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## TMA: November-April rains will be enough for most farmers

By Henry Mwangonde

THE coming November to April rains will be enough for crop production in most parts of the country that receive rainfall once a year, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) has declared.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, TMA director general Dr Agnes Kijazi said that during the period soil moisture is expected to be sufficient for farming in most areas.

The November-April rains also known as seasonal rains are specific for the western, central, southwestern highlands, southern regions and the southern coast. These regions experience a unimodal rainfall pattern, a single prolonged period in the year.

During the period, short periods of heavy

**Based on the current and expected climatic patterns, there is an elevated chance of normal to above normal rains over most parts of unimodal areas, with exception of the far western side of the country where mainly normal rains are expected**

rains may result in water accumulation leading to floods, carrying the risk of outbreaks of water-borne diseases. This is especially true of areas with poor sewage systems in urban areas and where there is a shortage of clean and safe water.

"Based on the current and expected climatic patterns, there is an elevated chance of normal to above normal rains over most parts of unimodal areas, with exception of the far western side of the country where mainly normal rains are expected," she said.

Other periods of the year are expected to have low rainfall probability due to progressive warming over the Central Indian Ocean, the director noted.

TMA has also issued advisories and early warnings to various weather sensitive public

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# Minister rules out extending of limit to presidential terms



**RAIN-INDUCED RELOCATION:** Scores of residents of Muheza in Tanga Region have been forced into temporary migration, their houses near the banks of River Amtico engulfed by floodwaters following ongoing rains. Our roving photographer caught this scene yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

The Father of the Nation showed the way as to how the constitution should be respected by all people regardless of their ability or influence. This should be honored as a national virtue

By Correspondent James Kandoya

FOREIGN Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi yesterday flatly denied that the government has any intention of extending the presidential term limit.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the Mwalimu Nyerere Commemorative Conference 20 years after his death, the minister said respect for the constitution which currently allows two five-year terms is a national virtue that cannot be played around with.

Prof Kabudi also sought to distance the government from voices that have in the past two years been agitating for changing the constitution to extend the presidential term limit.

**We welcome criticism but it should be constructive for once, for the purpose of sustainable development and wellbeing of the people**

He said in his life the late Mwalimu Nyerere strongly opposed a group of activists mobilizing people for their own political interest to propose extending the presidential tenure limit.

"The Father of the Nation showed the way as to how the constitution should be respected by all people regardless of their ability or

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## Local contractors get delayed tender margin of preference

By Francis Kajubi

TANZANIAN contractors will now enjoy a 15 per cent margin of preference—reduction of price margin during tendering—a legal right they were denied despite being stipulated in the Public Procurement Act 2011.

This shift follows eight years of pressure from the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF), working with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) to lately inform the business community that contractors can now make bids in tenders where the 15 percent margin will be taken into account, with minimum threshold being 10bn/-.

The margin of preference is expected to make local construction companies

**Urge local contractors to make quality, honesty and reliability the cornerstones of our companies to make the most of this preferential treatment**

more competitive vis a vis their foreign counterparts when it comes to tendering for construction projects.

With the 15 per cent margin of preference

it means that from now, a local contractor submitting a tender request worth 11.5bn/- and puts in a bid of 10bn/- and a foreign contractor submits a request of the right amount of money, the two bids shall be evaluated in equal fashion.

Dhruv Joy, a TPSF Board member and head of the construction sector at the foundation, told reporters yesterday that denied implementation of the legal right for margin of preference made local contractors uncompetitive.

They had no tolerable space to set prices that were lower but competing with foreign companies in tendering, he asserted.

Local contractors were denied entrance

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## Rugemalira silent as Sethi formally seeks 'clemency'

By Guardian Reporter

ENERGY sector investor Harbinder Singh Sethi who is facing an economic crimes case has written to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) seeking to use the presidential plea and payment engagement agreement to secure his freedom.

Sethi's advocate, Michael Ngalo, asked the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's court yesterday to help facilitate the process so that his client is released.

But nothing came from Sethi's co-accused, an associate at the IPTL independent power outfit, James Rugemalira (pictured). The two



were involved in the Tegeta escrow account saga, first appearing at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court on June 19, 2017 facing 12 charges.

These included money laundering, but investigations into the case are yet to be completed and they remain in remand since the charges involved preclude bail.

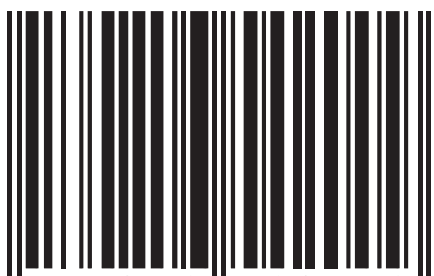
Prof Anna Tibaijuka, who at the time the issue rocked Parliament was minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development, was recently quoted saying she was returning to the government the 1.6bn/- donation that her school, Barbro Johnson Model Girls' School, received from Rugemalira.

Observers said that this offer to return the money was made in a bid to secure his release.

Advocate Ngalo told Resident Magistrate Huruma Shaidi that the DPP was yet to respond to his client's request to negotiate his freedom, which involves confessing to the alleged crime and paying the state for the incurred losses.

The lawyer lamented that investigations into the case had dragged on for too long, urging prosecution to name the date when they are likely to complete the probe.

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## TMA: November-April rains will be enough for farmers

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agencies concerned with agriculture and food security, livestock and wildlife, natural resources and tourism, transport and communications, energy and water, local authorities, health and disaster management.

The climate outlook by TMA shows that rains are likely to be above normal for most parts of Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Mbeya, Njombe, Songwe, Iringa, Ruvuma, the southern sector of Morogoro, Lindi and Mtwara regions.

On the other hand areas like Kigoma, Katavi and Rukwa regions are expected to feature mainly normal rains.

"Enhanced rainfall is likely during November 2019 and January 2020, with the season likely to have reduced rainfall in December 2019 and February 2020," part of the outlook projection specified.

Rains are expected to commence in the fourth week of October 2019 over Kigoma region and spread neighbouring areas in the first week of November.

Similarly, rains over most areas of the southwestern highlands and southern coast are likely to cease by the first week of May. However, over central and western areas rains are expected to cease by the fourth week of April, the outlook projection added.

## Rugemalira silent as Sethi formally seeks 'clemency'

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But State Attorney Wankyo Simon, reiterating that investigations were yet to be completed, argued that the State cannot commit to a particular date to complete investigations into criminal offences.

Simon however admitted that the DPP's office had indeed received Sethi's letter and that it was working on it. He promised that the office would reply to the request as soon as possible.

The court adjourned the case until October 24 when it comes up for mention at the court.

## Zanzibar will continue to take care of elders - Shein

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has said his government will continue to take care and value elders.

Dr Shein said yesterday at different meetings at Makenyo extraction factory hall at Wawi in South Pemba when he met CCM elders from Chake Chake district.

He said Isles' government values efforts by the elders they took during the struggle for independence of Tanganyika through Afro Shirazi Party (ASP) and Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) - fore bearers of CCM.

In a speech to the elders and other senior party leaders, Dr Shein said the elders were the ones who liberated Zanzibar.

He also used the occasion to congratulate the elders who fought for the country which enabled it to make major development strides.

"Where we are is due to efforts of Almighty God and our elders, therefore we are congratulating each other for implementing the party's election manifesto for 2015-2020 and together we have accomplished a lot," he said.

Dr Shein also explained that he was moved by the statement read by the elders and promised that all the promises made will be implemented in phases.

He said the government has been spending an average of 600m/- each month in giving community pensions to the elders.



The British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sarah Cooke (2nd-L), inaugurates a 25m/- water well at Mukulati Secondary School in Arumeru District yesterday. The well has been built by HakiElimu under UK government sponsorship. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

## Minister rules out extending of limit to presidential terms

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influence. This should be honored as a national virtue," the minister emphasized.

Prof Kabudi noted that leaders should be on the

frontline to honor good deeds done by the Father of the Nation by promoting peace, solidarity and unity.

"We welcome criticism but it should be constructive for once, for the purpose of sustainable development

and wellbeing of the people," he told the forum.

He said every Tanzanian should complement efforts made by the fifth phase government in the war against corruption and fraud that the Father of the Nation

roundly castigated.

For his part, University of Dar es Salaam Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisye said that the conference was organized by the University of Dar es Salaam working with Uongozi Institute, which helped to canvass for diplomats, senior government officials and retired leaders to be available.

"The Father of the Nation believed in the role of higher education students and academicians. That is why Mwalimu visited the University of Dar es Salaam from time to time and at times attended forums at the Nkrumah Hall," he said.

"As a higher learning institution, our main duty remains to produce experts who can complement efforts by the government to realize the goals of national development, including making Tanzania an industrial nation," he stated.

The Pan Africanist Studies chairman Prof Rwekaza Mukandala said the conference was organized to evaluate to what extent the leaders have honored contributions made the Father of the Nation.

He said several universities in collaboration with various state institutions had conducted surveys and the findings will be disseminated in the conference.

Prof Mukandala noted that even after his death,

the late Mwalimu Nyerere's influence continued to grow because of his role and contributions to making Tanzania what it is.

The don pointed out that in one of his interventions Mwalimu stopped a group of people who for their own interest raised concern about the presidential term limit.

Mwalimu made pivotal contribution to getting his successor after having declared in the 1980 election that this would be his last presidential term, and in 1995 he not only led the nomination process but also campaigned for the candidate, the former VC pointed out.

As recently as last August 17 President John Magufuli rejected calls from some of his supporters to extend his rule beyond the constitutional limit of two, five-year terms, bucking a trend in the region.

"It's impossible. I will respect the constitution," Dr Magufuli told a rally in Tanga after a CCM MP called for an extension of his rule to at least 20 years.

"I have sworn to defend the constitution. I shall play my part and pass on the leadership reins to the next president when the time comes."

Tanzania, one of sub-Saharan Africa's most stable democracies, has held five relatively peaceful multi-party elections since 1995, all won by the ruling party.



Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) chairman Salum Shamte (2nd-L) underscores to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday the need for Tanzania contractors to play a bigger role in the implementation of major development projects. He is with the foundation Executive Director Godfrey Simbeye (2nd-R), Construction Cluster head Dhruv Jog (L) and Contractors Registration Board assistant registrar (research & development) Daniel Jere. Photo: John Badi

## Local contractors get delayed tender margin of preference

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in strategic and routine projects due to ignoring the margin of preference rule. They were compelled to set prices that led them to poor performance or failing to accomplish the projects with the required quality. Their performance did not portray value for money, he said.

The Public Procurement Act 2011 under section 54(2) and (3) together with regulation 38 of PPR 2013 requires public entities to grant a margin of preference to local contractors when procuring goods, services and works by means of

international or national tendering.

However section 55(1) of PPA 2011 and regulations number 37 and 39 of PPR 2013 require procuring entities to reserve procurements of goods, services and works to local firms for which financial resources are exclusively provided by a Tanzanian public body.

"I urge local contractors to make quality, honesty and reliability the cornerstones of our companies to make the most of this preferential treatment," the fund executive underlined.

In a letter to TPSF delivered two

months ago, PPRA Acting Chief Executive Officer Peter Shilla admitted that the margin of preference was a legal right that contractors have not been enjoying for a while now.

"The authority would like to inform you that it is ready to collaborate with any public organ with the objective of ensuring the requirements of the procurement law are adhered to," he said.

Salum Shamte, the TPSF chairman, called upon the government to implement a local exclusivity requirement of projects of values not exceeding 10bn/-, not to be

tendered to foreign contractors so as to safeguard small and medium local contractors.

"We also propose that there should be mandatory joint venture for any foreign company wishing to be awarded a contract in Tanzania, with a local contractor having a minimum of 30 per cent share in joint venture or subcontractor value," he said.

Godfrey Simbeye, the TPSF Executive Director said that the foundation is currently working on advocating the government to raise the minimum threshold from 10bn/- to 30bn/- for foreign contractors in

order to align with the minimum threshold currently being discussed by stakeholders among East African Community (EAC) member states.

"The margin of preference is a legal right for contractors to enjoy. We urge procuring entities to abide by the law and make sure that they offer required support to local contractors so as they become competitive," the director underlined.

Recent Bank of Tanzania data shows that construction accounts for 22 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while from 2015 to

2019 on average the sector GDP reached 1.858trn/-.

Contractors Registration Board (CRB) data shows that from 2010 to 2017 the number of registered civil and building contractors doubled to 6,826 with 78 being foreign contracting firms.

A study commissioned by TPSF in consultation with the CRB in 2018 indicated that foreign contractors dominated the arena with 70 per cent in value of all projects leaving about 30 per cent of such works to local firms.





Kisarawe district commissioner Jokate Mwegelo (2nd-L) receives from Britam Insurance managing director Raymond Komanga sanitary pads meant for use by the students in the district. Looking on are other Britam officials. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

# JPM provides relief to 920 villages in reserve areas

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has provided relief to livestock keepers in the country after directing that people who were living in 920 villages inside the reserves to continue with their day to day activities including grazing and farming thereby putting a stop to their repeated harassment by officials from the Ministry of Natural resources and Tourism.

Speaking at different times during his ongoing visit in Rukwa and Katavi regions, the President said for many years the villagers have been living under constant harassment of which the government he leads will no longer tolerate.

He said 32.5 percent of Tanzania's land area is reserved and the population of people engaged in livestock keeping

and farming increase day by day but are confined to use the remaining 68 percent of land area. He added that 68 percent also includes lakes and rivers.

He said: "People visiting their farms or graze their livestock have repeatedly been arrested and given huge fines with their animals confiscated, and their crops burned down."

President Magufuli also said unfortunately people who were entrusted with leadership did not use their positions to find solutions to the conflicts, but preferred to use force, instead of acknowledging that land area in the country for human activities is limited.

He explained that was exactly the reason he formed a team of 8 ministers because he swore to serve poor Tanzanians including those re-

peatedly harassed in the areas they live in.

He said the team did a good job, they visited various areas home to such conflicts and came up with recommendations that 920 villages should remain in the reserves.

Hence, he said, the wanchi in those villages will remain in them as they are no longer reserved areas and warned the officials who used to harass them not to do so any more.

President Magufuli also warned that the decision made by the government of freeing the villages from the reserves does not mean the villagers can invade other areas. He said if they do so they will be removed by force this time.

He called upon the villagers who have benefited from the government decision to utilize their land well in farm-

ing, grazing and other lawful businesses as the fifth-phase government does not torture its people.

On his part the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina thanked the President for being the only Tanzanian leader ready to solve the land conflict pitting pastoralists, farmers and other land users and assured that the task of protecting the domestic market for livestock and fisheries products was going on well and that all loopholes have been plugged.

Mpina said many livestock keepers in Rukwa and Katavi regions have undergone hardships for lack of markets because the SAAFI factory in Rukwa is under capacity. He assured the president that his ministry will do its utmost for the factory to increase production capacity.

# NEMC warns on emptying of effluent in built-up areas, flood waters

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) warned yesterday that people or institutions taking advantage of the current short rains and direct waste matter to flood waters, storm water canals or rivers will be punished.

NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka, told reporters in Dar es Salaam yesterday the NEMC learned in the past that some reckless people and institutions were directing effluent to moving waters and that contaminated water either ended up in residential areas or in water bodies.

"Some irresponsible

people secretly take advantage of heavy rains to pour out waste from latrines or factories. Those doing so are not only breaking the law but they are also endangering other creatures' lives, harming people's health and swelling up public health. Culprits will be severely punished," he warned. Chemical waste,

he explained, have inherent dangerous elements to health and lives people and creatures, and that the government spends a lot of money to treat people or animals that get in contact with such elements.

The DG called for public cooperation, giving the following telephone numbers to report offenders

to the council: 0800110116 or 0683540344.

He wondered why some people found it convenient for them to direct effluent to flood waters, drainage canals, valleys and rivers.

"We want to jointly end this dangerous habit. We have asked district, municipal and city councils to make by-laws to fight this

menace. In the meantime, we shall use grassroots environment officers to enforce the law and punish culprits."


Dar es Salaam residents, he said, should follow guideline given by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority (DAWASA), further explaining that 100 Dar es Salaam environment

officers have deployed to enforce the law. "We are serious about this thing," he cautioned city residents.


Using the mass media, NEMC working under supervision of the Vice-President's Office, is credited for educating the public and ending use of carrier plastic bags in six months. Dr Gwamaka named the

remaining challenges as removal of bags trapped in mud, water bodies and other places and removing new bags from the market that do not meet standards set by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

He thanked Tanzania for cooperating with NEMC and other authorities in protecting environment.



The United Republic of Tanzania  
Ministry of Water and Irrigation  
Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region  
(WASKIRP) TAN 1403211  
Lake Tanganyika Basin Water Board Offices  
P. O. Box 24, Kigoma



REQUEST FOR PRICE QUOTATION

The Kingdom of Belgium through Enabel and the Government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water, are implementing a water and sanitation project in Kigoma region. This is a 5-year project which runs through June 2022 and aims to promote provision of sustainable water supply services in the region. This intervention has three key result areas namely: 1) sustainable water supply operations and maintenance, 2) water supply scheme rehabilitation and extension and 3) promotion of safe hygiene practices in domestic water management. Under the first result area, the Water and Sanitation Kigoma Region Project (WASKIRP) is now requesting for price quotations from suitably qualified individuals and corporate entities to carry out the following:

**1. Consultancy to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment**

The overall purpose of this assessment is to provide the project with the key environmental factors to be considered during the planning and construction of the water supply networks under WASKIRP.

**Qualifications and experience required:**

- A graduate (Master degree level) in social, environmental and economic sciences, and/or equivalent
- A minimum of 10 years of practical experience in ESIA assignments of which partly include social development projects including water, sanitation and hygiene projects
- The successful candidate will provide a traceable record of relevant experience in similar assignments


Duration of the assignment: 24 days beginning November 2019

**2. Drilling and Pumping Tests of Production Boreholes**

The project seeks to engage qualified drilling companies with experience and appropriate equipment to drill and undertake pumping tests for 2 production boreholes at Kabingo in Kakonko District in Kigoma region. The successful tenderer will be furnished with a comprehensive hydrogeological study report of the area. The contractor shall be required to drill test holes which shall later be reamed for further development.

Interested drilling companies shall be required to demonstrate ownership of drilling and pumping test equipment, experience in drilling production boreholes of not less than 8-inch internal diameter.

Method of application and details of these contracts are available at:  
<https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>



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- Bids to be addressed to the Managing Director, Stanbic Bank (T) Ltd, P.O. Box 72647, Dar es Salaam. Bids should be clearly marked as Bid for trucks, trailers and other motor vehicle equipment.
- All bids to be attached with non-refundable fee of TZS 50,000/= payable by bankers cheque or cash deposited to Stanbic Bank and receipt to that effect enclosed in the bidding documents. Account name Sundry Deposit Suspense ACCOUNT NO. 121000TZS5108001.
- Bids should be deposited in the tender box at Reception, Ground floor.
- Assets can be inspected at BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD/ MEM MIKOCHEMI YARD/MEM MWANZA YARD.
- Winner of a bid will be required to pay 25% of bidding amount immediately and the remaining amount to be paid within 7 days.
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FAW	DUMP TRUCK	2014	T 487 DCX	BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD	32,400,000.00	PAID
KOMATSU	EXCAVATOR	2010	T 475 DGZ	BILO STAR MBEZI BEACH YARD	50,000,000.00	PAID

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# National Museum receives photographs on Mwalimu Nyerere's visits to the US

By Guardian Reporter

THE US Embassy to Tanzania has contributed photographs of Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere historical visit to the United States of America as part of Nyerere Day commemoration.

The photographs dating as early as 1961 were presented yesterday to the National Museum Acting Director General, Dr. Gwakisa Kamatula by the Public Affairs Councilor, Ms Brinille Ellis.

The US Embassy Public Affairs Councilor said the photographs are presented to the National Museum as honor to Mwl. Nyerere as we commemorate his 20th years since his death.

The photos are also presented to the National Museum of Tanzania to show US commitment to the long partnership between the two countries.

"We are here presenting some of the photographs of Mwalimu's historical visits to US to enhance prosperity of our relationship," she said.

She said Mwl. Nyerere was one of greater leaders of Africa who played a greater role in liberation struggle of other African countries.

Ms Ellis said a set of photographs that were presented to the National Museum of Tanzania would also be presented to the Mwalimu Nyerere Museum in Butiama.

One of those photographs shows the former US President



US Embassy public affairs officer Brinille Ellis (L) and National Museum of Tanzania acting director Dr Gwakisa Kamatula pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday holding one of the photographs on Father of the Nation Mwalimu JK Nyerere's visits to the US. This is on Mwalimu's encounter with John F. Kennedy, who served as US President from January 20, 1961 November 22, 1963. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kennedy and the Prime Minister of Tanganyika, Julius K. Nyerere at the White House in Washington DC on 17 September 1961.

Another one shows Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, a Civil Right leader talks with President Julius Nyerere of Tanganyika at a reception given by President Kennedy in honor of President Julius Nyerere in Washington DC on 16th July 1963.

The latest photographs is the

one shows the former US President Jimmy Carter welcomes Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzania President to Atlanta, Georgia in the US May 1998, just one year before his death.

Speaking at the function held at the National Museum of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam, the Acting Director General of National Museum of Tanzania, Dr Gwakisa Kamatula said the photographs came at the right time when Tanzanians are

commemorating 20th years of Mwalimu's death.

"The photographs will enhance exhibition materials and presentation of Mwl. Contribution in Africa liberation," he said.

Dr. Kamatula said the photo presentation by the US Embassy shows that Tanzania's First President established foreign policy that enhanced partnership with different countries all over the world.

"Mwl Nyerere taught us a

lesson that partnership with other countries should be enhanced and promoted for the prosperity of present and future generation," he said.

He commended the US Embassy for the photographs donation and more support was required to the National Museum of Tanzania to enable it execute its duties of research, collection, conservation, exhibition and education to the general public.

# Zanzibar to buy new boats to serve offshore islands

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR is set to buy new boats to ease transport problems facing islanders including elders living in small islands around Unguja and Pemba.

Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein revealed this on Wednesday when he met elders of the ruling CCM in Mkoani District, South Pemba Region, and added that his government has already initiated the process.

Dr Shein who is also CCM Vice Chairman for Zanzibar mentioned six islands that stand to benefit from the new boats - the islands of Panza, Makongwe, Fundo, Uvinje, Kokota and Tumbatu.

He stressed that his government will work together with the elders as their contribution is still much needed by the community towards their political, economic and social development.

He said the elders contribution during liberation struggles for both Tanganyika and Zanzibar through Afro Shirazi Party (ASP) and Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) - fore bearers of CCM - is well recognized.

In his speech before the elders and other party officials Dr Shein said the elders contributed a lot for the attainment of independence in both countries, and such efforts should go on because it spurs the country's development.

He said is the party that stands by poor people hence it has to depend on the efforts of its members to realize its goals including ensuring it remains at the helms.

Zanzibar's Deputy Secretary General for Zanzibar Abdallah Juma Mabodi said CCM continues to value the elders that is why they have been incorporated in the party's leadership machinery.

On their part, the elders, in their statement at the meeting congratulated Dr Shein and said his decision to speak to them means he cares for them and recognize their efforts and contribution inside CCM. They also praised him for economic development attained under his leadership and the maintenance of peace and tranquility in the country.

The cited some of these to include the construction of top quality roads, increases of clove prices, monthly community pension to elders of 70 years of age or more, and provision of electricity and water in both Unguja and Pemba.

On their part the elders from Makongwe gave Dr Shein special congratulations for bringing electricity to their island that is helping them a lot in their day to day activities to better their lives.

# Stakeholders for bigger involvement of women, girls in nation-building

By Getrude Mbago

DESPITE efforts by the government and other stakeholders to empower girls to get access to education, more needs to be done to enable the teenagers to swiftly contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

Young girls raised their voices in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking ahead of the International Day of the Girl Child, which is marked today across the globe.

The day is celebrated annually on October 11 to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. This year's theme is "Girl Force: Unscripted and unstoppable."

The young graduates from different higher learning institutions across the country are pushing for more investments in girls' education.

Irene Christopher said: "Across the World, girls face adversities that hinder their education, training and entry into workforce. They have less access to information, communication technology and resources. This should be addressed to make sure the group is well empowered to take lead of various opportunities in the country."

