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JPM: Reconcile mobile phones, ID cards drive

Addressing a rally in Mbeya city yesterday, Dr Magufuli ridiculed the deadline setting requiring that starting May 1, every simcard holder is required to go through biometric registration using a national ID card

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has cautioned public authorities that people without national identification cards should not be denied mobile phone services for not registering their simcards using the document.

He questioned the operation's practicability since many Tanzanians do not have the IDs and can't all obtain the document by the registration deadline in September.

Dr Magufuli said the national identification and mobile phone registration using national ID numbers ought to be synchronised, setting December 2019 a more realistic deadline for the mobile phone re-registration exercise.

Addressing a rally in Mbeya city yesterday, Dr Magufuli ridiculed the deadline setting requiring that starting May 1, every simcard holder is required to go through biometric registration using a national ID card.

Instead, he directed that the re-registration



President John Magufuli congratulates Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu shortly after inaugurating a National Health Insurance Fund building in Mbeya city yesterday. Looking on are NHIF board chairperson Anne Makinda (R), Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (2nd-L) and NHIF director general Bernard Konga. Photo: State House

“The deadline should at least be extended to end of December”

consider those with the national IDs and later take up those who at present do not have the national IDs. “The deadline should at least be extended to the end of December,” he specified.

The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has set September 30 as the deadline for registering simcards with biometric technology as registered by the National Identification Authority (NIDA). The agency said at midweek that it was ready to facilitate biometric registration of mobile telephone numbers starting from May 1.

NIDA said in a statement that the authority will implement the biometric registration of telephone lines across the country in collaboration with TCRA and telecommunication operators.

The Minister for Home Affairs, Kangi Lugola, told the National Assembly that 19,934,708 out of the targeted 24,295,468 people have so far been registered for the IDs by NIDA, with 11,133,095 ID numbers issued and 4,850,742 cards printed, while 2,503,769 cards had been collected by holders.

TCRA data indicate that subscriptions to mobile networks reached a record high of 41,708,218 simcards in June 2018.

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Relief as cyclone shifts southwards, weakens

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has avoided a disaster in the southern regions by a whisker after Cyclone Kenneth abruptly weakened and slightly diverted southwards before hitting neighbouring Mozambique early yesterday.

The monster that was captured by forecasters travelling at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour on Wednesday towards southern shores of Tanzania and the northern Mozambique coastline had by the time of its landfall veered further south into Mozambique, weakened to the speed of 220



Kenneth is currently returning to the ocean but I urge people in the coastal areas to follow up on our weather updates

kilometres per hour.

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) director general Dr Agnes Kijazi said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the worst was over for now

and residents of Mtwara, Lindi and Ruvuma regions who had since Thursday deserted low-lying and coastal settlements can now resume normal life.

However, Dr Kijazi cautioned that some activities such as fishing in the sea should wait a bit. Even though the cyclone was on its way back to the deep sea, the return of cyclones can at times be turbulent, she stated.

“Kenneth is currently returning to the ocean but I urge people in the coastal areas to follow up on our weather updates,” she said.

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Tour operator wins global Tourism Star Award 2019

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA tour operator Elizabeth Mwakajila has won a World Tourism Forum essay competition, as one of three winners of the Tourism Star Award.

The other two winners were named as Gechsoun Khun, founder of Kek Soon's Cuisine & Culture Tours in Cambodia, and Gursarm Singh, manager of Taj Hotels in India. They will also receive global recognition and be awarded at the WTF Lucerne in Switzerland early next month.



A WTF statement said this week that on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2019, more than 500 international industry leaders, decision makers, investors, ministers, professors, start-ups, young talents and next generation leaders will gather in Lucerne, Switzerland, for the 6th World Tourism Forum Lucerne.

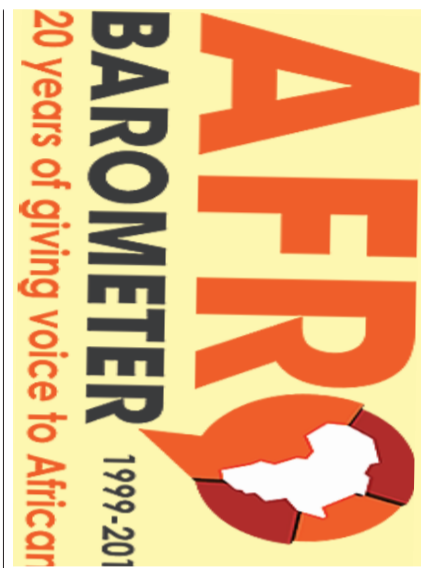
The competition winner has excited local stakeholders including the Tanzania Tourism Board, which has feted the Arusha-based tour operator, the project coordinator for Thomson Safaris.

She said yesterday that her impressive entry was addressing issues of sustainable tourism through environment protection and sustainability of natural resources.

She usually advocates taking care, preserving and protecting natural resources, being the only way to make the tourism industry in the country sustainable, the tour operator noted.

TTB has outfitted the country's tourism envoy with the national flag as she leaves to participate in the

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Afrobarometer: Liberty declines, security gains in African political views, sentiments

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

CITIZENS of some African countries are willing to give up their freedom of movement and speech, and don't mind being spied upon by state agencies in exchange for security, findings of a survey by research group Afrobarometer have indicated.

The findings the group published yesterday entitled 'Are Africans' freedoms slipping away?' suggest that giving an option of either freedom or security is a strategy used by governments to persuade people to accept restrictions on freedom.

This has proven a powerful argument - as more and more people are prepared to trade freedom to move where they like for a safer country.

The majority of those surveyed, put at around 62 per cent, are willing to accept curfews and roadblocks in the interests of greater security.

This is illustrated most starkly in Madagascar where 83 per cent of those surveyed agreed with the statement "When faced with threats to public security, the government should be able to impose curfews and set up special roadblocks to prevent people from moving around."

The motivation for answering this way, the research argues, is likely to be related to the fact that the country is "still trying to emerge from years of political turmoil and instability," the

Relief seen as cyclone shifts southwards and weakens

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On the other hand, Dr Kijazi said heavy rains were expected in the Lake Zone regions following rainy clouds that moved to the regions from forests in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The direction of the clouds indicates that Lake Zone regions should brace for heavy downpour in the coming days," she said.

With the announcement that an anticipated worst was over, life is expected to resume to normalcy though cautiously in the southern regions, gripped by anxiety since a stark warning was issued on Wednesday.

Public workplaces including schools had closed in compliance with the directive on Wednesday, with the land-fall position forecast for southern shore of Tanzania and in northern Mozambique.

A spot check by this paper in Mtwara-Mikindani municipality and Masasi town on Thursday found people gathered in groups with low-lying beach settlements mostly deserted.

Mozambique's emergency situation institute (INGC) announced yesterday that one person had been killed in the storm as a result of a falling coconut tree at Pemba in Cabo Delgado province.

France's meteorological agency said 600-800mm of rain was expected to land on Mozambique over the coming days.

The cyclone was yesterday officially downgraded to an ex-cyclone in Mozambique but aid agencies raised concerns about the effect of the coming rain on communities repeatedly hit by flooding and landslides.

JPM: Reconcile mobile phones, ID cards drive

FROM PAGE 1

President Magufuli who commenced his eight-day official tour in Mbeya region yesterday also used the podium to urge Tanzanians to continue honouring and protecting the Union as Tanzania marks 55 years of Tanganyika and Zanzibar unification.

"We didn't conduct celebrations, but I'm sure that all Tanzanians wherever they are praying for the union to last forever. We as presidents will continue working to ensure that our union is protected," he said.

He directed that small traders (machingas) in Mbeya city be left free to conduct their businesses in the central parts of the city.

The traders, who number 350,000, should also conduct their daily businesses in the five-hectare airport area as they have been appealing to the public authorities, he said.

"So, Mbeya city authorities should make sure that infrastructure like roads, toilets are built in this new area (airport) to enable the petty traders operate smoothly. You can also build a commuter bus station to make it more alive," he remarked.

The president emphasized the need for the country to invest in health insurance to enable most people access quality health services.

Statistics show that health insurance in Tanzania covers 14 million people out of the 54 million total population, he pointed out.

Speaking at the rally, Water minister Makame Mbarawa said that the government is set to implement a 3bn/- water supply project in Mbalizi town.

Water service coverage in the region currently stands at 86 per cent in terms of proximity of access by residents, he said.

Seven wards in the city are still hit by water shortage, he said, noting that the government has already purchased pipes worth 336m/-. By June 30 all the wards will be supplied with clean water, the minister added.



Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission chairman Dr Titus Kamani opens a two-day Dar es Salaam regional cooperative forum yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

JPM pardons over 3,000 prisoners to mark 55th anniversary of Union

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday pardoned 3,540 prisoners as the country marked its 55th anniversary of the Union with the Zanzibar.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs in Dar es Salaam said: "It is the government's expectations that the pardoned prisoners will rejoin and cooperate with members of the society in nation building."

"We also expect them to

avoid committing offenses that will take them back to prison," added the statement signed by Jacob Kingu, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

President Magufuli issued the pardon to prisoners in accordance with authorities conferred to him under Article 45 (1) (d) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The statement said beneficiaries of pardon included people convicted before March 15, 2019, those suffering

from chronic diseases including HIV/AIDs, tuberculosis and cancer and have been medically diagnosed.

Other beneficiaries of the pardon were prisoners above 70 years old, those with physical and mental disabilities, female prisoners convicted with pregnancy and those bearing young babies, said the statement.

The statement said people convicted for murder, suicide and infanticide, those sentenced for life imprisonment

and later changed to normal sentences and convicts of drug trafficking and abuse were not recipients of the pardon.

The statement added that people convicted for indecent assault, rape, defilement and violence against children, convicts of car, motorcycle theft, destruction of infrastructure and those serving jail terms under parole will also not benefit from the pardon.

Convicts of office abuse, money laundering and economic sabotage, previous

beneficiaries of presidential pardons and those convicted for preventing their children from accessing education will also not be beneficiaries of the pardon, according to the statement.

Zanzibar merged with Tanganyika on April 26, 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania, a deal which was witnessed by Zanzibar's founding President Abeid Amani Karume and Tanzania's founding President Julius Nyerere.



Tourists visit the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Most of the over 1 million tourists who visited Tanzania in 2013 came from Britain, Germany, the United States and Italy. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is intent on putting more emphasis on further exploiting the country's major tourist source markets, namely, the US, UK, Germany, France and Italy, but also countries that have become increasingly important such as Israel, China and Russia. File Photo

Afrobarometer: Liberty declines, security gains in African political views, sentiments

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survey finding noted.

In nearly all countries surveyed, there has been a decline in the number of people who feel they can say what they think.

Roughly two-thirds (68 per cent) of those surveyed said that people must "often" or "always" be careful of what they say about politics.

The country where there has been the biggest rise in cautiousness is Mali, which has been in political crisis since a 2012 coup and an Islamist takeover of the north, it explains.

The research also picks out Zambia and Tanzania as two countries where there has been a significant decline in the number of people who say they are free to say what they think. These two countries are being watched due to "increasingly authoritarian behavior by their current governments," it says.

Around 43 per cent of those surveyed are willing to accept government monitoring in the interests of security, it affirmed.

The case of Mali figured prominently in the survey, where 75 per cent of those surveyed in Mali agreed with the statement that the government should be able to monitor private communications, for example on mobile phones, to make sure that people are not plotting violence.

The research suggests that violent extremists may be taking a toll on popular commitment to individual liberties and civil rights, as the survey reveals a decline in support for "the right to associate freely."

This is the right to form and be part of a trade union, a political party or any other association or voluntary group, which in that sense includes liberty to join, or sympathize with extremist groups.

Those surveyed indicated support for right of protest depending on the context needed in order to start protest groups, such as those which have recently ousted long-time authoritarian leaders in Sudan and Algeria.

About 61 per cent of people surveyed agreed with the statement that "we should be able to join any organisation whether or not the government approves of it."

That is a modest decline in support for freedom of association from 66 per cent a decade ago across 20 countries, the findings summary added.

Tour operator wins global Tourism Star Award 2019

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World Tourism Forum in Switzerland.

TTB Director General Devotha Mdachi said the board will offer Elizabeth all the necessary assistance, as she has been daring enough to protrude from the national horizon into international skyline, showcasing Tanzania's potential in global travel industry.

"Elizabeth has managed to beat 300 other participants in the Tourism Star Award 2019, which is something that the country should be proud of," pointed out Mdachi, noting that the young lady will be a good envoy for the sector.

TTB Board Chairman, Judge (rtd) Thomas Mihayo said the board is open to receive ideas and support all Tanzanians daring enough to come up with ideas that will help promote the country and its attractions overseas.

Continental Free Trade Area timeline starts to count in July

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

SANDS of time towards establishing the ambitious Free Trade Area (FTA) a continental trading block to connect over 1 billion residents into single precinct will start to count from next July, this year.

That will be decided during the forthcoming African Union meeting slated to take place in the next three months, according to the officials who gathered in Arusha this week.

The proposed African Continental Free Trade Area isn't simply a 'Free Trade Agreement' it's about establishing a unified continental market with 1.2 billion potential customers and where the private sector is the major engine to make it happen.

This was the tone from the discussions of the meeting held in Arusha about how the East African Private sector including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) could benefit from the African Continental Free Trade

Area (AfCFTA).

The one-day meeting, organised jointly by the East African Business Council (EABC) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), convened close to 40 key players from the region's private sector.

The office for Eastern Africa of ECA estimates large potential gains from the AfCFTA, including an increase in intra-African exports of Eastern Africa by nearly US\$ 1 billion and job creation of 0.5 to 1.9 million.

"Together African economies have a collective GDP of 2.5 trillion USD, making it the 8th largest economy in the world. That makes the continent much more attractive to investment, both from within and from outside the continent", said Andrew Mold, acting Director of ECA in Eastern Africa. "This should encourage business people to take advantage of AfCFTA and make the investments necessary to sustain economic growth and create employment".

Nick Nesbitt, chairman of EABC, emphasised the importance of the continent having a clear vision to put an end to the fragmentation of the internal market. "I really applaud everybody who has been involved in creating the AfCFTA because their vision is the one of Pan-Africanism. It is something our founding founders aspired for a long time. Our thanks to ECA for being at forefront of this conversation and pushing the agenda forward so that the continent

becomes a single economic trading bloc", he said.

Kenneth Bagamuhunda, Director General of Customs and Trade at the East African Community Secretariat, cited the experience of Regional Economic Communities as the building blocks for the AfCFTA. "The AfCFTA should build on what has already been achieved in regional negotiations like the Tripartite Free Trade Area, as well as within our respective regional blocks" he said.

Bagamuhunda highlighted governments need to set a conducive environment for the successful implementation of AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA was signed in March 2018, at a historic meeting of the African Union in Kigali. 52 of 55 African Union member states have so far signed the AfCFTA, 22 countries that have ratified the agreement, which was the minimum number required for it to enter into force.



It's 'specially made coffee' time for these resident of Msimbazi area in Dares Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo Market zone, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Zanzibar announces new campaign to end malaria

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR has embarked in a new campaign aimed at eliminating malaria by 2023, a senior official has said.

Zanzibar Deputy Minister for Health, Harusi Said Suleiman, revealed this when speaking here at the climax of this year's World Malaria Day themed: "Zero malaria starts with me"

She said that the campaign involves all key players in ending the life-threatening disease.

With a population of about 1.4 million, the prevalence of malaria in Zanzibar is below 1 per cent.

The deputy minister cited some of the strategies that are being used in the anti-malaria campaign as household surveillance, which is coupled with treatment using Artemisinin Combination Therapy (ACT), use of Insecticide Treated Nets and indoor residual spray.

In this campaign, the deputy minister said: "We're also encouraging communities and individuals to take ownership of the malaria fight, as well as sensitizing the public on the need to ensure their environment are clean."

"Our target as government is to see Zanzibar is free from the disease," she said, adding: "I am sure we meet this target. I appeal for national

and international partners to chip in this campaign." The official insisted that Zanzibar government will continue to provide treated mosquito nets free of charge to pregnant women and children in all health facilities as part of the campaign to end the disease.

Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program (ZAMEP) Deputy Program Manager, Dr Faiza Abbas, said that the prevalence of malaria in Zanzibar is now at 0.003%.

Since 2010, it has been kept below 1%, that means, according to Dr Abbas, that Zanzibar has now attained the pre-elimination stage in malaria control.

World Health Organization (WHO) defines the pre elimination stage as a transition period to elimination. At this stage, WHO says, control programs are being sustained in an effort to attain complete elimination.

The island's Malaria Elimination Plan aims at consolidating malaria control achievements toward pre-elimination by the year 2018 through multiple interventions, including raising awareness, use of treated mosquito nets, proper diagnosis, and residual spray.

Through ZAMEP, the Island has been struggling to meet its goal of zero locally acquired malaria cases by the end of 2017.

METROPOLITAN LIFE TANZANIA



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2018

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018		
	TZS'000	TZS'000
Assets		
Property and equipment	33,105	68,308
Intangible assets	169,670	169,670
Deferred acquisition costs	409,100	18,820
Investment in government securities and fixed deposits	1,326,702	1,808,357
Reinsurance share of technical provisions and reserves	335,003	154,816
Income tax receivable	62,475	36,182
Insurance and other receivables	441,665	162,179
Cash and cash equivalents	1,904,773	297,938
Total Assets	4,682,493	2,716,270
Liabilities		
Insurance contract provisions	2,385,284	1,025,962
Payables to reinsurers	500,379	423,593
Other payables	172,111	431,344
Total Liabilities	3,057,773	1,880,899
Net Assets	1,624,720	835,371
Shareholders' Equity		
Share capital	4,047,290	2,829,290
Advance towards share capital	2,511,389	2,511,389
Contingency reserves	-	-
Retained earnings	(4,933,959)	(4,505,308)
Total Shareholders' Equity	1,624,720	835,371

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018					
	Share Capital	Advance Towards Share Capital	Contingency Reserves	Retained Earnings	Total
	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000	TZS'000
Balance at 1 January 2017	2,829,290	2,511,389	-	(3,535,032)	1,805,647
Comprehensive loss					
- Loss for the year	-	-	-	(970,276)	(970,276)
- Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	-	(970,276)	(970,276)
Balance at 31 December 2017	2,829,290	2,511,389	-	(4,505,308)	835,371
Balance at 1 January 2018	2,829,290	2,511,389	-	(4,505,308)	835,371
Comprehensive loss					
- Loss for the year	-	-	-	(428,651)	(428,651)
- Other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	-	-	-	(428,651)	(428,651)
Contribution by owners					
- Issue of ordinary shares	1,218,000	-	-	-	1,218,000
Total contribution by owners	1,218,000	-	-	-	1,218,000
Balance at 31 December 2018	4,047,290	2,511,389	-	(4,933,959)	1,624,720

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018		
	2018	2017
	TZS'000	TZS'000
Gross written premium	2,584,127	1,016,805
Written premium ceded to reinsurers	(423,737)	(344,109)
Net written premium	2,160,390	672,696
Changes in the gross provision for unearned premium	(1,183,600)	16,348
Re-insurers' share of change in the provision for unearned premium	180,188	16,526
Net insurance premium revenue	1,156,978	705,570
Commission income	51,683	14,979
Finance income	134,963	185,115
Exchange gain/(loss)	12,952	18,838
Net income	1,356,576	924,502
Claims and benefits incurred	(356,865)	(268,047)
Re-insurers' share of claims and benefits incurred	9,772	20,467
Net insurance claims	(347,093)	(247,580)
Acquisition costs	(93,602)	(60,699)
Administrative expenses	(1,304,043)	(1,530,964)
Loss before taxation	(388,162)	(914,741)
Taxation	(40,489)	(55,535)
Loss for the year	(428,651)	(970,276)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(428,651)	(970,276)

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018		
	2018	2017
	TZS'000	TZS'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Loss before taxation	(388,162)	(914,741)
Adjustment for:		
- Depreciation	35,203	36,272
	(352,959)	(878,469)
Change in:		
- Deferred acquisition costs	(390,280)	11,521
- Insurance contract liability	1,179,135	(20,492)
- Insurance and other receivables	(279,486)	(58,810)
- Reinsurance payables	76,786	257,371
- Other payables	(259,233)	221,058
Cash utilised in operating activities	(26,038)	(467,821)
Income tax paid	(54,559)	(46,995)
Withholding tax suffered	(12,223)	(23,090)
Net cash used in operating activities	(92,820)	(537,906)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Acquisition of computer software	-	(169,670)
Decrease/(increase) in deposits with financial institutions	547,385	294,981
Increase in investments in government securities	(65,730)	(9,642)
Net cash generated from/(utilised in) investing activities	481,655	115,669
Cash flows from financing activities		
Receipt of funds for issuing additional shares	993,230	-
Conversion of payable to parent company to equity	224,770	-
Net cash from financing activities	1,218,000	-
Net (decrease)/ increase in cash and cash equivalents	1,606,835	(422,237)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	297,938	720,175
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	1,904,773	297,938

SIGNED: PROTASE RWEZAHURA ISHENGOMA
BOARD CHAIRMAN

KISHEN SOMAIYA
DIRECTOR

2,501 villages benefit from UCSAF project

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 703 wards with 2,501 villages in the country have been connected to communication, thanks to the Universal Communication Access Fund (UCSAF).

