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TANZANIA

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Minister promises artisanal gold miners protective equipment

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is set to provide artisanal gold miners with protective gears to minimize effects of mercury while seeking alternative means of processing the mineral.

Speaking to artisanal miners in Singida on Monday, the Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and



Gloves and masks will be made available to miners as personal protective equipment

Environment), Mussa Sima (pictured) said the ministry will implement the project in collaboration with mining offices in areas with the lucrative natural resource.

Gloves and masks will be made available to miners as personal protective equipment, he said at Sambaru village in Ikungi District and Londoni in Manyoni district.

"I promise we will cooperate with the Mines Office so that you get specialized protective equipment during gold processing. We will bring gloves and masks for protection as this chemical is harmful," he said.

The government is continuing to educate small scale miners in different parts of the country to avoid the negative health effects of the chemical, he said.

"Tanzania ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury last year which seeks to reduce or eliminate the use of mercury by you miners to avoid health and environmental harm," the deputy minister declared.

During the official visit to see mining operations and inspection of their environment, Sima said that the government's role is to minimize the toxic effects of mercury to protect

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Herders enraged losing 1,400 impounded cattle



From L: Edward Lowassa, Vincent Mashinji and Cecil Mwambe. Combo file photos

Some forest reserve officials were known to have been conducting cattle auctions inside the reserve while the case was still in court, and the herders have evidence for the sales, including auction receipts, he declared

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

SOME herders whose cattle were reported to have died while being held by authorities for entering protected areas in Simiyu Region have refuted the narrative, saying the livestock were starved to death and others sold.

Speaking at a rally convened by Livestock and Fisheries Minister Luhaga Mpina on Monday, the herders said more than 1,400 cattle whose owners are Itilima and Meatu district residents have disappeared while in the custody of Maswa Forest Reserve officials.

Some of the animals died after they were held for three years without receiving basic



Juma Mpina, the vice-chairman of the Meatu District Council expressed gratitude to President Magufuli for adding 500 metres of grazing land

services including vaccination, fodder and water, despite a court order that directed the return of the animals to owners.

The herders have said since 2017, some 1,484 head of cattle were seized on claims of being inside the forest reserve and despite the court having ordered their return, they continued to be held and started dying with only 72 animals remaining.

The herders have now been impoverished by the loss of their animals, they told the minister, who Line A and Line B villages in Itilima District, Mangudo and Malwilo in Meatu District during the tour.

The aggrieved herders had won the court case in Itilima District, isted as Malimi Sendama, Ngasa Mbeho, Kongwa Tuluu and Maduhu Mbuli who handed the minister various receipts showing sale of some of their cattle at throwaway prices whereby a cow valued at 400,000/- was sold for 100,000/- or less.

Herders in Meatu District who lost a total of 345 animals were Subi Maduhu, Masunga Muhamali, Zengo Kusekelwa and Kija Badila who said all of their cows died.

Another herder with 55 impounded cows was ordered by the court to pay a 1.4m/- fine

More will leave soon, Chadema leaders say as Dr Mashinji quits

By Guardian Reporter

LEADING officials of Chadema have said they are bracing for more of the opposition party's members to leave and join the ruling CCM.

This scenario was depicted yesterday in reaction to the exit of its former Secretary General Dr Vincent Mashinji, describing the move as part of a plot to distract the party.

Speaking to The Guardian in an interview, the party's director of Communications, Ideology, Publicity and Foreign Affairs, John Mrema, charged that "the plot, hatched by CCM is designed



to derail the opposition from pursuing the reform agenda ahead of the general election slated for late October.

"We are not surprised because we knew that he would leave for CCM. There are many of our members who will do the same," he asserted.

The move by Dr Mashinji to join CCM came two months after losing his powerful chief executive officer post for the party.

Mrema said Dr Mashinji, who was replaced by Kibamba MP John Mnyika, was axed from the post "because he did not believe in the party's ideology in the first place."

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Italy gives Tanzania 5bn/- to stem climate change effects

By Guardian Reporter

ITALY will give Tanzania two million euros, equivalent to over five billion shillings to mitigate effects of climate change.

The Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment) Mussa Zungu, made this affirmation after holding talks with Italian Ambassador Roberto Mengoni. The envoy has assured the government that the Italian pledge would be carried out, he



declared.

"The money was to be given to Tanzania in 2016. But the money could not be given because there was a change in leadership in Italy. Now we have been assured that the money will be delivered. On behalf of the government I thank the Italian government for this timely support," Zungu said.

The money would be gainfully used and

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Herders cry foul after losing 1,400 impounded cattle

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to get them back, but after paying the fine he was not handed back his animals.

Alex Ngulukulu, the secretary of Itilima MP Njalu Daudi Silanga (CCM), speaking on behalf of the herders, said forest reserve officials said 289 cattle had died which he said was not true.

Some forest reserve officials were known to have been conducting cattle auctions inside the reserve while the case was still in court, and the herders have evidence for the sales, including auction receipts, he declared.

Tindabuligi ward councillor Tabu Maghembe said they do not subscribe to the argument that the cattle perished as there was no eruption of any cattle diseases reported during the period. He appealed to the minister to convey their grievances to President John Magufuli.

The herders also complained over the decision by forest reserve officials to expand the reserve area without consulting residents in the area, thereby reducing the size of their grazing areas.

Juma Mpina, the vice-chairman of the Meatu District Council expressed gratitude to President Magufuli for adding 500 metres of grazing land by shifting the Maswa Forest Reserve boundary as well 60 metres reduced from river banks reserved area and allowing the cattle to drink water on the banks of the river.

In the past they did not have this dispensation resulting in many of their animals dying, he said.

The minister directed Meatu and Itilima district commissioners to convene a joint meeting that will involve the Maswa Forest Reserve Chief Conservator, the Director of Livestock Services in the ministry, the ministerial Chief Legal Officer and the aggrieved herders to go through the court judgment so that justice prevails.

He also directed the Commissioner for Lands, the Director of Fisheries and the Iramba and Meatu district executive directors to go through the reserve demarcation in order to solve the conflict involving fishing in Lake Kitangiri.

Herders whose seized cattle were ordered by the court to be returned must submit their documents and other exhibits to the Itilima and Meatu DCs so that they can be examined to provide the basis for a just solution to the matter, he added.



Aboard Le Bougainville, a French five-star expedition ship, pictured docked at Zanzibar's Malindi port at the weekend. The French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frédéric Clavier (4th-L) and his spouse, Chantal Clavier (5th-L) as well as a number of other dignitaries including Zanzibar's Trade and Industries deputy minister, Hassan Khamis Hafidh (9th-R), were among the scores of people who visited the vessel. They were welcomed on board by the ship's captain, Thomas Candless (8th-R). Photo courtesy of French Embassy in Dar es Salaam

More will leave soon, Chadema leaders say as Dr Mashinji quits

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"He was in Chadema physically but ideologically he was in CCM. You cannot be chief executive officer in an entity whose philosophy you do not believe in. That is why he was dropped," the party stalwart declared.

The party knows all its members who are on their way

out. This is why the party made changes in its key positions late last year which saw Dr Mashinji removed. The party's former MP for Singida East Tundu Lissu who is still in Belgium where he went for treatment after surviving an assassination attempt in 2017, was named Vice Chairman (Mainland). Speaking at CCM city offices

where he was received by the secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Humphrey Polepole, Dr Mashinji said he left Chadema

Mrema countered that this is a well choreographed plot meant to have party officials concentrate on dealing with why members are ditching the party "which they will not do."

"We are currently working on a strategy to demand a truly free and independent electoral commission before the polls in October. We will not be distracted by this game," he emphasized.

Dr Mashinji's move to CCM came hotly on the heels of Chadema MP for Ndanda, Cecil Mwanbe taking up CCM membership. A week

earlier, former Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye who ditched CCM for Chadema mid-2015 rejoined the ruling party.

In March last year, the Chadema presidential candidate in the 2015 general election, Edward Lowassa who defected to Chadema prior to the polls rejoined the ruling party.



Mussa Hassan Zungu (R), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), exchanges greetings with Italy's Ambassador to Tanzania, Roberto Mengoni, who paid him a visit in Dar es Salaam. They later held talks on a range of issues, including the Italian government's commitment to extend to Tanzania Euro 2 million in climate change impact mitigation funding. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Italy gives Tanzania 5bn/- to stem climate change effects

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would greatly help Tanzania protect the environment by toning down the effects of climate change.

The minister thanked Italy for making protection of the world's environment one of its priorities.

Effects of climate change were transboundary, he said, underscoring the value of international cooperation in mitigating the effects.

Italian support would help Tanzania protect the environment for generations to come, he emphasized.

Minister Zungu also said they discussed the protection of beaches, water sources and use of alternative energy sources, exploring ways and means of turning solid waste into friendly energy for domestic and other uses.

Energy sources currently in use,

mainly fossil fuels, were doing great harm to the environment, he said.

They also discussed the issue of European countries dumping toxic waste in some African countries, which the minister said contributes greatly to harming Africa's environment.

Ambassador Mengoni said Italy would strengthen existing friendship between the two countries even

with leadership changes in Italy.

"This financial support is proof of continued good relations between our countries and in making sure the environment remains friendly to human life and other creatures."

Italy was cooperating with Tanzania in other important areas such as use of solid waste and pursuit of alternative energy sources, he added.

Minister promises artisanal gold miners protective gear

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the miners' health.

He urged the miners to stop logging during gold mining activities and instead adopt a culture of using alternative energy sources as directed by the relevant authorities.

The role of the Vice President's Office and the government as a whole is to make sure that the country responds to the challenge of climate change and to bring about an impact, he said.

"As we continued to burn and cut down trees and digging holes for minerals, the things that keep the rain coming at regular periods and the sun is worse than

is usually the case," he lamented.

Mercury is widely used by miners and it is estimated that 25 to 35 percent of the miners are affected, and more than 1.2 million people are involved in mining. Between 13.2 and 24 tonnes of mercury is used in gold processing annually on average, he stated.

Mercury is said to be one of the 10 most hazardous chemicals listed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and has serious effects on the neurological system.

Of the country's 1.2m small miners up to 30 percent are female miners and most of them

use mercury, while the nearly 24 tons of mercury used is imported in a non-stop way, he further noted.

Around 25 to 33 percent of small-scale miners have been affected by the use of mercury so the government is determined to reduce or eliminate its use by small-scale miners, he further stated.

Studies show that mercury lasts in the environment for a long time (two to 20 years) and travels long distances through air, water (rivers, lakes and oceans) and soil at distances up to 1,000 kilometers from the source. It affects human health, other organisms and the environment, he added.

Dr Shein calls for review of laws governing food safety

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein has directed the ministry of health to review laws governing food security so as to address various challenges facing businesspeople in the Isles.

Speaking during the event to receive the implementation report of the ministry's work plan for July to December 2019, Dr Shein said that for a long time traders have been complaining over high levy charges posed on them.

"It is high time now, the responsible ministry to review the laws especially in the area of food safety and in the inspection of products coming in and those going outside the country...as the government, we should ensure that we work on the complaints from the businesspeople," he said.

According to Dr Shein, traders have been

claiming that proliferation of regulatory bodies and agencies as among the major challenges thwarting their development because of bureaucracy.

"The government will not be mum without responding to the traders' complaints, we are going to work on the challenges to improve trade," Dr Shein noted.

The Isles' President also urged the ministry to invest on staff development educationally to ensure that they are capacitated with up-to-date knowledge and skills and thus deliver the best in their daily duties.

For his part, Health Minister Hamad Rashid Mohamed said that the implementation of the ministry's work plan has highly been successful which included strengthening the availability of medicines in hospitals and health centres by 90 percent



Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (L) addresses a forum on the need for financial institutions to support the industrialisation agenda. It was organised by the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him are the bank's Managing Director, Japhet Justine (R) and Parliamentary Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee chairman Mahmoud Mgemwa. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Desert locust situation 'extremely alarming' in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia - UN Agency

ADDIS ABABA

WIDESPREAD desert locust infestations and a new generation of breeding has continued threatening food security and livelihoods in the region as the situation remains "extremely alarming" in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has warned.

"The situation remains extremely alarming in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia where widespread Desert Locust infestations and a new generation of breeding threaten food security and livelihoods in the region. The situ-

ation is less worrisome in Uganda and Tanzania," the FAO said in its desert locust outbreak update issued late Tuesday.

In Ethiopia, Ground and aerial control operations continue against mature swarms, the FAO said, adding that cross-border swarm movements with Kenya continue to be reported. Breeding is underway but more details are awaited concerning its scale and geographical spread.

According to the FAO, swarms continue to mature and lay eggs in northern and central counties where hatching and band formation are increasing in Kenya.

"At least one swarm arrived in a tea plantation in the southwest county of Kericho while other swarms have been seen further north in Kenya's Turkana county. There have been no new reports of swarms near Mt. Kilimanjaro. Aerial and ground control operations continue in most areas," the statement read.

While in Somalia, breeding is in progress in central areas near the Ethiopian border. Breeding is also underway in the northeast where late hopper bands were seen earlier in the month near Garowe, it was noted.

The FAO also noted that several mature swarms moved northwards

within 12 northeastern districts from February 9-13 in Uganda.

It also noted that breeding is in progress along both sides of the Red Sea in Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea where hopper groups, bands immature adults groups have formed that is likely to cause swarms to form shortly.

According to the United Nations, the desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), which is considered as the most dangerous of the nearly one dozen species of locusts, is a major food security peril in desert areas across 20 countries, stretching from west Africa all the way to India, covering nearly 16 million square kilometers.

NEC : We'll soon name institutions to conduct education of electorate

By Guardian Reporter

THE Director of Elections in the National Electoral Commission (NEC), Dr Wilson Mahera, has said the Commission is in the process of identifying institutions that will give voters' education as the country gears up for General Elections in October, this year.

Dr Mahera (pictured) was speaking during live programme aired on one of the TV stations and added that after receiving applications from various institutions, NEC will announce those who will have satisfied the need up to rural voters.

He said NEC is well prepared this year and will ensure the challenges during 2015 elections on voters' education do not arise.

He said its NEC's responsibility to educate voters through the institutions that will be commissioned to do the job and which will be issued with guidelines. He explained that another way which NEC will use to reach voters in their great numbers, especially the youth is through the media, flyers,

and various artists.

He said after going through the Voters register, NEC will allocate polling centres so that wananchi know their locations in advance, saying that this will be done soon after voters registration exercise is complete, but added that each polling centre will not cater for more than 4,000 voters to avoid congestion.

He also appealed to political parties to understand the laws and regulations on how to appoint polling agents to avoid problems that come up from time to time.

He said the procedures, according to Section 57 of the Elections Act call for parties to submit the names of their agents to Returning Officers seven days before polling day.

He warned that if the parties contravene these guidelines means they will have contravened the Elections Act.

"What normally happens is that people do not want to do that hence contravening the laws and if he submits the names without adhering to the guidelines the names are rejected and NEC should not be blamed.



TCRA ICT AWARDS 2020

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) is calling on all TCRA Licensed Service Providers to participate in the first TCRA ICT Awards 2020.

The Main Purpose: to identify, recognize and reward our stakeholders who have demonstrated an outstanding performance in the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) thus contributes to improving quality life of the citizens through increased digital industrial economy.

How to Get Winners: All licensees are required to submit participation forms online. Nominees in their respective categories will be published online. Users of ICT goods and services will vote either through online portal or Short Messages Services (SMS).

Where to Get Details: All the awards categories, Guidelines, Selection criteria and how to vote is available through www.ictawards.tcra.go.tz

Important Timeline

- Submission of participation forms starts from 1st February to 15th March, 2020
- Public online voting of nominees takes place from 1st to 30th April, 2020
- Public announcement of winners in their respective categories will be made on 15th May, 2020 as part of the World International Telecommunications Day (ITU)

For Inquiries: Call hotline number **0800 008272** (Toll Free) or email: ictawards@tcra.go.tz

Slogan: **IMPROVE LIFE THROUGH ICT FOR INDUSTRIAL DIGITAL ECONOMY**



Call for Solutions

ASSIGNMENT TITLE: Call for Private Sector- related Innovative Rural Agriculture Solutions
LOCATION OF ASSIGNMENT: Tanzania
CLIENT: ALLIANCE FOR A GREEN REVOLUTION IN AFRICA (AGRA)

Background:

The Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) is launching a Call for Rural Innovative Solutions in agriculture to invite the submission of write-ups for known existing solutions applicable to rural agriculture. These solutions should enable smallholder farmers to increase their production, incomes and generate employment for youth and women. The focus should be on solutions generated or piloted by the private sector for scaling up and adoption by smallholder farmers.

Objective:

The objective of this program is to promote the selected rural development solutions on the Rural Solutions Portal, a web-based knowledge-sharing platform set up by IFAD that collects and shares rural development solutions for subsequent uptake by practitioners and end users in the field of agriculture and rural transformation. Rural development solutions are innovations, technologies, processes and methodologies for the rural communities.

Outcome:

The shortlisted solutions will be documented, packaged into knowledge products and promoted at global showcasing events for AGRA, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and potentially up-taken by other organizations for wider adoption across Africa and Asia and the Pacific regions. The solution providers will enjoy full acknowledgement and recognition of selected solutions.

How to submit:

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) and the criteria for selection can be found at <http://bit.ly/2SmO8KL>

The proposals should be received by March 31st, 2020 at 2359hrs (EAT) at the following address: agsolutions@agra.org. Please include in the subject line "SSTC Call for Solutions".



Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto shows journalists yesterday a vehicle he said police impounded allegedly for being used to transport illegal immigrants. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Police nab 61 Ethiopian illegal immigrants 'abandoned by their sponsor' in Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

SIXTY-ONE illegal immigrants from Ethiopia are being held by the police in Morogoro region for entering the country illegally after they were abandoned by their sponsor.

The Morogoro regional Police Commander Mugabo Wekwe said the illegal immigrants were arrested on February 16 at around 8.00 pm at Kwampangile area in Doma Ward,

Mvomero district.

RPC Wekwe said the police who were on patrol received a tip from an informer about a group of people believed to be aliens in their vicinity.

He said after receiving the tip off they arrived at the scene and found a group of illegal immigrants hiding in a forest.

Wekwe said after interrogation it was found out they were Ethiopians who entered the country illegally and

abandoned by their sponsor since February 15 at the spot, and added that said sponsor is still being sought by the police.

He said the immigrants are of age between 19 and 35 years and investigations are underway to hunt for people who assisted them in the human trafficking incident.

He said the immigrants will soon be taken to court as the procedure is still ongoing in collaboration

with immigration authorities.

He appealed to the wananchi to continue liaising with the police in unearthing this kind of crime, as well as all other kinds of crime.

He also called upon all those engaged in human trafficking to stop doing so as the police is well positioned to ensure illegal immigrants do not succeed in their quests to pass through Morogoro Region.

Dr Shein roots for patriotism, integrity among civil servants

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein yesterday cautioned government officials to have a strong sense of duty, patriotism, integrity and commitment in their day-to-day operations.

Dr Shein (pictured) made the call at his State House when he met with officials from Ministry of Land, Housing, Water and Energy, who presented the report on the implementation of the action plan between July and December, 2019.

Dr Shein called upon the leaders and officials from the ministry to love and prioritize home made goods and value their work.

He urged the officials on the need for proper adherence to the law whenever they make decisions especially when they are serving the society.

He said there is need for the officials to consult their seniors when conducting their duties at the same time increase their pace.

He called upon the Zanzibar Water

Authority (ZAWA) to ensure in one month it installs electricity by using solar energy in one of the water wells managed by the agency.

Dr Shein hailed the Zanzibar Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (ZURA) to for bringing to the government an idea of building a new office a move that is likely to bring effectiveness in their operations.

Revolutionary Council Secretary and Chief Secretary Dr Abdulhamid Yahya Mzee hailed the presentations by the ministry and called for proper administration of the workers because their sectors affect people directly.

Earlier the minister for Lands, Housing, water and safe energy About Talib said when reading the strategic plans for the ministry saying it has been working on ensuring that Zanzibar get the best services ever.

He named some of the services include energy which he said they have been working to ensure that it was safe and clean but also continuous to fit the people's use and stimulate economic growth.



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

LABOUR, YOUTH, EMPLOYMENT AND THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AUTHORITY (OSHA)



Awards for Occupational Safety and Health (AOSH)-2020

Theme of the year: Violence and Harassment in the World of Work; Effective OSH Management Systems Helps

Introduction

In marking the World day for Safety and Health at Work and as part of National OSH promotion and awareness creation activities, OSHA is inviting all owners of workplaces or employers to compete for the Awards for Occupational Safety and Health (AOSH) for the year 2020.

Aim

To encourage private and public workplaces throughout Tanzania to develop, implement and evaluate strategies that help achieve a healthier and safer working environment.

Entry Eligibility

Applications are open only for workplaces which are registered and operated in Tanzania Mainland, and having OSHA Registration Certificate. All workplaces in both public and private sectors and from all sizes, economic sectors and categories as shown in the Application Form are encouraged to participate. If your workplace has planned or implemented any innovative idea or programme which contributed in the promotion of safety and health at your workplace you are encouraged to apply. All applicants selected for the awards may be visited for verifications. Safety and health information to be verified are shown in the Application Form.

