even a video of a mating attempt," says the scientist.

And that's not the only special feature that has now been captured on film.

The team, led by JMU Professor

Ingolf Steffan-Dewenter and Dr. Marcell Peters, installed a total of five camera traps each on 66 study plots at Kilimanjaro - from the savannah in the lowlands to the forest regions at medium altitudes to the bush landscape at altitudes of up to 4550 metres.

The cameras remained on site for two weeks, after which they were collected and evaluated.

Friederike Gebert had 80,000 film snippets to go through, of which 1,600 were actually showing mammals.

Among them were a total of 33 wild mammal species - in addition to the Abbott's duiker, species like bush pig and porcupine, lesser kudu and yellow baboon were documented.

Abbott's duiker is active by both day and night and can weigh up to 130 lbs (60kg). Its diet includes fruits, flowers, green shoots and leaves (especially balsams).

It is also known to raid crops such as sweet potatoes, bananas, beans, cassava and cowpeas. The main non-human predator of Abbott's duiker

is the leopard although young are hunted by African crowned eagles and pythons. In the Udzungwa Mountains, the lion and spotted hyena are also predators.

It is a montane forest-dependent species, so it is only found in important, remnant patches of high biodiversity - disturbed and secondary montane forest and bamboo forest in the Southern Highlands, forests, swamps and moorland in Mt. Kilimanjaro and semi-deciduous and evergreen forests in the Udzungwa Mountains.

Afya Foundation assures Pangani residents of health centre construction

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

A New York-based not for profit organisation, Afya Foundation is working with Pangani beach based hotel, The Tides Lodge to build health centre at Ushongo Village in Pangani District, Tanga Region.

Speaking during his visit at the village yesterday, founder and Chief Executive Officer of the organisation Danielle Butin assured the residents that she is going to work tirelessly to make this project possible.

According to her, once the centre is built at the area it will transform and enhance efficiency of health service provision at the village while serving more people from inside and outside the ward.

"We will work tirelessly, appealing to donors in New York or elsewhere to donate to enable the project to come true. This health centre once completed will not only improve provision of services but also save thousands of lives," she added.

She said that Afya Foundation is based in Yonders, New York and it was founded in 2007 by Butin, MPH, OTR after a trip to Tanzania where she encountered the dire circumstances and severely limited medical resources in medical clinics.

"Afya seeks to spread "Good Health through Giving" and does so by providing medical supplies, consumables, sustainable equipment, and community outreach supplies to international health clinics," she said.

According to Butin the primary goal

of Afya is to bring good health to those who need it most and one way in which it accomplishes this goal is by collecting donations of surplus medical supplies from New York hospitals.

"These supplies are stored temporarily in the Yonders warehouse until volunteers load them into 40 foot containers bound for various international locations," she added.

Butin added that Afya tailors its shipments to the needs of specific communities by maintaining an up-to-date computer-based inventory menu from which international health organisations and professionals can self-select medical supplies from the warehouse via the web.

So far, Afya has sent over 30 supply filled 40 foot containers to Haiti, Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi and Sierra Leone. Included in these shipments, according to the foundation, are a range of items from ultrasound machines and operating tables to soccer balls and pens. "A wide range of vital supplies are required for clinicians to provide adequate care to the members of the communities they serve," she pointed out, saying, in addition to shipping 40 foot containers, duffel bags can also be requested and shipped with medical personnel who are making a specific international aid trips.

Supplies that are generally accepted include: tents, sleeping bags, umbrellas, rain boots, bug spray, crutches, wheelchairs, gloves, water purification tablets, ensure/liquid food, personal care items, gauze, bandages, sheets, and blankets.



International Eye Hospital specialist Dr. Aydin Yildirim (R) performs eye surgery at a hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday . Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister challenges research institutions to come up with simple technological solutions

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MINISTER for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako has challenged research centres to develop simple technological solutions that will be able to solve community problems as well as stimulate development in the country.

Ndalichako made the appeal here during the opening of 3rd international conference on energy, aqua-tech and sustainability hosted by the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST).

According to her, it is high time for research institutions to wake up and make sure that they produce solutions that will be able to transform communities through simple innovations.

"Science and technology are vital towards attain industrial economy. So it is better for our institutions to invest in producing simple technology to solve people's problems and thus spur development at community level and the nation at large," she said.

She said that the government has already built strong system, infrastructures as well as setting budgets for edu-

cating the public on the importance of researches and their usage.

She urged researchers and experts to ensure that they disseminate their research findings as well advice to communities so that they can be used to bring changes in their areas.

For his part, WISE-Futures deputy Centre leader Dr. Yusufu Jande said the conference has been attended by eleven countries which are South Korea, Nigeria, Namibia, Indonesia, France, United Kingdom, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

He said that the conference brought together researchers and experts from the countries to discuss and share experience on how to use researches to transform people's lives.

According to him, the centre has already developed a simple technology to fight bacteria and salt in water.

"The technology known as "Capacity of Deionisation" (CDIA), has high ability to remove salt in water. This can turn salty water into pure quality water and easily," he said.

The NM-AIST Chancellor, Prof Emmanuel Luoga said that the institute has invested much in researching on safe water and solar energy.

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

TRA issues one-month ultimatum to all registered traders in Manyara

TANZANIA Revenue Authority (TRA) in Manyara region has issued one-month ultimatum to all registered traders with a turnover ranging from 14m/- and above per year to install Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) or else they will be dragged to court.

The TRA regional manager John Mwigura issued the statement when speaking to development stakeholders at Mirearani town in Simanjiro district.

He said that any traders who earns a minimum profit of 38,000/- per day should make sure that he/she has an EFD for the business.

He also warned that all traders who will be found conducting businesses without issuing electronic receipts will face economic sabotage charges once caught.

He said that once caught, despite

other punishments such as fines and licence repeal, the taxman will also file cases against all the dishonest to traders who are conducting sales without using Electronic Fiscal Device (EFD).

He urged sellers to make sure they issue legal receipts to their customers for every purchase made to avoid stern measures.

According to him, traders should be alerted that there is a special TRA task force commissioned to monitor all traders for making sure they have EFDs and issue receipt to their customers.

"We educated traders and the public on the importance of EFDs but some of them refused to install the devices in their businesses...This can be accepted," he insisted.

For his part, Simanjiro District Commissioner Zephania Chaula urged traders to conduct their businesses legally which including having EFDs.

"It is better to adhere to the county's laws if you (traders) want to be in business and avoid unnecessary challenges...my appeal is for all traders who know that they should have the devices to do so," he said.

He also urged buyers of consumer goods to develop a culture of demanding fiscal receipts for every purchase made from theirsales for the government to get revenues for the country's economic development.

One of the traders, Magdalena John said that education is still needed as some of the traders are unaware of the machines and their importance.

By Francis Kajubi

EITI member states appealing for transparency and accountability

EIGHT members states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) that are among the 52 member states of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) globally, are required to reveal contracts they enter with investors in the extractive industry before January 2021 to attract transparency and accountability.

Out of the sixteen countries of the SADC region, Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique and Mauritius are member states of the EITI whereby Tanzania joined in 2009.

At the EITI member states special meeting held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to discuss the essence of the extractive industry among the member states, EITI chairman of the SADC region and the Former CAG Ludovick Utouh, said that all member states of the initiative had started taking serious measures towards full implementation of the agreement.

"Terms in contracts concerning minerals, gas and oil that investors enter with the EITI member states should be made public according to the law and policies of the EITI. The eight countries have started taking serious measures on the extractive industry to attract transparency and accountability," said Utouh.

According to him, making the contacts open to the public will scare policy makers and governments into entering contracts that are attributed to corruption.

Utouh revealed that Civil Society Organizations in Zimbabwe and Botswana

have started pushing for their governments to join the EITI and the initiative has been working with them in that regard.

Robert Letsats, executive director of the Botswana Watch, a civil society that works on transparency and accountability in the management and governance of natural resources in Botswana, said

the situation is more worse in his country regardless of its image at the international level.

"The government has succeeded in making the continent believe that Botswana is clean on every issue which way that can be considered as a role model in good governance but things are completely opposite to the reality on the ground,"

said Letsats.

Recho Chagonja, coordinator HakiRasilimali, the institution that has been dealing with observing transparency and accountability in the local extractive industry said they have been convincing the government to put in place policies that can make the country benefit from minerals, gas and oil.



NOTICE TO VEHICLE OWNERS/AGENTS WITH DAR ES SALAAM PORT. RESTRICTIONS OF PORT ENTRY TO SUBSTANDARD VEHICLES. WITH EFFECT FROM 26TH AUGUST, 2019.

There have been a series of Accidents caused by trucks operating in Dar Es Salaam Port and we observed, most of accidents are caused by vehicles with brake failures, engine inefficiency, lack of brake/indicator lights, unsecured clutch system, poor (torn and old) quality of vehicle and incompetence/negligence of drivers.

Vehicle owners/agents are hereby notified that with effect from 26th August 2019 henceforth TPA in collaboration with State Police and other Law enforcement agencies will conduct a comprehensive roadworthiness inspection to all vehicles operating with Dar Es Salaam Port.

Vehicles with insufficiencies will be penalized according to Police standing orders and refuted Port entrance. However, any substandard truck in contravention found in the port its owner will be penalized in accordance to TPA regulations.

The Inspections will focus to the following defects:-

1. Torn and old vehicles (Not road worthiness)
2. Vehicles with brake and Clutch system failures
3. Vehicles without indicator/brake lights
4. Vehicles with torn tyres
5. Vehicles without container twist locks
6. Vehicles showing engine inefficiency
7. Vehicles with shabby electrical/ignition system
8. Vehicles polluting over Port environment
9. Vehicles without door locks
10. Vehicles without reflective triangle
11. Vehicles without Fire extinguishers
12. Vehicles/trailers with single tyre
13. Vehicles not designated to carry cereals/food products

You are notified further that only accredited and licensed drivers will be permitted to drive into port premises and shall always wear appropriate Personal protective gears (PPEs).

Issued by:

The Port Director
DAR ES SALAAM PORT



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Project: Learning at Scale
Reports to: Education Research Officer
Potential Work Locations: Kenya/India/Tanzania/Ghana/Pakistan/Nepal/TBD.

SCOPE OF WORK EDUCATION RESEARCH CONSULTANT

RTI is an independent international organization dedicated to conducting innovative, multidisciplinary research that improves the human condition. With a worldwide staff of more than 4,000 people, RTI offers innovative research and development and a full spectrum of multidisciplinary services. Universities in North Carolina founded RTI in 1958 as a centerpiece of the Research Triangle Park.

RTI International has received funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through the Center for Global Development to conduct the Learning at Scale research study. Learning at Scale examines successful large-scale education programs in low- and middle-income counties to establish the ingredients for improving learning at scale. The research study will look most closely at the instructional characteristics of effective programs as well as how the programs worked with the system. It will involve collecting data through classroom observations and interviews with teachers, headteachers, district and central ministry officials and project staff.

To support the Learning at Scale research study, we seek a qualified Education Research Consultant. This research consultant will facilitate and coordinate the research study by engaging with the Ministry of Education, the organization being researched, and the data collection firms in each country. The Education Research consultant will be expected to perform the following duties:

- a) Provide access to key government education officers in the country
- b) Guide the process of getting research approval in the country
- c) Support the relationships with the organization being researched as well as the data collection firm hired
- d) Assist in identifying potential data collection firms and communications
- e) Manage logistics related to meetings and workshops
- f) Train assessors in the research study
- g) Support the data collection process in the schools and government offices in the sampled sites.
- h) Supervise assessors during data collection.
- i) Create and maintain cordial relations with the government officials and respondents in the field.
- j) Maintain regular communication with the Education Research Officer and the Principal Investigator.
- k) Other duties as assigned by the Education Research Officer or the Principal Investigator

This is a short-term consultancy for a period not exceeding 15 days to carry out the tasks as outlined above. Future consultancy arrangements may be discussed upon successful completion of these tasks.

- Minimum of a Master's degree in education or a research related field
- Good communication and report writing skills
- At least 8 years' experience in the education sector in the stated country
- Significant experience in educational research and the research process
- Close relationships with key education officials in the government
- Strong analytical and planning skills;
- Excellent managerial, supervisory, and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and demanding timeframes;
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Fluency in the official and national languages of the country of interest.
- Ability to communicate at a professional level in English.
- Must be currently based in the country of interest.

If you meet the above qualifications, please send a cover letter and CV, with a list of three references and contact information. In the subject line of your email, please include Research Consultant and the country name which you're applying to support. Applications should be submitted by email to LAS-research-consultant@rti.org, and must be received before August 28, 2019.

Remuneration will be based on experience and qualifications.

'Kilombero Sugar's multi-billion project feasibility study at advanced stage'

By Guardian Reporter

KILOMBERO Sugar Company (KSC) has said that a feasibility study for its multi-billion expansion project has reached an advanced stage.

The KSC managing director, Guy Williams revealed this over the weekend when speaking to journalists at the just-ended NaneNane exhibitions in Morogoro Region.

He said that shareholders would soon be assessing the study results to evaluate the viability of the project and explore capital availability for an submission to its shareholders for approval of the project early 2020 if the results are positive.

"Subject to the positive outcome of the feasibility findings, and the successful raising of the required funding, it is anticipated that the project will be presented for final approval by the KSC shareholders of which the government of Tanzania has 25 per cent shareholding in Kilombero Sugar Ltd) towards the end of February 2020. If approved, construction would start shortly thereafter with project completion estimated by June 2022.

KSC's expansion project will more than double the giant sugar producer's production capacity from 125,000 tonnes to 265,000 tonnes of sugar per annum.

Currently, KSC's contribution to the economy stands at 400 billion/- per annum but with the expansion project, this could almost double to 784 billion/-, said Williams

KSC's corporate affairs general manager, Joseph Rugaimukamu, said the project will double the number of out growers from the present 8,000 to around 16,000. Besides, sugarcane production of the growers will increase

three-fold from the current average of 500,000 tonnes to 1,450,000 tonnes of cane per annum," he said.

"KSC management wishes to acknowledge the 5th government's strong stance on protecting and supporting the sugar industry under the firm leadership of President John Pombe Magufuli, which has motivated Kilombero Sugar to undertake the investigation into expanding its operations," he said.

He added that, there has been great support from Morogoro regional authorities led by Regional Commissioner Dr. Kebwe Stephen Kebwe as well as Kilombero and Kilosa districts leadership teams in sensitising and preparing prospective farmers and surrounding communities for the grand economic opportunity.

Detailing the number of benefits to be accrued from the expansion project, Rugaimukamu said sugarcane revenue earned by Kilombero growers is also set to rise from 63 billion/- during the 2018/19 season to more than 141 billion/- per annum when the project becomes operational.

Similarly, the government will earn up to 50 billion/- in total additional taxes. This will go along with over 2,200 new employment opportunities along the sugar value chain.

"The project will positively impact the lives of an additional 50,000 Tanzanians living in the Kilombero valley. This is because the expansion is based on obtaining sugarcane mainly from the small growers and hence becoming a model for rural livelihoods transformation," he said.

This conjures well with President John Magufuli's desire to build an industrialised economy typical to that of a middle income one in line with Tanzania's Vision 2025.



Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation Deputy Minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (R) gets a briefing from Veridoc Global director Alex Mhagama when he visited 15th Southern Africa civil society forum in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Pinda urges certification agency to shun bureaucracy

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has called upon the government certification agency to avoid bureaucracy to enable more Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to obtain services.

Speaking at John Mwakangale agricultural exhibition grounds in Mbeya, Pinda said more should be done to ensure that SMEs are supported to meet their goals.

He congratulated farmers in southern highlands for their decision to add value to their crops urging them

to visit TBS offices for certification.

Pinda said officials from the bureau must avoid bureaucracy which could hinder the growth of Small and Medium entrepreneurs.

"I have visited your stalls and I'm happy for the development reached in processing foods and packaging materials. What you lack is a mark of quality standards", he said

Pinda said SMEs must be supported in order to realise their dreams and that of President John Magufuli in industrial drive.

Speaking at SAGCOT stall within the grounds the TBS quality assurance

officer, Yekonia Sanga, told SMEs that the decision by government to assign new roles from the former TFDA would reduce challenges facing them.

He said from now onwards, SMEs who want to conduct food business will have to forward their requests to the bureau.

"We will inspect the building immediately and issue a licence if you meet the requirements, he said.

He added that for the new small and medium entrepreneurs will continue to certify their products free of charge for three years, but they have to channel their requests through SIDO.

For her part, Rhoda Mayugu, the TBS marketing officer said they participated in this year's exhibition in Mbeya to educate producers on various issues related to standards.

She said they also used the opportunity to inform them on the new roles assigned from TFDA and free services that available for SMEs to enable them compete at any markets.

The one week exhibition which attracted farmers, manufacturers from Mbeya Iringa, Ruvuma and Rukwa regions was opened by Ruvuma Regional Commissioner Christina Mndeme.



Request for Quotations (RFQ)

RFQ No. 1767

FOR

LEASING OF OFFICE SPACE IN MTWARA

Due Date and Time for Receipt of Offers: Wednesday, 28th August, 2019 - 11:00 AM

Jhpiego (pronounced "ja-pie-go"), is an international non-profit health organization affiliated with the Johns Hopkins University.

For more than 40 years and in over 40 countries, Jhpiego has empowered front-line health workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families. By putting evidence-based health innovations into everyday practice, Jhpiego works to break down barriers to high-quality health care for the world's most vulnerable populations. Jhpiego's focus is on training and support for health care providers-including doctors, nurses, midwives and health educators working in limited-resource settings throughout Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jhpiego's program management strategy recognizes the technical complexity and geographical, cultural, socio-economic and political diversity among our programs. We develop global program initiatives and technical interventions that can be adapted for country-specific applications. In support of this field-driven philosophy, Jhpiego uses a decentralized organizational structure that consists of a global "delivery system" designed to implement the entire portfolio of Jhpiego awards with assistance from key technical, programmatic and administrative staff.

Jhpiego Tanzania office hereby invites interested companies/firm/property owners to submit quotations/offers for leasing of office space in Mtwara Town to be used as SAUTI Office for two years on renewable contract basis.

The property should have the following features: -

100 square meter and a reception area. It should also have a shaded car parking area which can accommodate a minimum of 4 vehicles at once, a toilet, a kitchen area, working Air Conditioning unit in each room and a generator with enough KVA to run the ACs and computers. The property/building should also be easily accessible by road throughout the year and should have access to running water and water storage facilities. The building should be fenced, well maintained and in a good condition. Bidders should also submit within their proposals/bids a copy of certificate of occupancy. Proposals submitted should be costed per our requirement and not in square meters. Upon submission of offers, the most responsive bidders will be visited for physical verification.

Interested bidders should provide all the legal documents for the proposed building to be rented. A prospective company/firm/property owner having any question regarding this RFQ shall send an email prior to the due date and time for submission of offers to the following address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org.

All quotation/offers in sealed envelopes or by e-mail, properly filled in, and enclosed in envelopes marked with "RFQ 1767 for Leasing of office space in Mtwara" on top must be delivered to the address given below before Wednesday 28th August, 2019 at 11:00 AM. Quotations submitted by email should be sent to the following email address: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org.

Jhpiego reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation/offer(s), and to annul the bidding process and reject all quotation/offer(s) at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to companies/firm/property owners. Jhpiego is under no obligation to accept the lowest quotation/offer (s).

Late quotation/offer(s), quotation/offer(s) not received shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances. Offers must be delivered on or before the due date to: TZ-Jhpiegobids@jhpiego.org or

Country Director,
Jhpiego Tanzania.

Plot No. 72, Block 45B, Victoria Area, New Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 9170, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: +255 756 888 388

The Guardian Limited

VACANCY

Freelancer Sales Executive

The Guardian Limited is looking for self driven sales personnel to join our advertising Sales Team in **Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Tabora, Pwani, Ruvuma, Katavi and Rukwa**

Responsibilities

- Be responsible for aggressive development of new clients and growing existing business.
- Proactively develop new business avenues
- Devise and monitor business plans to ensure substantive sales
- Develop strategic solutions that meet the unique needs of each client

Qualifications

- The position requires someone who can deliver the set targets within deadlines under competitive working environment.
- Applicants need to be highly organized, self-motivated with a positive attitude, and can thrive on setting and reaching new goals.
- Holders of a University degree or Diploma in Business Administration
- Experience in Sales and Marketing is an added advantage

NOTE: This is a commission Based Position

Deadline: 20th August 2019

All applicants should specify the region they are applying for and send their application via Email to vacancy@guardian.co.tz before 20th August, 2019.

TCCIA posts 366.57 million/- profit in 2018

By Guardian Reporter

THE TCCIA Investment Public Limited Company said in Dar es Salaam recently that it bagged post-tax profit of 366.57 million/- in 2018 compare to 246.57 million/- realised in 2017 and 154.17 million /-obtained in 2016.

The company's performance report presented before the year's annual general meeting, says the company is doing well despite an unfriendly business environment.

The report says the company's revenue went up from 1,086.6 in 2016 to

1426.7 million/- in 2017. The company's capital also increased from 27,805.92 million/- in 2016 to 30,379.26 in 2017, it says, adding that in 2017 the value of the shares owned by the company increased by 2,726.44.

Then the board chairman, Fortunatus M. Magambo said it was good news again. He reported that during the year that ended December 2018 the company's profit before tax decreased by 44 per cent to 195.78 million/- compared to 2017 due to lower dividends income and increased costs. However, the after-tax-profit

increased by 49 per cent to 366.57 million/- as a result of recognising tax credits relating to incomes from dividends. During the reporting period the Company diversified about 20 per cent (4.3 billion/-) of its equity portfolio into government bonds which boosted interest income significantly to absorb the declining dividends incomes.

The chairman also told the meeting that the portfolio of the company's equity investments suffered total depreciation in value by 2,030 million/- this is after taking into account the disposal of 110,000 TBL shares during

the period. This was due to share price depreciation which affected most of the DSE listed companies where the company holds stake.

He assured the shareholders that steps were being taken to optimise the company's returns on equity.

The meeting approved a dividend of 2.54 per share for the year ending December 31, 2018, the same rate paid to shareholders for the year ending December 2017.

The firm has shares in some of the companies whose shares listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE)

including NMB, CRDB Bank, Dar es Salaam Commercial Bank (DCB), TWIGA Cement, SIMBA Cement, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL), Swiss Port, and Tanzania Cigarette Company (TCC).

TCCIA Investment PLC is among a few companies contributing significantly in efforts of eradicating poverty among members by creating wealth. Since the company was established in 2005, its performance from the word go has been impressive to the extent of winning the confidence of shareholders in the country.



The meeting approved a dividend of 2.54 per share for the year ending December 31, 2018, the same rate paid to shareholders for the year ending December 2017



Estim construction workers at work along Morogoro Road section of Kimara - Kibaha of a dual carriageway phase one including the construction of Kibamba, Kiluvya and Mpji bridges as captured by our photographer at Kimara Temboni in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

PM Kassim Majaliwa to grace International Youth Day today

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is today expected to grace the International Youth Day, nationally marked in Dodoma and expected to bring together over 500 youths from Tanzania mainland and Isles.

Globally the day is marked on 12 August every year and was first designated International Youth Day by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1999.

It serves as an annual celebration of the role of young women and men as essential partners in change, and an opportunity to raise awareness of challenges and problems facing the world's youth.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tanzania's programme manager, adolescent and youth development, Dr Majaliwa Marwa noted that Tanzania celebrates the event today because the 12th August global event coincided with Eid el Hajj celebrations and other national

matters.