Irene who has taken over a position as country director of Plan International for one week noted that at the root of all girls' rights issues are the social norms, attitudes and behaviors that mean girls are seen and treated as inferior.

"We must change these gender norms and end these stereotypes to achieve gender equality and large-scale change for all girls, everywhere."

Sumaiya Kareem said it is high time for the government and other institutions to step up and

intervene in public and private spaces, from homes to board rooms, to political institutions to end violence, discrimination and injustice against women and girls.

Sumaiya, who took over as Canadian High Commissioner for one week also urged well succeed women to provide their support by encouraging young girls who want to pursue leadership positions in various sectors. In her remarks, Canadian High Commissioner to Tanzania Pamela O'donnell said this is the right time to put awareness, promote the leadership of girls, and demonstrate the global capacity to work together and remove the obstacles facing girl's emancipation.

"Canada is pleased to be part of girl's takeover initiatives, knowing that it's a global course involving hundreds of girls in 60 countries stepping into impressive leadership roles."

Rosalyn Mworira, Head of Communications and Public Relation at Vodacom Tanzania hailed Plan International for coming up with the project to empower girls "Girls Take over Initiative" saying the move would change a number of young girls

According to her, Mobile technology and access to the right information puts remarkable power in a girl's hands, power that is useful for improving a girl's life and that of the community that surrounds her.

"Today, both, girls and boys can access educational materials to help them with their studies, keep them informed and help them feel more connected and relevant in the global context. They can now actively participate in national and global dialogues and learn about various issues that touch on their world", she said.



Bank of Africa managing director Joseph Iha (4th-L) cuts a cake, assisted by customers and some of his assistants, in marking the bank's Customer Service Week in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# Kanyasu cautions pastoralists against attacking conservators

By Guardian Reporter

NATURAL Resources and Tourism Deputy Minister, Constantine Kanyasu has warned pastoralists to stop attacking forest conservators when executing their duties.

He was addressing civil servants and conservators working at the Isawima game reserve in Tabora Region. The warning came following the death of a wildlife officer, Pasaka Orwa who died recently during operation to relocate livestock keepers who invaded the forest.

The operation was

conducted by wildlife officers in collaboration with region's safety and security committee.

Witnesses said that Orwa died after pastoralists attacked him with sticks. He was rushed at Kaliua health centre where he was treated and referred to Kitete regional hospital.

The Deputy Minister warned livestock keepers from attacking game rangers insisting that such incidences should not be repeated. He warned them to avoid invading reserved wild areas since there have been several cases on encroachment at

protected areas across the country.

"We must respect the law. You cannot graze and cultivate everywhere, there should be specific areas for grazing and agriculture activities," he said.

He however said that police have arrested one person in connection with the killing of a wildlife officer. He called upon security organs to continue searching for other culprits so that they are arraigned in accordance with the law.

Kaliua District Commissioner, Abel

Busalama informed the Deputy Minister that the suspect was arrested as he was seeking medical treatment at Kitete regional hospital. He said police are still searching for other suspects.

Natural Resources and Tourism Minister Dr Hamisi Kigwangala has defended game rangers insisting they are executing their duties in accordance with the country laws.

His statement follows public complaints that game rangers were using excessive force when executing their duties including during

operations against poachers.

Data from the ministry shows that a total of 23 ministry officials died and five were severely injured during operations against poachers.

In March this year, when speaking at the opening of the 26th conference of the ministry workers' council in Mwanza, Natural Resources and Tourism Minister, Dr Khamis Kigwangala defended game rangers over the use of excessive force especially when fighting against poachers.

"It is the responsibility of

every citizen to safeguard our natural resources. Protection of the resources should be done in a manner that doesn't harm any Tanzanian," said Dr Kigwangala.

The minister was saddened with the deaths of ministry officials and game rangers who lost their lives in the fight against poachers.

He said the government will take stringent measures against any ministry official colluding with the poachers in facilitating the killing of animals in national reserves.



# UN agency, Dar varsity sign new pact on advancement of women empowerment to serve in leadership posts

By Guardian Reporter

THE University of Dar es Salaam and UN Women Tanzania have signed a new agreement where UN Women will support a project on women's leadership and political empowerment.

According to the Vice Chancellor of UDSM, Prof William Anangisyee, the Women's Political Empowerment project will contribute significantly to the advancement of women's leadership and political participation in the country.

"This is a very important initiative for the university, as it fits very well with our goal of promoting women's rights and gender equality including through improving policies and practices for the achievement of sustainable development," said Prof Anangisyee.

The project, to be implemented by the University's Department of Political Science over the course of one year, will see over 1,300 women political aspirants in the country receive training to enhance their confidence, capacity to lead, campaign strategies and strengthen their resource mobilization and community mobilization skills.

An analysis of the role of women's wings within political parties, and their role in promoting women's political participation will also be undertaken.

"Furthermore, the Department of Political Science will collaborate with the University's Institute of Gender Studies to build capacity and raise awareness on issues of violence against women in politics," said Prof Anangisyee.

Under this component, the Institute of Gender Studies will

also lead the establishment of an Information Lab on women's political participation in order to ensure that data and information on the issue is systematically collected, analyzed and made available to the public.

In her remarks, UN Women Representative, Hodan Addou emphasized the organisation's commitment to supporting greater participation of women in leadership, and the need for consolidated efforts in order to achieve success.

"I am confident that with wider collaboration and engagement, we can help Tanzania achieve equal opportunities for women's leadership at all levels of decision-making. It is the key to unlocking the transformational change we want to see and build a safer, more equal and



Hodan Addou (L), UN Women's Country Representative in Tanzania, and University of Dar es Salaam Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisyee pictured in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday signing a funding agreement on women's leadership and political empowerment. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

prosperous world," said Ms. Addou.

The Women's Political Empowerment project at UDSM will be implemented under the UN Women flagship project on Women's Leadership and Political Participation (WLPP), also known as the "WanawakeWa-

naweza" Phase II project which will run from 2017 - 2021.

Funded by the Governments of Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the "WanawakeWanaweza" project seeks to improve

women's political leadership and participation by creating an enabling environment, eliminating social barriers, supporting institutional change, building the capacity of potential and actual women leaders, and addressing violence against women in politics.

# Govt promises Katavi residents improvement of road infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS in Katavi Region have been assured of improvement to the road infrastructure and provision of electricity and water in their areas in recognition of their huge efforts in the production of food crops.

The assurance was given Wednesday by President John Magufuli as he spoke to wananchi at a rally in Kibaoni, Mlele District. The president was in last stage of his 9-day official visit to three regions in South West of the country.

Earlier the President inaugurated the 76.6 km Kanazi-Kizi-Kibaoni road and 85.3 km long Kavuu Bridge along Majimoto-Inyonga road.

The construction of Kanazi-Kizi-Kibaoni road is part of the 245 km main Sumbawanga-Namanyere-Mpanda highway costing 102.4b/- wholly funded by the Tanzania government.

The construction of the Kavuu Bridge that connects Mpimbe District Council headquarters and Mlele in Rukwa Region has cost 3.6b/- wholly funded by the Tanzania government.

President Magufuli said he has directed the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications to start preparatory work for the construction of the 71 km Kibaoni-Sitalike stretch which remains to be tarmacked and which will eventually connect Rukwa and Katavi regions through Katavi National Park.

He explained that the government has resolved to ensure the Mpanda-Uvinza-Kanazi main highways at tarmac level is completed so that the southern highlands region that joins Tanzania with Zambia, Malawi up to South Africa is connected to western regions that connect Tanzania with Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and Uganda.



**President Magufuli said he has directed the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications to start preparatory work for the construction of the 71 km Kibaoni-Sitalike stretch which remains to be tarmacked and which will eventually connect Rukwa and Katavi regions through Katavi National Park.**

Concerning land disputes, President Magufuli the government has resolved that 920 villages out of 975 in the country which are inside reserved areas will remain as they are, the decision which will decommission 12 forest reserves with a total of 707,660 acres; and 7 forests (46,715 acres) as well as to free areas of land from 14 reserves to enable the wananchi to live in, cultivate and graze. He said from this decision 60 villages that will benefit are in Katavi Region.

The Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development William Lukuvi elaborated that land experts will visit the villages to educate the wananchi on proper land use to avoid conflicts that may arise among them.

President Magufuli also warned that following this step the government will not expect the wananchi to continue invading reserved areas and called on them to utilize the freed areas to grow crops that would earn them income.

The President later visited the Katavi National Park and spoke to TANAPA officials and game wardens during which he congratulated for good work including fight against poachers, the efforts that enabled the increase of protected wildlife.

He called on TANAPA Conservation Dr Allan Kijazi to dig water ponds of rain water that will be used by the wildlife during dry seasons.

Yesterday President Magufuli was expected to continue with his tour of Katavi region and was expected to unveil the Regional Bus Stand and lay cornerstone for the construction of Mpanda-Sitalike road and later address a rally at Azimio Stadium in Mpanda Town.

# Relief as 800 students get clean and safe water in Arusha Region

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

MORE than 800 students of Mukulati Secondary School in Arumeru District, Arusha Region will no longer walk eight kilometers in search of water after HakiE-

limu handed a water well it drilled at the school costing of 25m/-.

At the function to hand over the well to the school authorities early this week before the British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke, the Director of HakiElimu Dr

John Kalage said the well was constructed with funding from the British government through the High Commission.

He said from the amount the wananchi contributed 5m/- and HakiElimu 20m/- and added that the water

problem at the school is now past history, as students spent a lot of their learning time looking for water. He also said because of this, girls students started recording poor marks in class.

"There are 84 girls students who board at the

school, and since the coming of the water well they have started to do well in class, because the time they used to take fetching water took most of their study times," he said. He said the High Commission has been a huge help in the country through HakiElimu as it has given various assistance to 127 schools in the country especially in pastoralists' areas.

He said in Arusha Region it is giving assistance to 8 schools including four primary schools, and the goals is to assist girls students by

increasing their numbers in both primary and secondary schools.

On his part the Headmaster of Mukulati secondary School Vitalis Nada thanked the visiting British High Commissioner who came to see for herself how the donation from her country was used.

He said the school is within the pastoralists' community hence it faces many challenges especially in maintaining learning standards for girl students by improving their environments.

unicef | for every child

United Nations Children's Fund | Tanzania Country Office  
P.O. Box 4076, Plot 133, Kanume Road, Oysterbay Dar es Salaam  
Telephone: (255) 22 219-6600 | Facsimile: (255) 22 260-1355 | [daressalaam@unicef.org](mailto:daressalaam@unicef.org) | [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

## Request for Proposal for Technical facilitation of the process for development of national multisectoral ECD program (Guideline, Implementation plan, costing and financing, M & EL) LRPS 2019-9151666

UNICEF Tanzania is looking for engaging a reputable Institution to support facilitation process for development of multisectoral Early Childhood Development (ECD) Program (Guideline, Implementation Plan, Costing and financing, M & EL).

The Institution will liaise closely and receive guidance from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC), National Multisectoral ECD Task Force and Secretariat throughout the process of developing the National Multisectoral ECD Program and is expected to utilize gender responsive approaches and ensure disability inclusiveness. The key experience and qualification should include but not limited to the following:

- Demonstrable experience of developing national-level, government-oriented, multisectoral plans/programmes through participatory process.
- Demonstrable understanding of government organization, and hierarchy of technical structures for providing effective coordination and delivery of multisectoral agenda.
- Strong technical understanding of the Tanzania early childhood development sector and policy and implementation context, including integrating gender equality perspectives in strategic documents
- Strong understanding of the global early childhood development policy and implementation context, including the Nurturing Care Framework.
- Facilitation skills across multi-stakeholder setting, and especially with regards government systems and practice for progressing technical dialogue.
- Fluency in Swahili and English, with excellent communication, interpersonal and writing skills

For more information on this assignment including detailed terms of reference, objectives, timelines, milestones, deliverables and how to apply log onto <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/96055>.

Deadline for applications 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

## JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA WIZARA YA UJENZI, UCHUKUZI NA MAWASILIANO

Simu: +255 26 2324455  
Fax: +255 26 2323233  
Barua Pepe: [pe@mow.gov.tz](mailto:pe@mow.gov.tz)  
Tovuti: [www.mwtc.go.tz](http://www.mwtc.go.tz)



Mtaa wa Moshi,  
S.L.P. 2888,  
404700DOMA,  
05-10-2019

### TANGAZO

1. Ndugu wananchi mnatangaziwa kuwa siku ya Jumapili tarehe 13-10-2019 kampuni ya **Mainline Carriers Ltd** itasafirisha Mzigo wako wenye vipimo vikubwa kutoka Dar es salaam kuelekea Chang'ombe, gari hizo zenye namba za usajili:

T 636 DFA / T 887 DJB  
T212 BTE/T 574 BZB  
T653 DFA/T 900 BAZ  
T195 BTE/T837 DJB

2. Gari hizo zina vipimo vifuatavyo:

Urefu	-	mita	27
Upana	-	mita	4.0
Kimo	-	mita	5.1

3. Njia itakayotumika: Dar es salaam Port hadi Chang'ombe kupitia Mandela road, Gari zitasafiri muda wa mchana tu (kuanzia saa 12:30 Asubuhi mpaka saa 12:00 jioni)

Tunaomba radhi kwa usumbufu utakaojitokeza.

Enabel

## PUBLIC TENDER Ref: TAN 133 Constructions of KALALANGABO FISHING LAND SITE

Enabel, The Belgian Development Agency, works in partnership with the ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism in implementation of Natural Resources and Management Project in Kigoma Region (**NRM LED**) is now inviting suitable and Qualified Constructors to apply for the public tender for works for the constructions of Kalalangabo fishing site in kigoma region.

Details for this tender which include Tender documents and all relevant details are available in enabel website at: [www.enabel.be](http://www.enabel.be) and <https://btctanzania.wordpress.com/>

All local companies and all Contractors are invited to visits the website and apply:



# NEC stresses need for citizens to register for November civic polls

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Electoral Commission (NEC) has said the voters' identity cards issued by the commission will not be used in the next month's civic polls insisting on people to separately register for the exercise at local government's offices.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday, NEC Director Dr Wilson Mahera insisted that registration for the civic polls started on October 8th this year and is supervised by the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government. The civic polls will be conducted on November 24th, 2019.

"We are not supervising the polls, but we insist on eligible Tanzanians to register since unregistered residents will not be allowed to vote," said the Director calling upon Tanzanians to massively register for the November polls.

Dr Mahera said Section 74 (6) of the country's Constitution directs NEC to register and supervise General Elections where citizens in both, Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar vote for the President, legislators and councilors.

"The ongoing registration at local gov-

ernments is different from NEC's ongoing update of permanent voter register currently going on at various regions across the country. We are registering voters for the 2020 General Elections," he said.

Dr Mahera said NEC is now preparing to update the voter's permanent register in Tabora, Katavi and Uvinza district in Kigoma region. He said the exercise will take place between October 14th and 20th this year.

He said NEC will conduct a similar exercise in Songwe, Dodoma and Singida regions from October 26th to November 1st, 2019.

Last week, Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo, said the civic polls will be held on November 24th 2019.

He also announced names of 184 public officers who will oversee civic polls.

He said regulations demanded that candidates should be sponsored by political parties with permanent registration.

The minister added that only eligible citizens will contest in the elections and they will be required to collect and fill in nomination forms 26 days before the polls.



TPB Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (2nd-L) symbolically presents 3.5m/- worth 100 bags of cement and 1,000 bricks Nduruma Secondary School headmistress Hilda Zoya in Arusha city on Wednesday. It was the bank's contribution towards the construction of a girls' dormitory at the school. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# PCCB to drag six police officers to court over bribe allegations

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Tabora Region is to arraign six police officers and two village executives for allegedly soliciting a 8.4m/- bribe from

a 95-year-old man.

PCCB Acting Commander in Tabora region, Mussa Chaulo told journalists yesterday that the senior citizen, Ngaka Mataaluma, a resident of Isakamaliwa ward was arrested by the officials for allegedly being found in possession of nar-

cotics.

Commander Chaulo mentioned the police officers as Frank Matiko, Raphael Maliji, Paulo Mbingwa, Lucas Nyoni, Charles Masanja and Lome Laizer all from Igunga police station. The two others are, Isakamaliwa village executive

officer, Edward Kitenya and Isakamaliwa village chairman, Juma Mwangala.

He said the suspects received 8,450,000/- from the old man promising to assist him in his case.

The officials are also said to solicit a 500,000/-

bribe from another person accusing him of witchcraft. He said, finally, they agreed to take 45,000/- from the suspect and released him.

"We are going to arraign them though they returned the monies on August 7th this year," said the commander.



## THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

### SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

The United Republic of Tanzania  
Zanzibar Improving Students Prospects (ZISP) Project  
Loan No./Credit No: P153277

Contract Title: Supply, Delivery and Installation of Disable Equipment, Networking Equipment and ICT Equipment for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba.

Reference No: TZ-MOEV-1578-GO-RFB

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has applied for a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Zanzibar Improving Students Prospects (ZISP) Project, and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds for payment under the contract for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Disable Equipment, Networking Equipment and ICT Equipment for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba.

The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Disable Equipment, Networking Equipment and ICT Equipment for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba as follows:

Package No.	Lot No.	Description of Goods to be supplied	Quantities	Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS
1	Lot 1	Disable Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja	Various	Respective Schools
	Lot 2	Networking Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja	Various	
	Lot 3	ICT Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja	Various	
2	Lot 1	Disable Equipment for (10) Schools in Pemba	Various	Respective Schools
	Lot 2	Networking Equipment for (10) Schools in Pemba	Various	
	Lot 3	ICT Equipment for (10) Schools in Pemba	Various	

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) 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 January, 2011 ("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 Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar, Secretary Ministerial Tender Board P.O. Box 394 Zanzibar and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except on public holidays, or e-mail: [pmu@moez.go.tz](mailto:pmu@moez.go.tz) or [info@moez.go.tz](mailto:info@moez.go.tz) 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 Tanzanian Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only (TZS. 100,000/=). The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or cash payable to the Project Account Number 0404397000 with a Title name ZISP PROJECT. Swift Code PBZA TZTZ.

Bids shall be valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days after Bid Opening and must be delivered to the address below on or before 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 30th October, 2019. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids shall 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 at 10.30 a.m. of Wednesday, 30th October, 2019.

Bids MUST be accompanied by an "Original Bid Security" in an acceptable form as described in the Bidding Document amounting to at least TZS 3,500,000/- for Package (1) - Lot 1 (Disable Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja), TZS 7,500,000/- for Package (1) Lot 2 (Networking Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja), TZS 45,000,000/- for Package (1) - Lot 3 (ICT Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja), TZS 2,500,000/- for Package (2) - Lot 1 (Disable Equipment for (10) Schools in Pemba), TZS 4,500,000/- for Package (2) Lot 2 (Networking Equipment for (10) Schools in Pemba) and TZS 32,000,000/- for Package (2) Lot 3 (ICT Equipment for (10) Schools in Pemba), properly addressed to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

The address referred to above is:

The Secretary of the Board,  
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Tender Board,  
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18  
Mazizini, Airport Road  
P.O. Box 394,  
ZANZIBAR.

City: Zanzibar town  
Country: Tanzania

Telephone: +255 24 2234267,  
Facsimile No: +255 24 2232827

Email: [pmu@moez.go.tz](mailto:pmu@moez.go.tz) or [info@moez.go.tz](mailto:info@moez.go.tz).



## THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF ZANZIBAR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

### SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE (SPN)

The United Republic of Tanzania  
Zanzibar Improving Students Prospects (ZISP) Project  
Loan No./Credit No: P153277

Contract Title: Re-tendering for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Resource Language Equipment for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba.

Reference No: TZ-MOEV-1580-GO-RFB

The Government of United Republic of Tanzania represented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar under Ministry of Education and Vocational Training has applied for a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Zanzibar Improving Students Prospects (ZISP) Project, and intends to apply part of the credit proceeds for payment under the contract for Re-tendering for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Resource Language Equipment for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba.

The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Re-tendering for Supply, Delivery and Installation of Resource Language Equipment for 24 Schools in Unguja and Pemba as follows:

Package No.	Lot No.	Description of Goods to be supplied	Quantities	Final (Project Site) Destination as specified in BDS
1	Lot 1	Networking Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja	Various	Respective Schools
	Lot 2	ICT Equipment for (14) Schools in Unguja	Various	
2	Lot 1	Networking Equipment for (10) Schools in Unguja	Various	Respective Schools
	Lot 2	ICT Equipment for (10) Schools in Unguja	Various	

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) 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 January, 2011 ("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 Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Zanzibar, Secretary Ministerial Tender Board P.O. Box 394 Zanzibar and inspect the bidding documents during office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. except on public holidays, or e-mail: [pmu@moez.go.tz](mailto:pmu@moez.go.tz) or [info@moez.go.tz](mailto:info@moez.go.tz) 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 Tanzanian Shillings One Hundred Thousand Only (TZS. 100,000/=). The method of payment will be by Banker's Draft, Banker's Cheque or cash payable to the Project Account Number 00404397000 with a Title name ZISP PROJECT. Swift Code PBZA TZTZ.

Bids shall be valid for a period of at least ninety (90) days after Bid Opening and must be delivered to the address below on or before 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 30th October 2019. Electronic bidding shall not be permitted. Late bids shall 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 at 11.00 p.m. of Wednesday, 30th October 2019.

Bids MUST be accompanied by an "Original Bid Security" in an acceptable form as described in the Bidding Document amounting to at least TZS 3,500,000/- for Package (1) - Lot 1 (Networking Equipment for 14 Schools in Unguja), TZS 35,000,000/- for Package (1) - Lot 2 (ICT Equipment for 14 Schools in Unguja), TZS 2,500,000/- for Package (2) - Lot 1 (Networking Equipment for 10 Schools in Pemba) and TZS 25,000,000/- for Package (2) - Lot 2 (ICT Equipment for 10 Schools in Pemba) properly addressed to the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, Zanzibar.

The address referred to above is:

The Secretary of the Board,  
Ministry of Education and Vocational Training  
Tender Board,  
Ground Floor, Room number 17/18  
Mazizini, Airport Road  
P.O. Box 394,  
ZANZIBAR.

City: Zanzibar town  
Country: Tanzania

Telephone: +255 24 2234267,  
Facsimile No: +255 24 2232827

Email: [pmu@moez.go.tz](mailto:pmu@moez.go.tz) or [info@moez.go.tz](mailto:info@moez.go.tz).



# Bring up improved strategies of helping potential innovators, African govts urged

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

AFRICAN governments have been advised to come up with comparative legal frameworks for developing young innovators to enable them develop solutions by using their talents.

Head of legal department from Stanbic Bank in Uganda, Candy Wekesa threw the challenge yesterday in Dar es Salaam in a session on nurturing startup ecosystem and building startups which is part of the ongoing week long series of events under the Sahara Sparks 2019 organised by Sahara Ventures.

Themed 'Africa in The Fourth Industrial Revolution' the event is a platform for different stakeholders to meet and reflect on the role of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship on fostering social economic development in Africa.

Wekesa said Africa is blessed with the biggest asset of young innovative people who if developed, will be a great catalyst for the economy.

She underscored the need for collaborative approach on making use of available opportunities. She said the efforts include convening round table discussions with regulators and preparing an environment that will allow innovation to take place in a controlled manner.

"We need to understand that youth have got huge potentials that are capable to influence development in the continent, there is a great need to set up regulatory frameworks to facilitate development of the young

generation," said the expert.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Standard Chartered Bank, Sanjay Rughani said the bank in collaboration with other institution has launched an initiative called financial literacy that will educate about 50,000 to 100,000 youth individuals to prepare them for future economy.

"It is train of trainers session that will focus on enhancing the understanding of better and simple means of making money, and management of money as well as how to make a potential investment for the future," he said.



**We need to understand that youth have got huge potentials that are capable to influence development in the continent...**

He added that the programme is part of the skills they ought to provide to young people especially girls in order for them to be prepared for their future life.

Sahara Sparks event organised by Sahara Ventures focuses on the role of Africa in the fourth industrial revolution, aiming to spark conversations towards the recent technological advancement in Africa and what it means to the grassroots citizens.

It also addresses the role of technology in addressing challenges and creating opportunities in different sectors in Africa.