Rules for Participation

- Complete the Form Field in Permanent Ink or Electronically. Note that incomplete Forms may not be considered.
- Applicant should pay entry fee of TZS 50,000/= non-refundable, Payments will be done electronically through GePG. Please visit the nearest OSHA office or contact through email or phone to get your Control Number (safetyday@osha.go.tz , 0754789752, 0715914628).
- Print Application Form and have it signed by the authorized person, complete with Company Stamp. The completed Application Form must be submitted by 6th March 2020, 15:30 HRS. Do not attach any document during submission except for proof of payment.
- The Form may be submitted in any of the following ways:-
 - To the Chief Executive, OSHA, P.O Box 519 Dar es Salaam; or submit the hard copy to the nearest OSHA Offices located in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Dodoma, Arusha, Mbeya, Mtwara, Tanga, Njombe, Morogoro and Bukoba
 - Email to: info@osha.go.tz or safetyday@osha.go.tz
- Competitors for AOSH should participate on the Exhibition to show their competency and guarantee more points in the awards for best exhibitor 2020.
- All participants and winners of Awards are invited to attend the award giving ceremony to be held on the 28th April 2020 in Mwanza Region, and they may be asked to be available for media interviews or other publicity.
- All written information will be verified by the Award Team. Participants are subject to OSH audits including site audit.

Mode of Application

Download the Application Form from the website www.osha.go.tz, or collect it from the nearest OSHA office.



Growing Prosperity Through Trade

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

TENDER TITLE: REVIEW OF THE LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS OF TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190825

TradeMark (Trade and Markets) East Africa (TMEA) is an aid-for-trade organisation that was established in 2010, with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through increased trade. TMEA operates on a not-for-profit basis and is funded by the development agencies of the following countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom and United States of America. TMEA works closely with regional intergovernmental organisations, including the African Union (AU), East Africa Community (EAC), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

TMEA is seeking Expressions of interest from reputable companies/firms/consortiums to review the legal and governance arrangements of TMEA. The Expression of Interest (EOI) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submission of the expressions of interest is on **Monday, 16 March 2020 at 4.00 p.m.** (Kenya Time). Only successful applicants will be contacted.

Interested and qualified **companies/firms/consortiums** must submit their expressions of interest through TMEA's mail box using the email address, procurement.trademarkea.com. The maximum size of each email with attachments should not exceed 5 MB.

**TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender
7 days or less prior to the submission deadline**



Geita regional commissioner Robert Gabriel (4th-L) cuts a ribbon to launch a Tigo shop in Geita yesterday, witnessed by members of the firm's staff. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Health ministry makes giant strides in diagnosing TB

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children has made great strides in being able to diagnose people infected with Tuberculosis (TB) in the country by 18 percent.

This was revealed by the Director of Disease Prevention Department Dr Leonard Subi when opening a meeting that evaluated the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Programme (NTLP) involving various stakeholders on TB.

Dr Subi said Tanzania has made great strides as it's ability to diagnose TB has increased from 37 percent in 2015 to 53 percent in 2018, and added that deaths from TB have gone down by 27 percent.

Dr Subi said apart from these achievements, they have also improved the ability to examine TB via modern technology through Gene-Expert Machine of which the ministry has 239 distributed to hospitals and health centres nationwide.

He said the machine give results within two hours as opposed to 48 hours spent in the past when microscopes were being used.

On leprosy, the director said the country has reached the stage where the disease has been eliminated save for 10 districts where about 2,000 are

believed to suffer from the disease countrywide.

He added that they are continuing with their strategies to reach all those affected and treat them so as to reduce their suffering.

The evaluation will be conducted in some regions that will give both results and challenges so that another plan for 2021 - 2025 is drawn, expecting to increase the pace in the fight against TB.

Mzindakaya stresses need for railway link to connect Kiwira and Kasanga ports

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

A LONG serving politician, Chrisant Mzindakaya has urged the government to implement plans of constructing a railway linking Kiwira Port in Kyela region and Kasanga port in Rukwa to ease transportation of goods and people in the areas.

Mzindakaya (pictured) made the remarks on Monday during an investment forum which was held at Vwawa grounds, Mbozi district in Songwe Region.

He said the government's plan to develop southern regions known as Mtwara Corridor entails connecting regions through railways and ports.

"We need to implement these plans for our betterment; we need a railway from Kyela district where there is a port at lake Nyasa and Kasanga port located in Lake Tanganyika," said Mzindakaya a former chairman of the state-run National Development Corporation (NDC).

Explaining further, Mzindakaya said currently there is a stiff competition between countries which is basically on infrastructure saying Tanzania has no option but to join the trail in building strong infrastructure.

He said the earlier plan on Mtwara Corridor was constructing a railway from Lake Nyasa on the Ruvuma side passing through Kyela then proceed to Rukwa.

"I thank the government as it has already started construction and expansion of the Kyela port as well as



construction of ships but it would have been even better if the railway was built," he said.

He said if the SGR railway which is under construction is completed it will help traders reduce transport costs as well as some delays which they undergo because they are forced to go through Zambia.

The guest of honor at the forum, former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda said there is need for Tanzania to build a dry port at Songwe region to benefit from the landlocked countries surrounding it.

He said due to the development in technology people from southern countries need not to travel all the way to Dar es Salaam but instead collect their goods at Songwe dry port



We need to implement these plans for our betterment; we need a railway from Kyela district where there is a port at lake Nyasa and Kasanga port located in Lake Tanganyika



TITLE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL – TRAVEL MANAGEMENT SERVICES TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

The Financial Sector Deepening Trust (FSDT) was incorporated in Tanzania on 1st July 2004. The FSDT's overall aim is to make a contribution to All Tanzanians to (derive value) from regular use of financial services which are delivered with dignity and fairness. FSDT's objective are:

Advocating for an improved policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework at national and sub-national levels of financial services

Promoting more relevant market infrastructure and ways to reduce transaction costs between FSPs and potential clients

Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of MSMEs
Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of households and individual.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

FSDT is undertaking a solicitation of bid proposal from Travel Agencies who are interested to provide various Travel Management Services regularly required by FSDT. The objective of this bidding process is to conclude two Long Term Agreement(s) (LTAs) for the period of three (3) years for Travel Management with two most qualified and competent Travel Agents.

Financial Sector Deepening Trust here referred as "FSDT" and The Travel Management Service Providers will be hereinafter referred to as "Travel Agent/s".

Neither this TOR nor the LTA that will be signed shall set a minimum guarantee on volume sales. The Travel Agent shall neither be allowed to impose such a guarantee of volume from FSDT at any time before or during the life of the contract.

3. SUBMISSION DETAILS

The deadline for submitting proposals is 1600 Tanzanian time on Friday, 13rd March 2020. Submissions after this time will not be considered. Bids must be submitted electronically

For specific responsibilities and more details on application requirements visit:
www.fsd.or.tz/opportunities.

We will only consider applications that adhere to proposal requirements.



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTREST

Introduction

The International Executive Service Corps (IESC) is a Washington, DC-based economic development, not-for-profit organization that provides technical assistance to public sector institutions and private sector companies around the world. IESC has contributed successfully to the growth and development of private enterprises in more than 130 countries since its inception in 1964.

Within the Tanzanian context, IESC is the prime implementer of the Feed the Future Tanzania Enabling Growth through Investment and Enterprise Program (ENGINE), launched in September 2016. ENGINE is a four-year initiative funded by USAID with the aim of streamlining and enhancing many of the regulatory, informational and financial channels that encourage domestic and foreign investment in the southern mainland agricultural regions of Mbeya, Morogoro, and Iringa, and in Zanzibar.

ENGINE works at the Local Government Authorities (LGAs) level, using a broad-based approach to engage with LGAs, private sector associations, business development service providers, financial institutions, and small and medium enterprises. The program's activities are divided into three main components:

1. **Implement policies for growth.** Build the capacity of the private sector to effectively dialogue with the government to set the policy agenda and improve the capacity of the public sector to implement policies.
2. **Equip businesses for growth.** Strengthen SMEs capacity and foster the growth and capacity of a sustainable market for business development services (BDS) in Tanzania.
3. **Access to finance for growth.** Broaden access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in all sectors, especially women and youth entrepreneurs and those working within agricultural value chains (excluding primary producers), to facilitate increased business viability, growth, and investment.

The ENGINE Program is seeking short-term consultants to provide technical support in the above-mentioned program areas under the following titles:

Consultant 1: Food Security and Nutrition Policy
Assignment: To review and update the Zanzibar's Food Security and Nutrition Policy (FSNP).
Location: Zanzibar

Consultant 2: Local Government Social Economic Profile
Assignment: To review and update the current Social Economic Profile for Morogoro Municipal Council to the acceptable standards.
Location: Morogoro.

Consultant 3: Institutional Development for the Nutrition Sector
Assignment: The objective of the assignment is to build the capacity of LGAs' Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Steering Committees (MSNSCs) and Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Iringa MC, Mbeya CC and Morogoro MC to identify Agri-Nutrition Policy concerns.
Location: Mbeya, Iringa, Morogoro.

For more details of these Consultancies please send an email to request an in-depth Scope of Work to enginebids@iesc.org with the name of consultancy applied on the subject line of the email.

Proposal Submission and Deadline

Interested Candidates are requested to submit their proposal and quotation via email enginebids@iesc.org with the name of consultancy applied on the subject line of the email by Midnight on **February 27th, 2020**. Any request for clarification about this assignment shall be addressed by e-mail to enginebids@iesc.org.



Tanzanian delegates to the SADC (Southern African Development Community) meeting for permanent secretaries under whose ministries the disaster management docket most directly falls follow proceedings at the opening of the event in Zanzibar yesterday. From L: Dr Faraji Mnyepe (Defence and National Service), Prof Elisante ole Gabriel (Livestock and Fisheries) and Christopher Kadio (Home Affairs). Photo: Ibrahim Hamidu

Singida records decline in road crashes

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

NINETY TWO people have been killed and 118 others sustained injuries on various road crashes that occurred in Singida Region for the past two years.

According to a report issued by police traffic department in Singida Region, in 2018 a total of 51 road crashes occurred, which

killed 40 people while 11 others were injured.

Briefing the Singida Regional Commissioner Dr Rehema Nchimbi on the status of road traffic cases in the region, a traffic police officer Abiudi Kasonde said that in 2019, the region recorded 47 road crashes, which killed 27 people and 15 were injured.

According to Kasonde, the number of road crashes has declined compared to previous years. He cited improved law enforcement mechanisms as one of the factors for the decline of accident in the central Tanzanian region. Deadly motor accidents are frequent in Africa and Tanzania in particular where roads and highways are narrow and

often have many potholes. It is estimated that young people aged 5-29 years across the world are increasingly dying from road traffic accidents.

Road traffic deaths have been cited as the eighth leading cause of death for all age groups surpassing other diseases such as HIV/Aids, tuberculosis and diarrheal.

Rampant truancy spurs villagers to build school in Kisanjaji ward

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

TRUANCY by students for fear of passing through forested areas for long distances has spurred residents in Kisanjaji Ward in Babati District to start building a secondary school for their children.

This was revealed by the Ward residents as they spoke to this paper on the school building project.

John Samwel, a Kisangaji resident said what spurred them to start building the school is the fear by many students going to Mbungwe Secondary School which require them to pass through a forested area.

He said students are forced to walk 17 to 20 kms to the school, the situation that has made many girl students becoming victims of pregnancies.

"Some children lose their bicycles after being stolen by bandits on the way and some decide to hide in the forest and abandon altogether the idea of going to school, hence we decided to build a secondary school for our children here," he said.

Babati District CCM Secretary Filbert Mdaki appealed to ward officials to speed up the school construction to help the children, and called for them to increase the number of workers at the project.

For his part the Babati District Council Chairman Nicodemus Tarimo said the council has donated 15m/- towards the project.

Tarimo said despite the contribution the pace of the work is slow and blamed the residents for feet dragging when it comes to development projects.

Kisangaji ward councillor Adam Ipingika promised to ensure the work on the project is speeded up.

On accommodation for teachers who will come to teach at the school, Ipingika said they have already prepared themselves for that, they will find rented houses for them.

Govt lauds Kibaha for creating friendly environment for industrial investment

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER for Industry and Trade Innocent Bashungwa has made a one-day visit to factories in Kibaha Municipality and praised authorities for putting in place a friendly environment for investment.

In his visit yesterday in Kibaha Municipality Bashungwa, accompanied by the ministry's Permanent Secretary Riziki Shemdoe, explained how he was pleased by the Municipal Council on implementations of the investment policy in practice.

While at BM Motors - bus bodies builders, he congratulated the investor, a Tanzania national for investing in beneficial business.

He said the investor's decision to invest in Tanzania is for the benefit of the nation so far as taxpaying and employment for Tanzanians are concerned, but also it is an opportunity for other industries as raw materials are abundant in the country.

He also visited GF Vehicle Assemblies sited at Tamco area that expects to assemble vehicles of various make of not more than eight tonnes and whose launch will be held in May this year.

Bashungwa praised investors who invested in the country and appealed to authorities and institutions concerned with small industries including SIDO, DIT and NEMC to be closer to the investors for expert advice.

Director of BM Motors Jonas Nyagawa said the buses that are assembled at the factory have capacity to carry 50 plus passengers.

For his part, the Director of GF Vehicle Assemblies, Imran Karmali, said when the plant starts assembling 100 vehicles there will also be 100 job opportunities and these will increase as the plant's capacity increases.

Kibaha Municipal Council has allocated 1,246-acre special area for big industries sited 4.5 kms from the main Dar-Morogoro highway.

African countries plead for concerted action to support giraffe conservation

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

SEVEN African countries proposed a plan of 'concerted action' for conserving giraffes to be considered at the ongoing 13th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Environment Programme's Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS CoP 13).

These actions that list priority conservation measures were proposed by Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The proposal, prepared in coordination with non-profit Giraffe Conservation Foundation called for the development of Africa-wide, national and regional plans.

The actions include an online international database to collect and share information and overcome data gaps, understanding the movements of giraffes and their habitats to protect giraffe corridors, inclusion of communities for managing conflicts and ensuring co-existence, assessing feasibility of establishing a giraffe conservation fund to secure funds for giraffe

conservation initiatives and Africa-wide giraffe translocation guidelines for individual giraffe range states

The population of giraffes has declined by nearly 28 per cent over the past four decades, leaving an estimated 110,000 giraffes in the world, according to most recent estimates of the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

Of the 28 countries where it used to be found, the giraffe has become extinct in seven - Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal. The absence of giraffes from their historical geographic ranges in Africa was concerning, the most recent and accurate geographical range map for giraffe in sub-Saharan Africa, said.

Loss, fragmentation and degradation of their habitat, illegal harvesting and trade, disease, and civil unrest are major threats to giraffes. Loss of habitat led by infrastructural developments, along with climate change, was a major factor behind the declining population of the northern Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*), claimed a recent study.

Giraffes have also been found to migrate due to overpopulation and drought. Giraffes in Niger started migrating recently to neighbouring Mali due to the growing population of humans as well as their own increasing numbers. They had migrated to Niger due to drought and war in Mali four decades ago. Now, they are returning to Mali again.

This is not the first time that countries have called for an action plan to save the giraffe. The proposal for a concerted action for the giraffe was adopted by experts in July 2019.



BABATI WATER AND SANITATION AUTHORITY (BAWASA), REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL- CAPACITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONSULTANCY

WaterAid Tanzania (WAT) is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified consultant to undertake a rapid institutional analysis, baseline performance analysis and capacity needs assessment, and participatory planning workshop with the Babati Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (BAWASA) located in Babati, Manyara Region, Tanzania. This work is intended to provide the preparatory stages in the establishment of a water operator partnership (WOP) between BAWASA and South West Water, a water and sewerage company located in the south-west region of the UK.

Background; Babati

Babati is situated within the East African the Rift Valley. It has a population of 93,108 (2012) and sits at a crossroads between Arusha, Singida, Dodoma, Mbulu and Simanjiro, covering an area of 460.86km². The Region of Manyara was established in 2002 and Babati Town was announced as the regional headquarter in 2004. The economic activities of Babati are primarily crop farming and livestock keeping, indicating that the town is still in transition from rural to urban. It has four major processing plants for sunflowers and over 100 small processing plants for various agricultural produce.

In the wake of rapid urbanisation in Tanzania, Babati has become a bustling town, yet only 3% of the Council's annual budget is spent on the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Consequently, the town faces many challenges in meeting the WASH needs typical of a town of its size and growth rate, including high non-revenue water, difficulties in extending the network, high reliance on unimproved on-site sanitation, limited solid waste management, environmental contamination and poor hygiene.

WaterAid and WOPs

WaterAid UK, an international non-governmental organisation, was founded in 1981 by the UK water industry and retains a uniquely close relationship, allowing it to call upon the industry not only for financial resources but also access to skills and knowledge in WASH service delivery. This support now takes the form of a growing portfolio of WOPs, which are not-for-profit partnerships that helps a utility to improve its capacity and performance with the support of a peer utility. This approach recognises the critical role of professional WASH service providers play as the primary vehicle by which universal access to WASH will be achieved.

WaterAid Tanzania is inviting proposals from registered and competent consultants for undertaking this Capacity Needs Assessment (CNA). All eligible interested bidders should request the complete ToR of this assignment from this e-mail ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org.

Eligible interested bidders should submit both financial and technical proposal in sealed envelope to WaterAid Tanzania Office before 4th March 2020 at 10:00am East Africa Time; Bids shall be addressed to: "Country Director - WaterAid Tanzania, P.O. Box 33759 Plot No. 1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular Dar es Salaam: Tanzania." and clearly marked "Proposal for BAWASA- Capacity Need Assessment. The soft copy should be submitted to ZuenaMasumay@wateraid.org.

The opening will be on 4th March 2020 from 11:00am at WaterAid Tanzania Offices located at Plot No. 1469 Rufiji Street: Off Haile Selassie Rd - Msasani Peninsular, Opposite Namibian Embassy in Masaki Area, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Bidders and/or representatives are welcome.



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www.istafrika.com/about-us/working-at-ist

World Bank cites TASAF among best schemes designed to reduce poverty

By Getrude Mbago

WORLD Bank (WB) has cited TASAF programme as among the best-targeted interventions across the globe in terms of fighting and reducing poverty among vulnerable people in the country.

Speaking during the launching of PSSN II project in Dar es Salaam on Monday, Preeti Arora, WB Operations Manager said that since its commencement in 2000, the project has contributed much to the reduction of poverty in Tanzania.

She said that the programme

is having strong effect in gender empowerment with over 80 percent of cash transfer beneficiaries being women.

Arora noted that the Tanzania's earlier social safety net programme helped beneficiaries to save more money and obtain more assets. As a result, many had more food and access to better education and health care. More than 11000 saving groups have been formed benefiting over 150,000 beneficiaries.

"World Bank has been supporting the productive social safety nets program since its

very beginning, we are indeed very pleased to be here to see it enter into a new and more determined scale-up phase and we are hopeful that the positive impacts of the earlier phase will not only be fully consolidated but will be built upon to accelerate poverty reduction in Tanzania," she said.

Arora noted that the programme has been very successful at reaching the poorest of the poor in Tanzania.

She said that households receiving cash transfers experienced an additional 10 percent reduction in poverty, accompa-

nied by a 20 percent boost in monthly consumption.

"A recent joint study carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics and the World Bank found that if TASAF had not been there, the rate of poverty in Tanzania would be at least 2 percentage points higher. To put it differently, Tanzania would have one million more poor individuals if it were not for TASAF's programme," she said.

She added that: "Over 60 percent of beneficiaries belong to the bottom 20 percent of the population in terms of

consumption; and over 80 percent of beneficiaries belong to the bottom 40 percent. These results put the programme among the best targeted interventions in the world, even when compared with the more mature programmes in Latin America."

She said that the programme is contributing to the development of human capital among poor families. Improvements have been observed on children's school enrollment and literacy, attendance of regular maternal and child health services by mothers, health insur-

ance registration, food security, and assets accumulation.

Recently, the World Bank through its international Development Association (IDA) dished out a concessional loan amounting to \$450 million (approximately to 1.035 trillion) to support the implementation of TASAF's PSSN II programme in the country.

For his part, Swedish ambassador in Tanzania Anders Sjöberg expressed dedication that his government will continue supporting Tanzania in the implementation of the PSSN II.

"We are so much impressed

and we are now looking to further extend our support in the next four years, our pleasure is see poverty index drops in Tanzanian and thus attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) number one of ending poverty...Swedish government has supported Tanzania in the PSSN I with \$78 million," he said.

According to him, Swedish government through international development agency (SIDA) has been supporting Tasaf since 2015 and it will continue extending its support for the country's welfare.



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disabilities), demonstrates how to pay bodaboda (motorbike taxi) fare using the MasterCard QR Code. This was at the launch of NMB's Mastaboda service held at Peramiho at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Singida Region courts record over 170 rape cases last year

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

A TOTAL of 172 rape cases on girl students in primary and secondary schools in Singida Region were opened in courts during 2019 some of which contributed to school girls' pregnancies that terminated their studies.

Reporting on the performance of the Judiciary for Singida Region, the Singida Regional Resident Magistrate Consolata Peter Singano stressed that the cases are the most dominant in courts followed by those involving illegal drugs.

