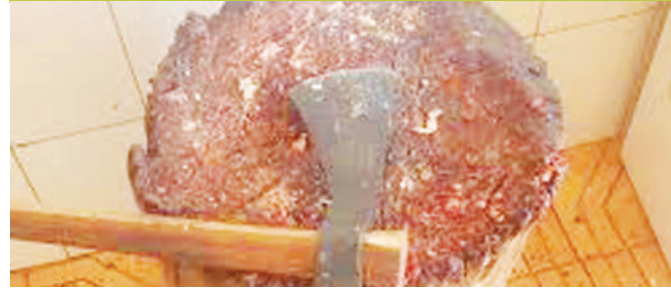




National Pg 3 KPIs for Singida civil servants



National Pg 5 Chopping meat on wooden logs



National Pg 6 Training on fisheries regulations



Police hold one WhatsApp RPC, seven fake TISS

In another incident, RPC Muliro said police have arrested one Ashery residing at Igoma in Mwanza who is said to be impersonating as Mwanza RPC

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

POLICE in Mwanza are holding seven people for allegedly impersonating as officials of the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS) assigned to execute special duties at the State House.

The suspects are also accused of interfering with the top national leader's convoys with intention to win trust in society's while creating an environment of getting bribes from the people they lie.

Mwanza Regional Police Commander, Muliro Jumanne told journalists that the suspects committed those offences between December 27th and January 2nd while using a vehicle-T 751 BNL, a Toyota Ambulance.

The suspects claimed to be part of some top leaders' convoy, pushing to join the line after the convoy had already passed.

"The suspects were arrested by TISS officials

and insisted to be part of national security officers with the State House. After interrogations, we realized they were common who harbored malicious intentions", the RPC said.

He named the suspects as Chalanga William (45) residing in Mwanza and Arusha, Hamis Seleman Mwalimu (25) a mechanic, Philipo Petro (35) a resident of Misungwi district in the region, Selemani Joramu (25) who pretended to be a bodyguard to Chalanga William and Elia Vicent (30), a priest at a Pentecostal church at Kisesa in the city.

In another incident, RPC Muliro said police have arrested one Ashery residing at Igoma in Mwanza who is said to be impersonating as Mwanza RPC. He said Ashery is accused of calling a number of people claiming to be the RPC, requesting them to send him some cash to solve family problems.

"The suspect was ordering people to only

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Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children deputy minister Faustine Ndugulile stirs nutritious porridge for children at Tanangozi area in Iringa region recently. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



'Breastfeeding baby cuts risk of malaria'

PERTH

IN a world first, researchers from the University of Western Australia have taken the first step towards understanding whether it may be possible for breastfeeding mothers to naturally vaccinate their babies against malaria - one of the world's deadliest contagious diseases.

The study was led by Professor Valerie Verhasselt, from UWA's School of Molecular Sciences, and Dr Thomas Egwang from Uganda, with UWAs Dr Lieke van den Elsen as first author. Professor Verhasselt said the research introduced

a new concept that could be tested to prevent the spread of malaria.

"More than 200 million cases of malaria are reported each year around the world, with the majority in Africa," Professor Verhasselt said.

"Infants aged under five years account for two-thirds of all malaria deaths, highlighting the need for early and efficient prevention of malaria infection."

She said breastfeeding was the most efficient way to prevent childhood disease and death related to respiratory and gastro-intestinal infectious disease.

"Before this study, there was conflicting evidence on whether breastfeeding could prevent malaria and we wanted to find a way to ensure malaria prevention through breastfeeding," she said.

"Based on our longstanding expertise in the field of allergy prevention through breastfeeding, we proposed the original hypothesis that the presence of malaria antigen (proteins)

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Elections: NEC to unveil results from new capital

By Guardian Reporter

RESULTS of this year's general elections will be announced from Dodoma, a senior official of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) has said.

This follows the election body's move to relocate to its new office complex in Dodoma.

NEC director Dr Wilson Mahera made this remark yesterday soon after inspecting the project's construction progress of the new office.

He said NEC will have its offices at Njedengwa area where construction of an eight storey building is on-going under the National Service Construction Department-Suma JKT.

General elections will be held towards the end of October to elect the president, members of Parliament and ward councilors.

"We will be operating from Dodoma starting April.



General elections will be held towards the end of October to elect the president, members of Parliament and ward councilors

Results of the coming general elections will also be announced from Dodoma," he said, flanked by the NEC Chairman, Judge (rt) Semistocles Kaijage.

The project was previously under the Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) but the contractor couldn't finish it on time, compelling the government to hand it over to Suma JKT, he said.

He said that Suma JKT is implementing the project in collaboration with Ardhi University (ARU), while the commission has already disbursed initial payments to the contractor.

"We are done with advance payment, and we are happy with the project implementation pace as Suma JKT has deployed over 300 youth in undertaking the construction job," he pointed out.

JKT chief Brigadier-General Charles Mbughe has promised to closely supervise implementation of the project, slated for completion in three months time.

Suma JKT Project Engineer Lazaro Masanja said the decision to deploy over 300 youth to the Njedengwa project is an indication that the department is committed to complete the job in

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We'll continue providing free education to our kids: Dr Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday said his government will continue to provide free education and health services to its people.

Dr Shein (pictured) made the pledge here when speaking at the function to lay a foundation stone for construction of Ziwakije Secondary School in Pemba North Region. The event is part of events to mark the 55th anniversary of the Zanzibar revolution.

He said that his government will continue to allocate more resources on education- a sector which is key to the socio-economic development of the country.



"Providing education and health free of charge is the government agenda and anyone who would try to play with this agenda will see the consequences," Dr Shein said.

He described free education and health services as fruits of the Zanzibar Revolution, which occurred in 1964 with the overthrow of the Sultan of Zanzibar and his mainly Arab government by local African revolutionaries.

He said that for about 300 years Zanzibar was under colonial rule, whereby education wasn't part of rights of Zanzibaris, "but this was changed soon after the 1964 revolution."

On September 23, 1964, the late founding father of the Isles state, Abeid Amani Karume announced free education in Zanzibar. "And what we're doing today we're just working on what Karume did," the Isles leader noted, specifying that in those days there were only two schools- Nasari (now Saateni) and Jangombe but now there are

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Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof. Joyce Ndalichako accompanied by civil engineer undertaking the construction of Vocational Education and Training Authority building in Simbawanga district, Rukwa region Ding Fubing (3rd R) during the inspection of the project on Monday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

We'll continue providing free education to our kids: Dr Shein

FROM PAGE 1

hundreds of schools.

He said that since he took office 48 new primary and secondary schools have been built.

Three universities have been

established in the past 20 years, he stated.

In the 2019/2020 state budget, the Zanzibar government has allocated 178.9bn/- to education. When he got took office in 2010, the budget allocation in the education sector was

at 47.09bn/-.

The government will soon build three modern schools in Unguja and Pemba as well as on completing the construction of vocational training colleges in Mtambwe in Pemba and Makunduchi in Unguja. "This will make

every region have a vocational training college."

The Isles government was determined to transform people's lives, he added, imploring islanders to support the government's development endeavors.

Mafia district council collects 953 million/-

By Beatrice Philemon

MAFIA District Council of Coast Region has collected 953m/- in the fiscal year 2018/19 from its own sources of revenue thus contributing to the implementation of various development projects.

Mohamed Hussein, the district council's economist, told 'The Guardian' yesterday that the amount which is equivalent to 53 percent of the council's total revenues has been used to implement various programmes in the district.

According to him, 40 percent of the funds were allocated for development projects, 10 percent allocated for women, youths and people with disabilities (PwDs) loans while the remained funds were used to construct dispensary at Mlongo village, Mibulani ward.

"Other funds were used to complete construction of Gonge dispensary in Ndagoni ward as well as investing in patrol, monitoring and surveillance in the Indian Ocean to curb illegal fishing," he said.

The economist further said that the district also contributed 123m/- to the construction of a health centre at Kilongwe village.

Hussein said that currently, the district's revenues depend on marine resources, commercial crops such as coconut, hotels, tourism and Shops license.

Speaking on the 2019/2020 fiscal year, Hussein said the district is planning to finalise construction of two classrooms worth 15m/- at Dongo Primary School as well as construction of five classrooms and two teachers' offices worth 175m/- at Kilongwe Primary School.

"We are also working to ensure that we improve teaching and learning environment so as to boost performance of students in examinations," he said

According to him, they have carried out an assessment on the state infrastructures in primary and secondary school in the district which shows that more efforts are needed to improve the infrastructures.

"We need at least 3bn/- for the construction of new classrooms and pit latrines in various primary and secondary to help children learn smooth and perform well in their examinations," he said.

Hussein said the district has already submitted application to the Ministry of Finance so as to help them access the funds.

So far the district has 32 primary schools and six secondary schools." He said "In the 2018/2019 financial year, the district managed to build 10 pit latrine at Malimbani Primary School, 8 Pit Latrine at Kifinge Primary School, 8 Pit Latrine at Dongo Primary School and four Pit Latrine at Teleni Primary School," he noted.

The economist further acknowledged that although the district is working hard to improve learning environment, communities in the district are slow in engaging in development issues.

"Most of the parents here are too hard when comes to the participation in development of their children in schools, they just stay and depend for the government to do everything for them," he added.

“We need at least 3bn/- for the construction of new classrooms and pit latrines in various primary and secondary to help children learn smooth and perform well in their examinations”

Police hold WhatsApp RPC, seven fake TISS

FROM PAGE 1

communicate with him through mobile phone text messages, insisting that they provide financial assistance since

he was facing serious social problems," narrated the RPC. The suspect also set the commander's picture as his WhatsApp profile picture, he added.

Elections: NEC to unveil results from new capital

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the set period.

Back in November, Prime Minister Kassim Mjaliwa visited the NEC project at Njendengwa where he sacked three top officials over laxity in supervising the project.

Those sacked were acting director for construction Humphrey Killo, acting project manager Abdallah Awadh and architect Hamis Kileo.

So far, a number of government institutions have settled in Dodoma including the Prime Minister's Office,

Vice President's office and most ministries.

The United Nations (UN) became the first international organization operating in Tanzania to officially move its headquarters to Dodoma, back in December 2017.

Mid 2018, President John Magufuli opening doors to 67 embassies and international organizations to put up offices in the country's capital. He handed over title deeds to accredited envoys as part of the government's efforts to facilitate relocation of embassies to Dodoma.

'Breastfeeding baby cuts risk of malaria'

FROM PAGE 1

in breastmilk stimulates anti-malarial immune defence and reduces malaria risk in breastfed infants. This would be a way to naturally vaccinate infants."

The researchers investigated whether two proteins from malaria parasites were detectable in the breastmilk of mothers from Uganda, a country where malaria is widespread.

The research, published yesterday in JAMA Pediatrics, shows for the first time that 15 per cent of breastmilk samples from mothers who carry the malaria parasites in their breastmilk.

They propose these mothers may be the ones able to naturally vaccinate

their child against malaria as their breastmilk would contain malaria proteins together with additional factors specifically adapted to the babies' immune system.

Professor Verhasselt, who is also the Larssen-Rosenquist Chair in Human Lactology (science of breastfeeding and milk as a whole) at UWA, said the next step was to carry out clinical trials to assess immunological outcomes and malaria risk in infants exposed to one or multiple malaria antigens through breastmilk.

"We could then propose to vaccinate breastfeeding mothers to increase levels of malaria antigen in breastmilk, ensuring vaccination and long-term protected of their child," she added.



Deputy minister of State in the President's Office Public Service Management and Good Governance Dr. Mary Mwanjelwa inspects one of the houses belonging to beneficiaries of Tanzania Social Action Fund, Tatu Salim of Mtipa village in Singida region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Miguna barred from leaving German airport ahead of Kenyan return

NAIROBI

LAWYER Miguna Miguna has said he has been barred from leaving Germany ahead of his scheduled return to Kenya.

Speaking to Hot 96 on Tuesday morning, Miguna said German authorities have been instructed not to allow him board flight to JKIA or any other African country.

"In fact, the Kenya Government has demanded that Lufthansa must refund my fare. They have demanded that Lufthansa should not fly me into any other African country, either," he said.

"Lufthansa flight manager is saying that the Government of Kenya must

send official communication to Lufthansa at Frankfurt office before I can be allowed to fly to Kenya or any other African country."

Lufthansa said it had received a red alert from the government, barring Miguna from boarding their plane.

In a tweet response, the airline said, "The Kenyan authorities require airlines to send passenger data to them in advance before every flight departs to Kenya. In the case of the passenger, they requested that Lufthansa deny boarding. However, we are trying to help him in whatever way we can."

However, the government denies interfering with Miguna's return.

In a statement on Monday, the Interior Ministry confirmed it will comply with court orders directing it to allow the lawyer back into the country.

Government Spokesman Cyrus Ogunu on Sunday said the state would not interfere with Miguna's return to his motherland.

Miguna's flight was set to depart from Frankfurt and arrive at the JKIA, Nairobi, on Tuesday at 9:25 p.m.

He said he has already sent an SOS to his lawyers insisting that the order came directly from President Uhuru Kenyatta.

"In the red alert issued, they are calling me Canadian not even a Kenyan.

They (Kenyan government) are too desperate and way too scared," he said.

The High Court on Monday issued orders compelling the state to facilitate the entry of Miguna into Kenya on Tuesday.

Justice Weldon Korir said the Director of Immigration, DCI and National Police Service should not interfere in any way with Miguna's entry into the country.

Korir also ordered that Registrar of the High Court release to Miguna's lawyer or an authorised officer of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) a copy of his passport.



Kagera Regional Commissioner Brigadier General Marco Gaguti (2nd L) exchange greetings with CRDB Bank managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela during a business forum for Kagera region organised by CRDB Bank. Looking on is Kagera regional administrative secretary Prof. Faustine Kamuzora (2nd R) and managing director of Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) Eng. Ladislaus Matindi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Singida RC mulls new KPIs for civil servants

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

SINGIDA Regional Commissioner, Dr Rehema Nchimbi wants to introduce new Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for civil servants in the region for better evaluation and implementation of the civil service delivery system.

RC Nchimbi said that the move is in line with the regional motto dubbed: 'Mshahara wangu upo wapi' (where is my salary), which is meant to improve service delivery in every department across the region.

Speaking to Singida regional civil servants at a special meeting geared to welcome 2020, Dr Nchimbi warned civil servants to refrain from politics and instead work hard in line with the spirit of Fifth-phase government, under President John Magufuli.

She said that lives in Singida have been tremendously improved due to various projects and initiatives implemented by the government.

Nchimbi cited TASAF as among of the programmes hailing it for the remarkable achievement in transforming lives and boosting the development of poor people in the region.

According to her, since it was introduced in the region a total of 38,136 poor households from 278 villages in the region had benefited from 37.9bn/- disbursed by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) from September 2014 to January 2020.

"Currently Singida is no longer a

poor region...most of the families are now living good lives. We have also set aside 12000 hectares for block farming in Manyoni district whereby farmers had planted cashews and have started to produce...We real commend the government for its continued to support to its people," she added.

The regional commissioner also urged residents and traders to utilise trade opportunities at the new "Bikira Maria hijah centre," at Sukamahela in Manyoni district.

"This area has a lot of trade opportunities which traders and residents can grab them as it attracts a lot of guests who come for hijah, so make sure you utilise while protecting peace," Nchimbi said.

For her part, deputy minister of State in the President's Office - Public Service Management and Good Governance, Dr Mary Mwanjelwa who is also in Singida for four-day official tour said that the government has done a lot to improve the public sector including salaries and other dues.

She said that all the challenges facing public servants including salary increments, transfers, pensions and other benefits were because of poor presentation of information.

"Responsible departments in the public service should to work on the challenges by ensuring that they prepare and submit claims which had all the needed information for the servants to be paid on time," she added.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

NEMC to destroy 10 tonnes of impounded plastic bags

THE National environmental Management Council (NEMC) for the Southern Highlands Zone is planning to destroy more than 10 tonnes of plastic bags impounded recently in Songwe region after entering into the country illegally.

NEMC manager southern highlands zone that incorporates Mbeya, Iringa, Songwe and Njombe Arnold Mapinduzi

said the 10.6 tonnes consignment was impounded by Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) together with 67.67 kgs of the bags that were earlier seized by the police in Songwe.

Mapinduzi called upon people living in border areas, especially Tunduma in Songwe Region and Kasmulu in

Mbeya region to be vigilant in ensuring banned plastic bags don't find their way into the country.

He said NEMC in the southern highlands zone continues to look out for people who import the banned bags or manufacture the same in the country.

He said it has reached a time the ordinary wananchi to completely stop using the banned bags and whoever will be caught using them will be liable to 30,000/- to 200,000/- fine or seven days in prison or both.

He said NEMC will conduct inspections on passenger buses and lorries because such vehicles having been found carrying the banned items.

He also warned some wananchi that they are not supposed to use wrappers that have not been allowed for carrying goods and anyone found doing so will be dealt with accordingly.

By Guardian Correspondent,

Singida

Government in strategy to improve TASAF programme

THE government has put in place strategies to improve services in poverty alleviation to the very poor households through Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) so as to benefit those targeted and eventually reduce poverty.

This was revealed by the Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance) Dr Mary Mwanjelwa while at Mtipa village within Singida Municipality during her official visit.

She said the aim of the government is to ensure the wananchi, especially those living in extreme poverty, via TASAF are placed in an enabling environment to develop themselves income-wise.

Dr Mwanjelwa told those targeted by TASAF to ensure they use correctly the services it renders including sending their children to and follow up their attendance at schools as well as starting small businesses.

Dr Mwanjelwa also explained about the second phase of the programme - TASF II that will start after it will be officially launched by

President John Magufuli. She said in the second phase the stress will be placed on those who are able to work and use their efforts in the implementation of various projects that will be started in their areas and get temporary employment

therein through special arrangement. Some of those who received TASAF assistance thanked the government of President Magufuli for his continual support in the alleviation of their situation through TASAF.

"We have succeeded to improve our settlements, manage basic needs for our children in the education sector and health and have started small projects that include livestock and poultry keeping," said one villager Rebecca Mnyawi.

JOB VACANCY

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3. Creating and implementing the company or organization's vision and mission
4. Evaluating the work of other executive leaders within the company, including directors, vice presidents and presidents
5. Maintaining awareness of the competitive market landscape, expansion opportunities, industry developments, etc.
6. Ensuring that the company maintains high social responsibility wherever it does business
7. Assessing risks to the company and ensuring they are monitored and minimized
8. Setting strategic goals and making sure they are measurable and describable
9. Fluent English and Hebrew
10. The applicant should have office capabilities of Micro-soft Excel in the level of 7-10.

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Please apply along with your detailed CV and cover letter via hr.garchive@gmail.com by 12th Jan 2020.

Only short listed applicants will be contacted.

"We have succeeded to improve our settlements, manage basic needs for our children in the education sector and health and have started small projects that include livestock and poultry keeping"

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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ATI provides political and credit risk insurance to companies, investors and lenders doing business in Africa. For over a decade, ATI has maintained an A rating for Financial Strength and Counterparty Credit by Standard & Poor's, and in 2019 obtained a second A3/Stable rating from Moody's. ATI's membership includes African Member States as well as a number of corporate and institutional shareholders. Besides its head office in Nairobi, ATI currently has offices in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

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All the roles require excellent communications skills in written and spoken English. Knowledge of French and an ability to work in a multi-cultural environment, will be an added advantage.

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- ii) For a detailed job description of each role, please visit ATI's website <http://www.ati-aca.org/about-us/current-opportunities/>
- iii) The closing date for application is 07th February 2020 at Midnight Nairobi time
- iv) ATI will only contact those applicants who are being actively considered for an interview

ATI offers a competitive salary and benefits package and a collegial working environment commensurate with other multilaterals. ATI reserves the right to not make an appointment to the above vacancies, or to make an appointment at a slightly higher or lower grade, or to make an appointment with a modified job description.



THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND PLANNING

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

COUNTRY: TANZANIA

NAME OF PROJECT: ZANZIBAR URBAN SERVICES PROJECT ADDITIONAL FINANCE

CREDIT NUMBER: 58430 –TZ

Contract Title: Supply ICT and Survey Equipment for PTIU and Pemba Town Councils.

REFERENCE NO: TZ-MOFEA-ZNZ-148101-GO-RFB

EXTENSION OF BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of the Zanzibar Urban Services Project (ZUSP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Supply ICT and Survey Equipment for PTIU and Pemba Town Councils**. The Ministry of Finance and Planning - Zanzibar initially invited sealed bids from eligible bidders through a procurement notice on **09th December, 2019** with a deadline for submission of bids of **9th January, 2020**.
- The Ministry of Finance and Planning – Zanzibar informs all the interested bidders and the general public that the bid submission deadline has been extended to 15th January, 2020 and bids will be open ed in public at 10:00 am on promptly on the same date.

Line Item No	Description of Goods	Quantity	Physical unit	Bid Security Amount TZS
Lot 1: Supply of ICT Equipment				
1.1	Copier	4	Pcs	14,000,000
1.2	Printers		Pcs	
1.2.1	Color printers	3	Pcs	
1.2.2	Normal Printer	11	Pcs	
1.3	Desktop Computers		Pcs	
1.3.1	Desktop computers. 27" touch-Screen All-In-One with mouse & keyboard	20	Pcs	
1.3.2	Desktop Computer (Workstation)	4	Pcs	
1.3.3	Server Computers and Accessories	3	Pcs	
1.4	Wireless LCD Projector	4	Pcs	
1.5	Data collection Tablets	6	Pcs	
1.6	Scanner	5	Pcs	
1.7	Network storage devices	2	Sets	
1.8	Power Supply		Pcs	
1.8.1	Backup power supply. 4of 10,000VA and 15 of 700Va	1	Pcs	
1.8.2	UPS	15	Pcs	
1.9	Laptop computers			
1.9.1	Laptop Computer	21	Pcs	
1.9.2	Mobile workstation laptops	2	Pcs	
1.10	Digital camera	8	Pcs	
1.11	AVR (Automatic Voltage Regulator)	15	Pcs	
1.12	Access Point	6	Pcs	
Lot 2: Supply of Survey Equipment				
2.1	GPS devices	4	Pcs	3,000,000
2.2	Large format Plotter	1	Pcs	
2.3	Field data handling devices.	5	Pcs	
2.4	Total Station	1	Pcs	

- Interested suppliers should demonstrate minimum qualifications to prove their capacity to perform the contract.
 - Financial Capability** - The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets one of the following financial requirement(s)
 - The average annual turnover for the last three years shall be equivalent or more that the bidder's bid price.
 - OR
 - A letter from a reputed bank stating to provide line of credit (loan facility) equivalent to the bidder's bid price.
 This evidence shall be submitted together with the bid.
 - Experience and Technical Capacity**
 - The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence (signed contract or signed delivery notes) to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement(s): Bidder must provide evidence of having executed a combination of multiple contracts that has 80% of the value of this contract of similar supply of items within the period of last three years.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's **Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers** dated July 2014 Procurement Guidelines, and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Coordinator Zanzibar Urban Services Project, vuga street sea view wing, P.O BOX 874, Email zusbackup2017@gmail.com, telephone +255242235128 and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from 08: 00am to 15: 30 pm at the address given below.
- A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TZS 100,000. The method of payment will be through direct deposit to account number **021101000176**, the account name is **Ministry of Finance Revenue Account at Peoples Bank of Zanzibar (PBZ)**. The document will be sent by electronic mail after evidence of payment or physically collected by the supplier's representative at Project Management Unit office at below mentioned address.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Wednesday 15th January 2020** at 10:00 am Zanzibar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Wednesday 15th January 2020** 10:00 am Zanzibar time.
- All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security (ies) in Tanzania Shilling or equivalent in a freely convertible currency in the amount specified in section 2 of this Invitation for Bids above.
- The address (es) referred to above is (are):

PROJECTS COORDINATOR
ZANZIBAR URBAN SERVICE PROJECT
ATTENTION: MAKAME ALI
ADDRESS: P. O. BOX1154
COUNTRY: TANZANIA, ZANZIBAR
TELEPHONE: +255242235128
TELEPHONE: +255 777437220

215576297

Manyara issues new 284 mining licences

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

MANYARA region has issued 284 mining licenses while only 500 small miners had registered themselves in the mineral sector.