China Commercial Bank Staff pose for a break-time photo after attending to customers at the bank's ongoing Customer Service Week celebrations in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

# All set for second Africa Investment Forum

ABIDJAN

THE second edition of the Africa Investment Forum, a game-changer to tilt capital flow into the continent, is scheduled to take place from in Johannesburg from November 11 to 13.

Organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and its partners, the forum is the largest multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary marketplace aimed at

raising capital, advancing projects to bankable stage and accelerating financial closure of deals.

It is widely rates as the biggest transactional gathering of global and pan-African investors on the continent.

There is an urgent need to bridge the gap between Africa's available capital and bankable projects. The continent brims with investment opportunities but financing its development needs will require

between \$200 billion and \$1.2 trillion yearly. Of this, about \$130-\$170 billion a year is needed for infrastructure, according to AfDB data.

The bank is working with other multilateral development partners and stakeholders to ensure that the Forum becomes the continent's key springboard for investment to meet the massive infrastructure and development needs.

Like the previous edition, this year's forum will bring together project sponsors, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, private investors, policy makers, private equity firms, and heads of government to advance Africa's economic transformation agenda.

The inaugural edition broke the mould for investment in Africa by featuring some 63 projects from across 24 countries and seven sectors valued at \$46.9 billion.

## First Housing Finance (Tanzania) Limited Audited Financial Statements



Issued pursuant to Regulation 58 of The Banking and Financial Institutions (Mortgage Finance) Regulations, 2015.

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Year 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Previous Year 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017
<b>A. ASSETS</b>		
1. Cash	1,218	532
2. Balances with Bank of Tanzania	-	-
3. Investments in Government Securities	-	-
4. Balances with Other Banks and Financial Institutions	17,667,502	18,372,697
5. Cheques and Items for Clearing	-	-
6. Interbranch Float Items	-	-
7. Bills Negotiated	-	-
8. Customers' Liabilities for Acceptances	-	-
9. Interbank Loans Receivables	-	-
10. Investments in Other Securities	-	-
11. Loans, Advances and Overdrafts (Net of Allowances for Probable Losses)	935,641	102,363
12. Other Assets	576,301	346,276
13. Equity Investments	1,000,000	1,000,000
14. Underwriting Accounts	-	-
15. Property, Plant and Equipment	870,499	1,109,364
<b>16. TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>21,051,161</b>	<b>20,931,232</b>
<b>B. LIABILITIES</b>		
17. Deposits from Other Banks and Financial Institutions	-	-
18. Customer Deposits	358,884	-
19. Cash Letters of Credit	-	-
20. Special Deposits	-	-
21. Payment Orders/ Transfers Payable	-	-
22. Bankers' Cheques and Drafts Issued	-	-
23. Accrued Taxes and Expenses Payable	885,452	535,178
24. Acceptances Outstanding	-	-
25. Interbranch Float Items	-	-
26. Unearned Income and Other Deferred Charges	-	-
27. Other Liabilities	-	-
28. Borrowings	318,691	-
<b>29. TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,563,027</b>	<b>535,178</b>
<b>30. NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29)</b>	<b>19,488,134</b>	<b>20,396,054</b>
<b>C. SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>		
31. Paid up Share Capital	21,800,000	21,800,000
32. Capital Reserve	-	-
33. Retained Earnings	(1,434,035)	(1,006,536)
34. Profit/(Loss) Account	(887,188)	(398,438)
35. Other Capital Accounts	9,357	1,024
36. Minority Interest	-	-
<b>37. TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>19,488,134</b>	<b>20,396,054</b>
38. Contingent Liabilities	-	-
39. Non Performing Loans & Advances	-	-
40. Allowance for Expected Losses	104,671	-
41. Other Non Performing Assets	-	-
<b>D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS</b>		
(i). Shareholders Funds to Total Assets	92.58%	97.44%
(ii). Non Performing Loans to Total Gross Loans	-	-
(iii). Gross Loans & Advances to Total Deposits	260.72%	-
(iv). Loans & Advances to Total Assets	4.44%	0.49%
(v). Earning Assets to Total Assets	9.20%	90.06%
(vi). Deposits Growth	100.00%	-
(vii). Assets Growth	0.57%	44.96%

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Year 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Previous Year 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017
1. Interest Income	1,468,021	1,312,878
2. Interest Expense	(15,026)	-
<b>3. Net Interest Income</b>	<b>1,452,995</b>	<b>1,312,878</b>
4. Bad Debts Written-Off	-	-
5. Expected Credit Losses	(83,939)	-
<b>6. Non Interest Income :</b>	<b>46,363</b>	<b>38,903</b>
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/ (Loss)	3,366	38,903
6.2 Fees and Commissions	26,031	-
6.3 Dividend Income	12,028	-
6.4 Other Operating Income	4,938	-
<b>7. Non Interest Expenses :</b>	<b>(2,293,909)</b>	<b>(1,750,219)</b>
7.1 Salaries and Benefit	(810,701)	(615,445)
7.2 Fees and Commissions	-	-
7.3 Other Operating Expenses	(1,483,208)	(1,134,774)
<b>8. Operating Income/ (Loss)</b>	<b>(878,490)</b>	<b>(398,438)</b>
9. Income Tax Provision	(8,698)	-
<b>10. Net Income/ (Loss) after Income Tax</b>	<b>(887,188)</b>	<b>(398,438)</b>
<b>11. Other Comprehensive Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>12. Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss)</b>	<b>(887,188)</b>	<b>(398,438)</b>
13. Number of Employees	10	10
14. Basic Earnings Per Share	(4.07)	(2.07)
15. Number of Branches	1	1
<b>SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</b>		
(i). Return on Average Total Assets	(4.23)%	(2.25)%
(ii). Return on Average Shareholder's Fund	(4.45)%	(2.30)%
(iii). Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	151.47%	129.48%
(iv). Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	13.98%	13.23%

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Share Capital	Share Premium	Retained Earnings	General Provision	Total
<b>Current Year (2018)</b>					
Balance as at the beginning of the year	21,800,000	-	(1,404,970)	1,024	20,396,054
Impact of adopting IFRS 9	-	-	(20,732)	-	(20,732)
Profit / (Loss) for the year	-	-	(887,188)	-	(887,188)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	(8,333)	8,333	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the year</b>	<b>21,800,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,321,223)</b>	<b>9,357</b>	<b>19,488,134</b>
<b>Previous Year (2017)</b>					
Balance as at the beginning of the year	15,260,000	-	(1,005,508)	-	14,254,492
Profit / (Loss) for the year	-	-	(398,438)	-	(398,438)
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners	6,540,000	-	-	-	6,540,000
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-
Regulatory Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
General Provision	-	-	(1,024)	1,024	-
Others	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at the end of the year</b>	<b>21,800,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(1,404,970)</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>20,396,054</b>

### CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2018

(Amounts in Thousand shillings)	Current Year 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	Previous Year 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2017
<b>I. Cash Flow from Operating Activities:</b>		
Net Income/ (Loss)	(878,490)	(398,438)
<b>Adjustments for</b>		
- Amortization/ Depreciation	404,806	63,218
- Expected Credit Losses	83,939	-
- Change in Loans and Advances	(833,333)	(102,363)
- Gain/Loss from Sale of Assets	-	-
- Change in Deposits	358,884	-
- Change in Short Term Negotiable Securities	-	350,181
- Change in Other Liabilities	350,274	350,181
- Change in Short-Term Borrowings	318,691	-
- Change in Other Assets	(272,550)	(88,135)
- Tax Paid	(7,495)	-
- Others (Dividend)	(12,028)	-
<b>Net Cash Provided/ (used) by Operating Activities</b>	<b>(487,302)</b>	<b>(175,537)</b>
<b>II: Cash Flow from Investing Activities</b>		
- Dividend Received	10,825	-
- Purchase of Fixed Assets	(111,983)	(1,162,388)
- Proceeds from Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-
- Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-
- Proceed from Sale of Non-Dealing Securities	-	-
- Purchase of Intangibles	(11,433)	(268,335)
<b>Net Cash Used by Investing Activities</b>	<b>(112,591)</b>	<b>(1,430,723)</b>
<b>III. Cash Flow from Financing Activities</b>		
- Repayment of Long-Term Debt	-	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Long Term Debt	-	-
- Proceeds from Issuance of Share Capital	-	6,540,000
- Payment of Cash Dividends	-	-
- Net Change in Other Borrowings	-	-
- Others (specify)	-	-
<b>Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,540,000</b>
<b>IV. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash and Cash equivalents	(599,893)	4,933,740
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the year	18,373,229	13,439,489
Expected Credit Loss on Bank Balances	(104,616)	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the year	17,668,720	18,373,229

Name and Title	Signature	Date
Omar S. Msangi (Chief Executive Officer)	Signed	27th September 2019
Vineet Patel (Ag. Head of Finance)	Signed	27th September 2019
Derrick Rushekyva (Ag. Internal Auditor)	Signed	27th September 2019
The above extracts are from the Financial Statements of the Financial Institution for the year ended 31st December 2018, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The Financial Statements were audited by Ernst & Young - Certified Public Accountants and received an unqualified audit report.		
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and signed on their behalf by:		
Name	Signature	Date
Vinod Rustagi Director	Signed	27th September 2019
Jackson Lohay Director	Signed	27th September 2019



# The Guardian

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FRIDAY 4 OCTOBER 2019

Taking A New Look  
At The News  
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

## Fighting mental diseases will be long, arduous national mission

EXPERTS say that the number of people with mental disturbances in the country is on the increase - with Dar es Salaam Region leading the pack, accounting for 20 per cent of all cases.

Hospital records show that the number of patients with mental health problems rose from 301,000 in 2016 to 356,000 last year countrywide, an increase of slightly over 25,000 new patients each year.

Some experts in a recent workshop to discuss a World Health Organisation report on the same occasion of World Health Day all the same noted that there were some centres whose data were not fully taken into account, implying that the situation is much worse.

In any case, even without having exact numbers, it is enough to take account of the breadth of post-college unemployment to see how acute the situation is likely to be.

And there are no easy answers in this context, outside a certain amount of advice and facilities for screening, etc. This figure is however seen as conservative as it excludes current data from the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) in Dar es Salaam, Mirembe Hospital in Dodoma and various specialised centres.

It was not however altogether remarkable that out of this figure, Dar es Salaam region has 20 per cent of the cases, while the breakdown for other major urban centres is more accidental.

Indeed, it is not evident that the number of cases for Dar es Salaam is per capita wise the highest, as Kilimanjaro Region has slightly below 50 per

cent of its cases, whereas population wise it scarcely squares up with half of the Dar es Salaam population, which by some estimates stands at around five million people. It implies that major urban centres around the country are tougher places to live in for youth than Dar es Salaam.

The other mental disturbance major centres are Kilimanjaro (9 per cent of total), Tanga (7 per cent), Morogoro (5 per cent) and Mwanza (4 per cent).

Surprisingly, Katavi had the fewest cases at 0.1 per cent of the national total, which also needs to be explained. One explanation for this is that less urbanised than the rest, which means that rural areas offer greater scope of adaptation even for its small towns.

The observation was helpful to picture how we would shape up when we joined the rest of the world in marking World Mental Health Day yesterday.

A top-level expert at the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Unit under the Health ministry explained that the sharp rises in mental ill health were tied to economic hardship and substance abuse.

Still, the wider scope of associating mental illnesses with hereditary factors, biological disposition, disasters, injuries and some diseases like malaria and HIV/Aids that also have side-effects on the brain is likely to account for marginal numbers of mental disturbances.

Such factors are fairly well distributed countrywide, and still urban centres with better medical facilities have higher levels than vast rural zones. That's why the battle against mental illnesses will be long and hard as it is in fact a matter of restoring hope from childhood to adulthood.

## Hacking into HESLB loans allocation database is case of economic sabotage

REPORTS that there have been close to 2,700 attempts to hack the Higher Education Students' Loans Board (HESLB) online loans application and allocation database as the new academic year starts are unsettling.

This wave of criminality falls squarely into the cyber crime category, and its perpetrators ought not to think that they are being clever. Even if it takes time, hacking can be tracked to source.

The key reason for hacking into the higher education students' facility is the wish to irregularly release money to applicants, that is, add names in a fraudulent manner to approved loan applicants.

That expectation shows something close to gross naivety, as it first presumes that the hacking would not be noticed, and thus the list for eligible beneficiaries will be taken casually. Neither of the two end points of the hacking frame of mind suggests rational planning in it.

Still, as top HESLB officials have remarked, those attempts were blocked thanks to improved data and systems security, meanwhile as the board is connecting the database with systems of kindred organisations such that obtaining a permit to operate any of its wings or endpoints is more difficult.

A back-up site has been established at the National Data Centre in Dar es Salaam and four ICT experts have been recruited, boosting its ICT strength.

This ought to improve system resilience in the face of sustained attacks from persons taking a brush with the law, thinking they are clever and can simply and safely insert names.

More directly, the board has developed an online Student Individual Permanent Account, a students online correction facility and an online appeal facility, which HESLB says have already been completed and tested. It means

some waiting queues will be cut short.

When the database and allocation system are connected with the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE), the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) and other key stakeholders, the sabotage agents will find it more difficult to operate.

Even being able to break into the database is a massive problem, although no irregular allocations were noticed - which would then occasion such an inquiry. So, the system is working properly but is being strengthened.

There is also an issue that has just surfaced where the board says it is contemplating making the application window open throughout the year.

Yet, on the basis of its current operational format, it will not have much to do for the rest of the year outside managing in a continuous manner what had already been decided at the time of starting a new academic year.

The point is that the board only considers the applications of those who have obtained admission into universities, not applying to such institutions, to eliminate or drastically cut cases of double allocation if someone obtains into two academic institutions.

There were other issues that a leader of the Tanzania Higher Learning Institutions Students Organisation (TAHLISO) touched on. One is that many students fail to get loans for failing to properly fill in the forms as they are challenged in technology use.

Similarly, students who studied in private schools are denied loans as their families are supposed to be well off, which the student leader questioned.

Still, even if such worry comes around, it is no basis for hacking the HESLB database to falsely raise the number of beneficiaries, so the applicants or their parents, guardians or sponsors should stop playing with fire.

### The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO  
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO, 0716 500500

### Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710  
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON  
0757154767  
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

### Advertising

Sales and Marketing Manager: KAUTHAR D'SOUZA  
Tel: 0767 223311, 0745 700710  
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz  
Website: www.ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com



## When returning home is deadly, and shame is the returnees' worst enemy

By Anna Pujol-Mazzini

THE six-day journey to Spain's Canary Islands from Dakar, Senegal's capital, on an agitated sea did not break Moustapha. Nor did hearing what happened to the other five boats departing with his: none of them made it, nor did the hundreds of people they carried.

"I was lucky enough to succeed, despite all the difficulties: the wind, the cold, the 20-meter waves, all of it," he says in his home in the fishing town of Thiaryoye-sur-Mer on the outskirts of the Senegalese capital.

But if the journey didn't break Moustapha, something else almost did: returning home empty-handed. Back in Thiaryoye in 2006, Moustapha faced the contempt of his neighbours. Family members refused to put him up. He was a "failure".

"Here in Senegal, it is not in our culture to accept someone who tried to migrate and failed," the young man explains. He was discouraged, alone and ashamed at having failed his family, to whom he had promised a better future. "If at the time I could have killed myself, I would have," he notes.

In Senegal, many returnees come home after traumatic journeys, only to find themselves excluded from their families and communities. With little to no social or psychological support, some end up taking their lives.

Researchers and local returnee support groups point to a handful such cases in recent years. For each migrant who took their life, dozens more suffer in silence, like Moustapha did.

A health ministry official says mental health services are few in Senegal, a country with around 30 psychiatrists for 14 million people.

"Returning 'home' can be mistakenly seen as an easy and unproblematic process as migrants reintegrate and resettle in their hometown and within their communities and families," said Gaia Quaranta, a Dakar-based psychologist for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for West and Central Africa.

"This assumption does not consider the emotional, social and cultural complexity and the readjustment challenges the returnees might face," she notes.

"Upon their return, some migrants can face negative psychological reactions like shame and guilt, self-perception to be a failure, hopelessness, low self-esteem, frustration or anger," Quarant explained.

She elaborated: "It is important to

make them understand that those reactions are normal in highly challenging situations such as Libya. Psychosocial support is therefore fundamental and aims at enhancing migrant's psychosocial well-being and foster their resilience."

According to Quarant, for migrants with pre-existing mental disorders or psychosocial vulnerabilities whose mental health conditions may have been exacerbated during the migration journey, a referral to specialised psychiatric care and psychological support might be needed.

Sometimes, the best one can do to help returnees is to talk to them. To avoid having others slip into the kind of despair he experienced, Moustapha created a support group in Thiaryoye for migrant returnees.

"If someone has 'failed', we have to take a step in their direction, talk to them, and tell them: 'This is not the end of the world'," he explained, adding: "We can stay here, make money here, and feed our families here."

On most days, Thiaryoye's young men gather around Moustapha at the local carpenter's shop, kept in the shade by freshly painted doors set outside to dry.

Over a few small glasses of attaya, the local tea, those who came back talk to those others who still dream of going. Challenges, failures and fears are all discussed, and the debates sometimes become heated. But the men are no longer alone in dealing with the suffering and the shame.

Statistics on the suicide of returnees are hard to come by. In a country whose religious observers are 95 per cent Muslim, suicide is a taboo, and many such deaths go unreported by families or undetected by the authorities.

Nor are there official statistics on suicide in Senegal, generally. "In Dakar, deaths by suicide are uncommon and their number is probably underestimated because of socio-cultural, religious and economic obstacles as well as the failures of the legal system," university professor Mohamed Maniboliot Soubah concluded in a 2013 study.

"In these cases of suicide, these are people who were having a hard time dealing with the return," says Aly Tandian, the president of the Saint Louis-based Study and Research Group on Gender, Environment, Religion and Migration. Through his research on migration, he has documented suicides of Senegalese migrants in the country's east as well as in Niger.

Often, social support, or the lack of it, is a major factor in the suffering. "If they had left a bedroom, that room is occupied by others. They are made to understand that they are not wanted. This leads to terrible distress, isolation - and people who stop eating. These people are heavily impacted," Tandian said.

Shame is the returnee's worst enemy. "The family is often overly involved in the migration because the departure is equated to success," said Papa Lamine Faye, a senior psychiatry professor at Fann Hospital.

"The family has often contributed - it has sold cattle and it has made sacrifices to make the project possible. The migrant, who has all these hopes placed on him, comes back, and he is ashamed because he feels the rejection of the family," he said.

When a migrant comes back, "he needs moral support", Djibril Dioum, who migrated and returned on three different occasions, said. He explained that after his boat capsized in the Atlantic in 2006, having family and friends around and being able to talk about his experience is what helped him deal with the trauma.



**The family has often contributed - it has sold cattle and it has made sacrifices to make the project possible. The migrant, who has all these hopes placed on him, comes back, and he is ashamed because he feels the rejection of the family**

As vice president of Migration and Development Yaraax, an NGO returnee support group located in another fishing town on the outskirts of Senegal for its high rates of departures, Dioum now tries to replicate the support when others come home to the town of Yaraax-Hann.

"When an individual in this state comes back, you have to know how to welcome him, how to handle him, how to help him get through this tough time. Otherwise he can become withdrawn, and get negative thoughts leading to suicide or alcohol," the group's president, Magath Diop, said.

In Yaraax-Hann, training sessions with psychologists, returnees and members of civil society teach migrants and their families how best to help, and the group visits prospective migrants and returnees in their homes when necessary.

For some, migration itself is a suicide attempt. "The one who kills himself will go straight to hell. It's prohibited," remarked an imam (Islamic leader) in north Dakar who asked not to be identified, adding: "We know that the journey out of here will be dangerous and potentially deadly. Anything a Muslim does which can bring death is prohibited."

Since 2017, the IOM has provided psychosocial support to over 6,000 returnees in West and Central Africa in the framework of the EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Assistance funded by the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and implemented by the UN agency in 26 African countries.

"We must work at family and community levels to decrease the risks of social marginalisation and exclusion - which constitute risk factors to their psychosocial wellbeing. At the same time, given the difficulty of accessing psychosocial support, we must facilitate the reactivation of social support mechanisms, such as peer support groups," IOM's Quaranta noted.

In order to address the multiple psychosocial needs of returnees better, IOM seeks synergies with various governmental and non-governmental actors to protect and promote their psychosocial well-being.

In Senegal, IOM provides mental health and psychosocial support to returnees in the main regions of high returns, particularly Tambacounda, Kolda, Seidhou and Ziguinchor.

IOM psychosocial support is provided through a range of activities, including psychological first aid, individual counselling sessions, identification and referrals to specialised mental health care, family mediation, and psychosocial support groups.

Among the other activities are integration of psychosocial support in livelihood activities and during business-skills trainings, and capacity-building aiming at strengthening the technical capacity of identified governmental, non-governmental and civil society partners to respond to the psychosocial needs of returnees and their families.

• An IOM-edited dispatch filed from Dakar, Senegal.



KUALA LUMPUR

Two decades into the 21st century, all too many people still associate being 'overweight' with prosperity, health and wellbeing, mainly because being thin has long been associated with being emaciated due to hunger, undernourishment and malnutrition.

Overweight and obesity can easily be assessed by anthropometric measures, including the body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference. But BMI thresholds for overweight and obesity may differ by ethnic group or country.

The standard World Health Organization (WHO) BMI cut-off for overweight is 25, while the threshold for obesity is 30, understood as an abnormally high percentage of fat, which can be either generalized or localized.

### Obesity pandemic

In 2014, McKinsey Global Institute estimated 2.1 billion overweight people, including the obese, then almost 30% of the world's population. The related economic burden was estimated to be over US\$2 trillion, a close third to civil conflicts and smoking.

By 2016, an estimated 1.97 billion adults and over 338 million children and adolescents worldwide were categorized as overweight or obese, following

# Beware high-fat diets



the rapid increase in overweight, including obesity, in recent decades.

An estimated 6% of children under 5 years of age were overweight in 2016, up from 5.3% in 2005. Similarly, the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults rose by 27% between 1980 and 2013.

The situation in many middle-income developing countries is especially dire as higher incomes and more food consumption have reduced hunger while

worsening other forms of malnutrition, including 'hidden hunger' or micronutrient deficiencies. The resulting health condition of much of the population generally imposes heavy costs for themselves, their families and their nations, while reducing their incomes.

### Role of the brain

Obesity is typically due to nutrient imbalances where food ingested is stored as fat, instead of being utilized for energy and metabolism. Epidemiological evidence suggests 'high fat' and carbohydrate diets contribute to obesity, and the relationship between dietary fat and the degree

of obesity.

Although there is now a near consensus that unhealthy diets worsen obesity and health, less is known about neurological changes to the brain due to such diets. Recent research finds that high-fat diets – specifically those with considerable fats and carbohydrates – contribute

to irregularities in parts of the brain regulating body weight.

A recent study found that high-fat diets stimulate inflammation in the brains of mice, triggering physical changes in such cells, and encouraging the mice to eat more and become obese. As this happens before the body displays signs of obesity and body weight changes, it implies that high-fat diets induce the brain to want to eat more.

Thus, it is possible that high-fat diets may not just affect humans physically, but also alter food intake neurologically. Hence, it is detrimental when food rich in fat and carbohydrates is easily available, encouraging even more eating.

### Health threats

Many factors contribute to obesity, including lifestyle, diet, individual genetics and gut bacteria. Besides high fat and carbohydrate diets, immune system activity can also contribute to obesity, although details remain unclear.

The presence of large numbers of fat cells changes micro-biomes inside the body, causing the body to respond negatively. Worryingly, obesity has been closely linked to various chronic diseases including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other metabolic disorders.

Recent research also clarifies how they affect various diseases of the brain, including Alzheimer's, a neurological disorder associated with changes in brain cells more prevalent among the obese.

Such evidence continues to grow. Therefore, high fat diets have not only contributed to the developing world's overweight and obesity pandemic, but may also have caused damage to brains and brain functioning.

### Prevention better than cure

Changing diets, food consumption and human behaviour have all contributed to the nutrition transition and obesity pandemic. While the developing world makes slow progress in overcoming hunger, or dietary energy undernourishment, much more needs to be done to educate the public about problems of malnutrition besides macronutrient deficiencies.