Singano said illegal drugs including cannabis, 'mirungi' and heroin made a total of 135 cases referred to the courts in the region last year.

"In Singida Region a great number of cases involved rape particularly on students many of who were impregnated," she said, adding that drug cases came second.

She said other cases that were referred to courts in Singida Region were those of economic sabotage especially those involving government trophies with 112 cases, the majority of which were opened in Manyoni District, due to its proximity to the Rungwa Kizigo and Muhes forest reserves.

She said other cases that were opened in various courts in the region included those on theft of various categories with 98 cases followed by murder cases with 89.

Meanwhile a total of 15 primary courts in the region do not operate due to various reasons including lack of enough cases in the areas they are sited.

Magistrate Singano said out of 45 primary courts, only 30 operate and Iramba District leads in the number of primary courts that are not operating with eight, followed by Singida District with five, and Manyoni with two.

She said the reasons for their closure included dilapidated buildings, inadequate staff in particular magistrates.

She said other reasons were their being far from wananchi's residential areas and very poor infrastructure as well as small number of cases that were being brought up.

Inform us on damaged road infrastructure - Kwandikwa

By Guardian Correspondent, Bariadi

DEPUTY Minister for Works Elias Kwandikwa has appealed to all Tanzanians to inform the relevant government authorities about areas with challenges and other infrastructural risks including bridges and roads that have been damaged following the ongoing heavy rains.

Kwandikwa issued the appeal after arriving in Simiyu Region in official visit to inspect the effects brought by the rains to the road infrastructures, both those that had been completed and those still

under construction.

The Deputy Minister also inspected the ongoing 49.7km Maswa-Bariadi road at tarmac level and said he was satisfied with the pace of the work as it is now 78 percent complete.

He said funds for these development projects come from wananchi's taxes and praised Tanzanians for supporting the government development efforts by paying their taxes.

Earlier, giving report on the road project, TANROADS Simiyu Region Manager Eng Albert Kent explained that the project is now 16.3 km complete at

tarmac level and vehicles are allowed to use it.

Eng Kent assured the Deputy Minister the road will be completed by September this year as planned.

"The contractor is doing well on the project including two big bridges (Simiyu and Banhya bridges) and several smaller ones," he said.

The Deputy Minister is in one-day visit in Simiyu Region that serves the 923.65km road network of which 334.33km is main highway, 521.62km regional roads and 67.7km district roads.



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Position: REGIONAL HIV TESTING SERVICES (HTS) OFFICER-I post

Project: AFYA KWANZA **Location:** KAGERA
Reports to: REGIONAL HIV TESTING SERVICES MANAGER

Job Summary: The HIV Testing Services (HTS) officer works with and supports the MDH RHTS Manager to ensure efficient implementation, M&E and reporting of HTS services in her/his respective region, including coordination of program priorities such as index HTS and focused PITC. She/he is responsible for the field implementation, coordination and reporting of all HTS initiatives in her/his respective region under the guidance of the RHTSM and in collaboration with DPMs and other MDH staff and relevant regional, council and health facility staff.

Duties and Responsibilities

- To support implementation, M&E and reporting of HIV testing and ART linkage services, under the Afya Kwanza project, and other relevant activities

- To support implementation of initiatives to address key program, donor and national priorities, including index testing, focused PITC, peer-based ART linkage, in line with national guidelines
- To provide TA to the DACC, HTS focal person and HFs in planning, implementation, M&E and reporting of HIV testing and ART linkage services
- To support RHTS Manager to assess and implement initiatives to address skill and resource needs on HIV testing and ART linkage services through supportive supervision, mentorship, on-job training, CQI and other approaches in collaboration with DACCs and HTS focal persons
- To support timely collection and submission of HTS and ART linkage data – as well as support strengthening of the related M&E systems - in collaboration with the M&E team
- To support HTS Manager in writing technical program documents including reports, best practices, lessons learned and other relevant documents, as required by the RPM.
- To support and advise the RHTS Manager on all HIV testing and ART linkage issues and perform other relevant duties as assigned by the RHTS Manager

Requirements. Education, work experience and skills

- Degree or Advanced diploma in medicine, nursing or related field with relevant national registration
- Master's degree in Public Health or related field is an added advantage.
- At least 2 years of experience working in public health programs/ services
- At least 2 years of experience in design, implementation, management and M&E of HIV testing, ART linkage or related clinical and public health programs and services
- Experience in using CQI, PHE and OR techniques to address public health challenges
- Experience in writing reports, best practices and lessons learned
- Excellent command of Swahili and English languages, in written and oral communication
- Experience in basic computer applications such as MS Word, Excel, Power point and internet
- Ability to work under pressure and stringent deadlines

TO APPLY:

Interested candidates should submit an application letter indicating clearly the position applied for, a detailed copy of their CV, and names and contact information (email addresses and telephone numbers) of three work related referees.

Applications should be submitted by **Friday 28th February, 2020**, to the Director of Human Resource through e-mail hr@mdh-tz.org or dropped by hand at the MDH Head Office in Mikocheni, along Mwai Kibaki Road, Plot No. 802.

Kindly note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Social funds should be effective in helping extremely poor households

A SOCIAL fund, sometimes also called social investment fund, social fund for development, social action fund, national solidarity fund or social development agency is an institution, typically in a developing country, that provides financing, usually grants for small-scale public investments targeted at meeting the needs of poor and vulnerable communities. Social Funds also aim at contributing to social capital and development at the local level. In many cases they serve as innovators and demonstrators of new methods of decentralized participatory decision-making, management, and accountability that may be adopted for broader application by public sector organizations.

Some of the benefits of social funds have been their ability to better reach poor constituencies, to reduce corruption and to introduce innovations. Social Funds have pioneered community-driven development (CDD), whereby community-based organizations (typically representing a few hundred people or less, often in rural areas) administer funds themselves and choose where to invest them, thus increasing transparency and accountability for the use of funds. This approach also builds the self-confidence and capacity of local communities. It also helps projects to better meet local needs.

In 2007 social funds existed in more than 45 countries, predominantly in poorer and smaller developing countries that receive significant official development assistance.

Social funds have channeled close to US\$ 5 billion of World Bank funding in Africa alone between 1999 and 2005 and have channeled more than ten billion dollars from all donors and governments' own resources over the past 20 years.

The first social fund was created in 1987 in Bolivia. During the 1990s social funds spread quickly

throughout Latin America and Africa with the intellectual and financial backing of the World Bank and other donors.

The first generation social funds were created to serve as short-term safety nets to soften the impact of structural adjustment policies on the poor, which was mainly achieved by providing temporary employment. Second generation social funds have adopted more explicit institutional strategies aimed at empowerment and capacity building of communities as well as local governments in the context of decentralization.

Social funds were created as temporary agencies that would be phased out once capacity of line agencies had been strengthened. Some social funds, such as in Ethiopia, are now in the process of being phased out, and others, such as in Honduras, are supposed to be closed down by law a few years from now.

However, many social funds may well remain permanent institutions fulfilling important functions that line agencies may not be well set up to perform.

Launching the second-phase of the programme in Dar es Salaam on Monday, Dr John Magufuli said the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghost and illegible households being enrolled in the programme. He called for weeding out ghost beneficiaries, which he said remained a thorn in fighting extreme poverty. Responsible authorities ought to head the Presidents call for teaming up in executing the second-phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) programme and control enrollment of ghost beneficiaries. Implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), the four-year programme is expected to spend a total of 2.032trn/- to reach a total of seven million poor people on both sides of the Zanzibar.

Encouraging ordinary Tanzanians to visit the Olduvai Gorge laudable

THE Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania is one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world; it has proven invaluable in furthering understanding of early human evolution. A steep-sided ravine in the Great Rift Valley that stretches across East Africa, it is about 48 km (30 mi) long, and is located in the eastern Serengeti plains within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the Arusha region, about 45 kilometres (28 miles) from Laetoli, another important archaeological site of early human occupation. The British/Kenyan paleoanthropologist-archaeologist team Mary and Louis Leakey established and developed the excavation and research programmes at Olduvai Gorge which achieved great advances of human knowledge and world-renowned status.

The gorge takes its name from the Maasai word *oldupai* which means "the place of the wild sisal" as the East African wild sisal grows abundantly throughout the gorge area. *Homo habilis* is an archaic species of Stone Age human which lived between roughly 2.1 and 1.5 million years ago. Louis and Mary Leakey are responsible for most of the excavations and discoveries of the hominin fossils in Olduvai Gorge. In July 1959, Mary Leakey found the skull of *Zinjanthropus*.

Sixty years after it was discovered, the skull of *Zinjanthropus*, the earliest man dating back nearly two million years ago, will be placed on display in Arusha. The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Khamis Kigwangalla said recently that the cranium of the so-called 'nut cracker' man is currently being safeguarded in a special national trophy vault, but will be placed in public for people to view from the 16th to the 20th of July.

According to minister the public display of the world's most reliable evidence of human evolution will go in sync with a special symposium of scientists, archaeologists, researchers and scholars to be staged in Arusha to mark the 60 years anniversary of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

The *Zinjanthropus* skull was discovered by anthropologist Dr Mary Leakey on July 17 1959 at Olduvai Gorge, an archaeological site found within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

Dr Leakey who was born in 1913, a British paleoanthropologist who discovered the first fossilized primate skull, an extinct ape now believed to be among the human ancestors.

In 1959 Dr Leakey discovered the robust *Zinjanthropus* skull at Olduvai Gorge and for much of her career, spanning more than 50 years in Tanzania, she worked alongside her husband, Dr Louis Leakey at the archaeological site where they also uncovered tools and fossils of ancient hominins.

The Commissioner Conservator for Ngorongoro, Dr Fred Manongi, said the Conservation Area will encourage ordinary Tanzanians to visit the Olduvai Gorge site museum where the nut-cracker remains will be displayed, by providing regular bus transport trips from Karatu township during the five-day event. This will help crush speculations that the *Zinjanthropus* skull may not be in the country but possibly taken away overseas as it was widely believed earlier.

Ngorongoro Conservation was split from Serengeti National Park in 1959 as a multiple land use separate entity. It is believed that all mankind originated from the area before spreading out around the globe.

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Trump's travel ban: Matters arising

By Makutu Manneh

TONY Ademiluyi urges the Nigerian leadership should take advantage of the ban by putting its house in order.

On January 31st, US President Donald J. Trump slammed on Nigeria alongside five other countries a travel ban. This is coming after his administration ended the birth tourism which was a huge toast among Nigerians who flock to the country like bees to give birth to their babies as it will give them a head start in life as they will avert the ugly incidence of being denied visas in the future. It is a hedge which will ensure that they won't have to pay for the ineptitude of heartless African and Nigerian leaders.

This ban majorly affects the bid of Nigerians who want to immigrate to God's own country. The authorities said it won't affect the student visa or tourism bid of migrants. But invariably it will lead to a drastic reduction of Nigerians getting these visas since the spotlight has now been beamed on the joke of a country which prides herself as 'The Giant of Africa.'

The major reason for the ban was because of the lack of a database to properly address security issues especially with



the current wave of terrorism which is affecting the entire world. There is hardly any profiling of the Boko Haram insurgents.

The government has not been proactive in battling its internal security issues with kidnapers, bandits and terrorists running amok and some of these undesirable elements being exported abroad.

The US has a point here as national security is of paramount interest to them especially after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre which left thousands dead.

We recall with sadness the involvement of Umar Farouk Ab-

dul Mutallab in a bomb attempt in a US plane in 2009. This obviously made the US place Nigeria under the radar.

Many Nigerians are furious with Uncle Sam. But the US will cater to the interests of their citizens first as they owe no apologies to Nigerians who feel 'aggrieved.'

According to a report by Al Jazeera, Nigerians are the third highest people who overstay their visas. About 30,000 annually were found to have been guilty of this and this is a huge security issue especially in these times of terrorism challenges. Nigeria obviously had no data on the visa defaulters.

Zimbabwe's decision to lift ban on GM maize imports could benefit South Africa

By Wandile Sihlobo

NECESSITY is the mother of invention, and this rings true in Zimbabwe where the government is reformulating policy. The Zimbabwe government has for years maintained a ban on the importation or growing of genetically modified maize, but the current food shortages in the country have forced the government to change its policy stance. The ban on GM maize imports was lifted on the 31 January 2020 as the country seeks to improve local supplies following yet another poor harvest season.

Zimbabwe's maize production fell by 53% y/y in the 2018/19 production season to 800,000 tonnes, according to data from the United States Department of Agriculture. This was far below the country's annual maize consumption of between 1.8 and 2.0 million tonnes. Therefore, the country had to import at least a million tonnes of maize in order to meet the local supply requirements.

But the dearth of timely and credible data has made it a chal-

lenge to track the maize importation activity into Zimbabwe. Observing from reports of food shortages at the beginning of 2020, I am inclined to believe that the country was unable to import the required maize volume for the 2019/20 marketing year (this corresponds with the 2018/19 production season which was a drought year).

Zimbabwe imported 100,000 tonnes of maize from Tanzania in 2019, according to Japhet Hasunga, Tanzania's Agriculture Minister, and 79,283 tonnes from South Africa between May 2019 and January 2020, according to data from the South African Grain Information Services. This data supports my view that Zimbabwe has thus far imported less than the required maize quantities to meet consumption requirements. The slow pace of imports might have been caused by fiscal constraints on the back of the country's ongoing macroeconomic crisis. The stringent regulations on the importation of GM maize might have also contributed to the slow pace of imports.

South Africa had about 1.2 mil-

lion tonnes of maize available for export markets in the 2019/20 marketing year which ends in April 2020. However, roughly 80% of its maize is produced from GM seeds. This means that South Africa was inhibited from supplying the Zimbabwean market under its stringent GM policy. This is evident from South Africa's maize exports data: the country exported 900,585 tonnes of maize between May 2019 and January 2020. But Zimbabwe imported only a 9% share of this total volume.

With international humanitarian organisations such as the World Food Programme actively assisting Zimbabwe to avert the current food crisis, the lifting of the GM maize import ban could accelerate maize import activity into Zimbabwe in the coming months. The maize might originate from South Africa and other leading maize exporting countries such as the United States, Brazil, Mexico and Russia, among others, who have in the past exported maize to Zimbabwe.

The challenge for countries aside from South Africa and Mexico is that they are not major white

The response of the Nigerian government to the recent visa ban was rather lame. The foreign affairs minister, Geoffrey Onyeama has been talking on the determination by the government to reverse the ban without any concrete agenda.

An age-long cliché goes thus: 'Problems are opportunities.' The ban by the US government should act as a clarion call by the Muhammadu Buhari-led government to ensure good governance so that they will be no need for Nigerians to flee the nation in droves.

This was a man who promised to put an end to health tourism while he campaigned in 2015 only for him to use taxpayers' funds to treat himself for an undisclosed ailment in the United Kingdom. Does Boris Johnson run to Canada on medical tourism? Does even the South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa run to the US for his health needs?

The world is watching and is not fooled by the incompetence of our leaders which has made the country the laughing stock among the international comity of nations. We recall during the military rule of the late General Sani Abacha, he forged ties with the Middle East when the west slammed his dictatorial government with heavy sanctions.

A responsible leadership should damn Uncle Sam and look inwards for creative ways to solve her nagging challenges instead of going cap in hand begging for a soft landing.

We should take a cue from Rwanda which emerged from the ashes of a genocide to becoming one of the fastest growing economies in the world.

Their leader looked inwards and ensured that his countrymen became self-sufficient and built a haven which was conducive for foreign investors to come in droves to invest in. It is sad that the most populous nation in Africa still wants to perpetually seek validation from the west.

The US government charges thousands of naira for its visas and denies a majority of the Nigerian applicants while making billions from the applications alone.

It is high time that Nigerian leaders rose to the occasion and damn Uncle Sam by ensuring that this nation becomes one of the most desirable places to reside in the globe. It may sound utopian but the journey of a thousand miles begins with one positive step.

maize producers, which is the preferred maize variant across southern Africa. Hence, the recent GM policy change will benefit maize exporters from South Africa and Mexico in the near term. Moreover, Zimbabwe's maize deficit might not end in May 2020, which would have marked the end of its harvesting period. The country's 2019/20 maize production season began on a bad footing because of delayed rainfall. The plantings were delayed and so far, the area planted and the expected maize harvest in the 2019/20 production season remains unclear, but on the lower end.

Fortunately for Zimbabwean consumers, neighbouring South Africa and other major maize producing countries are expected to remain maize exporters in the 2020/21 marketing year (this corresponds with the 2019/20 production season).

The locust infestation in East Africa could limit surpluses from that region, but overall global maize exports remain awash. For instance, at the Agricultural Business Chamber of South Africa (Agbiz), we estimate that South Africa could see its maize harvest improving by at least 11% from the 2018/19 season, reaching 12.5 million tonnes. Here we've applied the preliminary maize planting data of 2.5 million hectares (up 10% y/y), at an average yield of 5.0 tonnes per hectare, which is plausible with current soil moisture.

This means South Africa could have more than a million tonnes for export markets in the 2020/21 marketing year, which begins in May 2020. Part of these supplies will help ease pressure on Zimbabwean consumers, and trade should be more free-flowing now with the GM ban having been lifted.

These measures could assist in the near term. In the long run, the Zimbabwean authorities should consider legalising the growing of GM maize in order for domestic farmers to produce higher yields such as South Africa, Brazil, the United States and other GM-growing countries.

Freelance journalist Carolyn Thompson always looking for new ways to use data

By Lydia Antonio-Vila

CAROLYN Thompson was working at a consulting firm in Canada, but she soon realised that she wasn't passionate about her work, and she decided to look for something new. In 2009, she was selected for a journalism internship in South Africa - and her world changed forever.

"I went to South Africa for six weeks and worked with a newspaper. I was really lucky to be paired with this amazing feature editor who guided me through journalism," she says, adding: "That was my first experience with journalism, ever."

When the internship was over, Thompson returned to Canada, where she pursued a master's degree in journalism at Carleton University in Ottawa.

During the programme, she returned to Africa and interned in Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo through the Rwanda Initiative, a partnership between the School of Journalism and Communication at Carleton and its counterpart at the National University of Rwanda.

The programme, which began in 2006 and has since ended, was a teaching and training partnership that offered numerous exchange opportunities for students and faculty.

After the training was over, Thompson returned to Canada to work for a newspaper, but soon decided to travel to South Sudan to work as a trainer for a similar initiative, where she could dedicate a quarter of her time to freelancing. However, a media crackdown in the country led her to relocate to neighbouring Kenya, where she has been working since 2017.

Thompson works as a data journalism freelancer, reporting primarily



ily on politics, human rights and migration. Her work has been featured in CBC (Canada Broadcasting Corporation), Al Jazeera, The Washington Post and more.

Her 2019 immersive storytelling project, *Controlling the Ebola outbreak*, walks readers through the complexity of the Ebola outbreak, prompting them to make choices based on the different paths they choose to take.

Earlier this year, Thompson was selected for a three-month News Corp Media Fellowship from the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ). We caught up with her while she spent a few days in Washington D.C. for a training session before heading for New York to work with The Wall Street Journal's media science lab.

Thompson spoke to IJNet (International Journalists' Network, an ICFJ project) about her work, how she pulls off such large data projects

and advice she has for young journalists.

IJNet: Was it difficult to transition from working in Canada to working in East Africa?

Thompson: I think it's always difficult transitioning to a new reporting environment, especially when you're transitioning to a place where you don't speak the language and you don't have the context that journalists from that region do. It's definitely really challenging.

Initially, I was working as a trainer and just freelancing a little on the side, so I had a lot of contacts who were from the region and were very experienced who I could work with. Now, most of the projects that I do are in collaboration which, for me, is a much more effective way to make sure that I'm taking into account the things that I don't know and providing value because I do data journalism.

So many of the projects that we do are bigger data journalism projects and I work providing the data side. I collaborate with Kenyan journalists or Sudanese journalists

and try to ensure that we work together to have a richer reporting experience.

How did you get started doing data journalism?

Before I became a journalist, I was doing a financial job for a consulting firm. Through that I learned a little bit of accounting, and I always actually liked numbers and liked math when I was in school. When I was doing my master's, there was a research and reporting methods course taught by some really incredible Canadian investigative journalists, and one of the units they taught was about data. I just realised it was something that I'm really interested in because I really like reporting that's evidence-based, that's more concrete and in-depth, and that provides a lot of nuance.

How do you access datasets that you need?

In the region that I work in, particularly South Sudan, there are lots of data, but there are challenges because the data are not always updated, might not be accurate or might not be accessible to a journalist. We rely a lot on international agencies that collect it - UN agencies or NGOs that are gathering data on specific issues - but we also do a lot of self-collection of data.

For one story, we used a mobile phone survey to gather data from people across the country. We also use things like satellite imagery to try to assess situations on the ground, and we'll create datasets using the imagery that we have.

I've used some government datasets. For example, the government, in collaboration with a UN institution, had a dataset of food prices. We were able to do a calculation about how much food prices were increasing based on the data.

The biggest challenge is figuring out how to be transparent about where the data are from, and what they actually show or don't, and also how to assess whether or not the data are credible enough to be used. Sometimes we have this tendency of thinking that numbers are just all-knowing and perfect, and actually there are a lot of

flaws in the way that they're gathered, or what they actually represent.

What was the inspiration for making the immersive storytelling game - *Controlling the Ebola outbreak*?