Since its establishment ten years ago, the fund has enabled some five million people who

had not been connected to the mobile phone communication network had received the services.

Addressing a press conference here yesterday, UCSAF's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Peter Ulanga said the success is part of the government contribution which is 26 per cent of the operational costs while service pro-

viders contributed 74 per cent of investment.

Speaking ahead of the tenth anniversary commemoration by the fund, which starts today with its climax on 30th April, 2019, he said UCSAF has helped improve communication in many remote areas. He said the week-long event will be held in Dodoma and the Prime Minister, Kas-

sim Majaliwa is expected to be the guest of honour. "As we mark ten years of the fund in the country, we will also showcase activities of various service providers" he said, calling on the public to visit the shows at Nyerere Square grounds in the city.

During the week, he said the fund will launch Information and Communication Technol-

ogy (ICT) clubs at both Dodoma and Msalato secondary schools in the city on 28th April, 2019 and also launch communication towers in Bahi and Gairo districts on 29th April, 2019.

Outlining other achievements of the fund, Ulanga noted that as at now 94 per cent of Tanzanians live in areas connected to communication network where-

by 70 per cent of them are users of telephone communication services. Ten per cent of this, he said has been contributed by UCSAF.

On schools internet network, the CEO noted that up to now over 500 schools had been connected and each school had been given five computers and a printer.

He also noted that the government through ICT trained 800 primary and secondary school teachers in efforts to help them solve challenges facing their schools as far as ICT is concerned.

Other achievements include improvement of the national broadcasting corporation (TBC)'s coverage in the country.



Deogratius Ndejemi, who is filling in as Chemba district commissioner, speaks at a ceremony relating to development project implemented by World Vision Tanzania. It was held at Sanzawa village on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Mountainous regions suffer biodiversity loss

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

CLIMATIC changes and human activities such as land tilling on dry lowlands of tropical mountains have caused huge losses of plant and animal species, a study says.

According to a team of 50 researchers who conducted the study, the combined effect of climatic changes and activities emanating from human settlements on biodiversity in mountainous regions is less known.

Given that people living in such regions depend on nature for their livelihoods, the researchers say that they were motivated to assess the biodiversity and ecosystem functions of Africa's largest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

"Our data suggest that more-severe changes in ecosystem functioning occur in the arid lowlands and the cold montane zone," says the study published in Nature last month.

"Our study reveals that climate can modulate the effects of land use on biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and points to a lowered resistance of ecosystems in climatically challenging environments to continuing land-use changes in tropical mountainous regions."

Marcell Peters, lead author of the study and an associate professor at the Department of Animal Ecology and Tropical Biology, University of Würzburg, Germany, said that the use of land significantly damages ecological processes with extreme climate conditions such as the hot and dry savanna zones at the base of Kilimanjaro.

According to Peters, the problem has been aggravated by human activities such as overharvesting, increase of field sizes and a reduction in semi-natural habitats including trees and hedgerows.

"In order to preserve vital soil, plant and animal functions on their land, farmers should always try land use practices to a level which is sustainable and preserves a rich biodiversity," Peters tells SciDev.Net.

"In the long run, this will be much more profitable than large-scale intensified agriculture."

The researchers established 60 study sites from low to high elevations in the southern part of Mountain Kilimanjaro, which they regularly visited to take measurements, including monitoring and identifying plants, insects, birds and mammals. Data collection occurred from January 2011 to December 2016.

Cyclone Idai needs persist in Mozambique and Zimbabwe

MAPUTO

THE damage Cyclone Idai inflicted on infrastructure, housing and health services continues to affect the daily lives of more than two million people in Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Food, non-food items and shelter support are among the most significant needs, according to recent International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) location assessments conducted in the four affected

provinces of Mozambique.

"We were all home when the cyclone hit; suddenly the water inside our home was at waist height," said Graca, a mother of six in Beira, adding: "Our house was made of brick, but now only rubble is left. We need blankets, mosquito nets and support to restart. I just want a space and material to make a house for my family."

Thanks to the Government of Japan, a portion of these needs will be met over the next six months through a financial con-

tribution of USD 1.35 million for shelter and non-food items (NFI) for cyclone-affected families in Mozambique and related emergency assistance in Zimbabwe.

"We offer our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the people who have suffered from Cyclone Idai," said Katsuki Urashima, Secretary of the Embassy of Japan in Mozambique.

"Japan expresses sincere solidarity with the affected population to overcome this difficult time and wishes that this humanitarian aid will be helpful

for the people to do so," added the official.

An estimated 1.85 million people in four provinces in Mozambique need humanitarian assistance. Nearly 240,000 homes are damaged or destroyed, while widespread areas experienced devastation. Seven weeks after the cyclone struck, nearly 68,000 people remain displaced in over 80 temporary accommodation sites.

DTM assessments across the border with Zimbabwe show that nearly 69,000 people were

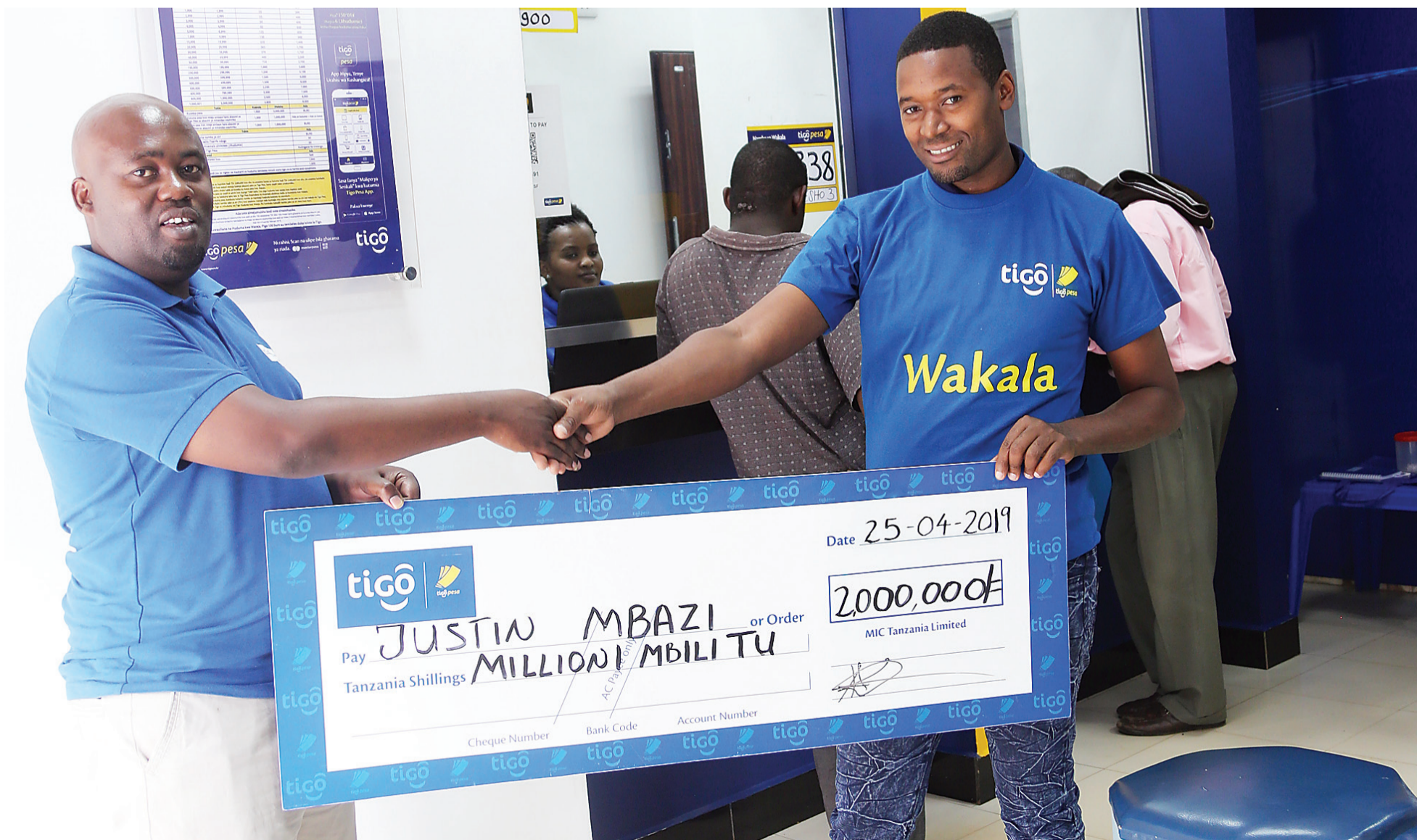
displaced by the cyclone, primarily in Manicaland and Masvingo districts. The majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) there are living in host communities, while others are in collective centres or camp like settings. Food and shelter have been identified as the main needs. IOM's work in support of the Government of Mozambique is closely coordinated with the country's National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC), the Shelter Cluster and UN and NGO partners.

Support will continue to INGC temporary accommodation sites and facilitated relocation schemes through engagement on Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), while regular tracking of population movements and monitoring of the needs is conducted through the DTM.

IOM Mozambique Chief of Mission Katharina Schnoering said: "Cyclone Idai caused extensive damage to infrastructure and astounding human impact. Continued humanitar-

ian assistance is required. We greatly appreciate the Government of Japan's attention to these needs."

In Zimbabwe, Japan's contribution will assist the most vulnerable displaced families. "IOM Zimbabwe has taken on the coordination role of shelter, NFI and CCCM cluster; shelter and related needs remain high so the support from the Government of Japan is very timely," said Takuya Ono, IOM's Shelter Cluster Coordinator in Zimbabwe.



Same-based Tigo Pesa agent Justin Mbazizi (R) receives a dummy cheque for 2m/- yesterday from Kilimanjaro regional Tigo sales manager Tryphone Kamugisha after emerging the best performer in the firm's 'Cash-In Promotion' raffle which ended last month. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

JPM appoints Dr Kusiluka Tasaf committee chairman

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has appointed Dr Moses Mpagole Kusiluka the chairman of National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF).

A statement issued by Chief Secretary, John Kijazi, and signed by the director of communications, Gerson Msigwa said that Dr Kusiluka is the Permanent Secretary in the State House.

Members of the TASAF national steering committee include Ambassador Zuhura Bundala, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, Dr Charles Mwamwaja, Dr Ruth Rugwisha, Dr Naftali Ng'ondi, Eng Hussein Mativila and Richard Shilambo.

TASAF was established in 2000 as one of the tools for executing the government's national poverty reduction strategy. Its objective is to enable poor households to increase in-

comes and opportunities while improving consumption. And its vision is to empower the poor households graduate out of poverty and have sustainable social and economic development.

TASAF is a multi-sectoral programme that provides direct financing for small-scale public investments targeted at meeting the needs of the poor and contributing to social capital and development at the local level.

The overriding objective of TASAF is to empower communities to improve their livelihoods and access enhanced services, minimise the public sector's direct involvement in implementation of projects such as construction of health facilities, water projects and schools.

This approach affected community ownership, not considering themselves as owners of the facilities created.

Reducing inequalities in immunisation coverage vital in implementing 2030 global SDGs agenda

By Guardian Reporter

CONCERTED efforts are needed for Tanzania to reduce inequalities on immunization coverage in three regions of Katavi, Tabora and Shinyanga, whereby 113,330 children are missing some basic vaccination yearly.

Dr Peter Bujari, Executive Director of Health Promotion Tanzania (HDT) made the suggestions when speaking in Dar es Salaam as part of commemorating World Immunization

Week—a global public health campaign to raise awareness and increase rates of immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases around the world.

He said that reducing inequalities on immunization coverage is important in implementing the 'Leave no one behind'—a principle central to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Tanzania has been recorded to have high immunization

coverage and its programme two overarching objectives for 2016-2020 were expansion of immunization service to life course approach, as well as sustaining high coverage while reaching every last child equitably.

By 2012 Tanzania was certified to have eliminated neonatal tetanus and by 2015 Tanzania achieved free status of Polio and is in elimination phase for measles.

According to Tanzania Demographic Health Survey

(2015) all vaccine antigen coverage levels are above 90 percent except for the 2nd dose of measles at 71 percent in 2015.

Dr Bujari said: "As per the National Bureau of Statistics (2013), majority (71percent) of Tanzania population lives in rural, where data show that there is a 10 percent difference in vaccination coverage in urban areas compared to rural areas, which means in order to leave no one behind, specific strategies to reach

more rural areas are needed."

There are some regions like Kilimanjaro whose coverage is about 93 percent, but Katavi (54.1 percent), Shinyanga (55.5 percent) and Tabora (58.9 percent) remain the lowest in immunization coverage.

"That's why it is important for the government to scale up immunization coverage in the three regions, with a total population of about 5million, and using 6.6percent as children under two years, then there are 331,150 needing vac-

ination. Using the reported regional coverage, arithmetic's show that about 111,330 children are missing vaccination annually, he said.

"As we embark on Universal Health Coverage journey, this is not politically and public health perspective correct," Dr Bujari said.

He, however called on the responsible Ministries of Health and President Office Regional Administration and Local Government, to develop specific strategies that address

regional and urban Vs Rural disparities,

Dr Bujari also urged political leaders in these regions (MPs and councilors, District commissioners and Regional Commissioner) to mobilize communities to ensure their children are seeking health services.

"We request Development Partners in Health to support government's initiative to significantly reduce these inequalities in accessing immunization," he said.

Ugandan mum of multiple quadruplets struggles to provide for her 38 children

KAMPALA

MARIAM Nabatanzi gave birth to twins a year after she was married off at the age of 12. Five more sets of twins followed—along with four sets of triplets and five sets of quadruplets.

Three years ago, however, the 39-year-old Ugandan was abandoned by her husband, leaving her to support their surviving 38 children alone.

It was just the latest setback in a life marred by tragedy for Nabatanzi, who lives with her children in four cramped houses made of cement blocks and topped with corrugated iron in a village surrounded by coffee fields 50 km (31 miles) north of Kampala.

After her first sets of twins were born, Nabatanzi went to a doctor who told her she had unusually large ovaries.

He advised her that birth control like pills might cause health problems. So the children kept coming.

Family sizes are at their largest in Africa. In Uganda, the fertility rate averages out at 5.6 children per woman, one of the continent's highest, and more than double the global average

of 2.4 children, according to the World Bank.

But even in Uganda, the size of Nabatanzi's family makes her an extreme outlier.

Her last pregnancy, two and a half years ago, had complications. It was her sixth set of twins and one of them died in childbirth, her sixth child to die.

Then her husband—often absent for long stretches—abandoned her. His name is now a family curse. Nabatanzi refers to him using an expletive.

"I have grown up in tears, my man has passed me through a lot of suffering," she said during an interview at her home, hands clasped as her eyes welled up.

"All my time has been spent looking after my children and working to earn some money."

Work

Desperate for cash, Nabatanzi turns a hand to everything: hairdressing, event decorating, collecting and selling scrap metal, brewing local gin and selling herbal medicine. The money is swallowed up by food, medical care,

clothing and school fees.

On a grimy wall in one room of her home hang proud portraits of some of her children graduating from school, gold tinsel around their necks.

"Mum is overwhelmed, the work is crushing her, we help where we can, like in cooking and washing, but she still carries the whole burden for the family. I feel for her," said her eldest child Ivan Kibuka, 23, who had to drop out of secondary school when the money ran out.

Tragic story

Nabatanzi's desire for a large family has its roots in tragedy.

Three days after she was born, Nabatanzi's mother abandoned the family: her father, the newborn girl and her five siblings.

"She just left us," said Nabatanzi sombrely, as some of her ragged children played on the dirt floor while others did chores.

After her father remarried, her stepmother poisoned the five older children with crushed glass mixed in their food. They all died. Nabatanzi escaped because she was visiting a relative, she

says.

"I was seven years old then, too young to even understand what death actually meant. I was told by relatives what had happened," she said.

She grew up wanting to have six children to rebuild her shattered family.

Providing a home for 38 children is a constant challenge.

Twelve of the children sleep on metal bunk beds with thin mattresses in one small room with grime-caked walls.

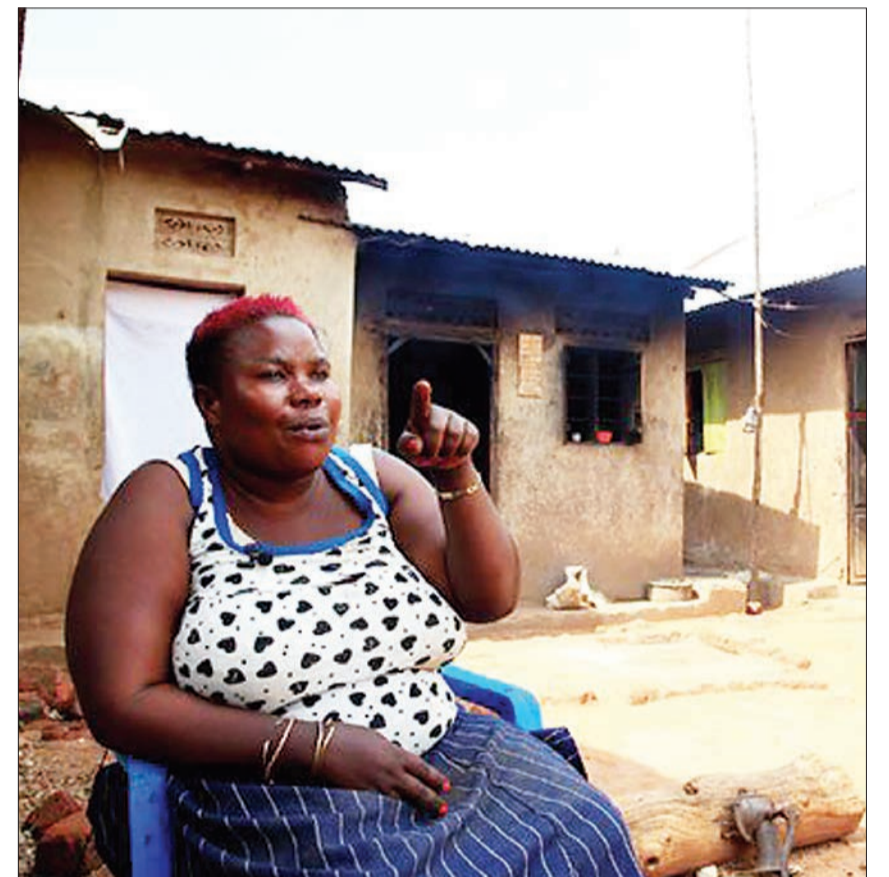
In the other rooms, lucky children pile onto shared mattresses while the others sleep on the dirt floor.