This was revealed at the weekend by the region's acting mining officer Eng. Godfrey Nyanda when speaking to this paper in his office.

Eng. Nyanda said the licences for the small miners were for Babati, Mbulu, Hanang and Kiteto districts while mentioning Simanjiro district as an autonomous mining region.

He said since the mining office was established in Babati in January 2019 it had issued 60 licences to small miners.

He said the number of miners for each district is- Hanang 150, Mbulu

200, Kiteto 100 and Babati 50.

He said they issue mining licenses only to small miners, while licences for large scale miners are issued by the ministry.

One miner who spoke with this paper on condition not to have his name revealed urged the government not to be in great hurry in cancelling licences for some small miners because they might have valid reasons for the delay in starting work.

However Babati resident, Domina Pius said for some licences it is right to have their licenses cancelled as they are merely fraudsters, they always insist they incur losses while in fact they make huge profits.



Local tourists from Bunda district look at an aerial view of their town from Balili mountain yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ahmed Makongo

Zanzibar will continue to conserve all key historical buildings - minister

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR government will continue to conserve all key historical buildings in its world heritage site to woo more tourists, a senior official has said.

Minister of State, President Office, Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Forces, Haji Omar Kheri made the remarks yesterday when he laid a foundation stone for the refurbishment of palace of Mwinyi Mkuu (ruler of Zanzibar) in Dunga area, Central District. It was built in the 17th century.

The minister insisted on the importance of conserving the historical sites to attract more tourists every year. He said tourists need to see some Zanzibar's old structures and other historical sites which are not found in their countries.

Haji added that decision by Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein to establish a specific ministry that works to preserve the Isle's historical sites should be commended since it has helped to boost international tourism.

He said maintenance of the Mwinyi

Mkuu palace would add to efforts to increase tourist attractions and boost the economy of Dunga residents as well as those in South-Unguja region.

"The old palace was used by a local leader-Mwinyi Mkuu who ruled Zanzibar before the revolution. The building is part of our history, we should use it to generate incomes", said the Minister.

He applauded the Ministry of



The old palace was used by a local leader-Mwinyi Mkuu who ruled Zanzibar before the revolution. The building is part of our history, we should use it to generate incomes

Information, Tourism and Heritage for proper supervision of the rehabilitation project and ensuring value for money. He called upon wananchi to support the government's endeavour towards promoting tourism as well as taking part in conserving the earmarked historical sites.

"Zanzibar should be among the first people to visit the historical sites, these tourist attractions are not foreigners only, you too should visit and learn the history of Zanzibar", said minister Haji insisting Isles' recorded achievements in a number of sectors roots to 1964 when the late founding father of the nation, Abeid Amani Karume led the Zanzibar Revolution.

He noted that it was after Zanzibar Revolution, the Isles government improved provision of social services and economic welfare of its people.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Tourism and Heritage, Khadija Bakari Juma said refurbishment project of the Mwinyi Mkuu palace is implemented by Yassin & Sons Ltd, and that all the cost is paid by the government of Zanzibar.

MOGADISHU

THE African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), the EU and the UN on Tuesday kicked off a specialized training of 300 Somali police officers who will form part of the Federal Darwish Police, a special tactics unit of the police tasked with securing the country.

Augustine Magnus Kailie, AMISOM Police Commissioner, said such training was crucial in transforming the Somali Police Force (SPF) into a capable force that can protect the people of Somalia.

"As we have come to assist, build your capacity, you also should be standing ready to see how best you can tap from the various experiences and support you will receive so that as the Darwish especially, you will stand firm to defend the people of Somalia," said Kailie in a statement issued by the AU mission.

The training is being conducted as part of a joint police program backed by AMISOM, EU and the UN.

The five-year Joint Police Program which supports increased police visibility, presence, capability and

AU, UN trains 300 police officers to secure Somalia

accountability and the implementation of the New Policing Model in Somalia at Federal and Federal Member State level.

Abdi Hassan Mohamed, Somali police commissioner, said the government has embarked on a drive to revive the Darwish special police unit by extensive recruitment and refresher training throughout 2020.

"At the end of this training, our police special forces including the Haramcad, Darwish and the Birmad will be fully equipped and their combined capability will constitute a major force that can secure population centers," Mohammed said during the opening ceremony in Mogadishu.

Upon completion of the training, this police unit will be integrated into the Somali Police Force and deployed to all the Federal Member States of Somalia.



As we have come to assist, build your capacity, you also should be standing ready to see how best you can tap from the various experiences and support you will receive so that as the Darwish especially, you will stand firm to defend the people of Somalia



Abiding by traffic regulations: Tax driver pushes his Bajaj on pedestrians' sidewalks at Manzese in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

SIDO manufacture 273 machines for small scale entrepreneurs in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

SMALL Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in Mbeya region has manufactured 273 machines for small scale entrepreneurs to add value to the agricultural crops.

Manager of SIDO workshop in Mbeya region, Japhet Kasonda said yesterday that the machines are intended to help processing various crops grown by farmers in Mbeya and neighbouring regions including Iringa, Rukwa, Njombe and Songwe.

He added: more than 700 jobs have been created through the manufacture of the modern machines in different parts of the region, where many people have been able to buy and set up small factories that helped them to create employment.

The manager said that the machines were being made by skilled engineers at the centre for the purpose of enabling people to establish small factories.

He said the efforts to modernize those machines would help significantly to reduce labour force and importation of machinery from abroad.

Kasonda explained that maize, sunflower processing machines, maize milling and oil refinery machines were among the modern machines produced by the centre.

He said most of the machines including coffee processing plants were for the first time designed during the fifth phase government.

Kasonda said there are other machines that are being developed by the centre including palm oil processing machines and timber processing machines that have become a major attraction for people who want to establish small factories in rural and urban areas.

He also said the centre has helped develop the adaptability of various modern technologies in the processing of various raw materials.

The centre has also been developing a variety of entrepreneurial machines, which are now in high demand in rural areas.

The regional manager explained that, the entrepreneurs' decision to come up with small-scale industries would increase the value of the crop as well as create commercial opportunities locally and in the neighbouring countries by generating quality products.

Research shows that there has been a growing interest for entrepreneurs to establish small rice processing machines, milling machines and fruit processing machines.

By Joseph Gakpo

Alliance Fellows counsel WB on funding priorities for Africa

CORNELL Alliance for Science Global Leadership Fellows have called on the World Bank to increase funding for science research as a sure way to address poverty and under development in Africa.

They are also urging the bank to prioritize and increase investments in dealing with emerging challenges in agriculture, such as novel pests and climate change.

The Fellows, who represented Kenya, Zimbabwe and Rwanda, issued their call during a meeting with Holger A. Kray, practice manager in agriculture and food security, and other officials at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C.

The World Bank is one of the most powerful financial institutions, giving billions of dollars in loans and grants to developing countries to run capital projects aimed at reducing poverty, with improving agriculture a key component of the bank's work over the years.

African countries have been key beneficiaries of various World Bank

initiatives and they continue to see increased investments. In 2018, the bank announced it would increase its existing commitments of about \$10 billion – aimed at better integrating the continent to accelerate development and offer job opportunities – by another \$6 billion over the next three years.

But there have been concerns that many of the bank's projects have taken top-down approaches, instead of ideas emanating directly from local people. After completing their recent 12-week training in science communication and advocacy, a select group of African Fellows visited the World Bank to suggest some issues worthy of priority funding.

"Climate change is dealing a blow to food production systems," said Zimbabwean scientist Nyasha Mudukuti. "And this is where we come in as plant breeders. We have the technologies and we want the World Bank and those who have the

money to invest in us for the benefit of farmers."

"It's a win-win situation," she added. "When the science is funded, people have access to the technology. They make profit. They can benefit out of it. My ask is, I hope the World Bank can invest in science."

Dr. Murenga Mwimali, a plant breeder and coordinator of the Water Efficient Maize for Africa (WEMA) project in Kenya, urged bank officials to pay more attention to emerging challenges facing African agriculture like the rampaging fall armyworm and climate change.

An increased focus on these issues by powerful institutions like the World Bank is needed to stimulate fresh innovations that can help bring these challenges under control, he noted.

"These emerging challenges require new thinking to resolve, including scientific innovations like genome-based technologies, gene editing, etc. Science matters, and the time to act is now," he said.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

Tanga City now bans use of logs for chopping meat in butcheries

TANGA City Council has banned butchery owners to use logs for chopping meat instead they are required to use approved electric machines and warned those selling poor quality meat.

The warning was given by the Council's Coordinator of food safety Alice Maungu after it was established the existence of traders in meat selling without adhering to regulations on hygiene.

She said unfaithful butchery owners cheat in order to make more money and added that there will be a special operation to inspect all butcheries.

She said butchery owners who will be found with meat that has not been inspected or without stamp by the health ministry and/or mix with bad meat will be dealt with sternly.

She also cautioned all traders in Tanga City to abide by the laws and other directives that govern the business sector so that they can remain in business. She said she will not listen to any trader who will be found using logs for chopping meat many butchery owners can afford to purchase the electric machines.



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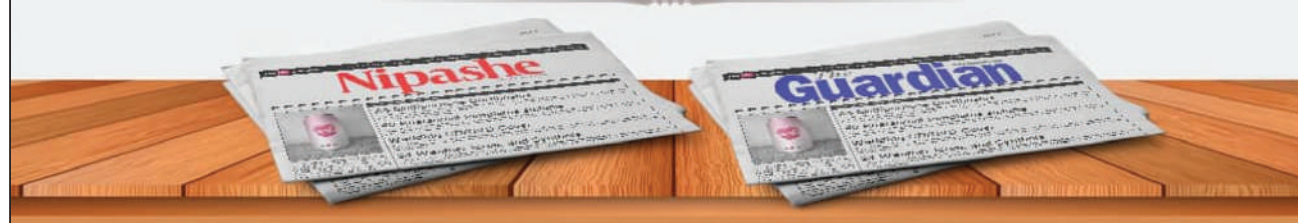
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Wanted: Training on fisheries regulations

By Beatrice Philemon

ARTISANAL fishermen in Mafia district, Pwani region have called on the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries to train them on fisheries laws and regulations to help them understand what is required in fishing sector for them to operate their fishing activities more effectively.

Speaking yesterday on behalf of artisanal fishermen, Secretary of Twendekazi Cooperative Association in Mafia district, Twaa Ismail said that there is a need to provide training to them because right now there are so many youths who have completed Standard Seven and have decided to embark on fishing activities but they don't understand what is required before venturing in the fishing sector.

Although they have fishing licenses to catch fish in the sea, they are not knowledgeable on fisheries law and regulations, they operate their fishing activities unprofessionally.

The training will help them to benefit from what they catch, create employment for them and operate their work more effectively.

"The fisheries department can visit us at least one week to talk to them and see the main challenges they have, what they need and provide training for them to help new artisanal fishermen understand what is required in fishing sector," he noted.

"Don't arrest fishermen who are

fishing illegally in the sea, train them first and if they fail to comply with the regulations, then arrest them," he noted.

Fishermen also called upon the ministry to help them get modern fishing boat that in turn will help them operate profitably hence attract more youths to join in the business.

The modern boat will help them to boost fisheries development and help them use high quality boats designed for offshore fishing activities.

"Without a modern fishing boat, we will continue to be poor," he noted.

He said the majority of fishermen in Mafia still use traditional fishing boats that are very small and unsafe for their life, catch small fish which cannot help them to improve their income hence their economic situation remains poor.

For his part, Mafia District Fisheries Officer, Ayoub Sabu said currently the island district has 5,133 fishermen and 1,011 fishing vessels that comprise modern boats and traditional canoes. Sabu said the fishermen are allowed to go and operate anywhere in the country with their licenses as regulations apply evenly.

"Right now no fisherman will be prohibited to fish anywhere they want in the country," he noted while advising the artisanal fishermen to use the opportunity to exploit the over 1,000 kilometres Indian Ocean coastline from Tanga to Mtwara.



Morogoro Regional Police Commander Wilbrood Mutafungwa shows one of impounded elephant tusks. Looking on is Morogoro Regional Commissioner Loata Ole Sanare (3rd L) on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Christina Hauke

Kanyasu lambasts councils' officials over failure in protection of forests

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

DEPUTY Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu has expressed his dismay to Natural Resources officers from all councils countrywide over their failure to manage forests under the councils' jurisdiction.

He said the failure has caused the forests' deterioration due to invasion by people's settlements and tree cutting.

He also called Tanzania upon Forests service Agency (TFS) to beef up security in the forest reserve areas to control invaders before they start cutting trees for timber and charcoal or engage in logging instead of making great efforts to collect levies from the invaders.

Speaking yesterday to Lake Zone TFS officials in Geita Region when handing over 200 beehives to ten entrepreneurs groups from the constituencies of Geita Town, Geita Rural and Busanda,

Kanyasu called upon the officials to beef up patrols instead of erecting road blocks to collect levies.

He also called upon natural resources officials in the councils to work in collaboration with TFS in the protection of forest reserve areas instead of leaving the task to TFS alone.

He explained that the habit of arresting forest invaders at road blocks who are found with forest products does not help in the preservation and protection of the forests as destruction has already been made.

He said there are forests that are managed by villages, TAMISEMI and the

"We have decided to ensure all officials receive military training to help them fight against forest invaders before they inflict huge damage therein, and not by merely manning road blocks"

central government but unfortunately many complaints are directed to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism for failure to administer the situation.

"We have decided to ensure all officials receive military training to help them fight against forest invaders before they inflict huge damage therein, and not by merely manning road blocks," Kanyasu said.

Speaking about the steps by many councils to hand over forests which they were administering, the Deputy Minister said the step was ill-advised in forests preservation as it shows the invaders had won the war against natural resources officers.

Meanwhile Kanyasu warned some wananchi who have started invading new forest areas believing that President John Magufuli will sympathize with them by leaving them to establish human settlements therein.

NAIROBI

FOUR small children were shot dead while trying to take refuge from the latest al-Shabab extremist attack in Kenya early Tuesday, authorities said.

A Kenyan national police statement said the attackers targeted a telecommunications mast in eastern Garissa county near the border with Somalia, where the al-Qaida-linked extremist group is based.

Police officers on patrol killed two attackers in the early morning assault near the village of Saretho, the statement said. It said a teacher was among the dead.

But a government security report of the incident seen by The Associated Press said four students from the Saretho primary school were killed.

"The young pupils had taken refuge at the nearby Saretho police post when the attacks began and were guarded by the police when the militants fired at them, killing them instantly and

4 children died in latest Al-Shabab attack in Kenya

wounding two of their school mates," the report said.

The report said some attackers escaped with injuries and were being pursued.

Kenyan authorities said bomb-making materials were seized after the attack.

Al-Shabab since December has increased attacks inside Kenya including Sunday's attack on a military base that killed three U.S. military personnel and destroyed five U.S. aircraft.

It was the first time al-Shabab had attacked U.S. troops inside Kenya. The U.S. on Monday said additional troops had arrived to increase security at the Manda Bay airfield in coastal Lamu county.

The U.S. Africa Command also said

it did not assess that the attack was linked to Iran, as Middle East tensions are soaring. Al-Shabab is linked to al-Qaida and has no known links to Iran or its proxies.

Al-Shabab has vowed retribution on Kenya for deploying its troops in 2011 to fight the extremists in neighboring Somalia, where the group is based. Garissa county borders Somalia and Lamu county is nearby.

The extremists often target police as well as civilians including buses, schools and infrastructure, mainly in the border region.

Police officers on patrol killed two attackers in the early morning assault near the village of Saretho, the statement said. It said a teacher was among the dead

Ndalichako orders arrest of VETA college project contractor

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

THE Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako has ordered arrest of engineer of Ding Fubing Contractors and Chief Advisor of the Rukwa VETA School Swalehe Kyabega for failing to complete the project in time.

The project was required to be finished on 30 December 2019 after 100 days was added to the contract but so far only 52 percent of the work is complete.

Prof Ndalichako said according to the contract agreement, the contractor was required to account, through receipts, the expenditure of 1.5bn/- initial payment through the advisor but failed to do so, hence he failed to supervise the government expenditure.

"You should be placed in custody until the equipment you allowed to be removed from the site are returned as it is now a big joke... you have no answers for what you have done. Last time I was here there were a lot of equipment and building materials such as steel rods but I am told you have removed them to another site. They should be brought back," she told the contractor.

It was also explained that the contractor was paying laborers emoluments rates that were against the government agreements, whilst other workers such as electricians were working without work contracts.

The construction of VETA College in the Sumbawanga Municipality is sited at Kashai and the Minister was accompanied by the Municipal's education officials, the District Commissioner and the District Security and Defense Committee.

Earlier, while reading the progress report of the project, VETA Managing Director Dr Pancras Bujuru said the contractor has already been paid 3,507,174,603/- equivalent to 35 percent of the project cost and the last payment was 330,521,213/79 paid on December 20 2019, which was on condition that the pace of construction work would increase, but it was not the case.

Bujuru said: "In the circumstances the contractor has proven himself to be incompetent for the project and we have no faith in him at all whether it will be completed in time because the time given and the additional 100 days have both expired. Also there has been poor supervision of the entire project."

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Prof Charles Mgone
Vice Chancellor

Mapping energy tech for electrifying rural Africa

By Verenardo Meeme

RESEARCHERS have identified the most economical energy technologies for rural electrification across Africa.

With more than 600 million people living in Africa – particularly rural dwellers – lacking access to electricity, researchers say that their findings could help policymakers make informed decisions on rural electrification on the continent.

“If rural communities access electricity, growth will be accelerated at a bigger scale than what it is now.”

Samuel Gabra, University of Cambridge

“Energy is a very important aspect of life. If rural communities access electricity, growth will be accelerated at a bigger scale than what it is now,” says Samuel Gabra, the lead author of a study published in the December issue of Renewable Energy.

Gabra, a doctoral student at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at the UK-based University of Cambridge, tells SciDev. Net that the study involved the use of a modelling technique to compare the costs of using wind, diesel and solar energy systems to generate electricity for rural Africa.

Gabra and his team also created readily accessible maps on energy for use by policymakers. The findings show that wind energy systems are only economically favourable in the horn of Africa – Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia – because of the high average wind speed in this region of Africa.

“The lowest electricity costs from wind systems are found in Chad, Somalia, Western Sahara, and South Africa while the highest costs are incurred in Central Africa due to the low wind speeds in this region,” the study says. “Photovoltaic [PV or solar] is the lowest cost technology over the largest area, followed by diesel and finally wind. The dominance of diesel in North Africa along with a few locations in Sub-Saharan Africa arises from the low national diesel prices due to fuel subsidies.”

Gabra explains that the analysis focused on small-scale systems for rural electrification in Africa because they are not capital-intensive unlike large-scale energy systems.

According to the study, the analysis used data sources including the 2018 international fuel prices and cost of solar and wind energy systems as reported in a study published in 2019.

Flora Kamanja, a senior engineer at Kenya Electricity Generating Company, says that the cost of generating electricity from solar systems has been decreasing over the past five years, so she is not surprised by the findings.

Reasons for the decreasing cost include the cost of solar materials becoming more affordable and the emergence of more experts on the market, Kamanja explains, adding that diesel and wind technologies are now just gaining more attention in Africa.

Kamanja adds that solar technologies for generating electricity have attracted interests from independent power producers.



Development stakeholder of Magara ward in Babati district, Manyara region Dr. Juma Muna check residents weight after giving free health education on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Consumers at risk as dried fish processed in dirty environment

By Guardian Correspondent, Chato

A section of fishermen in Chato District, Geita Region are engaged in drying sardines on Lake Victoria sandy beach and canal banks in awfully dirty environment, posing health hazards to consumers.

A survey carried out in the district's fish market shows that fishermen often spread large amounts of small fishes to dry on the sandy beach or canal banks, causing sand, dirty soil, and even dung to mix with the fishes.

When interviewed, chairman of Beach Management Unit (BMU) in Lake Victoria, Kamese Malima admitted that there are some fishermen who are forced to use the unhygienic areas due to limited space for drying their catches.

“Some fishermen sometimes dry the sardines near public toilets... they are forced to do so because the previously used area is now full of flood waters,” he said.

Malima said that they presented the challenge to the minister for Fisheries and Livestock Luhaga Mpina when he recently visited the area.

“We asked the minister to help us expand and improve the area to enable fishermen conduct activities smoothly thus improve our incomes as well,” he noted.

According to him, due to limited space for drying the sardines, most of the fishermen end up incurring losses

as many fishes rot.

“Drying the sardines on sand reduces their quality, for example 20kg fetches 20,000/- while those dried in clean environment are being sold at price of 7,000/-, so you see how the difference is...the modern drying equipment is very expensive so most of the fishermen can not afford it,” he explained.

Faresi Musiba, chairman of Kalema suburb said that they have already directed the BMU leadership to control the actions as they are risking people's health.

“I will also communicate with the village's chairman to see how we can jointly find a permanent solution of this challenge... fishermen should also make sure that they adhere to the fishing laws and regulations when executing their duties,” he added.

Senior Fishing officer Deogratius Ngeleshi said that they have been conducting regular awareness programmes educating the fishing community on proper ways of drying the sardines.

Ligobeth Kalisa, doctor in charge at Chato district's hospital advised authorities to take measures to rescue people's health.

“Prevention is better than cure, it is better to take measures than waiting for huge impacts to occur...however this matter should be explained in details by the health officer,” he noted.

By Gavin du Venage

W. African countries' surcharge on chocolate prices signifies difficulties farmers face in making money

MORE than two million West African farmers toil daily to produce precious cocoa beans, but few will ever taste the fine chocolate it eventually produces.

The trees that produce these butter-rich pods do not grow outside the steamy tropics, thriving instead on the bulge of Africa. As such, the region produces the bulk of the world's cocoa. Yet, Belgian, Swiss, Italian and other European brands dominate consumer tastes.

As a result, producing countries benefit the least from chocolate selling prices. The African Development Bank (AfDB) estimates that only 5 per cent of the world's chocolate income reaches farmers. The imbalance is so vast that some development specialists say it compares to illicit money being smuggled out of the continent.

“Yes, there are many pipelines of illicit financial flows out of Africa,” says Banji Oyeyinka, a special adviser on industrialisation at the AfDB. “Africa produces over 70 per cent of global cocoa in a \$100 billion (Dh367bn) worldwide chocolate market, and Africa gets only \$6bn: that is illicit flow,” Mr Oyeyinka says. Western Europe, meanwhile, exports around \$20bn in chocolate products a year.

African countries have struggled for years to maximise their take from the commodities they produce. In a bid to increase this share, Ghana and the Ivory Coast declared a fixed premium of \$400 a tonne over the benchmark futures price from October last year. The ‘living income differential’ (LID) is intended, as the name suggests, to put more money in the pockets of farmers.

Ghana's president Nana Akufo-Addo told an investment forum in Johannesburg in November that the two countries had co-operated to raise incomes for farmers

“We now have the ability to pay our farmers a \$400

‘bonus’, so they may also get more value out of this \$100bn industry,” he says.

“The end result of this, is going to be a considerable enhancement of the fortunes of our farmers.”

The main consumers of cocoa such as Belgian confection company Barry Callebaut, US chocolate giant Mars and Swiss food maker Nestle have all said they support the surcharge. However, it remains to be seen whether the extra \$400 will reflect in prices paid by consumers.

Cocoa is one of the last commodities to still trade primarily in UK pounds, rather than the US dollar, and London remains the centre of the trade. Cocoa moved into the new year at around £1,820 (Dh8,745) a tonne, below the £1,970 it touched in October when the surcharge went into effect.

“The surcharge is priced in and discounted for anyway so it makes little difference for the ultimate spot price,” a commodities trader in London said. “There's not much chance it will filter through to the actual price customers are willing to pay.”