Micronutrient deficiencies, or 'hidden hunger', as well as diet-related non-communicable diseases also need to be addressed.

Already, those associated with overweight and obesity have been growing rapidly to pandemic proportions in recent decades, mainly due to dietary and other behavioural changes.

IPS

# Libya's war becomes a tech battleground

BY MATTHEW HERBERT

Libya's current conflict is emerging as a very different one to what has been fought before in the country, or the world. Fleets of long-range drones carry out strikes, cyber-attacks proclaim the end of governments, and social media propaganda has become all-consuming. The war has devolved into a bloody stalemate, with over 1 000 fighters dead and thousands wounded in grinding urban conflict.

Khalifa Haftar's Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF), a militia coalition based in the east of the country, have been on a mission to seize Tripoli since April. The capital is held by the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA), supported by militias from across western Libya.

But while it is Libyans who are fighting and dying, foreign actors have largely been driving this war. Turkey and Qatar support the GNA, while the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt, Russia and France are behind the LAAF. These foreign backers have contributed diplomatic support, military equipment, mercenaries and military personnel, and direct military action to the two sides.

The use of drones, cyber-attacks and social media propaganda, among other dynamics in Libya's conflict, probably portend what armed conflict in this century will look like – both within and between states.

In six months, drones have become a mainstay of Libya's conflict. While they have been fielded by Libyan militias before, including by the LAAF in the battle for the eastern city of Derna, it was not until the present conflict that their use became systematic and militarily important.

According to Ghassan Salamé, the United Nations Special Representative for Libya, the current conflict



Foreign intervention has brought drones, cyber-attacks and social media propaganda that foreshadow the future of armed conflict. File photo

has seen some 900 missions flown by drones fielded by the two sides, and this has increased steeply in recent weeks. Both sides use them for surveillance, long-range strategic strikes on arms depots and airports, and close-air support to units engaged in urban combat.

The GNA and LAAF rely on foreign actors for their drones. Since May, Turkey has supplied the GNA with more than a dozen Bayraktar TB2 craft, as well as ground control units. The UAE has provided the LAAF with the Chinese Wing Loong II drones. Both Turkey and the UAE are rumoured to have deployed personnel to Libya to operate the drones. Armed drones are ubiquitous in Libya, and will be on future battlefields, both due to the relatively high-precision attacks they can undertake and because they are far cheaper than traditional attack aircraft. A Wing Loong II costs US\$1.2 million, and even the pricier Bayraktar is just less than US\$6 million.

Militaries can therefore more easily purchase and field large numbers of drones, and replace those lost in combat. Other countries – such as the UAE and Turkey – can also provide foreign proxy forces and militias with effective airpower at little cost and limited risk to their own personnel. Recent use by GNA drones of roads, rather than airstrips, for take-off and landing, shows the ruggedness of the craft, and the potential for their use even in austere conditions.

Alongside drones, hacking and cyber-attacks have been weaponised in Libya's conflict. The most publicised incident occurred in August when the GNA Twitter

account was hacked, and a false statement posted proclaiming the GNA had stepped down and security was to be left to the LAAF.

In another incident, a hacker culled information from Facebook users after setting up a series of false pages detailing Turkish activity in Libya or spoofing LAAF recruitment sites. The hacker later published secret LAAF documents and the passport information of government officials that had been collected.

Similar to drones, cyber-attacks offer a low-cost means of achieving conflict goals. The hacking of the GNA Twitter account led to little more than public confusion, but given the increasing importance of social media for government's public communications – in both Libya and globally – the risk of a future incident achieving greater goals is real.

Libya's conflict has also seen a wave of propaganda and disinformation as the GNA and LAAF, and their foreign backers, seek to shape public opinion to their advantage. Haftar's initial attempt to seize Tripoli rested as much on the narrative of the LAAF's might and inevitable victory as it did on raw military power.

With this narrative shredded by the LAAF's failure, propagandists on both sides have tried to reshape public attitudes and support. Social media posts proclaim their side's seizure of territory or inevitable victory, or their rivals' brutality against civilians and foreign connections.

A lot of the propaganda is foreign generated, with nearly a third of content around Haftar posted over the past six months coming from Saudi Arabia. Much

of this has been disseminated through social media, showing that sites such as Facebook and Twitter are go-to sources for news and information for many Libyans.

Propaganda has long played an important role in conflict. But what Libyan propagandists and their backers have shown is the speed through which new narratives and disinformation can be spread, how social media can be used for this, and how easily foreign actors can influence and engage in public debates in Libya in real time.

Each of these factors – drones, cyber-attacks and social media propaganda – have been used to varying degrees individually in different countries over the past two decades. Drones in particular are evolving rapidly into a versatile threat to even highly advanced militaries.

However Libya's uniqueness – and its value as an example of what future conflicts will look like – arises because all these factors are currently being employed together in large amounts, in a conflict being prosecuted primarily by non-state armed groups.

It is important to closely watch Libya's conflict to predict future wars. Understanding the contours of future battles, and how foreign actors can intervene, will help prevent and address conflicts. In Libya's case, the country needs international support to surmount these conflict dynamics. The successes and challenges it faces will offer valuable lessons for peacebuilding in future.

**Dr Matthew Herbert, Senior Research Consultant, ISS**

# Women in Kenya's Nyeri County gain from breast cancer testing campaign

NYERI, Kenya

THE Kenyan government, the Health ministry's National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and GE Healthcare have launched a mammography screening campaign across Nyeri County to promote early detection of breast cancer.

The one-month campaign will target over 10,000 women aged 40 years and above, which is the recommended age for such tests. Over 50 Community Healthcare Volunteers and 30 healthcare professionals have been specifically trained to support the crusade.

"Breast cancer is a cancer that affects the breasts, mostly in women and it can also affect men though it is rare," Nyeri County deputy governor Dr Caroline Karugu said recently, adding: "In 2018, breast cancer was the most common cancer treated at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital. Out of the 10 cases of cancer reported at Nyeri County referral hospital, 7 cases are breast cancer cases."

She elaborated: "Even with this occurrence, only two mammogram examinations were done per day around the same period, indicating underutilisation of the digital mammography machine available at the hospital. This campaign seeks to challenge women to do their Mammo screening which saves lives."

Dr Karugu will be the ambassador for the campaign, whose thrust is on promoting mammography screening in the fight against breast cancer. Leading by example, she got her own first mammogram test at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital during the launch of the campaign, together with other people attending the event as a way of motivating more women to participate in the screening.

GE East Africa chief executive officer Brenda Mbathi meanwhile explained: "As a trusted partner to healthcare providers globally, we are excited to partner with NCCP and Nyeri County to provide the women of Nyeri County access to world-class mammography solutions that have positive impact on early breast cancer detection."

"GE Healthcare is committed to developing solutions for women that encourage adherence to screening guidelines and improve outcomes for breast cancer screening," she noted.

GE Healthcare's Senographe Crystal digital mammography machine will be used for the screening at the Nyeri County Referral Hospital. The system delivers excellent image quality facilitating early detection while ensuring a positive patient experience.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2022 is one of the government's Big Four priority agenda aimed at ensuring that no Kenyan undergoes financial hardship while seeking healthcare.

The government has guaranteed access to digital mammography services in all 47 public hospitals across the country for women in places that need it the most. Decentralisation of these services and the UHC pilot projects have resulted in a dramatic direct and indirect cost saving to patients seeking breast cancer screening services.

According to GLOBOCAN 2018, breast cancer is the leading cancer in incidence in Kenya with almost 6,000 new cases, accounting for over 2,500 deaths and making it the 3rd leading cause of all cancer deaths in the country.

Additionally, seven women die every day in Kenya as a result of breast cancer. The campaign is geared towards cultivating a culture for screening among women, and mammography is the only screening method that has been shown to be effective in reducing mortality associated with breast cancer.

Mammography screening services are available for free for women registered for the UHC pilot project.

GE Healthcare is the US\$19.8 billion healthcare business of GE. As a leading provider of medical imaging, monitoring, biomanufacturing as well as cell and gene therapy technologies, it enables precision health in diagnostics, therapeutics and monitoring through intelligent devices, data analytics, applications and services.

With over 100 years of experience in the healthcare industry and more than 50,000 employees globally, the firm helps efficiently improve outcomes for patients, healthcare providers, researchers and life sciences firms around the world.

AGENCIES



# It is time to create market-driven policies to spur economic growth

CAPE TOWN

THE African Energy Chamber pleaded for better regulatory frameworks, local content development, women empowerment and cross-border cooperation at the opening of the Africa Oil & Power Conference & Exhibition held here earlier this week.

Attended by hundreds of senior government officials and energy executives from across Africa and beyond, the conference was out to seek solutions to make energy work better for Africans and investors.

Delivering the opening remarks, African Energy Chamber executive chairman Nj Ayuk addressed key issues facing the industry's future, reminding the continent that it needs to do better to provide energy and jobs to all Africans.

"We are here at AOP not only to highlight success stories but also to have an honest conversation with each other on what needs to be done for our industry, and follow a roadmap to successful implementation on core issues such as regulations and local content policies, the empowerment of women, infrastructure development, cross-border cooperation and fiscal frameworks," declared Nj Ayuk.

On the issue of regulations and the creation of a better enabling environment for investors and businesses, the African Energy Chamber executive



Africa Oil & Power Conference & Exhibition is seeking solutions to make energy work better for Africans and investors. File photo

insisted on the need for fair regulations supportive of local industries while encouraging international investments.

"Look to Ghana. The country has built an oil and gas regulatory framework from scratch and built a reputation for transparency and regulatory certainty," noted Nj Ayuk.

He added: "Its projects are getting off the drawing board and Ghana is already a serious African producer. Regulations have to be progressive, so what matters is to implement regulations

that set the ground for the development of a sustainable, local content-oriented and jobs-creating industry."

Nj Ayuk elaborated: "On local content, look to Nigeria. It has used its oil and gas as a jumping-off point for overall economic development and building up domestic capacities from the ground up while providing the right opportunities for the establishment and growth of strong local companies across the value chain."

At the core of the African Energy Chamber's

message was also a call to women empowerment across Africa's energy industry. From creating strong educational and training programmes to implementing progressive policies in the workplace, the Chamber has relentlessly pushed for better policies that provide women with equal opportunities in the workplace and across the industry.

"On the empowerment of women, look to South Africa, which boasts some of the strongest leaders in Africa's oil and gas sector," said Nj

Ayuk, adding: "Diversity will change our industry for the best and needs to be a priority."

Commenting on infrastructure development and cross-border cooperation, he said a lack of infrastructure often severely holds back economic and social development, while a lack of roads, pipelines, ports and airports has been stopping exploration and production in its tracks and delaying the progress of otherwise economically viable progress.

The AEC executive described cross-border cooperation as the key to unlocking the continent's potential, noting: "Look to Senegal and Mauritania. Both have already shown Africa that putting its differences aside and working towards co-developing projects is beneficial for African economies and their people."

"The GTA project is a landmark project in that regard, and one that will profoundly impact the socio-economic development in both countries. The major step to encourage future such collaboration and projects is to keep the dialogue open and engage more."

Mid-March last year saw the World Bank approve a \$20 million International

Development Association (IDA) grant to Mauritania to enhance the country's capacity to negotiate investment agreements for developing the Great Tortue Ahmeyim (GTA), a large gas resource straddling Mauritania and Senegal.

The grant was meant to help Mauritania mobilise international expertise to strengthen all institutions involved in the sustainable management of the GTA and to enhance the fiscal, legal and regulatory framework. It was also meant to strengthen the government's capacity to engage effectively with all stakeholders.

"This grant will strengthen Mauritania's capacity to ensure a major gas resource is developed effectively by private operators with strong support from the government. We trust all stakeholders will be provided an opportunity to engage and contribute to accelerate inclusive growth in Mauritania," said Laurent Msellati, the World Bank Country Manager for Mauritania.

"The development of this joint resource will require strong cooperation between the governments of Mauritania and Senegal," said Riccardo Puliti, Senior Director, Energy and Extractives Global Practice at the World Bank Group,

adding: "The government of Senegal is receiving similar assistance, so this project could very well serve as an example for other countries that share natural resources with their neighbours."

The GTA's development is directly in line with the findings and recommendations of the bank's 2017 Systematic Country Diagnostic for Mauritania, which emphasized more inclusive growth and a stable macroeconomic environment as key ingredients for reducing poverty by 2030.

Established in 1960, IDA helps the world's poorest countries by providing grants and low to zero-interest loans for projects and programmes meant to boost economic growth, reduce poverty and improve poor people's lives.

IDA is one of the largest sources of assistance for the world's 75 poorest countries, 39 of which are in Africa. Resources from the agency are designed to bring positive change to the 1.5 billion people living in IDA countries.

Since 1960, the agency has supported development work in 113 countries, with about 54 per cent of its annual commitments over the last three years going to Africa.

# The role of emerging technologies in military conflicts

STOCKHOLM

Throughout history, technology has transformed armed conflict. The carnage of First World War battlefields is a stark example of what happens when advances in weaponry outpace the normative frameworks around its use.

Today, we are experiencing a technological revolution that holds incredible promise for human development and welfare. From genome editing to quantum computing and artificial intelligence, emerging technologies offer us powerful new ways to achieve our shared commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our networked society is promoting a "democratization" of technological dissemination. Ease of understanding and using technology is greater than ever before. Yet these benefits also bring with them clear risks for international peace and security.

Before I address the trends and consequences of the current technological context, I want to add my usual caveat: it is important not to be alarmist about the ramifications of technology, but at the same time not dismissive either.

With that, let me share with you some of the major trends in conflict risk as I see them and the implications they carry for international peace and security.

First, the application of technology to new means and methods of warfare is aggravating an arms-racing dynamic in both conventional and nuclear weapons. This dynamic is evident in the eye-watering amounts of money spent on weapons - some 1.8 trillion dollars last year, according to SIPRI - and the nu-



clear modernization campaigns that are, in effect, a qualitative nuclear arms race.

This is both exacerbated by, and in turn exacerbates, the absence of transparency and confidence in international relations. As States strive to develop newer and better weapons, it threatens to undermine stability and increase the prospects for unintended and potentially uncontrollable escalation.

This dynamic is not limited to States with advanced technological bases. The democratic characteristics of technological innovation provide for creative asymmetric responses - the digital IEDs, if you will.

The second trend I want to highlight is how technology is opening new potential domains for the conduct of hostilities.

Military operations using emerging technologies and in new domains can involve actions that are not easily classifiable or fall below traditional thresholds for an armed attack or an act of aggression.

This creates challenges for in-

ternational peace and stability, as even non-permanent means of disrupting or disabling a military capability can prompt a conventional armed response.

Take, for example, what is commonly referred to as "cyber warfare".

The frequency of malicious cyber incidents is growing, along with their severity. Such acts are contributing to diminishing trust and confidence among States and encouraging them to adopt offensive postures for the hostile use of these technologies.

The difficulty of attributing responsibility for cyber-attacks could result in unwarranted armed responses and escalation. Constraints agr the case of cyber-attacks that do not cause physical damage and are not lethal.

New domains and methods of warfare will also change the impact on civilians in ways that are less kinetic but equally damaging. For example, "casualties" in a cyber conflict could include millions of people who have had their bank accounts wiped out by an offensive cyberattack.

Put differently, some of these new technologies could not only change the size and speed of destruction in conflict, but also the character and nature of destruction in war.

A third and related trend is how certain new technologies, in particular armed uncrewed aerial vehicles, are undermining civilian protections. Lower risks to armed forces and comparatively lower levels of physical violence risk lowering the threshold on the use of armed force in situations where it would not otherwise have been contemplated.

Such actions not only endanger civilians, but risk escalating conflict. The fourth and final trend I want to draw attention to is the emerging nature of warfare enabled by networked militaries, autonomy, uncrewed vehicles, advanced sensors, and weapons that can attack at hypersonic speeds.

This form of warfare is not yet fully realized, but technological innovation, coupled with evolving military thinking, is trending the world in this di-

rection with several significant risks.

So-called "hypersonic weapons" pose particular concerns because they could both reduce decision-making times while also adding ambiguities related to the nature of their targets and their own payloads, whether conventional or nuclear. Increased adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) may lead to decision-making processes faster than human cognition and concern has been expressed about the potential for unpredictable and non-transparent behaviour by AI in armed conflict.

Increasing autonomy in the critical functions of weapons systems raises serious ethical and legal questions for existing frameworks and how to ensure human accountability for the use of force. The growing use of UAVs and increased autonomy could lead to perceptions of casualty-free warfare.

The possibility of third parties with malicious intent interfering in control systems to incite conflict cannot be discounted. The potential for such advances to exacerbate political divisions and global tensions would be alarming even in the most benign of international environments.

However, we are currently mired in a geostrategic context defined by distrust, the militarization of international relations and a dearth of dialogue. Relations between the so-called "great powers" are eroding as the rules-based international order - including the disarmament and non-proliferation regime - is being challenged.

Other global issues - climate change, mass migration and social unrest - will also continue to affect the nature and conduct of armed conflict.

In this unsettling environment, where brakes on warfare are being removed, the utmost caution should be exercised in

the deployment of technological innovations with disruptive ramifications.

Having said this, it is easy to list risks and challenges. It is a much harder task to elaborate solutions.

I would like to suggest today what might be some of the key elements, from the United Nations' perspective, for our joint work ahead to elaborate possible solutions. Some of them relate to substance, others to the process and partnerships we must forge.

First, a few points related to the development of norms and their operationalization or implementation.

One of the most prominent debates in the governance of emerging technologies has been whether international frameworks can adequately contain new risks and concerns. There is divergence over whether existing law is sufficient or whether new legal instruments are required.

Some new technologies, such as armed drones, have prompted concerns about how they can tempt some to reinterpret international law.

What we need is an honest debate about how international law applies to any possible use of emerging technologies as weapons, how any such uses are constrained or prohibited by existing international law and where new approaches, including new law, is needed to mitigate foreseeable risks.

Increased transparency and accountability in the use of new technologies could help increase confidence in adherence to international law. When it comes to the weaponization of new technologies, broadened use and transparency of weapons reviews - those required under article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions - would build confidence about the legality of those weapons

systems.

Regardless of where States sit on this debate, protecting civilians from the effects of armed conflict must continue to be a central concern when addressing the means and methods of warfare.

This is a tenet that we cannot lose sight of as States rush to utilize technological innovations in armed conflict.

We must reinforce mechanisms for the protection of civilians, including respect for and compliance at all times with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

While Member States will continue to have primary responsibility in matters of international peace and security, twenty-first century norm-making cannot be just straightforward treaty negotiations between States.

Much of the technology we have been discussing today is either dual-use or even enabling. Its creators need to be brought into the fold.

The importance of developing effective multi-stakeholder platforms that can bring together experts from Member States, industry, academia and civil society should be a priority.

This is important not only to ensure that intergovernmental deliberations are adequately informed, but also that technical communities are aware of the context and possible consequences of their work.

Modern norm-making should consider a broad spectrum of responses, from self-regulation such as code of conducts, to political initiatives such as transparency and confidence-building measures, to comprehensive and multifaceted efforts in the traditional intergovernmental negotiations.



# Airtel Africa announces partnership with Mastercard's global network to transform digital payment landscape

By Guardian Reporter

AIRTEL Africa yesterday announced a partnership with Mastercard, giving over 100 million Airtel Africa mobile phone users access to Mastercard's global network.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the Mastercard virtual (non-plastic) card allows Airtel Money customers, even those without a bank account, to make payments to local and global online merchants that accept Mastercard cards, while ensuring that the customer's financial data is always secure and private.

In addition, Airtel Money customers will also be able to make in-person payments at outlets via Quick Response (QR) codes (whereby payments are made from an Airtel mobile phone by scanning the QR code

displayed at checkout or by entering a merchant identifier, at any location worldwide that Mastercard QR is accepted). To date, there are over 1 million merchant locations across Africa that accept Mastercard QR payments.

AirtelMoney customers will also benefit from competitive pricing and preferential exchange rates for international payments, and gain access to other domestically relevant use cases including bill payments, merchants payments and value added services such as cash management solutions.

Raghu Nath Mandava, the CEO of Airtel Africa said, "Airtel and Mastercard have a shared passion for digital transformation and making mobile financial services accessible to everyone across the continent. Through our partnership we will enable

over 100 million Airtel Africa customers make safe mobile money purchases online and in person. The partnership will also significantly bolster Airtel's position as one of the largest offline-to-online digital payment network in Africa. We are really excited to embark on this partnership with a globally trusted brand like Mastercard. This partnership is truly revolutionary in our market, giving millions of people better access to the digital and online world."

Amnah Ajmal, Executive Vice President for Market Development, Mastercard Middle East and Africa, said, "Across the MEA region our digital partnerships strategy remains focused on enabling digital transformation for our partners so that their consumers can enjoy seamless access to payments

and a superior experience. We are very excited to partner with Airtel to lead the transition to digital by enabling access to their millions of consumers for online and in-person payments across the globe. Mastercard is uniquely positioned as a single technology provider to enable our digital partners like Airtel to transition seamlessly into digital".

Mobile internet connections are expected to grow rapidly in Africa due to low cost smartphones and high-speed GSM networks being rolled out by Mobile Network Operators like Airtel. This growth in internet connections is creating increased demand for digital content, social media, m-commerce even online education and a need to make online payments easily and securely by both banked and unbanked consumers.



Works, Transport and Communications deputy permanent secretary Dr Jim Yonazi (2nd-R) presents a gift to the winner of an international letter writing competition, Joan John Erasto of Simiyu Region's Binza Secondary School at a World Postal Day event held in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Others are Tanzania Postal Corporation board chairman Dr Haruni Kondo (C), acting postmaster general Mwanisha Said (R) and left is Binza school teacher Japhet Kilela. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



NBC Bank Morogoro Branch operations manager Joyceline Msuya (C) hands over to Morogoro Regional Hospital acting senior medical officer Dr Francis Semwene a donation of medicines and medical equipment worth over 9m/-. This was at a brief ceremony held in Morogoro municipality yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## TANAPA tasked to collect 400bn/-

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA National Parks Authority (TANAPA) has been tasked to collect 400bn/- during the current financial year to improve infrastructures in eight new game reserves that have been elevated recently to form the western tourists circuit.

The Deputy minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu,

said that TANAPA contributed only 15 per cent to the government coffers and the remainder is used to improve the infrastructures in the game reserves.

Speaking in Tabora region on Tuesday when he visited Ugalla Game Reserve, the deputy minister called on residents of Tabora and adjoining regions to prepare themselves to grab the opportunities in tourism businesses from the Mayowosi

Kigosi and Ugalla game reserves whose status had been elevated.

He said: "We started in the south and we are now in the west, our aim is to ensure all tourist areas open up for tourism." Kanyasu called for the building of tourist hotels, and farmers to grow crops to attract tourists, adding that tourism is sustainable business, saying when tourists come to visit our attractions they expect two things

- security and hospitality.

On his part, the Sikonge District Commissioner Pires Magri said the opening up of the western circuit sends the message to the residents to grab the opportunities to invest in tourism infrastructures.

He said since Sikonge district has 95 per cent of forest reserves, the position that will boost wananchi to exploit available opportunities.

## AfDB establishes Index to aid women empowerment

By Abiola Odutola

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) has developed the Women's Financing Index to track African countries that give women priority in loan disbursement and ensure such nations benefit more from its financing.

President, AfDB, Akinwumi Adesina, explained that the new tool would be introduced to track the level of lending to women across the continent and to ensure women got the critical financial help they needed.

The AfDB boss, who disclosed this at a public event held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, said, "WFI, which

is currently under development, will rate banks and financial institutions who apply for loans from the African Development Bank, against the amounts they have lent or are lending to women.

"Institutions will be rated by their development impact: The rate and volume at which they lend to women. Top institutions will be rewarded with preferential financing terms from the African Development Bank."

The Bank, through its AFAWA initiative - Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa - aims to mobilise \$3 billion to bridge the financing gap for women on the continent.

Despite being at the fore-

front of economic activity on the continent, women in Africa are disproportionately disadvantaged, particularly those in conflict-ridden areas, who are three times less likely to go to school, have less access to resources and justice, and were unable to obtain funding for businesses, farming and other commercial ventures.