He said the today's event to be followed by the youth conference tomorrow will see participants discuss various issues affecting youths in the country and how to solve them.

"The event will provide opportunity for youths to air their concerns and challenges, some of which might get response from the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, the guest of honour," he said.

Majaliwa also noted that the 20th anniversary celebrations is under the theme "Transforming education" is in line with the fourth Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that is to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

"Inclusive education can respond to challenges facing young people like maternal health, life skills in efforts to attaining the SDGs," said Majaliwa.

He added that tomorrow, the youth conference to be held at Changombe area in the city would see young

people showcase their skills as well as entertainment.

The event will take place alongside the UNFPA's 50th anniversary. It has been organised in collaboration with other stakeholders working on the youth matters such as the ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA, among others.

Ridhione Juma, outreach coordinator at the restless development, one of the local NGOs that is also involved in organising the event while speaking yesterday said that the event is important in bringing young people together.

He stated that his organisation was involved in reaching school based youths in a one week event that preceded the national celebration. This he noted was done in Dar es Salaam, Njombe and Dodoma regions.

"It is prudent that the youth take the occasion and freely discuss issues affecting them," he said, adding that there are many challenges that hinder them from contributing effectively in nation building.

10,000 entrepreneurs from Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions benefit from training on entrepreneurship

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

OVER 10,000 entrepreneurs in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions have benefited from training on entrepreneurship provided by Hand in Hand Eastern Africa Tanzania.

Hand in Hand Eastern Africa is a non-government organization which operates in Tanzania, Kenya and Rwanda with the aim to developing enterprises that consequently will lead to the creation of sustainable jobs among the marginalised population.

Hand in Hand Eastern Africa Arusha branch manager, Jane Sabuni said that apart from education, entrepreneurs have also been linked to markets of their merchandises.

Jane said that the entrepreneurs have

been involved in various activities after been facilitated by the organisation through various training, including financial management.

He said that the main reason was to empower entrepreneurs to overcome poverty through establishment of small businesses and the creating employment opportunities for others.

"We have set a target of reaching more than 10,000 entrepreneurs annually in the regions of Arusha and Kilimanjaro," she said.

Jane added that the training provided focus on how to add value to their products in order to compete well in the markets.

The manager explained that they have been able to teach the

entrepreneurs new technologies on how to make charcoal by using banana leaves without polluting the environment.

She also challenged entrepreneurs to look for the best knowledge and skills on how to use the loans before applying for them so that they run businesses smoothly and be able to repay back the loans.

One of the beneficiaries deals with soap making Selenina Wilson said the agency had greatly empowered her economically and her business is growing.

Selina said the biggest challenge facing them was the lack of packaging materials, requesting the agency to offer them training on how to make them.



JOB VACANCIES

Management and Development for Health (MDH) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization whose primary aim is to contribute to address public health priorities of Tanzania and world at large. The priorities include: HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria; Reproductive, Maternal, New-born and Child health (RMNCH), Nutrition; Non-Communicable Diseases of public health significance; as well as Health System Strengthening. MDH strongly believes in and works in partnership various local and global institutions, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDEGEC); President's Office Regional Authorities and Local Government (PORALG); donor agencies; as academic and non-academic institutions; implementing partners; civil society, community-based and faith-based organizations and others. MDH seeks to recruit qualified individuals to fill the following vacancies which will require significant field work and travel up to 80% of the time.

1. DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER (DPM): Afya Kwanza project- 4 Posts; Kagera and Geita Reports to Regional Project Manager (RPM)

Duties and Responsibilities

- To lead and oversee planning, implementation, M&E, and reporting of the Afya Kwanza project work-plan and other MDH supported activities at council(s) level
- To lead implementation of key initiatives to address program, donor, and national priorities - such as index HIV testing, and focused PITC - in line with national guidelines
- To ensure efficient utilization of Afya Kwanza project resources and compliance with donor and government regulations
- To actively participate in and provide technical assistance (TA) to the District Medical Officer (DMO) and District AIDS Control Coordinator (DACC), Council Health Management Team (CHMT) and supported health facilities in planning, implementation, M&E, and reporting of HIV and related health programs, including the Council Comprehensive Health Plan (CCHP)
- To participate in strategic dialogue with council authorities on project issues on behalf of the RPM
- To conduct needs assessment, on HIV and related programs and services in her/his council(s) and organize efforts to address these needs - including in areas of capacity building and health system strengthening - in collaboration with the RPM, DMO and DACC
- To identify, engage and facilitate strategic collaboration with existing and new partners, in HIV and related services so as to maximize impact of Afya Kwanza project activities in the council(s)
- To work with the RPM and Grants Officer to develop and oversee sub-grantees plans and budgets, as well as ensure optimum resource allocation and utilization and compliance with donor and government regulations
- To ensure timely collection and submission of national HIV services and program data - as well as support strengthening of the related M&E systems - in collaboration with the M&E team
- Lead efforts to robustly analyse and utilize program data to inform plans, priorities and resource allocation and write reports, best practices and lessons learned for wider dissemination
- To lead efforts to identify gaps in HIV and related programs and services; design and implement operational research (OR), PHEs, secondary data analyses and CQI initiatives to address the gaps
- To implement and manage capacity building program, for HIV and related service providers; capitalizing on supportive supervision, mentorship, and on-job training
- To supervise program staff in respective council(s)
- To actively participate in writing technical program documents including project proposals, work-plans, reports, best practices, lessons learned and other relevant documents, as required by the RPM.
- To support and advise the RPM on Afya Kwanza program implementation and related issues in her/his respective council(s) and perform other relevant duties as assigned by the RPM

Requirements: Education, work experience and skills

- Medical Doctor degree with current Medical Council of Tanzania registration
- Master's degree in Public Health or related field is an added advantage.
- At least 3 years of experience working in public health programs/ services
- At least 3 years of experience in design, implementation, management and M&E of HIV or related clinical and public health programs and services
- Experience in using CQI, PHE and OR techniques to address public health challenges
- Excellent command of Swahili and English languages, in written and oral communication
- Experience in basic computer applications such as MS Word, Excel, Power point and internet
- Ability to work under pressure and stringent deadlines

2. GENERAL SERVICE DRIVERS-for TB Global Fund: 3 Posts-Ruvuma, Simiyu & Dodoma Reporting to the Zonal Project Officers.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Drive the project vehicle safely; transporting authorized personnel/passengers.
- Maintain a clean record of all journeys, daily mileage, fuel consumption, oil changes and greasing.
- Ensure day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, perform minor repairs
- Comply with laws and regulations for safe driving.
- Observe the safety and security procedures.
- Ensure that all accessories of the vehicles are maintained and checked at all times.
- Keep a valid driving License and the vehicle's insurance up to date all the time.
- Perform all other duties as may be assigned by the immediate supervisor.

Requirements: Education, work experience and skills

- Secondary School education is essential
- Driving Certificate from a recognized institution
- Keen on the wellbeing of the given vehicle
- Honest, Trustworthy, and able to maintain confidentiality.
- At least 5 years of work experience as driver
- Ability to record and keep trip information as trained
- Ability and willingness to work for long hours even outside working hours.

TO APPLY:

Interested candidates for any of the above positions should submit an application letter indicating clearly the position applied for and district, a detailed copy of their CV, and names and contact information (email addresses and telephone numbers) of three work related referees. MDH don't have any agents and don't charge any fees to the interested candidates.

Applications should be submitted by **21st August, 2019**, to the Director of Human Resource through e-mail hr@mdh-tz.org or dropped by hand at the MDH Head Office in Mikocheni, along Mwai Kibaki Road, Plot No. 802.

Kindly note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Chilende primary calls upon stakeholders to improve the school's learning environment

By Beatrice Philemon

CHILENDE Primary School is in need of four classrooms to improve teaching and learning environment at the school located 68km from Newala District's headquarters in Mtwara Region.

The school management is appealing to education stakeholders and well-wishers to chip-in and build the classrooms.

School head teacher, Ahmad Chilumba made the call when speaking to a group of journalists, who visited the school recently to see what has been done by ActionAid Tanzania to support education development since it was started to implement the Local Rights Programme (LPR) in Tandahimba and Newala district in 2002 to date.

He said: "The school is in need of four classrooms for the school to provide better teaching and learning environment for 184 pupils."

He said right now Standard Five and Six are forced to share one classroom that is overcrowded, Standard One and Two are forced to go to school on shift,

nursery school children are forced to study under the tree, while Standard Three, Four and Seven have their own classrooms.

Lack of space, affects Standard Five and Six because they don't get enough time to study, while others spent a day in classroom without studying, because the classrooms is overcrowded.

He said that things become worse during rains for Standard One and nursery pupils, who are currently studying under the tree.

Although ActionAid Tanzania has built two classrooms and one staffroom, they still need four classrooms to provide better teaching and learning environments for students, two pit latrines for students, three teacher's house, 20 desks, 12 tables, 12 chairs and four school cupboards.

Before the ActionAid Tanzania's intervention, the school buildings were made of mud walls and grass-thatched roofs.

He however commended ActionAid Tanzania for the support, which has improved pupil's performances in their final examinations at the school.



Food and Nutrition processor Dorice Assenga (L) explains about nutrition supplements obtained from flour to INFOY coordinator Laurent Sabuni at the nutrition exhibition in Arusha yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Environmental stakeholders embark on new campaign to make Dar City clean

By Getrude Mbage

TWO local environmental organisations, Nipe Fagio and Open Map Development Tanzania have collaborated with the Institutions for Inclusive Development (I4ID) to develop an interactive map of informal dumpsites, waste "hot-spots", polluting rivers, and informal settlements to enable easy collection of garbage.

Reports shows that, while Dar es Salaam has the potential to be one of

the most beautiful cities in the world, a wave of rapid economic development has brought a host of service delivery challenges to the waste sector: As little as 40 percent of household waste finding a way to the city's dumpsite.

Speaking during stakeholders workshop yesterday in Dar es Salaam, Innocent Maholi, the director of Open Map Development Tanzania said that they are now in initial stages to research and develop the map which upon completion will support the

government's and stakeholders efforts in making Dar es Salaam city clean.

According to him, the workshop brought stakeholders from various public and private institutions (environment) met to discuss better ways and technology on proper waste management in a move aimed to make the commercial city clean. He said that between April and July 2019, the organization conducted over thirty-five drone flights, in Dar es Salaam and along seven of its rivers as part of the

development of the "TrashMap".

According to Maholi, the "TrashMap" provides a comprehensive overview of the city's waste "hot-spots", responsible for clogging up Dar's rivers and waterways and magnifying flood risks across the city.

Speaking during the workshop, one of the stakeholders Sawe Siwaria cited weak coordination of waste management and recycling activities stands as a major barriers towards making Dar es Salaam city clean.

He urged the government to come with a proper or specific system of waste management which includes forming environmental committees in local areas.

"The system among others should focus on enhanced and more inclusive waste collection services along Dar es Salaam's riverside communities; better informed transport and infrastructure planning in unplanned settlements; enhanced advocacy and citizen compliance through streamlined

mechanisms to identify, report and target waste "hot-spots"; and holistic waste recovery and recycling solutions to keep waste out of rivers."

For his part, Abdon Mapunda, the head of department (Environmental Conservation and Waste management) Ilala Municipal Council commended the organisations and supporting partners for coming up with the interactive map which will help waste management companies to easily know and collect wastes.

FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

The Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) project is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy funded through USAID. The project goal is to accelerate Tanzania's adoption of more effective policies and programs in order to drive broad-based agricultural sector growth, improve household food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty. The project is implemented by Michigan State University (MSU) through ASPIRES Tanzania. ASPIRES is registered as an NGO in Tanzania.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASPIRES Tanzania would like to recruit candidates for the positions described below, subject to availability of funds.

1. DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY (DCOP)

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Coordinate with the Chief of Party in management of the technical components, providing programmatic leadership and overseeing the strategic planning of activities in support of the project goals and objectives, including the determination of project priorities and appropriate technical initiatives
- Oversee policy research and analytical studies
- Ensure results-oriented technical components and high-quality and timely deliverables and reports, focusing on synergistic coordination of all technical areas
- Advise national counterparts on technical issues and participate in relevant advisory and/or working groups with counterparts, partner institutions, the Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) and all other local stakeholders
- Represent the project in public and professional circles through meetings, conferences, and presentations
- Develop and modify as necessary the technical work plans and budget
- Coordinate activities with other agencies and closely collaborate with key staff on implementing activities
- Ensure technical compliance with USAID rules and regulations
- Work closely with MSU home office to ensure effective, timely and coordinated project implementation
- Focus on achieving results in all areas on schedule and maintain positive relationships with GoT officials, partners, and implementing partners
- Perform other duties as assigned by the CoP

Education and Experience

- A graduate degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Business Administration or related field
- At least 10 years of relevant work experience in agriculture, agribusiness development, research and policy
- Experience in development projects and administrative functions in institutions
- Excellent research and analytical skills and demonstrated experience in policy issues
- Effective verbal and written communications skills and he/she must be fluent in English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams
- Strong results orientation, demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, statistics software and spreadsheet software.
- Experience with donor-funded projects is desirable

2. FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Provide support to CoP and Head of Operations in-country financial leadership of ASPIRES
- Monitor budgets and expenditures for project activities
- Ensure that adequate financial controls are in place to maintain proper accountability of expenditures
- Ensure that financial transactions are properly authorized, recorded, have adequate supporting documentation, are maintained and can be easily extracted for the purpose of preparing financial statements and audits
- Ensure that all procurement processes and expenditures of the project are in accordance with MSU and project guidelines
- Prepare and submit timely and accurate financial reports according to ASPIRES and donors' policies
- Arrange for travel, hotel reservations and logistical support for project staff
- Provide administrative and logistical support for organization of events, conferences, visits, etc.
- Participate in meetings and prepare routine correspondence, memoranda and reports
- Other administrative/financial assignments as requested by the Chief of Party

Education and Experience

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business or equivalent is required
- A Certified Public Accountant (local or international) is desirable
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience in finance and administrative functions
- Excellent analytical skills and demonstrated experience in preparation of financial reports and working with budgets
- Effective verbal and written communications skills and he/she must be fluent in English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams
- Strong results orientation, demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, accounting packages and spreadsheet software
- Experience with donor-funded projects is desirable

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Applications should be submitted to: aspirestanzania@yahoo.com and copy to serabora@gmail.com. The application should include: a) Your CV with 3 names and addresses of referees; An application letter with 1-page Annex of the Statement of Purpose; and Copies of your academic certificates. The application deadline is COB August 30th, 2019.

ASPIRES will only respond to short-listed candidates. Thus, if you do not hear from us you should be aware that your application was not successful.



Zanzibar Deputy minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Makame Ali Ussi (C) speaks on Tuesday during the opening of a special training for animal and public health officers from across Tanzania supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) programme funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). On (R) is FAO representative to Tanzania, Fred Kafeero and (L) is Zanzibar's director of Animal Development Dr. Yussuf Khamis. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TMDA educates SADC regulators on manufacturing practices, inspection

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) is conducting a training to regulators from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to impart them with knowledge and skills on good manufacturing practices (GMP) and inspection of pharmaceutical products.

The 14 days training workshop to SADC regulators which is being held in Dar es Salaam has been organised by the SADC Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Coordinating Team with the support from World Bank.

In his opening address yesterday, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Zainab Chaula said the training will enhance the capacity of SADC regulators hence production of good quality products to be marketed within the bloc.

Dr Chaula urged member states to fast-track approval process for locally manufactured medicines to make them available within SADC.

"The government has developed a health policy to ensure it attains the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 that insists at achieving universal health coverage and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all," she said.

TMDA Acting Director General, Adam Fimbo said the training targets to sharpen skills of elementary staff who have recently joined or never attended such kind of educative training.

Fimbo said: "We expect them to grab the skills and apply them to ensure that medical products that are manufactured within SADC are of standard quality as per required specifications".

He revealed that Tanzania benefits with both SADC as well as

being a member of the East African Community (EAC) as the countries have harmonised some of the programmes and are working together in various matters related to regulation of medical products.

"Through harmonisation of various initiatives, we have been meeting regularly to discuss matters related to convergence of regulatory requirements with an objective of using a common and standardized approach," he said.

SADC Harmonisation Project Coordinator from Zimbabwe, Sakhile Mwedzi said the training aims at training the regulators to be able to address key issues affecting the health of people in their respective states.

"We train them to safeguard people in their nations and serve the region since we have become a global village. We want to maintain regional standards of our medicines", he noted.

Extension officers and agro-dealers urged to help farmers increase food crops productivity

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

EXTENSION officers and agro-dealers have been challenged to work closely so as to help farmers increase productivity for Tanzania to assure food security and create more employment opportunities in the agriculture sector.

In his speech to officiate African Fertilizer and Agribusiness Partnership (AFAP) Agro-Dealers Business Linkage Workshop here yesterday, Mwanza Regional Assistant Administrative Secretary (Economy and Production) Emil Kasagara said effective collaboration of the two in supporting farmers can unlock the potential of the country's agriculture.

Agricultural experts are not yet in the right track towards helping farmers practice modern agriculture to raise productivity a situation that can help fight poverty among them, he noted.

He said that nation uses its resources to produce the experts in colleges and universities so that after they graduate they can deliver and bring development in the country and not otherwise.

It is time for the experts to use their knowledge to assist farmers do away with problems they face in agriculture to promote industrialisation in the country, he said.

Country Director of AFAP, David Kijazi said that the workshop aims at making preparations for this year's agricultural season by sensitizing farmers on the use of fertilizers to

increase production.

Also to discuss on how to strengthen fertilizer and other agro-inputs distribution networks/channels for 2019/2020 season, planning for fertiliser demand creation activities in the Lake zone regions that is demonstration plots, farmer's field days and radio programmes as well as explore business opportunities, networking and business linkage between AFAP hub agro-dealers, their selected retailers and agro-input supply companies.

According to him, the workshop was also to build capacity for agro-dealers so that they can help farmers with advice as well as appropriate farm inputs required, among other things. He pointed out that a 5 year project targets to reach 120,000 farmers in the country and is now in the second phase.

One of the agro-dealers, Suzana Sabuni appealed to AFAP to link them with huge fertilizer manufacturing companies to give them capitals on loan basis to help them expand their businesses as lack of capitals is a challenge to them.

The participants included extension officers and agro-dealers from Geita, Mwanza, Simiyu, Tabora, Mara, Shinyanga and Kagera regions as well as agricultural researchers.

It is time for the experts to use their knowledge to assist farmers do away with problems they face in agriculture to promote industrialisation in the country



Exim Bank Tanzania marketing and communications manager Abdul Nkondo (in white cap) serves beverages to some of Dar es Salaam residents who volunteered in good number at Mbagala bus terminal in Dar es Salaam in yesterday to donate blood for survivors of the Saturday oil tanker explosion in Morogoro region. The three day blood donation initiative was organised by the bank in partnership with Tanzania National Blood Transfusion Service (NBT). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Mabula cautions land officials against delay in issuance of title deeds

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

DEPUTY Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development Angelina Mabula has warned that delay in issuance of title deeds is denying the government its required revenues thus calling on land officers to speed up the process.

During her official visit to Tabora, Mabula was annoyed by the slow pace of some land officers in issuing title deeds wanting them to change and be

serious.

Mabula found some 92 title deeds at Tabora Municipality that have taken long time to its completion.

"We will not tolerate officials who are not serious in their jobs, we want everyone to work hard and fulfill his or her responsibilities on time for the country's development... So the ministries will not hesitate to take disciplinary measures against officials failing to deliver," she said.

According to her, Tabora Municipal

council has failed to achieve its target of issuing 2000 title deeds in the year 2018/19 but managed to issue only 1200 title deeds.

She instructed the Tabora Municipal Council Director Bosco Ndunguru to issue a written warning to the municipal's Land Development Officer Daudi Msengi for failing to deliver.

Mabula wanted the work of issuing land title deeds to be done cooperatively by all land officers in the municipal council and stop leaving the

task to a single person.

The deputy minister pointed out that title deed certificates stands as security documents of a plot so it should be issued on time.

Deputy land commissioner for Western Zone Idrisa Kayera said that the pace of land surveying in Tabora Municipal council had increased compared to previous years due to improvements done by the government as well as the increase of awareness among members of the public.



Vodacom Tanzania marketing manager Noel Mazoya speaks to 22 youth from 16 countries who visited the firm's headquarters in Dar es Salaam yesterday under the Young Global Pioneers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

New modern eye surgery launches in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM-based eye hospital has introduced new modern eye surgery in Dar whereby a person with low vision problems can undergo surgery and continue living without spectacles dependence during his lifetime.

According to International Eye Hospital's Manager, Adam Mwatima, this kind of surgery is new in Tanzania and it is also not available in many African countries while it is popular in United States and European countries with more than 40 million patients already operated on.

He said this procedure is known as Laser assisted in Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) and Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) which has been in use for more than 30 years.

He said they introduced the surgery May this year and some patients who underwent such kind of new surgery at International Eye Hospital are doing well and they don't need spectacles or contact lens to support their vision anymore.

"We are happy to introduce to you PRK and LASIK surgery with professional and experienced team of eye specialists with more than 30 years in the field," he said.

"We decided to introduce this service here in Tanzania because of great demand from different patients, this will help to reduce cost for patients and their escorts as before they had to travel abroad to find such kind of surgery," he said.

"Introduction of PRK and LASIK surgery in Tanzania is also to support our government's vision to make sure all treatment of different diseases are available here in Tanzania and we believe by doing this it will boost country's medical tourism to attract people from East Africa and all other countries at large to come to Tanzania instead of travelling abroad to look for such surgery," he said.

Adam said, International Eye Hospital has started to provide such surgery at a very affordable price of 50 percent discount to make sure that many Tanzanians use this opportunity to be free from spectacles and contact lens dependence.

Dr Aydin Yildirim, Eye specialist at International Eye Hospital, said PRK and LASIK eye procedures take only few minutes with very low chances of complications like blurred vision and light sensitivity which disappears in a few days.

Dr Aydin said PRK and LASIK eye surgery is a painless procedure which

give freedom from dependence of spectacles and contact lens.

"It is the doctor who decide whether to use LASIK or PRK surgery after patient investigation but the most important thing is that after surgery the patient is free from spectacles dependence on his or her lifetime.


"We as International Eye Hospital are proud to be the first to provide this important service to our fellow Tanzanians at affordable cost," he said.

One Patient who underwent that surgery identified as Mustafa Lakhu said he was convinced to undergo such surgery by his friend because of the experienced doctor Aydin who has successfully done 30,000 plus surgeries.

Before the surgery Mustafa was uncomfortable because it was necessary for him to carry spectacles everywhere he goes but after the surgery he feels comfortable and he can move around without spectacles.

"So many thanks to International EYE Hospital and doctor Aydin who made my surgery successfully, it took short time, no pain at all, very smooth process and the best service...before the surgery I was worried about the recovery time but it didn't take time because I got a clear vision in five days only.

DAR ES SALAAM STOCK EXCHANGE PLC



DSE
Creating Opportunities

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 2018

The Board of Directors of Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange PLC (DSE) is delighted to announce that the Annual General Meeting of shareholders held on 9th August, 2019, approved the declaration of dividend of TZS 36.90 per issued and fully paid up shares in line with the Company's Dividend Policy. The total dividend of TZS 879,105,600 will be paid out.