Older children help look after the young ones and everyone helps with chores like cooking. A single day can require 25 kilograms of maize flour, Nabatanzi says. Fish or meat are rare treats.

A roster on a small wooden board nailed to a wall spells out washing or cooking duties.

"On Saturday we all work together," it reads.

Having endured such a hard childhood herself, Nabatanzi's greatest



Mariam Nabatanzi, a mother of 38, speaks during an interview at her home in Kasawo village, Mukono district, east of Kampala, Uganda, on March 8, 2019.

wish now is for her children to be happy.

"I started taking on adult responsibilities at an early stage," she said. "I have not had joy, I think, since I was born."

Founder of first Maasai school for girls tells her story

CHIMACUM, US

NAKAJI Lukumai stood in her Maasai shuka, a traditional dress that represents her people in northern Tanzania. The eldest of 56 children, she was the first woman in her tribe to go to school.

She carried on her father's legacy of extolling the virtues of education by founding the first school for girls in the Maasai culture, and she worked for 12 years as a school inspector for the local government.

Lukumai, 63, is on her second visit to the United States and will be at the WE Feed Kids 5K on Saturday in Chimacum.

Proceeds will support healthy food for kids in Chimacum schools and Emburis Primary, which Lukumai founded in Monduli, Tanzania.

The charity run/walk will begin at 10 a.m. at the track at Chimacum High School, 91 West Valley Road.

Registration costs \$35 per person, \$10 for students and is free to any entrant with \$35 or more in sponsorship. Participants must register by noon today at www.jc-cwp.org.

The event is jointly sponsored by the WE Act Club at the high school and the Community Wellness Project of Jefferson County.

It's been a busy week for Lukumai, who addressed students in Chimacum schools at various functions.

The Maasai are a nomadic tribe often marginalized because of the way they keep animals such as cows, sheep, donkeys and goats, Lukumai said.

"They thought the land was free for everybody," Lukumai said Tuesday while she was staying with a longtime friend in Port Townsend. "They went from place to place, looking for green grass for the animals."

Her grandfather was a Maasai chief who sent her father to help the British fight a lo-

cust invasion before she was born. But her father had asthma – "a bad chest," Lukumai said – and feared he would die while he worked in the fields.

Lukumai's uncle had gone to school through fourth grade and learned how to read and write, she said. Then he taught her father, and those literacy skills saved his life.

"Because he knew how to read and write, he was given a job like a shopkeeper," said Lukumai, who speaks three languages, including English. "He was asked to record everything – food, equipment – and he did it very well."

It was a cultural shift, because Lukumai's father promised to send all of his children, boys and girls, to school.

Lukumai just happened to be the first of his 56 children with seven different wives, she said. "There were girls from other tribes who went to school, but not Maasai," she said.

Lukumai initially didn't like it. She watched other kids "playing, enjoying being young children," but she understood what she was being asked to do.

"I was given the responsibility of obtaining an education," she said.

In addition to her Maasai language, she learned Swahili in primary school. When she was old enough to attend secondary school – equivalent to high school in the states – she was required to study in English, because that's the curriculum that was available, she said.

"My father told me, 'I think it would be good if you become a teacher, so you can be a light to your sisters and brothers,'" Lukumai said. She met Abby Jorgensen of Port Townsend in Tanzania when Jorgensen was looking for a place to teach English. Jorgensen, originally from Oregon, taught Lukumai's son in the mid-1990s.

When Lukumai started a school for girls



Nakaaji Lukumai is the founder and director of Emburis Primary School in Tanzania. She has been speaking in Chimacum School District classrooms about her life in Africa and will be attending the WE Feed Kids 5K in Chimacum on Saturday. Proceeds from the race benefit both Chimacum schools and Lukumai's school in Tanzania.

in Maasai, she ran into several initial challenges. She sent letters to families to tell them their daughters had been accepted into the program, but many were reluctant to allow them to attend, Lukumai said.

As Lukumai and Jorgensen made contact with families, they found the rough roads in

the mountainous region difficult to navigate.

But they had some success. One girl walked for two days to get to the school, all the way through the bush where lions roam and up and over a mountain peak, Lukumai said.

"We were happy to say, within two years, everybody was bringing their girls to school,"

Lukumai said.

One advantage was the boarding school environment. They had food to eat and a place to sleep, Lukumai said.

The school now has about 200 students in grades K-5, and she plans to expand up to grade seven.

Govt called upon to increase education budget to 20 per cent for year 2019/20

By Getrude Mbago

THE government has been urged to increase budgetary allocation to 20 per cent for the 2019/20 financial year from the current 14 per cent to so as improve education standards in the country.

HakiElimu executive director Dr John Kallage made the call on Tuesday when speaking to

journalists on the organisation's recommendations for the next year's education budget.

He said that despite increase of enrolment of pupils in primary schools, the budget has remained low for years.

Dr Kallage said: "A total of 4,706.4bn/- was approved by Parliament in the financial year 2017/18. The amount is less compared to what was approved in

financial year 2016/17, which was 4,770.4bn/-.

"The drop saw a fall in the proportion of the education sector to the national budget from 16 per cent allocated in 2016/17 to 15 per cent in 2017/18. The allocation further dropped to 14 per cent in 2018/19 (4,628bn/-)."

According to him, the enrolment in primary schools increased to 10,111,255 in 2018

from 8,639,202 in 2016. There has been an increase of 12.6 per cent of students in secondary schools from 1,908,857 of 2017 to 2,148,466 in 2018.

"Despite this achievement in enrolment, the education has been grabbed by a number of challenges including shortage of classrooms, quality teachers, learning and teaching equipment, classrooms and latrines...

All these need to be addressed for provision of quality education," he said.

He further noted that, report of the Controller and Auditor General (GAG) for the 2016/2017 fiscal year shows a shortage of classrooms by 85 per cent in primary schools; latrines 83 per cent; teacher's houses 66 per cent; and 14 per cent of desks. "In secondary schools, the

report shows that there is shortage of classrooms by 52 per cent; laboratories by 84 per cent; desks by 84 per cent; teacher's houses by 85 per cent; latrines by 53 per cent and teachers houses by 88 per cent," he noted.

Dr Kallage urged the government to allocate realistic budget that can really set a remarkable step in resolving these long-lasting challenges that have been af-

fecting learning and teaching in public schools.

For his part, HakiElimu head of programmes Godfrey Bonventura said that apart from increasing allocation, the government should ensure that the proposed budget is implemented. "We are also calling for more transparency during the implementation of the budget," He added.

WHO and partners call for renewed efforts to reach children with all life-saving vaccines

By Guardian Reporter

AS measles outbreaks resurface in Africa, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other immunisation partners have called for renewed efforts to reach all children with all life-saving vaccines.

The World Health body listed African countries like Chad, Cameroon, DR Congo, Liberia, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Nigeria and Uganda have experienced a resurgence of measles in the last 12 months.

Measles is a highly infectious viral illness that can lead to serious health complications, including infections of the lungs, eyes and brain.

Speaking during the launch of the 9th African Vaccination Week on Wednesday in São Tomé, WHO Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti said the global measles crisis is an urgent wake-up call to the need for countries to ensure that all children - no matter where they live - receive life-saving vaccines.

"We need to work together to improve immunization delivery so that all children are protected from preventable diseases. Recent disease outbreaks on the continent remind us of the urgency of this goal...Outbreaks of measles in Madagascar and Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo underscore the need for increased investments in immunization as a fundamental part of strengthening primary

health care systems," she stressed.

Dr Moeti noted that vaccines are one of the most effective and cost-effective public health interventions available. Yet, one in five children in Africa still do not have access to all the necessary and basic vaccines a child should receive.

According to the WHO/UNICEF coverage estimates, a highly contagious disease that accounts for 13 per cent of all vaccine-preventable deaths in children younger than 5 years in Africa, measles infects nine in ten people who are not vaccinated. As of 2017, only 16 countries in the World Health Organization's African Region had achieved 90 per cent or more immunization coverage of the first dose of measles vaccine (MCV1).

Across the region, MCV1 coverage has stagnated, at 70-73 per cent since 2009.

Every year, more than 30 million children younger than 5 years in Africa fall sick due to vaccine-preventable diseases. Of them, more than half a million die - representing 56 per cent of the global deaths related to vaccine-preventable diseases.

In Africa, vaccine-preventable diseases also impose an economic burden of US\$ 13 billion every year - funding that could be used to fuel economies and drive development.

In 2017, African Heads of State endorsed the Addis Declaration on Immunization at the African Union



Perhaps out of necessity, this 'passenger' resorted to the tricycle as the means by which to transport his bales of whatever cargo it was - while clearly engaging in a risky ride. Our roving photographer John Badi captured the scene along the Tanzania Breweries Limited stretch of Dar es Salaam's Uhuru Road yesterday.

Summit, committing to reach all children with life-saving vaccines. While political will for immunization across the region is high, African Vaccination Week 2019 is a reminder for countries to renew their commitments and re-

double efforts to achieve universal access to vaccines.

Partners at the African Vaccination Week launch emphasized the need to move from commitment to action by increasing domestic investments in

immunization and strengthening access to vaccines in hard-to-reach areas.

African Vaccination Week is a galvanizing period for the region, in which millions of people receive criti-

cal vaccines and screenings. It is also a rallying moment for immunization advocates to encourage governments to keep immunization high on their national and regional agendas.

Police in Kenya confirm holding Tanzanian over child trafficking

By Kevin Cheruiyot

KENYAN detectives have arrested a Tanzanian national over child trafficking.

Musa Mbalu, 30, was nabbed in Maua town on Thursday. He is believed to be behind a ring trafficking children with special needs and using them to beg at various strategic points.

The office of the Director of Criminal Investigations confirmed the arrest.

Three children aged 12 years were rescued during the raid. The suspect was to be taken to court today.

Last year, a 43-year-old Tanzanian woman pleaded guilty to charges of human trafficking before a Milimani court.

Kwandu Cheye was charged with transporting a seven-year-old disabled child to Kenya to use her for labour. She committed the offence in May.

Cheye pleaded guilty before chief magistrate Francis Andayi. However, Andayi declined to admit Cheye's plea because the offence is serious. It attracts a minimum of 30 years in jail.

The magistrate explained the seriousness of the charges and warned her of the penalties. But Cheye maintained her plea.

Andayi directed the state to offer legal aid to Cheye.



Fedson Masawa (R) from Musoma Rural legislator Prof Sospeter Muhongo's office presents 1,000 textbooks to Imam Shafii Primary School teacher Omary Yandiro at the Musoma municipality school on Thursday. The books are a donation by the MP. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Be innovative, venture into income generating activities, teachers told

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast,

Bukoba

TEACHERS in Kagera Region have been challenged to be innovative and venture into other income generating activities to supplement their earnings.

A Dar es Salaam-based entrepreneur mentor Stafford Kanamwa, made the challenge recently when speaking here at the one-day teachers' workshop organised by Bukoba Rural and Missenyi Teachers Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (Burute Saccos).

The workshop was meant to empower teachers with investment skills.

"Teachers should not just be content with their basic salaries. You should engage in other income generating activities in order to raise more money to support your families," he said, asking teachers to invest their earnings into profitable projects.

"There are many business opportunities available for teachers. I want to encourage you to invest more and to adopt a savings culture," he said.

The workshop brought together 400 teachers from the two districts.

"You are being trusted by

banks and other financial institutions, so use that opportunity to invest in income generating activities," Kanamwa said.

"To be an investor you have to bear the challenges as the profit doesn't come over night. It is like a Chinese bamboo tree which its seed takes five years to come out of the soil, and thereafter six months ready for harvest, at whole lifetime," he said.

Grolia Theonest from Katebenga Primary School and Nelson Mwoleka from Rugoye Secondary School were optimistic that they are now seeing a bright future for the education they got, they are going to invest.

Saccos chairperson, Gerald Kigundu urged members to increase their savings as at now savings stand at 41 per cent instead of ranging to 70 per cent and the capital is more than 3bn/-.

Bukoba District Cooperative Officer, Mtawajibu Rwiza, commended the management of Burute Saccos for organizing such workshop, which was conducted under Act 6 of 2013.

Started in 2006, Burute Saccos has a total of 1358 members and between January and March, this year has already issued 483m/- as loans. It is open for more teachers who would be interested in the loaning scheme

Journos challenged on maternal health, gender equality and reproductive rights

By Correspondent Kenneth Simbaya,

recently in Mwanza

MEDIA practitioners have been challenged to advance maternal health, gender equality and reproductive rights, including raising awareness on the impact of unsafe abortion so as to help Tanzania realise Agenda 2030.

Agenda 2030 - on the 17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - in 2015 renewed governments' commitments under the eight global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to reduce maternal mortality and achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, among other objectives.

The Coalition to Address Ma-

ternal Mortality and Morbidity Complications due to unsafe Abortions (CAMMAC) threw the challenge at a recent workshop in Mwanza aimed at equipping journalists with knowledge and skills on reporting maternal mortality and morbidity issues.

Leading a session, Dotto Mnyandi from Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST), acknowledged the critical role the media play in driving change and accountability and appealed to participants to use whatever resources they have to end needless maternal deaths and childbirth-related injuries.

"We have brought you here to equip you with knowledge and skills so that you can write quality stories that will help our country to reduce maternal

deaths and morbidity," Dotto said, underlining the fact that whatever change media practitioners want to see happening begins in their minds as they write and file stories.

Josephine Mugishagwe from UMATI Tanzania meanwhile noted that, in today's world "the media constitute a most powerful entity and it is therefore crucial that they are involved in the fight against maternal mortality and in ensuring that communities have correct information about reproductive health and rights".

"Information is power," she said, adding that correct information can save lives "and this is where the media come in through objective reporting on issues and challenges in soci-

ety".

She said Tanzania has ratified the African Charter's Maputo Protocol but is yet to domesticate it, and it is upon the media to demand to know why.

She quoted the protocol as allowing abortion in cases of rape, incest or if the pregnancy endangers the woman's life, mental, or physical health or the life of the foetus.

"The protocol is a powerful tool enshrining the rights of women and girls," she noted, adding: sexual and reproductive health means a state of physical, mental, and social well being in relation to sexuality and reproductive systems.

The right to sexual and reproductive health entails ensuring that all women and girls control

their health and fertility free from coercion and with full and informed consent.

"Journalists are duty bound to use their profession to ensure that women and girls rights are protected as enshrined in various commitments made by the government," declared the UMATI representative.

She said that recent years have seen Tanzania make strong commitments to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity through initiatives including the national strategic plan on the accelerated reduction of maternal, newborn and child deaths.

The Maputo Protocol stipulates that every woman has the right to decide whether to have children and, if so, how many

and how frequently, as well as to choose any method of contraception and access family planning services and education of her choice.

Governments which have committed to protocol are obliged to provide adequate health education and services to all women and girls, strengthen health services for pregnant women and new mothers and authorise medical abortion in case of rape, incest and danger to the life of the mother or the foetus.

"As you report on maternal mortality and morbidity resulting from unsafe abortion in Tanzania, it is important that you understand the root cause of unsafe abortion and correctly inform women and

girls to access post-abortion care which is legally provided in Tanzania as a means of reducing maternal deaths," Dr Anna Temba from Population Services International told the workshop.



We have brought you here to equip you with knowledge and skills so that you can write quality stories that will help our country to reduce maternal deaths



A farmer's field in Malawi under conservation agriculture, showing rotation of maize and groundnut, and the retention of crop residues

Modern technology key to agricultural transformation in Africa, expert assert

ACRA, Ghana

ONE of the critical factors in unlocking higher potentials of agriculture in Africa is the introduction of digital technology in farming, specialists have suggested.

Toby Johnson, head of Communications at the Technical Centre for Rural Agricultural Cooperation, said during a field visit in Ghana recently that digital technology offers youths opportunities of entering the agricultural sector.

According to experts, Africa's agricultural population has been overaged since many young people are reluctant to take up the traditional vocation. And they are convinced that the introduction of modern technology which creates more linkages between farmers and markets tend to be more attractive to the youths.

A growing number of youths have been employed and trained to assemble drones by technology companies, while others work as agents for seeking to seal contracts in farming commu-

nities.

"Like the drones we see flying here today, and we are starting to see some of these start-ups to profit from it," Johnson said, adding that these drone technology companies are supporting farmers for precision farming, which will significantly save farmers' time and energy.

Trotro Tractor, an online platform for farmers to access farming equipment, is gaining more popularity in Ghana. It is an on-demand service that makes mechanization services available to farmers in need.

Waiganjo Njoroge, head of communications of the Alliance for Green Revolution Africa, said the organization is aware of the fact that mechanization is the lowest on the African continent compared with anywhere else in the world.

Njoroge insisted that there was an urgent need to move farmers from the level where they used hoes, to a higher level where they deploy technology, in order to make farming more efficient and productive.

CIMMYT and Clinton Foundation partner to improve access to climate-resilient maize seed in 3 countries

By Guardian Reporter

A newly established partnership is out to help farmers in Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania have better access to seeds that help maize crops better withstand growing challenges of drought, pests, diseases, and climate change.

Working together to improve access to and availability of climate-resilient maize varieties in eastern Africa, the Clinton Foundation and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) are launching a partnership that will not only improve access by smallholder farmers to modern maize varieties but also aim to bolster food security in Malawi, Rwanda and Tanzania.

The Clinton Foundation is launching this partnership through the Clinton Development Initiative, which works in the region to improve economic opportunity for farmers through better access to markets, technology, and inputs like seeds and fertilizer.

Farmers in eastern and southern Africa face obstacles in agricultural production with little to no access to formal markets. Improvement in yields are often made more difficult as a result of erratic weather patterns from climate change and limited access to improved seed varieties and quality inputs. Farmers also lack access to information about prices and market opportunities for their crops, making it harder for them to produce and sell.

"Farmers in eastern and southern Africa face increasing threats to their livelihoods, including drought, insect-pests, and diseases. This partnership will improve farmers' access

to modern crop varieties, the quality of their crops, opportunities to market the produce, and food security for their families," explains Ariana Constant, director of the Clinton Development Initiative.

"We are working together to provide farmers with heat- and drought-tolerant maize seeds to grow stronger, healthier crops and to help reduce the negative impacts of climate shocks."

Collaboration between the Clinton Foundation and CIMMYT is a natural fit. CIMMYT's history of creating improved planting materials combined with the Clinton Foundation's extensive network of trained farmers will support increases in both crop yield and quality.

The partnership will also boost production and offset the negative impact of climate-induced stresses.

The seed varieties are all non-GMO, in keeping with regulations across Malawi, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

"We are thrilled to join the Clinton Foundation in supporting smallholder farmers in eastern Africa. Our commitment is to effectively deploy improved maize varieties, including drought- and heat-tolerant and disease-resistant varieties available to the Clinton Foundation's network of farmers," says Prasanna Boddupalli, director of CIMMYT's Global Maize Program and the CGIAR Research Program on Maize.

"Beyond providing improved maize seeds, we will also collaboratively undertake varietal trials in farmers' fields, track genetic gains in farmers' fields over time, and share the findings with the broader agricultural community

in eastern and southern Africa."

The Clinton Foundation has a strong track record of generating steady returns for farmers in the region. In Tanzania, farmers working with the Clinton Development Initiative

for every \$1 spent on operations has generated \$3.80 in additional income for smallholder farmers in Rwanda.

"Today, thanks to our partnership with CIMMYT, we hope to increase yields and quality of

maize crop production for our farmers even further.

This means helping farmers to take a sustainable, scalable and transformative approach to production," says Constant.