Increasing farmers' income is important to industry stakeholders if they want to stave off other challenges – such as farmers turning to other lucrative crops, or giving up agriculture

altogether. Buyers are aware of this and are collectively spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year on direct assistance programmes that include farm training, soft loans, fertiliser inputs and more.

For instance, Nestle said in December it will now spend 45 million Swiss francs (Dh170m) a year on efforts to source cocoa sustainably. The company, which says it has already spent about 220 million francs over the past 10 years on sustainability efforts, now aims to have 100 per cent sustainable cocoa sourcing for its confectionery products by 2025.

Rather than doubling down on sustainability, farmers are better off seeking other products to grow, says Michael Odjije, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Cambridge.

“To sustain their livelihoods, the cocoa farmers of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana need to diversify away from cocoa production, but multinational chocolate companies need farmers to keep producing cocoa.”

Currently, cocoa farmers need to spend what little profits they make on fertilisers since cocoa farming can drain nutrients from the soil. Crop rotation can replenish the soil, and farmers should be encouraged to plant

other foods, Mr Odjije says. “They do not need to grow cocoa for its own sake.”

He said a collapse in the price of cocoa in the 1970s led to a great deal of diversification in Ghana. Cereal output increased from 388,000 tonnes in the mid-1960s to over a million tonnes only 20 years later. However, as cocoa prices recovered farmers again abandoned staples.

“Multinationals that depend on cocoa as a raw material – openly and rightly – regard diversification as a risk to their business. So, they keep spending on cocoa farming inputs.”

To sustain cocoa production, some companies are setting up processing facilities in-country rather than simply exporting raw cocoa. Cargill, the US based food maker and one of the world's largest cocoa buyers, said in December it planned to spend \$13m expanding its production facilities in Ivory Coast and Ghana.

“We aim to shift a greater share of our global grinding activities to the countries of origin, so we can support the establishment of a broader, local agri-food industry, says Lionel Soulard, managing director of Cargill West-Africa.

In the meantime, the chocolate industry must also concern itself with

growing public awareness around the ethical dilemmas related to growing cocoa. Poor returns for farmers and use of child labour in producing cocoa have dented the industry's image among conscious customers, experts say.

“Scrutiny is sharpening,” says Nick Weatherill, executive director of the International Cocoa Initiative (ICI), a non-profit based in Switzerland.

“Recent exposures in the media are likely to continue to shine an intense spotlight on the sector. In turn, this will undermine the confidence of consumers and regulators in those importing markets, on which cocoa farmers actually depend.”

ICI research showed farmers earned between \$980 and \$2,600 annually from their produce. Farms were small – about 2.5 hectares produced a tonne or two of cocoa. Only a third of the farmers could afford basic inputs such as fertilisers that can potentially

boost productivity.

As a result, extreme poverty was common among farmers, which is why many relied on child labour – often employing their own children. Only a few of these farmers could either afford adult labour or to send their children to school.

Weatherill notes, however, that political pressure was mounting in consumer markets to eliminate or block the trade of products acquired unethically. Most chocolate consumers wanted the assurance that the treat they consume was produced at a fair price without children doing the labour. This is especially true in the US, EU and countries where corporations were operating under increasingly strict due diligence laws.

Much has been done to improve the lives of farmers, but efforts have tended to be piecemeal projects rather than industry-wide initiatives, Mr Weatherill adds. To reach all farmers, upliftment schemes have to be scaled up. To this end the ICI, chocolate makers and governments such as those of the Ivory Coast and Ghana are working together. “The eyes of the world are upon us,”

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The Embassy of Ireland, Tanzania invites eligible companies to express their interest in providing Medical Insurance Services. The successful bidders will be awarded contracts to offer the services for one year (1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021).

- Interested bidders: must submit their bids together with copies of registration certificate, valid business licence, audited accounts, VAT and TIN registration. Physical address of the bidders must be clearly indicated including names and address of their bankers.
- The details of the tender documents may be obtained from the Embassy of Ireland, Plot No. 353 Toure Drive, Masaki during working days between 9:00 hours and 12:30 hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tshs. 100,000/= in cash.
- Sealed tenders should be submitted together with a receipt of non-refundable fees to the Embassy of Ireland, Plot No. 353 Toure Drive, Masaki. Tenders should be addressed to the Tender Committee.
- Deadline for submission of bids shall be **7th February 2020 at 14:00 hours EAT. Late bids will not be accepted.**
- The Embassy of Ireland is not obliged to accept the lowest bid or any tender.

Canvassing will result in automatic disqualification of the tender.

The Guardian

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

African women are easily the most entrepreneurial in the world

WOMEN in venture capital or VC are investors who provide venture capital funding to startups. Women make up a small (usually less than 10 per cent) fraction of the venture capital private equity workforce. A widely used source for tracking the number of women in venture capital is the Midas List which has been published by Forbes since 2001.

One of the first women to make the list, Annette Campbell-White, has been cited as an example of discrimination in venture capital. She was mentioned in the Midas List for three consecutive years, from 2005 to 2007. She claimed that a number of firms in the 1980s ignored her senior management experience in Hambrecht & Quist. In addition to finding that women make up the majority of early technology adopters, Harvard Business School Professor Paul Gompers has stated that female venture capitalists consistently perform as well as males at large firms that have more than one woman.

Questions about how to increase the number of VC opportunities for women have been brought to the forefront by several events.

Venture capital is a type of financing that is provided by firms or funds to small, early-stage, emerging firms that are deemed to have high growth potential, or which have demonstrated high growth (in terms of number of employees, annual revenue, or both).

The number of women founders and co-founders in Africa is on the rise, according to research by Venture Capital for Africa (VCA), an online community for startups. In 2019 that number was still just at 18 per cent, or fewer than one in five—but it's still better than in supposedly more "advanced" startup hubs like Silicon Valley.

Fortunately, African hubs don't have to replicate the flaws of more mature markets. Several female African leaders in the tech and finance space are taking

matters into their own hands.

In Africa, there's a \$42 billion funding gender gap across the board, according to the African Development Bank and even when there is funding it's often micro-financing with "small amounts and big interest rates. The funding gap is particularly striking as research from sources including the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor shows African women are easily the most entrepreneurial in the world, with a rate of about 26 per cent of the female population aged between 18 to 64. While some of that might come out of necessity with a lack of formal jobs, a key feature is the lack of funding for these female-led businesses.

Last year, Alitheia Capital launched a gender fund led by veteran investor Tokunboh Ishmael, with a target of between \$75 million to \$100 million for women entrepreneurs.

"Female fund managers are also more likely to invest in and have access to female founders through networks male fund managers may not have access to," explains Barbara Iyayi, a fintech growth equity investor. "These expanded networks give rise to more opportunities that increase the quality of deal flow and opportunities to make strong returns, particularly in Africa where the diamonds in the rough are not easily noticeable."

Ultimately, fund managers will always have a fiduciary responsibility to achieve the best possible returns for their investors but focusing on female founders won't be an impediment to achieving those targets in a more level playing field.

In fact, there's an argument to say better gender-balanced tech ecosystems across Africa with more female engineers, executives, board members and fund managers will do more than just match previous levels of return. "Such an ecosystem would yield more scalable, impactful companies and in return, more exits and stronger commercial returns," says Iyayi.

Educating farmers, secondary and university students on new technology of grapes seeds is extremely important

Agrape is a fruit, botanically a berry, of the deciduous woody vines of the flowering plant genus *Vitis*.

Grapes can be eaten fresh as table grapes or they can be used for making wine, jam, grape juice, jelly, grape seed extract, raisins, vinegar, and grape seed oil. Grapes are a non-climacteric type of fruit, generally occurring in clusters.

The cultivation of the domesticated grape began 6,000-8,000 years ago in the Near East. Yeast, one of the earliest domesticated microorganisms, occurs naturally on the skins of grapes, leading to the discovery of alcoholic drinks such as wine. The earliest archeological evidence for a dominant position of wine-making in human culture dates from 8,000 years ago in Georgia.

The oldest known winery was found in Armenia, dating to around 4000 BC. By the 9th century AD the city of Shiraz was known to produce some of the finest wines in the Middle East. Thus it has been proposed that Syrah red wine is named after Shiraz, a city in Persia where the grape was used to make Shirazi wine.

Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics record the cultivation of purple grapes, and history attests to the ancient Greeks, Phoenicians, and Romans growing purple grapes both for eating and wine production. The growing of grapes would later spread to other regions in Europe, as well as North Africa, and eventually in North America.

Grapes are a type of fruit that grow in clusters of 15 to 300, and can be crimson, black, dark blue, yellow, green, orange, and pink. "White" grapes are actually green in colour, and are evolutionarily derived from the purple grape.

The production of 86 types of grapes seeds by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute Makutupora (TARI-Makutupora) in Dodoma has resulted into the country being ranked second top producer of grapes in sub-Saharan Africa.

TARI-Makutupora director, Dr Corlen Massawe said the modern ant-pests seeds have been tried by farmers in various areas and showed promising results.

Massawe noted that some farmers have already started planting the modern seeds.

According to Dr Massawe, Dodoma region is the country's biggest producer of grapes cultivated in the districts of Bahi and Chamwino and Dodoma city. He said the institute has also distributed the seeds to farmers in other regions.

He said grapes production is fast growing - from 10,000 tonnes in 2016 to 15,000 tonnes in 2018, an average increase of 48 percent.

Dr Massawe said due to increasing grapes production in Dodoma region some farmers have established small extraction plants, others are making wine and hard drinks.

The TARI-Makutupora coordinator of technology and communications, Vidah Mahava said in the plan to develop grapes production in various areas of Dodoma region, they have been educating farmers including secondary and university students on the new technology of grapes seeds.

She said in collaboration with the Office of Dodoma Regional Commissioner they have mobilised farmers to start small extraction factories as well as assuring them of ready markets both locally and outside the country.

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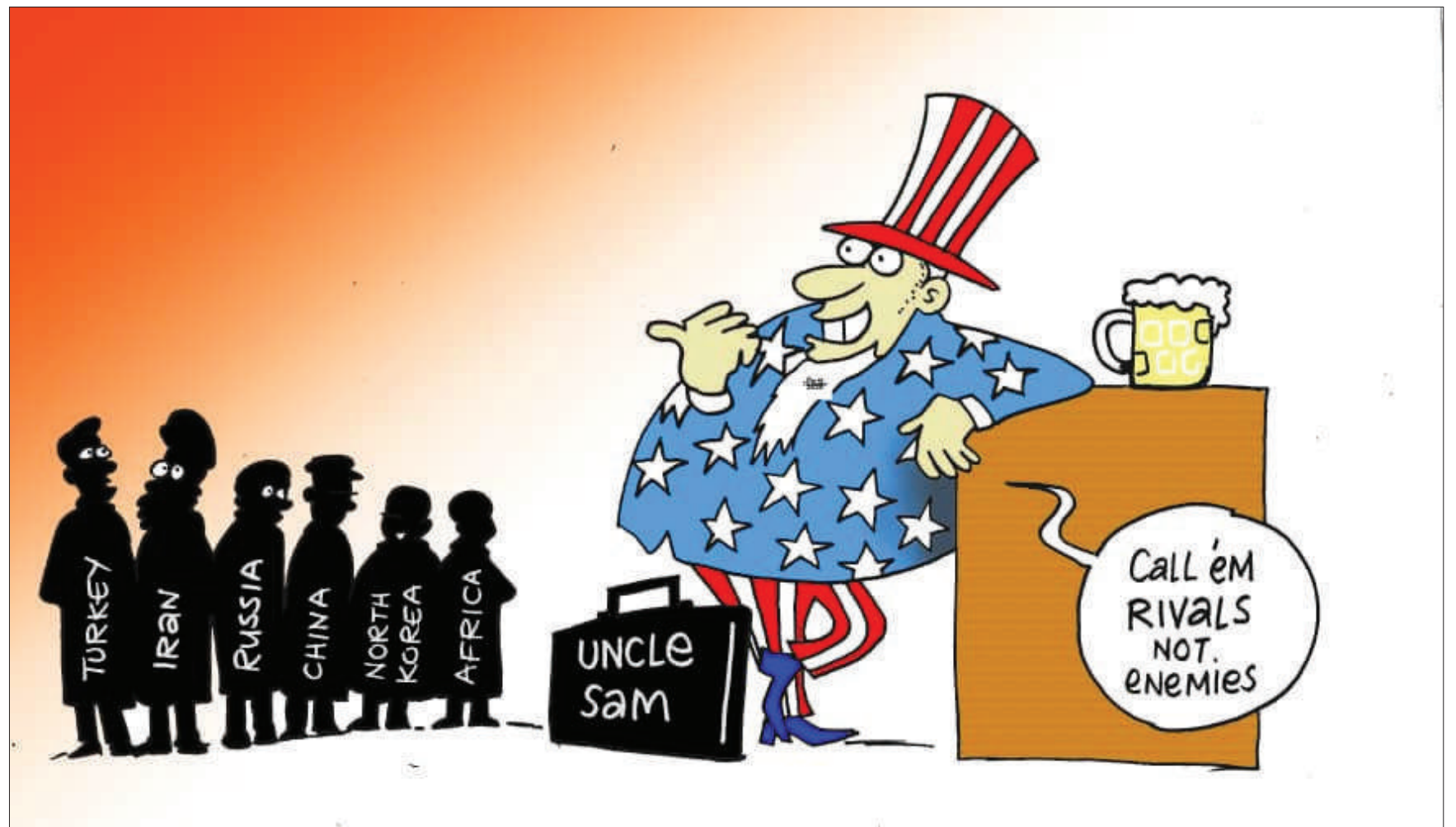
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Labour and employment in the first year of the next level

By William Nwankwo Alo

FEW steps recently taken by President Muhammadu Buhari confirmed once more, the unwavering commitment of his administration to the welfare of the Nigerian workers. First is the signing into law of the new National Minimum Wage bill on April 19, 2019 and the commencement of payment to workers on Grade Levels 1-6 in August, three months after. Another is the successful negotiation of the Consequential Adjustment of the Minimum Wage and the swift directive of the Federal Executive Council that the payment of the new wages be commenced before December 2019, effective April the same year.

It is important to note at this juncture that though the process leading to the new Minimum wage, especially its Consequential Adjustment was long and tedious it, however, brought to the fore, the readiness of the Federal Government for openness in finding a solution to numerous challenges that impede the progress of the nation. The Minister of Labour and Employment, Sen. Chris Ngige who is the Chief Labour Officer of the nation foreshadowed this new disposition of the Federal Government, first by his neutrality as the Competent Authority in the Nigeria tripartite community in line with the convention of the International Labour Organization (ILO) He also demonstrated this through his quintessential negotiation skills which thawed the ice of impasse that hitherto beleaguered negotiations. The Federal Government had on his advice, laid open its income and expenditure in the 2019 and 2020 budgets to the leadership of the organized labour, to appreciate its position on Ability-to-Pay as an essential accompaniment of Collective Bargaining as provided in the ILO Convention. The Minister had earlier guided government against anti-labour disposition while urging the organized labour not to play the sword of Damocles with perennial threat of strikes.

On the other hand, the government side of the negotiation led by the Acting Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Dr. Folashade Yemi-Esan brought thoroughness and statistical finesse on the linear adjustment of figures without unbalancing the equilibrium that exists among different salary scales. The patriotism with which it approached the negotiation stands out. It is to its credit that notwithstanding the inflexible posture which labour leaders initially brought to discussions, the Federal Government's resolve on give and take



A well-functioning labour market with a highly-qualified workforce that can rapidly acquire new skills is increasingly seen as a prerequisite for delivering a dynamic and competitive economy. Under its priority of ensuring a deeper and fairer economic and monetary union, the European Union (EU) seeks to deliver more job opportunities and better living standards by combining fairness and democratic accountability

eventually prevailed, resulting to a win-win for both the government and the organized labour.

Equally, the preference for dialogue over strike and disruption of national productivity by the labour leadership, its acceptance of the critical rudiments of Collective Bargaining and the imperative of collective sacrifice as pushed by the Minister of Labour and Employment must be commended.

Similarly, another decision by the Buhari administration in the year worthy of mention is the setting up of a Five-Man Presidential Committee on Salaries and Wages and the promise of a future general wage increase. Knowing full well the implications of the astronomical rise of the Federal Government's personnel cost from N1.88 trillion to N3.08 trillion between 2016 to date, the committee will evaluate all the earnings in the public service to ensure that work done and salary earned are synchronized in a manner that factors productivity as a denominator.

Now that the Minimum Wage and the Consequential Adjustment are fully implemented by the Federal Government and negotiations for implementation shifted to states, the Ministry did not lose sight of its role in the enforcement of its enabling Law. It has therefore put its Inspectorate Department to work and urged the labour unions to establish similar units in its state chapters to join hands with the Ministry to monitor implementation.

Overall, in discharging its responsibilities, the Ministry has continued to develop strategies geared towards employment generation and wealth creation which are key factors in poverty reduction envisaged in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) Hence, to open up vast

avenues to tackle unemployment, the Ministry is already in liaison with the organized private sector, key ministries and agencies of government with high potentials for job creation. Verily, in compliance with the decision of the Federal Executive Council, it has also commenced the tracking of direct and indirect jobs created through contracts awarded by Federal Government. In another vein, it established the Nigerian - German Centre for Jobs, Migration and Reintegration and through it, organized a job fair in Abuja where a number of applicants were directly employed. Plans are under way to hold similar fair in other states of the federation. Furthermore, the Global Youth Employment Forum organized in conjunction with the International Labour Organisation was held in Abuja last August, with youths from 63 countries in attendance, making it the first time the summit is held outside Europe in the one hundred years history of the ILO.

Tapping into the changing dynamics of the world of work and realising the elastic opportunities in the blue collar jobs, the Ministry has rehabilitated vocational skills development centres in Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Bauchi, Calabar and Warri, furnishing them with consumables. There is also an ongoing construction of nine specialist Skills Centres at Konduga, Borno State; Owowo, Kogi State; Alor and Ifite Dunu in Anambra State; Zaria, Kaduna State; Opeffia and Okpokuegbe both in Ebonyi State; Enugu in Enugu State; Lafia in Nasarawa State; and Ibi in Taraba State. Four others sited in other states and billed for 2020 include Jibia, in Katsina State; Ikene and Ijebu-Ode both in Ogun State; Ondo in Ondo State. Besides, a synergy with other skills centres operated by other Ministries and tiers of government to

standardize their operations is being planned the Ministry. It is important to state here that the National Directorate of Employment which is under the supervision of the Ministry has churned out a total of 533,241 unemployed persons on various skills, including vocational, agricultural, environmental beautification, food processing and business training.

At another level, the mandate of the Ministry to provide a peaceful industrial milieu needed for optimal national productivity received unprecedented attention as the Ministry apprehended 1,425 trade disputes, with 788 completely resolved, 37 referred to the Industrial Arbitration Panel and 600 pending at various stages of mediation.

The Inclusive Services Delivery and Livelihood Enhancement Programme meant to ease a sustainable means of livelihood to the vulnerable especially in the North East zone, traumatized by insurgency which the Ministry developed in conjunction with the African Development Bank is an expression of its commitment to social responsibility.

It has also completed study to enhance the integration and resettlement of internally displaced persons with the Federal Capital Territory and Nasarawa State as pilot.

In the year ahead, the Ministry intends to move notches ahead in implementing the Action Plans on National Employment Policy and National Policy on Labour Migration to provide employment and labour migration services. It expects to also scale up the number of beneficiaries of skills acquisition, empowerment, poverty reduction and social protection. It has commenced the review of all labour acts and reestablished the National Labour Council.

It is hoped that with increased budgetary provision in the new year, the Ministry will frontally tackle the mismatch between educational curricular and labour market requirements through collaborative curricular review. Additionally, an innovative dispute apprehension mechanism to tackle the loss in man hours which results from incessant strikes is also top on the agenda. Besides, the Ministry will catalyze investments in the public and private sector in a multi-pronged efforts to unlock massive job opportunities for the people and give fillip to the promise of the President on June 12, 2019 to take 100,000,000 Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years.

Alo is the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment

Post-hoe Tanzania on horizon as Agricom Africa, TPSF battle to build grassroots technical base countrywide

By Correspondent Peter Keasi

IN February 1967, Tanzania expressed intention of changing peasant agriculture by phasing out gradually hoe-based rain-fed farming. The clarion call then was: 'Let's be concerned with the peasant.'

The strategy was to replace the back-breaking hoe with animal-drawn ploughs at individual and village levels. The ploughs would then be replaced gradually by tractors and farming would be bolstered. With shored up farming, as a result of mechanisation, grassroots agri-businesses and agro-processing plants would have been a natural consequence countrywide. It never worked that way.

Some people argue that that national socio-economic-political venture failed largely because the aim was to have most of the land and agricultural implements communally owned. Others blame the failure on 'counter-revolution' while others blame the failure on apathy on the part of the national leadership; a myopic leadership.

But that failure did not blunt the ingenuity Tanzanians. Learning from the past, Tanzanians formed two important institutions - the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) - to spearhead socio-economic transformation of Tanzania in changed global situation.

The TPSF was formed in



Mvomero District Commissioner, Mohamed Utaly (L) greets Agricom Africa chairperson Angelina Ngalula at the function to wrap up a six-week training on manufacturing and operating agricultural machinery and equipment held in Morogoro recently. The training was organised by Agricom Africa in partnership with Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF). Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

1998 and it was declared, the foundation was to become an effective apex private sector organization, providing a focal point for private sector-led approaches to Tanzania's economic and social transformation. The TNBC was formed to oversee productive dialogue between the government and the private sector.

With joint efforts of the TNBC, the TPSF and other initiatives like the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (Sagcot), it is safe to declare that post-hoe Tanzania is now on the horizon.

But agriculture, as a strategic sector for national transformation, needs skilled people who will be dependable workers in that sector.

Yet an upsetting skills gap is glaringly felt in all sectors of the economy. Therefore, the government and the TPSF are working together to bridge this gap under the umbrella of a 12-year National Skills Development Strategy (NSDS) [2016-2027].

TPSF says the strategy is being implemented "with a clear vision of having skilled competitive Tanzanian workforce capable of effectively fostering inclusive and sustainable socio-economic growth. The NSDS focuses on skills development through targeted set of interventions at both system and service delivery levels. Therefore, it is the first comprehensive skills development strategy for Tanzania that addresses both formal and informal

sector skills needs at all levels of education and training."

But the TPSF, in its publication on Sector Skill Councils, also cautions: "The vertical and horizontal mobility of the country's labour is greatly limited since majority of the labour force has low level of skills. The fact is that, 79.9% of the employed labour force is in low skills level occupations, 66.6% are in medium skills level occupations while only 3.6% are in high level skills occupations.

"As a nation it is important to reverse the situation to 12% for higher skills occupation, 34% or above for middle skills level occupations and less than 54% for low skill level occupations

as required to attain middle income status."

It is against this background the TPSF and Agricom Africa Limited jointly organised a six-week training in Morogoro between August 26 and October 5, last year that benefited 135 young people from 9 regions. Two reasons were behind the workshop: one, to increase trained labour in low skills level occupations and, two, provide the agriculture sector with trained people. The training was done by foreign and local experts using Agricom Africa premises, tractors, machinery and equipment.

"Agriculture is a chief sector which has a larger share of employment rates estimated at 65 per cent and contributes up to 28 percent of GDP, go and make use of the knowledge you have acquired in a bid to improve the sector even further," he told the trainees.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the training recently, the Agricom Africa Chairperson who is also the Chairperson of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), Ms. Angelina Ngalula hailed the regional government for putting in place enabling environment for investors.

"The past years witnessed chaos in the region caused by fighting by farmers and pastoralists but the regional government stood firm in putting an end to the matter and now Morogoro is peaceful and attractive to investors," she said.

Ngalula also thanked Tanzania Education Author-

ity (TEA) who are entrusted with the responsibility of overseeing issues related to imparting knowledge for their continued support including funding of training programs and supporting youths in various department programs.