Pursuant to the dividend payment declaration, the timetable for dividend payment shall be as follows:

Announcement of Dividend Payment:	15th August, 2019
Trading of Shares cum Dividend:	15th August – 3rd September, 2019
Trading of Shares Ex-Dividend:	4th September, 2019 onwards
Closure of the Members Register:	6th September, 2019
Dividend Payment on/or about:	20th September, 2019

Dividend will be paid directly to shareholders bank accounts or mobile wallet, for those who have provided banking information or telephone numbers. Shareholders are requested to communicate their bank account/mobile wallet information to the Registrar:

**CSD & Registry Company Limited (CSDR),
2nd Floor, Kambarage House, 6 Ufukoni Street,
P.O. Box 70081,
DAR ES SALAAM.**

Telephone: 0746160516 / 0677070414
Email: registrar@csdr.co.tz

Digital innovation should indeed ease fraud in financial institutions

DIGITAL transformation is the use of new, fast and frequently changing digital solutions. Some of these digital solutions enable in addition to efficiency via automation - new types of innovation and creativity, rather than simply enhancing. In the same vein, digital transformation is the profound transformation of business and organisational activities, processes, competencies and models to fully leverage the changes and opportunities of a mix of digital technologies and their accelerating impact across society in a strategic and prioritised way, with present and future.

Although recent advancements in digital technology have made banking more efficient, digital innovations have also made it easier for criminals to defraud unsuspecting customers, stakeholders have cautioned.

Participants in the week-long East African Banking School, a regional conference organized jointly by institutes of bankers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have been cautioned that new technology in the financial sector has brought along new problems, including digital criminal syndicates.

Benard Kibesse, Deputy Governor at the Bank of Tanzania, said that various new innovations are being introduced in financial services everyday with the promise of more convenient services for the customer and a more modern and efficient workplace for bank employees.

Kibesse pointed out that the same people behind such innovations sometimes collude with racketeers targeting the financial sector, with the theme of this year's EA Banking School being 'the role of ethics in the digital age of financial services.'

The top BoT official said that innovations have brought about a number of concerns among various stakeholders, as pertaining regulations don't exist for some potential infringements.

Rising cases of tech-related fraud in recent years are seen in other sectors

as well, but the financial segment is not only more lucrative but also cross-cuts into them all, he elaborated.

The main part of monetary transactions in Tanzania and other East African countries are nowadays being executed digitally through mobile handsets, he stated.

It was observed during the conference that banks are currently moving their customers 'out of their banking halls and onto their digital and agent systems,' by extending alternative channels while downsizing their branch networks and capacity and in some cases eliminating some services from the banking hall.

For his part, Patrick Mususa, Executive Director of the Tanzania Institute of Bankers (TIOB) said the organization has 8000 members, and it makes efforts to ensure that they are all well trained and kept up to date on new developments.

But for workers in the banking sector things are far from being rosy, participants said, noting that digital developments are driving whole business and functional units to be restructured, downsized or totally scrapped.

As a result, employees are either being re-assigned or being made redundant without employers articulating company policies or set out plans for treatment of staff who are at risk of redundancy or redeployment.

Gilbert Ommbongo, Executive Director for the Kenya Institute of Bankers said citizens of East Africa still do not trust financial institutions and unless the banks work to build trust, people will shun away from the institutions. "This is a major concern because the economy can only grow when citizens deposit their money in local banks," he declared.

The banking school serves as a forum where bankers from the region, through presentation of researched papers by top bankers and other invited speakers, dialogue on a range of issues that impact on their careers and the financial services environment in general.

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Patriarchy by any other (man's) name

By Pierre De Vos

SOUTH African law no longer requires the automatic changing of a woman's surname when she marries a man - yet officials are still making the change...

Most South Africans still assume that a woman who marries a man will change her surname to that of her spouse. This patriarchal practice is so deeply embedded in our culture that officials at the Department of Home Affairs regularly break the law, changing the surnames of newly married women to that of their husbands - even when a woman instructs the department not to. To make things worse, the legislation dealing with surname changes is sexist and unconstitutionally discriminates against women on the basis of sex/gender.

In a patriarchal society in which rigid and exploitative gender roles are often imposed on (married) women - who are often expected to do all the housework and most or all of the child-rearing - it is not immediately apparent why women with an independent income would marry a man. Unless their partner is that unique man who opposes patriarchy and works tirelessly to resist its privileges, a woman might be better off not getting married at all.

Of course, marriage is not necessarily about making a logical choice after weighing up the pros and cons of getting married. Even if marriage entailed such a logical assessment, many women would still choose to marry out of respect for their culture and traditions, or for fear of family rejection or because of the (doubtful) belief that marriage provides security.

Nevertheless, there is a sharp increase in women in some prosperous countries who postpone or forgo marriage altogether, raising the question of whether some women marry men because their financial circumstances make other options more difficult to pursue. The example of Japan is instructive here. The New York Times reported over the weekend, that an increased number of women in Japan reject "the traditional path that leads to what many now regard as a life of domestic drudgery. The percentage of women who work in Japan is higher than ever, yet cultural norms have not caught up: Japanese wives and mothers are still typically expected to bear the brunt of the housework, childcare and help ageing relatives, a factor that stymies many of their careers."

Consequently, in Japan today nearly a quarter of women aged 35 to 39 have never married, compared with about 10% two decades earlier.

I have not found similar statistics for South Africa, although Stats South Africa recently announced that half of South African marriages don't last



beyond 10 years, suggesting that the ideology of marriage does not have as strong a hold on us as it used to. What we do know is that a number of women who get married choose to retain their own surnames. But when such a woman marries a man, the Department of Home Affairs often changes her surname automatically to that of her husband.

In a recent opinion piece, Sarah Wild pointed out that the Department of Home Affairs often changes the surname of a woman who marries a man - even when that woman ticks the box on the requisite form stating she wants to keep her birth surname. Wild reported she had found more than 200 newly married women who had had their surnames changed, despite ticking the box. Worse, at least one woman reported that a Home Affairs official claimed that a woman had to get her husband's permission to change her name back to the original.

The problem does not only lie with the patriarchal attitudes of officials at the Department of Home Affairs who assume there must be something wrong with a woman who does not want to "belong" to her husband by taking his surname. The problem starts with section 26(1) of the Births and Deaths Registration Act which assumes that women will take their husbands' surnames.

Section 26(a) prohibits any person from assuming another surname, except when:

- a woman after her marriage assumes the surname of the man with whom she concluded such marriage or after having assumed his or her surname, resumes a surname which she bore at any prior time;

- a married or divorced woman or a widow resumes a surname which she bore at any prior time; and

a woman, whether married or divorced, or a widow adds to the surname which she assumed after the marriage, any surname which she bore at any prior time.

These provisions are gendered and assume that women will change their surnames to that of their husbands and husbands will never change their surnames to that of their wives. If you are a man wishing to change your surname to that of your wife, you have to lodge a special application with the director-general who can approve or reject the application. I contend that section 26 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act unfairly discriminates against individuals on the basis of sex/gender in contravention of section 9(3) of the Constitution.

As any constitutional law student knows, the Constitutional Court first fully formulated the test for section 9(3) in the case of *Harksen v Lane*. The test focuses on the potential impact of the legal provision on the group complaining of unfair discrimination. In exceptional cases, the purpose for the discrimination can be so important that it would trump consideration for those affected by the discrimination. This is not such a case. First, section 26 reinforces the patriarchal assumption that a wife "belongs" to her husband and is thus forced to take his name and respect his authority. This is an assumption that many officials in the Department of Home Affairs seem to share. Moreover, in a patriarchal society, women - also or even especially married women - are particularly vulnerable and open to exploitation and abuse by men, adding to the intensity of the harm.

To make things worse for those who might wish to defend the constitutionality of section 26, the only possible purpose for retaining section 26 of the statute books is to protect

and promote the patriarchal view that wives belong to husbands and must take their surnames.

The argument that the provision has a practical purpose as it makes it easier for everyone - especially the children - if a mother and father have the same surname, will not fly. If this was the reason for section 26, why not change it to assume that husbands take the surname of their wives? After all, wives still disproportionately serve as a primary caregiver for children, so it would make sense if the children take a wife's surname and not the surname of the (often absent) father.

In 2010, in response to the adoption of the Civil Union Act which provides, among other things, for the solemnisation of same-sex marriages, the words "he", "him" and "his", wherever they occur, were replaced with the words "he or she", "him or her" and "his or her", respectively. On a first reading, section 26(1)(a) now makes little sense as it still talks of a woman marrying a man, but then refers to the husband as "his or her".

I can't imagine our courts would do that, but it is also possible to argue that the 2010 amendments have turned this reactionary provision into a profoundly progressive provision by completely scrambling the distinction between man and woman. If the section says a man can be "his" or "hers", the very boundary between his or hers breaks down and we are approaching a place where the law starts to recognise the fluidity of gender or at least the absurdity of recognising only male and female as legal sex/gender categories.

In the absence of such a queer reading of section 26, it must be clear that the section is unconstitutional. What is surprising is that 25 years after sex/gender discrimination was outlawed by the Constitution, this provision remains on the statute books.

We warmly welcome Singapore's record seizure of pangolin scales and ivory tusks

IVORY is a hard, white material from the tusks traditionally elephants' and teeth of animals, that consists mainly of dentine, one of the physical structures of teeth and tusks. It has been valued since ancient times in art or manufacturing for making a range of items from ivory carvings to false teeth, piano keys, fans, dominoes and joint tubes. The national and international trade in ivory of threatened species such as African and Asian elephants is illegal.

Singapore has announced a record seizure of pangolin scales and ivory tusks made last weekend after authorities there uncovered three containers filled with 11.9 tonnes of pangolin scales and 8.8 tonnes of elephant ivory that were shipped from the DRC and headed for Viet Nam. The seizure took place after China Customs officers shared relevant intelligence with the Singapore authorities following the recent arrest of 12 people on suspicion of wildlife trafficking in China.

"We warmly welcome this example of international enforcement co-operation, which is essential if the activities of wildlife traffickers are to be curtailed, while collaborative follow up investigations should provide real insight into the organised crime gang involved," said Steven Broad, Executive Director of TRAFFIC.

Singapore's National Parks Board (NParks), Customs and the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) inspected the shipment that was said to contain timber, according to the bill of lading.

A NParks said the scales were assessed to be from close to 2,000 Giant Pangolins *Smutsia gigantea* while the ivory would have derived from hundreds of African Elephants *Loxodonta africana*.

This is Singapore's largest seizure of elephant ivory to date, eclipsing their previous record of 7.12 tonnes in 2002, which was long considered the largest ivory seizure worldwide since 1989 when detailed record keeping began. The 237 bags of scales found on Sunday brings the total to 37.5 tonnes of African pangolin scales seized in the island nation this year alone.

TRAFFIC's data analysis showed key Southeast Asian countries from 2017 to 2019 where shipments of illicit wildlife products exported from DRC were destined or intercepted as Malaysia, Viet Nam, Thailand, with Singapore recently joining the list.

Viet Nam's role has once again been thrown into sharp relief: the country topped the list, receiving a total of over 20 tonnes of trafficked ivory and pangolin scales, including a single seizure of 9.1 tonnes of African elephant tusks discovered in Da Nang's Tien Sa port in March 2019 from the Matadi port in the DRC - the largest ivory seizure on record globally.

The DRC's role as a critical exit point from Africa is also highlighted following the Singapore enforcement action. Over 66 tonnes of illicit ivory and pangolin scale shipments seized worldwide between 2017-2019 originated from the DRC. At least 2,469 kg of ivory and pangolin scales were also seized within the DRC in 2017 and 2018, in 17 incidents.

Such seizures, including the latest in Singapore, point to the persistence of large-scale trafficking in ivory and pangolins from Africa to Southeast Asia. Apart from Sunday's seizure, Singapore has seized close to 30 tonnes of pangolin scales and ivory from just four incidents since 2018, all of which originated from Nigeria and were reportedly heading to Viet Nam.

Levels of integration and national identity: How far can SADC states go?

By Ani Jozeni

A LINGERING paradox of regional integration as well as the wider dream of continental unification was spelt out in the early 1960s, and while plenty has changed, a certain element of it remains, relating to social structures. At that time the problem was more profound as it was a debate on whether nations ought to exist or just one continental government, as Dr Kwame Nkrumah was convinced that if this strategic measure is not taken, internal conflicts shall sap the necessary energy for continental unity. But if it had been taken, chaos would set in and civil war.

At present no such contentions exist as nation states are facts of life, so the primary political identity is that of the nation, or the country, and inside it there are subsidiary identities essentially of race, tribe, language and religion. Integration can be affected by routine quibbles of identity that disrupt unity

in a country but at the same time it can blend with integration, as solid unity isn't always a panacea for unity. A wider identity helps to offload some national unity problems when spirits are calmed by new roles, or attain a greater standing in a wider area, a greater ego.

The question that ought to be posed or checked for the facts relating to it is under what sort of circumstance a country is ready to move forward with integration, thus what determines that kind of outlook. This problem was raised in the mid-1960s owing to the failure of East African states to federate, which ended in blame throwing as at each stage there was a culprit. Tanganyika was ready for federation right at the start, when Kenya attained independence as it was the last in the three-state zone but Kenya hesitated, and when it came to unifying economies, Tanzania faltered.

Political groups whose social mainstay is traditional economies of African states dominated by parastatal or-



ganizations hesitate to move forward with integration as it is likely to erode their privileges. Those embracing a liberal outlook on economy are more at ease with integration as the competition

from outside becomes an extension of local competition, not an invasion, etc.

African states have largely adopted market economies when it comes to industries and thus the sale of goods

in general, where the private sector dominates. Still this market structure is upset by inability to move the social system itself into private property, that is, having citizens that are in the first

place individuals and not members of clans and tribal communities. This implies that integration in SADC and other blocs for that matter will move in tandem with liberalization of other levels of ownership, first legalizing ability of a foreign company to buy a local company without being compelled to enter into joint venture. By the time this legal capacity is extended, its wider use shall also have been recognized, that is the freedom to engage into any economic contracting at an individual level, without seeking state agencies as a go-between, as executor.

Experience shows that liberalization and integration take many shapes and sizes, but in any sort of combination, the less this or that factor is liberalized the more it upstages the other factors by instituting a certain level of immobility. For instance the markedly parochial broader structure of the South African states, its enshrining of major tribal and racial communities into petty nation states as they earlier tasted

this prerogative under the Bantustan system, systematically erodes the dynamism of the country's economy. A new chief executive of the state energy firm Eskom was saying this company is on its 'death spiral,' drowning in debts of the provincial governments.

The sort of Achilles Heel effect that the privileged place that ethnic entities have on authorities proceeds from the fact that the state is incapable of transacting with foreign countries, as for instance in the stalled and ultimately unworkable EPA arrangement. The right of establishment of foreign companies and personnel means they are at liberty to alter the social demography of ownership of property, which requires a rainbow outlook on the part of the governing elites. It was the philosophy espoused by Nelson Mandela but the region looked askance, and ditched it.

Regional experts agree that ownership of land within a tribal and clan community is an important identity

marker. It provides people with a sense of autonomy, rootedness and opportunity, where it is universally believed that having a rural plot of land provides one with a fallback opportunity were city endeavors to come to naught. It also provides a retirement option of renting an urban property and retiring to the countryside, assured of regular income, enhancing social standing.

This sense of assurance is well founded but it is precisely this need for assurance that brings millions of Africans to fail in urban economy. A localized circulation of deposits is not enough to provide a catalyst to the sort of savings or deposits needed for a take off stage into industry as in Britain or the US in past centuries. Large amounts of capital seeking profits over a long term built railways, roads and ports, even started central banks, not revenues. Using revenues to build infrastructure begets long term debt and low purchasing power, low returns on infrastructure, etc.

SADC as disaster zone as tropical cyclones invade southern hemisphere

By Nimi Mweta

IN what looked like an extreme result of climate change, in like manner as melting icebergs and rising sea levels, tropical cyclones hit the southern hemisphere and especially the eastern coastline of SADC zone. Two massive cyclones, Idai and Kenneth, named after original start of such cyclones on similar dates in the past, swept Mozambique and went as far inland as Malawi and Zimbabwe, which was an unknown phenomenon until now. Mozambique has had instances of massive rains for instance to the late 1990s weather phenomenon El Nino, marked by the paucity of rains and at times excessive rains in some places, but tropical cyclones are newer.

Experts fear that global heating is likely to inflict more droughts on Africa and cause floods in a routine manner, which adds fuel to the burning fire of what is a sustainable agro-sector strategy in the era of climate change. Data from some South African research centres showed that grain production in the SADC zone was generally poor last sea-

son, with a few exceptions like South Africa and Zambia, though Tanzania appears to have had sufficient amounts and was discussing exporting to Kenya as grain or as milled flour. Updating forecasts proves to be a difficult task.

One problem about the flow of data though is the penchant for long term projects in order to build a sort of faith in what some skeptics call a climate narrative, instead of current season or two at most. One such attempt is a recent UK report saying that new research says that Africa will experience many extreme outbreaks of intense rainfall 'over the next 80 years.' Unquestionably such projections proceed from Africa as it is at present, whereas countries like Tanzania engage in nail biting soul searching as to whether to retain customary land titles or bring them into line with market needs, making them freehold titles. This is still experimental.

Pursuing this outlandish forecasting of what is likely to be the case nearly a century from now, the report says these climatic shifts

'could trigger devastating floods, storms and disruption of farming. In addition, these events are likely to be interspersed with more crippling droughts during the growing season and these could also damage crop and food production.' Evidently the authors expect that Africa will still be village based at that time, or will continue to be so for the foreseeable future, whereas African cities are the fastest growing worldwide, by other data. It means that demographic trends noted in South Asia as it moved from poverty will arise here too.

When it comes to cyclones, for years the public in the SADC region is used to hearing of their devastating effects along the eastern coast of the United States, and auxiliary reports of such situations in the Caribbean. But tropical cyclones at least since 2005, the Katrina phenomenon, have been identified with the US, while in this zone Mozambique is the one often afflicted with land-bound storms causing havoc on the seashore belt. This time however the two cyclones were a different matter, with Idai sweeping

far inland, while Kenneth was targeting southern Tanzania as well as northern Mozambique for an unexplained reason it first lost power abruptly as it neared the coast, then curved inward or southward to hit Cabo Delgado, not Mtwara and Lindi as feared earlier. Scientists merely took note of this change and the public was relieved, simply that.

While tropical cyclones shifting to the southern hemisphere have struck the eastern coast hugely, the long wave weather or climatic forecast carried out by scientists at the UK Meteorological Office in collaboration with researchers at the Institute of Climate and Atmospheric Science at Leeds University points at other disasters. It reports on the likely impact on Africa of these temperature rises and indicates that western and central areas will suffer the worst impacts of weather disruptions. Many countries in these regions - including Niger, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo - are expected to experience substantial growth in population over that time and will be particularly vulnerable to severe floods.' One can see there is more than one agenda at work in the summary of the forecasting, that population is at the core of it.

'At the other end of the precipitation spectrum, the study revealed there would be an increase in occasions when severe drought would occur for up to 10 days in the midst of the most critical part of a region's growing season. The result could cause severe disruption to crop production.' Imagine that this is actually given as a projection, that for ten days there is no rain in the most critical part of the growing season, whereas more than a month of non-existence of rain, sporadic fall thereafter, and at times floods then sweeping away the crops have been experienced. The issue is what adaptation mechanisms the populations are beginning to think of, or exist in a commercial sense, for instance planting of vegetables in a backyard, keeping poultry, not farms.



Members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Standing Committee of Senior Officials pose for a group photo at the 38th Ordinary SADC Summit in Windhoek, capital of Namibia, on Aug. 9, 2018. File photo

Predicting the future of SADC: Why it isn't flattering, as it is pictured so far

By Miki Tasseni

TO sort out issues for which there are no answers that can be traced to a report, book or data bank, a number of mental prerequisites are necessary, one of them being the use of models, and another simply as taking up things via a figure of speech, what is called an aphorism. In ordinary language we hear about proverbs as part of classical wisdom that children learn in school but it is unclear if they are ever told of their importance - and if they are actually taught outside some limited excursions like oral literature, etc. When it comes to setting out what lies ahead for organizations - as portions of humanity - it is daunting.

To start with some aphorisms before looking at the data, it is always good to pick up what one or some other wise person has said, and as it is the case in the use of models, one is free with what aphorism or exclamation he or she picks up, but not about how to use it. Once a distinctive formulation about life is selected, it has a way of training the light on the data, or image of what is being discussed, and in a sense this already generates some material, as it disturbs the calm with which the material is otherwise tied up with. Thus one or two aphorisms from Albert Einstein, a legendary physicist, would sort out things here.

Einstein said that

'imagination is better than knowledge,' a principle that has generally been accepted in science, that what one is pursuing or seeks to solve is more important than the particular qualities of that person vis a vis any other individual. The same ought to apply for organizations, in which case when one looks at SADC the issue would not in the first place be what it has in terms of potential but whether it has the will and determination to achieve anything in particular. Only after this aspect has been resolved is it possible to then examine what SADC is trying to achieve or what it can achieve with the same resources.

Another aphorism from Einstein would be even more disarming, that predicting the future is virtually impossible as it can't be set out on the basis of what we know today, but only on the basis of what they shall know in the future. Put differently this is to say that living entities organize themselves on the basis of a present or current array of forces, with predictions up to that point being merely pointers or aspects of imagination on the issue, not a hard datum to be taken into account. What this means is that what people speak on SADC belongs to the present; even when they seek to address its future, it's only a current view.

A number of observations on SADC are somewhat baffling or say challenging as to what needs to be done, with

researcher Peter Fabricius of the Institute for Security Studies in South Africa saying in a recent consultancy report that 'Southern Africa is economically Africa's most advanced region - but its collective economy is stagnating. And unless the continent can diversify its economies away from their dependence on commodity exports, they will remain forever locked into roller-coaster rides as global commodity prices fluctuate, and average growth will stay low.' A quick look would show that this point has been grasped and the zone is gunning for industries, but it is on a different basis from its past efforts?

The European Union (EU) is also posing those questions. The researcher says the EU 'was meeting the African Union (AU) for an inter-continental summit (in October 2017) to discuss this and other issues, (and) is looking to Southern Africa as a kind of laboratory as it adjusts the way it provides development aid to Africa.' The reason is that 'this is a region which is on average the most advanced in Africa,' an affirmation that owes its existence rather excessively to South Africa. That is where the shoe starts pinching, as in EU logic the zone's biggest economy becomes the driver of the rest, the way the United States drove post-war Western Europe, and Germany has been driving the European Union for a decade or so. The forces at work in Africa are different,

with Frontline States spirit replaced by shambolic xenophobia in 'Azania' streets.

Dr Fabricius points out that 'SADC has a free trade agreement on paper, but still faces major impediments to regional integration,' which the current summit and preliminary interactions and forums will have explored extensively but it is difficult to say they are inching towards a solution. For instance when the discussion on industrial linkages was broached, it was implicit that countries want to sell goods to one another, not that investors purchase production units by being assured of the total zone as a market. That would generate the architecture of a regional common market; local goods tend to duplicate

When it comes to solutions, the Einstein situation comes up in a number of ways, that the big problem is imagination rather than resources, as the combined resources of local deposits, private foreign capital and multilateral lending, if put in revolving credit manner, are adequate for industrialization. But African states can only agree between themselves and with external agencies on their being provided as public funds, whereas the Marshall Plan succeeded because the \$50bn was directed at central banks, to be loaned to commercial banks and then to investors. It did not build railways and roads to enable Europe to grow.