In the first panel moderated by former French Minister of State for Human Rights, Ambassador Rama Yade, Chief Economist of Afreximbank, Dr Hippolyte Fofack, said its vision to promote intra-African trade was directly tied to the theme of providing women with credit.

"Access to finance is at

the root of development initiatives. That is why Afreximbank was created," Fofack said.

He added that Afreximbank's top goals included supporting African women in agri-processing to minimise post-harvesting losses, and acting as trade financing intermediaries.

"We are committed to providing loans but we also grow with our clients," he said.

In a second panel, moderated by African Development Bank's Director for Gender, Women and Civil Society, Vanessa Mounzar, panellists discussed the "nexus of peace, security, environment and development."

## Bank vows to provide quality services to meet expectations of its customers

By Francis Kajubi

NMB Bank has pledged to provide quality services to meet its customers' demands and facilitate profits in their accomplishments.

NMB Bank's Acting Head of Corporate banking, Aziz Chacha made the pledge yesterday in Dar es Salaam when speaking at a special event that brought together 30 Chief Executives from corporations to mark the customer service week.

He said the Bank will continue improving its services for its various customers including corporate ones to make them confident with the service provided by the bank which has a capital size of

more than 700n/-.

The bank's Senior Customer Relationship Manager, Amour Muro, said the corporate customers met with the bank to exchange ideas and share new insights and experience in various aspects of how the business community can continuously benefit from the banking services.

"This is one of our responsibilities in the customer service week, it helps us talk to them about how to maximize the value of our services we offer and it enables us expand our understanding discussions," said Muro.

He said the bank believes in good service delivery and that they will ensure they continue to make regular adjustments



**"This is one of our responsibilities in the customer service week, it helps us talk to them about how to maximize the value of our services we offer and it enables us expand our understanding discussions," said Muro.**

by listening to their customers' challenges.

Magdalena Magali, Head of Treasury Tanzania Potland Cement Company Limited, thanked NMB for organizing the event and giving them an opportunity to exchange ideas.

She commended NMB for a positive systemic change from analog to digital, and that it helped to facilitate faster and safer access to banking services and called on Tanzanians to make use of these services to save time and time.

Steven Gideon, Planning and Budget Officer of the Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL), urged Tanzanians to take advantage of the various opportunities offered by the bank.

## East-West brain drain poses new challenges, warns IOM

VIENNA

CENTRAL and Eastern European countries are seeing dramatic shifts in their migration patterns, changing the make-up of communities and posing previously unseen challenges, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has warned.

It sounded the warning

on Monday at a major conference on the 'brain drain' phenomenon at the headquarters of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

The changing nature of work and demographic trends are having a significant impact on labour migration policies within the region, noted IOM's Regional

Director for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Argentina Szabados.

"The fast-moving digitalisation of work and the so-called gig economy are having significant and often unpredictable influences," Szabados said here.

"Current migration levels and the demographic trends

in the region suggest that labour mobility will continue to be a defining feature of the region. This is particularly true for non-offshorable and non-automatable occupations," added the IOM executive.

The conference gave government representatives, United Nations agencies, international organisations

and businesses an occasion to take stock of the evolution of human capital migration patterns, to re-examine existing conceptual frameworks and to renew cooperation.

The high-level dialogue also provided an opportunity to debate new ideas which can shape future policies, while introducing the

business/work-forces nexus to contemporary debate.

The event was organised by the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative under the patronage of Austria's Federal President, Alexander van der Bellen.

While welcoming efforts made to accommodate and integrate migrant workers in the changing world of work,

Szabados outlined the challenges faced by society.

"We need to recognize that integration is not just about the services we offer to immigrants, but also the way we design our public spaces, the way we structure our housing policy, the way we organise our public transportation, and the way our media communicate,"

she said.

"Governments supporting labour mobility and employers bringing in foreign workers need to work together with local stakeholders to develop comprehensive approaches to support migrants' integration and social cohesion within communities," she added.

AGENCIES



# Mwalimu Nyerere's wisdom as relates to freedom, development and democracy

By Dalaly Peter Kafumu

AS we mark the 20th anniversary of the passing of Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, it is of fundamental importance and immensely relevant that we 'flash back' to his wisdom so as a nation we continue to be judiciously guided towards prosperity.

Today, 20 years after his death, the nation still sobs as it remembers the great leader who assured peace and protection for everyone regardless of their religious beliefs, tribes or ideological inclinations. He was a true fortress and truss for the poor and disadvantaged majority.

Today we continue to honour Mwalimu in part because of his time-tested wisdom and love for his people. Let us always uphold his good vision, hopes and optimism on leadership, freedom, democracy and development to inspire, nurture and keep our unity as a nation and as a people alive.

Mwalimu's wisdom with respect to freedom and development was guided by his belief in a kind of democracy that gives space to the citizenry to develop their nation.

Mwalimu wanted Africa

in general and Tanzania in particular to embrace a democracy that ensures governments of national unity, in which freedom and development are intertwined to unite the people to work harder and more productively for the country's development.

He firmly believed that just as real freedom for the people requires development, so does real development of the people require freedom.

In this chronicle we treatise Mwalimu's wisdom as entrusted to us through his 1967 book entitled "Freedom and Development". In this book he defines the role of leadership, freedom and democracy in bringing development to the people. He also gives two essentials of democracy that ensures Freedom of participation in the democratic decisions towards sustainable development serving the people's interests.

Commenting on the role of leadership and democracy in ensuring sustainable development, he once wrote: "There are thus two factors which are essential in the development of people. The first is leadership through education, and the second is democracy in decision-making.



"For leadership does not mean shouting at people; it does not mean abusing individuals or groups of people you disagree with; even less does it mean ordering people to do this or that. Leadership means talking and discussing with the people, explaining and persuading. It means making constructive suggestions, and working with the people to show by actions what it is that you are urging them to do. It means being one of the people, and recognizing your equality with them."

Mwalimu insisted that giving leadership authority does not mean appropriating the role of the people, once declaring: "The people must make the decisions about their own future through democratic procedures. Leadership cannot replace democracy; it must be part of democracy.

"If the decision relates to national affairs, then the people make it through the (ruling party's) National Executive Committee, and Parliament, and through the National Conference..."

"If it is a question of purely local interest - for example whether to undertake a particular self-help scheme - then the people directly concerned must make the decision following a free debate. There is no other way in which real development can take place." Mwalimu believed in the fundamental principles of democracy that would promote freedom and unity of a nation. He described two essentials of democracy, the first being freedom to speak and the second being the discipline to uphold the decisions made under a democratic processes.

He wrote: "There are, however, two essentials of democracy of without which it (democracy) cannot work. ... everyone must be allowed to speak freely, and everyone must be listened to. It does not matter how unpopular a man's ideas, or how mistaken the majority think (of) him. It does not make any difference whether he is liked or disliked for his personal qualities."

Mwalimu Nyerere continued to describe this first indispensable attribute of democracy by writing: "Every Tanzanian, every member of a community, every member of a district council, every Member of Parliament, and so on, must have the freedom to speak without fear of intimidation - either inside or outside the meeting place."

He also wrote on the rights of the minority in a democracy: "The minority in any debate must have the right to speak without fear of persecution; it must be defeated in argument, not by threat of force. The debates leading to a decision must be free debates. And even after a decision has been made, free discussion about it should be allowed to continue. For the minority must know that if it has a good case, and if it argues properly and correctly,

it will be able to convert the majority."

He also wrote on the rights of the majority in a democracy: "Similarly, the majority must be willing to maintain the argument until the minority has been convinced of the correctness of the decision which has been made. Free debate must continue. It is an essential element of personal freedom."

Mwalimu's wisdom further directs that in the case of an adequate discussion and every point of view has been expressed, a decision must be reached, and the majority must be allowed to prevail. He recaps that the minority have a right to be heard, and the majority have the right to be obeyed.

The second essential of democracy, according to Mwalimu Nyerere, is the ability to uphold the decision made in a democratic debate. He wrote: "Once a decision is reached, it must be accepted as the decision of all. And everyone - including those who were in opposition - must cooperate in carrying out that decision... For democratic decision-making must be followed by discipline in carrying out the decisions.

"The minority must be allowed to campaign for a change in the law or the de-

cision. But until they have succeeded in getting majority support for a change, they must obey the law or the rule which has been laid down. Without this kind of discipline no development of any kind is possible."

In conclusion, it is safe to say that Mwalimu's wisdom exceeded common knowledge; that it is a repository of knowledge that illuminates our way forward.

That wisdom should continue to guide Tanzania well into the future. His spirit should be allowed room to hover and breathe knowledge and understanding to the people and its leaders so that all may work for the country's development and ensure prosperity to the nation. We thank God for having entrusted this abundantly blessed country to such a saintly leader who could foretell the future with enviable accuracy and illustrate the way for the people to follow towards a bright future of sufficiency.

*Economic and environmental geologist Dr Dalaly Peter Kafumu, a former Commissioner for Minerals, is Member of Parliament for Igunga in Tabora Region.*

## Mboweni's influence put to the test

BY JUDITH FEBRUARY

The next few weeks are crucial for South Africa's economy as Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni attempts to shape the message of his 30 October Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

President Cyril Ramaphosa for his part has appointed an Economic Advisory Council to ensure that both government and society are equipped to respond to changing economic circumstances. This was a promise he made in his State of the Nation Address, and according to the Presidency's statement, the council will advise the president and government more broadly, facilitating the development and implementation of economic policies that spur inclusive growth.

The council comprises local and international experts. Doubtless its work will traverse the nine wasted years under former president Jacob Zuma and the corruption and state capture that period brought. Understanding the depth of the rot in government and then dealing with it will take time. Ramaphosa is also grappling with a state so weakened by corruption that delivering on the many promises he has made will be difficult.

In Mboweni the country has a finance minister who is unafraid to take on the holy cows of retrenchment and state-owned entity bailouts. He tells it like it is. Mboweni has famously said he is not the 'minister of bailouts.'

His economic blueprint released in late August received a mixed response. It includes a nod to privatisation, ease of doing business regulations and an attempt to increase growth to 3% while creating a million jobs. It also suggests selling off power utility Eskom's coal-powered stations. Of course,

these plans almost immediately met with fierce opposition from the Congress of South African Trade Unions.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) has given Mboweni only partial approval for his blueprint. Much of its response has dodged the hard issues such as dealing with Eskom, until the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement is delivered.

On labour market reform, the ANC has said the minimum wage needs to be discussed at the National Economic Development and Labour Council again. Interestingly, despite the aversion to selling off coal-powered stations, the ANC has acceded that an energy mix based on the lowest cost option is imperative. That will force renewables into the country's energy mix in a far more robust way. The implications for Eskom are obvious.

Economics is also about politics and so Mboweni's speech will be closely watched as an indicator of what the ANC's stance is on these hard-fought economic matters. It will also be a test of Mboweni's influence over his cabinet colleagues, for those stand-offs are crucial too. If Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan requests a bailout for state-owned enterprises, can Mboweni deny him and proceed with selling some of them off? It's hard to see how this could happen without decisive intervention from their boss, the president. Therein lies the rub.

In previous, more stable post-apartheid years, the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement was largely an understated affair with a few tweaks made to the national budget. The entire process is aimed at ensuring maximum budget transparency (something South Africa is renowned for) and provides an overview of income and



The finance minister's budget speech will reveal the ANC's stance on hard-fought economic issues in South Africa. File photo

expenditure over the next three years. It was a process built on painstaking number-crunching within the National Treasury.

Any finance minister needs credibility, a strong revenue collection service and an equally reliable Treasury. Both the South African Revenue Service (SARS) and Treasury have been severely weakened. New SARS Commissioner Edward Kieswetter has been working feverishly to rebuild the institution, but again, that will take time. Moody's has forecast economic growth at 0.7% down from its original forecast of 1.3% for 2019. It remains concerned about the debt-to-GDP ratio.

This Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement will be delivered against a backdrop of political unease and a citizenry increasingly frustrated with the economic and political crises. Mboweni will reveal what the revenue shortfall will be. It is estimated to be at around R50 billion given how sluggish the economy is. How will he deal

with this, and crucially, where will Mboweni cut expenditure? His statement must also deal with wasteful expenditure in government as a matter of urgency.

Mboweni is not the minister of bailouts, yet how will Eskom be fixed? The ANC's response has been unclear, even with its proposal to restructure Eskom into three units. But Eskom isn't the only drain on the fiscus.

South African Airways is in immediate crisis with strikes threatened in late September. Then there is the state-owned aerospace and military technology conglomerate Denel, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa and a laundry list of corruption and maladministration. The state has also been slow and ineffective in paying its suppliers, thus creating a choke on small business development.

Government's new plans on a National Health Insurance will need to be funded too. Mboweni

will need to provide some information and reassurance about this proposed multibillion-rand endeavour about which many questions have been asked.

South Africa talks far too much and does far too little. The time for endless discussion on economic policy must surely be over. The challenge is whether the ANC, caught in factionalism and division and addicted to the trough that is state-owned enterprises, sees this.

Whether Mboweni can ignite action (and thereby the economy) depends on whether Ramaphosa can navigate ANC divisions smartly and then take the hard decisions needed to save the economy. Somehow one suspects that the Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement will be the start of incremental economic changes - some good, some simply helping the country to limp along.

*Judith February, Senior Research Associate, Justice and Violence Prevention, ISS Pretoria*

## Improved police use of data could reduce South Africa's crime

BY IAN EDELSTEIN

Each year in September, the South African Police Service (SAPS) releases crime statistics for a 12-month period ending on 31 March, which means the data is five months out of date when it reaches the public. When crime levels increase (as they have this year), headlines lament. When any decreases are seen, these are linked to strategic efforts by the police.

Nationally, murders have risen by 3.4% since 2017-18 and are 35% higher than in 2011-12. The 21 022 murders average out to 58 killings every day across the country. However, these murders are not evenly spread across time and space. Over half (56%) of murders happen on the weekend. Spatially, a small number of police stations bear a disproportionate share of violent crime. In the latest statistics, the 30 police stations reporting the highest numbers of murders (roughly 3% of all stations) account for 21% of the total. As one example among these, the Greater Khayelitsha area (comprising three police stations - Khayelitsha, Harare and Lingeletsh West) experienced an annual murder increase of 20%.

Yet even station-level figures mask critically important patterns of crime that can only be studied through accurate point-level crime data. This data records each crime by type, exact geographic location and exact date and time of the incident.

Internationally, spatial-temporal crime analysis has revealed crime hotspots and temporal patterns that have aided efforts to prevent and reduce crime. This is central to many evidence-based policing practices.

In Trinidad and Tobago, a country with a high level of violent crime, hotspot analysis enabled smarter police patrols and a 50% decrease in murders. The possibilities for data-driven policing (and interventions with those outside the police) to pinpoint and alter violent crime patterns in South Africa are genuine, if not a dire imperative.

In South Africa, access to point-level crime data has been highly restricted in the past, with only a handful of researchers able to use it. A new Institute for Security Studies report on point-level crime data for Khayelitsha is among the first to publish and interrogate such data.

The report shows a general dispersion of crimes across the Greater Khayelitsha area with much higher concentrations near intersections, medical facilities, train stations and even police stations. In the map below, murders in Greater Khayelitsha over the 10-year period are aggregated into 267 m2 blocks, roughly equivalent to a standard city block, and their totals are shown alongside key geographic features. The blocks are colour-coded from blue to red showing increasing murder levels.

Some of these high concentrations may be the result of crimes registered at landmarks rather than their actual locations. All crime records have location data, but in some cases the exact position is unknown (e.g. when a body is delivered to a hospital). If the software used to capture the crime requires a geolocation, input must occur, and landmarks are then used.

This requirement to fill in geolocation data, regardless of its validity, could account for concentrations near medical facilities and police stations. It could also explain the apparent dispersion of unrelated incidents along perfect grid patterns, affecting as much as 10% of all crime data over the 10-year period.

This could result in specific locations being misidentified as crime hotspots and given inappropriate police resource allocations while other actual hotspots (particularly in informal settlement areas where precise geolocation is difficult) may not be identified at all. As a result, SAPS point-level crime data may be too inaccurate and unreliable to be used for hotspot analysis or the development and monitoring of an effective violence prevention strategy.

*Ian Edelstein, independent researcher and ISS consultant*



By Property Watch Reporter

## SBL IN 28.1 BN/- EXPANSION OF DAR, MOSHI PLANTS PROMISING MORE JOB CREATION

**I**n a bid to meet growing market demand for its beers and implement government's industrialization drive, Serengeti Breweries Limited is investing 10 million British pounds (over 28.1bn/-) in expanding its Dar es Salaam and Moshi brewing plants.

Newly appointed SBL Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said in Dar es Salaam this week that expansion work has already begun in Dar es Salaam, the company's first of three breweries established in 1996. The other breweries are located in Moshi and Mwanza.

"This expansion not only means getting additional beer production capacity for us, 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," Ocitti said.

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

The SBL Managing Director further noted that the beer brewer sources barley, maize and sorghum for its raw materials locally and until end of last year, the company had grown its cereals uptake from zero to 15,000 metric tonnes of grain.

"This is equivalent to 60 per cent of SBL's total raw materials requirement for beer production per year," he added while stressing that SBL remains committed to serving the domestic market with world class beer brands.

With its flagship brand Serengeti Premium Lager, which was the first beer in to be made of 100 malt in the local market, the brewer consolidated its



SBL's ongoing construction works for the expansion of Dar plant that started early this year. Photo: courtesy of SBL.

grip of the market with the launch of Serengeti Premium Lite recently which again was the first lite beer introduced to the market in 2017.

"Our customers asked for a Tanzanian lite beer and that is why we launched Serengeti Premium Lite two years ago. Tanzanians have responded very positively to this new product which has been doing very well in the market," Ocitti said while thanking loyal customers for supporting SBL brands.

An independent study conducted by Deloitte in 2018 to assess the impact of SBL on the country's economy indicated that the company contributed 567bn/- in total value-addition last year, representing around one per cent of gross domestic product currently estimated at around \$55 billion (about 127trn/-).

SBL was founded by Tanzanian entrepreneurs in 1996 with one brewery located in Dar es Salaam. Between 2010 and 2013 the company's ownership structure changed with the coming on board of regional alcohol manufacturer, East African Breweries Limited and a global beverage producer, Diageo, which has since injected further investments by opening two additional breweries in Mwanza and Moshi.

The company in parallel has expanded its product portfolio with additional new leading beer brands such as Pilsner Lager, Tusker Lager, Guinness and Senator and of late - Serengeti Premium Lite.

SBL also distributes in the Tanzanian market some of Diageo's International Premium Spirits brands such as Johnnie Walker, Gordons, Smirnoff, Black and White among others.

## Tanzania and Zambia's new \$6 million border post to boost trade



Tanzania-Zambia one-stop border post at Tunduma-Nakonde frontier launched by Presidents John Magufuli and Edgar Lungu last week. File photo.

### TUNDUMA

In a bid to develop trade between member states of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and East African Community (EAC), Tanzania and Zambia have launched their new one-stop border post - Tunduma-Nakonde.

The launch hosted by Tanzanian president John Magufuli and his Zambian counterpart Edgar Lungu saw the opening of the \$6 million border post, which will reduce waiting time

from four days to just one.

The construction of the state-of-the-art border post at Tunduma in Tanzania and Nakonde in Zambia was financed by TradeMark East Africa, an organisation that aims to improve trade competitiveness in East Africa by reducing transport time and costs, and improving the trade environment.

Trade volume between Tanzania and Zambia surged from \$89 million in 2010 to \$265 billion last year. Magufuli said he hoped for more growth,

with 965 large- and medium-scale enterprises from Tanzania investing in Zambia, while eight Zambian companies have created 312 jobs, investing more than \$10 million in Tanzania.

However, the situation is a little different for the once-thriving Tazara (Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority), with little to no effort in the maintenance of the line damaging prospects for another mode of transporting cargo between the two nations.

"Tazama (Tanzania Zambia Oil

Pipeline) oil pipeline is performing well but there are some issues with Tazara which need to be addressed to make the railway line operate profitably," Magufuli said, as reported by FTW Online.

"There is a need for Tanzania and Zambia to continue the cooperation for the betterment of the people in the two countries. Tazara and Tazama are examples of perfect partnerships between our two countries," he added.

## Global cargo demand drops, African airlines post 8% increase: IATA

### GENEVA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released data for global air freight markets showing that demand, measured in freight tonne-kilometers (FTKs) contracted by 3.9 percent in August 2019, compared to the same period in 2018. This marks the tenth consecutive month of year-on-year decline in freight volumes, the longest period since the global financial crisis in 2008.

African carriers posted the fastest growth of any region in August 2019, with an increase in demand of 8 percent compared to the same period a year earlier. This continues the upward trend in FTKs that has been evident since mid-2018 and makes Africa the strongest performer for the sixth consecutive month. Capacity grew 17.1 percent year-on-year. Strong trade and investment linkages with Asia have underpinned a double-digit increase in air freight volumes between the two regions over the past year. China recently confirmed a further \$60 billion investment into the continent.

Freight capacity, measured in available freight tonne kilometres (AFTKs), rose by 2 percent year-on-year

in August 2019. Capacity growth has now outstripped demand growth for the 16th consecutive month.

Air cargo continues to face strong headwinds from the intensifying trade war between the US and China, as well as weakness in some of the key economic indicators and rising political uncertainties worldwide. Global trade volumes are 1 percent lower than a year ago.

Asia-Pacific airlines saw demand for air freight contract by 5 percent in August 2019, compared to the same period in 2018. The US-China trade war along with the slowdown in the Chinese economy has significantly impacted this region. The temporary shutdown of Hong Kong International Airport - the largest cargo hub in the world added additional pressure. With the region accounting for more than 35 percent of total FTKs, this performance is the major contributor to the weak industry-wide outcome. Airfreight capacity increased by 2.3 percent over the past year.

North American airlines saw demand decrease by 2.4 percent in August 2019, compared to the same period a year earlier. Capacity increased by 1.3 percent. The US-China trade war and falling business confidence continue to weigh on the region's carriers. Freight demand has contracted for the largest routes between Asia and North America, where seasonally-adjusted volumes are down almost 5 percent compared to their level in July 2018.

European airlines posted a 3.3 percent decrease in freight demand in August 2019 compared to the same period a year earlier. Weaker manufacturing conditions for exporters in Germany, softer regional economies, and ongoing uncertainty over Brexit have impacted the recent performance. Capacity increased by 3.3 percent year-on-year.



A cargo plane being offloaded at JNIA in Dar es Salaam. File photo.



# CHINESE CONTRACTOR HANDS OVER ULTRA-MODERN FOREIGN MINISTRY BUILDING IN DAR

By Francis Kajubi

**A**N ultra-modern Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation office building valued at US\$22 million (over 45bn/-) has been completed by a Chinese contractor and handed over this week.

Chinese Ambassador Wang Ke said the project which was financed by Chinese taxpayers, has been completed on time by China Anhui Foreign Economic Contraction Company Group which started construction work in 2016.

Ambassador Ke said the building is testimony of the growing diplomatic relations between Beijing and Dodoma noting that the six storey complex which can accommodate office needs of 400 people, adds another skyscraper in the commercial capital.

She told Foreign Affairs Minister, Professor Palamagamba Kabudi that the building has been rated as an excellent project by China's Ministry of Commerce which oversees such projects.

"This building comes at the right time and in my view it has three significant roles, first: it is closer to the JNICC which was also funded by the Chinese Government. The projects are not only showing the strong bilateral relations between the two nations but also Tanzanians embracing of the world's multi-national cooperation," she noted.

She mentioned the secondly reason as President John Magufuli's takeover of the Southern Africa Development Community chairmanship which means the new building will facilitate the foreign affairs ministry hosting of the bloc's meetings which will be held for a year.



People pass by the main entrance to Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

Ke reminded Prof Kabudi that the Sino-Tanzania bilateral corporation dated back for the past 55 years and vowed to ensure they remain stronger for the foreseeable future.

In his remarks after receiving the building, Prof Kabudi said completion of the building marked a new chapter of the long standing bilateral relations between China

and Tanzania.

"It is indeed another testimony of the strong diplomatic relations that exists between our two countries. I appreciate the completion of this state of art building. Actually I remember the last time I visited China mid this year, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China told me that the office you have built for us

in Dar es Salaam is better than his in Beijing," Prof Kabudi noted.