Earlier, TPSF Executive Director, Godfrey Simbeye, reported that the two institutions surpassed the target by 10 trainees. "We received over 300 applications; we targeted to train 125 people but trained 135, giving priority to female trainees."

He explained that the training focused on young people who were driving and repairing tractors and other plants in their daily life but had never had formal training. "A substantial number of our trainees were college finalists. But they were shocked by the new knowledge put at their disposal because they were exposed to new technologies, machines, plants. The exercise centred practical training and trainees benefited because (Agricom Africa) has a huge farm and a big workshop with engines and latest equipment."

Simbeye appealed to the government and especially the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) to ensure enthusiastic young people in villages countrywide receive this kind of training. Were this appeal by Simbeye to be implemented, then Tanzania's dream articulated in February 1967 would be realised and each village or ward would have a solid technical base.

Trained young people,

he said, would be linked to roughly 1500 farmers countrywide who are in database of Agricom Africa.

Officiating the closing ceremony, Morogoro Regional Commissioner Loata ole Sanare, praised the joint efforts of TPSF and Agricom Africa towards promoting the agriculture sector. The RC said agriculture was growing at 7.1 percent per annum in 2018. He said agriculture contributed 28.7 percent to the GDP and employed 65.5 percent of Tanzanians in 2017.

Ole Sanare said agriculture was contributing 65 percent of the raw materials to Tanzania's industries, proving its worthy as a strategic sector in Tanzania's agro-industrialisation development strategy.

The national vision is to make Tanzania a middle-income industrial nation by 2025; but an industrial economy is envisaged this year. The current government is very serious about achievement of these two objectives, hence another reason for commending the TPSF and Agricom Africa for organising the workshop last month. These efforts will culminate in rekindling the 1967 call of changing peasant agriculture in order to pull millions of Tanzanians out of abysmal poverty and give meaning to Tanzania's independence.

The training was organised by Agricom Africa in partnership with Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) and sponsored by TEA.

BY ZACHARY DONNENFELD

There has recently been some controversy surrounding the mining of bauxite (a precursor to aluminium) in Ghana, with the role of Chinese investment taking center stage. Bauxite promises to inject big money into the lower-middle-income country, but there are also serious environmental concerns with the project.

Along with bringing more than US\$2 billion worth of infrastructure, it has the potential to taint the primary water source for roughly five million people. More broadly though, the issue brings to the fore the role of Chinese investment in African growth models.

Largely due to China's domination of trade in material goods, the scale of its overall investment in Africa is often exaggerated. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), China has less than half the stock of foreign direct investment (FDI) of either the United Kingdom, France or the United States. Forbes agrees, noting in an analysis of investment trends in Africa that 'Europe continues to stand out as the largest investor.'

However the Forbes and WEF analyses also point out that the growth of Chinese investment in Africa far outpaces any other nation. Between 2010 and 2014, Chinese FDI increased at a rate more than double that of any of the above-mentioned countries. China is also, by far, the largest investor in infrastructure projects in Africa, pledging another US\$60 billion at last year's Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.

As China becomes an increasingly important part-



China's role in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing has a disproportionate impact on Africa. File photo

ner for many African countries, China's own domestic and national policies will have more and more significance for countries doing business with it. One prominent example is China's 'exportation' of coal-fired power plants, while it aggressively subsidises renewable projects within China.

In June 2019, Kenyan non-governmental organisations were able to defeat an effort led by a Chinese consortium to build a 1 050MW coal plant near a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization heritage site in Lamu, Kenya. The plan was only narrowly defeated in the courts, and appeals are ongoing.

A key point to consider is that Kenya has strong institutions and levels of civic participation compared to other African countries. There are good reasons to believe that other states may not be able to advocate as effectively for environmental protections in the face of large financial gains for corporations and elites.

While coal has received a

fair amount of attention, other economic activities with environmental impacts are far less frequently reported on. One issue that flies under the radar in terms of its potential human impact is illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

In November 2019 the Stimson Center released a report on global IUU fishing. Among other things, the report looked at the countries where distant water fishing fleets most often cross into territorial waters and found that 10 of the 20 most frequently violated countries

were in Africa.

However, when weighted for population, African countries account for more than 90% of the people living in those 20 countries. This total includes Papua New Guinea, which accounts for the bulk of the remaining 10%. The full extent of the damage to fish stocks and the ecological sustainability of these areas is hard to determine, but as distant water fishing is estimated to employ up to 56 million people, the impact is likely to be significant.

The report also found that

three of the five ports most frequently used by IUU fleets are African. Stimson suggests this is no coincidence as deep water fleets actively take advantage of weak institutions and a lack of economic opportunities in some African countries. Several survey participants from Mozambique said they believed 'political decisions drive the access agreements, with little to no concern for the environment or conservation of fisheries.'

This belief was in large

part validated when an associate of a Chinese fishing company was caught publicly threatening a high-ranking official at Mozambique's Ministry of Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries. Perhaps unsurprisingly at this point, the report indicated that roughly 65% of deep water fleets conducting IUU fishing were operating out of either China or Taiwan.

The overexploitation of African fisheries will not only have long-term ecological consequences, but is also already negatively impacting economies. Catch sizes for local fishers are dwindling, and competition for limited fish stocks has already led to violent conflict in Africa.

Dealing with Africa's food security challenges and managing the continent's relationship with China are both key for the continent going forward. This is a rare instance where those interests almost directly overlap, and present an opportunity to establish a framework for sustainable cooperation, both economic and environmental.

The Stimson report lays out several policy recommendations. These include introducing more traceability into food supply chains, expanding regional and international cooperation, improving the accountability of flag states and ensuring that corporate records from distant water fleet host nations become publicly available.

Improving transparency in the fishing industry represents an important step towards better food security and economic livelihoods for millions of Africans. It will also protect some of the most plentiful and endangered fish stocks on Earth

Zachary Donnensfeld, ISS Consultant

Energy, land and law: This year, it's personal

By Kevin Bloom

Two centuries back, when the French novelist Honore de Balzac wrote these words, the stakes were lower. The sixth mass extinction was not yet a lived reality, the polar ice caps were not yet disappearing into the sea and Paris, Balzac's hometown, was not sweltering in 40°C summer heat. Anthropogenic carbon emissions, or what there were of them, came mostly from oil lamps, wood fires and coal stoves – James Watt's steam engine, although commercialised, was three decades away from ushering in the industrial age. The world may or may not have been a happier place, but it was more or less intact.

By the late 1800s, around the time that Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius was calculating the connection between CO2 emissions and the Earth's temperature – a doubling in greenhouse gas content, the Nobel laureate concluded, would heat the planet by 5-6°C – the system was primed for the great unravelling.

Because what was clear, even then, was that the law had been outgunned by the energy industry. The Standard Oil Company, the world's first major fossil fuel conglomerate, had eliminated the competition to seize control of 95% of US oil production, and the government was trying to break the company up. But founder John D Rockefeller had created a maze of holding structures and trusts, which rendered Standard Oil impervious to public investigation.

"You could argue its existence from its effects," wrote Ida Tarbell in her celebrated history of the conglomerate, "but you could not prove it."

Tarbell may have been familiar with Balzac's metaphor about spiders and flies. She had faced the commercial Machiavellianism of the Gilded Age head-on, when her father – a small oil producer – had refused Rockefeller's offer of a buy-



out. Her personal experience of the consequences of that decision had gestated for 30 years, until she parlayed it into what Smithsonian Magazine termed a "redefinition" of investigative journalism: a 19-part series (and book) that unearthed the kickbacks, collusions and conspiracies upon which Rockefeller had built his empire. In the end, Tarbell's muckraking achieved what the US government, acting alone, could not – by the time she was done, Standard Oil was no more.

Fast forward 120 years, past the short-lived hiatus of the Progressive Era (when, thanks in no small part to Tarbell, social and political reform held out for once against Big Money), and Balzac's metaphor was back with a vengeance. In late October 2019, Exxon Mobil found itself in the New York State Supreme Court, on charges of lying to its shareholders about the potential future costs of the climate crisis. On its merits, the case was sound, with the state prosecutor leaning on the ground-breaking work of journalists to argue that "the company failed to manage the risks in the way it promised." But the judge, who refused to recuse himself after it was revealed that he held \$250,000 in Exxon stock, dismissed the case on 10 December 2019, ruling that there was "no proof" the company had duped investors.

And so Exxon Mobil, which in 1982 had correctly predicted in an internal memo (obtained by the above-mentioned journalists) that carbon concentration in the atmosphere would rise around 25% by 2020, had escaped the web. One of the world's largest carbon emitters,

the company had been modeling climate change scenarios for 40 years, acknowledging in its earliest documents "once the effects are measurable, they may not be reversible and little could be done to correct the situation in the short term".

Needless to say, given its understanding that "mitigation of the 'greenhouse effect' would require major reductions in fossil fuel combustion," the conglomerate had zero intention of sharing its findings with investors or the general public. But more to the point, the culture of secrecy was hardwired into its DNA – because Exxon, along with Chevron and BP, had been one of the companies formed out of the US government's eventual dissolution of the Standard Oil empire in 1911.

It was hardly a surprise, then, that these same three companies would be welcomed at the negotiating table at COP25, the fabled "last-ditch" international climate conference that took place in Madrid while the judge was giving Exxon a free pass in New York. If one big fly could buzz through the web, they all could – and on the other side, they could work their plan to eat the spider, the trees and the forest itself. As 350.org, the world's largest climate activist organisation, stated in the press release issued on 15 December 2019: "COP25 was a success for the fossil fuel industry – their interests have won, effectively blocking the process and undermining the end result. As time ran out, the COP looked more and more like a hostage situation inside a burning building – together with most negotiators, people and planet were

held captive as the fossil fuel industry and a few loud governments who have been delivering on their agenda took over the process."

That same week, monster wildfires were poisoning the air in the largest city of one of the loudest pro-fossil fuel governments, Scott Morrison's Australia. By the end of the month, on the cusp of the new year, 4,000 Australian holidaymakers would be trapped by a different fire on a beach in the state of Victoria, granting the world a graphic and horrifying picture of what climate change could do.

Not that the world hadn't seen such pictures before, just that most of the images had been emanating from its poorer parts. Suddenly, climate change had become a personal issue for the rich too. Which meant that, finally, the law had a chance of submitting itself to change.

II. Fat in the fire

If there's one overriding take-home from the history that stretches from Standard Oil through to Exxon Mobil and the failures of COP25, it's that climate change does not pay attention to national borders. Although the United States may have done the most to place the fossil fuel industry above the law on the international stage, by 2019 the effects were truly global. Going into 2020, then, there has never been more pressure on the law to adapt – to catch, in Balzac's words, the big flies.

On 20 December 2019, in the midst of all the apocalyptic news, the highest court in the Netherlands gave an indication of the pushback to come. After a six-

year fight, the judge ruled in favour of the non-profit Urgenda Foundation, which had argued that the Dutch government had an explicit duty to protect its citizens from climate change and to reduce its carbon emissions 25% (against 1990 levels) by the end of 2020.

According to David Boyd, the UN special rapporteur on human rights and the environment, the ruling was "the most important climate change court decision in the world so far, confirming that human rights are jeopardised by the climate emergency and that wealthy nations are legally obligated to achieve rapid and substantial emission reductions".

But the case wasn't confined to just rich nations, because after the initial ruling in 2015 (a ruling the Dutch government would repeatedly appeal), copycat actions were inspired in countries as hard-up as Pakistan and the Philippines. In South Africa, 2020 is likely to bring a ruling at the intersection of human rights and the burning of fossil fuels that, for our citizens at least, is equally significant.

Known as the "Deadly Air" case, the outcome will have a direct impact on the lived daily experience of tens of thousands of South Africans, with a knock-on effect for the rest of us that will become increasingly personal in the years ahead. At the core of the case is the fact that it has now been more than 12 years since the South African government officially recognised the lethal levels of airborne pollution on the Mpumalanga and east Gauteng Highveld. In that time, with international experts linking our coal-fired power and fuel plants to thousands of deaths per year, costing the economy in excess of an annual R30-billion, almost nothing has been done.

The founding affidavit may not specifically mention climate change, but for a number of reasons, the Deadly Air matter is situated at the heart of the global zeitgeist. Like the Dutch case, it goes directly at government, with the president himself named as the third respondent; like the Exxon case, it implicates our largest carbon emitters, Eskom and Sasol. Also, reflecting a trend now sweeping the world, it has been brought to court by civil society.

The applicants in the Deadly Air matter are Groundwork and the Vukani Environmental Jus-

tice Movement in Action, non-profits that speak for the South Africans who live in the pall of the Eskom and Sasol plants – the men, women and children who literally cannot breathe because of our government's fixation with coal. In this sense, the groups are ideologically and spiritually aligned to the Urgenda Foundation in Holland, which focuses on "the transition towards a circular economy using only renewable energy".

This year, given that Eskom applied in December 2019 for an air pollution exemption at two of its largest plants, the Deadly Air matter moves from code-red to code-purple. In an interview with Bloomberg, a Finnish expert remarked that the exemptions "would cause an estimated 6,000 to 12,000 premature deaths over the remaining life of the plants, a health burden and economic burden that far exceeds the costs of the equipment required to comply with the standards".

Meanwhile, the renewable alternative, as we learned last month during stage 6 load shedding, remains tied up in ANC-sponsored contractual tape. With the cost of the transition estimated by leading researchers at the University of Stellenbosch at around R6-billion (a paltry figure next to Eskom's R460-billion in corrupt, coal-fired debt), there is significant wind and solar capacity already available to the grid that's languishing in something called the "maximum export rule".

In other words, renewable energy in South Africa, the lowest-cost option at around 60 cents per kilowatt-hour, the option that could deliver the country millions of new jobs and potentially reinvigorate the economy – and hence the best option in the long-run for the trade unions – is a victim of the same historical conspiracy that began with Rockefeller's Standard Oil. As the world begins to experience the first real ravages of climate breakdown, the fossil fuel industry reigns, as ever, supreme.

With the DA and the EFF

slugging it out at the margins, blind to this larger context and retreating into their own chaotic versions of right- and left-wing populism, the year ahead is unlikely to deliver a parliamentary corrective.

Which brings us back to the courts.

Another thing that happened during the December 2019 blackouts was the request lodged by the City of Cape Town for an expedited hearing on its application to the Gauteng High Court to buy energy "directly" from independent power producers. By this, stated acting Cape Town mayor Ian Neilson, what was meant was "cleaner energy". The outcome of the application, which couldn't be more personal for the residents of the Mother City – and which, if successful, could change the game for the entire country – will hopefully be apolitical.

With any luck, we'll hear some time in the first half of 2020.

III. Wood for the trees

But again, both globally and locally, the fury at the carbon princelings and the elite interests they represent is now driven almost exclusively from the bottom-up. In Australia, on 2 January 2020, we got a raw picture of this fury when Prime Minister Morrison toured the burnt-out towns in the continent's southeast. The heckling, the swearing, the reluctance of the residents and the firefighters to shake his hand – when Morrison brushed it off by saying he didn't "take it personally," suggesting that "angry" people tend to "fixate," he had no idea how right he was.

Because for those people, who had lost either their homes or their colleagues, climate change was no longer an abstract issue. It was now intensely personal, and in this the Australians were in sync with the victims of another unprecedented weather event that spilled over into the new year, the record-setting rainfall that inundated the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, killing dozens and displacing 35,000.

DM

How gender-based violence should be reported in media

UNITED NATIONS

Sexual and gender-based violence terrorizes women and girls around the world, affecting as many as one in three women. Reporters play an essential role in bringing these cases to light so that authorities can take action and prevent further abuses. Yet reporting on gender-based violence comes with serious risks to survivors.

When journalists tell these stories carelessly, or without proper training, they can leave survivors feeling exploited or exposed to stigma and retaliation.

When members of the Yazidi community faced targeted sexual violence and enslavement by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS or Da'esh), news reports sparked urgent action by the international community.

Some women hoped sharing their stories would help bring justice. But others felt the reporting itself caused harm, said Sherizaan Minwalla, a legal expert who has studied the issue.



Dr. Nagham Nawzat specializes in providing care to Yazidi survivors in Iraq. Interviews with health professionals, counsellors and the community can help reporters show the wider impact of sexual and gender-based violence. FILE PHOTO

"We explored how Yazidi women themselves felt about the ways in which journalists gathered and reported on their stories," she explained.

"Overall, a majority of our respondents described experiences with, or perceptions about, reporters that suggested a patterned breach in ethics among journalists, who ap-

peared to disregard the extent to which the reporting of the story might negatively impact highly traumatized survivors, with further harm to women's individual and collective well-being."

But new initiatives are aiming to help journalists navigate the dangers of this important reporting. UNFPA and the

Rutgers University Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) are partnering to help provide resources and guidance to reporters, among other efforts.

"Journalism constitutes one of the few available avenues for [survivors'] stories to be heard," said Jafar Irshaidat, a UNFPA communications

specialist in Jordan. "Unfortunately, journalists can inadvertently become part of the problem."

Irshaidat has led trainings for journalists that both encourage the coverage of gender-based violence and caution reporters about the potential to cause harm. These seminars use videos and guided discussions to explore issues of consent, protection, re-traumatization and myths about victims of violence.

"This training was truly eye-opening. I was never really exposed to information on gender-based violence and the sensitivities of reporting on it," said Bushra Nairoukh, a reporter in Jordan. "I feel more responsible as a journalist now that I have been introduced to this important subject."

UNFPA has also worked with humanitarian partners to create media guidelines and a Syria-specific handbook for journalists. UNFPA offices in Yemen, Syria and elsewhere have also conducted media workshops on these issues.

These efforts are already making a difference. Since 2014, more than 500 journalists have attended the UNFPA trainings held in Jordan, and some 1,500 have been reached

through related messages.

"I learned a lot about the potential consequences of reporting and how to carefully phrase my writing to ensure that I am not harming those I'm trying to help, particularly vulnerable women and girls," said Fatma Ramadan, from Egypt.

CWGL, the founder of the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign, has been working in parallel to create a handbook, website and app to help journalists address these issues.

In 2018, CWGL and UNFPA jointly held consultations with dozens of journalists in Amman to understand their challenges and needs. The information gathered will help inform CWGL's handbook and other resources under development.

Many journalists have indicated that trainings should reach further into the newsroom, as well. "Journalists complain that, in many cases, their stories are dropped at the editor's table, stressing the need to target editors in any awareness efforts," Irshaidat said.

At the same time, he added, journalism offers opportuni-

ties for creative thinking and problem solving. Reporters can be encouraged to find novel ways to report on gender-based violence without relying on invasive personal interviews, such as "more explorative features that examine the wider social ramifications of gender-based violence and male dominance," he said.

On 19 December, UNFPA and CWGL officially partnered together to work towards eliminated gender-based violence. The partnership will include efforts to reach, inform and empower journalists – who can then help change global perceptions about violence and gender norms.

"We are looking at our work around the journalist initiative and shifting the discourse on how [gender-based violence] is reported in the media," said Krishanti Dharmaraj, the Executive Director of CWGL, at the partnership signing in New York.

"This alliance is going to pick up the pace," said UNFPA Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem. "It is going to accelerate action."

IPS

Severe droughts threaten wildlife industry in South Africa

By Tanisha Heiberg

A severe drought is threatening South Africa's wildlife industry, with game farmers keeping fewer animals and tourists visiting game lodges in smaller numbers.

Parts of the country have been affected by consecutive years of abnormally hot weather and below average rainfall that have scorched grazing lands and dried up watering holes since 2015, the driest year on record.

Industry body Wildlife Ranching South Africa (WRSA) estimates the Northern Cape province has lost more than two-thirds of its game over the last three years.

It is conducting a countrywide survey to determine the scale of animal losses and the financial impact on the

country's more than 9,000 wildlife ranches.

"It's been an extraordinary drought," said WRSA chief Adri Kitshoff-Botha. "It's not a one-year or two-year drought. In some areas we've seen it has been going now for six years."

The wildlife industry generates revenue for South Africa through tourism, hunting, breeding and meat production.

Trophy hunting alone generated 2bn rand (£106m) in 2016, according to research carried out for the environment ministry.

Southern Africa's temperatures are rising at twice the global average rate, according to the International Panel on Climate Change, and in much of South Africa the level of water in reservoirs is dwindling.

For Burger Schoeman,

manager at Northern Cape game farm Thuru Lodge, the withered vegetation and parched ground are a serious concern for the sector.

Once home to around 4,500 wild animals - including 35 different species, from antelope to rhino - the lodge has lost around 1,000 animals due to drought. Carcasses are piling up in abandoned mines on the edge of the property.

"At this stage we are quite stretched. All the money you get from selling the animals, meat and all of that, gets put straight back into the property to look after the rest of the animals," Mr Schoeman said.

The lodge has seen costs rise as it buys in additional feed for the animals, but hunters are paying less and fewer tourists are coming

as the animals are in worse condition.

At the 48,000-hectare Karreekloof Safari Lodge in the same province, rangers come across carcasses every week.

"Nobody wants to buy the game, because they also (are experiencing) ... the same drought," said farm manager Gideon Watts, adding that his farm received a quarter of its usual rainfall this season.

The industry has seen a decline of around 20 per cent in tourist numbers over the past year, said WRSA's Kitshoff-Botha.

The drought has also hit the rest of the region, with Botswana, home to almost a third of Africa's elephants, seeing more than 100 of the creatures die in two months last year.



Firm raises hope of small scale farmers, millers with protein-rich insect product

By Clifford Akumu

With the global urban population expected to grow approximately 1.84 per cent per year between 2015 and 2020 putting pressure on food production among cities, there is need to put more effort on agricultural production for sustainable development.

The growth is expected to further worsen the growing scarcity of protein-rich resources used in feed production by millers and small scale farmers such as fishmeal (omena), cotton seed cake, sunflower meal and soybeans, that is already consumed as food by human.

To bridge that gap, researchers have found the solution in insect protein that offer an important replacement for expensive protein sources from fish or plants used in aquaculture and poultry production.

Insects add more value to the feed and food basket thanks to high nutrition component and as a source of income to those venturing in the innovative agriculture sector.

Sanergy-a Nairobi based waste and sanitation outfit, has joined in the production of insect based protein ingredient that is geared towards supporting this crucial sector through mass rearing of black soldier fly.

After championing a revolution in the waste management in the slums of Nairobi, the firm has set its eye on curving a niche in the animal feed sector with a product it calls 'PureProtein' set to be rolled out next year.

"The main aim of the product is to empower the average farmer who are the drivers of the food basket. We have already done the ground work for large production and what remains is the roll out which we intend to start next year" said Edith Karimi senior communications officer, Sanergy.

With technical and capacity building support from the South African based-AgriProtein, the firm has developed what it says will revolutionise livestock feed industry in Kenya.

"We want to be the leader in the production of a consistent and high quality raw materials that will benefit both farmers and feed mill-



ers by investing in the use of sustainable resources like the black soldier fly" said Karimi.

Some of the most promising insect species for industrial production of feed includes; Black Soldier Fly(BSF), the common housefly, the yellow mealworm, the lesser mealworm, silkworms (*Bombyx mori*), and several grasshopper species.

Prohibitive costs, seasonality and adulteration of fishmeal, for example, she continues, are some of the major constrain hampering growth of the livestock feed sector in East Africa.

Animal feeds account for 70% of production costs and, therefore, have a significant effect on the farmers' production costs and profits.

With per capita meat consumption in high-income countries expected to increase by 9% in 2030 a phenomenon that will subsequently result in increase in the demand for coarse grain as feed for livestock, producers must look into alternative sources for increased production.

Relying on a sustainable sources of protein such as insects, such as black soldier fly, will meet the nutritional needs for those in the manufacturing industry of animal feeds.

In Kenya, most feed millers depend on fishmeal but the current consumption of dagaa(omena) is about 650,000 tonnes but what is produced locally is about 400,000 tonnes meaning the protein resource is already overstretched.

"Pureprotein will benefit chicken, fish and pig farmers" said Karimi.