Rwanda plans to boost nuclear energy development with research centre

KIGALI

RWANDA has entered negotiations with Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation (ROSATOM) over the establishment of a Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology (CNST) in the East African nation. This follows an accord on non-violent uses of atomic energy that was signed by both countries in 2018.

The planned nuclear centre is part of a broader objective of encouraging nuclear energy devel-

opment through infrastructure, with the ultimate goal of using its potentials in improving key economic areas such as agriculture, medicine, education, and electricity generation.

"Rwanda envisions having a Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology in the nearest future ... You can't believe that other countries are using nuclear (science) for a better life and we can't use it. We need to move faster," Energy Division Manager at Kigali's Ministry of Infrastruc-

ture, Robert Nyamvumba, said during an international summit on nuclear energy in Russia.

Nyamvumba explained that the cooperation will see Rwanda and Russia establish academic programmes that will equip Rwandans with advanced knowledge in nuclear sciences. Particularly, the University of Rwanda will be training students from the undergraduate through Doctoral levels (PhDs).

Furthermore, a legal and policy framework will be developed to

allow the construction of a research nuclear reactor. The first nuclear-powered radiations will be used to aid cancer treatment, food processing, and increase cassava and rice crop production.

As regards a timeframe, the centre and reactor could be set up within the next five years. "We are looking at 2023-2024. We are moving aggressively to see the centre established in Bugesera industrial park," Nyamvumba revealed. Nuclear energy has great potentials and if properly har-

nessed, could improve productivity and help achieve sustainable development across many sectors. Mostly championed by Russia, a lot of African countries have in recent times secured investments from the European nation to build nuclear capacities in their home countries.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of ROSATOM (for Central and Southern Africa), Dmitry Shornikov, the shelf life of Africa's agricultural products can be improved by introducing radiation

centres using nuclear technology in the continent.

Explaining that nuclear energy is one of the most reliable and affordable sources of energy, the chief executive advised African countries to adopt it in response to their energy demands.

"Sixty years is the lifespan of a nuclear power plant but it can be extended to 100 years. We shouldn't be just looking at the upfront cost of building a nuclear power plant. It is literally the cheapest electricity out here,"

Shornikov said at the same forum.

However, he observed that awareness campaigns are needed to change people's perception of nuclear energy as well as educate them about the benefits of the development of nuclear technologies in the country.

Along with ROSATOM, Rwanda has the backing of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and local experts are considering how nuclear technology can help increase agricultural - cassava and rice - production.

Financial literacy is crucial for private sector development

FINANCIAL literacy is the possession of the set of skills and knowledge that allows an individual to make informed and effective decisions with all of their financial resources. Raising interest in personal finance is now a focus of state-run programs in countries including Australia, Canada, Japan, the United States and the United Kingdom. Understanding basic financial concepts allows people to know how to navigate in the financial system. People with appropriate financial literacy training makes better financial decisions and manage money better than those without such training.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) started an inter-governmental project in 2003 with the objective of providing ways to improve financial education and literacy standards through the development of common financial literacy principles.

In March 2008, the OECD launched the International Gateway for Financial Education, which aims to serve as a clearinghouse for financial education programs, information and research worldwide. In the UK, the alternative term financial capability is used by the state and its agencies: the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the UK started a national strategy on financial capability in 2003. The US Government also established its Financial Literacy and Education Commission in 2003.

Yet it is encouraging that the few financial education programmes which have been evaluated have been found to be reasonably effective.

Research in the US shows that workers increase their participation in plans a type of retirement plan, with special tax advantages, which allows employees to save and invest for their own retirement when employers of-

fer financial education programmes, whether in the form of brochures or seminars.

However, academic analyses of financial education have found no evidence of measurable success at improving participants' financial well-being.

Additionally, a growing number of financial literacy researchers are raising questions about the political character of financial literacy education, arguing that it justifies the shifting of greater financial risk (e.g. tuition fees, pensions, health care costs, etc.) to individuals from corporations and governments.

Many of these researchers argue for a financial literacy education that is more critically oriented and broader in focus; an education that helps individuals better understand systemic injustice and exclusion, rather than one which understands financial failure as an individual problem and the character of financial risk as apolitical. Many of these researchers work within social justice, critical pedagogy, feminist and critical race theory paradigms.

In the same vein, financial education on credit report has become one of the challenges facing borrowers, which have contributed to the misuse of loans without reaching their goals after failing to repay the loan on time.

That's why Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, ventured into a new program aimed at increasing understanding among Tanzanians on issues related to credit reporting and access to credit report—a document that shows details of a person's borrowings and repayment pattern/behaviour. A good credit history means that a person is financially creditworthy.

The world must make faster progress to get rid of FGM

FEMALE genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia. The practice is found in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and within communities from countries in which FGM is common. UNICEF estimated in 2016 that 200 million women living today in 30 countries—27 African countries, Indonesia, Iraqi Kurdistan and Yemen—have undergone the procedures.

Typically carried out by a traditional circumciser using a blade, FGM is conducted from days after birth to puberty and beyond. In half the countries for which national figures are available, most girls are cut before the age of five. Procedures differ according to the country or ethnic group. They include removal of the clitoral hood and clitoral glands; removal of the inner labia; and removal of the inner and outer labia and closure of the vulva. In this last procedure, known as infibulation, a small hole is left for the passage of urine and menstrual fluid; the vagina is opened for intercourse and opened further for childbirth.

The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control women's sexuality, and ideas about purity, modesty and beauty. It is usually initiated and carried out by women, who see it as a source of honour and fear that failing to have their daughters and granddaughters cut will expose the girls to social exclusion.

Adverse health effects depend on the type of procedure; they can include recurrent infections, difficulty urinating and passing menstrual flow, chronic pain, the development of cysts, an inability to get pregnant, complications during childbirth, and fatal bleeding.

There have been international efforts since the 1970s to persuade prac-

tioners to abandon FGM, and it has been outlawed or restricted in most of the countries in which it occurs, although the laws are poorly enforced. Since 2010 the United Nations has called upon healthcare providers to stop performing all forms of the procedure, including reinfibulation after childbirth and symbolic nicking of the clitoral hood. The opposition to the practice is not without its critics, particularly among anthropologists, who have raised difficult questions about cultural relativism and the universality of human rights.

In the same vein, EAST African countries have signed a declaration to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and in particular the one that has cross-border dimensions.

Senior officials from Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya signed the declaration at the end of a three-day meeting held in Kenya's resort city of Mombasa.

Senior government officials from the five countries committed to supporting cross-border cooperation by facilitating information exchange on trends and good practices, establishing Standard Operating Procedures for girls and women at risk, law enforcement, and community dialogue.

Statistics indicate that more than 200 million girls globally have undergone FGM, including those in 30 countries in Africa.

Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda saw almost one quarter of the global burden of FGM, which means 48.5 million girls and young women, according to data from UNICEF, the UN children education fund.

According to findings from a report commissioned by UNICEF in collaboration with Kenya's Anti-FGM Board, 70 per cent of respondents of the survey from Uganda, and 60 percent from Ethiopia, travelled to Kenya to undergo FGM.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

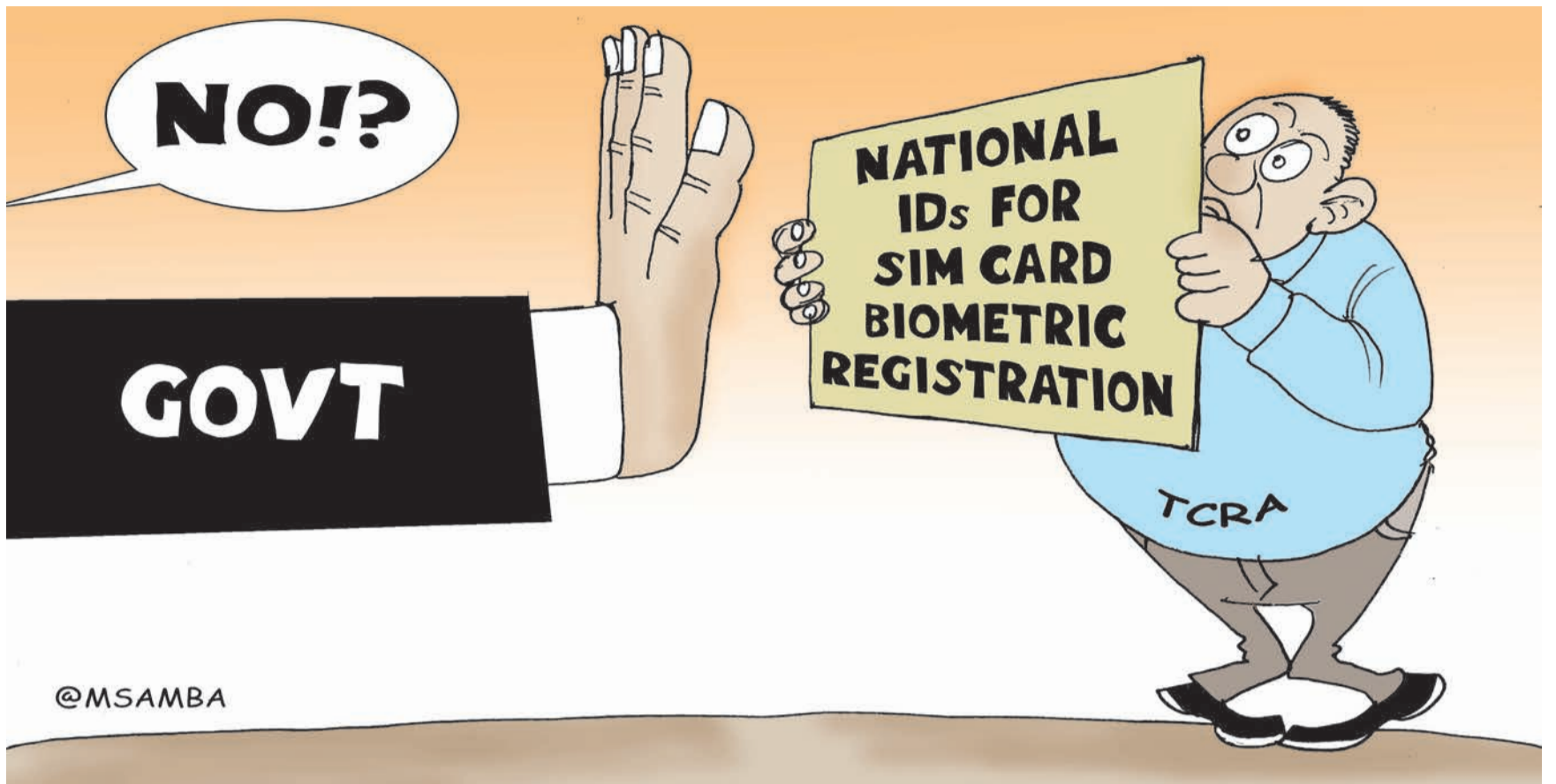
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Southern African countries need to join hands in managing disasters

By Chris Changwe Nshimbi

CYCLONE Idai, which recently devastated Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi, was one of the worst natural disasters to hit the southern African region.

It killed at least a thousand people and caused damages estimated at US\$2 billion.

The response from the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states, civil society, the private sector and individuals in the region points to the need for a collective, regional approach to addressing natural disasters rather than individual countries working alone.

Cyclone Idai also showed, once again, just how unprepared SADC is to respond to major natural disasters.

It doesn't seem to have learnt much from earlier ones.

In 2015, floods and torrential rains associated with Tropical storm Chedza, and Cyclone Bansi left about 260 people dead and 360 000 homeless in Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

About a year earlier, flash floods killed, displaced and left thousands homeless in Zimbabwe. However, the storm that remains most vivid in many people's minds is the one that hit Mozambique 19 years ago in 2000, killing 700 people and leaving two million homeless.

Disasters of this kind know

no boundaries. That's why they require thinking beyond the narrow view that individual governments should respond to crises alone.

Responses to Idai

The first regional response to Idai came from the South African National Defence Force and South African disaster relief NGO, Gift of the Givers. These responses followed a request by the Mozambican government.

The United Nations responded with aid operations in the affected countries a few days later. Other SADC countries, NGOs, the private sector and ordinary citizens also donated to the relief efforts.

For its part, however, SADC's voice was conspicuously absent for at least a week after the devastation.

Ordinarily, it should have led relief operations.

It was disconcerting to see UN Secretary General António Guterres appeal for help and outline a plan to respond to the disaster at a Security Council stakeout while SADC remained missing in action.

SADC has a dedicated Disaster Risk Reduction Unit. It coordinates regional preparedness and responses to trans-boundary disasters and hazards.

But, as South Africa's Foreign Affairs Minister Lindiwe Sisulu said, the regional body was completely unprepared for the disaster.

Pooling resources

Of SADC's 16-member states, only Angola, Botswana, Tanzania, Zambia and South Africa contributed to the relief efforts.

This reflects the prevailing preference for a bilateral approach to regional challenges within the SADC.

At the heart of this are narrow nationalistic interests and a preoccupation with sovereignty.

The member states are unwilling to surrender control over policies to be administered by the regional body for the collective good.

But, natural disasters like Cyclone Idai do not respect national boundaries.

Their very regional scope requires solutions that integrate domestic actions into a regional governance framework to address them effectively.

When SADC eventually responded, it pledged US\$500 000 for relief efforts towards a disaster that cost over US\$2 billion in damages to infrastructure alone.

Instead of acting individually, SADC countries need to work together to pool resources and mobilise disaster relief efforts and resources to be more effective.

This could be done through the SADC Secretariat.

Funds for immediate humanitarian assistance and the rebuilding of infrastructure should be held in a pre-existing, dedicated facility, like a regional disaster risk fund.

This would provide southern Africa with risk financing for climate-related and other disasters.

Funds that are often donated by SADC member states, private sector, NGOs, and ordinary citizens for relief efforts can also be pooled and placed in the permanent regional mechanism.

But, there are challenges. The major challenge to establishing a sub-regional disaster fund probably lies outside SADC, and even Africa.

The idea might not sit well with some governments.

For example, an attempt to create an Asian Monetary Fund after the 1997/1998 Asian financial crisis failed because the US strongly opposed it, and China didn't support it.

But, SADC could work with global financial institutions to surmount this challenge.

The World Bank, for example, already runs disaster risk programmes. SADC could approach it for support and partnership in making the facility a reality.

Cushion against harm

Cyclone Idai has once again shown that natural disasters are capable of wreaking havoc across southern Africa.

It has also shown that affected countries are too poor to respond to the devastation of their infrastructure and the accompanying humanitarian disaster.

It is thus necessary for countries in the region to work together to devise sound contingency plans, including a permanent regional disaster fund, to help cushion them against the effects of natural disasters. -- Conversation Africa

UN Security Council should stand in solidarity with survivors of rape in conflict

By Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad

THERE is no excuse for continuing to fail those who have already been victimized - as well as those who continue to be at risk of - devastating levels of sexual violence in conflict.

The honor bestowed on us by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in late 2018, when we jointly won the Nobel Peace Prize, comes with tremendous responsibility. We believe it is our duty to bring forward the voices of survivors of sexual violence in conflict, their families and communities and advocate for more comprehensive and impactful approaches to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence - particularly to those who have the means to strengthen prevention. This includes the United Nations Security Council as the preeminent institution for maintaining international peace and security.

This Tuesday we have the privilege of addressing the UN Security Council in person as part of its annual Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in New York. We commend Germany's initiative to introduce a new Security Council

resolution during its Presidency which, importantly, recognizes the need for survivor centric approaches.

We recognize this is a critical and historical moment in terms of how the crime of sexual violence is used as a weapon of war, the role terrorism plays, and how both are addressed. We are pleased that unprecedented attention regarding the plight of survivors and their needs are being considered. However, we must not lose sight of the fact that the international community is failing to prevent these mass atrocities from occurring.

The UN Secretary-General recently published his 10th report on Conflict Related Sexual Violence. The report highlights 19 countries, where the detrimental and lasting impact of prolonged sexual violence continues to devastate victims and impede peace and prosperity. It puts forth several critical recommendations - ones consistently made by survivors in our own countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq, as well as in many of other countries we have visited.

We support the recommendations set forth and would like to highlight critical

elements of great importance to survivors - holistic support and justice and accountability. Survivors not only need, but should be entitled to, comprehensive support for life-saving medical and psycho-social services as well as access to livelihoods, education and legal counsel. Survivors are also entitled to justice for the harms inflicted upon them and perpetrators should be held accountable for their crimes. Ending impunity for sexual violence is essential and will deter and prevent future such violations.

Prosecuting perpetrators of mass atrocities is crucial, but mechanisms for reparations for victims are equally as important. Providing reparations to victims of sexual violence is a moral imperative that needs to be recognized globally by our collective conscience. Reparations would also serve to help ensure non-repetition; and survivors see ending impunity for sexual violence as essential to deterring and preventing such violations. Those who commit sexual violence cannot be allowed to do so without consequence.

Together, we join our voices with that of the UN Secretary-General to urge the

Security Council to strengthen its follow-up on the compliance of parties to conflict. The lack of such regular review is a gap that exists in the accountability system - and one which allows harms to be inflicted.

The unacceptable reality is that the majority of the parties listed by the Secretary-General have completely ignored the demands of the Security Council for the past decade to immediately cease violations. Without the will of the international community and imposed consequences, crimes will continue to be perpetrated.

We are hopeful that an agreed resolution this week will finally mean that these remedies and mechanisms, which have been urgently needed for so long, can be put in place. We urge all members of the Security Council to stand in solidarity with survivors and civil society groups on the frontlines of conflicts by adopting a strong, bold and meaningful agreement. There is simply no excuse for continuing to fail those who have already been victimized - as well as those who continue to be at risk of - devastating levels of sexual violence in conflict.

Stakeholders commend 2017/2018 CAG Report

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

STAKEHOLDERS in the financial sector including accountants have commended this year's controller and auditor general's (CAG) Report saying it was articulate.

Presenting a paper at Policy Forum's Break Fast Debate held yesterday in Dar es Salaam, themed: "2017/2018 CAG Report: What are the current financial accountability trends in Tanzania?", Chairperson of Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA), Yona Killagane said that according to the Constitution of URT 1977 (Article 143) & Public Audit Act No. 11 of 2008 and its Regulations of 2009 (as amended), the CAG for the FY 2017/18 has done his job according to the law, for which he deserves to be congratulated.

He said that in his report, the CAG presented six major reports for the Financial Year 2017/18 as follows: Central Government general report, Local Government Authorities general report, Public Authorities general report, Development projects general report, Audit of the information system, performance and specialised audit general reports (II).

Killagane said that the implementation of CAG recommendations has increased in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17.

He said that 31 per cent of the 43 per cent recommendations by CAG in 2017/18 were implemented. While in previous year only 21 per cent of the 53 recommendations were implemented.

"The CAG's audits and reports with recommendations thereafter, aims at contributing to the improvement of the status of public financial management in the country," he said.

He further noted: "With a 97 per cent score in unqualified audit opinions in the 2017/18 audit period, this is reflecting the best audit opin-

ions issued ever since. Going through the CAG reports though, the nature of what has been uncovered does not directly reflect the audit opinions issued."

However, in order to reflect the international standards, way of auditing, WAJIBU have given the following recommendations:

The accountancy profession needs to review the basis of auditing and financial reporting in the public sector in view of issuing of audit opinion (financial and non-financial considerations).

The CAG should give more explanations on the short deposited funds in the Consolidated Fund and the overpayment from the Consolidated Fund.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) should increase its efforts in widening the Tax base and improving Tax compliance in order to increase the Tax/GDP ratio.

Government is required to establish a documented fraud prevention plan & fraud risk management, have a clear demarcation of revenue collections between local governments and central government.

It should honour project contractual agreements and should release project funds adequately and timely to LGAs and contractors.

The government should amend the law to allow the continuity of the current boards of directors until the new boards are appointed.