Contribution of Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute to ensure food security and nutrition in the country

By Correspondent Gerald

Kitabu

President Dr. John Joseph Pombe Magufuli has put more emphasis on industrialization which must go hand in hand with increased crop production especially the strategic crops like cassava. According to TARI-Ukiguru centre director, Dr. Simon Jeremiah, this is a good vision which TARI should follow. Cassava in Tanzania is an integral component of most cropping systems and is among the more important staples in parts of the country. It plays an important role as a food security crop and provides useful opportunities for extending labour use and exploiting price peaks in the food market. Cassava production trends and land area expansion in Tanzania have been fluctuating over a period of years. The highest cassava production was reported to be 750 000 tonnes of dried cassava chips. The current cassava productivity is near the lower end of internationally reported yields. In Tanzania the current cassava production is less or equal to 450,000 tones Globally, cassava production account for more than 276million metric tons (MT). The top producing countries are Nigeria which account for almost 19 percent of the total production, Thailand account for 11 percent, Indonesia 9% and DRC with only 6 percent. Tanzania is account for less than 1 percent. The major challenges to cassava production are use of low yielding varieties as the result yields are below global value, fragmented nature of small holder farms with the use of rudimentary technologies and low use of inputs to cassava production and limited adoption of improves planting materials,



TARI-Ukiguru Centre Director, Dr. Simon Jeremiah (right) explaining to Simiyu farmers on how best they can increase cassava production at one of the demo plots located at Nananane exhibitions in Nyakabindi, Bariadi, Simiyu region. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

small scale farmers of Tanzania rarely use improved planting materials (clean, healthy seeds) and the sub sector is dominated by disease prone local varieties with long maturation and low yield potential and limited use of fertilizers and irrigation- fertilizers are used infrequently, and even when used, the amount are below the recommended rates. Also in the list are limited use of mechanization and limited access to financial supports-both commercial and small scale framers have limited access to finance

Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) contribution to ensure food security Dr. Jeremiah said in order to move ahead, TARI contribution to ensure food security is addressing the challenges. The following are some of the measures. First emphasis is given on the improvement of cassava genetic potential so as to develop varieties with desirable acceptability, good resistance to pests and diseases and high root yield. This goes along with the strong commitment in multiplication of clean healthy

planting materials of the released varieties and other potential local varieties. This can be achieved only if support to research can be increased both in terms of funds and human resources. Availing Facilities for rapid propagation could boost the efforts of multiplication; Improvement of cropping systems with cassava especially in the area of low input costs in soil fertility maintenance cannot be overemphasized. Control of pests and diseases through use of integrated pest management could serve as

a low cost, environmentally friendly approach towards minimizing the problems at farm level, the need for cassava food products which are acceptable and ready to use is indicated. Proposals are made for the market evaluation of such products, with provision for food education and pilot scale production if further development, is merited. Integration of cassava as a raw material in the industrial sector and livestock feed is yet to be investigated. Achievements registered by TARI:

New cassava varieties with preferred traits have been developed, this include TZ 130, Kipusa, Mkuranga 1, UK09/164 and UK09/52 MF, second, new technology (APP) on fertilizer application is on final stage where cassava recommendation will be made easy and the benefits for fertilizers on yields will be realized, thirdly, TARI in collaboration with development partners like MEDA and International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) have developed an effective seed system which will make clean and healthy planting materials available to farmers at a small

costs. Fourth, TARI and IITA through cassava initiative had tested cassava weeder and different herbicide to reduce labour used for weed by hand hoe.

"We must make sure that the small holder farmers move from subsistence economy to commercial agriculture so that they can be able to feed local industries as well as capture export opportunities.

"This can only be possible if there is a good chain from large scale production, processing and transport into markets. I think through this, our farmers will get profit and change their economy," he said.

The Director General of Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo, said there are a number of technologies already developed in Tanzania for example, there are technologies related to enhancing cassava production and productivity, these include improved varieties.

"There are also some technologies related to processing cassava to starch, to high quality cassava flour. We also have a number of ongoing initiatives on processing. The idea is, we really want to increase cassava productivity which is about 6 metric tons per hectare to at least 25 tons per hectare and then we contribute into transformation of cassava in this country.

Cassava is an important crop under ASDP II, launched in March 2018. It is one of the priority commodity value chains for the Lake, Eastern, and Southern zones, under the One Region One Commodity Initiative," said Zakaria Muyengi from the ASDP II Coordination office. With an annual production estimated at 6.8 million tons, the country is the twelfth largest producer of cassava in the world and the sixth largest in Africa after Nigeria, DRC, Ghana, Angola and Mozambique. The annual cassava production contributes to about 5.5 percent of the total cassava production in the world and 14 percent of Africa's production.

By Hannah Ojo

Just how to fight misinformation in African newsrooms...

Journalists from across Africa gathered in Nairobi last month to showcase the reporting produced by African women working in a variety of media.

At this year's African Women in the Media (AWiM) conference, which was started in 2016 by Dr Yemisi Akinbobola and has as its mission to positively impact the way the media function in relation to women, speakers in one panel explored the approaches and interventions women media practitioners are using to counter misinformation.

Association of Media Women in Kenya executive director Marceline Nyambala moderated a session on 'Beyond Misinformation, Fake News and Post-truth', during which the speakers examined the political, technological and societal contexts of misinformation in Africa and what could be done to counter its spread. Ann Nngere, deputy editor of PesaCheck, East Africa's first public finance fact-checking initiative which focuses its efforts on claims made by public officials about budgets and public finance, explained that Kenyans are routinely exposed to misinformation from a variety of sources. She added that



confirmation bias - when an individual seeks out sources that confirm what they think is true instead of gathering the actual facts - is a common problem. Nngere also discussed the challenges facing fact checkers in the country, notably a lack of funds and access to timely data. "The challenge of story lifespan is that the data needed for a fact-check may become available long after the claim was made. This is a major drawback," she said, adding: "Audiences need to know who to ask for facts," Nngere said.

She also addressed the issue of limited circulation of the findings from fact checks. "Unless the fact checks touch on something very popular, they often have limited circulation," she explained. As one of the panel speakers, I drew from my experience working with newsrooms in Nigeria as an ICFJ (International Centre for Journalists) TruthBuzz fellow. I shared the strategy I used to help fact checkers reach wider audiences, which revolved around turning fact check reports into visually appealing content, such

as short videos and social media published in English and local languages. I argued that a mobile-first approach is crucial for any media firm which seeks to reach the growing base of digital natives on the continent. "The rise of digital as the central means of acquiring information has effectively transformed news behaviour from a high time spent, low frequency, behavioural pattern to a high frequency, low time spent, behavioural pattern," the BBC Beyond Fake News Report

notes - a point I highlighted during the panel. The panel's five speakers unanimously agreed on the need to invest in news literacy projects as a way of inoculating audiences against misinformation. Citizens need to be informed by thinking about news sources beyond the person that is sharing them. Lilian Mukoche, a radio producer and presenter at 103.9 MMUST FM, a community radio station for Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology in Kakamega County, Kenya, shared

this view. "Ours is a radio station in an institution of higher learning, therefore informing people about news literacy is a high priority. Citizens need to know that, as individuals, sharing responsibly is important," Mukoche said. She also made a strong case for online accountability, arguing that businesses and technology companies ought to invest in tools that identify fake news and recommending a reduction in incentives for those profiting from misinformation. Discussing the political,

technological and societal context in which the concepts of misinformation, fake news and post-truth should be understood and countered, Nation Media Group managing editor Pamela Makotsi Sittoni said that time was ripe for the journalism community to get back to the basics by producing journalism that is in the public interest.

"The public is now exposed to all kinds of unfiltered information including hoaxes, misinformation, fake news and propaganda - across all dissemination platforms," Sittoni said, adding: "The news industry must provide high quality journalism in order to build public trust, and correct fake news and misinformation without legitimising them."

As internet penetration continues to grow in many African countries, media organisations fighting misinformation need to understand the digital landscape well enough to adopt strategies that effectively empower citizens to know when to disregard misleading or incorrect content.

• A dispatch by *International Journalists' Network (IJNet)*, a project of the Washington-based *International Centre for Journalists*.



Digital Earth Africa crucial to harness information resources: ECA director

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) views geospatial technology as a significant component that will help push Africa's transformative development agenda even further, says Oliver Chinganya, director of the Commission's African Centre for Statistics (ACS).

In a keynote address at an event marking Digital Earth Africa Day, Chinganya said the ECA understands that it is imperative for every African country to deliver relevant information that can promote and sustain economic growth and will, therefore, continue to work in partnership with organizations such as Digital Earth Africa to ensure nations develop their technical capacity.

"It is therefore of greater importance to have access to real-time and precise spatial information, given Africa's size and complex biophysical environment, to support effective decision-making. For instance, while Africa's demographic trends, including rapid urbanization, represent economic opportunities, they also represent real challenges with regard to human welfare and infrastructure needs," said Mr. Chinganya.

"Key development information and indicators are at risk of quickly becoming out-dated and of limited value to understanding the scale, speed, and locations of newly developing urban areas and informal settlements. It is therefore imperative for information with a geospatial component to inform the continent's sustainable planning and development."

He said it was great to see that African governments and other sectors of society have become increasingly aware of the importance of geospatial science and technology as a tool to facilitate spatial data collection, access and use in the decision-making processes, both nationally and regionally.

"Supported by the emergence of a community of robust geospatial experts such as yourselves; geospatial technologies are gradually becoming the driving force of many applications and services from land administration to natural resource management to agriculture across countries like Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, and Rwanda, to mention just a few," the ECA Director said.

Mr. Chinganya, who is also Officer in Charge of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division at the ECA, added: "I believe that through Digital Earth Africa, Earth Observation can powerfully enhance the way we provide services to our community and I would like to take the opportunity to champion the use of space technology and information services to drive Africa to become more spatially enabled."

He said the Digital Earth Africa program has the capacity to ensure that consistent methods and tools are appropriately appraised and made available in support to the Member States at the national and regional level, in a coordinated and coherent manner.

"The identification of ECA as a suitable institutional home for Digital Earth Africa highlights our positive alignment with its mission to meet the information needs, challenges and priorities of all African countries. We see our partnership with the program as one that will be strong, effective and influential," said Mr. Chinganya.

"I, therefore, wish to echo the idea for a geospatial data revolution which would require the constitution of authoritative repository of development data - one-stop-shop; the adoption of data democracy values - wider and easier access to geospatial data; the maintenance of the current, accuracy and consistency of geospatial data over its entire life cycle."

No doubt, Mr. Chinganya said, that Digital Earth Africa can be a



Chinganya said African space capabilities have long been dependent on foreign investments and projects.

building block towards the continent's efforts to harness information resources for African information society and knowledge-led economy.

"The challenges we face, from climate change and over-exploitation of our natural resources to food security, can all be addressed through the insights, knowledge, and analysis of changes across our land surface and coastline," he said.

"This new understanding of our changing landscape gained will not only benefit policymakers and public officials but will increase commercial efficiency and economic growth for businesses and entrepreneurs as we see new and innovative ways of using this much-needed information."

Mr. Chinganya said African space capabilities have long been dependent on foreign investments and projects.

Whilst Digital Earth Africa will develop appropriate responses to the growing demand from users for simple, convenient access to online information, products, and services, "we should not forget that to fully leverage the enabling capabilities of satellite data for development in Africa, there are some key challenges and issues to overcome, especially in the African context"

"For instance, there is a need for a coordinated continental framework with negotiating arrangements for the access to information to avoid the risk that information sharing will develop in fragmented and inefficient ways," he noted.

The partnership is key to the successful implementation of Digital Earth Africa, added Mr. Chinganya.

"From ECA standpoint, it is clear that progress in improving the availability and accessibility of

global development information will depend on how well countries cooperate with each other, and to some extent the ability of the national data ecosystems to bring producers and users together to cooperate with and learn from each other and to promote collaboration on the development of national development information infrastructures."

The day and related activities are being marked under the theme: "Earth Observation for Evidence-Based Decision Making" which Mr. Chinganya said was relevant and timely as Africa accelerates its economic transformation.

Digital Earth Africa Day and associated events will offer important inputs and recommendations on how Africa leverages geospatial technology to meet the continent's priorities. They will also help steer the future development of Africa's geospatial capabilities.

New climate change report underscores the need to manage land for the short and long term use

By Chris Forest

IN its latest report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change describes how agriculture, deforestation, and other human activities have altered 70% of the land on Earth's surface.

These changes are significantly adding to climate-warming emissions. They are also making forests and other natural systems, which can store key greenhouse gases, less able to do so.

Many calls to limit emissions focus on those from energy and transportation. But as the IPCC report points out, agriculture and land use are also major greenhouse gas sources. In the past decade, land use was responsible for 22% of global greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 35% for energy and 14% for transportation.

For the past 20 years, I have been working to understand how severe climate change will be in the coming century. Scientists know that Earth's climate responds to both changes in greenhouse gas levels in the atmosphere and changes in land use. This report makes clear that solving the climate crisis will require serious choices about how humans interact with the land systems that provide our societies with food, water and shelter.

The story is not all doom and gloom. There are strategies that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land use, food production and agriculture, and also generate economic and social benefits. Acting on these recommendations will be a big step toward addressing climate change in a meaningful way.

Earth's climate is affected by many interacting systems, including food production, energy and water. Decisions in one sector have important effects on other sectors. They also affect the physical systems of atmosphere, land, ice and oceans.

For example, consider how humans produce food. Farmers are constrained by the climate where they live, which provides certain ranges of temperatures, precipitation and sunshine. Modern industrialized agriculture enables farmers to improve their local conditions by using fertilizer to increase soil nutrients or pumping water to irrigate crops.

These strategies pose trade-offs: They raise food production, but also can increase energy use or conversion of undeveloped land for more farming, which potentially contributes to climate change. Rising demands on Earth's food, energy and water systems ultimately generate higher risks globally for everyone.

In contrast, strategies that make agriculture more climate-friendly - such as planting cover crops to protect bare fields or practicing no-till farming - have the potential to also save energy and water by making soil healthier. The challenge is finding ways to shift current farming and

land use practices toward these more sustainable approaches.

Taking action to curb climate change is challenging because societies have to address short-term goals, such as producing more food for a growing world population, along with the longer-term goal of stabilizing the climate.

The IPCC report discusses how to address these conflicting priorities and balance climate risks while also pursuing other goals, such as sustainable development. As an example, let's consider a forester in temperate regions and the choices she has for managing her timber lands.

One option is to clear-cut a stand of trees and plant crops. This approach immediately transforms the land and employs it for a single use. It also reduces the land's ability to store carbon.

Alternatively, she could selectively remove mature trees for sale while allowing others to continue growing. This approach maintains the timber stand, which will continue to absorb carbon from the atmosphere as it grows. The land also can support other valuable uses, such as recreation, wildlife habitat or planting crops that can grow under the trees.

The second strategy provides benefits that extend beyond the primary goal of timber harvests. But it may be more attractive for the forester to clear-cut her land and convert it to farming, much as relying on chemical inputs and irrigation makes short-term sense for farmers.

The challenge, then, is convincing people to use land in ways that do more than maximize short-term benefits. As the IPCC report states, degraded land produces less food and stores less carbon. But conserving and restoring land so it can store more carbon will also improve food security.

Some strategies, such as protecting wetlands and mangroves from development, will provide benefits immediately. Others, such as restoring forests and degraded soils, will take longer to deliver. But the important point is that framing the problem in this way spotlights possibilities for more than just a single future satisfying a single goal.

As a species, humans have the ability to plan for the future. But how do we plan for the future knowing that it will most likely be very different, but not knowing exactly what will happen? Governments created the IPCC to help answer this question by assessing how human activities have affected Earth's climate and could impact it in the future, depending on how societies respond to climate change. This new report provides valuable strategies for managing Earth's limited resources, maintaining a livable environment and addressing the long-term effects of human actions on Earth's natural systems.

South Korea to invest in the future of Africa

SEATTLE, Washington

THERE has been an increased interest in investing in Africa over the past 20 years.

The GDP for sub-Saharan Africa, an area where 10 of the poorest countries reside, rose from \$396 billion in 2000 to \$1.69 trillion in 2017. Investors are taking notice of a continent that is set to rise out of poverty and support middle-income consumers. One country that is eyeing investment opportunities in Africa is South Korea or the Republic of Korea (ROK), which successfully moved from poverty after a gradual increase in prosperity and wealth during the 1960s and 1970s. The ROK sees potential in investing in the future of Africa.

On December 4 and 5, 2018, the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Korea-Africa Foundation hosted discussions about Africa. Part of the dialogue was about understanding Africa and helping build an entrepreneurial presence on the continent. The ROK believes that educating its public about the investment opportunities in Africa as well as the successes and challenges along with investment, will lead others to understand the future of Africa.

There will be more than 1.7 billion people in Africa by 2030 with a possible spending power of \$6.7 trillion for consumer and business spending. The discussions between the two nations resulted in an expressed interest in developing economic and social relations between South Korea and Africa.

Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank, believes partnering with South Korea is a "win-win proposition." At a meeting in Seoul on February 7, 2019, Adesina and representatives of Busan Metropolitan City, Busan Techo Park and Korea's Green Technology Center, spoke of vast opportunities for a partnership between the two nations. In the meeting, green growth, agriculture, smart urban



transportation management and other areas were key points of discussion.

In Chad, more than 82 per cent of residents have an agricultural job, and this statistic has been at more than 80 per cent since 1991. This is one reason many external investors have a main focus on the agriculture industry. In an effort to improve productivity and sustainability, Korea and Africa are investing in the agriculture industry.

According to Adesina, providing access to electricity in Africa is the top priority for industrialization. Bringing Africa out of poverty is dependent

on green technology, some of which entails providing solar-powered agricultural equipment. One solar power initiative under development is Desert to Power, which is the largest solar power project in the world. This initiative estimates it will provide 10,000 MW in the Sahel region, an area of Eritrea in the east.

Adesina also mentioned using drones in agriculture. Busan City, one party at the discussion, is a Smart City and a leader in artificial intelligence. Busan City is a major hub for innovation and technology and it has set its sights on Africa, which has been encouraging for the continent.

There are still some obstacles that Adesina has stated, such as access to finance, sustainability and energy.

The African Development Bank has already invested \$650 million in trade finance lines, \$1 billion in AfreximBank and \$350 million in trade insurance. The financing has included small and mid-sized companies, which account for more than 80 per cent of businesses in Africa. In less than 72 hours, the 2018 African Investment Forum in South Africa helped pull more than \$38.7 billion from investors. Adesina stated that it shows a "strong indication of global

interest in emerging markets."

In an effort to show Africa is ready for the future, Adesina spoke at the World Peace Summit of Global Leaders on February 10, 2019. At the summit, he stated the successes, such as the five million African's with new or improved electricity, the 19 million with better agricultural technology and the eight million with better sanitation and drinking water among others. At this rate, these numbers will increase so that every African will live as those in South Korea, a country that was once in poverty, yet successfully rose to first-world status.

By GAUDENSIA MNGUMI

WHEN the forthcoming SADC chairman took office as President of the United

Republic late 2015, he started off by challenging the defeatist attitude among Tanzanians that the country is poor.

Dr Magufuli remains adamant that Tanzania has never been poor and in fact it ought to be among donor countries, and by far Tanzanians are not poor. And they have to feel and brag that they are rich and they can move their economy without depending on aid money.

He knows there is a lot of wealth tied up with this of Kilimanjaro and the Spice Islands, and the place of first phase president Julius Nyerere, the utmost factor in the founding of SADC as an identity.

As he took the office he knew very well that the country is already number one in Africa in cashew production, a delicacy mainly produced in Tandahimba district in Mtwara region, bordering Mozambique.

Tanzania was the world's third largest producer of cashews in the year 2016/17 according to the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAAF).

The president then proceeded to work on cashew prices and for the first time the price of raw cashew rose to 4,000/- (around two US dollars) a kilo.

Earlier farmers had to bow to arrogant buyers who

sometimes buy a kilo of raw cashew for 200/- translating to a tenth of the dollar.

Secondly Dr Magufuli already knew and it is well known that Tanzania is special in the world, the one and only land that produces tanzanite gems.

However for ages some nations were boasting over the precious stone because everything apart from extraction was done in their countries, so they had reason to boast.

They even boasted that they are the producers of the precious stone and have centres for its cutting, polishing and labeling, although they gotten the stone illegally from unscrupulous gem dealers.

Dr Magufuli - as always a protector and defender of the country's natural resources - ordered the Tanzania's People Defense Forces (TPDF) to put up a wall around tanzanite mines in Mirerani to ensure that the exploitation of the gem is sustainable and beneficial for all Tanzanians, thus contributing to national development and not otherwise.

The new SADC chairman is very much aware that the region is endowed with enormous natural resources for example in the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as major river systems enabling vast power production, like the grand Inga dam in the Congo.

The Inga falls power project is expected to produce more than 40,000 megawatts of electricity, nearly the same as what is produced in sub-Saharan Africa today.

For SADC, who really is President Magufuli?



It is from Inga River that the Africa Union (AU) is planning the Pan Africa Power Project which is expected to provide the region with cheap power, aided by similar projects like the Stiegler's Gorge.

How can the SADC zone thus be poor? For sure Dr Magufuli will continue to challenge the defeatist attitude that Tanzania, SADC and Africa are poor.

Apart from the Inga dam project in Congo Magufuli is working on Stiegler's gorge Hydroelectric Power project in Rufiji River with ability to produce 2,115 megawatts, another beef up for the

SADC power pool.

By far the region is not poor with Africa's leading copper producer with Zambia, fourth global world gold producer with Tanzania, while South Africa has a higher profile in the region for this mineral, and indeed all types of minerals are found in the region. How can the SADC zone be poor, Dr Magufuli will soon admonish his colleagues that Africa and the SADC people must stop saying that they are poor.

The new chairman embraces the spirit of 'I must, I will and I am capable.' It is upon others leaders to mol-

lify crush and even abandon the old thinking that their countries are poor.

What can excite more from President Magufuli, is that he is a man of industries. He is thinking about making Tanzania a major force for industrial development in Africa, that everything sold by Tanzania should be processed in factories built in the country and not sold in raw form.

Audacity is another exciting feature of Dr Magufuli, a developmental and more so a daring leader, with an audacity which most African leaders don't broach.

For example He confronts

anybody who thinks is doing injustice to the country. He challenged some international mining companies for being dishonest in gold digging and told them plainly that they have to pay for their 'fabrications' and 'untruths' particularly on the business of gold concentrates transportation.

He wants a 'win-win' business situation not about 'win lose' business arrangements that has caused adverse impact on Africa's economies.

Again, that is what SADC leaders should pick up from President Magufuli -to 'serve the people'. That means they must start challenging

mistrusts and dishonesty in their countries and always live for integrity.

President Magufuli is a workaholic who wants youths to produce in the fields, factories or wherever they are. He wants everybody get used to work and stop idling on the streets in cities or in villages accusing the government of disregarding their welfare.

The president wants to see more youths and more Tanzanians being able to afford three decent meals, through hard work and self-motivated to better their lives.

Magufuli is a man of first class things -currently he

is pulling together national resources in order to build first class railways - standard gauge railways. They will be a major means of transporting people and cargo in the SADC region.

He has the vision that SGR trains will make trips across Zambia through TAZARA, hence connecting Harare, Congo even other parts of Eastern Africa -Rwanda and Burundi.

This is one of Dr Magufuli's strategic investments that the SADC region will find overly fruitful.

President Magufuli is always working to make Dar Port a powerhouse in the region. He wants to link all landlocked countries in the region with Dar es Salaam and ensure that they all enjoy high quality services. They should be able to transport oil, gas, steel, copper or automobiles, just to mention a few.