Ebola is a really difficult topic to cover because there's a lot of complexity to it. There are a lot of factors - political factors, social factors, medical factors - that make it really, really complex. It's a big, scary issue, but it's very real and it affects so many people. And there's a lot of disinformation about that topic.

We had been thinking a lot about how we could use data to tell stories about Ebola, so it was in collaboration with some other journalists that helped me brainstorm, and then I created it on a team with Kenyan journalists and a Congolese journalist.

The "choose your own adventure" style serves very well because it allows people to engage with the topics they're most interested in. We ended up splitting it between sections - one for response and one for victims - which allows you to see it from the perspective of the side that is most appealing to you.

What advice would you give to aspiring journalists?

The way to succeed, particularly as a freelancer, is often trying to find new ways to tell stories and unique ways to think about what your reporting is meant to do. Find a niche or an area of interest that you can focus on that is different. For me, data journalism has been a way to provide value that is different from what most people in the region are producing, and it means that I'm able to find stories that other people aren't necessarily reporting on, or think about stories in a different way because I have a different research method at my disposal. Sometimes people are a bit pessimistic about the industry, and I don't believe in that. There are so many ways of telling really interesting, innovative stories.

Agencies

Young people lead the way in delivering plastic alternatives

By Melanie Farrell

GRETA Thunberg's generation is making the most noise about the environment right now. But they are frustrated that they seem powerless to implement the changes they'd like to see. Most of the world's politicians are old, male, ponderous and conflicted by their relationships with the fossil-fuel industry. But in the meantime, young people all over the world are adapting their lives and business ideas to be the change they want. South Africa is no exception. In the final article of the five-part series, *Maverick Citizen* profiles 20-something South Africans with a higher than average eco-IQ and asks them to share their visions for a greener future.

Forward-thinking Trent Pike, 26, taps into sustainable packaging with Mielle Mailer.

I was studying Business Science in Economics & Statistics at UCT before I deferred for the second time to pursue Mielle Mailer.

My two co-founders and I, Renato Marchesini (Business Science Marketing at UCT) and Erik Bourlov (a Gemologist), wanted to create a business that would make a positive impact in South Africa.

We created Mielle Mailer, a 100% compostable plastic alternative to traditional delivery sleeves. It's a simple concept but one that could remove up to 50 million single-use plastic bags from circulation every year.

We launched in September 2019 and, driven by a sense of urgency that we were running out of time, it took us only nine months from ideation to launch.

I've always cared deeply about the planet. *Cowspiracy*, which I watched in 2015, kick-started my journey to minimise my impact on the planet. After watching it, I went vegan "cold-turkey" (excuse the very unveg pun). I also began consuming information on the subject at a fervent pace.

Learning about the state of our planet and our culpability has caused me a fair bit of eco-anxiety, an affliction many in my generation are facing. Thankfully, this anxiety has been empowering rather than debilitating.

Nelson Mandela said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you

can use to change the world". We fully agree. Education is the reason Mielle Mailer exists, and it's the reason the world is finally waking up to our climate reality.

We are going through a pretty radical change in societal norms and values. Right now plastic and climate change are public enemy number one and two respectively. And so, the idea for Mielle Mailer followed this thought process.

1. We want to change the world.
2. Single-use plastic is destroying our planet's beautiful biodiversity.
3. Climate change is destroying our planet.
4. e-commerce is the fastest-growing retail sector in the economy.
5. The number of deliveries is increasing... deliveries emit CO2... deliveries are wrapped in plastic...
6. Mielle Mailer!

It's been an incredibly busy few months and, to be honest, most of it has been a blur, but to execute on a vision so quickly and then to be so well-received has been an incredible payoff.

Often, it's the inaction of the last generation in the face of evidence (and common sense) that is blamed for our current planetary state. It's this fear of inaction and of the responsibility to act in the light of knowledge that drives the entire team at Mielle Mailer.

We're enablers. We're here to create sustainable alternatives to everyday products - most notably single-use plastics.

Consumer sentiment is changing rapidly and we want to make sure that their new requirements are met. We don't want someone to have to compromise on their beliefs because a solution isn't available. It's something I've had to do in the past and it's not a lekker feeling.

Following our belief in the power of knowledge, other than creating these alternatives, we promote eco-conscious living through education. We're in a nascent field and as such, there is a lot of misinformation and confusion. Some companies are creating and promoting products and services which are good for the planet, while others are "greenwashing" their products to increase their market share and brand value.



To combat this, we have a blog which we use to inform and educate and we also have a weekly newsletter, *The Mielle Maverick*.

Future Forecast

The effects of climate change are no longer some far-off, distant worry. Climate change has become a clear and present crisis. Australia is on fire. Heatwaves struck much of the world in 2019, including Western Europe. Between 2015 and 2020 the cost of climate-related disasters in the US topped \$525 billion, close to a third of the cost of natural disasters since 1980.

We see South Africa's future as green. Regardless of whether it's a nationally driven initiative or change brought upon by international pressure, South Africa will transition to a greener economy and with it a more equitable future.

Five-year forecast: Plastic-free & Plant-based

China has announced its intention to phase out single-use plastic bags in major cities by the end of 2020 and the rest of the country by 2025. As the largest producer and consumer of single-use plastics on the planet, their policy signals the end of plastic as we know it.

The Economist declared 2019 as Year of the Vegan, South Africa had the sixth highest sign-ups for the global Veganuary campaign in 2019 and, according to Google trends, South Africa ranks

among the world's 25 nations where veganism is most popular. While still in the early stages of adoption, veganism in South African should become mainstream in the next five years as vegan alternatives become cheaper, widely available and tastier.

10-year forecast: Sustainable, Decentralised Power Generation

As Eskom continues to suffer from mismanagement and corruption and as our economy continues to be hampered by unreliable power and frequent load-shedding, new solutions to power generation have to be found. On Tuesday 14 January this year, Cyril Ramaphosa announced his intention to embrace self-generation as a solution to our electricity woes.

Coupled with international pressure and our Paris Agreement commitments, South Africa will be forced to move away from coal and towards renewable energy production. Given our empty state coffers, it seems likely that self-generation (independent power plants and household solar-panels) is the solution.

20-year forecast: Conscious Capitalism and Equality

As capitalism becomes conscious, businesses will move away from measuring performance from the perspective of shareholder value and towards that of stakeholder value. Society's well-

being and "happiness" will start replacing GDP as a measure of the health of an economy and country.

This mindset shift is already happening. The official theme of this year's World Economic Forum was "better capitalism".

"Our capitalism must be sustainable; it must allow us to fight against global warming following a rapid and credible calendar," Bruno Le Maire, the French finance minister told reporters, according to a translation.

2020 Green Vision

We would love to see South Africa embrace a greener future. Our country has needed an economic revolution since the end of apartheid and we think the "green-economy" offers us the opportunity to finally realise this.

Capitalism has been the greatest driver of human wealth and ingenuity in history, but along the way, it has been perverted. Our university graduates are indoctrinated into believing that the only responsibility of a business is to maximise shareholder value. They live, work and create by this doctrine which is naturally selfish and exclusive. Changing this narrative from shareholder value and towards stakeholder value is the key to a greener, cleaner more eco-aware SA.

Entrepreneurs build our world. They are the stewards of our future. It's why we believe that above everything else, the key to a greener future is making sure entrepreneurs create and build on a foundation of climate justice where success is measured not only by profits but also positive societal impact.

AGENCIES

What does the climate refugees judgment mean for Africans?

By Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo

ON 20 January the United Nations Human Rights Committee ruled that returning people to countries where their lives could be threatened by climate change may violate their human rights and be unlawful. This is a landmark ruling because it's the first time the committee has recognised that climate refugees exist. It opens the door to refugee protection for those whose lives are threatened by climate change.

The ruling acknowledges the severe challenges of climate change and puts pressure on nations to do more to prevent it and protect people from its effects. However many ambiguities remain about climate-linked migration, particularly in and from Africa.

The case was brought to the UN by Kiribati national Ioane Teitiota against New Zealand. Kiribati is a group of low-lying Pacific islands that don't rise higher than 3m above sea level. Climate change and rapid population growth have led to severe overcrowding, fresh water and food shortages, and violent land disputes.

The climate change risks included rising sea levels, saltwater contamination, flooding and land erosion. Teitiota requested asylum in 2010 on the basis that these effects posed a threat to his and his family's lives. New Zealand rejected his case and deported him in 2015.

Both New Zealand and the UN committee agreed that the health of the Kiribati population had deteriorated due to climate change and that environmental drivers are not necessarily ruled out of the existing refugee laws.

But both also agreed that conditions weren't yet life threatening, and therefore Teitiota didn't meet the legal definition of a refugee. It's difficult to source water and grow nutritional crops, but not impossible. They further agreed that the risks he faced weren't personal, but generalised hardships shared by others.



Despite upholding New Zealand's rejection and deportation order, the UN committee observed that environmental degradation, climate change and unsustainable development constituted some of the most pressing and serious threats to human rights. Environmental conditions can deteriorate to a point where they may become incompatible with the right to life and dignity. Forcibly returning people would then trigger non-refoulement obligations and be unlawful.

Media coverage of the ruling has routinely referred to 'climate' or 'environmental' refugees, but these categories don't exist. People moving for climate-related reasons continue to do so without legal protection. Most refugee laws - particularly the 1951 Refugee Convention - are outdated and were written for post-World War II Europe. Since then, the drivers, forms

and consequences of migration have changed. Existing frameworks are no longer adequate in the context of globalisation and mass migration.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) claims that the ruling supports its position that refugee laws cover climate change and that people fleeing the effects may have valid claims to international protection under existing laws. Their reluctance to call for new or updated laws reflects a protectiveness shared by most refugee advocates. In the current anti-migrant climate in many countries, any changes could result in reduced rather than expanded protections.

While the UN committee ruling may have set a precedent for protecting environmental refugees,

it upheld the standard that protection applies only to individual cases where someone faces imminent risk of death.

A dissenting opinion published by Ugandan committee member Duncan Muhumuza Laki argued that the threshold for "a threat to life" is unreasonably high: "It would indeed be counterintuitive to the protection of life to wait for deaths to be very frequent and considerable in order to consider the threshold of risk as met."

Whereas conditions in Kiribati are otherwise stable, climate change in Africa - despite being one of the hardest-hit regions - can rarely be isolated as the primary migration driver. The causes of migration are many and complex and often include eco-

economic, political and social factors. Some are partially or wholly affected by climate change.

Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger - the Group of Five (G5) Sahel countries - are already experiencing some of the worst climate change effects. These include increased temperatures, more frequent droughts, prolonged heat waves, soil degradation, increased flooding and reduced agricultural productivity.

The region has had the most substantial and sustained decline in rainfall recorded globally. Communities depend heavily on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism. The G5 also face rapid population growth, abject poverty and underdevelopment, violent extremism, organised crime, poor

governance and weak institutions - all exacerbated by the effects of climate change.

The G5 Sahel countries experience high migration, in the region and to Europe. The correlation between climate change and migration remains unclear, partly due to a lack of historical and current migration and climate data. Still, few migrants from the region could isolate climate change as the primary reason for migrating.

Accurate predictions of how many climate-linked migrants will exist are difficult to make, yet media and scholars forecast enormous waves of mass migration - as many as one billion by 2050. Fear of uncontrolled mass migration has partly fuelled restrictive responses and anti-migrant sentiment rather than considered, measured responses.

The likelihood of mass international exodus is in fact low. Climate-linked migration is most often local and circular. Migration is one of the key coping strategies when families lose agricultural productivity. International migration requires financial and logistical resources that most people lack.

Movement is most often from rural areas to the closest possible urban areas as production diminishes. Families are likely to send some members and not whole groups, and rely on remittances to boost agricultural production. Similarly, in the event of natural disasters, most people flee to the nearest possible alternative until they can return.

The UN committee ruling will ideally lead countries to invest more in preventing the effects of the climate crisis, and to measure rights-based responses to climate-linked migration grounded in evidence instead of fear.

Agencies

Taking necessary precautions helps squash spread of virus

By Gauden Galea

IN a few short weeks, the words 'novel coronavirus' have become a household term in China and around the world. This is not surprising. Whenever a new virus crosses from the animal kingdom into the human domain, the world pays attention. Public health experts are always alert to possible new diseases that could spread between people and cause illness and death.

Unknowns about how much risk a virus poses and how people can protect their loved ones can lead to anxiety and fear among the public. History shows that individuals' behavior is a key factor for responding to a new communicable disease.

When public health experts assess the risk to humans of a new virus, they look at two key factors: transmission and severity.

The 2019 coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is still a new virus so it is hard to draw conclusions. But it seems that, for the average person, the virus may cause less severe disease than other coronavirus outbreaks such as SARS and MERS-CoV.

For most people, 2019-nCoV seems to cause mild cold-like symptoms. It can sometimes progress to a more severe illness, particularly in some vulnerable groups including people with existing conditions such as cardiovascular problems, diabetes, liver problems and respiratory diseases. Older people also appear more likely to be susceptible to severe illness.

When we look at transmission, at this stage, it appears that 2019-nCoV spreads most easily when someone who has symptoms comes into close contact with others.

Further investigation is needed but based on past experience with coronaviruses and other respiratory illnesses, asymptomatic transmission, while possible, is rare and unlikely to be a driver of this outbreak.

Even a virus that is often mild across the general population, and severe in certain vulnerable groups, could cause tragic deaths if it were to transmit easily between people.

And a mild virus that transmits eas-

ily between people could be a challenge for some fragile national health systems that are already fully occupied with other health priorities such as obstetrics, chronic diseases or other outbreaks.

This is why the WHO director general has declared 2019-nCoV as a public health emergency of international concern: many fragile national health systems around the world are not prepared for a new epidemic - even one that might prove to be mild across the general population.

China has made progress over many years in its surveillance, reporting, investigation capacity and ability to control disease.

The WHO's top priority is supporting the people of China and the world to limit transmission of 2019-nCoV. The WHO will continue to work with the government of China and advise on how to respond.

From what we have learned so far, it is likely that the 2019-nCoV transmits primarily via droplets emitted when people with the disease cough or sneeze and by 'fomites' - small droplets that transfer to people through physical contact or touching contaminated surfaces.

Hands can play a key role in the transmission of all coronaviruses as hands touch many surfaces which can be contaminated with the virus. As a result, WHO recommends the following five key action areas to help people limit transmission of 2019-nCoV.

First, maintain at least one meter between you and others. A virus can spread through shaking hands, touching and other physical contact. It can also travel short distances through the air when a person with the disease sneezes or coughs.

Second, maintain the highest standards of hand hygiene. Wash your hands properly with soap and water, or an alcohol-based rub. This is especially important before eating, after touching surfaces or other people, after coughing or sneezing, before handling or preparing food, after touching animals, after going to the toilet or changing a child's nappy.

Third, if you sneeze or cough, cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or



A sanitation worker puts a mask on a sculpture at a pedestrian mall in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan province, to remind citizens to wear masks when they go out, Feb. 6, 2020.

your bent elbow. Dispose of any used tissues immediately in a closed rubbish bin and wash your hands after sneezing or coughing. Do not spit.

Fourth, if you choose to wear a mask, learn how to do so correctly. Make sure you wash your hands before putting it on and handle the mask by the strings. If the mask becomes moist while being worn, replace it.

After taking off the mask by the

strings, throw the mask in a closed bin and wash your hands.

Fifth, it is important for people to understand when to self-isolate and when to seek medical attention. Anyone with mild cold- or flu-like symptoms should stay home, rest and isolate themselves from others.

But please pay close attention to your symptoms. If you develop a fever of over 38 degrees Celsius, have diffi-

culty breathing or other more severe symptoms, please call (or ask a loved one to call) a fever clinic or health facility immediately.

Lastly, make sure that any information you share about 2019-nCoV with friends, loved ones or through social media has been confirmed by the WHO or government authorities. During times of uncertainty, rumour and misinformation - even well-intentioned

- can spread faster than any virus and may harm people and complicate efforts to stop transmission.

2019-nCoV is a new public health challenge for all of us. To respond, we must support each other and closely follow the science. It is through working together, and being there for each other, that we can limit transmission and move forward together.

People's Daily

Tanzania's natural gas sector: The elusive economic game-changer

By Guardian Correspondent

IN 2010 Tanzania discovered about 47 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven offshore natural gas deposits. With this newly discovered resource many Tanzanians most of whom live in poverty, hoped that their lives would be transformed and their economic burden would be eased. At national scale, the gas deposits could indeed accelerate industrialization, supply power and raise the quality of lives of majority of Tanzanians through government revenue generated by export of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

It is against this backdrop that when President Jakaya Kikwete addressed Mtwara residents in early 2012, he spoke of rapid development of Mtwara town and the region in general, likening its economic development to that of Dubai in the UAE and the public took it for granted.

However, behind the high expectations and optimism of rapid economic turnaround that would improve the wellbeing of Tanzanians hovered challenges of significant magnitude that have, ten years down the road, shattered almost all the dreams of realizing economic bounty.

Eight years after the offshore discoveries, the sector had yet to make a significant mark in the country's economy. "The leading contributors to Tanzania's economy in 2018 were construction (23%), followed by trade and repair (11.1%) agriculture (10.7%), manufacturing (7.3%), mining (5.2%), and others (23.1%)." reads part of a report by Tanzania Invest.

The Financial Times (Tanzania) of July 2018 also indicates that the natural gas sector was yet to make a breakthrough as a major contributor to the country's economy citing construction (22.7%), transport and storage (15.6%), agriculture (10.5%), and information and communication (9.86%) as having made significant contributions to the country's economy.

One of the challenges that accounts for the failure to develop offshore gas deposits is the uncertainty that shrouds the extractive industry and in particular the gas sector, in terms of global market prices, which in turn makes it difficult for the government to make agreements with companies that would see the country getting substantial benefits. Such good deals should, on the other hand, also attract investors.

At the time the gas deposits were discovered, the price of LNG in Tanzania's likely export market - Japan, China and other countries Asia and the Far East - was high.

However, the price has since fallen and the future is gloomy. In 2015, for example, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast that gas prices would be USD16 per one million British Thermal Units (mmBtu) come 2020. By end of that year the forecast changed to USD 7 and prices today fluctuate between USD 7 and USD 8. The recent global price collapse together with forecasts of prolonged low prices have made the government and gas companies rethink development of the gas sector, thereby stalling construction of the LNG plant in Lindi and dashing hopes of the country realizing rapid economic development.

On a different front, the gas companies and the government have been negotiating the host government agreement (HGA) which would script ground rules for management of the LNG plant. These negotiations were scheduled for conclusion in 2018 but have been grinding on and are now likely to be concluded in 2022. The protracted negotiations between government and gas companies have delayed construction of the LNG plant.

Again in 2017, government enacted various legislations including the Natural Wealth and Resources Contracts (Review and Renegotiation of Unconscionable Terms) Act 2017. This allows the government to renegotiate existing extractives agreements if they seem to contain "unconscionable terms". However, the basis for identifying and defining a term as "unconscionable" are vague, allowing the government to renegotiate the PSAs as it deems fit. Implementation of this law coupled with on-going negotiations for HGA and low global gas prices have put construction of the Tanzania LNG in jeopardy.

"Export of natural gas would have a big impact on the economy but construction of the proposed LNG plant in Lindi has seen slow progress for various reasons," says Mr. Modestus Lumato, TPDC's Development and Production Manager. "Currently natural gas is trading at between 7 and 8 mmBtu in the global market. This is not good enough for business. We acknowledge the significant role of LNG accelerating the country's economic growth because it is a commodity that we can export and earn big revenue but under the circumstances we have to be patient and protect the country's interests," explains Mr. Lumato.

A consortium of six companies; Equinor of Norway, Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil, Ophir Energy, Pavillion Energy and TPDC, has shown interest to construct the LNG plant in Lindi and is engaged in negotiation with the govern-



ment. While the initial cost of the plant was estimated to be USD 30bn, this is likely to have gone up. "The initial estimate was done after the discovery of offshore gas deposits. We are talking about ten years after the first estimates, which means the cost could now be more than USD40bn. We cannot implement this project from local funding, we must work with oil companies," he says.

Besides low prices that don't attract investors, construction of the LNG plant has stalled due to the government's decision to review Production Sharing Agreements (PSA) entered into with gas companies. This is in line with the Natural Wealth and Resources Contracts (Review and Renegotiation of Unconscionable Terms) Act 2017 which allows the government to look into PSAs that did not protect the interests of the country and subsequently make appropriate changes. "Such review is done carefully and thus takes time. We have to wait and once this is completed, implementation of the LNG project will proceed, other issues notwithstanding," explains Mr. Lumato.

In 2017, the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI) had cast doubt on oil companies investing in the LNG plant construction project in Tanzania due to its economics much as it acknowledged that construction of the LNG plant is the basis for development of Tanzania's offshore gas. "For investors to earn a return comparable to that seen in other LNG projects, we estimate that a long-term LNG price of USD 14 per one million

British Thermal Units (mmBtu) would be required over the life of the project. With long-term forecasts for LNG prices in East Asia at USD 8, it appears unlikely that companies will decide to invest in the current environment," reads part of a Briefing paper "Negotiating Tanzania's Gas Future: What Matters for Investment and Government Revenues?" published by the Institute.