CAG should ensure quality assurance is enhanced during the process of audit. The CAG should see the possibility of coming up with a separate chapter in his Central Government Audit Report on "the Implementation of the Country's strategic development projects."

With regards to the compliance with the procurement law and its regulations, WAJIBU has recommended for the amendment of the procurement regulations to enhance transpar-

ency in the procurement process... and law enforcing organs should be more pro-active in taking action on non-compliance with the procurement law.

The law enforcing organs including PCCB, DCI, DPP to enforce the implementation of the amended Sect. 27 of the Public Audit Act No. 11 of 2008. WAJIBU's Chairman, and former Chief Executive Director of TPDC further noted that despite of the fact that there was an improvement in the audit opinions issued, still there were recurring weaknesses in the public financial management systems as pointed out in the CAG's reports.

The recurring weaknesses according to WAJIBU, include: Non collection of revenues as approved in the budget, losses in the collection of revenues, noncompliance with the public procurement law and regulations.

Others are unreleased funds for development projects, increased red flags on corruptive and fraudulent issues, non-remittance of collected revenues to the Consolidated Fund (Article 135 of Constitution).

Unreported amounts in the national debt, going concern challenges in some public authorities, poor implementation of approved national strategies and policies (performance audit reports).

And weaknesses in the management of the 10 per cent own source contributed by Local government authorities (LGAs) to women, youth and people with disabilities fund.

Analysing the CAG's report, WAJIBU said that according to the report, the tax yield (tax to GDP ratio) decreased from 13.2 per cent (2016/17) to 12.8 per cent in the year 2017/18.

In the East African region, the trend shows Tanzania ranks last in revenue collection for the period 2013/14-2017/2018. The Global average of Tax/GDP ratio was 14.41 per cent (World

Bank 2016).

With regards to the implementation of development projects in LGAs, the government released only 51 per cent of the LGA budgeted development funds of which 34 per cent was utilised and 17 per cent was not utilised by LGAs. Even though, only 34 per cent of the approved budget was utilised in implementing LGAs projects, there were noted weaknesses as follows:

Uncompleted projects 52.43bn/- in 47 LGAs (Reasons were: Late release of funds, inadequate community participation in development activities, inadequate project management and abandonment of projects).

27 Development projects worth 5.24bn/- in 16 LGAs were completed but not utilised. Like, Kigoma/Ujiji MCs Msimba landfill project worth 2.96bn/-.

Ineligible expenditure amounting to 1.124bn/- from 45 Project implementers.

Partially supported payments amounting to 38.535bn/- for 170 project implementers.

The Government contributed only 6 per cent of the required amount of project funding contrary to contract agreements with donors, hence impacting on the successful implementation of these projects.

Regarding procurement, more than 70 per cent of government expenditures are on procurement. The CAG's report shows that, procurement and contract management is the area which is most prone to mismanagement of public funds.

Weaknesses which were identified by the CAG in the procurement and contract management amounted to Tsh1,808.73 billion as losses and non-compliance to the procurement law and regulations.

The CAG's report indicated that, the government has incurred losses amounting to

1,738.85bn/- in the following areas: Revenue collection, expenditure, management, procurement and contract management.

For his part, WAJIBU'S Executive Director and former CAG Mr. Ludovick Utouh, also concurred with Killagane by commending the CAG report.

Meanwhile, former CAG lambasted outcry of social media criticising the way how the CAG report was presented; claiming it was silently presented to the President. Instead he said "the way the CAG report was presented is a proper way."

He also said that it was wrong for the people to think that the difference collected and submitted in the consolidated fund, was not necessary "Ufisadi," but rather he said the money might be properly used, but did not follow proper channels at the time of disbursement.

Utouh further noted that PPR law was good, but what was lacking was the integrity of some officials who have been entrusted key offices to manage.

Retired Lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr Richard Mushi who was a discussant during the debate also commended the National Audit Report, saying it was a quality report.

He said the implementation of the CAG's recommendation was pivotal for the national development. "Recommendations must be implemented to mitigate losses and improved developments," he urged.

Dr Mushi said that it was the role of the Parliament to push for change, and implementation of the CAG's recommendations.

Meanwhile, Dr Mushi has requested the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) to hold accountable and even disqualify accountants whose financial reports become qualified and adverse.

Coelacanth reveals secrets of evolution of vertebrate skull

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A NEW study into one of the world's oldest types of fish, the coelacanth, illuminates for the first time the development of the brain and skull of this iconic animal and provides new insights into the evolution of the vertebrate skull.

Coelacanths are a group of primitive deep-dwelling fish closely related to tetrapods, four-limbed vertebrates including amphibians, mammals and reptiles.

They were thought to have been extinct for 70 million years, until the accidental capture of a living specimen by a South African fisherman in 1938.

The skull of a coelacanth happens to be completely split in half by a special intracranial joint and its brain is so ridiculously small, it remains only 1% the size of the cavity that houses it, which makes its survival unique amongst all living vertebrates.

How the coelacanth skull grows and why the brain remains so small has puzzled scientists for years.

To answer these questions, University

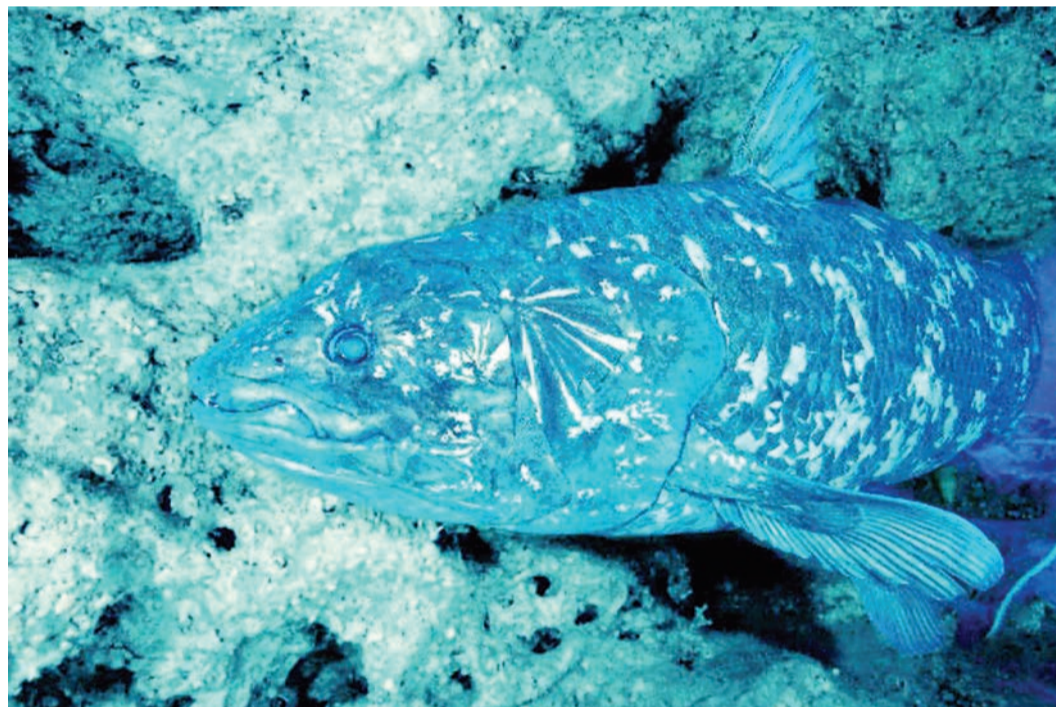
of Bristol's Dr. Hugo Dutel, Flinders University's Professor John Long and their colleagues from the United Kingdom and France studied the brain cavity of a coelacanth at different stages of development.

"Our discovery provides a better understanding of why ancient fossil fish had hinged heads and suggests why four limbed animals later lost this joint between two parts of their skull," Professor Long said.

"We think that formation of this special joint is probably caused by the unique development of the notochord (a tube extending below the brain and the spinal cord in the early stages of life)."

"It usually degenerates into a small rod below the brain in some fishes. However, the notochord for coelacanths expands dramatically to become 50 times bigger than the brain in the adult fish."

"This process of brain growth is very unusual, especially compared to primates like us in which the brain expands dramatically. A mismatch between the brain and its cavity also exists in some other living and fossil fishes, but what is observed here is totally



unequaled among vertebrates."

Two species of coelacanths exist in the world today: the West Indian Ocean coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*) and the Indonesian coelacanth (*Latimeria menadoensis*).

The West Indian Ocean coelacanth is a blue

fish that has been sighted around Africa, off the coasts of South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar. The Indonesian coelacanth is a brown fish found recently in Indonesia. Dr. Dutel, Professor Long and co-authors used state-of-the-art imaging techniques

to visualize the internal anatomy of West Indian Ocean coelacanths without damaging them.

They digitalized a 2-inch (5 cm) long fetus, the earliest developmental stage available, with synchrotron X-ray at the European Synchrotron.

The data was used to generate detailed 3D models, which allowed the team to analyze how the form of the skull, the brain and the notochord changes from a fetus to an adult.

"Coelacanths are iconic animals thought to be on the line to the first land animals or tetrapods, because of their strange hinged head," Professor Long said.

"This research shows the peculiar hinge in the skull was caused by persistence of the large cartilaginous rod, or notochord, preventing the skull form ossifying as one solid unit."

The scientists also observed how these structures are positioned relative to each other at each stage, and compared their observations with what is known about the formation of the skull in other vertebrates.

"These are very unique observations, but they represent only a tiny step forward compared to the amount we know on the development of other species," Dr. Hutel said.

"There are still more questions than answers! Coelacanths still hold many clues for our understanding of vertebrate evolution, and it is important to protect these threatened species and their environment."

US park humanitarian's journey leads to Tanzanian mountaintop

By Guardian reporter and

Agencies

TRAVELING thousands of miles over land and ocean to the highlands of Tanzania, Lexington Park resident Teresa Quinliven confirmed that – yes, it takes a village.

She joined a team of volunteers in November and December last year helping local mothers in a tiny agricultural community at the end of a mountain road give their children a healthy start in life.

In an internet search, Quinliven learned about the unique program, "Reaching Children's Potential," in Tanzania's Iringa District that teaches mothers simple strategies for vastly improving their families' well-being, according to a release from the nonprofit organization Global Volunteers. Quinliven said local project leaders engaged her team for two weeks on classroom teaching, parent workshops, home visits, childcare, nutrition educa-

tion and various labor projects.

A flight test engineer at the Department of Defense, Quinliven used her skills to help repair a diesel generator and taught math in the secondary school. The generator repair work was a surprise when she arrived.

"On the first day, I was asked if I had any experience with generators," Quinliven said with a chuckle. "It certainly wasn't what I was planning to do. But, the generators had been breaking down, and because they're used extensively as the primary source to run the facility, I let them know I'd try to help," she said.

"I identified the need for a preventative maintenance program. ... I had the oil changed and radiator fluid filled on the diesel engine. It's a developing health center, and I'm grateful I was able to contribute this way to it," she asserted.

Most days, she taught a classroom of over 80 kindergarten students. They were rambunctious, friend-

ly and eager to learn.

"They'd run up to me on my walk to class to just hold my hand – sometimes ten of them at the same time," she said. "They're full of life and love, and excited I was there to teach them basic English words for shapes and colors. We sang songs and played games, in English, outside on the soccer field."

The program is sustained year-around through Global Volunteers, a nonprofit, nonsectarian development assistance organization in special consultative status with the United Nations, according to the release. Founded in 1984, Global Volunteers is a pioneer in engaging short-term volunteers in community-based, long-term comprehensive development projects worldwide. The organization began a development partnership with community leaders in the Iringa District in 1986, and has mobilized more than 200 volunteer teams consecutively to eight villages since then.

Major funding in 2017 and

2018 enabled the organization to construct a state-of-the-art health center, including a medical clinic providing infant and maternal care, labor and delivery, and routine family medicine, the centerpiece of the RCP initiative.

Quinliven said the opportunity to contribute her skills to a groundbreaking local project was a major incentive for choosing to serve with Global Volunteers. By volunteering in one community, she said she experienced "the true culture and daily rhythm" of Tanzanian life while helping local leaders advance their vision for self-sufficiency.

Quinliven was started to learn that in this area of Tanzania, up to 50 percent of children are physically and cognitively stunted – a condition that is fully preventable with simple interventions that the RCP program teaches.

The truth is that through proper nutrition, protection from infectious disease and early childhood stimu-



lation, stunting can be prevented, she said.

But these interventions must begin in utero, and continue over the critical 1,000 days up to children's second birthday, or the damage can be permanent. When stunting is eliminated, children can learn at an appropriate rate, and can reach their full potential to become a contributing member of society.

"I feel like I made a difference to the children and mothers by sharing my skills, and learning about their lives. This was the best volunteer experience I've ever participated in. I would definitely like to return just to teach

and be with those children," she said.

Quinliven said the volunteer team had time away from the work projects on the weekend for a safari at the nearby Ruaha National Park and to enjoy the area cultural and historical features.

Global Volunteers invites people of all ages and backgrounds to serve in this unique way – to give back and make a genuine difference by working with and learning from and about local people in their community. Over three decades, the organization has established more than 100 long-term development partnerships with community organizations on six conti-

nents.

Volunteers provide labor and financial resources to local projects to help children and women thrive. Short-term volunteers are the "infinitely renewable resource" keeping support and energy flowing into the communities, according to Global Volunteers President and CEO Bud Philbrook.

The fixed tax-deductible service program contribution each volunteer pays covers three meals each day, community lodging, local transportation, medical and emergency evacuation insurance, a trained team leader and project materials. Airfare and visas are extra.

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

FROM a distance, the main theme 'Achieving policy coherence, Inspiring Accountable Climate Actions' displayed outside the main entrance of a hotel in Dodoma was enough charm to beacon and retain stakeholders of the just ended 5th climate change Symposium and Expo 2019.

During the Symposium, stakeholders including women and youth from all walks of life had different messages but the main one was to call on the government and relevant authorities to harmonise policies between sectors and promote accountable climate actions both at local and national level.

Some of the most victims of climate change including women, farmers and pastoralists urged the central government, local government authorities, development partners and the CSOs to take deliberate and concerted efforts that include provision of education, raising awareness and allocating enough financial and human resources to address climate change.

Earlier on, Board Chairperson of Tanzania Civil Society Forum on Climate Change, Euster Kibona commended the government's efforts in the fight against climate change. She also advised that there are many important issues that should be implemented to help address climate change. Such issues are like the national determined contributions and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

"We want to see local government ensures the policy plans and budget are translated and brings change at grassroots level," she said.

"This two day symposium will have plenary and breakout sessions focusing on sub-themes. The main plenary session will specifically address Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) implementations," she added.

Campaigns Manager for Oxfam, Jovitha Mlay emphasized the need for appropriate technologies, to ensure gender and the need to enact friendly and implementable policies.

"We need to mobilise resources and allocate adequate budget to protect and develop women who, to a large extent are affected differently by climate change. We look at women because they are main producers, they serve the family, they constitute a big number of small holder farmers especially in rural areas, as such, they are the most affected," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Director for Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation (TaTEDO) Estomiah Sawe, project manager

Promotion of accountable climate actions essential factor in addressing climate change

Mary Lema said that Tanzania's rapid economic expansions creates a daunting energy challenge, combined with rising expectations of improved resilience and sustainability. Finding a sustainable way to meet growing energy needs is one of the core development challenges for the country. Tanzania is rich in renewable energy sources, including hydro, sun, wind, and others, and the time is right for sound planning to ensure the right energy mix.

Executive Director for Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) Zakaria Faustin said that it is clear evidence that climate change is a challenge in Tanzania especially at community level. Adaptive capacity is very low as well as mitigation measures.

"One of the areas that should be given priority is that local government should build capacity for the staff to support the ongoing programmes on agriculture, forest, livestock and other sectors to ensure they mainstream climate change in the implementation process," he said.

At the symposium, the government assured Tanzanians and the International Community that it is working on several measures such as policy and strategic plans on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Ministry of Environment and Union Affairs in the Vice President's Office said that climate change is another threat to people livelihood, economic development as it affects all key sectors such as agriculture, Livestocks, Fisheries and Tourism.

As such, the Ministry is reviewing the National Environmental Policy 1997 because most of the issues are outdated and don't even mention Climate change.

In 1997, climate change was not a big

A cross section of participants of the 5th Climate Change Symposium (CCSS) in jovial mood after successful ending of the two-day symposium held recently in Dodoma. Photo: Gerald Kitabu



thing, so the government is writing the new Environment policy to address among other things, the issue of climate change.

Besides, the need for the new policy, the government is also writing the new National climate change adaptation strategy which expired last year in 2018.

The ministry is also looking for funds for the national adaptation plan such as droughts and floods, and as members of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change it is also working very closely with the International Community.

Tanzania like any other country is also experiencing the effects of climate change such as human displacement (climate change refugees), land use conflicts, droughts, floods and increased human diseases such as Malaria in areas that had no such diseases like Lushoto.

The European Union (EU) has as part of its commitment to reduce the impact of Climate Change in Tanzania supported the event through its funding to ForumCC for two consecutive years now.

European Union Deputy Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, Chargé d'Affaires, his Excellency Charles Stuart who also attended the symposium said that it was a very good decision to have a discussion on climate change and hoping that the recommendation that come out of the symposium will be shared with wide audience.

He explained that climate change affects lives of so many people and continues to damage the environment in many ways. "We need to address the conse-

quences of climate change jointly. We recognize the commitment of the government of Tanzania in addressing the climate change and we are keen to supporting the country in meeting its targets in line with the Paris Agreement and sustainable development goals," he stressed.

It is good this symposium will deliberate important issues on Tanzania's national determined contributions for example energy in relation to climate change," he added.

The energy sector plays a key role in Tanzania as far as climate change is concerned. For instance with regard to cooking, many households still depend on biomass energy such as fuel wood and charcoal. Harvesting of wood affects our forests but negative health impact of cooking with charcoal is devastating particularly for women and children who inhale the smoke.

Climate change is impacting other areas like female genital mutilation, child marriage and related issues too. Efforts to curb it must align with demand for cooking energy, reduction on dependency of biomass energy by improving alternative sources is a key part of mitigation efforts to climate change.

European Union is currently focusing a large share of development cooperation with Tanzania on energy sector and considerable funds have been attributed to renewable energy projects. We are also developing a clean and sustainable cooking programme that will address the charcoal challenge, he said.

Another important sector that employs majority of Tanzanians is agriculture. The sector is hit hard by climate change and women with multiple roles are exceptionally vulnerable. If we teach people about climate smart agriculture practices, we can achieve a triple win of increasing yield, increasing resilience, and reducing emission of green house gases. Also here one of the European Union new programmes which was launched last year totaling over 100m Euros to Tanzania which is focusing specifically on coffee, tea and horticulture farmers will promote climate smart agriculture practices to enable small holder farmers to cope with climate change.

The aspect of climate financing is a challenging issue and I am glad that this symposium will discuss this topic especially the role of local authorities in enhancing resilience to climate change. Local authorities are in a good position to plan, allocate budget and implement climate actions in a way that address the pressing local needs in a more comprehensive way. But the capacity of local authorities is often a challenge in terms of financing and human resources and here stakeholders such as CSOs, development partners and central government have a role to play, he added.

This symposium will assist to deliberate on the capacity building needs and importantly come up with recommendations. European Union is committed to climate change and has a strong track record on its own domestic emissions reductions and indeed, importantly the support to oth-

ers. At the end of the Climate Change Symposium, Executive Director for the ForumCC Rebecca Muna said that one of things that came out very clearly is the issue of awareness. There is a knowledge gap and misconception about climate change. People are confusing between environment issues and climate change.

"These are some of the areas that we should think how we can invest in addressing knowledge gap so that people are informed with the right information so that they can take measures which are really going to address climate change issues at all levels, at grassroots level where the communities are supposed to adapt but again policy and decision makers like parliamentarians who are also part of that process," he said.