If SADC region wants to see the biggest changes in air transportation they should know that all that is available in Dar es Salaam.

The incoming chairman has invested a lot in air transport. There are direct flights from Dar es Salaam to Bombay, and soon Air Tanzania Corporation will go to China and the UK.

Terminal Three of the Dar es Salaam International Airport is set to become a leader in serving air passengers in the region.

With modern jets ATCL will pretty soon reach all SADC region destinations and continue to make it borderless as Dr Magufuli reinforce this trend upon assuming the SADC chairmanship.

Regional integration is necessary to create a comparable context for growth in manufacturing

By Muharram Macatta

MINISTRIES in some African countries have been unable to effectively address issues of overlapping jurisdictions and uncoordinated personnel practices in order to improve the investment environment.

Much of this is due to a lack of political commitment, since industrial, tax, and trade regulations offer significant opportunities for corruption.

In addition, the small export zones (SEZs) or Export Promotion Zones (EPZs) are considered a manageable and realistic option to overcome some of the policy-related constraints in developing countries.

in the short term. Due to its notable success in attracting investment and creating jobs, the concept of the SEZ as part of a national industrial development strategy has been adopted from the Chinese model.

As China's experience shows, it is important that each SEZ model be adapted to the local context -i.e., endowments-and to a country's specific development goals.

Moreover, since the size of country-level consumer markets is relatively constrained in Africa, as compared to China, more regional integration will be necessary in order to create a comparable context for growth in manufacturing.

These EPZs will be the first and priority recipients for government investment in infrastructural improvements; they have substantially lower barriers related to the time and cost of importing and exporting; and they confer initial tax benefits that help to offset start-up costs.

For example, downtime related to electricity out-

ages is much less frequent in Tanzania's SEZs than it is for companies operating elsewhere in the country.

It also takes the country fewer days to re-establish power and internet connections and to move goods across neighbouring borders.

Identifying upcoming SEZs as they are in the planning and development phases will allow producers to benefit from a first-mover advantage and effectively scale up in the nascent market.

Such commitment appears relatively strong in South Africa and Zambia, where authority over SEZs has often been elevated to the highest levels of government.

However, industrialization in Africa remains a challenge, as the necessary economic and political foundations for the sector are just starting to take hold.

In light of the region's relative deficiency of factories to date, some analysts have reached pessimistic conclusions about the potential for industrialization and, by extension, economic modernization in Africa.

Worryingly, exports of low-technology manufactured goods-a sector in which the region should have a comparative advantage on the world market-actually declined.

Meanwhile, resource extraction-related industry continues to dominate the sector, depressing per capita value added in manufacturing and making the macroeconomic climate vulnerable to commodity price shocks.

On the other hand, Africa's manufacturing output is now keeping pace with the impressive rates of growth observed across the rest of the economy, as manufacturing's share of GDP has remained relatively constant in recent years, be-



tween 10 and nearly 15 percent as researched.

Many countries are also making significant progress in improving the climate for doing business, across a range of indicators relevant to manufacturing. Currently, sub-Saharan Africa has the largest share of countries that are making progress among all world regions.

Citing these trends, some have suggested that Africa is likely to soon emulate the remarkable growth story of China. Growing economies of scale created by increasing integration of the SADC region; and increasing public spending in education and infrastructure.

In order to address the remaining, non-structural constraints that can be improved through political commitment, SADC member states have committed themselves to substantial public investment in infrastructure, specifically a high-speed rail network, oil and gas pipelines,

ICT broadband cables and sea

and air ports; all of this is part of the regional project to drive industrialization and to increase intra-African trade from 11 percent to nearly 50 percent of total trade by 2050.

Moreover, the potential for the CFTA to facilitate structural transformation in Africa is big. Given the CFTA's market size of 1.2 billion people and over \$3.4 trillion of cumulative GDP, a successful CFTA could increase the growth of the manufacturing sector and its value added given in Africa.

Some studies show that by creating a pan-African market, intra-Africa trade could increase by about 50 percent, resulting in an increase of African manufacturing exports.

Ideally, this structural transformation of industry will proceed hand-in-hand with the region's other impending revolution-namely, in agriculture.

Increasing productivity in both sectors has the potential to compound exponentially as part of a

complementary value chain, with domestically manufactured chemicals, pharmaceuticals and machinery feeding into agricultural production and agro-processing plants, which provide the food and energy to meet growing African and global demand.

Even beyond the agro-industry feedback loop, and in more technical and high-value manufacturing, U.S. computer conglomerate IBM has recently suggested that Africa's capacity to "leapfrog" technologies has generated a market for African developers of computer software and Smartphone apps.

Across all subsectors and countries, Africa's industrial revolution appears imminent. Regional integration and transport infrastructure development could double the African-produced supply to local markets and increase revenues immensely per year for manufacturers of consumer goods alone.

Given current patterns, South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt are likely to be among the world's 25 larg-

est economies in the next decade-becoming similar in size to Turkey or the Netherlands.

A number of other African countries will continue to experience rapid industry-driven growth: Angola, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Zambia, Ethiopia, and Mozambique, among others. In short, SADC.

If interested parties are successful in pushing through investment-oriented reforms and in tapping the growing demand from African businesses and consumers.

Africa's manufacturing output has the potential to surpass \$1 trillion per year by 2025, with roughly half that production remaining on the continent and the rest exported to other world regions.

Nowadays, new ways of domination are instrumented, whose innovation

consists in the economic strangulation of the least developed, particularly of the African countries.

The same causes produce the same effects regardless of the evolution of people. It is possible and even "inescapable" to obtain solutions with respect to reducing inequality about economic development between countries.

The consciousness of the masses continues to progress. It is not certain that those, who are still denied of a fair share in the distribution of the fruits of global growth, are much longer willing to passively suffer immoderate increases in African countries influence on international trade.

The world has witnessed increased interdependence in the last two decades, thanks to globalization. The main driving forces of this process are technology in the service sector, economic policies and trade competitions.

It has subordinated domestic economies to global market conditions and practices. However, it seems that the developed nations are the beneficiaries of the strategies globalization to a certain degrees as their share of world trade and finance have been expanded at the expense of developing countries in general and in particular of African countries.

Thus, the process exacerbates inequality between the world's regions and poverty in the developing world. There are several reasons which explain why Africa has not benefited from these opportunities.

The main factors may be due to monoculture export, inability to attract increased foreign investments and huge indebtedness. But, the potential for globalization can be domesticated in the African countries.



Thursday 15 August 2019

Absa's subsidiaries, including BBT impress in 1H of 2019 results

By The Banker Reporter

SUBSIDIARIES of Absa Group, which include Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited, had their earnings increase by 8 percent and thus contributing to a fifth in earnings of the holding company during the first half of 2019.

In its half year results for the year ending June 2019, Absa Group said all its subsidiaries outside of South Africa, collectively known as Absa Regional Operations (ARO), continued to increase their contribution to group earnings.

"We've made significant progress with Absa's reorganisation following the implementation of our new strategy in March 2018, and we are beginning to see the benefits," said René van Wyk, Absa Group CEO.

Absa Group Limited, one of Africa's largest financial services providers reported a 3 percent increase in earnings for the period.

"There is still, however, significant work to be done before we can reach our growth, returns and cost targets - a difficult task in a challenging environment," van Wyk said. ARO is implementing its new operating model, aligned to the group strategy which devolves accountability and decision-making closer to the customer interface.

"ARO remains a key contributor to the Group's performance and with our strong focus on entrenching our brand across the African continent, we have built



Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited's Managing Director, Abdi Mohamed was part of Absa Group's subsidiaries which contributed a fifth of its 3 percent earnings in the first half of this year.

a strong base to drive growth and to attain our pan-African aspirations," said Deputy CEO of Absa Group and ARO CEO, Peter Matlare.

Matlare explained that the results reflect a financial institution that has paid attention to market demand and the need to focus on regionally sourced earnings and growth.

"Our investments in digitalisation and new ways of banking allow us to challenge existing models and positions Absa for growth. Our investment focus is to

ensure that our brand delivers sustainable returns in complex markets, which require a deep understanding of local requirements and the need to always put the client at the heart of the business," he added.

Parallel to the reorganisation work across business units, Absa continues to make good progress in separating its operations from Barclays PLC, and in enhancing its digital capability, the bank's report added.

Regarding its contribution by its largest business unit, Retail and Business Banking South Africa (RBB SA), the group said it is showing faster than market growth in key product areas, in line with its commitment to regain its leading position.

The RBB SA increased its share of home loans new business, with home loan registrations growing 16 percent, more than double the growth in total home loan registrations in South Africa during the first half. Retail deposits grew 12 percent while the market increased 9 percent. New personal loans increased 20 percent which led to the RBB SA reporting a 4 percent increase in earnings.

Corporate and Investment Banking (CIB) earn-

ings decreased 5 percent on a pan-African basis, following a difficult trading period in South Africa. However, the client franchise continued to perform well with notable client acquisitions across the countries in which Absa has a presence. The corporate franchise extended its track record of double-digit revenue growth.

"Despite the tough operating environment, we have been able to maintain revenue momentum in our key target areas, with total revenue growth improving to 6%," said Jason Quinn, Absa Group Financial Director.

RBB SA, which accounts for more than 60 percent of Absa group income, has largely completed its reorganisation and expects to reap further benefits from its integration with Absa's wealth and investment management and insurance business. The integration, which is underway, will result in a seamless offer for customers between banking and non-banking services.

At CIB, significant work has been undertaken to form an integrated pan-African franchise with a single growth strategy that covers all of the countries where Absa has a presence.

After launching ChatBanking on WhatsApp, Samsung Pay, Timiza and Jumo, earlier, Absa significantly enhanced its Absa application in the first half of the year, resulting in a 20 percent increase in the number of app users.

Absa Group, which has a presence in 12 countries in Africa and an office in London, said normalised headline earnings increased to R8.3 billion during the period from R8.04 billion during the same period in 2018. Income and costs both grew at 6 percent.

Regarding its second half growth prospects, the group said as South Africa's economic growth outlook appears muted, with gross domestic product expected to grow 0.5 percent in 2019, prospects for stronger growth are constrained by the slowing global economy, plus weak business sentiment and decelerating household income growth in South Africa. In the group's ARO markets, GDP is expected to grow 5.5 percent.

"While Absa's return on equity is likely to be marginally lower in 2019, the group remains committed to its RoE target of between 18 and 20 percent in 2021," Quinn affirmed.



South African Reserve Bank, governor Lesetja Kganyago.

Kganyago sues after Sarb battle gets personal

JOHANNESBURG

Less than a week since he vowed to go to war to protect the independence of the South African Reserve Bank, governor Lesetja Kganyago has approached the courts to protect his name after a racial slur from a ruling party official.

Kganyago is suing Andile Lungisa, a municipal councillor for the African National Congress, for defamation for a posting on Twitter about the governor's defence of the central bank's mandate. Lungisa on Tuesday posted the first page of the summons that was served on him.

This is not the first time Kganyago has gone to the courts to resolve a dispute, but the previous occasion it was on behalf of the central bank.

He successfully fought off a proposal by the nation's anti-graft ombudsman two years ago to change the institution's inflation-targeting mandate. The nation's top court found Public Protector Busiswe Mkhwebane to be personally liable for 15% of the central bank's legal costs in that case.

Lungisa's series of Tweets in June began as support for the ANC's proposal to nationalise the Reserve Bank, before targeting Kganyago. He described the governor as "a lackey of racist people" and used a highly offensive racial slur, according to the court documents.

Reserve Bank spokeswoman Thoraya Pandey confirmed the legal action when contacted by phone and said the matter was now in the hands of the court. 'Trojan horse'

The governor has said the debate about the ownership of the central bank is a distraction from the real problems facing the economy and that it could be used as "Trojan horse" for another attempt to change the mandate. He told reporters at a lunch in Johannesburg last week he would "go to war" if the constitutionally enshrined independence of the central bank is threatened.

The spat also highlights the racial tensions that still exist in South Africa 25 years after the end of white minority rule, and the extent to which race is often used as weapon in public discourse.

Lungisa is currently out on bail pending an appeal of a conviction for assault after he smashed a glass water jug over the head of a Democratic Alliance councillor during a meeting in the Nelson Mandela Bay municipality in 2016, Johannesburg-based Business Day reported on Tuesday. The newspaper first reported on the summons that was served on Lungisa.

Mobile penetration, agent networks driving Sub-Saharan remittance sector

JOHANNESBURG

Africa focused mobile transfer company Muku says an increase in mobile penetration and agent networks is reshaping the remittance sector throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

According to the company traditionally financially under-served migrants living in South Africa resorted to using informal channels to send money home to family and friends. These mostly include the bus and taxi system, where people travelling from South Africa to other African countries would physically carry the funds with them on behalf of migrants working in South Africa.

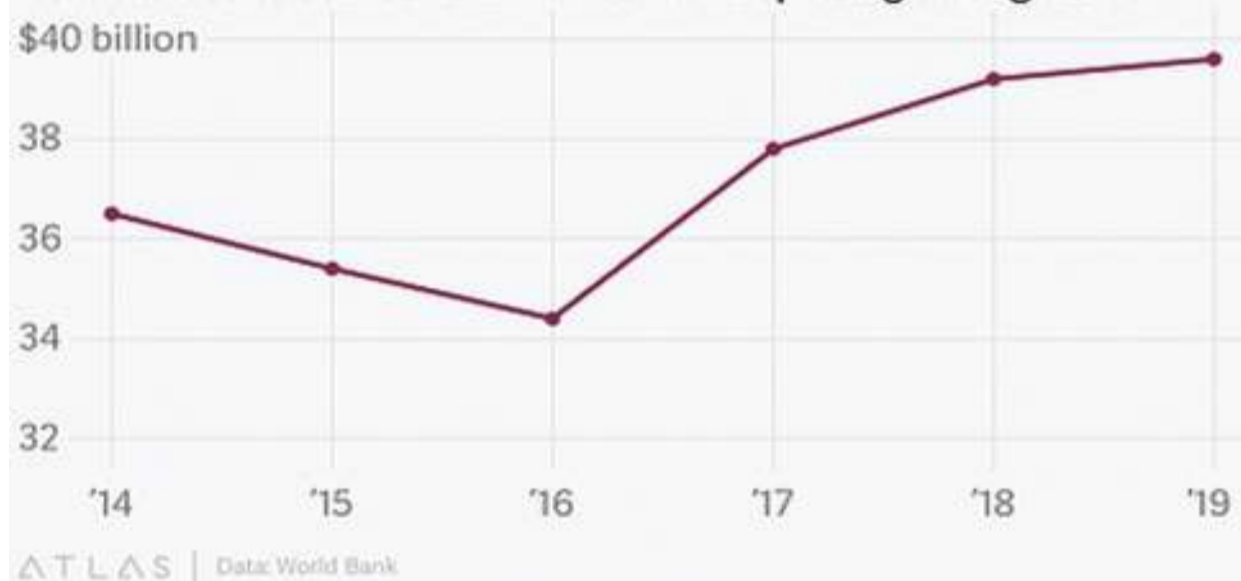
This picture has changed in recent years, with mobile penetration making even bigger strides into Sub-Saharan Africa, according to Muku. The company claims that in early 2018, data showed that nearly 70% of cross-border remittances were via informal channels with this figure expected to have decreased since.

"The increase in migrants using formal channels to send money home is not attributed to the growth in mobile penetration alone. By establishing strategic relationships with banks, mobile network operators (MNOs) and other pay-out partners through Southern African countries which disburse remittances," the company states.

Muku says research by the World Bank supports this notion, with the organisation recently reporting that remittances to African countries will grow to US\$47-billion in 2019. In African markets, FinTech has disrupted the payments ecosystem, resulting in more consumers choosing digital and mobile transfers over cash, for several reasons including safety and convenience, the company added.

Andy Jury, chief executive officer of Muku, said: "Cash is still king within Africa, mainly due to a reliance on cash for payments and transactions coupled with low levels of financial inclusion. What is needed is enhanced financial inclusion and the building of consumer trust and awareness of new digital and mobile channels. This will encourage access and usage of transaction accounts and e-wallets, to broaden digital and mobile payment use cases beyond person to person money transfers."

Remittances to Sub-Saharan Africa will keep rising through 2019



A graph showing growth of remittances in Sub Sahara Africa from 2014 to this year's projection.

Kenya bets on Uhuru, Magufuli ties to boost Tanzania exports

NAIROBI

Kenya is betting on the mending of ties between President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Tanzanian counterpart, John Magufuli, to reverse the falling exports to the neighbouring nation.

Kenya's High Commissioner to Tanzania Dan Kazungu reckons that talks between the two nations and recent visit of President Kenyatta to Tanzania look set to unlock barriers that had hampered trade between the two countries.

Trade relations between the two countries had been souring over the years due to tariff and non-tariff barriers, hurting the flow of goods which dipped to a 10-year low in 2017. "What we needed was a reset button," Mr Kazungu told the Business Daily in an interview yesterday. "That button was pressed when President Uhuru visited President Magufuli."

Mr Kenyatta visited Mr Magufuli in July before embarking on a diplomatic charm offensive in the quest to secure Kenya a seat at the UN Security Council. During the visit to President Magufuli's rural home in Geita, northern Tanzania, Mr Kenyatta was offered the rare gift of two peacocks as a sign of the renewing of ties between the two neighbouring countries, which had been wracked by diplomatic and economic tensions.

Before Mr Kenyatta's visit, talks between the two countries had led to the elimination of 25 of the 37 tariff barriers by April. Kenya accounted for 15 of these tariff barriers while Tanzania's share stood at 22. Negotiations to resolve the remaining 12 are ongoing although some can only be removed by changes in the law via the Finance Bill, which is under review by lawmakers.

Official data show that Kenya exports

to Tanzania dropped to the 10-year low of Sh28.5 billion in 2017, but reversing to Sh29.7 billion last year. Kenya sold good worth Sh42.7 billion to Tanzania in 2014. Imports from Tanzania to Kenya rose from Sh12.8 billion in 2016 to Sh17.8 billion last year, narrowing the trade gap between the two nations.

This weekend, Tanzania will be hosting the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Heads of State summit on Saturday and Sunday, during which President Magufuli is set to take over as chairman of the community for the next one year.

This could boost Kenya's trade prospects with the SADC bloc, now that relations with Dar-es-Salaam have improved. Kenya and Tanzania belong to the East Africa common market, which allows for free movement of goods, people, labour, services and capital within six member countries.

National Insurance challenged to account for 5pc of GDP

By The Banker Reporter

INSURANCE industry should account for at least 5 percent of the country's gross domestic product compared against the current less than a percent in a market insurance cover is largely considered as a luxury.

Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Dr Khatibu Kazungu said in Dar es Salaam last week when officiating a hand over ceremony of National Insurance Corporation's Managing Directorship between, Sam Kamanga and Dr Elirehema Doriye that efforts should be made to make the public understand that insurance cover is a necessity.

"Let us sensitise the public on the importance of having an

insurance cover to protect lives and property," Dr Kazungu said while pointing out that NIC's new management should come up with plans and strategies to grow its coverage of the market.

He stated that if well executed by covering areas such as agriculture, livestock and fisheries where the bulk of the country's producers are, NIC will also help to increase government revenue in terms of premiums paid but also taxes.

"But another area where you need to target aggressively is compete to offer insurance cover in all major strategic state funded infrastructure projects," the Deputy PS added noting that under President John Magufuli multibillion infrastructure projects are being implemented.

Briefing Dr Kazungu on NIC's performance, Board



New NIC Managing Director, Dr Elirehema Doriye (R) receiving official hand over documents from the corporation's immediate former MD, Sam Kamanga in Dar es Salaam last week.

Chairman, Laston Msongole said so far the state owned corporation touches the lives of many Tanzanians in terms of insurance coverage with encouraging results in recent years.

"It's now up to the incoming Managing Director to further propel this corporation continue dominating the market," Msongole said noting that earlier plans had put NIC among companies to be privatised because of poor performance.

In a vote of thanks, Dr Doriye pledged to pilot the corporation to new heights saying his predecessor had done some commendable job. "This corporation operates commercially hence I call upon all staff members to continue working hard so that we contribute significantly to gross domestic product," he noted.

Kenya's forex reserves cover slips below six months

NAIROBI

The official forex reserves held at the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) have for the first time in four weeks dropped below six months of import cover, with a further drop likely next week when the country pays interest on the 2018 Eurobond.

Latest reserves data shows that CBK's reserves stood at \$9.405 billion (Sh972.5 billion) on Thursday, equivalent to 5.98 months of import cover. This was a fall of \$85 million (Sh8.79 billion) during the week, having previously stood at \$9.49 billion (Sh981.3 billion) that represented 6.04

months of cover.

"The CBK usable foreign exchange reserves remained strong at USD 9,405 million (5.98 months of import cover) as at August 8. This meets the CBK's statutory requirement to endeavour to maintain at least 4 months of import cover and the EAC region's convergence criteria of 4.5 months of import cover," said CBK in the weekly bulletin.

The recent slide in the shilling's exchange rate to the dollar to the 104.20 level—a four-year low—put pressure on CBK to sell some of its hard currency to the market to stave off volatility, traders said. On Friday, the shilling closed

trading at an average of 103.37 to the greenback. The easing of the depreciating trend has come at a time when official forex reserves have fallen significantly, pointing to possible CBK intervention in the market.

The regulator does not disclose when it intervenes in the market either by buying or selling dollars, and the amounts involved. Tracking dollar sales of purchases is made more difficult by the fact that as the government's fiscal agent, CBK also handles from the reserves kitty outward payments such as interest on external debt, and external government purchases.

In the last one month, however, the reserves' fall by a steep \$360 million (Sh37.2 billion) from \$9,765 billion has coincided with a fairly rapid shilling depreciation that would normally call for CBK intervention.

The third interest payment on the February 2018 \$2 billion Eurobond is also due on August 22, with the government expected to pay a total of \$77.5 million in the six-month payment to investors. Treasury sold the dual tranche bond (\$1 billion per tranche) on February 22, 2018, at interest rates of 7.25 percent for a 12-year paper and 8.25 percent for a 30-year paper.



CBK governor, Patrick Njoroge.

Coke turns to aluminium bottles for water to replace plastic

NEW YORK

Coca-Cola is putting its Dasani water brand into aluminium cans as the beverage industry faces pressure to reduce its use of plastic.

Coke will start selling canned Dasani in north-east US next month, with plans to expand the product to other parts of the country in 2020. The announcement comes after Pep-

siCo said recently it would experiment with selling Aquafina, its mainstream water brand, in cans at restaurants and stadiums.

Beverage giants are under pressure to boost recycling and cut down on plastic that is filling the world's oceans and waterways. Aluminium cans generally contain more recycled material than plastic bottles and are less likely to float away in

the ocean. Dasani and Aquafina are the top two bottled brands in the US, with combined sales north of \$2 billion.

In addition to the can test, Coke is unveiling a new "hybrid" Dasani bottle, with half of the materials from a combination of plants and recycled plastic. The company also said it is cutting down on the weight of its bottles in a bid to use less material.

Swiss bank employs robots to cut costs

GENEVA

A 151-year-old Swiss bank is among the first wave of smaller lenders deploying robots for basic tasks to drive down costs and is considering expanding its use of the technology.

After a successful test run, St Galler Kantonbank decided to employ three bots for jobs such as compiling information and using it to fill out forms. The company plans to add a fourth soon and has set up a five-member team

to look at ways of employing the technology. "These robots can be used universally," said management board member Felix Buschor. "They help to avoid human errors and theoretically can work 24 hours a day."