In 2011, combined world feed production was estimated at 870 million tonnes, with revenue from global commercial feed manufacturing generating approximately US\$350 billion. Food and Agriculture Organisation projects that production will have to increase by 70% to be able to feed the world in 2050, as meat and fish outputs are expected to

double.

Through a project funded by International Research Development Centre (IDRC) the Nairobi-based International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) is conducting various research on insects geared towards providing a solution to the undernourishment in the African region, because they reproduce quickly, and are valuable sources of protein, minerals and vitamins.

Dr. Komi Fiaboe, senior scientist with ICIPE explains that rearing insects for feed and food are founded on the high feed conversion efficiency, ability to emit fewer greenhouse gases and significantly require less land to rear.

Fiaboe explains that rate of multiplication, ease to rear and faster maturity and cheap protein are some of the features for insects for feed production.

"For feed purposes we need insects that multiply quickly and matures very fast, while for food we go for delicious and bigger insects which might take longer to grow. The priority right now is to create a vibrant colony that is able to create jobs for small scale farmers," said Fiaboe.

BSF contains more protein content in the dry matter compared to the conventional ingredients used in manufacturing livestock feeds.

"Whereas Omena contains 40.3% Crude Protein (CP) content in the Dry Matter (DM), Black Soldier Flies Larva (*Hermetia illucens*) contains about 49.3% CP in DM making it more viable" explained Fiaboe, who is also the leader, Insects for Food, Feed and other Uses(INSEFF)Programme.

The insects, Fiaboe adds, play a significant role in bio-conversion of organic waste into bio-fertiliser while contributing to sustainable management of the environment. "Studies show that BSF have biomass conversion of over 50% - rate to re-usable, less pathogen filled residue thus creating a safer environ-

ment"

"As other resources are constantly getting deplete, waste on the other hand is not likely to run out, so we invest in the sustainability and use the resources we have" added Karimi.

The black soldier fly, has a gestation period of four weeks. According to Karimi, the firm collects about 330 kilos of black soldier fly pre-pupa stage every month.

"At Sanergy we give emphasis on the pre-pupa stage since this is the stage with high content of pure protein and fatty acids which farmers need for their animals. But the rest, we let them mature and take them back to the cages to retain our colony" she said.

BSF do not like laying eggs in places with light, so for a better return for investment, there is need to provide the insects with a dark laying material.

"After every two days the baskets are emptied and are taken to another place where they can hatch into the larvae."

In Uganda for example, poultry feeds account for nearly 80% of all feeds, followed by dairy feeds (20%). Feeds of other types include Hog meal, Rabbit pellets and Hound meal. Vitamins and mineral premixes are imported from Europe and Kenya and the other ingredients are obtained from local suppliers.

With 5% of aquaculture farmers in the co rely on termites for feeding fish either by collecting the termites directly or purchasing them from collectors and there is a huge prospect for exploiting other insect species for use in fish meal.

"We have initiated similar projects on insects for food and feed in Uganda. We want to cover the whole of East Africa" Fiaboe added.

A socio-economic survey conducted by ICIPE this year in Kisii, Nakuru, Nyeri and Nairobi towns indicated that most feed millers used dubious means to increase protein content in their feed formulation.

Scientists use recycled sewage water to grow 500 acre forest in the middle of Egyptian desert

By Andy Corbley

DESERTIFICATION, also known as desert-creep or desert-spread, is a process that has caused much concern over the last decade - and it's a major problem for the ancient land of Egypt, where 96% of the country's landmass is desert.

So why is it that - if you drove a car 10 miles west of the Suez Canal - you would see bountiful forests of eucalyptus, teak, and mahogany trees limned against the orange sand and blue sky of the Sahara?

Serapium Forest is the most prosperous of Egypt's 36 tracts of land that make up an ambitious program to combat desertification by creating sustainably managed commercial forests fed entirely by wastewater.

The 500-mile forest is only a short distance from the populous Egyptian city of Ismailia, inhabited by 400,000 people who produce millions of tons of sewage and sewage water every year.

Routed a dozen miles to the Serapium site, the sewage water arrives in massive microorganism-populated underground vats where oxygen is fed in to accelerate the bacterial purification process. A system of pipes then deposits the wastewater throughout the forest.

Since human wastewater is still rich in nitrogen and phosphorus even after being treated, it is effectively a MiracleGro formula provided free of charge by Ismailia's citizens. (Watch the encouraging video below.)

An Ambitious Effort

Recent efforts by Egyptian scientists have produced plenty of research suggesting that the wastewater potential for afforestation in the country could turn 1.6 million acres of desert into commercial forests that are arable and economically viable.

The federal effort, called the National Program for the Safe Use of Treated Sewage Water for Afforestation is going a long way towards achieving the country's commendable ambitions voiced in the 1992 UN Rio conference on climate change - because so many trees can soak up hundreds of

tons of CO₂.

The research was supported by Forest Finance, a German forest investment company that has already established near-natural forests in Panama and Vietnam to aid those countries in economic development, CO₂ absorption, and wildlife conservation.

Forest Finance wants to increase the number of species grown in Serapium by including a plantation on the site. That way, the biodiversity of the commercial forest would be able to support a greater array of life and species, and hopefully increase the profitability as well.

Green Walls

Although desertification is sometimes thought of as the swallowing of lands adjacent to deserts, it is actually a process whereby land that was once fertile or semi-arable becomes desert as a result of things like unsustainable agricultural practices, or long-lasting drought.

Africa's Great Green Wall project, a remarkable effort across more than 10 countries to build a giant patchwork wedge of vegetation to combat desertification in Africa's Sahel region - the band of semi-arid yet arable land south of the great Sahara - swaps the word desertification for land degradation.

Africa's Great Green Wall is a success that is also currently being matched by the Chinese, whose "Green Great Wall," is made in a similar way to Egypt's.

The African green wall has produced some staggeringly good figures along their stated goals of jobs created, carbon sequestered, land reclaimed, and food produced. It has established best practices for the combating of land degradation by ensuring that the "wall" is a mosaic of different families of plants and land use strategies, providing greater robustness and flexibility in the face of drought or fire.

Although the Serapium Forest suffers from the precarious circumstances derived from lack of funding and political stability, it's still growing - a 500-acre green wall to join the others in the world in fending off the sands of the world's deserts from spreading.

BUSINESS

TAZARA, Zambian university seal pact on railway training programs

Oliver Alawuba appointed as new CEO of UBA Africa

By Guardian Reporter

UNITED Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) yesterday announced that Oliver Alawuba has been appointed as CEO of UBA Africa, overseeing the bank's 20 African country operations, excluding Nigeria.

He succeeds Victor Osadolor, who retires from the Group Board, after 9 years of service working at UBA. UBA Africa serves over 19 million customers across the African continent, providing retail, commercial and institutional banking services, leading financial inclusion and implementing cutting edge products including the first ever banking chat bot in Africa, LEO.

Alawuba has close to three decades of banking industry experience. He was once the CEO of UBA Ghana and rose to become Regional CEO, UBA Africa before returning to Nigeria to run UBA's East Bank. Under his leadership, UBA's Nigerian East Bank division became the fastest growing regional bank in the Group.

The Board further appointed Senegalese national, Abdoul-Aziz Dia as Executive Director for Treasury and International Banking, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Aziz becomes the first non-Nigerian Group Executive Director of the Bank, bringing a wealth of multi-geographical experience to the Group.

Dia will be responsible for UBA's global network of operations in New York, London and Paris, together with Group Treasury, where UBA offers a sophisticated suite of products to multinationals, international institutions and African clients.

Chukwuma Nweke, currently the Executive Director Operations, was confirmed by the Board as the Group Executive Director, Retail and Payments, demonstrating the Group's commitment to its retail offering. Chuks has close to three decades of banking experience spanning Banking Operations, Finance, Technology,

Audit and Strategy.

The Board also announced the appointment of Chiugo Ndubisasi as Group Executive Director and the Group Chief Operating Officer, subject to the approval of the Central Bank of Nigeria. Chiugo is a professional with almost three decades of banking experience that includes the role of Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and Executive Director on the board of a financial institution. His in-depth understanding of banking and finance industry dynamics will bring a lot of value to the Group Board of UBA.

Speaking on the appointments, Group Chairman Tony Elumelu said: "These appointments emphasise the Group's commitment to our pan-African and global network, our huge retail client base and our operational infrastructure. We are focused on improving our efficiency and further strengthening our pan-African mission, using the extraordinary pool of talent and experience available in the Group."

Elumelu thanked both the outgoing Deputy Managing Director/CEO, UBA Africa, Mr. Victor Osadolor, and the former Regional CEO for UBA in East and Southern Africa, Emeke Iweriabor, who just retired from the board, for their contributions to the Bank. "Victor and Emeke were key players during the merger of Standard Trust Bank and UBA and have been valuable contributors to the growth of the Bank. We wish them well".

The Board appointments underline UBA's broader commitment to investing in the highest quality human capital. The Bank recently reformed its grade structure and technology teams, having reduced its grade structure from 16 to 12 levels, at the end of 2019. The Bank welcomed 3,000 new staff members in 2019 and promoted over 5,000 employees. UBA is the largest employer in the Nigerian banking sector, with a staff strength of close to 20,000 employees group wide.



Oliver Alawuba

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority (TAZARA) and the Copperbelt University (CBU) of Zambia have signed an Academic Business Partnership Agreement, officially operationalizing the establishment of the CBU-TAZARA Mpika Campus at the TAZARA Training Centre, which has already begun offering skills development in railway related engineering and logistics academic programs at Diploma, Bachelor Degree, Master Degree and PhD levels.

Apart from setting up a unique relationship that creates unheralded value and opportunities for both the University and the railway industry, the partnership is an undertaking to position both institutions towards contributing to the planned African Integrated High Speed Railway Network (AIHSRN) in areas of human capital development and manufacturing of railway related products.

The AIHSRN is a flagship project of the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, which has earmarked TAZARA's Mpika Workshops as one of the centres to play a key role in the manufacture of components for the railway project.

The Business Agreement, which specifies the contributions and benefits of each party as well as dispute resolution mechanisms, was signed in Dar es Salaam, on 4 January 2020, by the two institutions' Chief Executive Officers, Eng. Bruno Ching'andu, Managing Di-



rector of TAZARA, and Professor Naison Ngoma, the CBU Vice Chancellor, respectively. Eng. Ching'andu hailed the signing of the Agreement, saying: "We are delighted to be signing this Agreement, which signals the implementing of the Memorandum of Understanding that we signed in 2017 to provide a framework for establishing a practical training institute that maximizes the utilization of the already existing resources at TAZARA and CBU."

"I am positive that this Agreement will give impetus to our relationship and enable us to harness the knowledge and experience in the railway sector, which we should all apply to the benefit of the institutions and the countries in the region," Eng. Ching'andu said.

The Vice Chancellor emphasized that the University was keen to see TAZARA benefit through the training of employ-

ees, knowledge exchange and economic value for the utilization of the TAZARA infrastructure.

Prof Ngoma said: "I am particularly encouraged by the Southern Africa Railways Association's welcoming of the partnership and recommendation that other member countries take leaf of our pioneering initiative to make use of the vast knowledge in the railway industry."

TAZARA is a bi-national railway jointly owned by the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Zambia on a 50-50 shareholding basis. The 1,860km-railway connects landlocked Zambia to the seaport of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and further provides road and railway interconnectivity to other parts of Southern Africa. In essence, TAZARA provides a communication backbone for the three regional groupings of SADC, COMESA

and the East African Community. TAZARA has huge facilities that remain underutilized, including the Training Centre in Mpika, Workshops in Mpika, Mbeya and Dar es Salaam, 6 fuel storage facilities and warehouses located throughout the line. Located in close proximity with the Mpika Workshops, the TAZARA Training Centre currently has capacity to accommodate more than 300 students, with plenty of scope for expansion. The workshops will also be utilized as part of the training facility for hands-on practical skills development.

The Copperbelt University is a public university based in the Copperbelt Province of Zambia with a student population of about 10,000. The University produces an average of 1500 graduates specialized in various engineering disciplines, the Built Environment, Human Resource management, Natural Resource Management, Business Management, Science Education, Peace and Conflict resolution, Medicine and many other specializations necessary for national development. The University has 10 faculties offering programs ranging from Diploma to Doctorate levels and these are taught through part-time, Fulltime and Distance Education modes. The Minimum entry requirements into the University are Five O Level Credits for Diploma and Undergraduate, first degree for Postgraduate and Masters Degree for Doctorate studies.

A flashback of SBL major highlights in 2019

By Guardian Reporter

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has evolved from a small operation based in Dar to a large manufacturer with three breweries producing world class award-winning beer and spirits brands.

Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, Serengeti Breweries Ltd has grown to a major player in Tanzania's beer and spirits industry with its brands accounting for over 25% of the market by volume. The company now operates three breweries in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi.

Since in 1996, the business has grown its portfolio of brands year on year. The majority stake acquisition by East African Breweries Ltd (EABL)/Diageo in 2010 has seen increased investment in international quality standards leading to greater job opportunities for Tanzanians.

As year 2019 gets to an end, SBL is proud to wind up the year with success in its operations. The following are some of the achievements that the company has attained in 2019

Launch of the new Corporate logo

After over two decades of existence, In October this year SBL unveiled a new look corporate identity that represents the company's transformative journey since its inception in 1996.

According to company's Corporate Relations Director John Wanyancha, the new logo was deliberately designed and altered to reflect how the company is today and at the same time to symbolize dynamic future.

"Additionally, after careful consideration, we were keen on



SBL Managing Director (left), Mark Ocitti and Minister of Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa

a new logo that reflects a more modern look that captures the imagination of our entire business ecosystem - with the overall mission of entrenching our drive to deliver quality products to our diverse customers, partners and other stakeholders," he says

The new logo is specifically designed to stand for the attributes such as Quality, Craftsmanship, Professionalism, Dynamism, Modern, Optimism, Friendly, Warm, Open, Self-confident but not Arrogant, and it shows we work with natural ingredients.

"We believe that our new logo will continue enhancing SBL's unique identity in the brewing industry as well as entrenching the company's strategic mission of providing our customers with high quality products and services that exceed their expectations," Wanyancha says.

Investment
As part of our growth agen-

da, SBL is currently implementing a GBP 14 million expansion at our breweries in Dar es Salaam and Moshi which once completed will create more job opportunities for Tanzanians, increase our demand for local raw materials from the farmers and lead to increased Government earnings from the business.

"This expansion not only means getting additional beer production capacity for us (SBL), but it also brings more job opportunities to Tanzanians and creates further demand for barley, maize and sorghum which the company sources from local farmers," says Wanyancha.

SBL currently employs over 800 workers both directly and indirectly in its breweries and thousands of other beneficiaries including distributors, transporters, farmers, bar outlet owners and staff who depend on the brewer's products for their livelihoods.

Taxes paid

An independent study conducted by Deloitte in 2018 to assess the impact of SBL on the Tanzanian economy indicate that the company contributed 567bn/- in total value-added to the Tanzanian economy last year, representing around one per cent of national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) currently estimated at around \$55 billion (about 127trn/-).

The study established that SBL company activities across the value chain makes this level of contribution to the country's GDP.

SBL has also made a huge contribution to Tanzania's wealth creation and distribution in many ways. The company is one of the country's large tax payers. In 2018, SBL total tax payment to the government was over 120 billion shillings which is around 60% increase from 70 billion shillings paid in five years ago (in 2013)

Local raw material

Serengeti Breweries Ltd is largely dependent on agricultural produce for sourcing its raw materials. In the financial year 2017/2018 Serengeti Breweries Ltd sourced 17,000 metric tons of grains locally equivalent to 70% of its annual raw materials requirement.

The vision is to reach 85% in the financial year 2019/2020. SBL's Agribusiness that supports over 400 farmers in eight regions plays a great role in promoting local sourcing.

Through the agribusiness program, SBL provides high quality seeds to farmers free of charge, links them to financial institutions to acquire capital needed for large scale farming as well as with suppliers of fertilizers and other farming inputs. In return, the company buys all the produce from the farmers enabling them to repay borrowed capital to turn around their living standards and those of their dependants

recovery," Reid added.

Stocks steady, oil cools as US-Iran tensions ease

LONDON

WORLD shares steadied and oil pulled back from multi-month highs on Tuesday after dramatic post-new year moves, as investors judged prospects of an all-out conflict between the United

States and Iran had eased.

After a strong rally, oil gave back some of its gains amid signs that Iran would be unlikely to strike against the U.S. in a way that would disrupt supplies. [O/R]

Brent crude futures fell 49 cents to \$68.42 a barrel, hav-

ing been as high as \$70.74 on Monday, while U.S. crude dropped 42 cents to \$62.85.

European equities meanwhile rose 0.7 per cent, tracking similar gains in Asia. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan recouped almost all of

Monday's losses.

"Geopolitical risk has always felt much worse for markets in the heat of the moment than it does in hindsight, but it's always possible that the next one will bring us into a different era," Deutsche Bank strategist Jim

Reid said.

Risky assets started 2020 on the back foot as Tehran and Washington traded threats after a U.S. air strike on Baghdad airport killed a top Iranian commander.

On Monday the mood began to calm, helping U.S.

shares recover ground. The Dow rose 0.24 per cent, the S&P 500 0.35 per cent and the Nasdaq 0.56 per cent.

On Tuesday emerging markets, which had been hardest hit, bounced back, with stocks rising 0.4 per cent.

With those gains, the MSCI

world equity index, which tracks shares in 49 countries, was 0.4 per cent away from a record high. "Markets got a lift from the lack of follow-through (after the air strike) as yesterday progressed, and by the end of the session had actually staged a reasonable

recovery," Reid added. Safety plays were out of favor, with gold retreating to \$1,569.41 an ounce, after scaling a near seven-year peak overnight. Euro zone government bond yields edged up from around three-week lows.

Toyota to build prototype city of the future in Japan

LAS VEGAS

TOYOTA Motor Corp (7203.T) said on Monday it planned to build a prototype "city of the future" at the base of Japan's Mt. Fuji, powered by hydrogen fuel cells and functioning as a laboratory for autonomous cars, "smart homes," artificial intelligence and other technologies.

Toyota unveiled the audacious plan for what it will call "Woven City", in a reference to its origins as a loom manufacturer, at the big annual technology industry show, CES.

"It's hard to learn something about a smart city if you are only building a smart block," James Kuffner, chief executive officer for the Toyota Research Institute-Advanced Development, told Reuters.

The "Woven City" idea, under discussion for a year, is aimed at creating safer, cleaner, more fun cities and learning lessons that could be applied around the world, he added.

It will have police, fire and ambulance services, schools and could be home to a mix of Toyota employees, retirees and others, Kuffner said.

The development, to be built on the site of a car factory that is planned to be closed by the end of 2020, will begin with 2,000 residents in coming years, and also serve as a home to researchers.

Toyota did not disclose costs for the project, whose construction is scheduled to start next year, and which seeks to re-imagine a city, but executives said it had been extensively vetted and had a budget.

The plan for a futuristic community on 175 acres (71 hectares) is a big step beyond proposals from Toyota's rivals.

Executives at many major automakers have talked about how cities of the future could be designed to cut climate-changing emissions, reduce congestion and apply internet technology to everyday life.

The company's proposal showcases not only the ambition of Chief Executive Akio Toyoda, but also the financial and political resources Toyota can bring to bear, especially in its home country.

"You know if you build it, they will come," said Toyoda, who called the project "my personal 'field of dreams.'"



Akio Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor Corporation, speaks at a news conference, where he announced Toyota's plans to build a prototype city of the future on a 175-acre site at the base of Mt. Fuji in Japan, during the 2020 CES in Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S. File photo

Toyota Housing, a company unit, has sold more than 100,000 homes in Japan in 37 years.

Toyota said it had commissioned Danish architect Bjarke Ingels to

design the community. Ingels' firm designed the 2 World Trade Center building in New York and technology giant Google's offices in Silicon Valley and London.

Toyota said it is open to

partnerships with other companies seeking to use the project as a testing ground for technology. Still, Toyoda acknowledged not all may see the wisdom of what could be an expensive

and lengthy project.

"You may be thinking, 'Has this guy lost his mind?'" Toyoda asked an audience in Las Vegas, to laughter. "Is he like a Japanese version of Willy Wonka? Perhaps."

Tesla starts work on building Model Y SUVs at Shanghai factory

SHANGHAI

U.S. electric car maker Tesla Inc (TSLA.O) said it has started work on building Model Y electric sports utility vehicles (SUV) at its \$2 billion Shanghai factory, marking a new milestone for the company's first foreign car plant.

The event comes just over a week after Tesla started delivering Model 3 vehicles built at the factory that was up and running in just 357 days - a record for global automakers in China. The first batch of sedans were handed to its employees.

Tesla delivered China-made Model 3 cars to 10 customers from the public on Tuesday.

"We are holding today a ceremony to mark the start of the China-made Model Y programme," senior Shanghai government official Zhu Zhisong said at the ceremony, also attended by billionaire CEO Elon Musk, Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong and other senior government officials.

Musk said that "ultimately Tesla Model Y will have more demand than probably all the other cars of Tesla combined".

Construction of Tesla's first plant outside the United States began in January and production started in October.

The factory started with a production capacity of 150,000 Model 3 sedans and Tesla aims to push that to 250,000 vehicles a year, including Model Y, in the plant's first phase.

Shanghai Vice Mayor Wu Qing said he hoped to see Tesla extend its cooperation with the city and for the car maker to manufacture more models at its Chinese plant.

Tesla unveiled its Model Y in March 2019 and said in October that production of the electric compact SUV at its Fremont facility was running ahead of schedule.

It has said that margin expectations are higher for Model Y than Model 3, while production costs are roughly the same.

Tesla's China website estimates the starting price for Model Y vehicles at 444,000 yuan (\$63,911.56). It will announce retail price later, the website says. The China-made Model 3 sedans are priced at 355,800 yuan before subsidies.



Musk and Shanghai's Mayor Ying Yong attend an opening ceremony for Tesla China-made Model Y program in Shanghai, China.



The GM logo is seen at the General Motors Warren Transmission Operations Plant in Warren, Michigan.

Impossible Foods to trial plant-based sausage patty with Burger King

SAN FRANCISCO

IMPOSSIBLE Foods Inc on Monday launched a plant-based sausage patty that will be tested in 139 Burger King restaurants later this month, entering a category dominated by rival Beyond Meat (BYND.O).

Silicon Valley-based Impossible Foods, which supplies plant-based Whopper patties to Burger King (QSRTO) in the United States, said it would begin a limited trial of the Impossible Sausage in five regions including Springfield, Illinois, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. The imitation pork sausage will be sold in a toasted breakfast croissant, called the Impossible Croissant'wich, with egg and cheese.

"The number of people who are eating pork from pigs is humongous and the fraction of that market that is captured by plant-based products is tiny," Pat Brown, the chief executive of Impossible Foods, told Reuters in a recent interview.

Pork has been the world's most consumed meat for the past four decades, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Impossible Foods on Monday also announced another imitation ground pork product, but did not disclose details about where it would be produced or sold.

The company has been called out by analysts for selling only one type of plant-based meat since 2016, when it launched its burger.

Los Angeles-based Beyond Meat has used imitation pork, chicken and beef to create products for major fast-food chains including burgers for McDonald's (MCD.N), sausage patties for Dunkin' Brands (DNKN.O) and chicken for Yum Brands Inc's (YUM.N) KFC chain.

Competition is heating up in the exploding plant-based meat market, with dozens of new products hitting grocery stores and restaurants this year. The global alternative meat market is forecast to be worth \$140 billion in the next decade, according to Barclays.

Entering China, the world's biggest consumer of pork, is Impossible Foods' biggest priority and the company is actively looking for partners there. Plant-based imitation pork is also likely to appeal to consumers elsewhere in Asia, where Impossible currently ships to over 450 restaurants.

GM's 2019 China sales drop for second year on weak economy

SHANGHAI

GENERAL Motors Co's (GM.N) vehicle sales in China fell for a second year as overall auto sales declined amid a slowing economy and because of competition in the key mid-priced sport utility vehicle (SUV) segment.