The symposium themed 'Achieving policy coherence, Inspiring Accountable Climate Actions', is convened by FORUMCC, jointly with Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation (TaTEDO) and the Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF) with the Financial support of the European Union (EU) and Oxfam and attracted more than 100 stakeholders.

The Climate Change Symposium is an annual FORUMCC flagship event that brings together civil society organisation representatives from the government, development partners, academic institutions, youths, community, women and media to discuss and propose solutions to address climate change and its related issues.

Nigeria's unending fuel subsidy debate

By Obinna Chima

THE age-long debate over fuel subsidy removal in Nigeria has started reverberating.

Once more, there has been divergent views on this policy which appears to be a thorn in the flesh of successive governments in the country.

While those that advocate for fuel subsidy to remain maintain that the country cannot do without the policy until all palliatives to cushion the effects on the poor are fully in place; those who oppose it described it as a colossal waste, stressing that a country that has consistently grappled with low revenue generation cannot continue waste huge resources subsidising fuel consumption.

A leading voice in the call to end fuel subsidy in Nigeria, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) advised the Nigerian government recently to jettison the policy and expend the funds on health, education and infrastructural development.

IMF's Managing Director, Mrs. Christine Lagarde, said subsidy spending was infringing on other critical areas of capital development, hence the need for the government to refocus. The IMF chief said it was the monetary institution's general principle to discourage fossil fuel subsidies because of its consequences on other areas of life and development.

She said: "As far as Nigeria is concerned, with the low revenue mobilisation that exists in the country; in terms of tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Nigeria is amongst the lowest. A real effort has to be done in order to maintain a good public finance situation for the country and in order to direct invest-

ment towards health, education, and infrastructural development."

Highlighting some of the negative impacts of fuel subsidy, Lagarde said: "If you look at our numbers from 2015, it is no less than about \$5.2 trillion that are spent on fuel subsidies and the consequences thereof. And the Fiscal Affairs Department has actually identified how much would have been saved fiscally but also in terms of human life, if there had been the right price on carbon emission as of 2015. Numbers are quite staggering.

"If that was to happen, then there would be more public spending available to build hospitals, to build roads, to build schools, and to support education and health for the people.

"Now, how this is done is the more complicated path because there has to be a social protection safety net that is in place so that the most exposed in the population do not take the brunt of those removal of subsidies principle. So that is our position," she explained.

Also, a recent World Bank report showed that Nigeria spent N731 billion to subsidise petrol consumption last year. The report explained that within the year under review, Nigeria's oil sector declined in productivity, ending on 1.9 million barrels a day (mbd) production mark as against the government's hope of 2.3mbd.

Additionally, it stated that the Excess Crude Account (ECA), which provides the country some fiscal buffer, was virtually depleted even though prices of According to the Bank, most of the petrol volumes Nigeria spent money to subsidise in 2018 were inflated as daily consumption rose to 54 million litres per day (ml/d) from 40ml/d in 2017, ostensibly due partly to out-smuggling.

It had stated: "The calculations for



the fuel subsidy are based on heavily inflated fuel consumption estimates, with the fiscally severely constrained Nigerian government effectively subsidising neighboring countries' petrol consumption as some of the fuel is informally re-exported through the porous borders."

But in its reaction, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) cautioned the federal government against heeding the advice of the multilateral institutions, saying such a move would result in astronomical increase in the pump price of petroleum and cost of other goods and services. However, the President of NLC, Ayuba Wabba, urged the federal government to urgently revamp the country's refineries which are presently in comatose.

FG's Response

In her response, the Minister of Finance, Mrs. Zainab Ahmed, said

the federal government would implement fuel subsidy removal gradually.

Ahmed said fuel subsidy cannot be removed at once.

This, was however after she had embraced an earlier advice by the multilateral institutions to completely phase out the policy.

Ahmed, who had earlier described the IMF's call on the need to remove fuel subsidy as a good advice, recanted saying: "The advice from the IMF on fuel subsidy removal was good advice but also we have to implement it in a manner that is both successful and sustainable. We are not in a situation to wake up one day and just remove subsidy. We have to educate the people; we have to show Nigerians what the replacement for those subsidies will be so we have a lot of work to do.

"We also need to understand that you don't remove large

amounts of subsidy in one go, it has to be graduated and the public has to be well-informed on what you are trying to do."

According to her, the government would devise a workable formula to address the situation.

But the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu, pointed out that Nigeria's continuous subsidising of petrol consumption means the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) will remain unprofitable in for a long time.

Kachikwu, also disclosed that the country's plan to exit importation of petrol by the end of 2019, was no longer feasible, stating that all the projected measures to achieve this are now off the mark.

Speaking recently on a Channels Television programme - Hard Copy, the minister noted that with huge petrol under-recovery in the books of the NNPC, it would be

difficult for the corporation to record any profit.

"It is going to be very difficult. Let me say that first, we faced this same problem when I resumed in 2015. We had accumulated over N1 trillion in subsidy - back arrears to be paid. And, as an ongoing current business model, one of the first things I did was to seek for ways to take away subsidy.

"Firstly, through efficiency and contract review, we reduced the amount that was spent every month on subsidy to about N300 million, but then it still didn't take it away and we went on to the fuel price increase to take away the subsidy element which usually arises when you have differences in landing costs and we began to have over recovery in May of 2016 all the way to late 2016 and price increase happened in 2017.

"As soon as prices went up, NNPC went into under-recovery. But can you keep them profitable while they are doing under-recovery? It is going to be a tall order. There is a N40 margin as it were in terms of under-recovery for each litre of petrol that we sell," Kachikwu, explained in response to a question on the issue.

Speaking on the country's dilapidated refineries, and how plans to leverage them to exit petrol importation failed, he stated: "I think that if there is one area where I feel sad, it is certainly the refineries because there is a huge gulf between my expectations and the pronouncements that I had made in terms of where I'd like to be and what we have been able to achieve.

Stakeholders commend 2017/2018 CAG Report

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

STAKEHOLDERS in the financial sector including accountants have commended this year's controller and auditor general's (CAG) Report saying it was articulate.

Presenting a paper at Policy Forum's Break Fast Debate held yesterday in Dar es Salaam, themed: "2017/2018 CAG Report: What are the current financial accountability trends in Tanzania?", Chairperson of Wajibu Institute of Public Accountability (WIPA), Yona Killagane said that according to the Constitution of URT 1977 (Article 143) & Public Audit Act No. 11 of 2008 and its Regulations of 2009 (as amended), the CAG for the FY 2017/18 has done his job according to the law, for which he deserves to be congratulated.

He said that in his report, the CAG presented six major reports for the Financial Year 2017/18 as follows: Central Government general report, Local Government Authorities general report, Public Authorities general report, Development projects general report, Audit of the information system, performance and specialised audit general reports (II).

Killagane said that the implementation of CAG recommendations has increased in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17.

He said that 31 per cent of the 43 per cent recommendations by CAG in 2017/18 were implemented. While in previous year only 21 per cent of the 53 recommendations were implemented.

"The CAG's audits and reports with recommendations thereafter, aims at contributing to the improvement of the status of public financial management in the country," he said.

He further noted: "With a 97 per cent score in unqualified audit opinions in the 2017/18 audit period, this is reflecting the best audit opin-

ions issued ever since. Going through the CAG reports though, the nature of what has been uncovered does not directly reflect the audit opinions issued."

However, in order to reflect the international standards, way of auditing, WAJIBU have given the following recommendations:

The accountancy profession needs to review the basis of auditing and financial reporting in the public sector in view of issuing of audit opinion (financial and non-financial considerations).

The CAG should give more explanations on the short deposited funds in the Consolidated Fund and the overpayment from the Consolidated Fund.

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) should increase its efforts in widening the Tax base and improving Tax compliance in order to increase the Tax/GDP ratio.

Government is required to establish a documented fraud prevention plan & fraud risk management, have a clear demarcation of revenue collections between local governments and central government.

It should honour project contractual agreements and should release project funds adequately and timely to LGAs and contractors.

The government should amend the law to allow the continuity of the current boards of directors until the new boards are appointed.

CAG should ensure quality assurance is enhanced during the process of audit. The CAG should see the possibility of coming up with a separate chapter in his Central Government Audit Report on "the Implementation of the Country's strategic development projects."

With regards to the compliance with the procurement law and its regulations, WAJIBU has recommended for the amendment of the procurement regulations to enhance transpar-

ency in the procurement process... and law enforcing organs should be more pro-active in taking action on non-compliance with the procurement law.

The law enforcing organs including PCCB, DCI, DPP to enforce the implementation of the amended Sect. 27 of the Public Audit Act No. 11 of 2008. WAJIBU's Chairman, and former Chief Executive Director of TPDC further noted that despite of the fact that there was an improvement in the audit opinions issued, still there were recurring weaknesses in the public financial management systems as pointed out in the CAG's reports.

The recurring weaknesses according to WAJIBU, include: Non collection of revenues as approved in the budget, losses in the collection of revenues, noncompliance with the public procurement law and regulations.

Others are unreleased funds for development projects, increased red flags on corruptive and fraudulent issues, non-remittance of collected revenues to the Consolidated Fund (Article 135 of Constitution).

Unreported amounts in the national debt, going concern challenges in some public authorities, poor implementation of approved national strategies and policies (performance audit reports).

And weaknesses in the management of the 10 per cent own source contributed by Local government authorities (LGAs) to women, youth and people with disabilities fund.

Analysing the CAG's report, WAJIBU said that according to the report, the tax yield (tax to GDP ratio) decreased from 13.2 per cent (2016/17) to 12.8 per cent in the year 2017/18.

In the East African region, the trend shows Tanzania ranks last in revenue collection for the period 2013/14-2017/2018. The Global average of Tax/GDP ratio was 14.41 per cent (World

Bank 2016).

With regards to the implementation of development projects in LGAs, the government released only 51 per cent of the LGA budgeted development funds of which 34 per cent was utilised and 17 per cent was not utilised by LGAs. Even though, only 34 per cent of the approved budget was utilised in implementing LGAs projects, there were noted weaknesses as follows:

Uncompleted projects 52.43bn/- in 47 LGAs (Reasons were: Late release of funds, inadequate community participation in development activities, inadequate project management and abandonment of projects).

27 Development projects worth 5.24bn/- in 16 LGAs were completed but not utilised. Like, Kigoma/Ujiji MCs Msimba landfill project worth 2.96bn/-.

Ineligible expenditure amounting to 1.124bn/- from 45 Project implementers.

Partially supported payments amounting to 38.535bn/- for 170 project implementers.

The Government contributed only 6 per cent of the required amount of project funding contrary to contract agreements with donors, hence impacting on the successful implementation of these projects.

Regarding procurement, more than 70 per cent of government expenditures are on procurement. The CAG's report shows that, procurement and contract management is the area which is most prone to mismanagement of public funds.

Weaknesses which were identified by the CAG in the procurement and contract management amounted to Tsh1,808.73 billion as losses and non-compliance to the procurement law and regulations.

The CAG's report indicated that, the government has incurred losses amounting to

1,738.85bn/- in the following areas: Revenue collection, expenditure, management, procurement and contract management.

For his part, WAJIBU'S Executive Director and former CAG Mr. Ludovick Utouh, also concurred with Killagane by commending the CAG report.

Meanwhile, former CAG lambasted outcry of social media criticising the way how the CAG report was presented; claiming it was silently presented to the President. Instead he said "the way the CAG report was presented is a proper way."

He also said that it was wrong for the people to think that the difference collected and submitted in the consolidated fund, was not necessary "Ufisadi," but rather he said the money might be properly used, but did not follow proper channels at the time of disbursement.

Utouh further noted that PPR law was good, but what was lacking was the integrity of some officials who have been entrusted key offices to manage.

Retired Lecturer from the University of Dar es Salaam, Dr Richard Mushi who was a discussant during the debate also commended the National Audit Report, saying it was a quality report.

He said the implementation of the CAG's recommendation was pivotal for the national development. "Recommendations must be implemented to mitigate losses and improved developments," he urged.

Dr Mushi said that it was the role of the Parliament to push for change, and implementation of the CAG's recommendations.

Meanwhile, Dr Mushi has requested the National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBA) to hold accountable and even disqualify accountants whose financial reports become qualified and adverse.

Coelacanth reveals secrets of evolution of vertebrate skull

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A NEW study into one of the world's oldest types of fish, the coelacanth, illuminates for the first time the development of the brain and skull of this iconic animal and provides new insights into the evolution of the vertebrate skull.

Coelacanths are a group of primitive deep-dwelling fish closely related to tetrapods, four-limbed vertebrates including amphibians, mammals and reptiles.

They were thought to have been extinct for 70 million years, until the accidental capture of a living specimen by a South African fisherman in 1938.

The skull of a coelacanth happens to be completely split in half by a special intracranial joint and its brain is so ridiculously small, it remains only 1% the size of the cavity that houses it, which makes its survival unique amongst all living vertebrates.

How the coelacanth skull grows and why the brain remains so small has puzzled scientists for years.

To answer these questions, University

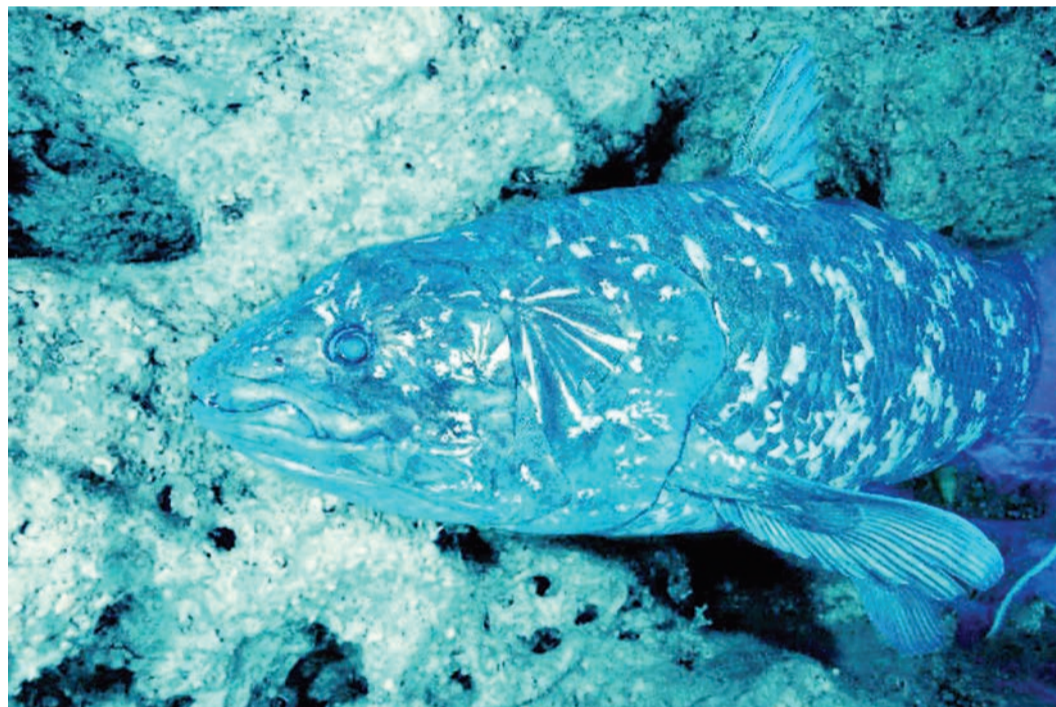
of Bristol's Dr. Hugo Dutel, Flinders University's Professor John Long and their colleagues from the United Kingdom and France studied the brain cavity of a coelacanth at different stages of development.

"Our discovery provides a better understanding of why ancient fossil fish had hinged heads and suggests why four limbed animals later lost this joint between two parts of their skull," Professor Long said.

"We think that formation of this special joint is probably caused by the unique development of the notochord (a tube extending below the brain and the spinal cord in the early stages of life)."

"It usually degenerates into a small rod below the brain in some fishes. However, the notochord for coelacanths expands dramatically to become 50 times bigger than the brain in the adult fish."

"This process of brain growth is very unusual, especially compared to primates like us in which the brain expands dramatically. A mismatch between the brain and its cavity also exists in some other living and fossil fishes, but what is observed here is totally



unequaled among vertebrates."

Two species of coelacanths exist in the world today: the West Indian Ocean coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*) and the Indonesian coelacanth (*Latimeria menadoensis*).

The West Indian Ocean coelacanth is a blue

fish that has been sighted around Africa, off the coasts of South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar. The Indonesian coelacanth is a brown fish found recently in Indonesia. Dr. Dutel, Professor Long and co-authors used state-of-the-art imaging techniques

to visualize the internal anatomy of West Indian Ocean coelacanths without damaging them.

They digitalized a 2-inch (5 cm) long fetus, the earliest developmental stage available, with synchrotron X-ray at the European Synchrotron.

The data was used to generate detailed 3D models, which allowed the team to analyze how the form of the skull, the brain and the notochord changes from a fetus to an adult.

"Coelacanths are iconic animals thought to be on the line to the first land animals or tetrapods, because of their strange hinged head," Professor Long said.

"This research shows the peculiar hinge in the skull was caused by persistence of the large cartilaginous rod, or notochord, preventing the skull from ossifying as one solid unit."

The scientists also observed how these structures are positioned relative to each other at each stage, and compared their observations with what is known about the formation of the skull in other vertebrates.

"These are very unique observations, but they represent only a tiny step forward compared to the amount we know on the development of other species," Dr. Hutel said.

"There are still more questions than answers! Coelacanths still hold many clues for our understanding of vertebrate evolution, and it is important to protect these threatened species and their environment."

US park humanitarian's journey leads to Tanzanian mountaintop

By Guardian reporter and

Agencies

TRAVELING thousands of miles over land and ocean to the highlands of Tanzania, Lexington Park resident Teresa Quinliven confirmed that – yes, it takes a village.

She joined a team of volunteers in November and December last year helping local mothers in a tiny agricultural community at the end of a mountain road give their children a healthy start in life.

In an internet search, Quinliven learned about the unique program, "Reaching Children's Potential," in Tanzania's Iringa District that teaches mothers simple strategies for vastly improving their families' well-being, according to a release from the nonprofit organization Global Volunteers. Quinliven said local project leaders engaged her team for two weeks on classroom teaching, parent workshops, home visits, childcare, nutrition educa-

tion and various labor projects.

A flight test engineer at the Department of Defense, Quinliven used her skills to help repair a diesel generator and taught math in the secondary school. The generator repair work was a surprise when she arrived.

"On the first day, I was asked if I had any experience with generators," Quinliven said with a chuckle. "It certainly wasn't what I was planning to do. But, the generators had been breaking down, and because they're used extensively as the primary source to run the facility, I let them know I'd try to help," she said.

"I identified the need for a preventative maintenance program. ... I had the oil changed and radiator fluid filled on the diesel engine. It's a developing health center, and I'm grateful I was able to contribute this way to it," she asserted.

Most days, she taught a classroom of over 80 kindergarten students. They were rambunctious, friend-

ly and eager to learn.

"They'd run up to me on my walk to class to just hold my hand – sometimes ten of them at the same time," she said. "They're full of life and love, and excited I was there to teach them basic English words for shapes and colors. We sang songs and played games, in English, outside on the soccer field."

The program is sustained year-around through Global Volunteers, a nonprofit, nonsectarian development assistance organization in special consultative status with the United Nations, according to the release. Founded in 1984, Global Volunteers is a pioneer in engaging short-term volunteers in community-based, long-term comprehensive development projects worldwide. The organization began a development partnership with community leaders in the Iringa District in 1986, and has mobilized more than 200 volunteer teams consecutively to eight villages since then.

Major funding in 2017 and

2018 enabled the organization to construct a state-of-the-art health center, including a medical clinic providing infant and maternal care, labor and delivery, and routine family medicine, the centerpiece of the RCP initiative.