Processing bulk wire transfers is one area in which the robots are being used at the lender, which is controlled by the regional government. In the past, employees "took care of that manually with the help of Excel spreadsheets," according to Mr Buschor. Another

area is the recovery of withholding taxes, with robots filling out forms by themselves.

With stricter regulation and low interest rates, banks are under pressure to reduce costs and robots can help to achieve that goal. While lenders have been using robots for several years, only a few of them have actually started using them broadly and long-term to help run the company, said Christian Toelkes, a technology consultant for financial services at Accenture Plc in

Germany.

That could change soon, according to Mr Buschor. "We exchange our experiences of using robots with other banks. It's becoming apparent that robots will be used more widely in the future," he said.

While the use of robots at St Galler Kantonbank means the company eventually needs fewer employees, the measure hasn't led to redundancies, Mr Buschor said. "We are offsetting this with natural fluctuation," he said.



Consumer Association of Malawi Executive Director, John Kapito.

Lack of regulation impedes Malawi's financial inclusion strategy

LILONGWE

Malawi has recorded a marked increase in the number of mobile money users and mobile money agents in the past three months. However, a lack of regulation and policy is impeding its progress towards national financial inclusion.

According to the Reserve Bank of Malawi's Second Quarter National Payment System report, published in early August 2019, the overall number of registered mobile money users has grown by 8.2% to over 7 million during the quarter under review.

In the first quarter of the year the country was home to 6.5 million mobile money subscribers, the report stated. It added that the total number of mobile money agents has also grown by 5.8% to 45,929 compared to 39,434 recorded in the first quarter.

However, research shows that mobile money agents remain highly concentrated in urban and semi-urban areas, with only 18.9% agents available in rural areas. "This partly explains why the majority of the rural-based popu-

lace face difficulties to access digital financial services due to few service points. Therefore, any efforts by the service providers to increase their footprint in rural areas will go a long way in addressing this challenge," said the report.

Executive director of the Consumer Association of Malawi (CAMA) John Kapito was quoted by the local Nation newspaper as saying, "the increase in mobile money agents in urban areas was creating challenges to the growth of mobile money services in rural areas."

Andrew Makanya, a telecom analyst at Computer Association of Zambia told ITWeb Africa that just like Zambia, Malawi will continue to struggle to achieve real financial inclusion unless laws and regulations are implemented to compel operators to deploy agents in remote regions. "Currently, there are no policies or laws that compel operators to equally distribute their agents to both rural and urban areas. Therefore, this challenge will always be there unless something is quickly done," Makanya said.

MARKETTRENDS

CRDB in full throttle as gross profit peaks almost 100pc

By Guardian Reporter

CRDB Bank Plc under the management of Abdulmajid Nsekela seems to have finally rediscovered its money minting prowess which it slightly derailed in 2017.

Defying all odds in a competitive banking market which has witnessed more than five banks close shop or get acquired by stronger peers in the second quarter of 2019, the bank sustained its profit making momentum by posting a 98 percent pre-tax profit.

Nsekela who took over as CRDB Group's Managing Director in October last year, said in Dar es Salaam last week that pre-tax profit jumped to 86.65bn/- which translates to 98 percent increase compared to 43.85bn/- made during the same period last year.

He attributed the impressive performance to improved business practices, coupled with strategic investments in government securities and also increased earnings from foreign currency trading.

"Our focus on operational efficiency and sales optimisation is paying off. We are witnessing a rebirth of CRDB Bank, buoyed by strong business fundamentals and a refined offering, as you can see, our earnings from foreign currency dealings have significantly increased showing our commitment in serving each segment in the market," the group's CEO said.

He affirmed that the bank's continued pursuit for business excellence portends to an even greater financial performance in the second half of this year. "We are focusing on the customer and this means that we are re-engineering our products and services to respond to the changing needs in marketplace," added Nsekela, one of the youngest CEOs to lead a Tier 1 bank in the market.

Among key highlights during the period included maintenance of a strong balance sheet with the group's total assets appreciating by 8 percent to 6.38trn/- from 5.93trn/- reported in the first quarter of the year.

Group loan portfolio witnessed a slight positive change to close at 3.18trn/- which accounted for an increase of a percent from 3.16trn/- made over the same period of time.

"Our total customer deposits increased by 15 percent 4.95trn/- from 4.32trn/- reported in quarter one of 2019, while net interest income increased by 30 percent to 258bn/- from 198bn/- reported in June 2018," Nsekela added.

During the period, the Dar es Salaam based lender also continued to dominate the domestic market commanding a 22 percent share of deposits



CRDB Bank Plc's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela speaks at a past event. File photo.

its thanks to its network of 238 branches, 553 ATMs, 556 Point of Sales terminals and 10,064 agents spread across the country.

The bank's market dominance can also be attributed to strong digital banking investments with platforms such as SimBanking and SimAccount being favourites among consumers because of their convenience. CRDB also has a reliable Internet banking service.

Nsekela who led the bank to a pre-tax profit growth of 77 percent to over 64.1bn/- last year against 36.2bn/- made in 2017, has cultivated confidence among staff members, shareholders and government officials as being good for the top job left by veteran banker, Dr Charles Kimei who retired in October last year.

The CEO of East Africa's third-largest lender had promised shareholders, regulators and fellow staff members of sustained growth under his

leadership which attracted Finance Minister, Dr Philip Mpango who told shareholders during this year annual general meeting that growth is imminent.

"Due to a number of measures taken by the government through Bank of Tanzania, interest rates have reduced by 0.62 percent to 16.38 percent by February this year while banks lending to the private sector grew by 7.3 percent during the same period," Dr Mpango said.

Dr Mpango commended CRDB management and shareholders for doing very well in the market pointing out that during the first quarter of this year, the bank's profit grew by 216 percent to 30.7bn/- from 9.7bn/- during a similar period last year.

"Because of its good performance, the price of CRDB Bank's shares at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange has increased by 4 percent from 125/- to 130/- each by April this year," he added while pointing out

that the bank's profit this year is set to increase significantly hence benefitting both its shareholders and Treasury through tax payment.

Speaking at the AGM, CRDB Board Chairman, Ally Laay said the bank which is jointly owned by the public with 43 percent, Treasury with 21 percent and 10 percent owned by pension funds, has continued to perform impressively in the market.

"Because of our good performance in the market, the bank has been paying dividend annually to its shareholders because of profits made from banking business we do," he added. The Board Chairman further pointed out that the bank has a policy on dividend payment whereby 30 percent of the profit is allocated annually.

"Last year, we paid Treasury 19.5bn/- as dividend for the government's 21 percent shares it owns at CRDB," Laay noted while promising to pay more this year as the bank's performance continues to improve.

Nigerian payments company TechAdvance raises US-million

LAGOS

Nigerian payment application development company TechAdvance has secured US\$1-million in funding to support its FinTech ambitions and expansion into emerging markets.

Founded in 2009, TechAdvance develops and deploys niche payment apps to serve the needs of large public and private sector organisations in Nigeria, overseeing subsidiaries such as GPay Africa, PayElectricityBills, Advance BancCorp Digital MicroFinance Bank and others.

The company has been bootstrapped to date, but has now raised a US\$1-million round from Bahrain-based investment holding company Lamar Holding, at a valuation of US\$20-million. This will be used to support its business transformation and expansion in emerging markets.

TechAdvance is transforming its model and aims to shift from being a technology Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) provider to a key player in the digital financial services and payment infrastructure space.

The company, through its subsidiaries, recently acquired a microfinance bank and obtained an approval in principle for a Payment Solution Service Provider (PSSP) license from the Central Bank of Nigeria. It has also

received the same approval from the Central Bank of Bahrain, signaling its intentions to grow beyond Nigeria and Africa.

TechAdvance founder and chief executive officer Edmund Olotu said: "The payments space in emerging markets abounds with opportunities yet faces a lot of challenges, especially regarding personal finance, accessing loans, maximising savings, and financial education for the unbanked and last-mile users. These funds will allow us to shift our focus to these opportunities - especially the launch of our digital bank, without compromising our existing business lines."

Lamar Holding, an established developer and long-term operator of projects across Saudi Arabia's national energy infrastructure network, sees the investment as a means to deepen its foray into the global tech industry and secure a foothold in Africa.

The company's vice president Hani Abdulhadi said, "This is an opportunity for Lamar and TechAdvance to collaborate and distribute its expansive suite of digital solutions to emerging markets in Africa and the Middle East. We were seed investors in one of TechAdvance portfolio companies since 2011, and it is impressive what Edmund and the team has been able to achieve since then."

UBS mulls investment bank overhaul, hundreds of jobs at risk

LONDON

Almost a year after taking over at UBS Group's investment bank, co-heads Piero Novelli and Rob Karofsky are working on their first shake-up of the business.

Mr Novelli, who runs deals, is considering a reshuffle of his leadership as he and trading chief Mr Karofsky seek to revamp a division that's posted volatile results in the past year, according to people familiar with the matter. Their plans could entail hundreds of job cuts, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the deliberations aren't public.

The discussions are preliminary and a final decision hasn't been made, the people said. UBS declined to comment. UBS is seeking to boost collaboration between dealmakers and the wealth management unit, while sharpening a focus on industries most of interest to its richest clients. That approach has already been successful for the Swiss bank this year.

The business of advising clients

on deals and stock offerings was a standout in the second quarter, after slumping 48 per cent in the first three months of the year. UBS has also tapped into its network of wealthy clients. The firm helped Asian families secure billions of dollars worth of investments in Manhattan properties with help from the investment bank. The unit is also seeking to do more with private equity firms, pensions and sovereign wealth funds, adding talent from rivals.

Still, the investment bank's 10 per cent return on equity in the first half of the year was roughly half that of the firm's other divisions. The unit had 5,333 employees at the end of June.

Investment banks are cutting thousands of jobs as difficult trading conditions and a slowing economy weigh on revenue. Deutsche Bank is eliminating 18,000 jobs, Societe Generale has announced 1,600 cuts, and Citigroup is preparing to shed hundreds of positions in its trading division.

The S. Africa lender you've never heard of with almost no bad debt

JOHANNESBURG

All major banks have at various times attempted to tap the low end of the banking market, and all - to a greater or lesser extent - have withdrawn from it. Most are involved in payroll-based lending to the low income market, but outside of that have failed to make this a viable business.

Their lending models rely on proof of income and collateral, something the poor simply do not possess. One lender that has upended the conventional banking model is the Small Enterprise Foundation (SEF), a South African micro lender modelled on the hugely successful Grameen Bank in Bangladesh.

Founded in 1992 by John de Wit and Matame Malatji, it has disbursed R8.7 billion in loans to people who do not qualify for traditional bank loans - and created 200 000 jobs in the process. The percentage of its portfolio at risk is just 0.2%, a fraction of that of the very best of the commercial banks.

Overall, about 3% of SA banks' combined loan books are non-performing, according to a 2018 PwC analysis of the banks. Last year Capitec, which has the highest exposure to unsecured lending among the commercial banks, reported a 12.2% provision for doubtful debts as a percentage of gross loans and advances.



Beneficiaries of SEF's loans are mainly small business women.

Figures from the National Credit Regulator show unsecured lending has multiplied four-fold to R200 billion since 2009. Unsecured lending grew 21% last year, a rate of growth that should be a cause for concern. Nearly four of 10 South Africans qualifying for credit have impaired records.

Shining in a troubled sector How does SEF manage to shine in a sector where others have burned their fingers? Borrowers are introduced by existing and trusted clients, which serves as the first line of credit defence. They are then allocated to a cell of five or six other borrowers. Every member of the cell undertakes

to cover the loan repayments of the others. This peer pressure keeps cell members honest and ensures loans are recovered. SEF targets not just the poor, but the ultra-poor: those who live below the poverty line.

What really differentiates SEF from other lenders is that it is not trying to make a profit. Surpluses are ploughed back into new loans

and a highly effective poverty reduction programme that involves financial education and savings mobilisation.

Getting the poor started "What we do is get the poorest of the poor started on their journey in business," says de Wit. "But it is not good enough just to lend money without also providing the tools and education that go into making a successful business."

SEF clients have accumulated net savings of R109 million as a result of its education intervention, which is almost 25% up on the previous year. SEF has been in operation for almost three decades and the bad debt ratio remains very low.

It started off in Limpopo, but now offers loans in seven of the country's nine provinces (the Western Cape and Free State are not yet covered). What's also interesting about SEF's business model is that it actively seeks out borrowers through a network of nearly 600 loan development facilitators.

The average loan size is about R4 000, and 84% of clients re-borrow after paying back the initial loan. The average rate of interest is 32% a year, which is well within limits defined

under the Usury Act. Bear in mind that SEF is targeting what is generally considered the highest risk segment of the market. Some 99% of borrowers are poor, black women.

There are some astounding success stories. Some micro entrepreneurs have gone on to run decent-sized businesses, including furniture factories and fleets of taxis. The major banks that tiptoed around unsecured lending have seen decent improvements in credit loss ratios in the last three years: the ratio was 0.73% for Absa in 2018, 0.8% for FirstRand, 0.53% for Nedbank and 0.56% for Standard Bank.

Traditional banks' business models, based as they are on collateral and legal processes to recover debts, have been unable to crack this market.

Hands-on approach At the first sign of trouble, SEF facilitators contact the borrower and see what intervention is required to get the borrower up to date on repayments. In some cases, payment obligations are rescheduled, particularly where the client is unable to meet payment obligations due to long-term illness. Rescheduling

can hide a lot of poor quality lending, and is regarded as something of a last resort. It is this flexibility and hands-on intervention that makes the difference between success and failure in the micro-lending market.

The unsecured lending boom took off in earnest in 1993 with the amendment of the Usury Act, which lifted the ceiling on interest rates with the express intention of stimulating lending to the poor. This contributed to the collapse of African Bank (now back on its feet again) and battered retailers such as Stuttafords and Edcon. At the other end of the scale, SEF has shown what can be done with a fresh approach to lending and debt recovery.

"There is a way for banks to get involved in this market and make it work," says de Wit. "We would be willing to collaborate with them and share our hard-won knowledge. But our experience tells us they cannot ditch their traditional approach to lending, which involves credit assessment and collateral. Probably a better way for them to participate in this market is to give us the money to lend on their behalf."

WORLD

UK gears up for election that Johnson can't call

By Bloomberg

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson's staff talk about an imminent general election as though it were a fact, and on Tuesday, a Conservative politician accidentally published a draft email about his "GE2019 team."

But amid growing expectations that the next chapter in the UK's political crisis will see the country go to the polls, it's still not clear how it will happen.

The argument for an election is clear. Johnson has a governing majority in Parliament of just one seat, meaning he doesn't have the votes to pass any controversial legislation. It's also far from clear there's a majority for any kind of Brexit deal, while MPs are plotting to block his "do or die" plan to take Britain out of the European Union on Oct 31, without a deal if necessary.

Calling an election would stop those plots -- MPs would cease to be MPs and have to fight again for their seats -- and could potentially deliver Johnson a majority. The Conservatives see the prime minister as an electoral asset, a politician who's also a celebrity.

If he could argue the election had been forced on him and fight a "Parliament versus the People" campaign,

the Tories hope Johnson could sweep up voters frustrated that Brexit hasn't been delivered.

Yet the days when prime ministers could go to the monarch and request an election are over. Under 2011 legislation, a national ballot can be called only if two-thirds of MPs opt for one -- or if the government loses a confidence vote.

Unless either of those happen, under the Fixed-term Parliaments Act the next election isn't scheduled until 2022.

If Johnson wants an election "to break the parliamentary deadlock, or get a mandate for a no-deal Brexit, then he will not only need the support of all of his party but also a sizable chunk of opposition MPs," said Maddy Thimont Jack at the Institute for Government. "A lot depends on when he calls it."

Opponents of a no-deal Brexit fear Johnson might go for a date just after Oct 31, allowing Britain to leave the EU without a deal during the election campaign when there would be no Parliament to stop it. Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has argued this would be "unconstitutional and anti-democratic."

A person familiar with Corbyn's



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

thinking, speaking privately, said that if Johnson asked Parliament to vote for an election before Oct 31, Labour would support it. If he asked for a later date, they said, it would be a much trickier decision. Labour's backing, which Johnson needs given his wafer-thin majority, would likely depend on the prime minister agreeing to delay Brexit.

There is a potential way around the 2011 election law: To amend it, requiring only a simple majority in Parliament. But it would also need the agreement of the upper House of Lords, and the timing of Brexit makes this complicated.

Farage threat

An election while Britain is still an EU member is an unappealing prospect to Conservatives, who have seen their vote eroded by Nigel Farage's new Brexit Party.

He would be sure to stand candidates arguing that the Tories couldn't be trusted to get Britain out of the EU, splitting the pro-Brexit vote. Two special elections this year saw the Tories defeated by other parties after the Brexit Party siphoned off anti-EU votes.

So if it's hard to see how Johnson can force an election, might Parliament force one on him instead?

There's much talk of a confidence vote when Parliament returns next month. If Johnson lost, a 14-day period follows in which someone else

could try to form a government, or he could try to win a new confidence vote. An election would be automatically triggered if those efforts fail.

For the government to lose a confidence vote, at least one Conservative MP -- though probably more -- would have to vote against their own side. That would see them expelled from the party and unable to stand for it in any subsequent election. Some have said privately they would be willing to do so as a last-resort to avert a no-deal Brexit.

"I'm very confident that Parliament has the means to make its voice heard" on a no-deal Brexit, former Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond told BBC radio yesterday.

Stopping Brexit

Even then, it might not mean an election. A memo written by Conservative Brexit opponent Dominic Grieve and Labour's Margaret Beckett, seen by Bloomberg, argues that the 14-day period after a confidence vote should be used to change the law and force a Brexit delay.

That would then be followed, it's implied in the strategy, by another confidence vote to cancel the election. The memo is clear that their goal is a second referendum on Brexit.

That plan could easily go wrong, meaning an election by accident, potentially along with an accidental no-deal Brexit.

Agencies

Pakistan asks UN to meet over India moves in Kashmir

UNITED NATIONS

PAKISTAN on Tuesday asked the United Nations Security Council to meet over India's decision to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, the Himalayan region that has long been a flash-point in ties between the nuclear-armed neighbors.

The move by India blocks the right of the state of Jammu and Kashmir to frame its own laws and allows non-residents to buy property there. Telephone lines, internet and television networks have been blocked since the Aug 5 decision and there are restrictions on movement and assembly.

"Pakistan will not provoke a conflict. But India should not mistake our restraint for weakness," Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi (pictured) wrote in a letter to the Security Council seen by Reuters.

"If India chooses to resort again to the use of force, Pakistan will be obliged to respond, in self defense, with all its capabilities," he said, adding that "in view of the dangerous implications" Pakistan requested the meeting.

It was not immediately clear how the 15-member council would respond to the request and whether a member of the body would also need to make a formal request.



Poland is president of the Security Council for August. Polish Foreign Minister Jacek Czaputowicz told reporters at the United Nations on Tuesday that the council had received a letter from Pakistan and "will discuss that issue and take a proper decision."

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on India and Pakistan to refrain from any steps that could affect the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Guterres also said he was concerned about reports of restrictions on the Indian side of Kashmir.

The UN Security Council adopted several resolutions in 1948 and in the 1950s on the dispute between India and Pakistan over the region, including one which says a plebiscite should be held to determine the future of the mostly Muslim Kashmir.

Another resolution also calls upon both sides to "refrain from making any statements and from doing or causing to be done or permitting any acts which might aggravate the situation."

UN peacekeepers have been deployed since 1949 to observe a ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Agencies

S. African health minister tries to alleviate concern over controversial healthcare bill

CAPE TOWN

HEALTH Minister Zweli Mkhize yesterday tried to alleviate concern over the National Health Insurance (NHI) bill which has met with scepticism since its submission.

The minister said he was confident that the bill, once passed, would create a successful model for universal healthcare in the country.

The bill, submitted by Mkhize (pictured) to Parliament last week, envisages a package of comprehensive health services for free at private and public health facilities as part of the government's bid to provide more equitable access to

quality healthcare.

A wide range of people will benefit from the bill, including inmates, refugees, permanent residents and all children in South Africa.

This will be done through the establishment of the NHI Fund.

But several political parties and numerous bodies, including the South African Private Practitioners' Forum, raised scepticism about the bill, calling it unrealistic, too expensive, and would potentially damage the healthcare sector, particularly when the country is facing a financial crisis.

On Tuesday, the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) sought urgent legal opinion on the consti-



tutionality of the NHI bill which it said would cripple the economy.

The party insists that the bill seeks to fundamentally alter healthcare policy in South Africa by creating a state-owned entity to consolidate all funds within the

public and private health system. This is the nationalization of all healthcare in the country, the DA said.

In response to the scepticism, Mkhize assured that the bill will not steer the healthcare sector in

a financial crisis.

"The issue is not whether there is something wrong with the private sector. Both the public and private sector need to be realigned and that's what we are doing. And it's not like we are taking money from the one and giving it to the other," he explained.

The reality is that the country needs a much more equitable redistribution of the resources inside the same system, the minister added.

On Monday, the bill was forwarded to Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Health for deliberation, the first step for its adoption by Parliament.

Xinhua

Us and China need each other

By Chris Nixon Cox

I learned a lot from my grandfather and heard many stories about China from him. He always thought a lot about China. China was "something very important to him" and a major accomplishment for his administration was opening the doors to China.

He would talk a lot about it and how it was important to do it as a fit to the US strategy: more importantly it was the right thing to do.

He really enjoyed his meetings, specifically those with the Chinese leaders -- he had a great and constructive relationship with Deng Xiaoping and Zhou Enlai and appreciated the friendship with them.

My father took me to China in 1997 when I was 18 years old and just out of high school. It was the first time I visited a foreign country outside of the Caribbean.

Together with my father, we met with Wang Daohan (the then President of Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits) in Shanghai and I was very impressed with how much wisdom he had about Chinese foreign policy, the relationships with the surrounding territories. He was a very astute thinker about the world.

My dad remarked on the fact that, when he was in Shanghai, Pudong was essentially a cow pasture. 5-7 years later, here is this big new city that builds up in Pudong.

Even at that age, I was aware of China's rapid growth and to see it continue today isn't surprising because I have been to Beijing for over 50 times and there is something very different every time. China is always changing, always developing. When I go back to Beijing now, many of the Beijing city government offices have been moved to the suburbs and a new airport will be built. So maybe the next time I visit, I think it will be (I will be using) the new airport.

I have many Chinese friends ... and I really enjoy being around them. My Chinese friends are always hospitable. China has a great culture of being welcoming and treating guest very well. With everyone I have met in China, they all have been very friendly. Whether I am received at a government meeting, or at someone's personal home or business, all Chinese people have been very welcoming. Hospitality is all the same (throughout the years).

There is a real optimism among the Chinese people. Another major change is that there is now a focus on environmental quality. I feel that there is this interest on the quality of life, leisure time and environment.

We would like to increase assets under management we have in China... we want to do more in China. We think there are a lot of opportunities in the financial sector.

We are ready to grow our business there, especially after the policies favoring/attracting foreign investments. We have seen that the Chinese government continues to open up the financial sector, which will benefit us and the world.

We have had great conversations with the Chinese regulatory authorities; they are very welcoming and encourage us to come to participate in the Chinese markets.