Sales in 2019 fell 15% from a year earlier to 3.09 million vehicles, GM, China's second-biggest foreign automaker, said in a statement. The company delivered 3.65 million vehicles in 2018 and 4.04 million units in 2017.

GM has a Shanghai-based joint venture with SAIC Motor Corp (600104.SS), in which the Buick, Chevrolet and Cadillac vehicle brands are made. It also has another Liuzhou-based venture, with SAIC and Guangxi Automobile Group, in which they make no-frills minivans and have started to make higher-end cars.

Sales of GM's affordable Baojun brand dropped 27.6 per cent for the latest quarter,

while sales of mass-market Chevrolet tumbled 20.1 per cent and Buick fell 16.7 per cent, the statement said. But luxury brand Cadillac's sales increased 3.9 per cent.

GM is focused on bolstering its product lineup and improving cost efficiency, Matt Tsien, GM executive vice president and president of GM China, said in the statement.

"We expect the market downturn to continue in 2020, and anticipate ongoing headwinds in our China business," Tsien added.

China's auto market is set to contract by 2 per cent in 2020, the third year of declines, the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers has forecast, because of the weaker economy and the trade dispute with the United States.

Over 28 million units were sold in 2018, down 3 per cent from the prior year, while 2019 sales are expected to decline 8 per cent from the prior year, according to the CAAM.

Boeing will reassign 3,000 workers as airlines reach compensation deals over MAX



A Boeing airplane as captured recently in Berlin. File photo.

BERLIN

BOEING Co (BA.N) said Monday that it will reassign 3,000 workers to other jobs as it halts production of the grounded best-selling 737 MAX jet in mid-January.

The announcement came after American Airlines Group Inc (AAL.O) and Mexico's Aeromexico (AEROMEX.MX) disclosed they were the latest carriers with Boeing over losses resulting from the grounding of 737 MAX aircraft.

Neither airline disclosed the compensation. A number of airlines have struck confidential settlements with Boeing in recent weeks. Boeing said it does not comment on discussions with airlines.

Boeing's best-selling 737 MAX has been grounded since March, following two fatal crashes in five months that killed 346 people.

In an email to employees, Boeing said about 3,000 employees, mostly in man-

ufacturing, engineering and fabrication, will be reassigned to other tasks. Most of those employees work at Boeing's Renton, Washington plant where the 737 MAX is manufactured while some are at Boeing's South Carolina operations.

Some staff will be reassigned to work on the 767 and 777/777X aircraft in Everett, Washington. Boeing has said it does not plan to lay off or furlough any workers as a result of the production halt.

Boeing also said it added a MAX storage facility in Victorville, California. Some employees from Renton will staff MAX airplane storage locations in Moses Lake, Washington and Victorville.

Boeing's biggest supplier, Spirit AeroSystems Inc (SPR.N), said Monday it would offer voluntary layoffs to some employees as it grapples with the production halt. The company said last month it would suspend production of 737

MAX parts beginning Jan. 1.

Reports state that Federal Aviation Administration is not expected to approve the plane's return to service until at least February and potentially March or later.

U.S. airlines will not resume 737 MAX flights until at least early April, they have said.

Boeing and the FAA said Sunday they are reviewing a potentially serious wiring issue that could delay the return of the 737 MAX.

American said the compensation from Boeing will be received over several years, and of the total amount, more than \$30 million will be used for the airline's 2019 employee profit-sharing program.

Southwest Airlines Co (LUV.N), the world's largest 737 MAX operator, said in December it had reached a confidential agreement with Boeing for a portion of a projected \$830 million hit to operating income in 2019.

Uber partners with Hyundai on electric air taxi

SEOUL

U.S. ride-hailing company Uber Technologies Inc (UBER.N) and South Korean automaker Hyundai Motor (005380.KS) have teamed up to develop electric air taxis, joining the global race to make small self-flying cars to ease urban congestion.

Global players like Germany's Daimler (DAIGn.DE), China's Geely Automobile (0175.HK) and Japan's Toyota (7203.T) have all unveiled investments in startups that aim to deploy electric flying cars capable of vertical takeoff and landing. But there are big technological and regulatory hurdles to the plans.

Uber and Hyundai, for instance, gave widely different timelines for commercialization, underlining these challenges.

"We've been making steady progress toward a goal of launching Uber Air by 2023," Eric Allison, head of Uber Elevate, said at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas.

Euisun Chung, Executive Vice Chairman of Hyundai, expects commercialization of urban air mobility service in 2028, saying it takes time for laws and systems to be in place.

Hyundai is the first carmaker to join Uber's air taxi project, which also counts Boeing (BA.N) subsidiary Aurora Flight Sciences among its partner firms.

Hyundai will produce and deploy the vehicles while Uber will provide aerial ride-share services.

Uber, which has partnered with eight

companies on its air taxi project, however, acknowledged it would be "unrealistic" to expect all its partners to go to market at the same time.

"Our plans for our limited commercial operations in 2023 will likely involve other partners," Sarah Abboud, Communications Manager at Uber, told Reuters.

Hyundai will unveil a concept electric aircraft developed with Uber at CES, with the self-flying electric car designed to carry up to four passengers with a pilot and fly on trips of up to 60 miles (100 km).

"The overall cost to produce and operate UAM (urban air mobility) vehicles should be really low enough for everyone to enjoy the freedom to fly," Shin Jae-won, Head of Urban Air Mobility Division at Hyundai Motor, said. Air taxis come in several shapes and sizes - electric motors replace jet engines, and aircraft have rotating wings and, in some cases, rotors in place of propellers.

The urban flight market will exceed the current number of commercial airplanes flying around the world - about 25,000, Hyundai's Shin, a former NASA engineer hired by the automaker last year, estimated, without giving any timeframe.

Last year, Hyundai pledged to invest 1.8 trillion won (\$1.5 billion) in what it called "urban air mobility" by 2025.

Boeing has said it is working with Volkswagen's (VOWG_p.DE) sports car brand, Porsche, to develop a concept electric flying vehicle that can transport people in urban areas.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV	MONDAY - FRIDAY	ITV
<p>TUESDAY 7 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Al Jazeera 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 DWTV 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shamsam za pwani 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Shamsam za pwani 11:20 Igizo: Mtego rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Uchumi na biashara 13:30 Shamba lulu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru rpt 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Yu wapi 18:15 The Great queen Seondok 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Tanzania yetu 21:35 Chetu ni chetu 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 8 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Al Jazeera 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 DWTV 9:30 Isidingo 09:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok 11:15 Jungu kuu 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Dakika 45 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: Kipanya Chooni 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Albu Yakol Hata wewe?</p>	<p>21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:40 Kesho Leo 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 DWTV</p> <p>THURSDAY 9 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Al Jazeera 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 DWTV 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto 10:30 Igizo: Mkaguzi 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Mkaguzi 11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt 11:55 Shamsam za Pwani 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Kipanya Chooni 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Meza huru 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>FRIDAY 10 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Al Jazeera 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 DWTV 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:15 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:30 Ibada ya Kiislamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mizengwe rpt 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo</p>	<p>20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima Joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 DWTV</p> <p>SATURDAY 11 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 10:45 Usafiri wako rpt 11:15 Shamba lulu rpt 11:45 Mipishi rpt 12:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:40 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost 14:40 Igizo rpt: Dhoruba 15:15 Igizo: Mkaguzi 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Mtego 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Igizo: Dhoruba 19:00 Art and Style 19:25 Kipindi maalum: Vodacom Draw 20:00 Habari 21:00 Shangkwa 21:30 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja 22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:00 Isidingo rpt 01:30 DWTV</p> <p>SUNDAY 12 Jan</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Penzi la Giza 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 The Great queen Seondok 16:45 Igizo rpt: Mkaguzi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikiristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Biko 21:10 Mizengwe 21:30 Mjue Zaidi 22:15 Bongo Movie: The Second Wife 00:30 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost</p> <p>CAPITAL</p> <p>Mon 06 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 16:30 Business edition rpt 17:00 In good shape 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the spotlight 19:30 Tanzania yetu 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está</p> <p>17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Shamba lulu 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 07 Jan</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 12:00 Culinary Delights Rpt 12:30 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 16:30Capchat rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Innovation 19:30 Jagina rpt 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher 20:45 Telenovela: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sat 11 Jan</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 Drive It rpt 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie: Forget About It 23:00 Life is a teacher rpt 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 12 Jan 08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 15:15 Albu yakol 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza Huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Ilijimae 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Dónde está Elisa?) Where is Elisa? 00:00 Al Jazeera</p>



The logo of Hyundai Motor is pictured at the second media day for the Shanghai auto show in Shanghai, China.

WORLD

Iranian commander's body in hometown, US denies quitting Iraq

DUBAI/BAGHDAD

THE body of a top Iranian military commander killed in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq last week reached his hometown for burial yesterday as the U.S. defense secretary denied reports that the U.S. military was preparing to withdraw from Iraqi territory.

The death of Qasem Soleimani, who built up Tehran's network of proxy forces across the region, has prompted mass mourning in Iran and led to renewed Iranian threats to drive U.S. troops from Iraq, where Tehran has vied with Washington for influence.

U.S. and Iranian warnings of new strikes and retaliation have stoked concerns about a broader Middle East conflict and led to calls in the U.S. Congress for legislation to stop U.S. President Donald Trump going to war with Iran. "We will take revenge, a hard and definitive revenge," the head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards Hossein Salami told tens of thousands of mourners in Soleimani's hometown of Kerman, many of them chanting "Death to America" and waving the Iranian flag.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and top military commanders have said Iranian retaliation for the U.S. action would match the scale of Soleimani's killing but that it would be at a time and place of Tehran's choosing.

"The martyr Qasem Soleimani is more dangerous to the enemy than Qasem Soleimani," Salami said, after the general's body ended a tour of Iraqi and Iranian cities following his death on Friday that clogged streets with mourners.

Reuters and other media reported on Monday that the U.S. military had sent a letter to Iraqi officials informing them that American troops would be repositioned in preparation to leave, drawing a swift denial from the Pentagon.

"There's been no decision whatsoever to leave Iraq," Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters. "I don't know what that letter is."

U.S. Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the letter was a "poorly worded" draft document meant only to underscore increased movement by U.S. forces.

The letter, addressed to the Iraqi Defence Ministry's Combined Joint Operations and confirmed as authentic by an Iraqi military source, had caused confusion about the future of the roughly 5,000 U.S. troops still in Iraq, where there has been a U.S. military presence since Saddam Hussein was toppled in 2003.

Iran's long-repeated demand for U.S. forces to withdraw had gained traction on Sunday when Iraq's parliament, dominated by lawmakers representing Muslim Shi'ite groups, passed a resolu-



Iranian people carry a coffin of Iranian Major-General Qasem Soleimani, head of the elite Quds Force who was killed in an air strike at Baghdad airport, during funeral procession in Tehran, Iran on Tuesday. Official REUTERS

tion calling for all foreign troops to leave the country.

Iraq's caretaker Prime Minister Abdel Mahdi told the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad on Monday that both sides needed to work together to implement the parliamentary resolution, the premier's office said, without giving a timeframe.

"REPOSITIONING"

The letter, signed by a senior U.S. Marine Corps officer, had referred to "repositioning forces over the course of the coming days and weeks to prepare for onward movement".

Tensions between Iran and the United States have been ratcheting higher since Washington withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear deal between Tehran and other world powers. The United States has since imposed crippling economic sanctions on Iran.

Iran said on Sunday it was dropping all limitations on uranium enrichment, its latest step back from commitments under the deal.

The U.S. administration has denied a visa to allow Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to attend a U.N. Security Council meeting in

New York on Thursday, a U.S. official said.

"The United States will get the decisive, definite answer for its arrogance at the time and place when it will feel the most pain," Zarif said in a speech on regional developments that was broadcast on state television.

The French foreign minister said European powers, which have been trying to salvage the nuclear deal, would decide in coming days whether to launch a dispute resolution process that could lead to a reinstatement of U.N. sanctions on Iran.

Trump's U.S. political rivals have challenged the Republican president's decision to order the killing of Soleimani and its timing. Trump's administration said Soleimani was planning new attacks on U.S. interests.

U.S. general Milley said the threat from Soleimani was imminent. "We would have been culpably negligent to the American people had we not made the decision we made," he said.

Trump has promised strikes on 52 Iranian targets, including cultural sites, if Iran retaliates for Soleimani's death with attacks on Americans or U.S. assets, although U.S. officials sought to downplay his reference to cultural targets.

China committed to playing constructive role in Middle East, Gulf - envoy

UNITED NATIONS

A CHINESE envoy said Monday that China is committed to playing a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East and the Gulf region.

"China follows the situation very closely and the pressing task at the moment is to prevent the situation from further escalating and running out of control.

As a permanent member of the Security Council, China is carrying out active diplomatic efforts," Zhang Jun, China's permanent representative to the United Nations, told reporters at the UN headquarters in

New York.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has had phone conversations with Russian, French and Iranian foreign ministers in firm commitment to regional peace and stability, and China opposes arbitrary use of force in international relations, according to the envoy.

"The U.S. unilateral adventurist acts have violated basic norms governing international relations and led to aggravation of tensions," Zhang said.

"We urge the U.S. side not to abuse force and call on relevant parties to exercise restraint and seek solu-



tion through dialogue. At the same time, the sovereignty, independ-

ence, unity and territorial integrity of Iraq should be respected," said the envoy.

Noting that the Security Council shoulders the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, Zhang said the international community, including the Security Council, should work for de-escalation of tensions.

China has noticed that the permanent representative of Iran presented a letter to the president of the Security Council, asking the council to pay close attention to U.S. actions and uphold the council's responsibilities, Zhang said.

"China is ready to keep close com-

munication with relevant parties, uphold a just and objective position, stand for international law, fairness and justice, and maintain peace and stability in the Gulf region and the Middle East," he said.

"China firmly supports the protection of the safety of foreign missions in accordance with international law.

The U.S. unilateral military action has led to drastic changes in the regional situation. Actions taken by the Security Council should reflect latest developments of the situation and help prevent escalation of tensions," he said.

Xinhua

Moon offers DPRK broader inter-Korean cooperation in '20

SEOUL

PRESIDENT Moon Jae-in, the president of Republic of Korea (ROK), yesterday offered a broader inter-Korean cooperation this year to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), while proposing concerted efforts to create conditions for top DPRK leader Kim Jong-un's visit to Seoul.

"It is very sorry that a bigger

advance has not been made in inter-Korean cooperation for the past year," Moon said during his televised New Year's speech at the presidential complex Blue House.

Moon said both the ROK and the DPRK had paid more attention to dialogue between the DPRK and the United States on expectations that the door for an inter-Korean cooperation would be opened more rapidly and broadly if the

DPRK-US dialogue succeeds.

Now that the deadlocked talks between Pyongyang and Washington were worried to set back inter-Korean relations, the need to seek "realistic measures" for the broader inter-Korean cooperation was more pressing than ever together with continued efforts for the success of the DPRK-US dialogue, Moon noted.

Moon's comments indicated

Seoul's change in the DPRK policy from promoting the denuclearization dialogue between the DPRK and the United States to enhancing cooperation between the two Koreas.

The ROK president has advocated a so-called virtuous cycle of the improved inter-Korean relations leading to creating an environment favorable to the DPRK-US denuclearization talks.

The second summit between Kim and US President Donald Trump ended without agreement in February last year at the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi. The first Kim-Trump summit was held in Singapore in June 2018 when the two leaders agreed to the complete denuclearization of and the lasting peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula.

Xinhua

China, Africa embrace new decade of strong ties through fruitful cooperation

NAIROBI

CHINESE State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi is to pay official visits to Africa from Jan. 7 to 13 as his first overseas visit in 2020, which will mark the 30th consecutive year since 1991 that a Chinese foreign minister has visited Africa at the start of every year.

Such a well-kept tradition already tells a lot about the flourishing and brotherly nature of China-Africa relations, and the year 2020 bears special significance for both sides since they embark on a new decade of strong ties well maintained by tradition and mutually beneficial cooperation over the years.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi addresses the opening ceremony of the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on the China-Af-

rica Cooperation (FOCAC) in Beijing, capital of China, June 25, 2019. (Xinhua/Liu Bin)

UNSTOPPABLE TREND

The tradition of a Chinese foreign minister visiting Africa at the start of every year dates back to January 1991 when then Chinese vice premier and foreign minister Qian Qichen visited four East African nations.

It has since become an unstoppable trend as succeeding Chinese foreign ministers, including Tang Jiaxuan, Li Zhaoxing, Yang Jiechi and Wang, continued to choose Africa for their first trip of the year.

The very idea for such a tradition, as the late Qian put it, is because China believes that economies around the world were becoming more interdependent especially since the end of the Cold War, and Africa, as a big group of countries in the United Na-

tions family, represents an important force in international affairs. So naturally, establishing friendly cooperative ties with Africa serves China's interests, Qian once said.

Moreover, China, as the world's largest developing country, has to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with Africa and other so-called third world countries because this is the cornerstone of China's foreign policy.

At a press briefing held last week, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said this fine tradition also reflects Chinese priority to develop ties with Africa.

Wu Chuanhua, a research fellow at the Institute of West Asian and African Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), said maintaining the same tradition over 30 years is unique in the history of diplomacy, noting that the tradition is cherished by both sides.

FOCAC FUNDS

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), a dialogue oriented towards promoting China-Africa cooperation and broadening consensus on issues of mutual concern.

Since the FOCAC's inception in 2000, China and Africa have witnessed unprecedented cooperative outcomes. China has been Africa's largest trading partner for 10 consecutive years.

In 2018, trade volume between China and Africa amounted to 204.2 billion U.S. dollars, up 20 percent year-on-year. The first freight train of the Nairobi-Naivasha Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) arrives at the Naivasha Inland Container Depot in Kenya, on Dec. 17, 2019. (Xinhua/Wang Teng)

In infrastructure, Chinese exper-

tise and technologies have given rise to numerous transformative mega-projects such as railways, ports, aviation hubs and power plants in Africa. In December last year, Kenya launched the Nairobi-Naivasha Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) cargo service, which has extended the Mombasa-Nairobi SGR to better connect the hinterland.

"Over the past 20 years, China-Africa relations have developed in an all-around way," Wu noted.

"Apart from strengthened mutual political trust as well as economic and trade relations, cooperation has enriched and expanded into more sectors such as culture, education, and health."

Evariste Irandu, a professor at the University of Nairobi, said China, after having achieved its own historic development through decades of hard work, has pledged to assist

other less fortunate countries, and one of the principal beneficiaries of Chinese commitment is Africa.

In December 2015, at the FOCAC summit in Johannesburg, China announced 10 major cooperation plans to promote industrialization and agricultural modernization in Africa, backed by a fund of 60 billion dollars. China would extend an additional 60 billion dollars of financing to Africa, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the FOCAC. China's pledge to Africa is "a clear testimony to China's commitment," Irandu noted.

The professor added that the FOCAC is indeed based on "win-win cooperation," adding the regular visits to Africa by senior Chinese government officials clearly indicate that China is really sincere and honest in seeing the continent develop. Xinhua

Secretary of State Pompeo not planning 2020 Senate run - sources

WASHINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell on Monday he does not plan to run for a U.S. Senate seat in Kansas in 2020, two people close to McConnell said.

Speculation has swirled for months over whether Pompeo, 56, (pictured) a former Republican congressman from Kansas, would run for the Senate seat in his home state. "Leader McConnell believes Secretary Pompeo is doing an incredible job as secretary of state and is exactly where the country needs him to be right now," one person said.

Pompeo's decision was first reported by the New York Times. Pompeo did not respond to a request for comment from Reuters.

Pompeo has been enjoying being the country's top diplomat and is one of President Donald Trump's closest advisers, a source said. Pompeo was instrumental in Trump's decision to launch an air strike last week that killed Iranian military leader Qasem Soleimani.

"Pompeo is clearly choosing country over party at a key time in history," Republican strategist Scott Reed said.

McConnell had urged Pompeo to run for the seat to help keep the party's Senate majority after Republican Senator Pat Roberts said last year he would retire.

Some Republicans fear a decision by Pompeo not to run increases the likelihood of immigration hawk Kris Kobach winning the nominating primary and losing the general election to the Democratic nominee.

The Senate seat might also have been a good fit if Pompeo, who is believed to harbor presidential ambitions, chooses to run for the Republican nomination in 2024.

With the deadline for filing to run in Kansas not until June, Pompeo has time to change his mind about entering the race.

Agencies

British teen in rape trial gets suspended jail term in Cyprus

PARALIMNI, CYPRUS

A BRITISH teenager accused of faking a gang rape allegation was given a suspended sentence by a court in Cyprus yesterday, prompting protests from activists who say she did not get a fair trial.

The 19-year-old has said she was coerced into withdrawing her complaint that she was raped in July by a group of Israeli youths in Ayia Napa, a holiday resort popular with teenagers.

She was sentenced to four months in jail, suspended for three years. Judge Michalis Papatheanasiou said he took into account the woman's young age, clean criminal record and remorse.

"All mitigating factors were taken into account but it does not negate the seriousness of the offense," he said, noting that 12 individuals were briefly detained on the basis of her accusation.

Outside the court room a group of about 150 women demonstrated, shouting "blaming the victim is the second rape" and "Cyprus justice shame on you". The judge had to raise his voice over the chants.

On Dec. 30 the court found the woman guilty of public mischief, a charge which carries a maximum sentence of a year in jail, a fine, or both. She was convicted of filing a fake report about being sexually assaulted.

Her lawyers say she will appeal to clear her name.

The woman insists that an attack took place but that she was pressured to withdraw her complaint during overnight questioning from police and with no lawyer present. British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has said he has "very serious concerns" about the treatment of the woman, who had been banned from leaving the island and whom her lawyers say is suffering from post-traumatic stress.

Twelve Israeli youths who were detained for questioning were swiftly released after the woman recanted her accusation. They were not required to give any evidence at the woman's trial.

Cypriot newspapers have reported that authorities were poised to give a presidential pardon. A senior government source told Reuters that was premature and would depend on the court sentencing, but that President Nicos Anastasiades was following the case closely.

The case has drawn a harsh spotlight on Cyprus, which is popular with British holidaymakers, and calls to boycott the island.

Agencies



Tensions escalate in Libya as east-based army says it has taken Sirte

TRIPOLI
 THE east-based army of Libya said on Monday they had captured the coastal city of Sirte, some 450 km east of the capital Tripoli, from the forces of the rival UN-backed government. Ahmad al-Mismari, spokesman of the east-based Libyan National Army, announced the "liberation" of Sirte at a press conference in the eastern city of Benghazi. Mismari (pictured) also said the whole operation to control Sirte took no more than three hours, stressing that the operation was confidential.

FINAL BATTLE AGAINST CAPITAL
 The announcement came as the east-based forces were launching the "final" battle to take Tripoli, which is controlled by the UN-recognized Government of National Accord (GNA). Last month, Khalifa Haftar, commander of the east-based army, declared the launch of the final military campaign in and around the capital.

"Today, we declare the final battle and advancement into the heart of the capital," Haftar said in a televised speech on the local TV channel Libya Al-Hadath. On Thursday, the east-based army announced that it had killed more than 20 members of the UN-backed government forces in south of Tripoli, one day after the UN-backed Libyan government's forces said they had captured 25 soldiers of the east-based army, bringing the total number of east-based army soldiers it captured in a week to more than 50.

Haftar's army has been leading a military campaign in and around Tripoli since early April, trying to take over the city and topple the UN-backed government. Thousands have been killed and injured in the fighting, and more than 120,000 people fled their homes from the violence.

TURKEY'S PLEDGE
 Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday evening that Turkey is "gradually" sending troops

to Libya under a deal inked with the GNA. "Our soldiers are gradually going," Erdogan told the CNNTurk broadcaster in a televised interview, saying that "the duty of Turkish soldiers is to ensure ceasefire and not to fight." "What we will do in Libya is to strengthen the legitimate government," he added, noting an operation center would be established in the North African country torn by the raging civil war. The mission for Turkish troops in Libya is to make coordination at the operation center, said the Turkish leader.