However, while Tanzania's LNG project is progressing at a snail's pace, Mozambique with more than 200 tcf last year concluded FID with Total and Exxon Mobil who secured bank loans to start construction of two separate LNG plants in the country. This is being done while global prices are low and uncertainty still shrouds the global natural gas market.

The Board Chairman of Haki Rasilimali Dr. Donald Kasongi concedes that the performance of the natural gas sector has been below expectations since the resource was discovered. "For Tanzania, the expectation that offshore discoveries now estimated to be 57 trillion cubic feet would turnaround the country's economy has been unmet. Apart from the bad business environment arising from low prices and investment there has been change in the policy and legal landscape that has sent jitters among potential investors," he says.

The declaration by government last year that it will shift its focus from natural gas to hydropower development and the review of PSAs it embarked on dulled the urgency to construct the LNG plant which would bolster the country's econ-

omy through export of natural gas.

"With the slump in global natural gas prices and the resulting uncertainty in the market the risks for investment were heavy and obvious. Oil and gas companies are prepared to invest but not where the risks of making losses are conspicuous. But it would appear that Tanzania was not ready to build a good business climate that would attract big investors as evidenced by protracted negotiations on some issues like HGA and subsequent FID as well as the review of PSAs. This is different from what is happening in Mozambique where after discoveries of proven quantities in 2010, HGA was completed in 2014 and now FID has been made," explains Dr. Kasongi who is based in Mwanza City.

According to "A snapshot of Tanzania natural gas" published by Norton Rose Fulbright in 2014 the Final Investment Decision for construction of the LNG plant was set to be agreed upon between the government of Tanzania and the consortium of companies by 2016. Subsequently the LNG plant should have become operational this year (2020) but the HGA has not been reached and as such construction of the LNG plant has not started.

The publication also highlights that private sector involvement in natural gas sector has been slow and uncertain. "The private sector was not strong enough, not well-prepared to participate in the natural gas economy. Only after huge proven quantities were discovered did the government begin to build local foundations that would prop up the sector. These include policy

and legal frameworks as well as creating private sector space in the gas economy," reads part of the publication.

Recent policy and legal changes have also sent uncomfortable signs to investors making them wary of pouring in money when the future is uncertain. The review of PSA, for example, did not go down well with investors with some of them closing business and making huge investments in Mozambique's natural gas sector instead. Investors were not assured of long-term stability of the country's policies.

Current reports indicate that the PSAs review was completed by early January 2020 and companies should receive drafts or final text by end of the month. However, it may not be easy to find out the proposed changes made by the review since government and companies do not disclose PSAs.

The frustrations of unmet economic expectations from the natural gas sector have run far and wide. "It would appear that all plans and strategies to develop gas deposits in order to lift Tanzanians out of poverty have been abandoned. The economic boom that promised and signaled rapid development of Mtwara town and the region at large has suddenly disappeared. For example, the price of land that had shot up has also plunged, and construction has come to a halt. Some buildings have no tenants," says Baltazar Komba, a social worker and Executive Director of FAWOPA, an NGO based in Mtwara town.

According to Mr. Komba, con-

struction of the LNG plant would have economic spill-over effect in agriculture, construction, transport and the hospitality industry.

He argues that the little progress made in the natural gas sector could perhaps be linked to changes being made in the policy and legal frameworks including the review of PSA that was introduced in 2017. Given current circumstances, companies are unlikely to invest in Tanzania's LNG project and this leaves the government with few options to make progress in developing the offshore gas deposits and get into the natural gas export business.

One is to wait for global gas prices to bounce back following which the LNG project could then become profitable enough to attract investors. Yet this option could lead not only to delay in realizing the project's benefits but also see the overall costs of construction rising up tremendously.

Maybe government should also strive to improve the business climate by scaling up the pace of government decision making process. Huge natural gas deposits were discovered both in Mozambique and Tanzania at about the same time but by 2014, the former had already concluded the HGA for its two proposed LNG plants and by end of 2019 the companies had already made the FID.

Government must make careful and transparent decisions and improve the overall business environment in order to realise the potential of the natural gas sector in turning around the country's economy.

Arusha ready to host global climate action annual meet

By Guardian Reporter

ARUSHA is next week expected to host international meeting that will attract more than 150 climate change experts from around the globe.

The meeting has been organised by a Dar es Salaam-based environmental non-governmental and non-profit organization - Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN TZ).

Themed: "Building Power and Action in a Climate Emergency" the meeting will bring in climate experts from more than 90 countries as part of the CAN International member Annual Strategy Meeting in Arusha.

According to a statement issued yesterday by CAN TZ, as a preparatory engagement, 20 African experts will come together from 23-24 February as an African Advisory group meeting to find common ground and speak with one voice at the following international gathering.

The meeting is aimed at discussing a strategy among the Climate Action Network members for 2020 and further beyond to address the climate crisis appropriately as well as to develop effective



strategies and plans. The strategy meeting in 2020 will be an opportunity to deepen CAN's renewed approach of becoming a bottom up driven network; to develop impactful strategies focusing on their three key pillars of Ambition, Impacts and Support; and to become inspired and energized by the climate movement around the world. Plenary discussions, group work and capacity building workshops are planned to share knowledge on how we can make the most of our collective resources we have at our disposal; and achieve the highest impact possible.

"The meeting will identify the key priorities for this year and develop the strategies that work to build power and create the momentum that is needed in 2020," a statement reads in part.

CAN TZ Civil Society Organization (CSOs) members will join the meeting to strengthen their ties with other CSOs, exchange best practices and empower each other to successfully protect their communities from climate-induced extreme weather events. The Climate Action Network follows the approach to build power from bottom-up. The idea is to strengthen communities on local levels in times of climate emergency, rather than hoping for policy changes from the top.

The Climate Action Network Tanzania (CAN TZ), based in Dar es Salaam, is an environmental non-governmental and non-profit organization, founded in 2011, that works towards climate sustainability through enhanced community livelihood activities and a climate-resilient economy in Tanzania.

Artisanal mining playing creditable role - minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Simanjiro

MINERALS Minister Doto Biteko has said his ministry values artisanal miners in the country as they have lifted up the sector by increasing government revenue.

Biteko explained this on Monday when receiving the building to be used as Tanzanite trading centre from the Minister for Defense and National Service Dr Hussein Mwinyi, the building that was built by SUMA-JKT.

Biteko said at first some big miners abandoned mining work but small miners continued with their business that greatly increased revenue in the mineral sector.

He said Tanzanite One, before they closed business were contributing 1.1lb/- in revenue and small miners contributed 164m/-. However when big miners closed business, small miners increased revenue to 2.7bn/-.

He appealed to the artisanal miners of Tanzanite to continue being patriotic by paying taxes so that the government is able

to develop the nation.

On his part, the Defense Minister Dr Mwinyi thanked officials of the Ministry for Minerals for according to them the opportunities in various minerals projects.

"In addition I praise officers and other personnel our ministry who had worked on this modern mineral trading centre that we are now handing to the Ministry for Minerals," he said.

Ag Manyara Regional Commissioner Chelestino Mofuga congratulated minister Biteko for doing well in the management of the minerals sector, saying the sector is now officially recognized for contributing huge revenue to the government. The Tanzania Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) Manager for Dodoma Region Eng Liberatus Bikulamchi which installed wiring and lighting in the Tanzanite mines said they have spent 716m/- for the work.

He said the work involved the hiring of 50 people and there wasn't a single mishap as all work place regulations were adhered to.

Indian specialists to carry out spine, orthopedic clinic in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

INDIAN spine specialists are this week expected to land in the country to conduct spine and orthopedic clinic camp at Regency Medical Centre (RMC) in Dar es Salaam.

According to the statement issued yesterday by RMC, the specialists will conduct a two-day camp at the health facility from Friday to Saturday, this week.

"This is a good opportunity for Tanzanians with such problems to be attended by specialists for spine and other related problems," the statement reads in part.

Among other things, the medical specialists will check to the patient include neck pain, back pain, spinal surgical procedures and spinal cord problems and sciatica problems.

"Those who want to consult the Specialists must come with their previous X-Rays/ Medical Reports to show the specialist."

"Only first 200 registered patients will get opportunity to see the specialists. We encourage those with such problems to take this opportunity," the statement said.

According to experts, several things contribute to back and neck problems including unhealthy and unfit lifestyle choices, old age, sitting/sleeping positions, overexertion, stress, injuries caused by accidents or physical activities, birth defects, calcium deficiencies, obesity or weight gain, pregnancy or sheer carelessness in taking care of the spine.

The older generation took good care of their bodies and took part in regular physical exercises. This eventually helped in keeping the spine, back and neck healthy and flexible. This is where our generations fall back a little.

BUSINESS

RESURRECTION

Transnet International Holdings: Winning over Africa, two years later

CAPE TOWN

Investing extensively in the broader economy of the African continent could be a game-changer state-owned freight rail carrier Transnet, as well as contributing to the continent's integration - and few are in a better position to argue this than Chief Executive of Transnet International Holdings Petrus Fusi.

Transnet International Holdings, a subsidiary of Transnet, was launched in March 2018 to facilitate various rail, port and pipeline projects across Africa. Its foray into the rest of the continent comes as global economic superpowers are also looking to make their mark on the African continent and capitalise on its growth potential.

Fin24 sat with Fusi on the sidelines of the 2020 Investing in African Mining Indaba in Cape Town earlier this month.

Driving economic growth

He said that through the establishment of Transnet International Holdings, Transnet hoped to use its 32,000 km rail network and other catalytic infrastructure under development to drive the growth of the continent's economies through diversely funded projects.

"Transnet International Holdings uses Transnet rail, port and pipeline networks to align services across Africa. We are a wholly Transnet-owned subsidiary. "We will look at viable projects, but we do not intend on financing these from our balance sheet," Fusi said.

Fusi told Fin24 that Transnet was one of few state-owned entities that did not approach the national fiscus for its projects. Saying this, he expressed confidence that Transnet International Holdings could draw investor appetite for major projects around the continent.

Commercial lenders

"We expect corporate banks and commercial lenders to come in and participate. We not exposing the balance sheet. But we are not going into the rest of Africa just for its own sake. We want to help grow the continent,"

Fusi said.

Fusi named the Botswana rail partnership as one example of a venture outside of South Africa that Transnet International Holdings was involved in which would pay dividends to both countries. "The Botswana rail partnership is now operational. We have teams doing conditions assessments on site and working on refurbishing rolling stock. The details are currently being ironed out and the tons it will carry will be informed by the additional wagons on the network," Fusi said.

'We remain hopeful'

He said Transnet International Holdings was also at an advanced stage of a project which involved refurbishing Ghana's rail network. He said the company was also making progress on its North-South corridor development. "We have engaged with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Zambia Railways already has a rolling stock revitalisation proposal. "The Zimbabwe coal development transaction time has expired because of challenges in due diligence. We do remain hopeful that they will take it back to market," he said.

Transnet International Holdings looks to fill investment gaps in projects around the continent, said Fusi - for example, the General Electric Consortium that pulled out of a rail concession in Nigeria, handing over leadership of that concession to Transnet International Holdings in 2018.



Transnet International Holdings CEO Petrus Fusi.

PART-WAYS

Everton, racing firm cut Sh4.2bn SportPesa ties

NAIROBI

English Premier League football club Everton and Formula One team Racing Point have severed a combined Sh4.2 billion sponsorship deal with SportPesa in the wake of the betting firm's closure.

Everton had two years to run on the SportPesa deal, which was inked in 2017, but after negotiations involving both parties, a decision has been made to cancel the £9.6 million (Sh1.25 billion)-a-year agreement at the end of this season. The club has indicated that the end of the multi-billion shilling partnership was informed by commercial reasons and not the quest for football to distance itself from betting.

The deal with Racing Point, which was estimated to be worth Sh3 billion, has similarly been cut short, having been announced in early 2019 as a multi-year partnership. The end of the sponsorships reflects the difficulties SportPesa has endured since the government denied it licences in July, leading to the closure of the sports betting platform that was estimated to be generating billions in annual sales.

SportPesa in October declared its 362 workers redundant after a prolonged tax standoff with the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), which set the stage for its Kenya exit and derailed its ambitions to cement its presence in four continents on the back of renowned global brands like Everton and Formula One.

The closure also dealt a further body blow to wealthy and influential inves-

tors behind SportPesa, who have since its formation in 2014 enjoyed juicy dividends with the exponential rise of mobile-based betting across Kenya.

An Everton spokesperson on Sunday evening said: "This has been a difficult decision, but one that allows us to best deliver on our commercial plan and to grasp the new opportunities now open to us." Yesterday, SportPesa put on a brave face, suggesting that it will use its UK headquarters to pursue other opportunities. However, it did not mention the troubles it has been facing in Kenya.

"SportPesa has decided to change some of its global sponsorships in line with its new business strategy and sponsorships approach," the company said in a statement. "In light of this, SportPesa will not continue with some of these partnerships after the completion of the 2019/2020 season."

The Everton sponsorship contract was initially scheduled to run until May 2022. In its statement, Everton said it was the one that terminated the deal to protect its commercial interests and that SportPesa has agreed to the same.

For SportPesa, the high-profile deals were part of its strategy to boost its global profile as it moved to expand into new markets in Europe and Africa after a successful launch in Kenya, which was its key market and money maker. The company still has operations in other countries, including South Africa, the UK and Tanzania.

IMPRESSIVE

Brewer reports its tax payment to Treasury rising by 10pc last year

By Guardian Reporter

STABLE fiscal policies including unchanged excise tax on alcoholic drinks last year enabled Serengeti Breweries Limited to increase its tax payment to Treasury by 10 percent last fiscal year.

Briefing members of Parliamentary Budget Committee who paid a courtesy call at SBL main brewery in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said the beer brewer paid 132bn/- in taxes last year compared to 121bn/- paid in 2018.

"The alcoholic industry in the country has been growing in recent years largely as a result of modest annual excise tax change which has enabled manufactures to maintain prices and as a result increase their sales volumes," Ocitti said.

He said stability in excise tax rates over the past four years has enabled the alcohol manufacturers to maintain product prices which in turn resulted into increase in volumes sold in the market.

He told the lawmakers that the domestic market is price sensitive such that any changes have a negative impact hence advised Treasury to maintain the current excise duty rate in the next fiscal year covering 2020/21.

"To sustain the industry's current growth momentum and subsequently lead to more revenue collection by the government, price stability is important," the SBL chief added while stressing that the brewer is committed to the local market hence currently undertaking a10 million British pound sterling (over 30bn/-) expansion of its Dar brewery. The company currently employs over 700 people directly and thousands others indirectly



SBL managing director Mark Ocitti briefs members of Parliamentary Budget Committee who visited the company's Dar es Salaam brewery last weekend. Photo courtesy of SBL.

across its value chain, he said. Speaking at end of the visit, the Budget Committee's Chairman, Mahimba Ndaki paid tribute to SBL management for deciding to expand its factories in the country noting that the move means

an added market opportunity to farmers across the country who supply cereals such as maize, sorghum and barley used as raw materials. "Our farmers are now assured of an added ready market for their produce as a

result of this brewery expansion," Ndaki said. SBL bought 17,000 tons of cereals from local farmers which was an equivalent of 70 percent of the company's total annual raw material requirement for 2019.

INCLUSION

Mhagama urges operators to tap NMB's 'Mastaboda' opportunities



NMB's acting Chief Finance Officer, Benedicto Baragomwa (R), receives an award at a past event.

By Guardian Reporter, Ruvuma

BOBABODA taxi operators have been urged to seize opportunities presented by NMB Bank Plc's new 'Mastaboda' campaign which seeks to reward them for accepting digital payments from consumers.

Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office responsible for policy, parliament, labour youth, employment and the disabled, Jenista Mhagama said here yesterday while launching the campaign in Ruvuma region that NMB's move is also aimed incorporating the group into the formal banking system.

"Once you are incorporated into the formal banking system, you qualify to get loans and grow your business," said Mhagama who commended NMB for coming up with the innovative product that will change lives of thousands of 'bodaboda' taxi operators in the country.

She further told the over 200 riders who attended the event that the government

of President Magufuli has since officially recognised the 'bodaboda' taxi operators group as legitimate hence they should use such an opportunity and NMB's offer to grow and graduate into big businesses.

"Through this campaign, you can also get two wheel motorcycles or Bajaj (three wheel rickshaw) loans from NMB," she revealed while mobilising youths countrywide to exploit opportunities being presented by President Magufuli's administration.

She said apart from such opportunities being presented by the 'Mastaboda' campaign, operators are also being protected from the risks associated with moving around with bulky cash paid by customers as is the case currently.

"Today, NMB is officially backing government efforts to formalise 'bodaboda' taxi riders as a formal group of business people," she noted adding that youths who represent about 56 percent of the population are largely

engaged in informal businesses.

Speaking at the same event, NMB's acting Chief Finance Officer, Benedicto Baragomwa assured the taxi riders and government that the 'Mastaboda' opportunities will be extended to every 'bodaboda' operator in the country.

"Our target in Ruvuma region is to extend our services and products to over 85,000 operators who, part from using Mastercard QR Code payment system, will also qualify to get cash or equipment loans to grow their businesses," Baragomwa said.

He noted that the digital payment system also enables the operators to refrain from unnecessary expenditure as they do not have cash at hand. "By using Mastercard QR Code payment system which is done through a mobile phone, all bank accounts can be accessed," he added.

Chairman of Ruvuma 'Bodaboda' Operators Association, Hamisi Maulid said NMB's digital payment system is much better compared to bulky cash

noting that their transport means which started in 2004, will now be improved.

"Since 2008, many youths joined this business because they had no jobs and wanted an income," Maulid said noting that since then, the 'bodaboda' family has surged into a massive group of young business owners. "Our association has over 85,000 members currently," he added.

Ruvuma acting Regional Commissioner, Pololet Mgema also commended NMB management for choosing the region as a launch pad for the campaign which will benefit many youth most of who have already been formally recognised by President Magufuli's identity cards.

"I urge all 'bodaboda' taxi operators to form associations or join the existing ones so that you can easily be served by banks such as NMB which offers training and loans," Mgema said while pledging government's continued support of the lender's expansion to rural areas.

INVESTMENT

Fifty Dar firms set to benefit from Japanese Kaizen initiative

By Francis Kajubi

SOME 50 Dar es Salaam based factories will benefit from capacity building to improve efficiency in production but also quality of the products under a Ministry of Industry and Trade's National Framework for Quality and Productivity Improvement backed by Japanese Kaizen initiative.

Kaizen Master Trainer from the ministry, Jane Lyatu said in Dar es Salaam on Monday that under Kaizen's Manufacturing Sector Project covering 2020/30 which will be launched next April, the ministry through Tanzania Kaizen Unit will implement the project aimed enhancing efficiency and quality in the industrial production value chain.

Lyatu said the project will be backed by a preliminarily estimated budget of over \$11.5m/- to be spent in the first year of its implementation covering a period of 2020/21.

"In the context of improving efficiency and quality of industrial manufactured products, the ministry through TKU in collaboration with project partners including SIDO and College of Business Education has developed this project," she said.

According to her, the 50 small and large scale enterprises will have their production, promotion and sales officers trained to adopt Kaizen philosophy of business expansion through approach of cost cutting, better use of raw materials, good use of space at place of work and time keeping.

Number of enterprises may also include industrial clusters which, in the second year of implementation, 80 will be targeted from four other regions.



Permanent secretary at Minister for Industry and Trade, Professor Riziki Shemdoe (R) is Kaizen project director.

"The four regions to be covered in the 2021/22 period will be specified by June 2020. The first five years will be the area expansion phase in which the regional coverage grows," she explained. The framework is also aimed at

making use of already created capacity to spread out Kaizen philosophy countrywide, inclusively and sustainably for the period 2020/30.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Industry and Trade will be responsible for the overall

administration of the NFK implementation as the Project Director. The Director of Industrial Development at MIT will be responsible for the managerial and technical matters as the Project Manager.

CONTROVERSY

DRC halves its spending in sure blow to plans by Tshisekedi

KINSHASA

The Democratic Republic of Congo must nearly halve government spending plans this year, the finance ministry said on Monday, in a blow to President Felix Tshisekedi's much-touted anti-poverty schemes.

The government's budget for 2020 set down the equivalent of \$10.59 billion dollars in spending but only \$5.45 billion is being allocated, the finance ministry said. Its so-called cashflow plan factors in "unfavourable trends in the current situation," the ministry said in a statement, referring to the "collapse" in the price of cobalt in the last quarter of 2019.

DRC is the world's biggest producer of cobalt, a key ingredient in batteries. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December granted the country emergency credit of \$368.4 million to meet urgent balance-of-payments needs, but warned that its initial budget lacked "realism." The 2020 budget has to take into account the estimated \$2.6 billion cost of Tshisekedi's pledge, initiated in September, to make primary-school education free.

On Friday, the president also launched a "national strategic plan" for "universal health coverage" - a scheme unveiled in the presence of World Health Organization (WHO) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. Health Minister Eteni Longondo said the aim was to provide universal coverage "after perhaps five, 10, 15 years."

DR Congo is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, and sits atop vast mineral wealth. But it also struggles with government incompetence, corruption and inequality. Two-thirds of its roughly 80 million inhabitants survive on under \$2 per day.