With regards to the US-China relations, I take the long-term point of view. I think the two countries both need each other. There are some commonalities between China and the United States, whether it's the large amount of trade, an interest in a clean environment, an interest in combatting terrorism. Additionally, hundreds of thousands of Chinese come into the US and many US citizens go to China. I believe in the US and China relationship.

I would like to see it grow and prosper and work out well for both countries. If there is anything I can do to help promote bilateral relationship, I would do it. I think it is important that China continues to grow in a peaceful way which is good for the US and the world. US should have a policy that promotes stability within China.

I think that the two countries must go a cooperative way. China should be congratulated for being able to achieve this growth and have a climate of political stability at the same time. I think it's a remarkable achievement.

(The author is the grandson of former US President Richard Nixon)

People's Daily

Russia, China to reach \$200 bln worth of trade turnover by 2024, says ambassador

MOSCOW

MOSCOW and Beijing have set the target of boosting trade turnover to \$200 bln by 2024, China's new Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui told reporters yesterday.

"We have already set another target of reaching \$200 bln worth of trade turnover by 2024. I believe that goal may be accomplished as from now on the (Russian-Chinese) trade and economic cooperation will be expanding even more rapidly," he said.

"The whole potential has been revealed. Almost all barriers hindering the development of trade and economic cooperation have been removed. Certain problems that do exist will be resolved," the diplomat added.

According to the figures provided by China's General Administration of Customs, trade turnover between Russia and China increased by 4.7% in January-July period of 2019 year-on-year to \$61.13 bln.

Agencias

Conte called before Italian assembly to address political crisis

By Bloomberg

ITALIAN lawmakers summoned Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte to appear before the senate on Aug. 20 as parliament responds to the political chaos that has gripped the euro-area's third largest economy.

While Conte's appearance next week could lead to a confidence vote in the upper house, there are several possible outcomes, including his resignation or further delays.

Deputy Premier Matteo Salvini is pushing for a quick confidence vote that would lead to a snap ballot and allow his anti-immigrant League party to consolidate control of the government.

But the way forward will ultimately

be decided by President Sergio Mattarella, who can seek to form an alternate ruling coalition in parliament, or call a general election.

"I appeal to the dignity of this chamber, we can have different positions, I can hold something against some of you, I am not perfect indeed, I make a lot of mistakes," Salvini told the chamber. "But I've never been afraid to vote."

Leading the polls

Conte's government, an alliance between the League and the anti-establishment Five Star Movement, has been tearing itself apart over policy disagreements ever since it formed more than a year ago.

Salvini's dominant position in the polls means that he'll likely become



Italy's next premier in case of an early vote, despite last-ditch efforts to create a coalition to block him.

With the League polling just shy of 40%, a new election could see Salvini win an outright majority in both branches of parliament on his own, though a pre-election alliance with the far-right Brothers of Italy might pro-

vide more comfort. Add Forza Italia to the mix and Salvini might even get the two-thirds majority needed to amend the country's constitution.

"Salvini is going to win, it's only a matter of when," Raffaella Tenconi, founder of London-based consultancy ADA Economics, said in an interview with Bloomberg. "He can win now relatively soon with an early election or he can win even more in a year from now."

Luigi Di Maio's Five Star has been holding frantic talks with the center-left Democratic Party in an effort to form an "institutional" government that could fill the void after the likely collapse of the one led by Conte.

Di Maio said in a Facebook video Monday that Salvini's efforts to bring

down the government are absurd and called for Salvini and other League ministers to resign.

A tie-up between the Democrats and Five Star is unlikely given that the two have traded insults and have been at odds on almost every major issue for years.

But it's a signal of the obstacles that Salvini faces after he pulled the plug on his fractious coalition with Five Star and called for "swift" elections to capitalize on soaring poll ratings.

"Salvini tried to speed up things but he failed," former Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said on Tuesday. "He should get back to his mojitos," he added, referring to Salvini's campaign rallies on Italy's beaches.

Renzi supports a new majority with the Five Star with the aim of approving the 2020 budget and avoiding an automatic VAT increase, which he said would push Italy into a recession. As a goodwill gesture, he hinted he would be ready to support at least one core Five Star policy that the Democrats had previously opposed.

In a surprise move, Salvini pledged to vote for a drastic reduction in the number of lawmakers -- a flagship Five Star proposal -- if that party backs the snap elections.

The lower house, which must give final approval to the law, set Aug. 22 for the vote. That would follow Conte's speech in the senate on Aug 20 and one to the lower house on Aug 21.

Is there a black hand behind the chaos and violence in Hong Kong?

By Curtis Stone

RECENTLY, in the US city of New York, police charged a 35-year-old Brooklyn resident with harassment and obstructing governmental administration for throwing water at two New York City police officers working in Queens.

NYPD Chief Terence Monahan described the water-tossing as "reprehensible." New York Mayor Bill de Blasio also condemned the actions, calling them "completely unacceptable" and said "we won't tolerate this kind of disrespect."

In fact, police power in the United States is virtually unchallengeable. Any behavior that poses a potential threat will trigger a tough response. In the United States, police are known to use such extreme force that the risk of being killed by police is high.

This is what happened in 2014, when a white police officer killed an unarmed 18-year-old African American man in Ferguson, Missouri, sparking protests.

After the protests devolved into violence, officials declared a state of emergency and police with military-grade equipment squashed the unrest.

Such strong responses show that there is zero tolerance in the United States for unacceptable behavior. Officials understand that maintaining authority is necessary for the rule of law and there must be a bottom line. Cross it and there will be a strong reaction. But unfortunately, the United States is also accustomed to double standards, especially when it comes to China.

The protests in Hong Kong, which started in opposition to a since-scrapped bill, continue to rock the city.

For weeks now, protests have paralyzed one of the most bustling and vibrant cities in the world and the turmoil in Hong Kong is getting worse and the violence is getting increasingly



An airport staff checks the travel documents of passengers before they are allowed to enter the passenger terminal building of Hong Kong International Airport, yesterday. The airport has obtained an interim injunction to stop people from obstructing operations at the airport.

intense.

It has come to a point where the bottom line has been crossed and it would be unreasonable to assume that the situation will not be dealt with seriously.

In the words of the US president, Hong Kong is part of China and it is up to China to deal with the riots in Hong Kong. However, unlike Trump's mouth, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and others see the riots as an opportunity to divide the Chinese people.

Anti-China clowns like US Senator Marco Rubio, who have made it their mission to attack China, have urged Trump to exert pressure on China, and others, like US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have used their position of power

to egg the protesters on.

There is zero tolerance for unrest in the United States. Yet, the message that certain US officials are sending is that it is fine for radicals in Hong Kong to attack and humiliate the police and bring chaos to the city. The blatant hypocrisy of the United States is on full display.

Moreover, some foreign forces are using the turmoil in Hong Kong to foment a "color revolution", as evidence is emerging that there is a black hand pulling the strings behind the chaos and violence in Hong Kong.

On Thursday, reports emerged of a meeting between Julie Eadeh, the political unit chief for the US Consul-

ate General in Hong Kong, and leading "Hong Kong Independence" activists. Their meeting in a hotel was captured by a Hong Kong citizen who posted the photo on social media.

The photo went viral with people pointing to it as evidence that the United States is behind the turmoil. Media reports also said she was involved in plotting subversive actions under the name of human rights and democracy while stationed in the Middle East as a diplomat.

In response to the media reports, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region on Thursday made stern rep-

resentations with the US Consulate General in Hong Kong over the contact between US officials and major "Hong Kong Independence" activists.

The people of Hong Kong are entitled to enjoy the right to peaceful protest, but radical and violent behavior will never be tolerated. The increasingly chaotic and violent protests challenge the bottom line of the "one country, two systems" principle, the bottom line of rule of law, and the bottom line of morality.

China has made it clear that it will not allow this situation to continue. On August 7, Zhang Xiaoming, director of the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, sent a strong message.

He said that the violence and chaos not only poses threats to lives and property, but to the governance authority of the Special Administrative Region government, the rule of law in Hong Kong, the prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, and the "one country, two systems."

"Citizens of Hong Kong will not allow this to happen. The people of China will not allow this to happen," Zhang added, stressing that the central authorities will never sit by if the situation in Hong Kong worsens to a point that the Special Administrative Region government cannot control.

Zhang then pointed out that the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region gives the central authorities ample methods and sufficient strength to promptly settle any possible turmoil should it occur.

It would be wise if both the radical protesters and the foreign forces colluding with lawbreakers in Hong Kong took the words of Zhang seriously.

(The author is an American citizen currently working in China)

People's Daily

Russian aircraft fire unguided missiles at 'enemy' positions in Far Eastern drills

VLADIVOSTOK

AIRCRAFT from the Eastern Military District have destroyed 'enemy' strongholds with bombs and unguided missiles during drills in the Russian Far East, the district's press service said yesterday.

Pilots from three air regiments of the Eastern Military District have practiced destroying 'enemy' strongholds during an offensive. Su-34 bombers, Su-25SM strike aircraft and Su-25 'Grach' aircraft took part in the tactical drills.

They fired rockets and bombs at training ranges in Khabarovsk, Primorsky and Zabaikalsky regions. Up to 50 aircraft from the Aerospace Defense Forces took part in the military exercise, the press service said.

Aircraft used special unguided missiles to destroy 'enemy' fortifications, while 'enemy' underground communications and command posts were destroyed with concrete-piercing rockets and air bombs.

"During drills, pilots struck targets imitating 'enemy' aircraft hangars, parks with military and automotive equipment, fortifications for manpower," the press service noted.



Pilots from three air regiments of the Eastern Military District have practiced destroying 'enemy' strongholds during an offensive.

African countries urged to embrace geospatial techs to promote development

ADDIS ABABA

The UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on Tuesday urged African countries to exert concerted efforts to embrace advancements in the geospatial technologies sector so as to realize Africa's development agenda.

The urgent call was by Oliver Chinganya, Director of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS) at the ECA, who stressed the ECA's special emphasis to developments in the geospatial technologies sector as a major driving force to Africa's development aspirations.

"The ECA views geospatial technology as a significant component that will help push Africa's transformative development agenda even further," an ECA statement quoted Chinganya as saying on Tuesday.

According to the ECA, even though Africa's current demographic trends, including rapid urbanization, represent major economic opportunities, such demographic trends also "represent real challenges with regard to human welfare and infrastructure needs."

"These issues affect citizens, businesses and the community at large," Chinganya (pictured) said, adding "efforts are being made by the ECA to support African countries to work out strategies and policies to tackle the challenges in the various sectors of

development."

The ECA also stressed that investments in geospatial technologies are crucial as the continent encounters major challenges, including climate change, disaster risk, food security, water scarcity, energy shortage, health related problems, environmental stresses and food crisis.

Chinganya, who is also the Head of Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division at the ECA, further stressed that the ECA "understands that it is imperative for every African country to deliver relevant information that can promote and sustain economic growth."

"It is therefore of greater importance to have access to real time and precise spatial information, given Africa's size and complex biophysical environment, to support effective decision-making," Chinganya added.

The ECA also urged African countries and pan African institutions to embrace geospatial technologies as key development indicators are at risk of quickly becoming out-dated and of limited value to understanding the scale, speed and locations of newly developing urban areas and informal settlements.

"It is therefore imperative for information with a geospatial component to inform the continents sustainable planning and development," the ECA affirmed.



Director of the African Centre for Statistics Oliver Chinganya

The ECA, however, commended improving trends in Africa as African governments and other sectors of society "have become increasingly aware of the importance of geospatial science and technology as a tool to facilitate spatial data collection, access and use in the decision-making processes, both nationally and regionally."

According to the ECA's specialized agency on statistics, African Centre for Statistics (ACS), geospatial technologies are "gradually becoming the driving force of many applications and services from land administration to natural resource management to agriculture across countries."

Figures from ACS also revealed that African countries such as Kenya, South Africa, Ghana, as well as Rwanda are among the list of major African countries that have witnessed the benefits of

geospatial technologies and applications.

The ECA also called for "geospatial data revolution" in Africa, which he said would require wider and easier access to geospatial data, as well as accuracy and consistency of geospatial data over its entire life cycle.

The ECA's call towards the development of geospatial technologies in Africa is also included in the global agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, as well as Africa's 50-year development Agenda 2063, which was approved by the African Union (AU) in January 2015.

Both the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 emphasize the need for a global and continental coordination mechanism for geospatial information management respectively.

Xinhua

Malaysia conducts autopsy to find cause of UK teen's death

SEREMBAN

MALAYSIAN doctors conducted an autopsy yesterday to determine the cause of death of a 15-year-old London teen whose naked body was found nine days after she mysteriously disappeared from a nature resort.

Nora Anne Quoirin's body was discovered Tuesday beside a small stream about 2.5 kilometers from the Dusun eco-resort in southern Negeri Sembilan state, where she went missing on Aug 4. The body was airlifted to a hospital, where she was positively identified by her parents.

Her family yesterday thanked the rescue team of more than 350 people who helped search for the girl, who has learning and physical disabilities.

"Nora is at the heart of our family. She is the truest, most precious girl and we love her infinitely. The cruelty of her being taken away is unbearable.

Our hearts are broken," the family said in a brief statement issued by the Lucie Blackman Trust, a charity that helps families of Britons in crisis overseas. "We will always love our Nora," she said.

Police said a medical team including a senior pathologist



from Kuala Lumpur conducted a post-mortem yesterday to find out how she died. Local media reported that a forensic team also went back to the area where the body was found to comb for evidence. Police didn't say how long the body had been there or why rescuers apparently missed it earlier in the search operation.

Police from Ireland, France and the UK are in Malaysia to assist in the investigation. The girl's mother is from Ireland and her father is French, but the family has lived in London for 20 years.

Quoirin's family arrived Aug 3 for a two-week stay at the Dusun, a small resort located in a durian orchard next to a forest reserve 63 kilometers south of

Kuala Lumpur.

Police believe the teen climbed out through a window in the living room of the family's resort cottage. They listed her as a missing person but said the investigation included possible criminal aspects. The girl's family has said she isn't independent and wouldn't wander off alone, and was likely to have been abducted.

Sankara Nair, a Malaysian lawyer hired by the family, said yesterday that the family hopes police will investigate possible foul play in her death. If the autopsy isn't able to determine how she died, he said the government could hold an inquest later on to identify the cause of death.

Agencies

US stirring up troubles reveals absurd logic

"CHINA is doing very badly." That was the remark made by some U.S. politicians as China's GDP grew 6.3 percent year on year in the first half of 2019. China's economy maintained stability while making steady progress, but they just turned a blind eye to the medium-high growth rate.

Positively responding to U.S. concerns, China has implemented strict management and control of fentanyl-related substances. However, some U.S. politicians slandered China as the main source of such substances in the U.S. and blamed China for the fentanyl abuse in their country.

Following the spirit of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries actively advanced the consultations on the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea and finished the first reading of the single draft negotiating text of the COC ahead of schedule.

Nonetheless, some Americans drove a wedge between China and ASEAN countries, alleging that "China is blocking development in the South China Sea through coercive means," and "China's coercive behaviors to its Southeast

Asian neighbors threaten regional peace and stability."

However, they neglected the fact that the international community is sharp-eyed, and their ticks to stir up troubles over China would neither cover up the facts nor distort the truth.

In disguise of the so-called "America first" strategy, some U.S. officials arbitrarily escalated the economic and trade friction with China by fabricating stories that the U.S. is "losing" and China steals intellectual property and forces technology transfers.

This will only make more and more U.S. companies and

consumers fall into the victims and put global economy at risk.

By hyping up the so-called "China threat", these American politicians alleged that China poses threat to the U.S. and developing countries, and even ridiculously claimed that China's foreign aid is a "debt trap."

Unsurprisingly, such malicious and false accusations received public criticism from global state leaders, as well as insightful Americans who have issued open letters to call for a stop of taking China as an enemy.

History has long proved that in the face of competition during development, to smear and suppress others is never a correct approach, and countries must solve their own problems and enhance their own strength, as a country must be able to ensure economic growth, uphold justice and have an open mind for win-win cooperation.

"The Chinese are a proud people with a long history, and the accusations, provocations, threats and disrespect being directed their way are having a predictable effect. What kind of shining example does America set by actively seeking to thwart the progress of one-fifth of humanity?" This question was raised by

Susan Thornton, former U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State, in an article published on Bloomberg. What she said voiced the grievances of the U.S. society and reflected the American public's anxiety about the damage to the U.S. international image.

Respecting facts and being responsible for one's words and practices are fundamental morality and norms guiding international relations. If a country gives up such bottom line, international morality and justice will be completely destroyed.

A Chinese saying goes that one should not say or do any-

thing that goes against public morality.

China has respected such a code of conduct since ancient times, thus has the very confidence in not yielding to provocation of those who stir up troubles, just as another proverb goes, "an empty sack cannot stand upright."

We suggest that the U.S. politicians not overestimate their ability to make troubles, or indulge in the illusion of manipulating the world at their own will. They should know that justice delayed is never justice denied.

People's Daily



In this Feb. 8, 2019, file photo, Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) and forward Kevin Durant (35) pause during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns Friday, Feb. 8, 2019, in Phoenix. (AP Photo)

Stephen Curry embraces State Warriors' change, praises Kevin Durant

OAKLAND, CALIF.

SOMEDAY, years or even decades from now, at one of those celebratory reunions teams like to do, Stephen Curry knows he and Kevin Durant will reminisce with fondness about their three insanely successful years together on the Golden State Warriors.

They will reflect on the greatness, the fun, all they learned from each other shooting side by side day after day. Two championships, a pair of NBA Finals MVP awards for Durant.

"I'll always remember the three years we had. We'll probably be back here down the road celebrating those like they did the '74-75 team," Curry said, nodding in the direction of the Warriors' recent championship banners. "It'll be cool when that happens."

For now, Curry is embracing "new beginnings" as the oldest player on a Golden State roster that will look far different come training camp next month – and that also was the theme he shared with girls attending his Warriors camp this week in one of his "bittersweet" final trips to the downtown Oakland practice facility before a move to San Francisco and the new Chase Center. Durant, recovering from surgery to repair a ruptured right Achilles tendon, has departed to join the Brooklyn Nets.

"We won two championships and I think we both got better throughout the process as basketball players and as people," Curry said. "With the demand every single night to be great and just all that that comes with, in terms of the media attention, the scrutiny, the criticism, the praise

even, it's a lot to handle. And I think me and him especially on that level could connect. Him going to Brooklyn, you're just trying to make sure he's happy and going to a place where he feels like he needs to be. At the end of the day, you've got to be happy about that for him."

Also gone are veterans Andre Iguodala and Shaun Livingston, guard Quinn Cook and big man DeMarcus Cousins. Meanwhile, the Warriors have added a handful of new faces like D'Angelo Russell, Willie Cauley-Stein and Glenn Robinson III. Draymond Green got a new four-year deal earlier this month worth close to \$100 million. Kevon Looney resigned, too.

As Klay Thompson works back this season from surgery for a torn ACL in his left knee that he injured

in the deciding Game 6 loss of the finals to the Toronto Raptors, Curry's backcourt mate will be Russell.

At 31, Curry doesn't mind that he will be the quote-unquote old guy entering his 11th NBA season. A two-time NBA MVP, he has reached five straight NBA Finals.

"Has it sunk in? No. Have people been reminding me? Yes, any time they bring up our team looking forward," he said with a smile. "It's cool though, hopefully I'm wise beyond my years but still youthful in what I can do on the floor. It's just a change in dynamic all the way around. We're excited about the opportunities, the challenges for the whole roster, because we've got a lot of guys that have the opportunity to really prove themselves and make a difference in our team. Obviously

our core, 'til Klay gets back, we know how to win and we know how to play. We're just going to do it a little differently."

Curry is unconcerned at this stage about outside expectations regarding how good this group might be and speculation that these Warriors may not be a championship contender.

"I know the reality of the situation in terms of we lost a guy like Kevin Durant, who's an all-time great basketball player," Curry said. "We lost two veteran high-IQ guys in Shaun and Andre that really were like the cogs in the wheel that kept us going and you could rely on them every single game. So, the look is different but nobody really has a sustained run like we did where every year you're expected to be the greatest. It's just a matter of now we

have to, I wouldn't even say prove people wrong, but we have to kind of galvanize the new roster and do the exact same thing."

As he told the girl campers all sporting his No. 30 jersey, first things first.

Curry took a quick poll of how many had started school again. Dozens of hands shot into the air.

"Great to see you all again! You all having a great day, too?"

Collective "Yeah!"

"New beginnings, right? We're going to take care of our school work this year?" Curry asked. "We're going to be very dedicated and hard-working in the classroom as we are on the basketball court? That's very important to be well-rounded people, right? Athletes and academics."

AP

Women's football in need of greater support

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

INDEED, following the accumulation of evidence it would be pretty daunting for many to disagree with the assertion that continental women's football has definitely not received the same level of investment and support which men's football has been the beneficiaries of.

The evidence which has been built up that points to the rightness of such a bleak assessment of African women's football is vast and varied in nature.

Let us take a firm stab then at uncovering this evidence which can be readily drawn from a few telling sources.

First off, since the birth of continental women's football to the present-day, there is still no Africa-wide women's championship like we have the renowned CAF Confederation Cup and the admittedly more cherished CAF Champions League for men's football.

Second off this damnable 'List of Shame' comes the issue of women's youth football which any reasoned argument on this weighty subject would doubtlessly pinpoint as being of instrumental importance to the overall health of the women's game.

Indeed, it beggars pure belief that CAF has not deemed it vital enough to set up any continental women's youth football competition be it of the U-20 or U-17 variety.

In fact, our very own national U-20 women's football team nicknamed 'Tanzanite', last Sunday outclassed and outmaneuvered their opponents, Zambia, 2-1 to lift the inaugural COSAFA U-20 women's cup in South Africa, who were the hosts of such a direly needed and unprecedented experiment in women's youth football initiated by COSAFA.

Truly, what renders this whole matter scandalous to comprehend is the fact that we have had well-established African men's youth



Esther Gindulya of Tanzania (L) is challenged by Loveness Malunga of Zambia during the 2019 COSAFA U-20 Women Championship final at Wolfson Stadium, Port Elizabeth in South Africa on August 11. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SAMUEL SHIVAMBU

tournaments for practically ages now.

Indeed, the CAF U-20 AFCON men's youth tournament and the CAF U-17 AFCON Boys' championship have been solid fixtures on the continental football landscape since time immemorial, figuratively speaking, that is.

Nevertheless, as if the picture being painted of African women's football wasn't saddening and troubling enough, it incredibly gets worse.

In football, as is commonly understood, the existence of a national league or the absence of such for women's soccer is a really good barometer of how highly or lowly the country in question regards and views the just cause of developing women's football.

Now, get this: Even though many countries in Africa have

by now established national women's football leagues in their own respective lands, there are still some nations on the continent which have yet to follow suit.

However, Dear and Esteemed Reader, you may be scratching your head at this point in total befuddlement wondering what the dickens has any of this hopefully riveting content got to do with you.

Well, as part of a fitting riposte, I would like to draw your attention back to a fact of monumental proportions which was only lightly treated earlier in today's commentary.

That fact, of course, is the admirable overall triumph of Tanzanite at the maiden COSAFA U-20 Women's competition last weekend.

Indeed, to describe Tanzanite's emergence as the COSA-

FA U-20 women's tournament's champions as merely amazing would be nothing short of a gross understatement.

This is precisely due to one heavily significant fact: Here in Tanzania, we do not have any women's youth football development structures to speak of.

This then raises a very interesting question: Since our country does not have a national women's youth development scene at all, how on earth were Tanzanite able to pull-off such an audacious triumph in South Africa last weekend?