The Turkish parliament on Thursday passed a motion authorizing the government to deploy troops to Libya in support of the GNA, as Ankara signed with it security and military cooperation agreements as well as a controversial maritime boundary memorandum at the end of November.

ESCALATING TENSIONS
 In recent weeks there has been an escalation of fighting and airstrikes in the North African country. On Saturday, an airstrike hit a military academy in Tripoli, killing 30 students and injuring 33 others. The forces of the UN-backed government blamed the rival east-based army for the airstrike, and the east-based army denied it. The UN Support Mission in Libya also condemned the airstrike, saying increasing military escalation has complicated the situation and threatened chances to return to the political process.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Monday that it evacuated more than 2,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Libya in 2019. "But nearly 1,000 asylum-seekers under the age of 18 are still languishing in Libyan detention centers," the UNHCR said in a statement. Libya has been suffering escalating violence and political instability ever since the fall of its leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. **Xinhua**

China court rules in favor of BBC in trademark infringement case

BEIJING
 A CHINESE court has ruled in favor of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in a trademark infringement lawsuit that a Beijing firm made unauthorized use of the "BBC" logo.

The Haidian district people's court made the first instance sentence that the Beijing iYuba Tech Company should stop the infringement of the exclusive right to use the "BBC" trademark and compensate BBC for economic losses and reasonable expenses totaling 1 million yuan (US\$143,400).



BBC claimed that the trademark involves its enterprise name, which has high popularity in China. Without permission, the Beijing firm used the "BBC" logo prominently on its two company websites, a public account on Chinese social media WeChat, and five mobile phone applications developed by iYuba.

The Beijing tech firm is an English language learning application developer. BBC claimed that iYuba's use of the "BBC" logo makes the public mistakenly believe that the applications and services provided by iYuba are associated with BBC, causing confusion and constituting unfair competition.

The court heard that relevant logos used by iYuba, although slightly different in font and color with additional words such as "English," the overall visual effect is similar to that of the BBC trademark. **Xinhua**



Zakharova emphasizes word 'mistake' in US statement on withdrawal of troops from Iraq

MOSCOW
 RUSSIAN Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova wrote on her Facebook page yesterday, that it is necessary to emphasize the word "mistake" in Pentagon's explanation of the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. "I propose that we attach the word 'error' to it, otherwise tomorrow everyone will start again with the 'Russian hackers' did it, or nod in the direction of Russia Today," Zakharova (pictured) said.

Earlier, General Mark Millie, the head of the Chief of Staff Committee (CNA) of the US Armed Forces, told reporters that a letter about the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq had been published in error, it was a preliminary draft.

Yesterday, a number of media sources reported on a letter sent by the Inherent Resolve military operation headquarters, which stated the US intention to withdraw its troops from Iraq.

After the text of the letter was published in the media, Pentagon chief Mark Esper refuted the information contained in it, saying that the US did not make a decision to leave Iraq.

On January 3, the Pentagon confirmed that a missile strike near the Baghdad airport killed the head of the Quds Force Qasem Soleimani.

The operation was carried out at the direction of US President Donald Trump.

According to the Pentagon, the strike was defensive, since it was aimed at protecting US troops in Iraq and other countries. Washington blamed Soleimani for allegedly approving a rally outside the US Embassy in Baghdad earlier this week.

Following the attack, the Supreme National Security Council of Iran vowed to exact "severe revenge" on those involved in Soleimani's killing, blaming the United States for the attack.

In a phone call with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif blasted the attack as an act of terrorism from the side of the US. He pointed out that Tehran would take international measures to hold Washington responsible for the general's murder.

The situation in the Middle East sharply worsened after the death of Soleimani. Tehran promised the United States a tough response and began to reduce the implementation of its obligations under the nuclear deal.

The actions of the Americans, who have been attacking Shiite groups in Iraq since December 29, have been criticized the Iraqi authorities and raised the question of the legitimacy of the coalition's actions led by Washington.

On January 5, the Iraqi parliament adopted a resolution demanding the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country. US President Donald Trump refused to do so, threatening Iraq with "unprecedented sanctions." **Agencies**

Bolton says he is willing to testify in Trump impeachment trial

WASHINGTON
 US President Donald Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton said on Monday he is willing to testify in the expected Senate impeachment trial of the president, a surprise development that could potentially strengthen the case that Trump should be removed from office.

As a top White House aide who witnessed many of the events that prompted the House of Representatives to impeach Trump in December, Bolton (pictured) could provide new evidence about Trump's efforts to pressure Ukraine to investigate a political rival.

Other witnesses during the House impeachment investigation testified that Bolton strongly objected to an effort by Trump's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, to pressure Kiev outside of regular diplomatic channels, with one saying he referred to the arrangement as a "drug deal."

Congressional investigators believe Bolton objected to Trump's decision to delay \$390 million in military aid to Ukraine and could elaborate on that, a Senate aide told Reuters.

Bolton's lawyer said in November that he could shed new light on White House discussions, but Bolton refused to participate in the House impeachment inquiry while the Trump administration and Congress battled in court for access to witnesses and documentary evidence.

Bolton said he was now willing to cooperate after a judge dismissed the case last week.

"If the Senate issues a subpoena for my testimony, I am prepared to testify," Bolton said in a statement. He declined further comment.

Democrats seized on Bolton's announcement, saying it bolstered their argument that he and three current administration officials should testify when the Senate begins its impeachment trial.

"If any Senate Republican opposes issuing subpoenas to the four witnesses and documents we have requested they would make absolutely clear they are participat-



ing in a cover-up," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said.

Trump's fellow Republicans have resisted that idea, instead seeking a quick trial based on the evidence collected in the House that could lead to the president's expected acquittal before the 2020 presidential election campaign heats up.

In remarks on the Senate floor, Republican Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell repeated his proposal that the chamber postpone a decision on whether to call witnesses until after the trial begins.

That could allow Republicans, who control the chamber by a margin of 53-47, to wrap up the trial without hearing from Bolton or other witnesses.

But Democrats would need only four Republicans to side with them to get the majority required to call witnesses.

A conviction on the actual impeachment charges requires a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate.

DIVISIONS ON WITNESSES

Republican senators were divided on whether they should hear from witnesses like Bolton. Conservatives such as Richard Shelby expressed no interest in hearing from Bolton, while the more moderate Mitt Romney said he would like to hear from the former high-ranking White House official, when asked by CNN.

"Let the House come over and prove their case and let's vote," Shelby said. "I think it will be pretty fast," he said of the

upcoming Senate trial.

Senator Rick Scott, from the politically divided state of Florida, said he wanted to defer a decision until House Democrats and the White House present their case.

Senator Susan Collins, a moderate, expressed possible openness to hearing from Bolton, but indicated she agreed with McConnell that a decision should wait until after a trial's opening statements.

Senator Cory Gardner, who could face a tough re-election in Colorado in November, sidestepped questions about whether he would vote for a subpoena for Bolton, saying there was no trial yet because the House had not yet sent over the articles of impeachment.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in Congress, has yet to allow the charges against Trump to be submitted to the Senate, putting a hold on any schedule for a trial. The earliest the House could take any action would be on Tuesday when it reconvenes.

The Democratic-led House has charged Trump with abusing his power for personal gain by asking Ukraine to announce a corruption investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden, a leading contender for the Democratic nomination to face Trump in November's presidential election.

It also charged the president with obstructing Congress by directing administration officials and agencies not to cooperate with the impeachment inquiry.

Trump says he did nothing wrong and has dismissed his impeachment as a partisan bid to undo his 2016 election win.

"I think they've lost their minds," Trump said Monday on Rush Limbaugh's radio program, referring to Democrats.

The White House could try to block Bolton from testifying. That dispute would probably be resolved by US Chief Justice John Roberts, who will preside over the Senate trial, or senators themselves, rather than in court, said Ross Garber, a Washington lawyer who has represented Republican governors in impeachment proceedings. **Agencies**

Russia and China block UNSC statement on US embassy bombing in Iraq - Russian envoy

UNITED NATION
 RUSSIA and China blocked the statement of the UN Security Council condemning the attack against the US Embassy in Iraq because it did not take into account the subsequent US air strike near the Baghdad airport, which resulted in killing of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani, Russia's Permanent Representative to the UN Vasily Nebenzya said on Monday. The US Permanent Mission to the UN said earlier that two permanent

members of UNSC, Russia and China did not allow the statement to proceed.

"I would like to inform you, first of all, as a principle, we condemn strongly any attacks on any embassies, in any states, and we strongly condemn the attack on the American embassy in Baghdad," Nebenzya (pictured) said.

The statement of UNSC was practically ready when the US air strike on January 3 followed and it was impossible not to take it into account, the



Russian diplomat said, explaining the reasons why the statement was not adopted.

The UN Security Council has not yet discussed escalation of the conflict between Iran and the US and will hardly be able to work out a common statement regarding the killing of Qasem Soleimani, Nebenzya noted.

"We were not discussing that yet, especially today, and you perfectly well understand that the prospects of such statement are zero," he added.

The situation in the Middle East

aggravated dramatically after the US missile strike near the Baghdad airport, killing head of the Iran's Quds Force Qasem Soleimani.

Tehran promised a tough response to the US and started scaling down its obligations under the nuclear deal.

The parliament of Iraq adopted the resolution calling for complete withdrawal of all foreign troops from the country on January 5. US President Donald Trump refused to do that and threatened Iraq with big sanctions. **Agencies**

China calls on all sides to handle Iran issue with fairness

TENSIONS escalated in the Gulf region over the weekend as Iran distanced itself from the 2015 nuclear deal amid growing threats and pressure from the United States.

The Iranian cabinet said in a statement on Sunday that the country would "take the final step to reduce commitments to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action", and would not observe restrictions in operational areas, including uranium enrichment capacities, enrichment percentage, the volume of enriched material and research.

Tehran will abandon the last key restriction in the operational field put up in the 2015 nuclear deal regarding "the limitations in the number of centrifuges", and will proceed solely based on the country's technical needs, Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency re-

ported. As an important party to the nuclear deal, China is highly concerned about the current situation in the Middle East, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said on Monday, adding that the region's peace and stability is of vital importance for the entire world. Geng (pictured) said that Iran has exercised restraint, although it was forced to end its commitment due to external factors. "Iran has clearly expressed its political willingness to comprehensively and effectively implement the 2015 nuclear deal and does not break obligations as stipulated by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons," he said.

Iran's 2015 nuclear accord with the United Kingdom, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US has been hanging by a thread since Washington's unilateral withdrawal in May 2018. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng said the withdrawal was "the root cause of the Iran nuclear tensions". "It should also be the basic starting point for all related parties to deal with the Iran nuclear issue in an objective and fair way," he said. Iran's announcement was another sign of the fallout from Friday's assassination of senior gen-



eral Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad in a drone strike ordered by US President Donald Trump. On Monday, hundreds of thousands of people in Teheran mourned the death of Soleimani, the former commander of the Quds Force of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Geng said at a regular news conference in Beijing that the risky military behavior of the US "goes

against the basic norms governing international relations as well as aggravates the tensions of the regional situation", and the power politics "are neither popular nor sustainable".

The deadly strike has caused an unexpected stir in Iran and even the entire Persian Gulf region and limits opportunities to resume the suspended talks on the nuclear deal, said Zhu Weilie, director of the Center for China-Arab States Cooperation Forum Studies at Shanghai International Studies University.

Iran's decision indicated the rapid escalation of tensions, and under such circumstances it will be difficult to avoid some regional conflicts, Zhu said.

Meanwhile, Zhu said the announcement also shows Iran's disappointment with European countries.

"The solution of establishing a special payment system led by the European countries has failed to meet Iran's expectation to break the economic blockade caused by US sanctions," he said. "Iran is pressing the Europeans by calling off its commitment to the nuclear deal."

The leaders of Germany, France and the UK reacted by urging Iran to rethink its announcement.

"We call on Iran to withdraw all measures that are not in line with the nuclear agreement," German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a joint statement.

They also urged Iran to refrain from taking "further violent actions or support for them" and called on all parties involved to "show utmost restraint and responsibility". **Agencies**

"It is crucial now to de-escalate," they said. Zhu emphasized that although Iran said it reduced its commitments, it still "plays within the frame and hasn't crossed the line". "We should see that Iran's noncompliance does not mean that it will begin to resume the development and use of nuclear weapons."

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif referred to Iran's final remedial step under the 2015 nuclear deal and said that Iran will continue its cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In comments posted on social media, Zarif said the latest step taken by Iran was within the remit of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and "all five steps are reversible upon effective implementation of reciprocal obligations". **Agencies**



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) shoots past San Antonio Spurs forward Trey Lyles (41) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. (AP Photo)

Spurs' season-best 3-point shooting does in Bucks, 126-104

SAN ANTONIO

KNOWN as a mid-range shooting team for the past few seasons, the Spurs are starting to comprehend why San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich has implored them to shoot more 3-pointers.

DeMar DeRozan had 25 points and the San Antonio Spurs had a season-high 19 3-pointers to beat Milwaukee 126-104 on Monday night, snapping the Bucks five-game winning streak.

"It's big, confidence building," DeRozan said. "Letting us know we could compete with the best teams in this league."

San Antonio finished 19 for 35 on 3-pointers in handing Milwaukee its largest defeat of the season.

Patty Mills added 21 points, including 6 for 10 on 3-pointers. LaMarcus Aldridge and Rudy Gay added 18 points each, going a combined 4 for 5 on 3-pointers.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for Milwaukee and Donte DiVincenzo added 16 points.

Four games after setting a season-high with 18 3-pointers against Detroit, the Spurs bested that mark when Gay hit the team's 19th against Milwaukee.

Aldridge has keyed that run, going 16 for 23 on 3-pointers in his last five games.

"With LaMarcus joining us on the 3-point line and having the ability to knock them down, it does wonders in terms of spacing," Mills said.

Aldridge has shot so well on 3s that the Bucks almost overlooked DeRozan's mid-range game.

"We have a ton of respect for (DeRozan)," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said. "I think the way Aldridge has been shooting the 3-point shot over the last five, six, seven games, a lot of talk was about, 'Could we reduce those.' He had a huge first quarter, first half on Saturday. I don't want to say live with DeRozan's 2s, but to some degree (we did), but I still think it's the 3-point line where they beat us."

The Bucks, whose last loss was Dec. 25 at Philadelphia, maintain the league's best record at 32-6.

Popovich somewhat agreed when asked if this was the Spurs' most complete game of the season.

"It'd be hard to argue against that, I think," he said. "The physicality was good. We started out the third quarter a little poorly as we have, going to try to figure that out, but I thought we were more consistent tonight in our physicality and executing game plan, we were more consistent. It was a good night."

Milwaukee defeated San Antonio 127-118 on Saturday at home but could not maintain its early momentum in a rare home-and-home, back-to-back games.

Milwaukee opened the game with three straight 3-pointers but San Antonio went on a 13-4 run in taking its first lead at 15-13. DeRozan blocked Antetokounmpo layup during the run, tying up the 6-foot-11 forward as he drove through the lane and forcing a jump ball.

Seven players would score in the first quarter for San Antonio, including nine by DeRozan.

The Spurs followed that up with 38 points in the second quarter, their highest total in that quarter all season and third-highest in any quarter.

San Antonio was 12 for 20 on 3-pointers in the first half in building an 18-point lead and tying a franchise record for the most 3s in any half.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, Joel Embiid's left ring finger looked like the top of a used bendy drinking straw, grotesquely overlapping his pinkie to the point that it seemed he had his fingers crossed.

"I nearly threw up when I saw that," 76ers guard Ben Simmons said.

So gross.

Simmons' stomach was soon settled, and so were the Sixers when Embiid needed nothing more than a quick trip to the locker room and some tape. Embiid played through the unsightly injury and scored 18 points, Simmons had 17 points and 15 rebounds and Philadelphia snapped a four-game losing streak, beating the Oklahoma City Thunder 120-113 on Monday night.

"I'm glad he came back out," Simmons said. "We needed him. He's a big part of this team."

The 76ers lost all four games on a trip that knocked them down the Eastern Conference standings and raised questions about how far this team can go in the playoffs.

They usually last in the postseason as long as a healthy Embiid can take them. The All-Star center dislocated his finger in the first quarter. Embiid returned to start the second quarter, though the injury prevented him from playing with his usual force on the glass and he lost a bunch of rebounds to Steven Adams.

"I felt my finger snapping and I thought I fractured it," Embiid said. "They did some X-rays and said it was nothing."

Embiid said there was a chance he might not play Thursday against Boston.

"I couldn't go up with two hands," Embiid said. "There were a couple of times I could have grabbed with both hands but I just couldn't. I just kept tapping it."

The Thunder, who had won five straight, closed within two with 3 minutes left before the Sixers scored nine straight points to put the game away. Embiid's fingers looked fine on a dish to Tobias Harris for a dunk, and Harris buried a 3 to make it 115-106.

Adams had 24 points and 15 rebounds, and Chris Paul scored 18 points.

"We've gotten down and these guys always fight back," Thunder coach Billy Donovan said.

Josh Richardson scored 23 points for the Sixers, and Simmons fell two assists shy of a triple-double in another solid game without a basket beyond 22 feet.

Simmons is an All-Star and triple-double threat but for whatever reason, he won't shoot 3-pointers. His only two career 3s have come this season and after he made one in a Dec. 7 win against Cleveland, coach Brett Brown implored Simmons to shoot more of them.

"This is what I want," Brown said that night. "I want a 3-point shot per game, minimum. He will be liberated. His world will open up and, in many ways, so will ours."

Expectations for the New Year

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

AS the merry-making and revelry continue to gradually cease, there is one incontrovertible fact which cannot be disputed.

And that fact of course is that a brand New Year has already gotten underway, which should justly offer cause for optimism, hope and a certain Joie de vivre to reign supreme in our homeland.

From a sporting viewpoint, though, various sports have swiftly picked up from where they left off last year.

For instance, a good case in point of such sports is football on the domestic sports patch as was witnessed last Saturday in the 'Kariakoo derby' between those two age-old foes Simba and Young.

Unfortunately, the much-anticipated encounter, which is often a memorable spectacle, ended with both nemeses sharing the spoils 2-2.

But enough with the 'People's game,' at least momentarily for now.

Let us now train our sights on the most exalted sporting event which will take place later this year and of course that prestigious extravaganza is none other than the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Indeed, as far as readiness for the multi-sports showcase event is concerned, those widely known colossuses who bestride the vast global sporting stage such as the USA and Great Britain among others seem primed and ready even now to launch their respective assaults for a giant haul of medals.



Female athletes compete in 5,000m race of the Ngorongoro National Open Athletics Championship at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha last year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

For example, big things are expected from Great Britain's female sprinting sensation Dina Asher, who announced herself so impeccably on the global stage last year when she exceptionally claimed the gold medal in the women's 200 meters final at the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar.

Likewise, Team USA seem to have found a suitable heir apparent to the likes of Tyson Gay and Justin Gatlin, who during the past decade have jointly been the Best Sprinters of American athletics.

Indeed, the 'new kid on the block' of American sprinting, Christian Coleman, is expected to restore America's dominance of the men's 100 meters event at the Olympic Games following

his magnificent triumph in the men's 100 meters final at those same World Athletics Championships in Doha, last year.

Sadly though, here in our neck of the woods, our preparations especially for track and field events are in a particularly sorry state as usual.

Indeed, proof of our botched up preparations thus far for athletics events at the Olympic Games was vividly displayed lately during our august National Athletics Championships.

With the sport's governing body, Athletics Tanzania (AT) expecting all 31 regions of the country to send athletes to feature at the greatly respected domestic sporting spectacle, in the end, it turned out that

only athletes from 15 regions participated in the illustrious competition.

Naturally, the lack of a full complement of athletes at the National Championships will prove to be throbbing selection headaches for those in charge of such technical matters at Athletics Tanzania (AT).

Switching gears, seeing as the CHAN finals are also set to take place this year, it is my dearly felt hope that the Taifa Stars can catch the eye with sublime football outings.

Unsurprisingly, achieving this will require a herculean effort from our boys.

However, after their unforgettable heroics last year, this writer remains bullish that the Taifa Stars are up to the task at hand.

A mix of risk-takers and classic Hollywood at Golden Globes

NEW YORK

CHARLIZE Theron, Kerry Washington and Gugu Mbatha-Raw led the fashion risk-takers at the Golden Globes, while Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon and Cynthia Erivo topped the lists of many for more classic looks on one of the biggest red carpets of the awards season.

The men generally played it safe Sunday night in Beverly Hills, save Jason Momoa in a velvet Tom Ford coat paired with Valentino pants and a black tank top, his long hair flying.

But one look was in a category of its own. When it came to icon Jennifer Lopez, it was a love-hate battle over her weighty white Valentino Couture gown with its huge bow of gold and green at the bodice.

There were a few trends, too, including lingerie-as-outerwear that was all over the spring 2020 runways, said Marielle Bobo, fashion director for Essence. She and others also noted the revamped tuxedo-inspired runway trend.

"Kerry Washington showed skin in a black shirtless Altuzarra look from the brand's pre-fall collection, while Awkwafina paired a dramatic ruffled blouse with her classic black tux. Cynthia Erivo's custom Thom Browne gown was an unexpected take on the trend as well. The standout by far, however, was Billy Porter's stunning white Alex Vinash tuxedo, which wowed with its dramatic feather train," Bobo added.

There was lots of pink in hues soft to neon. Kirsten Dunst brought the romance in blush lace by Rodarte, having chosen the lace herself. Dakota Fanning was in tulle Christian Dior in dreamy lavender and Tiffany Haddish rocked bright pink. Statement sleeves were also big, from puffy to bejeweled.

In beauty, Refinery29.com's senior beauty editor Lexy Lebsack noted a return to classic tried-and-trues that included the bob and red lips.

"Stars like Kerry Washington, Priyanka Chopra and Awkwafina made red lips modern by picking bright colors that perfectly complemented their complexions," she said. "Reese Witherspoon, Zoey



Jennifer Lopez arrives at the 77th annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, in Beverly Hills, Calif. (AP)

Deutch, Tiffany Haddish, newcomer Ana de Armas and many more opted to wear bobs in a variety of styles, whether slicked back, gathered into low ponytails or flipped out. Each was unique and further proof that the bob will rule in 2020.

Back to Lopez for just a second.

"She looked incredible," said Adam Glassman, creative director for O, The Oprah Magazine and special correspondent for Extra.

"When Jennifer Lopez walked up to us, it was breathtaking. Her hair, her makeup, the jewelry, the gown. Everything."

The diamond and emerald necklace around her neck was 76.36 carats of Harry Winston goodness set in 18-karat yellow gold and platinum. Along with her emerald earrings, the pieces are worth more than \$2.2 million, the company said.

Sarah Kinonen, Allure's associate digital beauty director, was among the fans of her hair, which was pulled back into a high bun of braids.

"When was the last time you saw Jennifer Lopez wear braids?"

What about a bun with braids? Yeah, I'm drawing blanks, too. That's why this structural hair style by Chris Appleton is so iconic. I can't wait to see what J.Lo and her team have in store for the rest of the award show season.

Theron wowed in a neon green and black Dior Haute couture silk gown.

"I love that the gown was daring with its sheer bustier cutout," said Bobo.

Mbatha-Raw's Gucci sequin dress in slick chartreuse was equal parts elegant and edgy, she said.

"Sequins on the red carpet can be so cliché, but this modern silhouette with its plunging neckline and tuxedo-inspired waist detail was modern yet effortlessly chic," Bobo added.

Blanchett was resplendent in Mary Katrantzou yellow with yards of pleats from shoulder to hem and a unique jeweled bra bodice.

As for Porter, the deputy editor of Esquire, Ben Boskovich, said his conversation over gender and fashion will carry on in

2020. His Golden Globes look was a cream tuxedo with a long feather train that unzipped for sitting.

"Porter continues to take bold, exciting steps with his red carpet looks and he hasn't disappointed yet," Boskovich said.