Quinliven said the opportunity to contribute her skills to a groundbreaking local project was a major incentive for choosing to serve with Global Volunteers. By volunteering in one community, she said she experienced "the true culture and daily rhythm" of Tanzanian life while helping local leaders advance their vision for self-sufficiency.

Quinliven was started to learn that in this area of Tanzania, up to 50 percent of children are physically and cognitively stunted – a condition that is fully preventable with simple interventions that the RCP program teaches.

The truth is that through proper nutrition, protection from infectious disease and early childhood stimu-



lation, stunting can be prevented, she said.

But these interventions must begin in utero, and continue over the critical 1,000 days up to children's second birthday, or the damage can be permanent. When stunting is eliminated, children can learn at an appropriate rate, and can reach their full potential to become a contributing member of society.

"I feel like I made a difference to the children and mothers by sharing my skills, and learning about their lives. This was the best volunteer experience I've ever participated in. I would definitely like to return just to teach

and be with those children," she said.

Quinliven said the volunteer team had time away from the work projects on the weekend for a safari at the nearby Ruaha National Park and to enjoy the area cultural and historical features.

Global Volunteers invites people of all ages and backgrounds to serve in this unique way – to give back and make a genuine difference by working with and learning from and about local people in their community. Over three decades, the organization has established more than 100 long-term development partnerships with community organizations on six conti-

nents. Volunteers provide labor and financial resources to local projects to help children and women thrive. Short-term volunteers are the "infinitely renewable resource" keeping support and energy flowing into the communities, according to Global Volunteers President and CEO Bud Philbrook.

The fixed tax-deductible service program contribution each volunteer pays covers three meals each day, community lodging, local transportation, medical and emergency evacuation insurance, a trained team leader and project materials. Airfare and visas are extra.

Belt and Road for joint development, shared benefits

BEIJING

CENTURIES ago, on the backs of camels and by ship, through sun-scorched deserts and turbulent waves, merchants and explorers traveled back and forth along the ancient land and maritime Silk Road and galvanized trade and contact between East and West.

Today, China, inspired by the legacy of this historical commercial route, has proposed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), seeking to pool the efforts of the world to blaze a new path towards shared development and common prosperity.

The initiative has reaped tangible results in the six years since its birth in 2013. It has also accumulated worldwide support. So far, 126 countries and 29 international organizations have signed up to the initiative.

Flourishing BRI cooperation has over the years helped nurture faster trade and investment flows, allowed for easier financial access, and created more extensive people-to-people exchanges across Asia, Europe, Africa and beyond.

There are a few reasons behind the BRI's productivity and popularity. First of all, it stems from the spirit of openness, inclusiveness and mutual benefit.

Two years ago, when addressing the opening of the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF), Chinese President Xi Jinping said, "We are ready to share practices of development with other countries, but we have no intention to interfere in other countries' internal affairs, export our own social system and model of development, or impose our own will on others. In pursuing the Belt and Road Initiative, we will not resort to outdated geopolitical maneuvering."

Within the BRI cooperation frame-



Photo taken on Thursday shows a signing ceremony of the Belt and Road CEO Conference at the China National Convention Center in Beijing. (Xinhua)

work, China has advocated and practiced the principle of "extensive consultation, joint development and shared benefits," seeking self-development while at the same time bringing opportunities, experience and capital to its BRI partners and the broader world as well.

As testimony to the BRI's relevance and significance in today's world, its vision has been included in documents of major international institutions and co-operation platforms, including the United Nations, the Group of 20, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

Second, the BRI provides a platform for fostering closer ties between coun-

tries. Guided by the Silk Road spirit, the initiative aims to promote cooperation in five major areas -- policy coordination, infrastructure connectivity, trade, finance and people-to-people exchanges.

Policy coordination is key to smooth cooperation. Beijing never tries to impose the BRI on others but pays close attention to aligning the initiative with the development strategies of its BRI partners.

So far, it has signed policy agreements with other BRI participants on rules and standards, taxation, intellectual property protection and disputes settle-

ment. Infrastructure development has also made notable headway. In Greece, co-managed by China's COSCO SHIPPING, the Piraeus port has seen its container handling capacity increase fivefold since 2010 to 4.9 million TEUs last year.

It now ranks 36th among the top 100 ports worldwide on the Lloyd's List, a major industry parameter, up from the 93rd when COSCO SHIPPING first joined. Other connectivity projects in areas including railways, roads, air transport, energy, and telecommunications have also made vis-

ible progress. These projects have delivered business opportunities not just for Chinese companies, but also for enterprises around the world. For example, in building a wind corridor in Pakistan's Sindh province, U.S. multinational conglomerate General Electric is contracted to work with PowerChina and provide wind turbines. The U.S. company will also provide 10 years of operation and maintenance services.

Thanks to the China Railway Express freight trains shuttling between China and Europe, Chinese companies registered in the western German city of Duisburg have grown from about 40 in 2014 to over 100 now. Freight services there have increased from three trains per week to around 40, stimulating local economic growth and creating over 6,000 jobs.

On financial cooperation, China works with its BRI partners and major global financial institutions to ensure a diversified and strong flow of funds for key BRI-related projects.

Since its launch in 2016, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has become one of the key multilateral platforms for BRI construction, and has won growing global trust and recognition.

As of the end of 2018, the AIIB had 93 members, and had approved loans of 7.5 billion U.S. dollars on 35 projects in 13 countries including Indonesia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Oman, Turkey and Egypt.

Third, the BRI is trying to help

lay down a new path to more prosperous global trade, a more open world economy, and more inclusive economic globalization.

Over the past six years, total trade between China and other countries participating in the BRI has exceeded 6 trillion dollars, and China's investment in these countries has surpassed 80 billion dollars. Also, the latest studies by the World Bank and other international institutions show that BRI cooperation will cut the costs of global trade by 1.1 to 2.2 percent and contribute at least 0.1 percent of global growth in 2019.

Also, the BRI is making a difference that ordinary people can feel. A recent World Bank report shows that BRI-related investments can help lift 8.7 million people from extreme poverty and 34 million from moderate poverty in a variety of countries.

The 82 cooperation parks jointly built by China and 24 participating countries have created more than 2 billion dollars in tax revenue and about 300,000 jobs for host countries.

At a seminar marking the BRI's fifth anniversary last August, Xi said the initiative has sketched out a "freehand brushwork" and now it is time to work out a "meticulous painting" and steer BRI cooperation towards quality-driven development.

The second BRF, which started on Thursday in Beijing, offers an opportunity for doubters to better understand why the initiative has drawn interest across the globe, and they are welcome to jump on board. **Xinhua**

Why Spain's election is so open, and how it may pan out

MADRID

SPAIN is readying for one of its most tightly contested national elections in decades, with the result too close to call and at least five parties from across the political spectrum with a chance of being in government.

Tomorrow's ballot is set to mark a number of firsts: the first coalition government since Spain's return to democracy in the late 1970s, the first far-right lawmakers since 1982, and the first campaign since the financial crisis not centred on the economy.

Lengthy coalition talks are expected to follow the vote, feeding into a broader mood of political uncertainty gripping Europe.

Campaigning ended at midnight yesterday, and polling stations will close at 8:00 pm (1800 GMT) tomorrow. The count should be all but finalized by midnight.

Here's what's at stake:

WHO WILL WIN?

No party will win enough seats to form a government on its own, and opinion polls – the last of which was published on Monday before two televised debates between the leaders of four of the five main parties – point to a deeply fragmented parliament.

Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's Socialists are in the lead and tipped to win just under 30 percent of votes, according to a poll of polls by newspaper El País.

That would give them the best chance of leading a coalition government, but as they would need to team up with one or more allies, there is no guarantee this would work.

Several other scenarios – including a right-wing coalition or a repeat election – remain possible, and it could be months before a new prime minister is chosen. For now, a range of possible outcomes are all within opinion polls' margin of error.

WHY IS THIS SO COMPLEX?

Final polls put the proportion of undecided or wavering voters as high as four in ten.

Pollsters have also been struggling to predict how well new far-right party Vox will fare, though all agree it will get lawmakers, the first of that political hue in almost four decades.

The impact of Monday's and Tuesday's election debates, from which Vox was excluded on legal grounds, is a fur-



ther unknown. Many political analysts say the candidate who performed best was Pablo Iglesias, leader of anti-austerity party Podemos – which had been losing a lot of ground in opinion polls.

The 350 deputies in Spain's lower house are elected in 52 constituencies, whose size varies widely. As the number of contenders has increased, forecasting the winners has got tougher, particularly in small rural areas.

Parties unused to coalition-building are also unlikely to strike any post-election deal in Madrid that might jeopardize their chances in local and regional ballots due on May 26.

Furthermore, most parties are either undergoing internal upheavals or have new leaders, meaning much could still change in terms of strategy and alliances.

Spaniards will also elect 208 representatives to the Senate, which has a low political profile and has been controlled by the conservative Popular Party (PP)

Pedro Sanchez, Spanish prime minister and presidential candidate for the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE), delivers a speech during a campaign rally in Alicante on April 20, 2019. (AFP)

since 2011.

WHO WILL BE PRIME MINISTER?

Under the most optimistic scenario for the Socialists, Sanchez could stay on as prime minister with just one ally, Podemos.

But opinion polls show the Socialists and Podemos are likely to need the backing of smaller, nationalist parties, possibly from Catalonia, which would replicate the combination that allowed Sanchez to become prime minister in June.

Concessions the smaller parties would seek in return – and pressure from right-wing parties already accusing Sanchez of being a "traitor" for being open to dialogue with Catalan secessionists – make any such alliance a tough though not impossible ask.

According to final polls, the

three rightist parties combined – the PP, centre-right Ciudadanos and Vox – would not have a parliamentary majority. But that is also a margin-of-error call.

One scenario of a likely majority would be between Ciudadanos and the Socialists. But Ciudadanos chief Albert Rivera has ruled out a deal with Sanchez who – while not excluding the option altogether – said on Tuesday such a pact was not part of his plans either. As the clear poll leader, Sanchez is looking to retain as much leeway as possible to explore alternative options, none of which appear ideal.

One outcome does seem certain, however: confirmation of the end of the two-party system that began with Spain's return to democracy and started unraveling in 2015.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN IS-

SUES FOR VOTERS?

The campaign has focused on identity and values, relegating the economy to a rare subsidiary role.

Catalonia's independence drive, which has polarized the nation as well as the region, is a high-profile factor, especially with 12 of its former leaders standing trial.

PP, Ciudadanos and Vox are competing for the anti-separatist vote but the Socialists, after refusing to give in to Catalan demands to secure their backing for the budget, will also aim to use the issue to their advantage.

With the rise of Vox and with PP veering to the right and the Socialists campaigning on a progressive stance, the parties are differentiating themselves on issues ranging from women's rights to the removal of former dictator Francisco Franco's remains from

a grand mausoleum.

All the main parties have traded accusations of corruption, while the economy, forecast to grow a relatively robust 2.2 percent this year, has been a largely peripheral campaign issue.

WHY SHOULD MARKETS AND THE EU CARE?

Spain has had a succession of minority or caretaker governments over the past three years, meaning structural reforms have been delayed.

And, while the Socialists have managed to adopt some economic measures including an increase in pensions and minimum wages, their rolling over of the 2018 budget means a number of tax hikes will not enter force, making it harder to cut the deficit from 2018's 2.48 percent of economic output.

BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEET

QNET global convention brings 13,000 entrepreneurs into Malaysia

PENANG

Prominent Asian direct selling company, QNET is hosting a five-day global convention bringing together around 13,000 entrepreneurs from around the world to the island state.

The high energy convention will see distributors of QNET from more than 30 countries converge at the Subterranean Penang International Conference and Exhibition Centre (SPICE) in Bayan Baru, Penang, Malaysia.

The opening ceremony was graced by Yang Berhormat Professor Dr P. Ramasamy, Deputy Chief Minister II of Penang, Executive Chairman of QI Group, Dato Sri Vijay Eswaran and Deputy Chairman, Joseph Bismark. Also present were Cissé Ibrahim Sory, General Manager of Guinea Microfinance Agency ANAMIF, and several other prominent international business partners of QNET from Africa, and other parts of the world.

The event billed as V-Malaysia 2019 is being held in Penang for the sixth consecutive year. Customers and distributors from QNET's key regional markets in Middle East, Central Asia, Africa, the Indian sub-continent, Indonesia and Malaysia are attending this year's convention.

The 5-day convention will include a series of training programs, motivational speeches, unveiling of brand-new lifestyle products of QNET, and entertainment events. A key attraction this year is the QNET Carnival which showcases over 50 brands of QNET products in one of the biggest exhibitions ever held by the company.

In his speech, the Deputy Chief Minister II of Penang extended his thanks to QNET for coming to Penang for the sixth consecutive year and holding such a huge convention for five days.

"I would like to emphasize that Penang is well-known for its entrepreneurial spirit and for having created entrepreneurs for many generations in this country. I am very confident that QNET will help inspire the entrepreneurs of today become an instrument of change tomorrow," said Dr Ramasamy to the thunderous applause of the QNET distributors from around the globe.

QNET's Chief Executive Officer, Malou Caluza said: "Events like the V-Convention give us an opportunity to serve our distributors and allow them to experience us at close quarters. We have brought in around 250 staff from all over the world to support us at this convention and give our participants an unparalleled experience. It is also a great platform to celebrate the spirit of entrepreneurship that direct selling companies like QNET spark in millions of people across the globe, enabling them to improve their lives and contribute to their communities."

Adding to that, Biram Fall, QNET General Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa said: "V-Malaysia follows the highly successful 2019 QNET Expo season titled Absolute Living, in line with the direct selling company's principles and RYTHM-Raise Yourself to Help Mankind - philosophy held every year in different countries around the world with the aim of showcasing its products and services on the ground that kick started 2019 edition in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania last month, then moved to Kumasi, Ghana and later in other African countries."

QNET, the flagship subsidiary of the QI Group of Companies, retails a variety of products for wellness, personal care and beauty, holidays, home care and e-learning courses among others that enhance the everyday lives of its customers around the world.

INTEGRATION

EA private sector plan to exploit \$1.2bn worth continental market

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

MEMBERS of East Africa's private sector including small and medium size enterprises are preparing to exploit the over 1.2 billion continental market after endorsement of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

At their meeting in Arusha this week, members of East Africa Business Council (EABC) who teamed up with UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said they foresee large potential gains from the AfCFTA, including an increase in intra-African exports of Eastern Africa by nearly US\$ 1 billion and job creation of 0.5 to 1.9 million.

"Together African economies have a collective gross domestic product of US\$2.5 trillion, making it the 8th largest economy in the world. That makes the continent much more attractive to investment, both from within and from outside the continent," said Andrew Mold, acting Director of ECA in Eastern Africa.

"This should encourage business people to take advantage of AfCFTA and make the investments necessary to



Andrew Mold, acting Director of ECA in Eastern Africa.

sustain economic growth and create employment," Mold added.

EABC Chairman, Nick Nesbitt emphasized the importance of the

continent having a clear vision to put an end to the fragmentation of the internal market. "I really applaud everybody who has been involved in

creating the AfCFTA because their vision is the one of pan-Africanism," Nesbitt said.

"It is something our founding founders aspired to. Our thanks to ECA for being at forefront of this conversation and pushing the agenda forward so that the continent becomes a single economic trading bloc," he added.

Speaking at the same gathering, Director General of Customs and Trade at East African Community Secretariat, Kenneth Bagamuhunda cited the experience of regional economic communities as the building blocks for the AfCFTA.

"The AfCFTA should build on what has already been achieved in regional negotiations like the tripartite free trade area, as well as within our respective regional blocks," Bagamuhunda said. He highlighted governments need to set a conducive environment for the successful implementation of AfCFTA.

The AfCFTA was signed in March 2018, at a historic meeting of the African Union in Kigali. 52 of 55 African Union member states have so far signed the AfCFTA. 22 countries that have ratified the agreement, which was the minimum number required for it to enter into force.



Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo (2nd R) receive one of 200 road signs donated by NMB Bank PLC at a ceremony held at Sinoni Primary School in Arusha city yesterday. Others in the photo are: Head of Government Business, Filbert Mponzi (L), Northern Zone Manager, Aikansia Muro, the bank's board member, Dr George Mulamula and Arusha Regional Police Commander, Jonathan Shama. Photo courtesy of NMB.

COMPETITIVENESS

African countries still hesitant on open skies – airlines agency

CAPE TOWN

Some African countries which signed the Single African Air Transport Market agreement are still hesitant about it, according to Chris Zweigenthal, CEO of the Airlines Association of Southern Africa.

Zweigenthal was speaking at the AviaDev aviation development conference in Cape Town on Thursday. He said many states indicated they are not ready for the liberalisation of the aviation industry in Africa, because they do not yet have a reliable local carrier. They first want to have the capacity to compete with other airlines before allowing these competitors access to their markets.

"There are some practical issues that still need to be solved, especially relating to policies. The same rules must apply to everybody," said Zweigenthal. "You cannot have exceptions to the rule." In his view, there needs to be more cooperation among African states.

He said that for Africa's tourism and aviation industries to flourish, aviation must start punching above its weight. In a video message Poppy

Khoza, director of the SA Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) said SA was one of the countries that signed the agreement.

She said SACAA must assist the SA government to fast track the creation of open skies on the continent. "The single air market in Africa is not happening as fast as it should," said Khoza. "Yet, the growth envisaged for Africa will demand a shift in how we do business."

She emphasised the importance of air transport regulators on the continent investing in innovation, smart technology and skills development. "We invite the aviation industry to make the regulators part of the process from the start. We need a flexible approach to balance the open skies ideals with the need for compliance with international regulations," said Khoza.

"You cannot have open skies without sustainability of the aviation industry. It is also very important to focus on environmental issues as well as safety and security. Collaboration is key if we are to grow the industry and ensure the open skies goal becomes a success."



Chris Zweigenthal, CEO of the Airlines Association of Southern Africa.

ULTIMATUM

Nigeria's aviation authority threatens to pull down 7000 telecom company

LAGOS

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has threatened to demolish 7000 telecoms masts for alleged non-compliance with regulations (specifically height restriction), a threat operators said would have an adverse effect on telecoms services nationwide.

The NCAA regulates aviation safety including oversight functions of airports, airspace and meteorological services, and is tasked with economic management of the industry.

In a meeting with telcos, NCAA Director General Muhtar Usman said operators have until 23 May 2019 to sort out their infrastructure issues, failing which the regulator will proceed with the dismantling of the masts.

Specifically, the authority wants operators to obtain aviation height clearance certificate for every mast installed across the country irrespective of height and location. It cited the Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations Part 12.1.7.1.3.1 to justify its action.

Operators warned the NCAA is putting national security at risk with its planned action and there was no agreement in place compelling them to secure aviation height clearance every year, since the masts do

not increase in height.

However NCAA spokesperson Sam Adurogbo argued, "All masts and telecom towers deployed by telecom operators without the prior authorisation of the NCAA constitute danger to the safety of air navigation. Operators who build their telecom towers are aware, on the one hand of the regulations, and on the other hand that their equipment is illegal. They can only force the authority to take strong repressive measures."

In response the Association of Licensed Telecoms Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) stated: "The move is another way to impose unwarranted taxes on the sector, which is already overburdened by multiple taxation from governments and their agencies."

ALTON Chairman Gbenga Adebayo added, "Telecommunication is the infrastructure of infrastructures because other sectors - including aviation, banking, health, transport, rely on ICT to drive their operations, which when attacked, the economy and the people will feel the impact negatively. Blackout becomes imminent."

Telecoms analyst Bayo Adeniyi said, "Quality of services will be severely affected, people will not be able to communicate and operators will incur losses on investments made to setup the masts."