It is obvious then that Tanzanite's sterling victory should hastily lead to infinitely more investment in women's youth soccer than has previously been the case.

After all, women's soccer in Tanzania deserves nothing less.

LA Opera to investigate Placido Domingo over accusations

SAN FRANCISCO

TWO music companies canceled appearances by Placido Domingo and the Los Angeles Opera said Tuesday it would launch an investigation in response to an Associated Press story in which numerous women accused the opera legend of sexual harassment and inappropriate behavior spanning decades.

Domingo has been general director of the LA Opera since 2003 and previously served as the company's artistic director, jobs that gave him the power to cast roles and – his accusers say – make, or break, careers.

Some of the women told the AP that Domingo used his power at the LA company and elsewhere to try to pressure them into sexual relationships, with several saying that he dangled jobs and then sometimes punished them professionally if they refused his advances.

On Tuesday, the Philadelphia Orchestra and San Francisco Opera announced they would cancel upcoming performances featuring the star, regarded as one of the greatest opera singers of all time.

New York's Metropolitan Opera said it would await the results of LA Opera's investigation "before making any final decisions about Mr. Domingo's future at the Met," where he is scheduled to appear next month.

The 78-year-old Domingo is one of the industry's most powerful figures and more than three dozen people in the opera world told the AP that his behavior has long been an open secret.

The accusers who spoke to the AP – all but one of whom requested anonymity – said they had feared speaking out previously would kill their careers due to his immense standing.

Domingo issued a statement to the AP calling the allegations "deeply troubling and, as presented inaccurate," adding "I believed that all of my interactions and relationships were always welcomed and consensual."

The LA Opera said it would hire outside counsel to investigate the "concerning allegations" against Domingo.

"Placido Domingo has been a dynamic creative force in the life of LA opera and the artistic culture of Los Angeles for more than three decades," the company said in a statement. "Nevertheless, we are committed to doing everything we can to foster a professional and collaborative environment where all our employees and artists feel equally comfortable, valued and respected."

Three women quoted in the story detailed encounters that they said occurred while working with Domingo at LA Opera, including one woman who told the AP that he stuck



In this Nov. 5, 1994 file photo, Placido Domingo performs in the San Francisco Opera's production of "Herodiade" in San Francisco. On Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019, the San Francisco Opera said it is canceling an October concert featuring Domingo after the publication of an Associated Press story that quoted numerous women as saying they were sexually harassed or subjected to inappropriate behavior by the superstar. (AP Photo)

his hand down her skirt after urging her to come sing an aria for him at his apartment.

In canceling its invitation for Domingo to sing at its Sept. 18 opening gala, the Philadelphia Orchestra issued a statement saying: "We are committed to providing a safe, supportive, respectful, and appropriate environment for the orchestra and staff, for collaborating artists and composers, and for our audiences and communities."

The San Francisco Opera said it

would scrub a sold-out Oct. 6 concert featuring Domingo, which had been to mark his 50th anniversary with the company. It was promoted as a "special one performance-only event" with "one of the most influential singing actors in the history of opera" and was one of several gala events this year to celebrate his legendary career.

The Met held a black-tie dinner in April for Domingo, where seats started at \$2,500. He is scheduled to play the lead of "Macbeth" in three Met

shows in September and October.

"We take accusations of sexual harassment and abuse of power with extreme seriousness," the opera house said in a statement, noting that "Mr. Domingo has never been in a position to influence casting decisions for anyone other than himself" at the Met.

At the Salzburg Festival in Austria, where Domingo is scheduled to appear Aug. 31 – his next scheduled performance – festival president Helga Rabl-Stadler said organizers agreed he should appear as planned.

"I have known Placido Domingo for more than 25 years," Rabl-Stadler said in a statement. "In addition to his artistic competence, I was impressed from the very beginning by his appreciative treatment of all festival employees."

"I would find it factually wrong and morally irresponsible to make irreversible judgments at this point," she said.

Domingo served as artistic director for the Washington Opera from 1996-2003 and as the company's general director from 2003 to 2011, during which time its name was changed to Washington National Opera. In 2011, the company merged with the Kennedy Center.

In a joint statement to AP, the institutions said the allegations against Domingo predated the merger.

"The Kennedy Center did not re-

ceive any documented complaints about Mr. Domingo's behavior prior to WNO's affiliation with the Kennedy Center, and we have not received any since then," the statement said, adding that the company has "zero tolerance policies with regard to harassment, discrimination or abuse of any kind, and we take allegations of this nature very seriously."

Retired mezzo-soprano Patricia Wulf, the sole accuser to allow her name to be used, told the AP that Domingo behaved inappropriately with her when she worked at the Washington Opera.

Even after she repeatedly rebuffed his advances, she said, his persistence continued and he would often knock on her dressing room door, causing her to fear emerging if he was in the hallway.

Wulf recalled the compassion of a male colleague who offered to stand up for her if she wanted to report him. "They're not going to fire him – they'll fire me," she remembered telling him.

Too fearful to complain about Domingo at the time, Wulf said she spoke out now to end the culture of silence about abuse in the opera world.

"I'm stepping forward because I hope that it can help other women come forward, or be strong enough to say no," she said.

AP

Gloomy outlook at Madrid despite big spending spree

MADRID

REAL Madrid have spent more than 300 million euros (\$336.45 million) on new recruits but they head into the new La Liga season clouded by uncertainty and with pressure already building on coach Zinedine Zidane after a worrying warm-up campaign.

Madrid won only two of their seven pre-season games, shipping 18 goals and suffering three defeats including a humiliating 7-3 thrashing at the hands of local rivals Atletico Madrid and losses to Bayern Munich and Tottenham Hotspur.

Their transfer business has not gone entirely to plan, either, despite the large number of recruits, with them so far failing to land Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba, who many believe was Zidane's number one target.

They have also not solved the long-running problem of what to do with Gareth Bale, their highest earner who Zidane has grown tired of, remarking last month that "the best thing would be if he left tomorrow".

Madrid could yet sign Pogba or sell Bale before the Spanish transfer window closes on Sept. 2, although their chances of getting Pogba have shrunk since the English transfer window shut last week, denying United the chance to sign a replacement.

The Bale saga, continued question marks about the future of Colombia playmaker James Rodriguez and the poor displays have damaged Zidane's authority when his side were expected to offer an emphatic response after last season's nightmarish campaign.

The club lurched from one disaster to another under successors Julen Lopetegui and then Santiago Solari after Zidane quit the club in May 2018, having led them to nine trophies in two-and-a-half seasons, including a remarkable three successive Champions League triumphs.

But the Frenchman's second coming did not go to plan as the team lost four of his 11 games and finished third in the standings, 19 points behind runaway champions Barcelona.

LAVISH SPENDING Madrid made a big statement with their lavish spending early in the close-season, buying Eden Hazard from Chelsea for 100 million euros and Serbian forward Luka Jovic for 60 million, while splashing a combined 98 million on defenders Eder Militao and Ferland Mendy.

The significant investment has had far from the intended impact on the team's results, though, while Zidane has been criticised for his diverse formations during pre-season.

Spanish newspaper AS said the French coach was "trapped in a maze" over how to line up his team in the new campaign, while Marca said there were "many doubts" to resolve.

Marquee signing Hazard, meanwhile, has failed to make a notable impact in the warm-up matches and has been criticised for appearing out of shape.

Madrid have also been further weakened by a serious knee injury to Spain winger Marco Asensio, who has been ruled out for at least six months.

REUTERS

PSG irked after Barca chat over Neymar - source

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain are unhappy with the way their first direct meeting with Barcelona went on Tuesday regarding the potential return of Neymar to Camp Nou, sources have told ESPN FC.

Despite numerous exchanges over the valuations of multiple players, there was no breakthrough, although the French champions have made clear to their Catalan counterparts what they will and will not accept.

As revealed by ESPN FC sources, negotiations over a cash-with-a-player exchange started in Paris this week with Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Rakitic the players Barca were keen to include in any potential deal.

However, PSG told the La Liga giants during this meeting that they want Coutinho, Nelson Semedo and €120 million in exchange for Neymar, while Barca's best offer so far is Coutinho, Rakitic and €80 million.

ESPN FC sources added that no major advances were made

during the meeting, which the Blaugrana are viewing as the first contact between the two clubs as negotiations step up.

There will be another meeting between the pair on Thursday during UEFA's European Club Association gathering, which the Ligue 1 outfit's chairman and CEO Nasser Al-Khelaifi will be present for -- as will Barca counterpart Josep Maria Bartomeu.

The occasion, say ESPN FC sources, will give Real Madrid president Florentino Perez the opportunity to start negotiations with PSG as the Spaniard will also be present and maintains a great relationship with Al-Khelaifi.

Neymar and his father were in Portugal on Tuesday and both are now very confident that the Brazil international will be returning to Barca before the end of this summer's transfer window.

Meanwhile, ESPN FC sources indicated that Barca want a public gesture -- possibly via social media -- from Neymar to prove his commitment to the potential move. (Agencies)

'Man United to reject any Real bid for Pogba'

LONDON

MANCHESTER United will resist any bid for Paul Pogba during the remaining weeks of the European transfer window and have had assurances from the France international that he is committed to the club this season, sources have told ESPN FC.

There is concern at Old Trafford that Real Madrid could still launch a late move for the midfielder up until La Liga's transfer deadline on Sept. 2.

However, United are set to reject any bid for Pogba -- even if it surpasses their £180 million valuation -- because there is no possibility of signing a replacement.

Following the 4-0 win over Chelsea on Sunday, Pogba said there was still "a question mark" over his future. His latest comments came two months after the 26-year-old said publicly he wants a "new challenge."

Pogba is still keen on a move to Real Madrid but there is an acceptance it will not happen this summer and he has assured manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer he is fully committed this season.

United are prepared for another approach from Madrid next summer but there are doubts about whether the Spanish giants can afford a fee that would convince the club to sell.

Solskjaer is still open to offers for a number of first team players before the European window shuts. Matteo Darmian and Marcos Rojo are both available after they were left out of the 18-man squad for the win over Chelsea.

Rojo saw a deadline day move to Everton collapse while Darmian has been linked with Inter Milan. Sources have told ESPN FC that Inter made an offer for Darmian in January but were put off by United's demands.

(Agencies)

Do Liverpool need a Salah-Mane-Firmino succession plan?

BY RYAN O'HANLON, ESPN

OUTSIDE of a backup goalkeeper, a 17-year-old center-back with red hair and a 16-year-old winger, Liverpool haven't added any new players this summer. Before acquiring free-agent keeper Adrian on Aug. 5, the club hadn't made a single senior signing. (And since Alisson went down in the first half of the season opener vs. Norwich, Adrian's now the starting goalkeeper until further notice.)

While the teams chasing them at the top end of the Premier League all improved in the final week of the summer transfer window, the Reds decided to stay put, not adding anyone who will likely contribute significant first-team minutes this season.

Last year was about as good as it gets. Liverpool won the Champions League and racked up the third-highest points total in Premier League history. They did it with a team of players who all peaked together or whose best years were still years away. Among the 15 players who played at least 1,000 Premier League minutes last season, 14 of them were 28 years old or younger at the start of the campaign. The only player on the wrong side of 30 was James Milner, whose Premier League career will seemingly last forever.

On top of that, there are plenty of "like a new signing" types who will be expected to contribute way more than they did in 2018-19. Naby Keita made only 16 starts in the league, and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain missed all but 16 of the available minutes after tearing his ACL in the 2017-18 Champions League quarterfinal against Manchester City.

If you wanted to zero in on a weakness from last year's first XI, it would be the lack of attacking output provided by the midfield. Keita and Ox are two young, dynamic passers and dribblers with track records of scoring and creating goals from deep. There's certainly a case to be made that they'll provide some internal improvement or at least help stave off some of the inevitable regression for a team that experienced significant good fortune at both ends of the field (89 goals on 90.92 expected, 22 goals conceded on 34.64 expected).

Liverpool were one of the three best teams in the world last season. Milner remains the only significant contributor who is north of 29; barring an injury crisis or a season-long spell of rotten or impossible luck, Liverpool should be one of the best teams in the world once again. But Jurgen Klopp & Co. can't keep doing this forever. A squad that peaks together declines together, too.

They were smart in seizing on the market for Philippe Coutinho and reinvesting the money in the spine of this new team, but will they be so savvy again when Spain's super clubs come knocking for one of their all-star forwards?

In short, should Liverpool consider the unthinkable and break up their fabulous front three?

Set pieces are great, and the same goes for Virgil van Dijk (who is "Mr. Indispensable" for the Reds), Alisson and cut-rate world-class fullbacks, but Liverpool have climbed this high thanks to their front three.

Since Mohamed Salah arrived from Roma in the summer of 2018 to complete the trio with Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino, Liverpool have the second-most points in the Premier League behind the impossibly deep Manchester City. From 2010 to 2017, the club never made it beyond the Champions League group stages. With those three attackers, the club has reached the last two finals and won one of them.

It goes further than that. Since the beginning of the 2017-18 season, Salah, Mane and Firmino have combined for 158 goals in the Champions League and Premier League. That's nearly two-thirds of the team's 244 goals over that span. Beyond those three, no other player still with the club has more than seven goals.

Their value is obvious both inside and outside of Anfield. According to



Liverpool trio Firmino, Salah and Mane form arguably the best attack in world soccer. (Agencies)

the CIES football observatory's transfer valuations, Liverpool's front three are worth a combined €521.6 million. Salah (€219.6m) is listed as the second-most valuable player in the world behind Kylian Mbappe, while Mane (€157.8m) is sixth and Firmino (€144.2m) eighth. Unsurprisingly, no other club has three players within the top 10.

However, those values won't be that high for that much longer. Salah turned 27 in June; Mane celebrated the same birthday in April; and Firmino turns 28 in October. Most attackers start to decline right around this time. Take a star player, throw in a minor drop-off in production and you've still got a star player, just slightly diminished. But when it happens to three guys at once, the effect on the team's performance could be exponential.

So Liverpool have a problem to solve. It's a problem they're lucky to have, but a problem nonetheless.

They can keep all three and get the maximum amount of on-field production out of them over the next couple of seasons, but that would eventually leave them with a trio of declining, expensive older players whose transfer values will have greatly declined. (All three are on contracts that expire on the same day, too: mark your calendars for June 30, 2023.) Or they could try to sell high on one right before the decline comes, running the risk of missing out on another great season or two, but then use that money to find a replacement, reinvest elsewhere in the squad, or both.

Among the front three, Salah is the untouchable. Over the past two seasons, he leads the team in -- deep breath -- shots, goals, assists, expected goals, expected assists, take-ons, chances created, big chances created, touches in the opposition box, sequences ending in a shot and sequences ending in a goal. Pick any attacking statistic that relates to putting the ball in the net and Salah is likely Liverpool's leader.

As for Mane and Firmino, it might just come down to age vs. current value. Despite functioning as the team's de facto No. 9, Firmino provides an aggressive defensive presence and leads the team in through balls completed over the past two seasons. He's just two goals behind Mane over that stretch, while also offering 22 assists to Mane's 11. But Firmino is seven months older and Mane tied for the Premier League in goals this year,

so the latter would likely command a higher fee.

It seems absurd to even be considering breaking up one of the best attacking trios we've seen this century, but to remain competitive, the majority of clubs must constantly try to balance the present with the future. Time always wins. Every player eventually gets older and eventually gets worse, so managing a squad is a constant juggling act between making short-term sacrifices for long-term gain and vice versa, all while acknowledging that the whole point of this enterprise is to win as many points as you can, year after year after year.

Only a handful of clubs can really afford to maximize the present and the future at the same time. Liverpool aren't one of those teams -- at least not yet.

According to the most recent Deloitte Football Money League rankings, for the 2017-18 season, Liverpool recorded the seventh-highest revenue (€513.7m) in world soccer. That number, and potentially that ranking, will be even higher next time around. According to the Swiss Ramble, an anonymous expert in football finances, Liverpool's European Cup victory pushed their total revenue from broadcasting (Premier and Champions leagues, combined) up to €251m -- the most money any club has ever received from television.

The club has plenty of money to spend, and a source who works with European clubs told ESPN that he expects Liverpool's revenue, on the back of two deep Champions League runs plus the Premier League's world-leading TV deal, to soon catch up with the likes of Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain, two clubs that can build for the future without having to sell off any of the present. However, Liverpool owner John Henry told The New York Times Magazine in May that the purchases of Alisson, Van Dijk and Fabinho would not have been possible had the club not sold Coutinho to Barcelona.

Whatever their financial future, it appears that not much will change at Liverpool this season or perhaps even next season. But at some point soon, the club is going to enter into a new era -- for one reason or another.

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Gwiji by David Chikoko



East Africa cycling tour flagged off in Arusha



A section of cyclists that are taking part in the East Africa Community tour in action during a recent race in Kenya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY

SPORT

Do Liverpool need a Salah-Mane-Firmino succession plan?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

5 EATV

TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 DADAZ (live)
12:00 Mpya
13:00 FUNGUKA
14:00 BONGO HITS
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 S5ELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Bongo Hits

eNewz is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not, trending online and offline and what happened in history.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Sprite BBall Kings 2019 tourney set for launch Saturday



Sprite BBall Kings competition's project manager, Bhoke Egina, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the preparations for the event which will tip off in the city at the weekend. PHOTO: SABATO KASIKA

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

BASKETBALL teams which will battle it out in this season's edition of a tournament, known as Sprite BBall Kings, will take part in registration for the event in Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

East Africa Radio and East Africa Television organize the annual competition which is sponsored by Coca Cola Company via Sprite brand.

The tournament's project manager Bhoke Egina noted the registration process will be followed by the tournament's launch.

"The tournament is expected to bring together basketball teams from all over the country and will be played at various venues in Dar es Salaam," she noted. Bhoke disclosed the teams should field players from 16 years of age and every team will be made up of 10 players.

"The Sprite BBall Kings competition will have several stages, namely registration, participation in the event which is taking place in knockout format," she disclosed.

Winners of the first knockout stage, she disclosed, will progress to the round of 16 and fight for a place in the last eight stage.

The event will thereafter move to the last four stage and climax with a final.

Bhoke pointed out the champions will receive 10m/- and a trophy, runners-up will be presented with 3m/- and the competition's Most Valuable Player will receive 2m/- and a trophy.

She disclosed East Africa Television and East Africa Radio bring East Africa countries together and chiefly aim at presenting news and other educative programs to youths between 18 and 35 years.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

FIFTEEN cyclists who are participating in the third East African Community Bicycle Tour, nicknamed Tour d' EAC, were on Tuesday flagged off at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha.

Flagging off the group of volunteer cyclists, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Steven Mlote, hailed the cyclists for their efforts in complementing initiatives by the secretariat to create awareness on the integration process.

Mlote noted that it was encouraging that the annual initiative, which had earlier only involved cyclists from Uganda during its launch in 2016, has now expanded to include cyclists from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania.

He urged the cyclists to mobilize more youths in the region to appreciate the importance of regional

integration as a means for empowering East Africans and making East Africa united and stronger.

He said that the movement of the cyclists across the region had been made possible by the free of movement of persons as enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol.

Mlote assured East Africans that the Community is growing stronger with each passing day, adding that the bloc has recorded many achievements which are gradually beginning to trickle down to ordinary East Africans.

In her remarks, Joyce Kevin Abalo from the Germany Technical Cooperation Agency (GIZ) office at the EAC Headquarters, assured the cyclists that the institution would continue working closely

with the EAC Secretariat to ensure that the event is a success.

Abalo urged the cyclists to endeavour to complete the journey, noting that success can only be attained through discipline and perseverance.

Speaking at the event, the coordinator of the Tour d' EAC, John Balongo, requested the EAC Secretariat to include the tour in its Calendar of Activities in the future.

"We also want to request that in future events, all ministries support individual cyclists from their respective countries," Balongo said.

He added that the group's aim was to educate EAC citizens on the importance of a united East Africa.

"We seek to stir up interest of groups and individuals in the

understanding of the land, and people of East Africa," he noted.

"Subsequently, this results into growing personal and group relationships across the region multiplying out into travel, trade and many other beneficial linkages."

Also present at the event was the EAC Director General, Customs and Trade, Kenneth Bagamuhunda.

The third Tour d' EAC was flagged off on August 1 at the Independence Monument in Kampala by Uganda's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Ali Kirunda Kivejinja.

Tanzania's High Commissioner to Uganda, Aziz Pomyri Mlima, graced the event as well. The cyclists arrived in Nairobi on the evening of August 7 and were hosted by the Ministry of EAC

and Regional Development in Kenya one day later.

The Tour d' EAC 2019 is expected to cover 4,300 km around East Africa over a period of 50 days.

The aim of the Annual East African Bicycle Tour is to promote patriotism among the people of East Africa, the tourism and business potential of the Community while enhancing awareness about the social and cultural peculiarities of people and places in the bloc.

The ultimate goal of the initiative is to bring the citizens of East Africa to own the integration process as enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

The tour is also one of the activities to mark the Community's 20th anniversary.

Jain Sangh inch closer to sealing GP Gymkhana Shield last eight spot

By Guardian Reporter

ABHIK Patwa showcased solid batting to steer Jain Sangh team to a 97-run win over Jaat Blasters in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's game which was held at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) venue early this week.

The victory has helped Jain Sangh inch closer to making it to the last eight stage of the competition.

They had posted a win over Union in the opening match which took place at the same venue early this month.

Patwa, an experienced batsman who has had tremendous achievement at club and national team level, was in great form against Jaat Blasters, mercilessly cracking balls all over the pitch and catapulted Jain Sangh to a second win.

After having secured opportunity to bat first in the Group B match, Jain Sangh registered 199 runs, losing three wickets in 20 overs.

Patwa, the team's opener, notched 131 runs off 63 balls, a highest score in the history of



Jain Sangh cricket team's batsman, Harsheel Shah, poses with the GP Gymkhana Shield 2019 tournament's trophy during the competition's launch in Dar es Salaam early last month. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

GP Gymkhana shield tournament. He received man of the match prize for his effort.

Chasing 200 runs to win turned out to be a daunting task for Jaat Blasters and the latter were, in the end, skittled for 102 runs in 20 overs.

Jain Sangh, therefore, inflicted the first defeat on Jaat Blasters in this year's competition.

Jaat Blasters had notched two wins on the trot, cruising to victory over Union in the first match and later posting victory over Tarangini in the second game.

Jain Sangh will all but seal a place in the knockout stage if they will notch victory over Patel Samaj in a match which will be played early next month.

The day also saw Gujrat Lions start the competition with a bang, trouncing TNCC by 68 runs at the same venue.

Having got the opportunity to bat first in the match which was reduced to 12 overs because of rain, Gujrat Lions made no mistake with the chance given the notched 118 runs for six wickets in the

12 overs.

In response, TNCC found the going tough in the chase given they recorded 50 runs for six wickets in the 12 overs of the Group A game.

Teams which are participating in this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament have been put in Groups A, B, C and D.

Young Muslims, TNCC, Lions Club and Kanbis make Group A, Group B has been made up of Union Sports Club, Jaat Blasters, Jain Sangh and Tarangini.

The DGC Cricket Section-organized tournament has General Petroleum and Premier Refinishes as main sponsors.

ASAR Limited, SBC Tanzania, Mgen Insurance, AFRO Turk, Catridge World, PS Limited, I& M Bank and Jaykey Trading are the event's co-sponsors.

The T20 -formatted competition, as disclosed by DGC Cricket Section captain, Ashish Nagewadia, will run for 14 weeks with all matches taking place at the club's oval.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