Kinonen had her eyes on Porter's skin.

"While all eyes were on Billy Porter's custom white feather ensemble, which took a cool three months to create, the team and I were more interested in the 'Pose' star's luminous skin. Like, if I had makeup artist Anna Bernabe's number on speed dial, I'd text her right now and get the name of the highlighter she used on Porter's cheekbones then order one for everyone at Allure."

Style writer Rachel Tashjian of GQ had a few best-dressed men, including Andrew Scott, the "hot priest" of "Fleabag." She said he mixed creams and whites in his formalwear "like a true messenger of God!"

And her top trend for the guys?

"Quirky lapels. Kyle Chandler's '90s classic tux bad boys. Bong Joon Ho's subtle double lapels. Rami Youssef's eggplant-and-black pieced lapels. Eddie Murphy's generous shawl collar," Tashjian said. "And Quentin Tarantino's short satin notch lapels were almost Johnny Cash-worthy."

Kidman's Atelier Versace was among the top dresses in reds. So was Helen Mirren's deep red Dior with a royal neckline and nail color to match. Scarlett Johansson wore a custom strapless plunging V-neck gown in crimson with a hand-draped bow and train by Vera Wang Collection.

Zoe Kravitz brought a pop of playful in dots courtesy of Saint Laurent by Anthony Vaccarello, and Lucy Boynton brought it in silver from Louis Vuitton.

AP

Arteta annoyed as Jekyll and Hyde Arsenal edge past Leeds

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta said he saw two sides of the Arsenal team he has inherited after a greatly improved second-half performance secured a 1-0 win over Leeds to reach the FA Cup fourth round on Monday.

The Gunners made Leeds pay for their profligacy with a host of wasted first-half chances before Reiss Nelson scored the winner 10 minutes into the second period.

However, Arteta was not impressed by his side's start to the game and claimed he had learned a lot from how they reacted to beating Manchester United 2-0 on New Year's Day to kickstart his reign in charge.

"Now I'm really pleased but we saw two different teams from the first to second half," Arteta told the BBC.

"I tried to tell them exactly what they were going to face and after 32 minutes we had won one duel.

"We changed our attitude, desire and organisation at half-time and then we were completely different.

"I saw them react when they lost against Chelsea and saw them react when they had won just one game, so I have to be on them."

Leeds will hope more regular visits to the Emirates are in store as they top the Championship and showed why by dominating the first 45 minutes.

On-loan Manchester City winger Jack Harrison twice stung the palms of Emiliano Martinez either side of Patrick Bamford hitting the bar after a wonderful team move.

Ezgjani Alioski then forced the best save of all from Martinez as he met a teasing Harrison cross at the back post.

Arteta's half-time team talk roused a response from Arsenal as Alexandre Lacazette also hit the crossbar from a free-kick.

"He shouted a lot. He was not happy because we knew they'd play like this and we didn't respect what he had said," said Lacazette on Arteta's half-time dressing down.

The Frenchman was captain for the night in Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's absence through illness and led from the front after the break as he also had a hand in the winner.

Lacazette was played in by Nicolas Pepe and his deflected cross found its way to Nelson to convert just his second Arsenal goal.

Nelson was then replaced by another talented youngster in Gabriel Martinelli, who came closest to adding to Arsenal's lead with a low shot that was well saved by Illan Meslier.

However, one goal was enough to secure the Gunners a fourth round trip to Bournemouth.

AFP

'Definitely not' - Pep says he'll never manage Man Utd

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

PEP Guardiola has ruled out the possibility of ever managing Manchester United -- even if it was the only offer on the table.

Guardiola was sounded out about taking over at United by Sir Alex Ferguson at a meeting in New York in 2012.

The Spaniard had already committed to joining Bayern Munich, with David Moyes replacing Ferguson in 2013, before eventually arriving in the Premier League with Manchester City in 2016.

Guardiola has a contract at the Etihad Stadium until 2021 but suggested he would rather retire than move to Old Trafford.

"After training City, I won't train United," said Guardiola.

"It is like I would never train [Real] Madrid. Definitely not.

"I'd be in the Maldives if I don't have any [other] offers! Maybe not the Maldives because it doesn't have any golf courses."

Guardiola has enjoyed a good record against United since moving

to England, winning four and drawing one of his eight derbies.

Ahead of the next meeting in the Carabao Cup semifinal first leg at Old Trafford on Tuesday, United boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer became the latest rival manager to raise the issue of tactical fouling, prompting Guardiola to re-issue a firm defence of his methods.

"I have said many times when I was at Barcelona and here I have never in my life had a meeting where I have talked to my players about tactical fouls," he said.

"It happens sometimes because you are late and because they are so fast, and they are so quick, that you make a foul.

"You lose the ball and they make incredible fast transitions and sometimes you are late and in that second you make a foul.

"But if the people can judge if our legacy is tactical fouling it is their problem, not ours."

Meanwhile, Guardiola is hopeful of having Leroy Sane available soon after five months out with a knee injury.

(Agencies)

Aubameyang: I'm Arsenal captain and I love this club

LONDON

PIERRE-EMERICK Aubameyang insists he loves Arsenal and is fully committed to the club amid speculation he wants to leave.

The striker has been linked to sides including Barcelona and Inter as he enters the final 18 months on his Gunners contract.

However, Aubameyang, who has scored 15 goals in all competitions this season, is adamant he wants to help Arsenal return to the top of English football under new head coach Mikel Arteta.

"I really hope that you were proud of us after the [Manchester] United game," Aubameyang wrote in the matchday programme for Monday's FA Cup clash with Leeds United, referring to last weekend's 2-0 Premier League victory over Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side.

"I'm sure you can see what we're trying to do on the pitch, that you can see improvement in our performances and now it has materialised with a deserved win on Wednesday.

"The atmosphere was exceptional. When you are on the pitch and you feel the crowd

roaring after every run, every tackle, every duel and after every chance, it gives you such a boost mentally. The Emirates [Stadium] felt like a fortress.

"You were our 12th man and I felt like Manchester United could have played for hours and they would have never scored. I really hope it will be like that until the end of the season. All together, we can have a great 2020! We need to be united more than ever.

"I would also like to react to some of the rumours that are going around about me in the media. People like making up stories and they should focus on what's happening on the pitch. They talk too much and it does my head in!

"I am the Arsenal captain. I love this club. I am committed to it and desperate to bring it back to the top, where it belongs."

Arsenal's win over United was their first under Arteta, who took over the permanent head coach role last month after Unai Emery was sacked in November.

It was also their first victory since a 3-1 defeat of West Ham on December 9.

(Agencies)

Controversy lingers as Saudi Arabia gets set to welcome Spanish Super Cup

MADRID

REAL Madrid and Barcelona will be among those tussling for the Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia this week, amid controversy over a tournament held faraway from home in a country long-condemned for its record on human rights.

Spain's two most decorated clubs could face off in a Clasico final in Jeddah on Sunday if Real Madrid beat in-form Valencia and Barca can overcome Atletico Madrid in the semis.

Yet the prospect of another showdown between La Liga's leading pair has been overshadowed by criticism, with lingering concerns about a Spanish competition being played on a different continent, more than 4,000 miles (6,400 km) away.

The financial incentives on offer, both to the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF), who run the competition, and the four clubs taking part are bound to have been persuasive.

For agreeing to participate alone, Barcelona and Real Madrid will receive six million euros (\$6.72 million) while Atletico and Valencia will pocket around three million euros each. If Barca and Real Madrid reach the final, it is expected they will earn around 10 million euros for the week.

The RFEF, meanwhile, has an agreement for the tournament to be held in Saudi Arabia for three years, for which it will earn a total of 120 million euros, an amount it claims will be put back into the women's game and lower leagues.

President Luis Rubiales has also said the old format, involving a final in August between the league champions and cup winners, was no longer capturing the imagination of fans.



Barcelona and Real Madrid could face each other in Saudi Arabia (AFP Photo)

"The Super Cup was doomed to death," said Rubiales in November.

"The money we will get is not for building a villa. It will go to women's football and the clubs in Segunda B and Tercera. Of course money is important, who can deny that? Money is very important but the money will go where it is needed."

"Heinous human rights record" - But in exchange for bigger cheques, the RFEF is facing accusations of betraying Spanish supporters and turning a blind eye to Saudi Arabia's "heinous human rights record", as it was described by Amnesty International in November.

Saudi Arabia has followed the lead of Qatar and the United Arab Emirates by accelerating its investment in sports events to exert soft power

and cast a more positive image of the country across the world.

"There is a very offensive policy to host major sporting events... to spread a different image of Saudi Arabia," Carole Gomez, a researcher at the Institute of International and Strategic Relations, told AFP.

But Rubiales believes the Spanish Super Cup can be used as a force for good.

"In the world there are food, economic, social inequalities," he said. "We can avoid it or we can try to contribute to change."

Amid criticism of Saudi Arabia's treatment of women, agreements have been reached between the RFEF and the Spanish authorities to ensure women will have free access to the King Abdullah Stadium, where

all three fixtures will be played.

In January 2018, women were allowed to enter a stadium to watch football in Saudi Arabia for the first time.

"Women can enter all these events," the Saudi ambassador to Spain, Mansour Bin Khalid Al Farhan Al-Saud, told Marca last month. "That is what I mean when I say there is ignorance. You have false ideas about our country. There is no limitation for women in our country."

Fans from Spain appear unlikely to make the 10-hour trip to Jeddah, which would cost them close to 1,000 euros in flights and accommodation combined.

According to Spanish newspaper El Mundo on Monday, only 1,076 of 12,000 tickets had been sold, with Valencia selling just 26. "Nobody wants to go to the Spanish Super Cup", read El Mundo's headline.

Supporters might also have weighed up the importance of the tournament, which is considered far less prestigious even than the Copa del Rey, Spain's domestic cup competition, and pales into insignificance alongside La Liga and the Champions League.

Real Madrid and Barcelona sit level on points at the top of La Liga and all four clubs will be eager to avoid injuries, with each of them involved in the Champions League knock-out stage, which begins next month.

Madrid announced on Monday that neither Karim Benzema, their top scorer, nor Gareth Bale would be travelling due to fitness problems and Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde will be wary of over-exerting Lionel Messi too.

The desire to clinch a trophy will be checked by a need to prioritise and any celebrations may not be fully shared by those watching at home.

AFP

Lukaku double keeps Inter top after Ronaldo's first Serie A hat-trick

MILAN

ROMELU Lukaku scored twice as Inter Milan held on to top spot in Serie A on Monday with a 3-1 win over Napoli to keep the pressure on Juventus who earlier swept past Cagliari with Cristiano Ronaldo netting his first hat-trick in the Italian top flight.

Antonio Conte's Inter ended their 23-year wait for a league win in Naples to stay in pole position, level on points with Juventus after 18 games, but ahead on goal difference.

Lazio are third, six points adrift but with a game in hand, after stretching their winning run in the league to nine matches on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Brescia.

"It's an important victory, winning away to Napoli is never easy," said Conte after his 100th Serie A win as a coach but first in Naples.

"Napoli have in recent years always been behind Juventus, while Inter was a long way back. This year we have reduced the gap."

Inter's three goals all came from mistakes from Napoli, runners-up the past two seasons but only eighth this term.

Lukaku broke through on 14 minutes with a powerful solo run through the Napoli defence, with goalkeeper Alex Meret fumbling the second into goal in the 33rd minute.

Polish striker Arkadiusz Milik pulled a goal back for Napoli four minutes before the break.

But Lautaro Martinez added the third after the hour mark, following another mix-up in the Napoli defence, to give Inter their first win at the Stadio San Paolo since October 1997.

"We made lots of mistakes and scored three goals on our own," said Napoli coach Gennaro Gattuso.

"The lads are worried because they are used to challenging for the Scudetto and this year it's like this."

In Turin, Ronaldo struck for the fifth consecutive league game as the champions bounced back from their Italian Super Cup defeat by Lazio.

"Amazing feeling to kick off 2020 with a hat-trick and a victory,"



AC Milan's supporters show a banner for Ibrahimovic prior to the start of the Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Sampdoria at the San Siro stadium, in Milan, Italy, Monday, Jan. 6, 2020. (AP Photo)

tweeted Ronaldo, who brought his league tally to 13 goals.

Ronaldo, 34, broke the deadlock just after the interval.

The Portuguese striker added a second from the penalty spot on 67 minutes then set up substitute Gonzalo Higuain nine minutes from time, before completing his hat-trick a minute later.

"Like a God"

Lukaku and Ronaldo's goals overshadowed Zlatan Ibrahimovic's return for AC Milan as the Swedish

star came off the bench in the 55th minute in a goalless draw against Sampdoria.

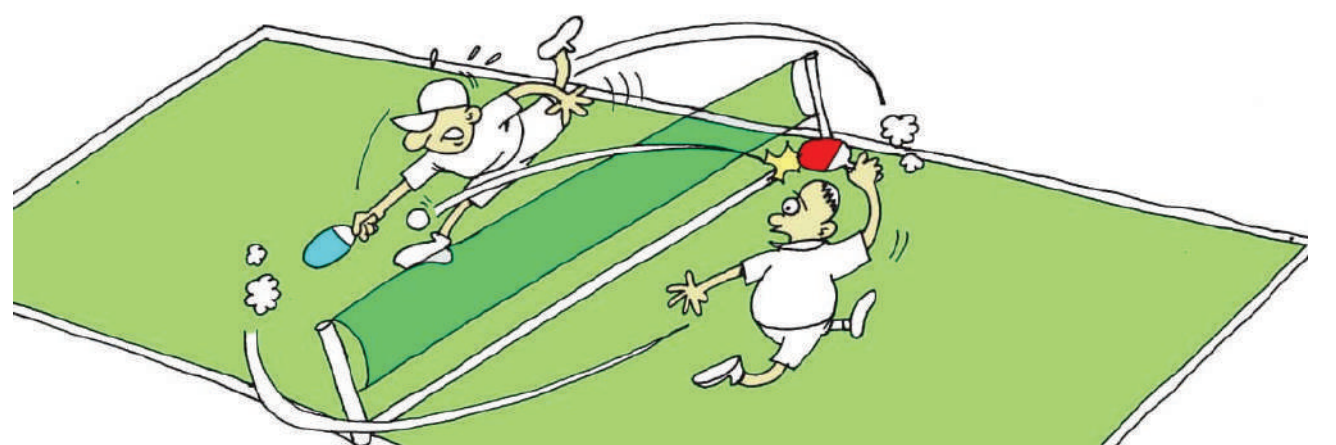
The 38-year-old had not played since leaving MLS side LA Galaxy in October.

He came on for Poland striker Krzysztof Piatek to deafening applause from the San Siro crowd after rejoining the club last week.

But there was little else to cheer for the hosts who extended their winless run to three games and remain 12th in the table.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Controversy lingers as Saudi Arabia gets set to welcome Spanish Super Cup

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TOP DAY @ 11:00

WEDNESDAY DADAZ

DADAZ This daytime talk show gives women a platform to discuss social and political issues that affect our society from a feminine perspective.

east africa RADIO

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

05:00 EA Breakfast
07:00 Kipanga
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Mkwasa, Kahata win Premier League awards for December

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) interim head coach, Boniface Mkwasa, and Simba attacking midfielder Francis Kahata have been named Vodacom Premier League Coach and Player of the Month for December.

Kahata's two goals and one assist helped Simba win all three matches during December to go eight points clear at the top of the table as the squad, popularly known as 'Msimbazi Reds', go in search of their third consecutive Premier League crown.

The Kenyan international who was signed from Gor Mahia saw off team mate Hassan Dilunga and Bakari Mwamnyeto of Coastal Union.

In the last week of December, he put up an all-action performance against Lipuli FC by scoring one goal in a 4-0 victory.

He then set up Gerson Fraga's 90th-minute goal three days later against KMC FC. On the last day of 2019 he netted a brilliant free kick against Ndanda FC.

Mkwasa who was appointed on an interim capacity to take over from the sacked Mwynyi Zahera in November guided Yanga to two wins and two draws in December.

The title-chasing side grabbed home and away wins over Biashara United and Prisons respectively.

Yanga drew with Mbeya City FC and KMC FC during that period. In addition, Mkwasa's side scored three goals while conceding one in four outings.

Other coaches who were in contention for the award included Belgian Sven Vandenbroeck of Simba and Juma Mgunda of Coastal Union.

After Mapinduzi Cup, Mkwasa's next assignment will come against visitors Kagera Sugar in a Vodacom Premier League clash on January 15.

Yanga will be aiming to extend their impressive run that has seen the side remain unbeaten in their last 12 league matches.

Mkwasa and Kahata will each receive 1,000,000/- from Vodacom Company, title sponsors of the Mainland Premier League and a decoder from the league television broadcasters.

BCB seeks players' consent for Pakistan tour

DHAKA

AMID uncertainty over Bangladesh's scheduled tour of Pakistan, it has emerged that the BCB has started taking consent from players to travel to the country. While this is a standard government-mandated procedure for every overseas tour, this is the first concrete sign of preparations for this particular one.

Equally significant is that a Test specialist confirmed to ESPNcricinfo that he had signed up to tour Pakistan; the BCB had earlier said that the national team is unlikely to take part in the Test series - and only play T20Is - and also denied reports that it had offered to play one Test in Pakistan and the other in Bangladesh.

It's understood that the BCB will likely take the final decision after their board meeting on January 12. If the tour does go ahead, the departure date will be January 18, the day after the BPL final. It's also learnt that BCB president Nazmul Hassan will meet some of the team's senior players on Tuesday evening for a final round of discussions on the matter.

There have been question marks around the tour since the BCB said it wanted to split the tour in two legs - it wants to play the T20Is first - but the PCB has been firm in its stance that the series must be played in one go, promising state-level security for the visitors like it did when Sri Lanka toured last month for a two-Test series.

AGENCIES

Seven teams nervous as battle for avoiding relegation heats up



Mbao FC midfielder, Herbert Lukindo (L), dribbles past KMC FC midfielder, Rayman Mgungila, when the two sides locked horns in a Vodacom P League match in Mwanza. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MBAO FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

LAST season saw an almighty scrap at the bottom of the Vodacom Premier League with eight teams caught up in a relegation battle on a tense final day of the campaign, and all signs point to a similar scenario in May.

Stand United were the unlucky losers at the end of the 2018-19 campaign as a final-day defeat to JKT Tanzania sent them down to the First Division League (FDL).

African Lyon were the other team that went down, having confirmed their FDL status with six matches to play in the season.

Kagera Sugar secured a point at Mbao FC to earn a

playoff place and went on to get the better of Pamba to extend their top-flight status to 16 consecutive seasons.

Mwadui FC also secured a last day 3-1 win away to Ndanda FC and were the aggregate winners against Geita Gold FC in the playoff match.

Kagera Sugar's improvement this season means they are unlikely to be involved in the relegation scrap.

A soccer follower, though, can get the feeling that any team currently in the bottom half could be in for some last-day drama.

Though 10 points separate bottom side, Singida United, and Mbao FC in 14th spot, all the bottom seven sides have shown the kind of inconsistency that will

see them struggle to climb the table quickly.

Singida United have won only one of their 15 opening matches and are, after three seasons, likely to find themselves back in the FDL.

They have added seasoned players to help them beat the drop though things have not improved in the last two games, in which they lost to Azam FC and KMC FC.

The problems with their home venue, Liti Stadium, means they have been forced to play in Arusha further compounding their problems. Away from their Singida fan base they look a side short of confidence.

Head coach Ramadhan Nsanzurwimo continues to believe

his side will survive, the reality remains he has a massive job keeping them alive, while also fixing the weakest defense in the league, having already shipped 20 goals, including conceding five to Lipuli.

Ndanda FC are a point better off than bottom place Singida but face similar problems. They have won only one match and with just six goals scored in 15 games to date shows where their problems lie - along with Singida it is statistically the worst attack in the league.

They have recently appointed Abdul Mingange as head coach and while he will have them better organized, the problems in the squad run deep.

Their away form has always

been a big issue and is one of the reasons why they are involved in the relegation scrap each season since their promotion to the top flight in 2013/14.

Mbeya City FC are the one team in the bottom four who could have easily been better placed had they managed to convert a few of their draws into wins.

They have claimed seven draws - the joint highest number in the league.

They lost head coach Juma Mwambusi who resigned after the home defeat to Mwadui FC, which meant they have still yet to pick up a win at their backyard, Sokoine Stadium.

At 17th place, KMC FC occupies the last automatic relegation spot. Even after such a disastrous start, many believe they can pick up enough points to survive given the resources at their disposal.

Biashara United are three points off the dreaded automatic relegation zone but are still an unpredictable team. They are a side where the wheels can come off quite quickly.

After sacking head coach Amri Said they moved off the bottom of the table after a disastrous start.

Mwadui FC have 16 points from 14 games, one less game than most teams around them.

Some excellent victories this season, including the one against defending champions, suggest they might not fall into the relegation trap.

Home draws against JKT Tanzania, Mbao, Alliance FC and Ruvo Shooting have though showed Mwadui FC's frailties and could come to haunt them in the end.

Tanzania to field three Paralympic athletes in qualifiers for 2020 Paralympics

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadonia

TANZANIA is next month expected to send three Paralympic power lifting athletes to Nigeria to compete in qualifiers for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics which is slated for later this year in Japan.

Tanzania Paralympic Committee (TPC) secretary general, Tuma Dandi, yesterday said the country's athletes from codes of Para power lifting and

athletics are all ready for events to qualify for the Tokyo games slated for August to September this year.

He said he is very confident that local Paralympic athletes will qualify for the Japan games.

Dandi said TPC is doing its best so that that local athletes can earn qualification for the Tokyo Paralympics and hopefully win medals at the event.

"For two decades TPC has been a member of International

Paralympic Committee (IPC), the country has in most cases competed at international events on wild card and we have never won any medal, I think it's now time to win some medals," he said.

The TPC official mentioned Para power lifting athletes who will compete in Nigeria as Yohana Mwila, Ernest Nyabalale and the only female para power lifting athlete is Bedina Nyinyime.

He said Mwila is now lifting

130kg and, to qualify, he must reduce to 125kg. Nyabalale is currently lifting 100kg and, to qualify, he needs 114kg while Nyinyime currently lifts 75kg and she needs to add two kilograms to qualify for the 2020 Paralympic Games.

"Currently all our Para power lifting athletes are undergoing intensive preparations ahead of the qualifying games which will take place end of next month in Abuja, Nigeria," he disclosed.

"The Nigeria games will be used as qualification for Tokyo Paralympics, I'm very confident that they will all qualify for Tokyo games," he said.

He also disclosed that Paralympic athletes are undergoing intensive training to prepare for the Japan qualification games, which will be held in Dubai in March this year.

Dandi mentioned the Paralympic athletes who are training as Madumla Mtwewe, who throws 29 meters discus, and needs to add one meter and the only female in this sports code is Saida Njopeka who now throws five meters and needs to reach six meters to qualify.

He said Germany-based Agitos Foundation will pay for accommodation and air tickets

for all of the athletes to seek qualification.

He TPC though needs more than 12m/- to organize local camp for Para power lifting.

"Agitos Foundation which is based in Germany will pay for accommodation and air tickets for our athletes to compete at qualification events in Nigeria and Dubai in February and March respectively, we must all come together to support and motivate them. We are looking for 12m/- to organize local camp for our Paralympic power lifting athletes and we are asking companies, organizations and individuals to come forward and help us," he said.

The TPC official disclosed that Agitos Foundation was ready to fund all female Paralympic athletes in the country to attend qualifying events, but he lamented on the low number of women in the sports.

"Agitos Foundation promised us to fund all female Paralympic athletes to Japan Paralympic qualifying events, but unfortunately we have only two female athletes, this is very bad and as an association we will do our best to see that many disabled women are involved in sports," he said.



Dar es Salaam's Vijana Kids basketball squad's players take part training at JMK Youth Park courts in the city on Monday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