He said the handing over of the building by Chinese Government coincided with the country's 70 years of the existence as The People Republic of China but also commemoration of 55 years of relations with Tanzania.

"The building has six floors, 117

executive rooms, a multi-purpose conference room, a library and function room. When I look at this building and compare it with the one at Mtumba in Dodoma, my heart wishes that if I could be able to carry it to Dodoma," he added. The government's administrative capital has since early this year relocated to Dodoma City.

## Java trains sights on hospitals, colleges in expansion drive

NAIROBI

Restaurant chain Java House is set to open 14 more express branches by June 2020 targeting institutions such as hospitals and colleges as it shifts to kiosks formats that are less capital-intensive.

The firm, which currently has almost 70 outlets, is targeting to hit about 100 branches by the end of 2020. The chain restaurant opened its first Express outlet (kiosks) at the United States International University-Africa off Thika Road in November 2017.

Other outlets are in Aga Khan, Nairobi and MP Shah Hospitals as well as on Peponi Road. Java is also set to refurbish three of its biggest stores at the Junction, Sarit and Galleria malls, that will be the first to have a new Java stores look.

"Java House Africa as part of its strategy is opening up differing channels for its existing brands. We have experimented with an original Kiosk concept in Aga Khan Hospital and as a result of this the kiosk strategy is now firmly embedded with outlets in Nairobi Hospital, MP Shah, Peponi Road," said Java Chief Executive, Paul Smith.

"As a result of this, we continue opening core Java stores as well as the new kiosk strategy and this financial year ending June 2020 will open 14 outlets. "We will also be reimagining three of our biggest stores in Junction, which is due to open mid-October, Sarit and Galleria all of which will be the first of the new concept Java stores," said Smith.



An E-toll-E-tag-highway in Johannesburg.

## E-toll accounts could be used to pay for parking, licence renewals

JOHANNESBURG

The SA National Roads Agency (Sanral) is in the process of repackaging and expanding the function of its Transaction Clearing House (TCH) to provide a host of other mobility services.

TCH is currently almost exclusively used for clearing e-toll collections for various toll operators and toll plazas. Alex van Niekerk - planning, toll and transportation manager for Sanral's Northern Region - says the initiative will result in the e-toll account becoming a mobility account that could, for instance, be used for vehicle licence renewal payments, cashless parking, fuel payments and to use Sanral's customer service centres for driving licence renewals. Automated fare collection

Van Niekerk told the Smarter Mobility Africa 2019 conference in Pretoria last week that Sanral, in conjunction with the Department of Transport, is also exploring the possibility of introducing integrated or automated fare collection for the various modes of public transport.

He says there are a lot of people who on a daily basis start their trip using a taxi, move on to a bus and then into a Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) train. "They use several modes of transport but they need to buy tickets here and need to pay cash there - and if there is a strike, it means they have lost their monthly ticket because they have paid upfront for their bus ticket for the month.

"We are not looking at replacing any existing system," he adds. "We

are looking to see if we can use the existing system to link all the fare collection systems out there at the back end where people have a central account and they service this account."

Van Niekerk says this account-based ticketing system would help commuters to pay for different transactions submitted by various operators, such as the Rea Vaya bus service in Johannesburg, A Re Yeng bus service in Tshwane and Prasa train services.

He stresses that it will be a national rather than Gauteng-based system. As various transport authorities come on board, they will be integrated at the back-end with users only needing to top up their services account.

Van Niekerk adds that the

information provided by the full integration fare management and advanced public transport management systems will enable the authorities to do proper planning. "We will now understand the [transport] user's pattern end to end, where they are getting onto public transport, the different modes of transport, and the duration of the full journey," he says.

"This will provide transport planners with information on how to better plan and how to better provide intermodal transport facilities and so forth." Sanral has had several engagements with different role players, and Van Niekerk says the Department of Transport is very active at this stage in engaging with municipalities and provinces about the system.

## Airlines Association of Southern Africa to discuss sustainability, economic growth

JOHANNESBURG

The 49th annual general assembly (AGA) of Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA) which starts from October 10-13 in Reunion Island will focus on the impediments to the success of African carriers and the economies they support.

Although Africa represents just 2 percent of global air transport, it accounts for 98 million passenger journeys and about 970,000 tonnes of flown cargo. It supports 6.2 million African jobs and contributes around \$55.8 billion to the continent's gross domestic product (GDP) - a significant portion of which is attributable to the airline business in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean islands.

Over 200 delegates are expected to attend the assembly, which will be hosted by Air Austral in Reunion. They represent airlines, governments, regulators, airports, airspace management services, ground handlers and various service providers, financiers as well as aircraft and engine manufacturers and allied sectors.

"Airlines provide a safe and reliable transport system that seeks to be efficient, affordable, and environmentally responsible which adds value to the economies and societies it serves. Notwithstanding the vital contribution our sector already makes, there is untapped potential to create more jobs and additional GDP. For example, another 40,000 jobs and \$515 million in additional GDP would be created if just three of the countries in our region - Angola, Namibia and South Africa, reformed regulations and placed air connectivity at the nexus of their economic growth and development strategies," explained AASA CEO, Chris Zweigenthal.

"As the SADC (Southern African Development Community) regional industry association, we are concerned with the sustainability of the Southern African and Indian Ocean island airlines and air transport industry. Hence, the assembly's theme is 'What's Stopping Us?' Our assembly is a forum for stakeholders in governments and industry to jointly examine and robustly engage on the issues that impact the success of African airlines," he added.

"For Reunion, air transport fulfils two fundamental roles, providing access and enhancing its attractiveness as a tourism and trade destination and providing the island with essential links to the rest of the world. More than 2.4 million passengers travelled to and from the island in 2018 - nearly three times more people than its entire population. As Reunion's airline, a core element of Air Austral's strategy is to constantly improve connectivity with the island," explained Air Austral chairman and CEO, Marie Joseph Mal.



## CONSTRUCTION

# 'FLOATING SKYSCRAPERS' STILL A DRAW FOR WORLD'S WEALTHIEST

MONACO

Gazing across the sun-dappled harbor in Monaco, even the fathomlessly rich might get the feeling that some people have more money than they know what to do with.

Floating in Port Hercules the other week – ensigns fluttering, halcyons singing – was one of the most spectacular displays of seagoing craft ever seen: 125 superyachts with a combined value of \$4.4 billion.

The mine's-bigger-than-yours lineup at the Monaco Yacht Show was yet another sign of how the wealth of today's ultrarich is remaking the world in ways that might make many ordinary people cringe. Six hundred million dollars? For a boat?

Even Henk de Vries, one of the world's foremost superyacht builders, has conceded that no one needs one. "I make the most unnecessary product that you can want, and I make it so nice that you still want it," he said a decade ago.

Even at a time of worrying inequality and anxiety over climate change, an astonishing number of the superwealthy want

superyachts – so many, in fact, that the de Vries family and their chief yacht-building rivals, the Lursen and Vitelli clans, have become fabulously rich themselves.

"You're essentially building a small skyscraper that floats on the water," said Martin Redmayne, chairman of the Superyacht Group, a London-based media company. To be successful, these shipyard owners must have "patience, time and passion – absolute passion." "It's a very long game," he said.

The business of building ocean-going palaces really got going in the Gilded Age when robber barons and their descendants traded up from schooners. The Vanderbilts owned a 332-foot steam-fuelled vessel for getaways to Europe, while the JP Morgan clan built multiple yachts called Corsair, each bigger and better than the last. The 343-foot Corsair IV was launched in 1930 to sail the family up and down the East Coast and across the Atlantic until it was given to the British navy at the start of World War II.

Demand slowed in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, but rebounded as Greek shipping magnates, royalty and



Furniture sits on the stern deck of luxury superyacht Secret, manufactured by Abeking & Rasmussen, during last month's Monaco Yacht Show.

Hollywood movie stars became yacht owners. Paolo Vitelli got his start in 1969 after selling a nightclub business. He used the proceeds to found the yacht-maker now known as Azimut Benetti.

Italy at the time was rocked with labour unrest, but Vitelli imported boats from the Netherlands and later designed and built mass-produced luxury vessels. He expanded when Benetti, one of the biggest names in the industry, ran into trouble in the 1980s, partly because of the costs of

developing "Nabila," a 282-foot vessel whose owners have included Saudi Arabian businessman Adnan Khashoggi and President Donald Trump. Vitelli bought the business in 1985 and overnight turned his firm into a boat-builder for the richest of the rich.

Two years later stock markets tanked and demand tumbled, but Vitelli, 72, stuck it out through this crash and the global financial crisis two decades later. These days, business is again booming as Middle East royalty, Russian oli-

garchs, technology titans and real estate moguls compete for ever bigger or more advanced boats. There are more than 350 under construction currently, according to the Superyacht Group, including a 466-footer poised to launch next year code-named Project Redwood. The future owner's name is shrouded in secrecy.

Azimut Benetti is the world's biggest yacht-builder by volume. It reported annual sales – measured in value of production underway – of €900 million for the year

ended August 31. That's made the Vitellis wealthy, but the family has little interest in cashing out.

"An American fund once wrote me a check for \$1.7bn," Vitelli said in an interview at Azimut Benetti's shipyard in Livorno, Italy. He declined the offer. "Money and cash ruin the family and take away the pleasure of running the company. You have to have rules and simplicity to love the real things."

That was evident in March, when Vitelli launched "IJE" with the customary Champagne

bottle shattering against the side, green, white and red confetti fluttering into a blue sky and Luciano Pavarotti's voice echoing from throbbing speakers. The 354-foot yacht, built for Australian casino magnate James Packer, comes with a cinema, sauna and fire pit.

It's a monster by most standards and spent the week of the Monaco Yacht Show off Italy's western coast. The Monaco event started in 1991 as a place for owners, brokers and fans of megaboating to gawk at the latest designs. The inaugural show featured 32 vessels. Last month, four times that number were on display during a week that drew more than 30,000 visitors to Monaco, including a Robert Redford and Gwen Stefani.

But the undoubted stars of the four-day event were the gleaming boats. Germany's Lursen displayed the 364-foot Tis, which comes with a massage room, helipads and nine cabins. It's owned by Russian commodities trader Alexei Fedorychev and is available for mere mortals to rent for \$2.2m a week, plus expenses.

Lursen announced plans for Tis three years ago, a typical time frame for the biggest custom

superyachts. The process starts with a naval architect and designers, and involves teams representing the owner and project managers, as well as thousands of hours of labor for shipyard workers.

Lursen traces its roots to 1875, when 24-year-old Friedrich Lursen started a boatyard near Bremen. At first he made only row boats, but later pioneered motorboats with a founder of car maker Daimler. Peter Lursen, Friedrich's great grandson, now leads the company, which helped build the 414-foot superyacht of Microsoft's late co-founder Paul Allen. About a third of the German firm's business is from repeat clients, Peter Lursen said at a Superyachts.com event in London this year.

"So we must be doing something right," he added. But for all the riches floating around there are ominous signs. Rising inequality and a populist backlash has put a spotlight on the world's richest and their toys. British retail billionaire Philip Green's "Lionheart" – made by Azimut Benetti – has become a focus of outrage, highlighted by the media each time Green closes stores and cuts jobs.

## UK property investors fear Brexit will push away overseas buyers

LONDON

A majority of British property investors are worried Brexit will deter overseas buyers and further weaken the UK housing market, a survey has found.

As economic uncertainty over Brexit continues to bite, 55 per cent of UK residential property investors said they believed Brexit would weaken the market by making the UK less attractive to foreign investment.

A similar majority said they believed international interest was important to the economy and over 80 per cent of investors said they believed overseas buyers play a vital role in making the UK housing market competitive.

Yet despite the high importance placed on international investment, local investors indicated that they would like to see some reforms to the system, with two-thirds saying they would like to see an increase in stamp duty (a UK property tax) paid by overseas buyers.

The UK government is currently considering a 1 per cent surcharge on property purchases by foreign buyers. Alpa Bhakta, CEO of Butterfield Mortgages, said: "As the UK heads towards the Brexit deadline, the country's ability to attract international investment is going to be



Property lined up for sale in the suburbs of London.

hugely important.

"Property investors are concerned that we may, in fact, be pushing away overseas buyers and in turn damaging our own real estate market," Ms Bhakta added. "That said, it is clear that controls

must be put in place to protect the interests of domestic buyers."

The UK housing market has endured a period of turbulence since the country voted to leave the European Union in 2016. Increasing uncertainty over the

terms and timing of Britain's withdrawal from the bloc has weakened the pound and destabilised the property sector.

The British lender Halifax said on Monday that house price growth had slowed to its lowest level in more than six years.

The average price of a house fell 0.4 per cent month-on-month to £232,574 in September, and edged up by just 1.1 per cent year-on-year.

Russell Galley, managing director at Halifax, said house price growth levels were the lowest seen since April 2013. Property values in London have been the hardest hit as the country grapples with uncertainty over the possibility that the UK could crash out of the EU without a deal.

According to a report by Swiss investment bank UBS, the UK capital remains "trapped in uncertainty," with prices at the top end of the luxury market being worst affected. However, it added that the weakened pound may make UK property purchases more attractive to foreign buyers.

The UK government on Tuesday signalled that talks over a final Brexit deal, made to Europe by prime minister Boris Johnson, were about to collapse. The government's pledge to take the UK out of the EU "come what may" appears likely to contribute towards increased economic uncertainty in the near term. "Looking ahead, we expect activity levels and price growth to remain subdued while the current period of economic uncertainty persists," said Mr Galley.

## Buyer of Thomas Cook shops says travel group can thrive without airline costs

LONDON

Hays Travel, the UK booking agent that's buying 555 shops from Thomas Cook Group said the stores can turn profitable without the hefty airline costs that helped bring down the 178-year-old tour operator.

Hays will add the outlets to its existing 190 shops to expand a business that's more online-focused than Thomas Cook was, founder and Managing Director John Hays said in an interview. The travel agent will buy the leasehold on the properties together with everything inside, including customer-mailing lists.

"We don't run an airline," Hays said by telephone. "Ours is a much more flexible model where we concentrate a lot more on going on long-haul and scheduled airlines like British Airways and Virgin Atlantic and then packaging that up into tailor-made holidays."

Hays Travel, which is funding the deal from its own reserves, aims to keep all of the shops open, even where they overlap with its own outlets. That would save the jobs of 2,500 people, a quarter of whom have already been taken on, as well as creating 100 posts at its base in Sunderland, northeast England.

"If high street shops use only traditional marketing I don't think they have a future," MD Hays said. "Our point of differentiation is that we integrate with digital channels. Our staff will say the web is their friend, while Thomas Cook retail staff would have said the web is their enemy."

Thomas Cook's collapse on September 23 under a mountain of debt led to 9,000 job losses in the UK and left 150,000 people stuck overseas, with the holiday plans of thousands more ruined. Hays struck the deal for its shops with a court-appointed official receiver and special managers from KPMG.

The company, which describes itself as Britain's largest independent travel agent, was founded four decades ago and had sales of more than 1 billion pounds (\$1.2 billion) last year, directly employing 1,900 people. Hays said that as Thomas Cook's largest third-party agent he met with executives from the doomed company a week before it went under and left "feeling reassured" that it would survive.

## Aldar Investments plans 10-year sukuk to refinance its debt

ABU DHABI

Aldar Investment Properties, a fully-owned subsidiary of Abu Dhabi's biggest listed developer Aldar Properties, plans to issue a 10-year, dollar-denominated sukuk to refinance its existing debt.

Aldar has embarked on a series of fixed income investor meetings in Europe, Asia and the Middle East starting from October 10, it said in a statement on the Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange, where its shares trade.

The company has mandated Dubai Islamic

Bank, First Abu Dhabi Bank, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank to lead the potential deal. Other banks involved in the transaction include Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Emirates NBD Capital and Sharjah Islamic Bank.

Proceeds of the intended issue will be used to refinance existing debt and the offer is expected to be priced on October 15, subject to market response, with the results being announced as soon as reasonably appropriate, Aldar said.

Aldar Investments was launched in September last year with a portfolio of Dh20 billion of revenue-generating assets. About 5,000 residential units and 500,000 square metres of retail and commercial space were transferred into the new vehicle, along with Dh6bn of existing debt.

The wholly-owned asset management arm of Aldar Properties also subsequently took full ownership of Etihad Plaza and Etihad Airways Centre in a Dh1.2bn deal in February and took possession of the Al Jimi Mall extension in

Al Ain in March. It also sold the 23-storey Al Murjan mixed-use tower at Danet Abu Dhabi. The company's portfolio currently has an occupancy rate of about 90 per cent.

Aldar Investments is rated Baal by Moody's. The sukuk market is expected to witness its fourth consecutive annual increase this year, with total issuance reaching about \$130bn, ratings agency Moody's Investors Service predicted in August. It said that total sukuk volumes grew to \$87.4bn in the first half of the year, from \$64bn in the same period of 2018.



## WORLD

## Joe Biden calls for Trump's impeachment

WASHINGTON

U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden, who President Donald Trump accused of involvement in a corruption case in Ukraine, called for the president's impeachment Wednesday.

"He should be impeached," Biden said of Trump at a rally in Rochester, New Hampshire, the first time he has urged Trump's removal from office since the alleged presidential misconduct related to Ukraine erupted.

"With his words, and his actions, President Trump has indicted himself by obstructing justice, refusing to comply with the congressional inquiry," said Biden, also former vice president of the United States.

"He's already convicted himself in full view of the world and the American people." Trump has been facing an ongoing impeachment inquiry led by House Democrats into what investigators believed to be his inappropriate interactions with Ukraine.

In a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on July 25, Trump asked his counterpart to investigate Biden and his son Hunter Biden, according to a rough transcript of the call released by the White House.

In response, Zelensky pledged that his government will look specifically into Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian gas company accused of corruption, which Hunter Biden once worked for.

Biden has denied any wrongdoing, in-

sisting that he has never spoken with his son about the latter's overseas business dealings. "Donald Trump has violated his oath of office, betrayed this nation, and committed impeachable acts.

You know, to preserve our Constitution, our democracy. Our basic integrity. He should be impeached," Biden told the audience in Rochester.

The controversy surrounding the Trump-Zelensky phone call also involved Trump's order prior to the call to put U.S. military aid to Ukraine on hold.

In addition, Trump also requested that Zelensky do the United States a "favor" by finding out "what happened with" the computer server used by the Democratic National Committee that investigators probing alleged Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. election believed was hacked by Russia.

"The server, they say Ukraine has it," Trump told Zelensky, the transcript showed. Reacting quickly to Biden's remarks, Trump tweeted that it was "so pathetic to see" his political rival "calling for my impeachment."

"I did nothing wrong, Joe's Failing Campaign gave him no other choice!" he added, linking Biden's assertions to the 2020 presidential election.

The president tweeted last Friday that his request for an investigation into Biden "has NOTHING to do with politics or a political campaign against the Bidens.

"This does have to do with their corruption!" There has so far been no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden senior or junior.

However, the former vice president, during an event in January 2018 at the Council on Foreign Relations, bragged about how he in 2016 successfully persuaded the Ukrainian authorities to sack the country's then prosecutor general, Viktor Shokin, who was investigating Burisma Holdings at the time.

Biden threatened to withhold some 1 billion U.S. dollars in loan guarantees from Ukraine if Shokin was not removed. Shokin, in turn, was fired.

Agencies



Former Vice President Joe Biden

## Russia may give asymmetrical response to US withdrawal from Treaty on Open Skies – senator

MOSCOW

MOSCOW won't take any decisive action until reports about Washington's plans to pull out of the Treaty on Open Skies are confirmed, but may provide an asymmetrical response in case of US withdrawal. Chairman of the Russian Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) Defense and Security Committee Viktor Bondarev told TASS.

"These reports haven't been confirmed yet and the US hasn't yet moved from words to action, so Russia won't take any decisive steps for now. If these reports are not fake news, they will be confirmed soon and it will be reasonable for us to provide an asymmetrical response," the senator said. "We gave a tit-for-tat response to US withdrawal from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty because it was a bilateral document, but the Treaty on Open Skies was signed by 23 countries, so we won't succumb to Washington's trolling and will sacrifice neither regional nor global stability nor our friendly relations with constructive partners to American instigators," Bondarev added.

He pointed out that a short while back, Moscow had conducted observation flights over NATO countries in accordance with the Treaty, providing NATO members with an opportunity to fly over Russia.

On Tuesday, CNN reported that Washington would soon announce plans to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Eliot Engel in a letter to White House National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien earlier condemned the Trump administration's alleged plans.

"Withdrawal risks dividing the transatlantic alliance and would further undermine America's reliability as a stable and predictable partner when it comes to European security," Engel pointed out. Meanwhile, senior Democratic lawmakers called on US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Mark Esper to abandon withdrawal plans.

Treaty on Open Skies

The Treaty on Open Skies was signed in Helsinki on March 24, 1992, by the member-states of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and went into force on January 1, 2002.

The accord includes 34 countries, among them, most NATO members, Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden and Finland. Russia ratified the Treaty on May 26, 2001.

The purpose of the deal is to help build confidence between countries through the improvement of mechanisms to control military activities and compliance with arms control agreements.

Agencies

## Ukraine president says 'no blackmail' in talks with Trump

KYIV, Ukraine

UKRAINIAN President Volodymyr Zelenskiy says there was "no blackmail" in the phone call with US President Donald Trump that helped spark an impeachment inquiry.

Responding yesterday to questions from The Associated Press, Zelenskiy (pictured) said he only learned after their July 25 phone call that the US had blocked hundreds of millions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine.

"We didn't speak about this" during the July call, Zelenskiy said, saying the military aid wasn't the "theme" of the conversation. He spoke yesterday during an unusual, all-day "media marathon"

in a Kyiv food court amid growing questions about his actions as president.

Trump asked Zelenskiy during the call to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, according to a rough White House transcript. Congressional Democrats believe Trump was holding up the aid to use as leverage to pressure Ukraine and advance his domestic political interests ahead of next year's US presidential election.

Trump said the military aid was frozen because of concerns about corruption in Ukraine, but the move prompted congressional outcry and the money was released in September.

The July call is central to the impeachment inquiry, and em-



barrassed Zelenskiy because it showed him as eager to please Trump and critical of European partners.

Zelenskiy wouldn't say whether the Ukrainians have a different version of the transcript or whether the White House version accurately reflects the content of the leaders' conversation.

Zelenskiy said he thought the

call would lead to an in-person meeting with Trump, and wanted the American leader to come to Ukraine. Zelenskiy said the "key question" for him was to try to persuade the White House to "change its rhetoric" about Ukraine as a corrupt and untrustworthy country.

He said he had "several calls" with Trump, but bristled at repeated questions about their relationship. "We are an independent country, we have relations with many countries," not just the US.

Zelenskiy is notably trying to end a five-year conflict with Russia-backed separatist in eastern Ukraine, and is treading carefully to ensure continued support from the US while trying to make peace

with powerful neighbor Russia.

In the July call, Trump sought help on two fronts. The first involves Trump's claims that Ukraine allied with the Democrats in a plot to derail his 2016 presidential campaign. No evidence of such a plot has emerged.

At the same time, Trump is also pushing Ukraine to investigate any potential wrongdoing by Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company. Trump has said the United States has an "absolute right" to ask foreign leaders to investigate corruption cases, though no one has produced evidence of criminal wrongdoing by the Bidens.

Agencies

## Super typhoon on track to drench Japan's main island

TOKYO

JAPAN is bracing for a super typhoon on track to hit central and eastern regions over the three-day weekend with potential damage from torrential rains and strong winds.

Typhoon Hagibis has already caused cancellations of two Rugby World Cup matches that were to be played Saturday. Organizers canceled the England-France match planned in Yokohama, near Tokyo, and New Zealand-Italy game in Toyota, in central Japan.

Organizers also called off a marathon in Sendai and other northern coastal towns. Formula One auto racing in Suzuka in central Japan may also be affected.

Hagibis, which means speed in Filipino, had maximum sustained winds of up to 270 kilometers and stronger gusts at noon Thursday near Chichi island in the Pacific, about 1,000 kilometers off Tokyo's southern coast. It was

moving north at the speed of 20 kph and is expected to weaken over cooler waters as it nears Japan's main island.

It's the equivalent of a Category 5 hurricane.