Tshisekedi took office in January 2019, succeeding President Joseph Kabila, who stepped down after 18 iron-fisted years at the helm. He has vowed to step up the fight against poverty and graft, but his room for manoeuvre has been cramped by uncertainty in the commodities market and a parliament dominated by Kabila supporters.



DR Congo is the largest country in sub-Saharan Africa, and sits atop vast mineral wealth. But it also struggles with government incompetence, corruption and inequality. Two-thirds of its roughly 80 million inhabitants survive on under \$2 per day.

DIVERSIFICATION

Miners welcome SA's plans to open up power generation

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's announcement that it will open up electricity generation to other players, effectively breaking Eskom's monopoly, has been welcomed by many, especially the mining industry, a key sector in Africa's most industrialised economy.

President Cyril Ramaphosa in his annual state of the nation address Thursday night outlined a raft of steps that will allow firms to generate electricity for their own use. He admitted power cuts in recent months had had a debilitating effect on the economy and vowed to "rapidly and significantly" shore up electricity generation outside the debt-saddled Eskom.

The state-owned utility currently produces more than 90% of the country's electricity. But it has been crippled by poorly-designed coal-fired power stations, decades of mismanagement and alleged corruption under former president Jacob Zuma. Its debts amount to R450bn.

The mining industry - one of the largest power consumers - has for years been clamouring for legislative changes to ease up licensing to let firms produce their own electricity. Signs that the government's position on the issue was shifting came



Sibanye-Stillwater mining firm CEO, Neal Froneman.

at a mining conference earlier this month where it indicated the laws would be reviewed.

The Minerals Council, an association of mining firms, said it

was "encouraged by the president's commitment to rapidly and significantly increase generation capacity outside of Eskom." "The sporadic availability of power and

instability of the national grid is... one of the greatest threats to the South African economy," it said.

On one of the worst days of power cuts last December, some mining firms were forced to suspend operations for at least 24 hours after Eskom implemented severe rationing. South Africa is the continent's largest producer of gold and the world's top platinum miner.

Eskom 'protected its monopoly' The Minerals Council hailed Ramaphosa's undertaking to "implement measures that will fundamentally change the trajectory of energy generation in the country." The mining industry said it will have a combined capacity to produce 1.5 gigawatts of electricity in the next 36 months. Companies will be able to sell any excess power into the national grid.

At the mining conference, Sibanye-Stillwater mining firm chief executive Neal Froneman told AFP that previously Eskom had made it incredibly difficult for his company to get approvals

to generate its own power. "They protected their monopoly," he said.

Anglo American's CEO, Mark Cutifani, said that allowing "companies to be flexible and ...to provide energy solutions means that we can help be part of the solution. That's really positive." The frequent power cuts meant that mining production contracted by 1.3% in 2019 compared to the previous year, according to official figures released on Thursday.

Mining is one of the main contributors to the economy, accounting for eight percent of GDP in 2018. The sector is also a major employer, with more than 450 000 people on the payroll, and a critical foreign exchange earner.

Fitch Ratings said that allowing power-gobblers such as mines to build their own generation capacity "could be transformative in eroding (Eskom's) monopoly." But, Fitch cautioned in its note, "it is still unclear whether licences will be easily obtainable."

BREXIT-AFTERMATH

UK seeks trade pact with Rwanda, EAC

KIGALI

The United Kingdom is seeking to enter into a trade pact with the East African Community member countries.

The country, which just left the European Union (and into a one-year transition phase), is keen on having long-term and sustainable trade ties with the EAC region. Currently, during the one-year transition period set to end on December 31, the UK-EAC trade engagement will be under European Union protocol where most regional countries including Rwanda apply the Everything But Arms treaty.

In an exclusive interview with The New Times UK High Commissioner to Rwanda, Jo Lomas, said that they are

looking to negotiate a trade deal somewhat similar to EAC's Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union.

"We are looking to have a trade deal with the EAC, along the lines of what was agreed upon by the EU. Ultimately, we would like to be negotiating something more ambitious but we are keen not to disrupt trade," she said.

She said that, so far, they have commenced consultations with the EAC secretariat as well as EAC member states, including Rwanda. "We have started to consult with the EAC secretariat and the EAC states on how to take that forward. The Rwandan Minister for Trade was in London and we had an initial discussion," she said.

She noted that the lack of an EAC-EU binding economic agreement necessitated the negotiation of a new one. "If there was trade agreement with the EU already in operation, we would transition to one. At the moment, there is none. Our options are either EAC decides to implement it and we transition from that or we come up with a new agreement," she noted.

The EAC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement, that was under negotiations for over 5 years, was only signed by two countries, Rwanda and Kenya. Ahead of the signing by the two countries, there were concerns by some regional countries that the deal could pose a risk to regional economies as their infant industries would face unfair

competition due to products from the European Union flooding the regional markets.

Lomas said that the agreement to be negotiated would still be conscious of the need by Rwanda and other regional countries to protect emerging local industries with generous deadlines but with an eventual goal of free trade.

"We are still in negotiations so I would not want to preempt that. The EPA gives a good indication of what we are looking for. We want to have provisions to protect some industries and eventually open up their markets but with generous deadlines and timelines. We would like Rwanda to continue to export to the UK. We enjoy your coffee, tea, chillis, green beans but, ultimately, we should be

aiming for free trade," she said.

In the event the one-year timeline ends before end of negotiations, Rwanda will continue to enjoy access to the UK market though the Everything But arms treaty. The UK is also negotiating with other blocs and countries, including the EU.

"Now that we have left the EU, we are free to negotiate our own trade agreements. We are now a sovereign state, our own decision-makers and we will be looking for the best trade deal we can get and will be working in the UK interest. We will be negotiating that in the next 11 months. As we are not a member of the EU, we will be taking our own seat in international forums," the UK envoy to Rwanda said.



UK High Commissioner to Rwanda, Jo Lomas.

WORLD

Democratic White House candidates face high-pressure Nevada debate

WASHINGTON

AT least five Democratic presidential contenders will meet in a pivotal debate in Nevada today, three days before the state's voters make their picks in an unsettled and tight nominating race for the White House.

The caucuses in Nevada on Saturday will be the third contest in the campaign to find a Democratic challenger to President Donald Trump in the Nov. 3 election. The first two produced a split verdict, with Pete Buttigieg edging Bernie Sanders in Iowa and Sanders narrowly beating Buttigieg in New Hampshire.

Michael Bloomberg, a billionaire businessman who has climbed in opinion polls while spending hundreds of millions of his own dollars on advertising, is still trying to meet the polling requirement to qualify for the debate.

Here is a look at the stakes for each of the candidates who could take the stage in Las Vegas:

BERNIE SANDERS

The senator from Vermont has

surged into the polling lead nationally and in Nevada after his strong finishes in the first two states. A self-described democratic socialist, he has shrugged off attacks that his views are too hard-left to win the White House, and he will be a target again as he looks to fill the front-runner's role. Sanders leads in polls among the state's big bloc of Latino voters, but his biggest task in the debate could be winning over new supporters beyond his core believers - and painting the incoming attacks from his rivals as a sign of their growing desperation to stop him.

PETE BUTTIGIEG

After strong finishes in predominantly white Iowa and New Hampshire, Buttigieg faces the biggest challenge of his candidacy as he tries to expand his appeal to African-American and Hispanic voters. That task will begin in Nevada, where about one-third of the 2016 electorate was black or Latino. Buttigieg took heavy fire in the last debate for his lack of political experience, particularly from moderate rival Amy Klobuchar, and it might have blunted some of his momentum



Democratic 2020 U.S. presidential candidates former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Elizabeth Warren, former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders participate in the eighth Democratic 2020 presidential debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire, U.S., February 7, 2020. File Photo

from Iowa. For the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, the push to stay in the top tier could begin at Wednesday's debate.

AMY KLOBUCHAR

After nearly a year buried in the Democratic pack, the senator from Minnesota used a strong debate in New Hampshire to propel her to a third-place finish and newfound relevancy. She touted her record of winning in swing states and conservative areas, but her performance will raise expectations as she tries to separate herself from a crowded group of moderates. The debate gives her a chance to introduce herself to voters giving her a fresh look, and to frame her candidacy as the answer for Democrats desperately seeking the contender who can win back the upper Midwestern voters who deserted the party in 2016.

ELIZABETH WARREN

The liberal senator from Massachusetts has fallen far behind her ally Sanders in the quest for support from the party's progressive wing after becoming a front-runner just three months ago, raising the stakes in Nevada. Warren was an afterthought in the New Hampshire debate, and will need to be much more aggressive in interjecting herself into the fight after finishing a dismal fourth in the primary. She could try to stand out by positioning herself as the party unifier - a bridge between Sanders' hard-left support-

ers and the moderates. But another poor finish could put her campaign on life support.

JOE BIDEN

The former vice president is fighting for survival in Nevada after a bruising fifth-place finish in New Hampshire. While the onetime front-runner was a target in past debates, this time he will play the role of underdog - a reversal that might work to his benefit and give him the freedom to go on offense more. Biden is hoping to do well enough in Nevada to stay alive until South Carolina, where his strength with black voters might give him a new lease on political life and keep him alive until Super Tuesday on March 3 and beyond. But Biden is running out of chances.

MICHAEL BLOOMBERG

Even though he is sitting out the first four early voting states, Bloomberg has come under fire from his rivals as his poll numbers have climbed and his entry into the race on Super Tuesday - when 14 states vote - approaches. He has not appeared in any Democratic debates so far and is still short of meeting the polling requirement to qualify for this one. But he is still certain to get plenty of attention from his rivals who have criticized him for trying to spend his way into the White House. For Bloomberg, delaying his debate debut might be fortunate - he is doing fine without them and will likely be rusty while his rivals are getting plenty of practice.

Mixed feelings as Egypt's 100 millionth citizen is born

MINYA, Egypt.

TUESDAY, Feb. 11 in Wasilah village located on the west bank of the Nile River, some 240 km south of the capital, Egypt's 100 millionth citizen was born.

The birth of the baby, a girl named Yasmine Rabei, was announced in Cairo by a giant counter outside the country's national statistics agency.

The father, a 22-year-old farmer, said "the birth of my girl brought joy to the village." His house was full of relatives, neighbors, TVs and journalists to celebrate the baby's birth.

"My child became famous when she first opened her eyes," Rabei told Xinhua. Photos of Yasmine was published on newspapers and websites, the father said.

In villages, especially in Upper Egypt, people prefer to bring up many children to help the fathers in agricultural work. Abdel Aziz, the 67-years-old grandfather and also a farmer, believed that "more kids mean more wealth."

The grandfather, who has seven children and 37 grandchildren, added he encourages Rabei to bring up at least five kids.

However, Rabei, who didn't have the chance to go to school, said he

planned only for getting two kids and wished to provide them with better health and education services.

The country is also gripped by worries that its overpopulation will increase the poverty and unemployment rates. On Feb. 5, the cabinet said it was on "high alert" to fight against population growth, which Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has described as a threat to national security.

At a conference in 2017, the president said "we have two real challenges facing our country: terrorism and overpopulation." In 2019, Egypt launched a public health

campaign called "two is enough" to convince parents to have fewer children. The mother of Yasmine, Jihad Ahmad, a 19-year-old housewife, agreed with her husband to have only two kids.

Ahmad added she will go a clinic after 40 days of delivery to apply a contraception method, noting "we planned to have the second baby in three years." Egypt's population is expected to reach 128 million by 2030, according to official statistics.

Eman Raheem, an obstetrician and gynecologist at Al-Zahra Hospital in Cairo, said "sometimes patients arrive here knowing absolutely nothing about contrac-

tion, so I have to explain all the different methods." She called for starting an awareness campaign in schools to educate young kids about sex and the future of population explosion. A UN report released in 2019 stated that within the next 30 years, Egypt, along with seven other countries will significantly contribute to the global population's projected growth. "Two is enough" campaign that has been launched in collaboration with the UN seeks to raise awareness among Egyptian women regarding the importance of birth control and to provide contraceptive methods.

Xinhua

Japan targets HIV drug trials to fight coronavirus

TOKYO

JAPAN plans to trial HIV medications to treat patients infected with coronavirus as the growing number of cases poses an increasing threat to the country's economy as well as public health.

Yoshihide Suga, the government's top spokesman, said at a briefing yesterday that the government is "currently conducting preparations so that clinical trials using HIV medication on the novel coronavirus can start as soon as possible."

Suga (pictured) said he couldn't

comment on how long it would take for the new drug to be approved.

Japan had 520 confirmed infections by Monday, including 454 cases from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined off the port of Yokohama, the health ministry said, with one death from the virus. Yesterday, there were three more cases confirmed with the virus in Wakayama Prefecture, local media reported.

As the contracting economy fuels a risk of recession, the spread of the coronavirus has prompted Tokyo to put limits on public



crowds while some companies are telling employees to work from home. Tokyo's HIV treatment trials come as those drugs have been touted as a potential cure for the coronavirus around the world. With no therapy proven 100 percent effective against the virus so far, 1,868 people have died in the

epidemic on the Chinese mainland. In Thailand, meanwhile, doctors said they appeared to have had some success in treating severe cases of the coronavirus with a combination of medications for flu and HIV.

As demand for masks skyrockets, police are investigating a theft of 6,000 surgical masks reported by the Kobe Red Cross Hospital in the central Japanese city, a hospital official told Reuters.

Japanese officials have vowed to work hard to avoid disruptions to the Olympic Games, which start in Tokyo in July. But growing concern

over the virus spurred Mongolia's Olympics archery team to cancel training in Japan, the Kyodo news agency said.

Meanwhile, more than 300 Americans who had been on the Diamond Princess cruise ship returned home via US government evacuation flights on Monday.

The ship has been under quarantine since early this month, leaving more than 3,000 passengers and crew in confinement, after a passenger who had left the ship in Hong Kong was then diagnosed with the coronavirus.

Agencies

Chinese Foreign Ministry calls US world's biggest spy in cyberspace, 'empire of hackers'

BEIJING

THE United States has become the "largest state actor of espionage in the cyber space," and "empire of hackers," Chinese Foreign Ministry's official spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters on Monday.

The statement came in response to a question about media reports that US intelligence used the Swiss company Crypto AG's encoding devices to spy on other countries.

"Facts have proven time and again that as the largest state actor of espionage in the cyber space, the US is worthy of the name of 'empire of hackers'."

The sky's the limit with the US when it comes to spying," the diplomat said.

"The US, on the one hand, has been collecting nearly five billion mobile phone call records across the globe on a daily basis, eavesdropping on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone conversations for more than a decade, controlling over 3 million Chinese computers and implanting Trojan Horse in more than 3,600 Chinese websites on an annual basis," Geng Shuang continued.

"It is a tawdry trick that while doing so, it keeps playing victim of cyber attack, like a thief crying 'stop thief.' Its hypocrisy on the issue of cyber security could not be clearer."

"The dust has yet to settle over WikiLeaks and [former NSA contractor Edward] Snowden revelations. Explanations are still owed. Now the Crypto AG incident adds another to the tally, one more thing for the US to clarify to the world," he said.

According to a joint journalistic inquiry by SRF (Swiss TV) program 'Rundschau', Germany's ZDF broadcaster and the Washington Post, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the BND (German Federal Intelligence Service) secretly purchased a stake in Swiss company Crypto AG in Zug. At that point, Crypto AG was among the leading global companies manufacturing encoding devices. But those devices were rigged to give US and German special services an opportunity to crack codes.

As a result, those intelligence agencies got an opportunity to spy on more than 100 nations, including Egypt, Libya, Iran, Argentina and Saudi Arabia.

The demand for those devices was high, given Switzerland's reputation of a neutral country. According to Rundschau, high-ranking Swiss intelligence officers were aware of the role that Germany and the United States played in Crypto AG.

Agencies

Russia helps Syria counter West's economic blockade, envoy says

NIZHNEVARTOVSK,

RUSSIA and Syria have been taking steps to counter the Western-imposed economic blockade of the Arab republic, Syria's Ambassador to Moscow Riyad Haddad told a forum Tuesday in the Western Siberian city of Nizhnevartovsk.

"It's noteworthy that Russia together with the Syrians is fighting the economic blockade imposed by Western powers and is also providing our people with all kinds of support and humanitarian assistance," the Syrian diplomat told a plenary session of the Third International Youth Research and Practical Forum "Oil Capital."

The ambassador also thanked the Russian leadership, President Vladimir Putin and the Russian military, who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with Syrian troops. Friendship and cooperation between the two countries "are of a historic nature and have been thriving since Syria proclaimed independence."

"These relations strengthened and were cultivated over several decades and Russia proved that it is a sincere and reliable ally by providing Syria and its people with the necessary support in the war on terror," Haddad stressed.

The Third International Youth Research and Practical Forum "Oil Capital" is being held in Nizhnevartovsk on February 18-19.

The event is timed for the 90th anniversary of the establishment of the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Region, the production of the 12-billionth tonne of oil in Yugra, and the 55th anniversary of the discovery of the Samotlor field.

The participants are hashing over the rational use of natural resources, safe production technologies, the digital transformation of the oil and gas extracting sector along with the synergy of universities and fuel and energy companies.

Agencies

WHO inspection team to work with Chinese counterparts on virus control - NHC

THE World Health Organization (WHO) has sent a team of international experts to China to work with Chinese counterparts on prevention and control of the novel coronavirus epidemic, and the advance team is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Monday, February 10, the Chinese health commission said.

The "China-WHO joint expert inspection team" will conduct in-depth exchanges between experts from the two sides on the current situation of the epidemic, and prevention and control to provide suggestions regarding the next steps for China and other affected countries and regions in the world. Mi Feng, spokesperson for the National Health Commission said at

Monday's media briefing.

Mi said that the advance team of the WHO will discuss specific arrangements for the China-WHO joint mission, and China welcomes all foreign experts to join including those from the US.

According to the WHO, the team will be led by Bruce Aylward, a veteran of public health emergencies.

WHO experts are experienced epidemiologists who have dealt with many different outbreaks worldwide, they can assist Chinese experts in evaluating the situation more accurately and provide suggestions on preventive and control measures, Zhou Zijun, a professor at the Peking University's School of Public Health, told



Director General of World Health Organisation Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus

the Global Times on Monday.

What the experts learn in Wuhan during the visit will also serve as a basis for the WHO to launch further preventive measures in a global scope, Zhou noted.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said on Monday's briefing that acting in an open, transparent and responsible way, China has been sharing information and strengthening cooperation with WHO and the international community to jointly safeguard global and regional public health security.

The WHO declared the outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) on January 30, days after the epicenter Hubei was un-

der lockdown.

After the experts' visit to Wuhan, the WHO may reevaluate the epidemic and decide whether to prolong or terminate the PHEIC situation, according to Zhou.

At the 146th session of the WHO Executive Board meeting that kicked off from February 3, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus spoke highly of China's effective control measures.

He said China "is taking serious measures at the epicenter, at the source," which not only protected Chinese people, but also prevented the spread of the virus to other countries.

Global Times



Around 40 village cadres, members of the poverty alleviation working team, as well as young volunteers pick, wash and load the vegetables at the vegetable planting base of Xuyuan village on Feb. 5.

Guangxi Farmers lifted out of poverty donate 10,000 kg of vegetables to epicentre Wuhan

"WE want to donate 10,000 kilograms of vegetables to Wuhan," said Lu Jishun, a used-to-be impoverished farmer from Guanyang county in Guilin, China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on a call to a village cadre.

"Thanks to the Party and government, I'm now lifted out of poverty and have a decent income," said Lu, asking the cadre to figure out a way to transport his donation to Wuhan, the epic center of the novel coronavirus breakout.

The novel coronavirus pneumonia has become a national concern these days in China.

"The epidemic may cause short supply of vegetables in Wuhan and other places. We now have a sound sales performance, and have decided to donate 10,000 kilograms of vegetables to Wuhan after discussion," said Lu from Xuyuan village, where a total of 12 hectares of vegetables have been planted.

Therefore, he contacted Zheng Hong, the first secretary of the village in charge of poverty alleviation, hoping the government to offer a channel to ship the vegetables to the destination. Under the coordination of the publicity department of Guanyang county and the government of Guanyang township, the channel was soon selected.

Later, the post office of the county designated a batch of vehicles to send the vegetables to Wuhan on Feb. 7.

To donate the vegetables, around

40 people, including village cadres, members of the poverty alleviation working team, as well as young volunteers picked, washed and loaded the vegetables at the vegetable planting base of the village on Feb. 5.

"The used-to-be impoverished farmers donate their vegetables, and we should also make our contribution," said a member of the village's poverty alleviation working team.

"The Party and country helped us impoverished households, and we must be grateful and repay the favor," Lu said, introducing that this batch of vegetables were especially saved for the people and medical workers in Wuhan. "We denied two dealers who wanted to purchase in late January," Lu said.

It is learnt that since the breakout of the epidemic, Guanyang county has organized its village and community cadres to publicize prevention tips and guide the public to pay attention to epidemic control.

Besides, it has also encouraged enterprises and individuals to donate epidemic prevention and control materials to contribute their strength to the battle against the virus.

Apart from the 10,000 kilograms of vegetables donated by Lu, two cooperatives from Guanyang county's Xishan township and Shuiche township have also donated 10,000 kilograms of bok choy and 10,000 kilograms of radishes to Wuhan, respectively.