The Japan Meteorological Agency says the typhoon is forecast to hit ashore in the Tokyo area late Saturday and urged people to take precautions to avoid potentially life-threatening danger. Japan's central Pacific coast may see torrential rains beginning Friday while high waves and tides may cause flooding.

Airlines and train services anticipate cancellations affecting holidaymakers travelling over the three-day weekend that includes Sports Day holiday on Monday.

The approaching typhoon is spreading fear especially in Chiba, near Tokyo, which was hit by Typhoon Faxai last month and many residents are still recovering from damage to their homes. The typhoon tore many electri-



cal poles and snapped cables, triggering extensive outages that lasted for weeks, contributing to heat illnesses and other health problems among elderly people.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, at a regular news conference, said the government will do the utmost for the people's safety, and urged residents near the typhoon route to take precautions early.

In some places, preparations have started.

Local offices in Chiba city started distributing free sandbags to shield against flooding. The city also cautioned against power outages from potential typhoon damage and urged residents to make sure they have enough food, water and their phones are charged.

In Chofu in Tokyo's western suburbs, workers at the city hall

renovation site reinforced scaffolding and placed protective nets to prevent equipment and construction materials from being blown off.

At a winery in Yamanashi, north of Tokyo, workers picked grapes Thursday to save them from the typhoon, Japan's NHK television said.

East Japan Railway Co. said it may suspend services on most local lines and bullet trains around Tokyo before the typhoon arrives.

Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways said they may ground flights as early as Friday depending on the typhoon's movement.

Japan is regularly hit by Pacific storms, including Faxai in September. Typhoon Jebi flooded a terminal and a runway at Kansai International Airport last year.

Agencies

## Ecuador's protesters march, clashes break out in Quito

QUITO, Ecuador

THOUSANDS of protesters staged anti-government rallies Wednesday, seeking to intensify pressure on Ecuador's president after a week of unrest sparked by fuel price hikes.

Stone-throwing demonstrators clashed with police using tear gas to fend off crowds, including around the empty government headquarters in the capital of Quito.

Demonstrators struggled to get close to the headquarters in the colonial-era Carondelet palace, sealed off by police barricades in the narrow surrounding streets.

In one chaotic scene, protesters swarmed onto the top of a riot control vehicle that stopped in an alley. They pounded on its armored plating and reinforced windows with clubs and stones until the occupants accelerated away through clouds of smoke and tear gas.

Protesters included youths who burned tires and confronted security forces, labor union members and indigenous people who mobilized and marched, for the most part peacefully.

In a separate demonstration, thousands gathered in the port city of Guayaquil to condemn days of street violence that have shocked many Ec-

cuadorians. Some wore white clothing and carried white flags.

Ecuador's Red Cross said it was suspending paramedic and ambulance services because of security concerns. Red Cross volunteers had been attacked in several locations in recent days and people threw stones at an ambulance in Quito on Monday, the aid group said.

The military earlier warned people against violence during Wednesday's protests, following unrest that led President Lenín Moreno to move government operations from Quito to Guayaquil.

In a statement, the military ap-

pealed to Ecuadorians to denounce anyone who uses the cover of the protest to carry out vandalism and other crimes.

The military's backing is key for Moreno, who said late Tuesday that his government is negotiating with indigenous groups. The president said the dialogue is difficult because so many indigenous groups are involved. He also said he will not resign despite widespread discontent in the South American nation of 17 million.

Moreno was returning to Quito from his temporary base in Guayaquil to monitor government handling of the protests on Wednesday, Interior Min-

ister María Paula Romo said.

José Briones, secretary general of the president's office, said topics in an initial discussion with indigenous groups include aid for farmers, such as debt refinancing, irrigation and other technical assistance.

Still, the political crisis shows no immediate signs of abating. While labor leaders called the strike Wednesday, economic activity in much of the country has already been stalled by clashes, looting, blockades and other disruptions.

Ecuador's main oil pipeline, which runs from the Amazon region to Balao port on the Pacific ocean, has stopped

operating because mainly indigenous protesters disrupted production facilities, the energy ministry said.

Violence started last week after Moreno ended fuel subsidies, leading to price increases. The government says at least 700 people have been arrested.

The disturbances have spread from transport workers to students and then to indigenous demonstrators, an ominous turn for the government. Indigenous protesters played a major role in the 2005 resignation of Ecuador's president at the time, Lucio Gutiérrez, though the military's tacit approval was key to his removal.

Xinhua





Josef Schuster

## Jewish leader says German synagogue attacked by gunman inadequately protected

### BERLIN

A prominent Jewish community leader accused German authorities yesterday of providing inadequate security at a synagogue that was attacked by a far-right gunman as dozens prayed inside.

Though the gunman did not get into the building in Wednesday's attack, he killed two bystanders in a subsequent live-streamed rampage, which appeared to be modeled on last year's gun attack on a New Zealand mosque.

"If police had been stationed outside the synagogue, then this man could have been disarmed before he could attack the others," Josef Schuster, president of the council of Germany's Jewish community, told Deutschlandfunk public radio.

Most Jewish institutions in Germany's large cities have a near-permanent police guard due to occasional anti-Semitic attacks by both far-right activists and Islamist militants.

In a video of more than 30 minutes that the attacker livestreamed from a helmet camera, the perpetrator was heard cursing his failure to enter the synagogue in the eastern German city of Halle before shooting dead a woman passer-by in the street and a man inside a nearby kebab restaurant.

Two other people were injured but regional broadcaster MDR said their condition was not critical.

Police said they had detained

one person, identified by the magazines Spiegel and Focus Online as a 27-year-old German, Stephan B. His full name cannot be published under German privacy laws.

Schuster said that while it was normal practice in his experience for all synagogues to have police guards while services were being conducted inside, this appeared not to be the case in the state of Saxony-Anhalt, where Halle is located.

However, the head of Germany's police union was skeptical about the feasibility of providing that level of protection.

"We'd have to guard every synagogue, every church, every mosque, every holy place in Germany around the clock, so I don't know if this was a mistake or if this really couldn't have been foreseen," Oliver Malchow told public television.

In the event, the synagogue's solid locked gates and high walls provided ample protection against the attacker's seemingly improvised weapons.

Malchow also defended police in Halle who took 15 minutes to reach the synagogue, saying they could only respond after receiving reports about the incident, and that armored units often had to come from greater distances.

"This shows how thin the level of police coverage is," he said. "Nobody is holding back ... it probably wasn't possible to be quicker."

## S. Africa calls for peaceful dialogue with disgruntled foreign nationals

### CAPE TOWN

THE South African government has called for peaceful dialogue with disgruntled foreign nationals seeking protection from possible xenophobic attacks.

"The government remains resolute to the peaceful dialogue as the first option of resolving any form of dispute," Phumla William, Acting Director General of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) said on Wednesday.

William said South Africa is known internationally for using dialogue to solve differences and problems. "As a peace-loving and law-abiding nation, we must use this noble approach to deal with our problems," said William.

She was speaking after dozens of asylum seekers staged a sit-in at the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Cape



Town on Tuesday. The refugees accused the South African government of ignoring their plight, not only in Johannesburg where recent xenophobic attacks occurred but also in Cape Town.

The asylum seekers, mostly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi, Nigeria, Somalia and Pakistan, asked the UNHCR to help them leave South Africa for fear of xenophobic attacks. According to William, the Western Cape Refugee and Migrant Forum had

distanced itself from this sit-in protest. South Africans and those within the South African border are expected to adhere to the law and rules of the country, William said.

The government "remains committed to building a society based on democratic values of social justice, human dignity, equality, non-racialism, non-sexism and the advancement of human rights," said William. South Africa has a high number of foreign nationals who are integrated into communities across the country and the government calls on all South Africans and foreign nationals to live in harmony, she said.

According to the UNHCR, South Africa hosts about 240,000 foreigners, many of them refugees from other African countries. South Africa is a signatory to international instruments which have also been incorporated into the country's domestic law, William said.

Xinhua



## Egypt's PM accuses Ethiopia of violating Nile dam Declaration of Principles

### CAIRO

EGYPT'S Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli has accused Ethiopia of violating previous agreements related to the Nile water, official news agency MENA reported.

Addressing a general session of the House of Representatives, Madbouli said on Wednesday that Ethiopia took a unilateral decision in 2011 to build the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

He added that Ethiopia has rejected all proposals submitted by Egypt to solve the difference in the latest round of negotiations held in Khartoum.

Stressing the negotiations have reached "a deadlock," the prime minister noted that "it is quite clear that Ethiopia wants to impose the status quo on Egypt, and so we find that it has become very difficult to reach agreements with Ethiopia."

Meanwhile, Madbouli added that the dialogue is still open for reaching a solution to the issue of the GERD in a way that will not harm the Egyptian rights to the Nile water.

When Egypt asked for an international mediator, Ethiopia called for more negotiations with the consultancy houses, he added.

Ethiopia has declared that an experimental operation of the dam will take place in early 2020, said Madbouli.

He indicated Egypt has the rights based on article 10 of the Declaration of Principles to seek a mediator that can resolve differences in a scientific way.

He stressed that Egypt, with all its institutions, is committed to preserving its historical rights to the Nile water.

At the same parliamentary session, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said that "Egypt is proposing that the World Bank acts as a mediator for settling the differences."

He stressed the file of the Nile water and the Ethiopian dam is on top of the Egyptian State's priorities. "The Egyptian water security is part and parcel of the Egyptian national security," the foreign minister added, confirming Egypt works to defend its rights to the Nile water.

"Egypt will never allow Ethiopia to impose the status quo and Egypt has the power not only to protect its rights to the Nile water but also to resort to international law in this respect," added Shoukry.

Egypt, a downstream Nile Basin country, is concerned that the GERD might affect its 55.5-billion-cubic-meter annual share of the river water.

Meanwhile, upstream Ethiopia and downstream Sudan eye massive future benefits through the dam. The last round of talks on the GERD that wrapped up on Saturday in the Sudan's capital Khartoum has ended in a stalemate, according to the Egyptian side.

Xinhua

## Turkish forces seize targets in northeast Syria offensive - ministry

### ISTANBUL

TURKEY said its forces seized designated targets on the second day of an offensive against a Kurdish militia in Syria, after a withdrawal by U.S. forces opened up a dangerous new phase in the region's eight-year-old conflict.

Senior members of U.S. President Donald Trump's own Republican Party condemned him for making way for the incursion and abandoning Syrian Kurds, who have been loyal allies of Washington in the fight against Islamic State in Syria.

NATO-ally Turkey has said it intends to create a "safe zone" for the return of millions of refugees to Syria. But world powers fear Turkey's action could deepen the conflict, and runs the risk of Islamic State prisoners escaping from camps amid the chaos.

The Kurdish-led authority in northern Syria said a prison struck by Turkish shelling holds "the most dangerous criminals from more than 60 nationalities" and Turkey's attacks on its prisons risked "a catastrophe".

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) holds thousands of Islamic State fighters and tens of thousands of their relatives in detention.

Turkey said its offensive was making gains.

"Our heroic commandos taking part in Operation Peace Spring are continuing to advance east of the Euphrates (river)," the Defence Ministry wrote on Twitter. "The designated targets were seized," it said in a later statement.

CNN Turk broadcast video showing a crane overnight removing a concrete block from the border wall and commandos moving in single-file alongside the barrier.

In the Turkish border town of Akcakale, around 30 vehicles carrying Syrian rebels, many pick-up trucks mounted with anti-aircraft machines



drove along the main along the Turkish side of the border from Syria's Tel Abyad, a Reuters journalist said.

### VOLLEYS OF ROCKETS

They were accompanied by some 10 Turkish military armored vehicles. It was not clear where they were heading. Earlier, a witness in Akcakale said volleys of rockets were fired from there across the border.

Turkish forces shelled targets near Ral al Ain on Thursday morning, and SDF fighters responded, a witness said.

The Turkish military has hit 181 targets of the Kurdish militia with its air force and artillery since the start of operation into northeast Syria, the ministry said.

One of the prisons where Islamic State detainees are held was hit by a Turkish air strike, the SDF said on Twitter.

The U.S. military has taken custody of two high-profile IS militants previously held in Syria by the SDF and moved them out of the country to a secure location, a U.S. official said.

A second U.S. official said they be-

longed to a group of British fighters nicknamed "The Beatles," who have been tied to the murder of Western hostages.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's communications director, in an article published hours before the offensive started, said Trump had agreed to transfer leadership of the international campaign against Islamic State to Turkey.

Fahrettin Altun said Turkey had helped Syrian rebels holding IS captives earlier in Syria's war, adding it was in Turkey's interest "to preserve what the United States has accomplished".

Akcakale was quiet for much of the morning after sporadic gunfire and the sound of tank movement were heard in the early hours, Reuters journalists said. Explosions had rocked Tel Abyad earlier in the night, they said.

Turkey regards the Kurdish militia as a terrorist group because of its links to Kurdish PKK militants waging a decades-old insurgency in southeast Turkey.

Agencies

## Washington blacklisting Chinese entities exposes evil intentions over Xinjiang

### BEIJING

WASHINGTON has been increasingly trigger-happy when it comes to interfering in China's internal affairs.

Following their recent flagrant interferences in China's Hong Kong, China hawks in Washington are making waves regarding Xinjiang. The U.S. Department of Commerce on Monday added some Chinese entities to its sanctions list. On Tuesday, the U.S. State Department announced visa restrictions on some Chinese officials.

This is exactly what the Chinese gov-

ernment has been doing. By referring to the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, China has been taking effective measures to prevent extremism and terrorism at their root in Xinjiang, which are consistent with Chinese laws and common approaches adopted by other countries.

With these policies and measures, Xinjiang's social stability and security have been significantly improved, and it has not seen a single violent terrorist act in the past three years.

Xinhua

## Xi's visit to India, Nepal to cement neighborhood bonds, cooperation

### BEIJING

CHINESE President Xi Jinping will attend the second informal meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and pay a state visit to Nepal from Oct. 11 to 13.

This will be Xi's first overseas trip after the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, and Xi will be the first Chinese president to visit Nepal after an interval of 23 years.

Xi's trip will inject new impetus into China-India and China-Nepal relations, even

China's relations with South Asia, said Vice Chinese Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui on Wednesday, adding that Xi's trip will also open up new space for strengthening regional connectivity and economic and trade cooperation, set up new platforms for enhancing mutual trust and friendship among regional populations, and make new contributions to world peace and prosperity.

### CHINA-INDIA COOPERATION BENEFITS WORLD

China and India, both ancient civilizations, started exchanges more than 2,000 years ago.

Today China and India, both as developing countries and emerging economies, are the only two countries in the world with a population of more than 1 billion, and are both at a key stage of developing economy, deepening reform and advancing modernization.

In Chennai, Xi will have an in-depth communication with Modi on issues that have overall, long-term and strategic significance on bilateral relations.

Since the first informal meeting between Xi and Modi in the central Chinese city of Wuhan last year, China-India relations have entered a new stage of



steady growth, with cooperation and exchanges being carried out in various fields and differences being properly managed, Luo said.

In recent years, bilateral ties have shown strong momentum, with strategic economic and financial dialogue advancing

steadily, and pragmatic cooperation continuing to develop.

People-to-people and cultural exchanges are also flourishing. In China, the Indian film "Dangal" became a hit in 2017, and the China-India co-production "Kung Fu Yoga" won wide praise in both countries.

Last December, New Delhi saw the first meeting of China-India high-level people-to-people exchanges mechanism, which has facilitated the development of partnership between the two sides.

China-India cooperation will not only benefit the development of the two countries,

but also help promote world multipolarization and economic globalization, and safeguard the common interests of developing countries, Luo said.

China and India will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral ties next year. Xi's visit will set the tune and guide the direction for future development of the ties, and speak to the world in unanimous voice, so as to inject positive energy into the world of growing uncertainties.

Lin Minwang, a professor at the Institute of International Studies of the Shanghai-based

Fudan University, said China and India create development opportunities for each other.

During Xi's visit, the two leaders will have in-depth exchanges, providing strategic guidance and top-level design for the future development of bilateral ties, Lin added.

"Both India and China need to learn from each other," said Satyendra Kumar Upadhyay, an Indian scholar. "India and China have multiple reasons and advantage to collaborate and contribute for global peace and development."

Xinhua





Charles Leclerc

Sebastian Vettel

## Vettel, Leclerc play down talk of Ferrari rift

SUZUKA, JAPAN

FERRARI Formula One team mates Charles Leclerc and Sebastian Vettel played down talk of a rift between them, saying tensions that threatened to boil over at the Russian Grand Prix had cooled.

The pair engaged in a testy back and forth with their team over the radio two weeks ago in Sochi after Vettel, who used the slipstream tow from the Monegasque's pole-sitting car to vault into the lead at the start, refused to hand the place back as per a pre-race agreement.

The flare-up ultimately resolved itself, with Vettel forced to retire with a power unit problem having already lost track position to Leclerc thanks to a later pitstop.

But it still left Ferrari managing an increasingly delicate relationship between the German four-time champion and the 21-year-old.

"There was some misunderstanding (in) the car," said Leclerc, speaking to reporters ahead of Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

"But I think we've had a discussion and everything is clear now."

"It felt like it was a huge deal from the outside which it definitely wasn't. But now everything is fine."

Leclerc, in his first season with Ferrari and second in Formula One, has turned up the

pressure on the far more experienced Vettel. He has won two races to Vettel's one this season and in Russia became the first driver since Michael Schumacher to take four straight pole positions for the Italian team.

He has outqualified Vettel for nine straight races.

The pre-race agreement in Sochi was centred around Leclerc giving Vettel the tow to help him leap past second-placed Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton and give Ferrari a one-two at the front.

Leclerc and Vettel had initially disagreed whether the agreement still applied given Vettel had already jumped Hamilton off the line.

On Thursday Leclerc expressed confidence a repeat wouldn't occur.

Vettel, who joined Ferrari in 2015 hoping to emulate boyhood hero Schumacher by handing the Italian team their first drivers' title since 2007, said Ferrari were looking forward.

"We didn't write anything in stone," said the German.

"I don't think it's necessary."

"Probably there's certain things that we could've done better looking back but in the end we look forward to this race and the next races."

REUTERS

## Media events now canceled in China for NBA preseason game



Fans wave jerseys and take photos of unidentified LA Lakers' players walk inside the Ritz-Carlton hotel lobby in Shanghai, China, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday that the league is still expecting them to play as scheduled this week, even while the rift between the league and Chinese officials continued in ways that clearly suggested the two planned games in Shanghai and Shenzhen were anything but guaranteed. (AP Photo)

BY TIM REYNOLDS

IN response to the NBA defending Daryl Morey's freedom of speech, Chinese officials took it away from the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets.

All of the usual media sessions surrounding the Lakers-Nets preseason game in Shanghai on Thursday – including a scheduled news conference from NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and postgame news conferences with the teams – have been canceled. It's the latest salvo in the rift between the league and China stemming from a since-deleted tweet posted last week by Morey, the general manager of the Houston Rockets.

"There will be no media availabilities for tonight's game between the Brooklyn Nets and Los Angeles Lakers," the NBA said in a statement Thursday, released a few hours before the game.

The game was held as scheduled, with Lakers forward LeBron James and Nets guard Kyrie Irving getting loud ovations when they were introduced as starters. But neither national anthem was played before the game, and no players addressed the crowd before tip-off in a departure from tradition before such international games. Fans arriving at the arena to watch

– many of them donning NBA jerseys – were handed small Chinese flags to carry with them inside, and at least one person carried a sign critical of Silver.

"I understand that there are consequences from that exercise of, in essence, his freedom of speech," Silver said at a news conference in Tokyo earlier this week. "We will have to live with those consequences."

And this move was one of those consequences. Morey's tweet expressed support for anti-government protesters in Hong Kong, and sparked fallout that has completely overshadowed the NBA's annual trip to China – which typically takes on a celebratory tone.

Not this year. Most events in advance of the game, such as NBA Cares events to benefit educational causes and the Special Olympics, were called off, as was a "fan night" where Lakers and Nets players were to interact directly with some Chinese ticketholders. Signage in Shanghai to promote the game – huge photos of James, Anthony Davis, Irving and other players – was ripped down, and mentions of the game were scrubbed from the arena website.

All that comes as many Chinese corporations suspended their business ties to the NBA. Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said it was not going to show the Lakers-Nets games on Thursday

or in Shenzhen on Saturday, and NBA broadcast partner Tencent also said it was changing its coverage plans for the league.

Silver said earlier this week that Rockets great Yao Ming, a Basketball Hall of Famer and now the president of the Chinese Basketball Association – which has also suspended its ties with Houston as part of the Morey tweet fallout – is angry as well.

"I'm not sure he quite accepts sort of how we are operating our business right now, and again, I accept that we have a difference of opinion," Silver said. "I also think that as part of our core values, tolerance is one of those as well. I think tolerance for differing societies' approaches, tolerance for differing points of view and the ability to listen. Certainly I don't come here, either as the commissioner of the NBA or as an American, to tell others how they should run their governments."

In the U.S., there was governmental reaction as well leading up to the game.

On Wednesday in Washington, a bipartisan group of lawmakers – including the rare alignment of Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Democratic Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York – sent a letter to Silver saying the NBA should show the "courage and integrity" to stand up to the Chinese government.

They asked the NBA to, among other things, suspend activities in China until what they called the selective treatment against the Rockets ends.

"You have more power to take a stand than most of the Chinese government's targets and should have the courage and integrity to use it," the lawmakers told Silver.

The Rockets were extremely popular in China, largely because of Yao. But the team's merchandise has been taken off e-commerce sites and out of stores selling NBA apparel in the country, murals featuring the team's stars and logo were painted over and even the Chinese consulate office in Houston expressed major displeasure with Morey and the Rockets.

Morey has been silent on the matter since a tweet Sunday where he attempted to make some sort of amends with the Chinese.

"I have always appreciated the significant support our Chinese fans and sponsors have provided and I would hope that those who are upset will know that offending or misunderstanding them was not my intention," he wrote Sunday. "My tweets are my own and in no way represent the Rockets or the NBA."

Saturday's game between the Lakers and Nets in Shenzhen also remains on as scheduled.

## Amid rift with China, will the NBA be forced to apologize?

BY TIM REYNOLDS

WHEN major corporations have done something to anger Chinese authorities in recent years, the playbook has called for one thing: an apology.

Marriott issued one. So did Delta. Mercedes-Benz, too.

The NBA, embroiled in a rift caused by a tweet expressing support for pro-democracy demonstrators in Hong Kong, has avoided going that route – for now. But with billions at stake from things like merchandise sales and media rights, some experts are wondering if anything other than an apology from NBA Commissioner Adam Silver will mend this fence, especially with the Chinese indicating that is what they want.

"I think that Commissioner Silver might have to do what everyone in our country doesn't want him to have to do," said Windy Dees, a sports marketing expert at the University of Miami. "He may have to say, 'I understand that your government, your political system, your culture, your ideologies are different than ours and we shouldn't push our beliefs on you.'"

"And that's exactly what

Americans and NBA fans don't want to see their commissioner say," Dees added.

Silver has chosen his words carefully to this point, defending the right of Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey – who sent the tweet, now deleted yet still causing major problems – to freedom of expression.

Silver also said the league is apologetic over the disharmony caused by Morey's tweet but stopped well short of apologizing for the tweet itself.

Morey attempted to clarify his position in subsequent tweets, which some, including Brooklyn Nets owner Joe Tsai, the Taiwanese-Canadian co-founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, considered an apology.

But the only true apology so far came from Rockets star James Harden, the 2017-18 NBA MVP who tried to fix things by insisting, "We love China."

Clearly, that wasn't enough. "The hurt that this incident has caused will take a long time to repair," Tsai said in an open letter to fans in which he tried to shed light on the Chinese perspective when it comes to Hong Kong.

The question is, how long?



A worker takes down a billboard advertising an NBA preseason basketball game on Thursday between the Los Angeles Lakers and Brooklyn Nets in Shanghai, China, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2019. (AP Photo)

Dean Crutchfield, CEO of the crisis management firm Crutchfield + Partners, said Morey's tweet, well-intentioned as it was, could cost the NBA billions. He wondered if a parting of the ways between Morey and the Rockets would appease China.

"You need to fire him and you need to fire him fast,"

Crutchfield said. "China needs a statement, and for him to still be in his job is remarkable. I think Silver did a remarkable job with his statement, but this is a senior official, well aware of the importance of the Chinese market. One man, one tweet."

LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers are scheduled to play Tsai's Nets on Thursday

in Shanghai, then again Saturday in Shenzhen. For now, those games are expected to be played.

But China state broadcaster CCTV is not going to air the games as previously planned and said it is examining other aspects of its relationship with the NBA.

Tencent, the Chinese

conglomerate that has a \$1.5 billion streaming deal spanning the next five seasons with the league, has said it will not show planned preseason coverage from NBA arenas. And Chinese companies like apparel giant Li-Ning and Vivo, a smartphone maker that was going to be a sponsor of the Lakers-Nets games, have suspended their business dealings with the NBA.

"If you have CCTV and Tencent saying, 'We're not airing the NBA,' that is a huge red flag," Dees said. "It's almost like a Chinese lockout. If China does not broadcast games, this is a major financial problem for the NBA. And I'm thinking this is going to go on for a while. This is not getting resolved right away. The one thing that you don't mess with is Chinese government, and unfortunately not everyone in the U.S. understands the global power that China is."

In the meantime, Silver is "upholding the values of the two countries where the NBA is based," the U.S. and Canada, said Heather Dichter, a professor of sport management and sport history at De Montfort University in Leicester, England.

"If he had gone the other way, that to me becomes more damaging for the league financially," she said. "China puts in money, but they're not the core of your business. The teams can survive without their money. They can't survive if they have no ticketholders."

The NBA's ties to China go back at least 30 years, from when then-Commissioner David Stern opened a fledgling office in Hong Kong with a bare-bones staff and struck a deal to show games to Chinese viewers on a tape-delay basis.

The game's popularity in China has soared since. Many top NBA players visit every summer to promote footwear and apparel, usually greeted by huge crowds of adoring fans. The typically cited numbers are that 300 million Chinese play basketball and 500 million watch the NBA.

Now those carefully cultivated and highly lucrative ties have been thrown into jeopardy.

"As to what the NBA should say and do next, I believe it knows better than anyone else," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.



## Argentina coach hails 'positives' despite Messi absence in Germany draw

DORTMUND, GERMANY

LIONEL Scaloni praised his battling Argentina side, missing Lionel Messi, as they scored second-half goals to earn a 2-2 draw in a friendly against an experimental Germany team Wednesday.

The Germans flew into a 2-0 lead with first-half goals by Serge Gnabry and Kai Havertz in Dortmund before Lucas Alario turned the game when he came on for Argentina with an hour gone.

The Leverkusen striker pulled a goal back, then set up Lucas Ocampos for a deserved late equaliser.

"We matured during the game," said Argentina coach Scaloni. "We made two or three mistakes in the first half, but got a grip in the second half, were more patient and we take a lot of positives for the future."

"I was impressed with the attitude, we didn't give up when we went 2-0 down."

Germany head coach Joachim Loew admitted his side faded after a bright start.

"We wanted to be in the game right from the off, but unfortunately we couldn't hold on for 90 minutes," said Loew.

"We lost a few balls, a bit of courage and got into trouble."

Loew handed out four debuts in Dortmund. Freiburg defender Robin Koch and striker Luca Waldschmidt started, then Leverkusen forward Nadiem Amiri and Schalke midfielder Suat Serdar came on for second-half debuts.

Loew was forced into a hastily re-arranged defence as Koch replaced centre-back Niklas Stark, who pulled out before kick-off with a stomach bug.

Despite 13 withdrawals due to either illness or injury, Germany impressed early against an Argentina team missing Messi, Sergio Aguero and Angel di Maria.

With Messi suspended for comments made at the Copa America, Juventus' Paulo Dybala partnered Lautaro Martinez up front for Argentina.

- Alario's impact -

The friendly was a repeat of the 2014 World Cup final, yet Argentina's Manchester United defender Marcos Rojo was the only survivor when the Germans won in Rio de Janeiro.

Rojo partnered Manchester City veteran Nicolas Otamendi in an Argentina defence which crumbled early on.

(AFP)

## Bernardo Silva given more time to respond to FA charge

LONDON

BERNARDO Silva has been granted an extension until October 21 to respond to the Football Association (FA) charge relating to his racially insensitive tweet to Manchester City team-mate Benjamin Mendy.

Silva last month tweeted - and subsequently deleted - a photo of a young Mendy and a dated image from Conguitos, a Spanish confectionary brand that has been criticised for having racist connotations. The post was captioned "Guess who?".

A week ago, the FA charged the 25-year-old playmaker with an alleged breach of FA Rule E3 on account of the post being "insulting and/or improper and/or [bringing] the game into disrepute".

It was further alleged the offence amounts to an "aggravated breach" because it included "reference, whether expressed or implied, to race and/or colour and/or ethnic origin".

Silva was given until Wednesday, October 9 to provide a response,

(Agencies)

## Van der Sar: Strong characters 'disappeared' at Man United

LONDON

LEGENDARY goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar has attributed Manchester United's struggles to the disappearance of strong characters in the dressing room, and said the situation at Old Trafford is "a long way" from the club he left eight years ago.

Van der Sar spent the final six seasons of his decorated career with the Red Devils, winning four Premier League titles and playing in three Champions League finals with Sir Alex Ferguson's side. However, United have fallen on hard times since Ferguson's departure in 2013 and are in the midst of their worst-ever start to a Premier League campaign.

When asked to comment on the difficult times Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team is facing, the former Netherlands international, who was a teammate of Solskjaer's at United, told ESPN FC in an exclusive interview: "Of course it's difficult. I left there eight years ago and it was a tremendous last six years of my career, winning four Premier League titles and playing in three Champions League finals."

"So it's a long way from the position where they are in now," van der Sar said. "And of course they have changed managers a couple times now and the real progress is not seen yet, only the thing that they bought in the summer. They bought younger, inexperienced

players with a certain desire and hunger, and not like the big names they bought the last six, seven years."

Upon joining United from Fulham in the summer of 2005, the former Ajax and Juventus star walked into a dressing room full of established veteran leadership -- a makeup, he says, that is much unlike today's team.

"I think for ourselves, when I came in the dressing room we had Ryan Giggs, you had [Paul] Scholes, you had [Rio] Ferdinand, [Gary] Neville and even Roy Keane at that time. So I think there's always been strong characters. And I think for the last couple of years the strong characters have disappeared and [are] not making a difference anymore," van der Sar said.

Though despite the recent rocky times, van der Sar said he believes that United still have the power to attract top players capable of leading them back to glory.

"Of course, the name is there. And of course the following they have all over the world," he said.

"But for a player [...] you want to play at a certain level, you also want to have an idea that you can win trophies and they must take that opportunity also to improve the squad and make the world-class players they have, or the players that they're going to sign, that they feel welcome and that there's a good path to where they're going to go to." (Agencies)

# Messi: I miss Ronaldo rivalry in Clasico, La Liga

BY ADRIANA GARCIA, ESPN

BARCELONA forward Lionel Messi has said he misses his rivalry with Cristiano Ronaldo and would have liked his fellow five-time Ballon d'Or winner to have continued in La Liga.

Ronaldo left Real Madrid as the club's all-time top scorer to join Juventus in a €100 million transfer in the summer of 2018. Since his departure to Turin, the two superstars have not faced each other.

"Yes, I would have liked for Cristiano to continue in the Spanish league, at Madrid," Messi said in an interview with Catalan radio RAC 1. "I think it gave an extra impetus to our rivalry, to the Clasico and to La Liga overall."

"I remember I said earlier this year that Madrid would notice Cristiano's departure, just as any other team would, but even so, they have enough players to be at the top and fighting for everything. It's Madrid and they have a lot of history."

Messi and Ronaldo have always contended for major individual honours, however the Argentina forward said this has never been his priority.

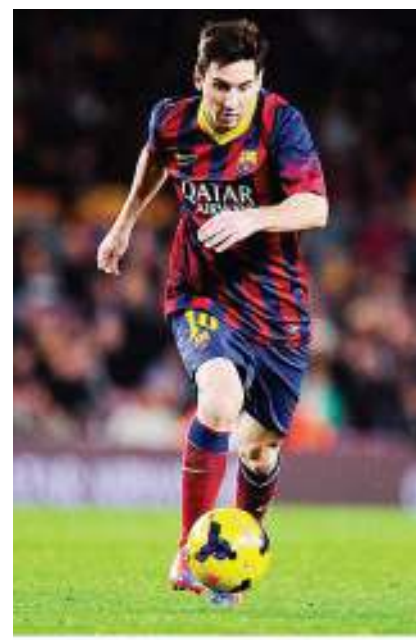
"I've never thought about finishing my career with more Ballon d'Or awards than Cristiano," he said.

Messi also said he considered leaving Barcelona and moving overseas during the years he was investigated by the Spanish tax authorities. In the summer of 2016, the Argentina captain and his father were found guilty of defrauding the tax authorities of €4.1m between 2007 and 2009.

"I've had several [difficult] periods, especially in 2013 and 2014 when I started having a problem with the Spanish tax authority and everything that came out," Messi added. "It was difficult for me and for my family."

"I think I was the first one [to be investigated by the tax authorities] and that is why everything was so hard. From then on, they showed they were going all out with me and proved that they would target all sports and footballers."

"During that time, I considered leaving Barca. Not because I wanted to leave Barca but because I wanted to leave Spain. I felt I was being mistreated and I didn't want to spend



Lionel Messi



Cristiano Ronaldo

much time there.

"I think I had the door open to many teams although I have never had an official offer because everyone knew of my wish and eagerness to continue at Barca. That, however, was beyond any situation that I felt for this home, this club, it was what I felt at a personal level. The only positive was that my children were young and didn't notice it but we had a hard time."

Messi, 32, has said he intends to retire at Barca even though he has a clause in his contract which allows him to leave at the end of each season.

"If they want me, I would obviously be delighted to remain at Barca," he said. "I reiterate that my aim has always been to stay here."

"Nothing has changed; it is as it has always been. Each time it becomes clearer that my aim and that of my family is to finish [my career] here. First because of how I am at the club, how I feel at the club, and secondly, for my family. We are very settled in this city. Of course, anything can happen but the idea is to continue living here."

Messi has extended his contract eight times since 2005 but has yet to be offered a new deal and his contract expires in June 2021.

"I don't think there is anything yet

from what I know from my father [Messi's agent]," the Barca captain said. "I have always stayed out of all negotiations."

"I have not spoken to the Barca president [Josep Maria Bartomeu] since our Champions League elimination against Liverpool. But I have no problem with the president. I have never had any problems trying to sort out things with the club. On the contrary, it has been easy. Probably once it's done [the renewal], there will be no problems and it will be done in no time."

Messi, meanwhile, said he thought Neymar would have joined Real Madrid if he were not to return to Barcelona in the summer.

Neymar was keen to return to Barca but has remained at Paris Saint-Germain with the two clubs unable to reach an agreement on the switch.

"I honestly thought in this [summer] transfer window, that if he didn't come here, he would go to Madrid," Messi said. "I thought he was very eager to leave, for a change, to leave PSG."

"I thought that [Real Madrid president] Florentino [Perez] and Madrid would do something to sign him."

Messi said he believes his friend Neymar "regrets" leaving Barca in the summer of 2017.

"I believe so, that Neymar regrets

leaving, that shortly after leaving he realised he made a mistake and that he had taken a bad decision," Messi said. "I believe so but you should ask him. Knowing him and knowing what has happened, I believe so."

Messi said he is hopeful of Neymar returning to La Liga in the short-term future.

"Neymar to Madrid? I don't rule out anything in football," Messi added. "At Barca? I don't discard it either considering what the president said, which was that it had not been possible but in the future we shall see and that the door was open."

"Neymar is one of the best in the world, he is a player that tilts the balance, makes the difference and obviously to have him in our team would have been useful in terms of having many more options to achieve our aims."

Barca did strengthen their attack by acquiring Antoine Griezmann from Atletico Madrid. The France international has scored three goals and set up two more in seven league appearances.

"It is not easy to play at Barca because of the football we play," Messi said. "From the outside it might seem easy but any player that hasn't experienced the Barca philosophy, who hasn't trained here when he was young, to come from the outside, as much quality as you could have, it is very difficult."

"He is used to playing in a very different way but I am sure he will adapt. We have no doubt he is a player with a lot of quality, very intelligent."

Asked about reports that he didn't want Barca to sign Griezmann, Messi said: "It is a lie that I didn't want Griezmann. I said before that he was one of the best and the best are always welcome to a winning project that we all want to be a part of."

"I have never had any issue with him coming, on the contrary."

Messi said that his time working under Pep Guardiola was "the best era as a player" at Barca while he considered his best goal to be "the header I scored in the Champions League final against Manchester United in 2009 in Rome."

## Manchester United are a mess, how much worse can it get?

BY ROB DAWSON, ESPN CORRESPONDENT

EVEN before a ball was kicked, Manchester United bosses expected a hard season in 2019-20.

Everton more than matched the asking price to loan defender Marcos Rojo on deadline day, but the deal was canned at the last minute over fears that Marco Silva already had a stronger squad. Chris Smalling was told he could not move to Goodison Park but was allowed to join Roma.

Privately, Silva accused United of sabotaging Everton's season before it had started by leaving him with just two senior centre-backs, one of whom (Yerry Mina) only managed 10 league starts in 2018-19 because of injury. Executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and the Glazers would ultimately be wrong about Everton -- they're 17th after eight games -- but they were right about United.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team are 12th in the table, two points above the relegation places, after Sunday's 1-0 defeat at Newcastle. Woodward has promised Solskjaer time to complete a rebuild that only began in the summer and not allow himself to be influenced by "short-term distractions" but after such a poor start, the question is simple. How much more can he take?

Squad depth is only partially Solskjaer's fault

There's an acceptance within the club that Solskjaer has been left with a squad seriously short in midfield and up front. He decided to jettison Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez for the good of the dressing room because both had made it clear they wanted to leave, becoming increasingly distant and withdrawn from the rest of the group. Money was available for a replacement for Lukaku, but Solskjaer decided against bringing in a short-term fix even as long-term targets were unavailable.

The current injury crisis is another mitigating factor. Of the team that beat Chelsea 4-0 on the opening weekend of the season, six were



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

absent against Newcastle. Paul Pogba has missed five of the past seven games with an ankle injury. Anthony Martial, identified during preseason as the first-choice centre-forward, has been sidelined since August with a thigh problem.

Behind the scenes, Woodward has spoken of "fine margins" like penalty misses against Wolves and Crystal Palace, and penalties that weren't given against Arsenal and AZ Alkmaar. The fact remains, however, that in two weeks' time, United could find themselves in the bottom three.

The 2019-20 campaign already marks their worst start to a season for

30 years. A return to the top four looks unlikely and a second successive season without Champions League football would see the annual payment from kit supplier, Adidas, reduce by 30 percent to around £20 million.

Solskjaer is aware he has gambled on the goodwill of Woodward and the Glazers. The story goes that while United fans were apoplectic at the club's transfer business in the summer of 2013, the manager, David Moyes, was far more relaxed. With the security of a six-year contract, his approach would be "evolution rather than revolution," but while he thought there would be plenty of time for change, he was sacked after just 10 months.

Solskjaer has improved the defence -- United have the fourth-best defensive record in the league through eight games -- but he will need at least one more summer window to fix everything else. However, even those around him accept a heavy defeat to Liverpool at Old Trafford after the international break could end his reign though a recent report suggested that the club had already written that match off as a loss and were more concerned with a positive result against Norwich.

If it does, Solskjaer will leave with more than a few frustrations. For

example, his concerns in the summer that deals were taking too long to get over the line. Discussions for players were never done simultaneously, with chief negotiator Matt Judge instead telling targets they were "next on the list" once the latest deal had been completed. It meant they ran out of time when it came to signing a striker and despite Solskjaer making it clear he wanted five new players to improve the squad's quality and depth in the summer, he ended up with three (Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Daniel James and Harry Maguire).

Funds will be made available in January but there are doubts the right players can be brought in midway through the season.

The team needs sharper coaching. The Norwegian has remedied some problems he encountered when he took over for Jose Mourinho 10 months ago -- the team leaks that would anger Mourinho have stopped -- but other issues remain. There are unhelpful divisions in the dressing room and when a meal in Manchester was organised after the Carabao Cup tie with Rochdale, some players opted to attend despite another disappointing performance while others decided it was inappropriate to be seen out on the town after a 1-1 draw with team near the bottom of League One.

Gwiji by David Chikoko





## SPORT

## Messi: I miss Ronaldo rivalry in Clasico, La Liga

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**EATV**

**TONIGHT @ 21:00**

**FRIDAY**

10:59 Jikoni Na Jone  
11:00 DADA2 (Live)  
13:00 Kazi Za Wana  
14:00 Radio-PlanetBongo Live  
15:00 FUNGUKA  
16:00 #HASHIFAO  
17:00 BSELEKI  
17:55 Europa  
18:00 aNews  
18:00 Skanga  
19:00 EATV SAA 1  
19:30 MJKDALA  
21:00 Friday Night Live

**FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)**  
is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

**eastafrika RADIO**

05:00 EA Breakfast  
09:00 Supamix  
12:00 Kipenga Xtra  
13:00 Planet Bongo  
16:00 EA Drive  
20:00 Kipenga  
21:00 The Cruise

**88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM**

## Doubts of touring Pakistan taken out - SL coach

LAHORE

SRI Lanka coach Ramesh Ratnayake lavished praise on Pakistan upon the conclusion of his side's tour, calling the hospitality Sri Lanka had received "a privilege to be appreciated". Speaking to the media after the visitors beat Pakistan by 13 runs to complete a 3-0 T20I series whitewash, Ratnayake said the tour had gone very smoothly, and made him confident his side soon wouldn't be the only ones to have visited Pakistan.

"This tour is a message for the whole world, and especially a message for future Sri Lankans," Ratnayake said. "This has gone very smoothly. Us playing here will encourage so many other countries to also be here."

"To experience the hospitality of Pakistan is a great thing. I've experienced it after a long, long time, and if anything, it's got even better. It was a lot of hard work for the whole system to have us here."

"You've done a great job in having us here and the security has been impeccable. I've enjoyed every moment of it even though some of us came in doubt. But the doubt has been taken out now so I would like to thank you all for making it happen."

Sri Lanka were originally scheduled to visit Pakistan for a two-match Test series, but with several first-team players opting against travelling, the PCB and the SLC agreed to have Sri Lanka over for a limited-overs tour. The Test series the sides are drafted to play against each other will form part of the World Test Championship, with wins and losses particularly significant in smaller series like this one. That is understood to be one of the major stumbling blocks for the series taking place in Pakistan, as Sri Lanka would not have their full-strength side to choose from.

However, with Sri Lanka cleaning up the T20I series in surprisingly comfortable fashion with the players available to them, and the general sense of safety Ratnayake said they felt over the fortnight, he sensed the prospect of his side playing Test cricket in Pakistan had increased. While admitting the board couldn't force anyone to come who wasn't willing, he suggested those watching at home would have seen "it is safe to be here".

"We'll certainly explain that to them and they'll have seen it as well. We'll try and convince them as much as we can, but we cannot enforce anything. Hopefully, they've changed by seeing this series be so successful."

"The crowd has been the same as 30 years ago; it hasn't changed," Ratnayake, who played seven Tests and 16 ODIs in Pakistan over the course of his career, said. "It was very touching when they were holding up signs saying 'Welcome Sri Lanka' and it was very moving to see that affection from the people."

But while the words off the pitch were friendly enough from the visitors, Sri Lanka haven't exactly been apprehensive guests, especially since they arrived in Lahore. A 2-0 ODI series win for Pakistan in Karachi suggested this might be the sort of tour on which Sri Lanka gained experience rather than having results go their way. But Lahore saw a remarkable turnaround, with the supposedly weakened hosts putting Pakistan to the sword in all three games, and sealing their first-ever 3-0 T20I whitewash in the process. Ratnayake said calling them a weak unit would be inaccurate.

AGENCIES

# Yanga ready for Pyramids FC in CAF Confederation Cup playoff



Yanga

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA'S football big guns, Yanga, are adamant they are eager to prove their worth against Egypt's Pyramids FC when the two outfits meet in a playoff aiming at seeking qualification for the group's stage of this season's CAF Confederation Cup.

The Tanzania outfit will host Pyramids FC in the first leg of the playoff in Dar es Salaam on October 27, as per the draw that was conducted by Confederation of African Football (CAF) in Egypt on Wednesday.

The two teams will thereafter clash in the second leg in Egypt on

November 3.

"We accept the draw, we understand Pyramids FC are a strong squad, they performed well in the last year's Egypt Premier League, finishing third," Yanga's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, noted when speaking to one of domestic television stations after the draw.

"We have as well been keenly following their participation in the CAF Confederation Cup."

"They won 4-1 against Congo Republic's Etoile du Congo in the first leg, they then edged the latter 1-0 in the second leg. Pyr-

amids are good and they have invested heavily in their side."

"We know they are a team boasting of good investment but we are mostly focusing on their performance on the pitch."

The Yanga information officer pointed his side is, however, better than Pyramids FC, when it comes to participation in continental tournaments.

He disclosed Yanga boast of good record in the competitions as compared to Pyramids FC.

"In our past two games in the CAF Champions League against Egypt's soccer giants, Al Ahly, we conceded defeat to the latter

in the penalty shootout in the first and we then lost to them during the last few minutes of the clash," he noted.

"We know their quality has helped them book a place in the stage, we are though better and more experienced in continental competitions, we believe they are an average opponent."

"We are starting preparations for the playoff, we understand they invested a lot, we though do not fear them, we know their tactics."

"We watched Pyramids FC two games in the continental competition, they are not a side

that will prove to be a hard nut to crack for us, we will play a team which is not much different from our squad."

Yanga were handed the chance to play the playoff once they were eliminated from the first round of the CAF Champions League by Zambia champions, Zesco United.

Zesco held Yanga to 1-1 draw in the first leg in Dar es Salaam and the second leg, which took place in Ndola, ended with Zesco winning 2-1.

Bumbuli pointed out the Jangwani Street squad went for training session on Wednesday in a bid to ensure the outfit prepare well for the clash.

He noted the club's technical committee is thereafter set to meet the technical bench and come up with strategies for seeing to it the squad perform well in the playoff.

East Africa's other representatives in the competition, Kenya's Gor Mahia FC and Bandari, as well as Uganda's KCCA FC and Proline FC, have also been handed tough draws in the playoffs.

Gor Mahia will come up against Democratic Republic of Congo's DC Motema Pembe, Guinea's Horoya AC are Bandari FC's opponents in the games.

KCCA FC will take on Algeria's Paradou A. C, Proline will confront Al Nasr of Libya.

Zimbabwe's Triangle FC that knocked Tanzania's Azam FC out of the first round of the CAF Confederation Cup will play Mauritania's FC Nouadhibou in the playoff.

## TSA launches swimming program for local schools



Young swimmers take part in training in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Swimming Association (TSA) has launched a special program for promoting the game in primary and secondary schools in the country.

The program, which was launched in Dar es Salaam yesterday, aims at spreading the game in the country and scouting many talented swimmers.

The program is under the prominent coaches and TSA's technical department. The pilot stage brought together 100

athletes from six local schools in Dar es Salaam who learnt various swimming tactics and techniques.

Amina Mfaume, TSA Technical Director, named the schools as Diamond, Olympio and Upanga primary schools while secondary schools are Azania, Jangwani, and Zanaki.

She said that the program is part of the TSA's activities for marking the World Swimming Federation (FINA) aquatic day which will reach its climax at the Shaaban Robert Secondary School on Saturday.

"This is one way of promoting the game and spreading it to the communities. There is a notion that swimming is a special game for international schools only. It is a wrong perception," she said.

Mfaume said the new swimmers will learn various swimming strokes, water safety and swimming for survival.

She pointed out the beginners will, in the closing ceremony, have to display what they have learnt during the training.

She said that they have prepared various activities during the closing ceremony

aiming at making the day colourful.

Some of the activities are water polo competition between competitive swimmers and coaches, clubs against clubs and officials.

The closing ceremony will take place at the Shaaban Robert Secondary School from 8am to 3pm.

"All TSA officials, as well as swimming stakeholders, are expected to attend the closing ceremony. We expect more than 400 people to attend," she said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