People's Daily

More than 350,000 face hunger in Namibia - PM

WINDHOEK

OVER 350,000 people are living in hunger in Namibia, Prime Minister Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila revealed at the launch of the food assistance donation in the northern town Ondangwa on Monday.

According to the prime minister, the impact of the drought include food shortage, poor grazing, scarcity of water, lost opportunities for jobs and income due to the negative impact on crop harvests and loss of livestock.

She further said that more than 12,000 vulnerable individuals in Na-

mbia were affected.

The prime minister made a calling on regions that are going to benefit from the programme to work together with the implementing bodies to ensure that the support reaches the people it is intended for.

Xinhua

Traditional Chinese medicine instrumental in COVID 19 treatment

WUHAN

ANOTHER 1,701 patients infected with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) were discharged from hospitals Monday, bringing the total number of discharged patients in China to over 12,000 since the epidemic.

When scrutinizing the commonalities of recovered COVID-19 patients, the contributions of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) cannot go unnoticed.

"Western medicine offers important life-supporting measures such as respiratory and circulatory assistance, while TCM focuses on improving patients' physical conditions and immune function.

They complement each other," said Zhang Boli, an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. Last Friday, the first phase of a sports center-turned hospital began operation in Wuhan, the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak.

It is the city's first TCM-oriented temporary hospital. A total of 800 patients will receive treatment there once the second phase is completed.

The medical team of 209 doctors and nurses from 20 TCM hospitals in five provinces led by Zhang have since been carrying out TCM clinical treatment and research at the hospital.

The recommended TCM treatment plan includes multiple herbal prescriptions targeting fever, heavy coughing, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, shortness of breath and tiredness.

A specific chapter detailing TCM treatment during a patient's medical observation, clinical treatment and recovery was included in the latest version of the COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment scheme released by the National Health Commission.

Wuhan's coronavirus control headquarters have since ordered integrated treatment of TCM and Western medicine, especially among non-critical patients, and observation of TCM's curative effects at designated hospitals.

Statistics show that 2,220 medics from TCM hospitals and institutions across China have been sent to aid the epidemic fight in Hubei so far. Over 75 percent of COVID-19 patients are receiving TCM treatment in Hubei and over 90 percent in other parts of China.



A pharmacist weighs Chinese herbal medicine for patients infected with the novel coronavirus at Anhui Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Hefei, east China's Anhui Province yesterday. (Xinhua)

On Feb. 6 alone, 23 patients in Hubei were discharged after receiving integrated treatment of TCM and Western medicine. Zhang said patients with mild symptoms showed obvious improvement after TCM treatment, and for critical patients, TCM decreased their lung exudation, stabilized blood oxygen saturation and reduced respiratory support and antibiotic use. TCM has never missed a single fight against epidemics throughout Chinese history.

TCM classics have provided sufficient evidence of how TCM cured epidemic diseases such as smallpox over the past several thousand years. The 2003 SARS fight was a recent example. TCM offered timely and effective solutions to the treatment and recuperation of SARS patients.

"Compared with Western medicine, TCM offers highly varied prescriptions to each and every patient based on their unique conditions during different stages of the disease, which is more flexible and targeted," said Xiong Jibai, a TCM expert and consultant to the coronavirus treatment group of neighboring Hunan Province.

Hunan has sent hundreds of medical workers to help fight the epidemic in the city of Huanggang, one of the hardest-hit cities in Hubei. Zeng Puhua, vice president of the affiliated hospital of Hunan Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, has been working around the clock in the SARS treatment-model hospital of Huanggang since late January. "Clinical experience has repeatedly proven that TCM plays an active and effective role in the treatment of pneumonia-related epidemics," he said.

Xinhua

Foreign Ministry warns Russians about threat of prosecution by US authorities

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S Foreign Ministry has warned Russian nationals planning foreign trips about a threat of being prosecuted by the United States.

"Once again, we would like to draw attention of Russian nationals planning foreign trips to a threat of being prosecuted by US law enforcement and special services. Such a threat exists both in the United States and in third countries at the request of US authorities," the ministry said on Monday.

"We have to state that despite our repeated calls for normalization of relations under the 1999 Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters US law enforcement agencies continue to arrest Russians across the globe.

As many as 53 such cases have been reported from third countries since 2008. Six of them took place in 2019," the ministry noted.

The ministry cited Viktor Bout's, Maria Butina's, Roman Seleznyov's and Konstantin Yaroshenko's cases as an example. "An illustrative example is Bogdana Osipova's case.

She was charged in the United States with the abduction of her own children and her alimony claims to the former American husband, who had been practicing domestic abuse, were described as extortion," the ministry noted.

"They [Russian nationals] are exposed to serious psychological pressure and are placed in intolerable incarceration conditions to make them confess to fabricated cases. In case they refuse to admit their guilt, they are demonstratively sentenced to long prison terms."

"The situation is complicated by the fact that after the closure of Russian general consulates in San Francisco and Seattle by the US authorities in 2017-2018 our country has no consular presence along the entire US West Coast.

It has seriously impaired our capacity to offer timely support to Russians kept in prisons there," the ministry noted, stressing that Russian diplomats are doing their utmost to help Russian citizens, ensure their legal rights and bring them back home as soon as possible.

"We would like to ask our nationals to thoroughly consider all possible risks of being prosecuted by the American side while planning foreign trips," the ministry stressed.

Boy Scouts of America files bankruptcy amid abuse lawsuits

WILMINGTON, Del

THE Boy Scouts of America said yesterday it had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy amid a flood of lawsuits over allegations of child sexual abuse stretching back decades.

The bankruptcy is not expected to affect the organization's programs, which promote self-reliance through outdoor activities such as hiking and camping. The group was already struggling with declining membership and controversy over admitting gay and female members.

The Boy Scouts, based in Irving, Texas, has said that it sincerely apologizes to anyone harmed, that it believes the accusers and that it encourages victims to come forward.

Founded in 1910, the organization has been overwhelmed by hundreds



In this May 11, 2019 photo, Former Berlin Airlift pilot Gail Halvorsen from the US distributes candies to the members of the junior local baseball team "Berlin Braves" and members of the Boy Scouts of America during a ceremony at the Tempelhofer Feld, a former airfield in Berlin. (AFP)

of claims after several states, including New York, removed legal hurdles that had barred people from suing over old allegations of child sex abuse.

The changes to the law coincided with the #MeToo movement and a shift in public opinion that has been more supportive of accusers. The result has been a wave of lawsuits against church leaders, doctors and schools, as well as scouting.

The Boy Scouts has said in a statement that "we can live up to our social and moral responsibility to fairly compensate victims" while "also ensuring that we carry out our mission to serve youth, families and local communities through our programs."

Paul Mones, who represents hundreds of men who claim they were abused as scouts, told Reuters: "The bankruptcy is being filed as a result of decades of concealing abuse by the Boy Scouts and their adult leaders."

The bankruptcy, filed in Delaware, will allow the Boy Scouts to bring all

Libya now world's 'largest uncontrolled ammunition stockpile' - UN

UNITED NATIONS

FIGHTING in Libya and violations of its arms embargo have made the North African country "the world's largest uncontrolled ammunition stockpile," a UN official said Monday.

Yacoub El Hillo, deputy special representative of the UN secretary-general in Libya, told the press that an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 tons of uncontrolled munitions exist across Libya, citing recent findings of the UN Mine Action Service.

Speaking via live video from the Libyan capital of Tripoli, he particularly pointed to the large number of drones flying over Libya, saying the country is "the world's largest theater for the use of drone technology."

Asked which countries sent the drones, El Hillo said he believes "everybody has something flying in the Libyan sky." Libya has been struggling to make a democratic transition amid insecurity and chaos ever since the fall of former leader Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

The instability resulted in a divided country, with the UN-recognized administration - the Government of National Accord (GNA) - overseeing the west and a rival government in the east. Each is backed by an array of militias and armed groups fighting over resources and territory.

Since early April last year, the GNA has been engaged in a deadly armed conflict against the self-proclaimed Libyan National Army (LNA) led by Khalifa Haftar, which is trying to take over the capital Tripoli and overthrow the GNA.

While Turkey has recently made military move to support the GNA, the LNA reportedly have the backing of the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, France and Russia.

Despite a UN arms embargo on Libya, foreign actors repeatedly send weapons into the country, which keeps fueling the fighting, as confirmed by the UN Support Mission in Libya.

Due to the inflow of arms, El Hillo said, attacks on civilian population and infrastructure have doubled since the start of 2019, adding that by the end of 2019, more than 345,000 people remained displaced.

Moreover, he said almost 900,000 people are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, and of these, 212,000 are women and 268,000 are children.

On Sunday, the UN office in Libya launched the humanitarian response plan for the country for the year of 2020, said El Hillo, which seeks 115 million U.S. dollars to reach "the most vulnerable."

Xinhua

Syrian forces consolidate control of Aleppo, air strikes under way

BEIRUT/AMMAN

THE Syrian army said on Monday it had taken full control of dozens of towns in Aleppo's northwestern countryside and it would press on with its campaign to wipe out militant groups "wherever they are found".

The advances were made after President Bashar al-Assad's forces drove insurgents from the M5 highway linking Aleppo to

Damascus, reopening the fastest route between Syria's two biggest cities for the first time in years in a big strategic gain for Assad.

Assad said on Monday his forces' rapid recent gains presaged the eventual defeat of the nine-year insurgency that sought to oust him from power. But in an appearance televised by state media, he also cautioned that the conflict was not yet over.

"We know this liberation does

not mean the end of the war or the crushing of all plots or the end of terror or the surrender of the enemy, but it definitely rubs their noses in the dirt," Assad said. "This is a prelude to their (opposition forces') final defeat, sooner or later."

Backed by heavy Russian air strikes and aided by pro-Iranian militias, government forces have intensified since the start of the year their campaign to recapture

the Aleppo countryside and parts of neighboring Idlib province in the far northwest of Syria where anti-Assad insurgents hold their last strongholds.

Russian and government air strikes on Monday hit Darat Izza, near the Turkish border about 30 km north of Aleppo city, wounding several civilians and forcing two hospitals to close, according to hospital staff.

Witnesses also reported air

strikes in southern areas of Idlib province in what the opposition said was a "scorched earth policy" that has left dozens of towns and villages in ruins.

The advances sent hundreds of thousands of Syrian civilians fleeing towards the border with Turkey in the biggest single displacement of the nine-year-old war.

The United Nations said on Monday that over 875,000 Syrians, mostly children and women,

have now fled towns and villages targeted by the heavy aerial bombing campaign since Dec 1.

More than 40,000 have been displaced in the last four days alone from western Aleppo province, the scene of heavy fighting, said David Swanson, a UN spokesman.

The offensive has also upset the fragile cooperation between Ankara and Moscow, which back opposing factions in the conflict.

Turkey and Russia began a new round of talks in Moscow on Monday after several demands by Ankara that Assad's forces should back down and a ceasefire be put in place.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Islamist militant attacks on Russian bases and Syrian positions have continued and "it is not possible to leave this unanswered".

Agencies

SPORT

For NBA players, a little rest now before a hectic finish



LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers dribbles during the first half of the NBA All-Star basketball game Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, in Chicago. (AP Photo)

CHICAGO

AND now, they rest.

Until Thursday, anyway. That's when the NBA comes back for a frantic eight-week sprint to the finish of the regular season, with teams having from anywhere between 25 and 29 games left to play before the 16-team field for the playoffs is filled and set.

The All-Star Game is over. Team LeBron defeating Team Giannis 157-155 in Chicago on Sunday night. Most players scurried onto private jets not long after the final buzzer for quick little getaways – places like Miami, Turks and Caicos, and the Bahamas (where some union meetings start Monday) were among the destinations.

So, the players will try to enjoy their last bit of relaxation as the playoff push is about to get real.

"Obviously, when you come to All-Star weekend, basketball is going to be the main thing and the main thing only," Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James said in Chicago. "That's why you're here. That's what you see every day. We're dedicated to this weekend for not only ourselves and our family, but for the fans. So, I try to find a couple days after All-Star, after Sunday, to kind of just get away from the game, try to freshen back up and get ready for the last run of the regular season."

There are 12 teams that start Thursday: Milwaukee, Detroit, Miami, Atlanta, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Charlotte, Chicago, Memphis, Sacramento, Houston and Golden State. Every other team resumes play Friday except for the Los Angeles Clippers, who get a couple extra days of break and won't get back on the floor until Saturday afternoon.

For the most part, the postseason teams are largely set. Milwaukee could clinch a playoff berth as early as this coming weekend. The Bucks – 46-8 – are quietly on pace for the third-best regular season in NBA history. They're seven games in the loss column ahead of Toronto in the race for No. 1 in the Eastern Conference, four losses clear of the Lakers in the race for the league's best overall record.

"Our job is to take it, obviously, day by day," said Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo, the NBA's reigning MVP. "We want to win as many games as possible, but our goal is to win the whole thing. So obviously, as I said, you want to win every game. If you win every game, that would be great. But we cannot lose focus. We can't lose track of our actual goal, which is get better every day, keep learning every day, and win the whole thing."

Toronto, a team that many suspected would freefall after Kawhi Leonard and Danny Green left for the Los Angeles Clippers in free agency, hits the break with the NBA's third-best record at 40-15. The Raptors, Boston, Miami, Philadelphia and Indiana can pretty much start making their East playoff plans. Out in the Western Conference, the Lakers, Denver, the Clippers, Utah, Houston, Oklahoma City and Dallas all have separated themselves in the playoff race as well.

That's 13 teams for 16 spots. In the East, Brooklyn and Orlando will seek to hang on to the last two spots. Out West, No. 8 Memphis has a four-game lead on Portland and is five games up on San Antonio – a team that hasn't missed the playoffs since 1997, but has some serious work to do in order to extend that streak.

"It feels good to be in a winning situation," Lakers' All-Star big man Anthony Davis said. "I think being No. 1 in the West, we have

something good going over there in L.A. I'm excited about our team. I'm excited about our chemistry. I'm excited for the second half of the season and see what we can accomplish. We still have a lot to work on, but right now we're doing pretty fine."

Some of what to watch down the stretch of the NBA regular season:

TOUGH SLEDDING

If Memphis is going to hang on to its playoff spot in the West, it'll have to survive what Tankathon – which charts such things – says is the toughest remaining schedule in the NBA. The Grizzlies still have two games left with the Lakers, Dallas, Houston and Toronto.

The easiest schedule, by the same calculation: New Orleans, which has Zion Williamson back and goes into the break 5 ½ games out of the No. 8 spot.

STAR POWER

Golden State's run of five straight appearances in the NBA Finals is almost certainly about to end – the Warriors are 16 ½ games out of a playoff spot with 27 games left, which means the mathematical chance of getting in still exists but is beyond slim.

But the Warriors expect to get Stephen Curry back from injury at some point in March, which if nothing else could get him some work before a potential Olympic appearance this summer and a return to what figures to be a back-to-normal Golden State operation next season.

"Let me be honest with you. The players, we kind of enjoy that he's not playing – not enjoy that he's hurt," Antetokounmpo said. "We want him to be healthy, but he just makes it way, way tougher for the rest of the league. But I'm happy he's going to be back healthy and happy that he's going to be able to help his team win some games."

HARDEN'S SCORING

Houston's James Harden is well on his way to a third consecutive scoring title. If he gets there, he'll join George Mikan, Neil Johnston, Wilt Chamberlain, George Gervin, Michael Jordan and Kevin Durant as the only players to win the title at least three straight times.

Harden is averaging 35.3 points per game, 5.3 points ahead of Antetokounmpo.

Here's how wide a gap that really is: Assuming both players appear in all 28 of their remaining games, and Harden continues to score at his current clip, Antetokounmpo would have to average about 44.5 points per game the rest of the way to catch Harden for the title.

IN AND OUT

If the current playoff standings hold up, 12 teams – Milwaukee, Toronto, Philadelphia, Boston, Indiana, Brooklyn, Orlando, Denver, Houston, Utah, Oklahoma City and the Clippers – would be back in the postseason after also getting there last year.

The teams that were in after not making it last year: the Lakers, Memphis, Dallas and Miami.

The teams that were in that would fall out: Detroit, San Antonio, Portland and Golden State.

STREAKS CONTINUE

Barring a big change, three of the four longest active playoff droughts in the NBA will continue this spring. Sacramento is in line to miss the playoffs for a 14th consecutive year, Phoenix for a 10th straight year and New York for a seventh straight season.

The Lakers have also missed six consecutive postseasons, a streak that will finally end in April.

Pundits fete branding effect as 'Dimpoz' takes to NBA All Star gala

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL ENEZA

CELEBRATION is abuzz in the city of Dar es Salaam after entertainer Omari Nyembo, nicknamed 'Ommy Dimpoz', was given a business class ticket and five star hotel treatment for the NBA All Star celebrity and influencer program, on the basis of a cable dated 22nd January and placed online by NBA Africa.

Pundits said the Bongoflava entertainer was picked on account of the manner in which he had branded his music, such that it was gaining influence far and wide. Some in social media entries sat to wonder how far the invitee was more influential than other artistes, and such other issues.

The cable said that Dimpoz was being invited as among the key guests for the NBA All Star celebrity and influencer program at the NBA All Star Weekend in Chicago, Illinois state on the past weekend. Two other artistes from sub-Saharan Africa were invited. Sho Madjozi from South Africa, and Jidenna, who plies her trade both in Nigeria and in the United States.

The artistes would attend various events and activities in Chicago 'in the lead up to the NBA All Star Game 2020' that was expected much later on Sunday night local time. The invitation was for a couple of persons, the key invitee artiste and a 'road manager'. Seven Moshia, in this case, a young lady who has been in charge of maintenance of his music work.

What is interesting is that among the contact organizations involved in the trip is the hotel chain Hyatt Regency which has some presence in Dar es Salaam, with its marketing manager Mmaphuti Morule expecting the two on site as they arrived.

In the latter case as well there



Artiste Omari Nyembo 'Ommy Dimpoz'.

are deep connections with the region, on account of what appears to be a South African connection in the manager's professional itinerary. Quite often leading companies pick talent from countries they open branches; in the young marketing manager it was South African basketball talent.

Earlier before joining the US basketball organization, Mmaphuti Morule was brand manager at Nike Africa and is somewhat of a legend in South Africa among inspirational young women. There is every reason to suggest that she wasn't just the contact person upon arrival but the choirmaster of the whole program, as well as the selection of artiste and criteria used, etc. It is a plus for us she noticed him.

There have been other cases of such invitations, one of them being Vanessa Mdee, and the pundits discussing the latest invitations were com-

paring the performance in terms of branding. Vanessa is in any case more recognized, in which case Ommy Dimpoz being picked appears to have come as a sort of surprise. That doesn't have to be the case for those with an inkling of marketing, that creating an event is part of the art of marketing, sort of expressing confidence in a rising star, a ranking one.

In that case there is likely to be some specific criterion in which the selection went to Ommy, and the reasoning doesn't have to be found where we see it, that is in the quality of the music but perhaps also in the presentation. It is one thing to have a musician and quite another to have a person who performs music in a particular country, in this case Tanzania. While the pundits were talking about branding the music as explaining the selection, there are issues that were left without discussion.

One such item is the sort of thing that the local entertainer was going to do at the NBA All Star Game late Sunday, and why that was so important for the NBA and Hyatt Regency, to seek a specific invitation from this side. As that event was sport rather than music, the picture emerges that this was a social selection rather than music as it wasn't competition per se. It means Ommy could have performed if that was needed, but it isn't altogether clear that element was in his itinerary there too.

Looking at the data and briefings on the South African marketing executive, there is an element that might help to provide the key to the selection, or at any rate it could have contributed to serious consideration.

Aside from her links with the National Basketball Association at the University of Cape Town, she has also belonged to the inspirational young women segment, a South African agency which narrates her itinerary since graduating in marketing and economics (financial analysis and portfolio management) at that campus.

Music is not her profession but a passion, and she DJs at private and corporate events – implying that she may have been moved less for seeking to promote the career of Ommy Dimpoz but perhaps to meet with his brand manager for advice and coaching strategies, namely Seven Moshia. In the plane she had the window seat, if that is any indication as to how the tickets were billed, assuming she had a hand in it...!



A section of Tanzanian athletes take part in training session at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Monday to prepare for a tournament, which will get athletes who will represent the country in the Tokyo Olympics. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Messi, Hamilton now joint winners of Sportsman of the Year at Laureus Awards

BERLIN

FORMULA One champion Lewis Hamilton and Barcelona forward Lionel Messi were declared joint winners of the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award in Berlin on Monday, with the voting tied for the first time in the awards' 20-year history.

Mercedes driver Hamilton won his sixth world championship in 2019, with 11 race wins and 17 podium finishes, while Messi was crowned the world's best player for a record sixth time when he won the Ballon d'Or.

American gymnast Simone Biles, who became the most decorated gymnast in world championship history when she won her 25th medal last year, won her third Sportswoman of the Year gong after winning the

award in 2017 and 2019.

The South African rugby team, which won the World Cup in Japan last year for the third time in history, were crowned the Team of the Year, beating European soccer champions Liverpool and women's soccer World Cup winners United States.

German NBA star Dirk Nowitzki, who retired last year after a 21-year career in the NBA with the Dallas Mavericks, was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to basketball.

Meanwhile, the Spanish Basketball Federation was recognised with the Laureus Academy Exceptional Achievement Award after the men's World Cup triumph last year while the women have won three of the last four EuroBasket titles.

German Formula Three driver

Sophia Floersch, who fractured her spine in an aerial crash at the Macau Grand Prix in Nov. 2018 that required an 11-hour surgery to fix, made the Comeback of the Year after getting back into the cockpit last year.

Former Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar, the highest run scorer of all time in international cricket, had the support of a cricket-crazy nation to win a fan vote for the award for the best Sporting Moment from the last two decades.

In his sixth and final one-day international World Cup in 2011, Tendulkar finally got his hands on the title as India won on home soil and he was carried on his team mates' shoulders for a lap of honour.

List of winners:
Sportsman of the Year: Lewis Hamilton and Lionel Messi

Sportswoman of the Year: Simone Biles

Team of the Year: South Africa Men's Rugby Team

Breakthrough of the Year: Egan Bernal

Comeback of the Year: Sophia Floersch

Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability: Oksana Masters
Action Sportsperson of the Year: Chloe Kim

Best Sporting Moment: 'Carried on the shoulders of a nation' – Sachin Tendulkar

Advertisement
Lifetime Achievement Award: Dirk Nowitzki

Laureus Academy Exceptional Achievement Award: Spanish Basketball Federation

Laureus Sport for Good Award: South Bronx United

REUTERS

AP

Pogba's agent hits at Ole: He's not your prisoner

LONDON

MINO Raiola has launched a blistering attack on Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and warned the Manchester United manager he does not own Paul Pogba.

Solskjaer told a news conference on Friday that Pogba "is our player, not Mino's" amid fresh speculation surrounding the Frenchman's future.

And on Monday, just 17 minutes before United's 2-0 win over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, noted super-agent Raiola hit back by telling the Norwegian "he has other things to worry about."

"Paul is not mine and for sure not Solskjaer's property," Raiola posted on Twitter. "Paul is Paul Pogba's. You cannot own a human being already for a long time in the UK or anywhere else."

"I hope Solskjaer does not want to suggest that Paul is his prisoner. But before Solskjaer makes comments about things I say he should inform himself better about the content of what has been said."

"I am a free citizen who can think and express my thoughts."

Solskjaer was responding to

previous comments made by Raiola that suggested Pogba, who has contract at Old Trafford until 2021 with the option of another 12 months, wanted to "escape" the club. The midfielder has been linked with a summer move to Real Madrid and a return to former club Juventus.

"Until now I was maybe too nice to him [Solskjaer]," Raiola continued. "Solskjaer should just remember things he said in the summer to Paul."

"I think Solskjaer may be frustrated for different reasons and is now mixing up some issues. I think that Solskjaer has other things to worry about. At least if I was him I would."

Pogba is currently sidelined with an ankle injury after undergoing surgery in January.

When asked about Raiola after Monday's game, Solskjaer said: "No comment, people can say whatever they want in the world today on social media and it makes headlines, I don't really need to say anything. Didn't seem to bother any of our players, or anyone, so not gonna comment on that, no."

(Agencies)

Portugal leaders rally around racially abused soccer player

LISBON, PORTUGAL

THE president and the prime minister of Portugal added their voices to a national outcry Monday over racist abuse aimed at a black FC Porto soccer player who walked off the field after hearing monkey chants.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa said the incident was "unacceptable" and urged police and soccer authorities to make an example of those responsible by handing down tough punishment.

Costa also wrote on his Twitter account that "all and any acts of racism are a crime and are intolerable."

"No human being should be subjected to this humiliation," wrote Costa, whose father was from Mozambique. "We cannot just stand by."

President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said he "vehemently condemns any display of racism."

"Portugal's Constitution very clearly condemns racism, as well as any other forms of xenophobia and discrimination," he said.

Moussa Marega, a striker from Mali, was visibly angered by monkey noises targeting him after he scored Porto's second goal in a 2-1 win at Guimaraes in the Portuguese league on Sunday. Several Porto and opposition players attempted to dissuade him from walking off the field in the 71st minute, when he demanded to be substituted.

Marega wrote on his Instagram

account that "idiots" went to the stadium to shout racist insults.

He also lashed out at the referee, who gave Marega a yellow card, apparently for his refusal to continue playing. He said the referee should have defended him from the insults.

The dramatic scenes as Marega pulled away from his teammates and stormed off the field were unprecedented in Portugal. The country has not witnessed the growth of far-right political parties or movements seen elsewhere in Europe in recent years. Television channels and radio stations on Monday dedicated phone-in programs to the incident.

It was the latest racist incident to tarnish soccer in Europe, despite widespread condemnation and efforts to stop it from officials involved in the game and in keeping public order.

Porto coach Sergio Conceicao said he and his club felt "outraged" by the racism, adding that the monkey chants began during the pre-game warm-up.

"We are a family, whatever our nationality, skin color, height, hair color," he said. "What happened here was pitiful."

FC Porto said in a statement it stood by Marega, adding it "was compelled to take drastic action" after repeated racist slurs during the game. The club said the insults were "a low point in the recent history of Portuguese soccer and must be punished appropriately."

AP

Gary Neville expects Manchester City to win appeal against 'hopeless' UEFA

LONDON

GARY Neville has backed Manchester City to win an appeal against a two-season ban from European competition imposed by a "hopeless" UEFA.

European football's governing body announced on Friday that City has been banned from continental competition for two seasons for what UEFA said were "serious" financial fair-play breaches between 2012 and 2016.

English Premier League champions City, who were also fined 30 million euros (\$32.5 million), responded quickly to say they would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

And former Manchester United defender Neville believes City's legal challenge will prove successful.

"I think City will beat UEFA. UEFA, I have no faith in them whatsoever," Sky Sports pundit Neville told the broadcaster on Monday.

"I think essentially they are a hopeless organisation who will just apply what would be erratic

disciplinary sanctions for different things and I think City will beat them in the courts."

Neville added: "I think it will get stuck in the courts for some time, but I think City will win in the end."

Jamie Carragher, a fellow Sky broadcaster, questioned the timing of UEFA's decision given Pep Guardiola's City face Spanish giants Real Madrid in the first leg of their last-16 tie in the Champions League later this month.

"I can't believe they are in the competition now. What would happen if City win this competition this season?" said the former Liverpool defender.

"They are the favourites for it, one of the best teams in Europe and it would make a mockery of the competition."

Carragher added: "UEFA will be desperate for Man City to get beat by Real Madrid, absolutely desperate. Can you imagine people from UEFA having to give the cup in Istanbul to a Man City player?"

AFP

Pressure on Solskjaer shifts to the shoulders of Lampard

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has not convinced everyone he is the right man to lead Manchester United, but he is beginning to prove he can come up with a big result just when he needs it most.

One Premier League win in 2020? No league goal for more than a month? One top-flight clean sheet all season? Mauricio Pochettino stating publicly he wants to return to management in England? No problem. Seemingly against all the odds, United went to Chelsea and won 2-0 thanks to goals from Anthony Martial and Harry Maguire.

Having started the day ninth in the table, they travelled back to Manchester on Monday night just three points off the top four with 12 games to play. The race for a place in next season's Champions League is on, regardless of whether or not they get any help from UEFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

United insist privately they are committed to this rebuild under Solskjaer, but the only way he can be sure of keeping his job into a second full season is to guide United back to Europe's top club competition. Back to within touching distance of Chelsea and still in the Europa League, he has given himself a chance.

If nothing else, victory will give Solskjaer some respite and the pressure, for a few days at least, is on Frank Lampard. Chelsea have won just one of their past six league games and face Jose Mourinho and Tottenham at Stamford Bridge on Saturday. Lampard, who lost N'Golo Kante to injury after 10 minutes, felt hard done by after both Kurt Zouma



Any pressure Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was feeling before Man United's win at Chelsea is now on Frank Lampard's shoulders. (Agencies)

and Olivier Giroud had goals ruled out by VAR while goal scorer Maguire escaped a red card despite appearing to kick out at Michy Batshuayi.

"Harry Maguire should've got a red," said Lampard. "Then he scores the second goal, and the game changes off that. That's a major part of what VAR was brought in for. That one was wrong."

"I think Zouma's goal should have stood. At first I didn't. It's certainly not clear and obvious."

Solskjaer, meanwhile, was critical of his team's first-half performance, but they were still good enough to seal their first league double over Chelsea since 1987-88.

A creditable draw with Liverpool in October came after a run of five games without a win. Back-to-back victories over Manchester City and Tottenham in December followed draws with Sheffield United and Aston Villa. Solskjaer is desperate for more consistency, but it is not a bad knock to have.

In January last year, Solskjaer took his players to Dubai for a warm-weather training camp and came back to stun Pochettino's Tottenham at Wembley. Ed Woodward revealed later the performance went a long way toward deciding Solskjaer was the man to take the reins permanently, and United's executive vice-chairman was in the stands here to see his charge get the better of Lampard following a week away in Marbella.

Solskjaer will wish he could take the squad away every week.

The only thing that could have made his night in west London better was seeing emergency loan signing Odion Ighalo convert a 93rd-minute chance after coming on for his debut, but Willy Caballero wouldn't allow the icing to go on the cake. It is unlikely to bother Solskjaer too much after a day that had seemed destined to end with a familiar story of mounting problems.

Approaching a year in the job

(Agencies)

Fresh-faced Nagelsmann out to show Mourinho's experience counts for little

LONDON

A CHAMPIONS League last 16 tie with Leipzig offers Tottenham a window into what might have been when Julian Nagelsmann brings the buccaneering Germans to London on Wednesday looking to inflict another early exit from the competition on Jose Mourinho.

Nagelsmann, 32, is 25 years younger than Mourinho and has a CV 25 trophies lighter than the Portuguese, yet many believe Spurs missed a trick in failing to pursue him as Mauricio Pochettino's successor.

Pochettino's time at Spurs never recovered from losing last season's Champions League final.

Had the clash against Liverpool in Madrid gone the other way, there is every chance the Argentine would have bowed out on top.

Instead, he lumbered on until November, when he was sacked, paving the way for Mourinho's return to the Premier League.

Despite his relative lack of experience, Nagelsmann would have been a more natural heir to Pochettino if Spurs chairman Daniel Levy wanted to rekindle the high-pressing, attacking and proactive football of the glory days of Pochettino's reign.

But Tottenham and plenty others were too slow off the mark when it came to getting their hands on one of Europe's top coaching talents.

After three-and-a-half seasons transforming Hoffenheim from battling for Bundesliga survival to qualifying for the Champions League, Leipzig knew Nagelsmann was the man they wanted to fulfil Red Bull's ambitious project to dethrone Bayern Munich as the kings of German football.

An agreement was in place well before Nagelsmann took charge at the start of this season.

"It's like when you go to a disco and you are single, you'll never find a girl," Nagelsmann told The Independent of the interest that followed him signing a contract with Leipzig.

"Then when you go to the disco with your girlfriend, quite a few want you!"

- Experience favours Spurs -
The bold approach of a young



Julian Nagelsmann

coach and energy of a youthful squad have taken Leipzig to within a point of Bayern at the top of the Bundesliga and into the knockout stages of the Champions League for the first time.

However, experience is on Tottenham's side. Not only do Spurs now

have a two-time winner of the competition in the dugout, but a team that has progressed further in the Champions League every year for the past three seasons.

"Jose has experience in every sort of situation," added Nagelsmann. "He has managed so many

knockout games and knows what to do if his team goes ahead, is behind, concedes early, needs a late goal. I've only had knockout games in the DFB-Pokal (German Cup)."

Not all Mourinho's experience in the Champions League is

positive, though.

The last time he lifted the trophy was a decade ago and he has not even progressed beyond the last 16 since 2014.

Defeats to Sevilla with Manchester United and Paris Saint-Germain in his second spell at Chelsea were characterised by an overly cautious approach that has been Mourinho's hallmark.

It is the reason Nagelsmann sees little similarities in their styles despite being labelled "baby Mourinho" during his time as a youth team coach at Hoffenheim for his attention to detail.

Mourinho has not been able to implement his usual degree of defensive discipline on Spurs in his opening four months.

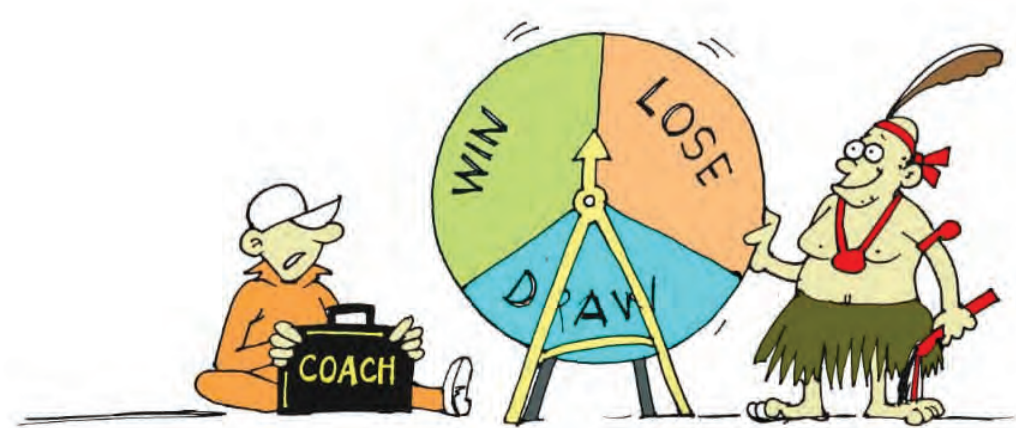
Sunday's 3-2 win at Aston Villa was the ninth time they have conceded more than once in his 20 games in charge.

Yet, the visits of Liverpool and Manchester City in recent weeks have seen him revert to type when faced with the toughest opposition.

Whether Leipzig are offered the same level of respect will say much about the standing Mourinho holds the Champions League upstarts and their highly-touted manager.

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Pressure on Solskjaer shifts to the shoulders of Lampard

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Boxing coach Zacks Mwaseba (L) trains professional Super Middleweight boxer, Mohamed Jaylaan, in Morogoro recently. Jaylaan faced Dar es Salaam's Kanda Kabongo in a non-title bout, which took place at CCM Mwinjuma Hall at Mwananyamala in the city, with Kabongo notching unanimous decision win. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Teqball association set for launch

By Guardian Correspondent

COAST Region's Filbert Bayi Olympic Center (FBOC) has said plans are underway to register the National Association of Teqball in Tanzania, the center's officials disclosed on Sunday.

Speaking at a first workshop for regional and districts coaches and volunteers for the sport, Henry Tandu, FBOC chairman and Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) vice-president, said currently they are working on the constitution which will guide the association.

The FBOC officials are currently running the activities of Teqball in the country and they organized the two-day workshop which ended on Sunday at Filbert Bayi School in Kibaha.

The FBOC boss expressed his happiness that the sport which was launched in the country recently has been welcomed by many people.

Teqball is a combination of table tennis and football. It is played in singles and doubles format on curved tables using size 5 balls for seniors while size 4 is used by juniors.

"We are currently doing some consultation with stakeholders on how to come up with a constitution which will be used to guide the association which will be formed," he disclosed.

"I'm happy that the sport has been warmly welcomed by many people in the country and this will not give us problems in forming the association."

"As you know one of the requirements put forward by the government is that for any sports association to be formed it must be available or presented in seven regions."

"We have today got the association's representatives from more than eight regions," he said.

He also assured the participants that the sport will be played in all parts of the country.

He moreover disclosed that they are discussing with the Teqball International Federation (FITEQ) to look into getting the sport's equipment with the latter's backing.

"Our aim is to see to it that the sport is being played in all parts of the country, we know that there are many challenges and the main one is lack of the game's table," he disclosed.

"The tables are imported and are expensive, let me assure you that we are discussing with our leaders at FITEQ to see how they can help us and we also want to have a permission from them to improvise the tables," he said.

He, however, asked the participants to make use of any available material to be used to play the sport, saying they should not wait for standard equipment.

"We are all witnesses here, in the areas we come from our children use anything to play football and they master the game through that means."

"In teqball we must not wait for standard tables, let us make the game grow and turn active by using anything to play, perfection will follow," he said.

The FBOC director Elienea Mpinga thanked all participants and promised to organize another workshop in the near future.

The sport is described as one of the fast growing games in the world and loved by people of all walks of life.



Senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars.

Taifa Stars placed in tricky group in CHAN finals

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SENIOR national soccer team, Taifa Stars, have been drawn in Group D of the African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, slated for April 5-24 this year in Cameroon.

The team's head coach Etienne Ndayiragije has called for adequate preparations before the finals.

The draw for the tournament was held in Yaounde on Monday night and Taifa Stars have been put in Group D alongside Zambia, Guinea and Namibia.

The Tanzania squad will start the campaign with a game against Zambia.

Reacting to the draw, coach Ndayiragije described it as fair and said what his team needs is good preparations as there are no

underdogs in the group.

The coach said he expects Stars to enter into camp on March 12.

He, though, could not say if the team will play any international friendly matches, insisting that good preparations are important.

"It's a fair group, the teams in this group and other groups are teams which we have met before," the coach noted.

"What we need is good preparations. The good thing is that all our national team players are in action with their respective football clubs," he said.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer Clifford Ndimbo in an interview said the federation is ready for overseeing the senior national squad's preparations for the event.

The official disclosed they are just waiting for the head coach and his

technical panel to give the federation recommendations.

"We are ready, we are just waiting for the head coach and technical panel to give us what they want ahead of the CHAN finals," he said.

The tournament has been organized for players who play in their domestic leagues.

This will be the second time that the senior national team is qualifying for the finals.

This year's finals' Group A has hosts Cameroon, Mali, Burkina Faso and Zimbabwe, Group B has Libya, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Niger while defending champions Morocco, Rwanda, Uganda and Togo are in Group C.

Hosts Cameroon will open their campaign against Zimbabwe, the championship will be held in cities of Douala, Limbe and Yaounde.

Morogoro pro boxer wins praise

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Dar es Salaam

DAR ES SALAAM professional boxer, Japhet Kaseba, has praised his Morogoro counterpart Mohamed Jaylaan for showcasing impressive displays in a non-title Super Middleweight bout against Kanda Kabongo, which took place in the city recently.

Dar es Salaam-based Kabongo registered unanimous decision victory over Jaylaan in the eight-round fight, which took place at CCM Mwinjuma Hall, Mwananyamala.

The fight's three judges scored 60-56, 58-55 and 56-54 in favour of Kabongo, although the Morogoro pugilist fought impressively throughout the bout.

Kaseba, who was also the fight's organizer, disclosed he did not expect Jaylaan will finish the eight rounds, given he faced an experienced opponent.

The Morogoro boxer, as noted by Kaseba, did not have much exposure, with most of the former's bouts having been taken place in Morogoro.

"Jaylaan's ability to put scintillating displays in a fight, which will be presented to him later, was shown today, he showcased impressive punching styles against Kabongo, who was confident of knocking the former out in the round," Kaseba noted.

Kaseba revealed he has targeted to promote up-and-coming domestic boxers.

He disclosed the boxers are free to feature in fights, to be held in monthly basis in the city.

He noted the fights will serve as a chance for selecting boxers that will take part in four big fights to be held annually.

"I have planned to see to it boxing improves its at the domestic level, particularly in Kinondoni District, programs for trial bouts are in place and training sessions are taking place, with youths reacting positively," he disclosed.

Jaylaan's coach, Zacks Mwaseba, supported Kaseba's appreciation, disclosing Jaylaan's big right cross punch sent Kabongo to the canvas in the first round and affected the latter's performance later.

He said, Jaylaan's performance has prompted him to look for another fight for the boxer.

Mwaseba urged boxing stakeholders in Morogoro to invest in the sport, because the region has many talented youngsters.

He thanked management of Nashera Hotel for supporting Jaylaan and other sports men and women in Morogoro.

Dar to host Talis-IST swimming competition

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

A total of 228 swimmers from various clubs in Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar are expected to compete in the Talis-IST swimming championships scheduled to take place on Saturday and Sunday at the International School of Tanganyika (IST) Masaki in Dar es Salaam.

The event which will feature nine clubs from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar will see swimmers compete in five different styles and relays.

The styles are Backstroke, Butterfly, Individual Medley, Breaststroke and Freestyle.

The clubs include and their

swimmers in brackets are Talis-IST (78), Bluefins (39) and the famous Dar es Salaam Swimming Club (DSC) which will field 31 swimmers in the event.

Others clubs are Morogoro International School (MIS) Piranhas (27), International School of Zanzibar, FK Blue Marlins (25), Braeburn (nine) and United World College East Africa (UWCEA) which will be represented by 13 swimmers.

Hadija Shebe, the tournament's supervisor, said it is the second event to be held locally, according to Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) 2020's events calendar.

The first event was organized by Morogoro International

School (MIS).

The swimmers will compete in various events categorized according to age. Age categories for swimmers, both boys and girls, in the event, will be for Under-eight, nine and 10, 11 and 12, 13 and 14 and 15 and above.

The event will see the country's top-ranked swimmers come up against swimmers from other clubs in the country.

Hadija said they are now in intensive preparations ahead of the event, which is aimed at promoting the game in the country.

"The event has been organized in order to make all swimmers busy and maintain their standards in the game," Hadija said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