CALL

Mobile operators, govt must step up to reduce data prices, fast – competition watchdog body

JOHANNESBURG

Mobile operators and government will each have to play their part in helping to address high data prices, the Competition Commission has said.

The commission on Wednesday released a provisional report on the data services market inquiry, which started in August 2017. The report includes preliminary findings and recommendations. Different stakeholders will have until June 14, 2019 to make further submissions.

The inquiry team will consider these submissions and continue to engage with stakeholders before releasing a final report later this year, commissioner Tembinkosi Bonakele said.

The inquiry found that data prices in SA were much higher than other African countries, and select countries worldwide. Further, data pricing structures are not transparent and poorer households are affected most by higher pricing. Bonakele said the market was falling lower income and rural households.

Immediate relief needed

The recommendations include immediate relief on data pricing. The commission wants mobile operators to commit to reduce tariff levels and to enhance price transparency. The commission has also called for a “consistent industry-wide approach” to the zero-rating of content from public benefit organisations and educational institutions.

Failure by mobile operators to commit, should see the commission investigate excessive pricing as well as develop legislation and regulations to ensure these outcomes are achieved.

Another recommendation is for there to be an “urgent assignment” of high demand spectrum. “Improving affordability and enhancing competition must be central to the assignment of spectrum,” Bonakele said. With greater spectrum access, data service providers must also then pass on cost reductions to consumers. This should go alongside obligations to improve affordable access to data, such as providing free public WiFi, the report read.

Competitive environment

Further to improve price-based competition, the commission has recommended more “regulatory scrutiny” and intervention at the wholesale level of the industry.

“National roaming arrangements with the smaller networks need to move towards more cost-orientated pricing levels to support the ability of the smaller networks to be more competitive,” Bonakele said.

There needs to be greater collaboration between regulators to address wholesale regulation. “More effective means of inter-regulator collaboration would strengthen regulatory oversight, enforcement and regulation in these markets.”

The commission also recommended the development of alternative infrastructure, particularly to provide data to lower income areas and smaller secondary cities and towns. “The commission recommends that local and national government, under the lead of the Department of Communications, actively support the development of free public Wi-Fi in low income areas,” Bonakele said.

WiFi should be made available at commuter points like train stations and taxi ranks, and public spaces like parks, shopping areas and government service offices. Government should also do its bit to improve the investment case for private providers to roll out infrastructure.

Further, if government procures in the data services market, it should support smaller players and new entrants to improve the competition in the space, the commissioner added.

PROMINENT

Tanzanian pharmacist inspires wave of online health promotion programs

Dr Sajjad Fazel, a Tanzanian clinical pharmacist and public health advocate inspired health care professionals in East Africa to utilize social media for promoting healthy life styles and engaging with patients. Today, more than three years after he began Afya Yako, Tanzania's first online health promotion program, numerous similar initiatives have sprung up helping the nation.



What is Afya Yako?

Afya Yako is a health initiative I founded in June 2016 for the purpose of educating East Africans on various health issues. Afya Yako is the first initiative in Tanzania that used the reach of social media to improve health literacy among the population. It is a Swahili based health education and awareness program that started on twitter weekly and has now spread to Facebook and Instagram.

What was your goal when you founded Afya Yako?

Tanzania is a country facing the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. It is also a country with scarce and poor health infrastructure especially in rural areas. With the spread of smart phones and cheap 3G internet, I founded Afya Yako to educate the public on various health issues and also answer pressing health questions that they may have. A lot of NGO's and health institutions focus on treatment rather than health education. Non-communicable diseases cannot be cured but managed. Hence, preventing them through promotion of a healthy lifestyle is very important.

What kind of impact have you created?

The impact is quite huge due to the apprecia-

tion and following of thousands of East Africans in regard to the Afya Yako Initiative. Afya Yako has impacted individuals in many ways; some have quit smoking, others have started eating healthy foods and keeping a diet. Some have started exercise groups and preach good health in their individual communities. Apart from individual impact, Afya Yako has created awareness on the harmful effects of shisha smoking which has partly assisted the government on the sheesha ban in July 2016. The initiative has also championed prevention of Non-Communicable diseases through lifestyle changes which the ministry of health has embraced late 2016. Through the Afya Yako initiative I have also advocated for blood donation drives, contraception use and many more. On another level, Afya Yako has brought

a sense of realization to the Tanzanian population that social media can be used for the benefit of the public and not only for celebrity gossip as previously perceived.

Have you ever considered utilizing conventional media?

Yes, after the online initiative kicked off. I created a television health show called the 'Afya Yako Show'. This show was a bilingual health education show where I'd interview various health professionals on health conditions that affected Tanzanians. The show was first aired on IBN Tv Africa and then moved to Kwanza Tv briefly.

How has Afya Yako inspired other health professionals?

Since I founded Afya Yako in 2016, several other programs have sprung up (TibaFasta, AfyaTrack, Daktari Mkononi, JamiiHealth). Healthcare professionals and medical students who've seen the success of Afya Yako have decided to adopt it for health promotion on a variety of topics including infectious diseases, chronic diseases, nutrition and many more. Currently, there are over 20 online health promotion programs in Tanzania and I am proud of having started a national movement.

In addition, I had the opportunity to present the lessons learnt from Afya Yako as a scientific poster at the Canadian Public Health Association Forum in 2018. I received great feedback from various public health units within Canada that were interested in adopting a similar program for health promotion.

How has the Ministry of Health in Tanzania reacted to the Afya Yako initiative?

I am grateful that the Minister of Health in Tanzania, Ummy Mwalimu is a very pro-

gressive and forward-thinking individual. She highly appreciated the success of Afya Yako and accepted me to join the NCD Working Group at the Ministry of Health. As a result of this, the Minister of Health created the department of public health education that followed in the footsteps of Afya Yako and is currently utilizing social media for health promotion.

What feedback has Afya Yako received from the media?

The Afya Yako initiative has received great acclaim from various media outlets within Tanzania and abroad. Various media houses including Radio Deutsche Welle, Kwanza Tv, Radio Western, The Citizen, Clouds Radio and more.

What are your future plans with Afya Yako?

I am currently writing a book that contains the health education materials from Afya Yako. The aim of this book is to reach those East Africans who are not online. I also plan to create a mobile application that would be a quick reference for patients on various diseases and conditions endemic to East Africa.

Do you have any advice for other social entrepreneurs hoping to start a similar venture?

Yes, my advice to other social entrepreneurs is to innovate and collaborate wherever possible. I believe there is now an over saturation of health promotion programs online in East Africa. We don't need more programs of a similar nature rather we need innovative ways for healthcare professionals to collaborate and build few effective platforms. Furthermore, I'd like healthcare professionals to think of how they'd measure impact before they start out a project.

Dr Sajjad Fazel is currently a Research Associate at Alberta Health Services working on cancer prevention research. He is a clinical pharmacist by training and an outspoken public health advocate. Sajjad has experience working in public health and health management across three continents. His experience working in developing nations sparked his interest in public policy and its ability to improve population health, reduce inequities, and advance social justice.

SUCCESS

Meet Nuno Soares, the WenaData founder

WenaData is a multi-platform technological project that is truly innovative and offers solutions and services for citizens and organizations. The startup is helping in making strategic decisions.

First of all, can you pitch us your company in just a few sentences?

WenaData is an innovative research company, focused on obtaining all kind of statistical data. It's an instrument that government, private sector and other institutions can use as an educational vehicle, barometer for the collection of useful information and help in making strategic decisions. For this purpose, it was developed specific software, a website and a mobile application (android version), with a series of associated research tools. Although access to new technologies is expanding, there is a significant percentage of the Mozambican population without access to the internet, smartphones and computers, faced with this reality we also have the possibility to do studies on site or through USSD technology.

mon. We wanted to start a business in an area that was not properly explored in our country, with a different approach to the market and that really made a difference. It took us about a year to develop the entire project. A trial version was initially released in July 2017 and on December 18 the final version was released.



Nuno Soares, the WenaData founder.

Can you tell us more about Mozambique? Why this market?

Mozambique is a country that still lacks many things and this generates opportunities. Anyone who has a good idea, will and commitment, ends up being able to implement it. We entered this journey because we wanted to make our contribution to the nation we love so much. The country and the people still need a lot, there are countless sectors to undertake, it's an endless world. There is plenty of space to

innovate and offer things differently.

What are the main issues you have been facing with WenaData in Mozambique?

The Mozambican market is still a bit closed, we would like it to have a more open mind in order to better accept the new technological platforms, because they are the future.

Who are your main competitors around? And outside of the country, who are your inspiration?

The Mozambican market lacks services similar to ours, there are only small fragmented companies with specific services and do not offer a set of complete and efficient solutions as ours. As far as our inspiration is concerned, there are international platforms that we see as references. Such as SurveyMonkey and Google, successful companies that do some of our services, although we take a different

approach. We have the dream that someday we might become like them.

What is your point of view, as a startup founder, about Mozambique? What do you think is lacking to Mozambique to develop it more? What are the main barriers to develop a startup there?

It is necessary to realize that entrepreneurship is a tool that can contribute to the economy of the country, we must create a series of mechanisms that facilitate the process. We must build an environment that facilitates and attracts innovation and the emergence of startups, plus tax benefits so that a favourable ecosystem emerges.

Is it hard to find investors there?

Yes, it's quite complicated. I believe that the government should take this issue more seriously and create a mechanism to bring investors and startups together. Investors still have some fear of betting on new business. There should be actions to raise awareness of society and show that startups and SMEs can really generate business and help in the country's development.

What is your perspective for the next years on Mozambique and more regionally on Africa?

Mozambique has a constantly growing market. Recent oil and gas discoveries in the country have affected the economy, and there has been a need to create several new jobs in different areas. We believe that in the coming years the economy will grow. Our opportunities are infinite and will not run out over the next years.

As you know, we are always on the look of great startups, new products and amazing entrepreneurs, could you name a few locally or regionally in Mozambique?

We are trying to contribute to the development of our country, but we are not the only ones. There are other companies and startups with many interesting products in our market and somehow making a difference in their own way. For example, UX has launched the Emprego platform that brings the employer closer to the person seeking employment. IdeaLab, an incubator with a young approach that helps boost other businesses, there are more cases like Izzishop, Anima and many others.

BEAUTY WITH BRAINS

Investment banker and former Miss South Africa Peggy-Sue has formidable CV

JOHANNESBURG

Peggy-Sue Khumalo has had an impressive career, from being crowned Miss South Africa in the 90s to being an accomplished investment banker.

After her longstanding career at Investec, she has now been appointed as the CEO of Standard Bank's wealth division in South Africa. While she has kept her personal life fairly private, this is what we know about Peggy-Sue:

Upbringing

Peggy-Sue was raised by a single parent KwaZulu-Natal. In an interview with 702 FM she said her mother worked a domestic worker and her first job was also as a domestic worker. She said she attended boarding school in Pietermaritzburg but before she lived with her mother “on somebody else's property.”

Miss South Africa

A young Peggy-Sue had set her ambitions on Miss South Africa and was crowned in 1996. She was the third black Miss South Africa, three years after Jacqui Mofokeng was crowned as the first in 1993.

Education

Peggy-Sue was offered a scholarship to study economics by former presi-

dent Nelson Mandela sponsored by former Investec CEO Stephen Koseff. According to Channel24, she subsequently earned a BA Honours degree in Economics and Political Science, and a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Manchester.

Almost 20 years at Investec

According to Business Live, Peggy Sue started her investment career In-

vestec and spent 17 years at the company. Channel24 reports that she started with a Public Sector and Black Business Portfolio at Investec Bank UK in its asset management division before returning to South Africa.

Family

Apart from her mother, Peggy-Sue has started a family for herself. She is married to radio anchor Xolani Gwala and is raising two girls.

TRAVEL

Dunes less travelled: Driving with an exclusive off-road club in Dubai's desert



Arif Limbado, co-founder of Desert Nation.

DUBAI

It is 6.30am, and we're at a secret rendezvous just outside Dubai. It is a stretch of wasteland, doubling as a car park, flanked by a downmarket, paint-worn, miniature amusement arcade. With three do-eyed camels on sabbatical.

A rumbling V6 symphonic-bravado sound slam dunks the reverie. One by one, off-road 4x4s sweep into view, synchronised, and then left-right precision park. "We is cool, bro," I imagine as unspirited speech from the rolled-down windows.

This is Desert Nation: an organised and disciplined off-road dune-riding membership club, now in its fifth year. Purring engines idle on staccato-reverb as drivers exit to join the newbie - me. Would-be boy-racer types do not last long in the group because they compromise safety. It is simply not tolerated.

Air is released to 14-15 pounds per square inch de-

pending on vehicle and tyre, and pressure is checked by drivers to ensure better sand traction and manoeuvrability - safety is number one, after all.

We are called into a circle of trust before setting out. Arif Limbada, one of the founding members, with walkie-talkie in hand, steps forward smiling. He has the relaxed aura of someone in control. "Seat belts at all times," he says. "Children in the back, secure in seat belts. Stay in convoy according to your position. Listen to the marshals - each has a walkie-talkie. Stop if in difficulty and ask for help. Follow the tracks laid out in front of you by the leading vehicle."

His demeanour sets the tone for the forthcoming experience, establishing professional safety standards to anchor the group's mind-set. Newcomers sign the waiver sheets with a flourish. Engines growl impatiently. Alluring burnt-orange dunes only a handful of sand's-throw away await

us patiently. Without further ado, I promptly hurl myself into my chariot, shotgun to Sajid, chief marshal. His vehicle of choice is a jet-black Jeep Wrangler, the acknowledged Cool Hand(ing) Luke of all the off-roaders. We are in "sweep" position, keeping the convoy of six cars in check. With the dips, angular turns and sudden drops of the undulating dunes, one out-riding marshal cannot sensibly be expected to monitor all vehicles.

In convoy, they are majestic: a vision of shimmering chassis in sunlit splendour. Four-wheel drive marques snaking through the dunes, trailing sand-spray fanfares while they secure uphill traction. No owner has pimped their ride; there are no crush-velvet purple dashboards on display or any garish stripes. These are just ordinary vehicles striding through the desert alongside their dune-bound buddies.

They're the same vehicles you see on the roads of UAE,

except the wheel arches are higher. This is duly explained by Sajid - raconteur, philosopher and master driver - while training the marshals for the convoys. There's a beginner, intermediate and advanced chassis adjustment for better dune-handling, according to experts. Would-be boy-racer types do not last long in the group because they compromise the safety aspect. Sajid tells me it is simply not tolerated.

With so many hills and turns in any extended dune trip, when to execute each move is all about experience and muscle memory. With Sajid it is evident that countless wheel-turns have fine-tuned his driving into auto-pilot manoeuvres that look easy. But don't be fooled: they're not.

For the enlightened driver learning from the safety-first Desert Nation ethos, there is a foil to combat the testosterone-fuelled behaviour one sees on our roads "What we are

talking about is nothing more than physics," Sajid says. "It's torque. The weight distribution in the vehicle is established by the engine, making the front heavier. When you drive, you know this and use it, working with the horsepower of the engine; knowing just how much power or accelerator to use and when."

The perfect illustration presented itself seconds later as a vehicle gets stuck on a dune peak. "So, imagine that underneath my thigh is the point at which I know to accelerate or decelerate as the vehicle hits the top of the dune," Sajidsays. "To use the weight of the vehicle to get over the peak and continue, and how much deceleration to know the momentum is enough to get over without lurching forward into a more dangerous leap."

Lessons learned

Desert Nation's version of drivers' education is all about imparting these lessons.

There is no one right way of doing it - you just learn how to make the choices through experience, selecting an ideal line according to the incline, slope and often bonkers angle-of-address. The amount of pressure on the pedal, or brake, determines how the wheels engage with the sand for optimum traction. And so perhaps, for the enlightened driver learning from the safety-first Desert Nation ethos, there is a foil to combat the testosterone-fuelled behaviour one sees on our roads.

Everyone gets stuck on the dunes eventually. The rule of thumb is to stop and not to keep trying to throttle your way out - the wheels and car just sink in deeper. Help is sent via the closest appropriate vehicle in the convoy, which will bring with it the necessary tow rope. As I get to know this affable fraternity, I see the social, avuncular aspect of their coming together

PENALTY

Firm fined \$3.3m for worst California oil spill in 25 years

LOS ANGELES

A pipeline company was fined nearly \$3.35m on Thursday for causing the worst California coastal spill in 25 years.

A judge issued a fine and penalties against Plains All American Pipeline for a 2015 spill that sent 140 000 gallons of crude oil gushing onto Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, northwest of Los Angeles. The spill from a corroded pipeline blackened popular beaches for kilometres, killed wildlife and hurt tourism and fishing.

Federal inspectors found that Plains had made several preventable errors, failed to quickly detect the pipeline rupture and responded too slowly as oil flowed toward the ocean.

Plains operators working from a Texas control room more than 1 600km away had turned off an alarm that would have signalled a leak and, unaware a spill had occurred, restarted the hemorrhaging line after it had shut down, which only made matters worse, inspectors found.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was one of the biggest U.S. oil spills ever to occur, according to the Atlantic.

Last year, a Santa Barbara County jury found the Houston-based company guilty of a felony count of failing to properly maintain its pipeline and eight misdemeanor charges, including killing marine mammals and protected sea birds.

Plains apologised for the spill and paid

for the cleanup. The company's 2017 annual report estimated costs from the spill at \$335m, not including lost revenues. The fine was well short of the more than \$1bn in penalties prosecutors had sought. However, additional damages could be levied at a July restitution hearing.

"We take our responsibility to safely deliver energy resources very seriously, and we are committed to doing the right thing," the Houston-based firm said in a statement on Thursday. "We are sorry that this release happened, and we have and will continue to work hard to re-earn the trust of area residents."

The spill crippled the local oil business because the pipeline was used to transport crude to refineries from seven offshore rigs, including three owned by Exxon Mobil, that have been idle since the spill. Plains has applied for permission to build a pipeline. Conservation groups that oppose offshore drilling in the area are opposed.

"It's great to see Plains All American Pipeline held accountable for the ecological catastrophe they brought to the Gaviota Coast in 2015. That stretch of coastline has some of the last untouched bluffs and beaches in all of Southern California," Mark Morey, chairperson of the Santa Barbara chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, said in a statement. "But the idea that this company would be permitted to continue operating in such a naturally rich and unique area is absurd."



Cleaning up the oil spill on Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

<p>SATURDAY 27 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:30 Usafiri wako 12:00 Shamba lulu 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:30 Isidingo rpt 01:00 CNN International</p> <p>SUNDAY 28 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: It wasn't me 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: It wasn't me 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>MONDAY 29 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo: Elininyo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Kimya Milele 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jungu kuu rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjue Zaidi 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)</p>	<p>14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Aibu yako rpt 18:15 Mapishi rpt 18:30 Kesho leo 19:00 Afya ya Jamii 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 CNN International</p> <p>TUESDAY 30 April</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 Habari 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:15 Igizo: Mtego 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Uchumi na biashara 13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt : TFDA 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Mizengwe rpt 14:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) rpt:</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 The great queen Seonduk 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Tanzania yetu 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Chetu ni chetu 22:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 01 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Movie: Cut off prt 1 & 2 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino):</p> <p>15:00 Movie: DNA 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi rpt</p>	<p>18:30 Ijue Sheria 19:00 Kipindi Maalum : TFDA 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe? 21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco 21:40 Kesho leo rpt 22:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tatu mzuka 22:10 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino) 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 2:00 CNN International</p> <p>THURSDAY 02 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Igizo: Riziki 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Igizo: Elininyo 11:15 Kesho leo rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Ijue Sheria 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Sanaa na wasanii 13:30 Tanzania yetu 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Jagina 19:00 Usafiri wako 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p>FRIDAY 03 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Isidingo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 11:30 Usafiri wako 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru</p>	<p>16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 17:30 Ibadaya ya kisilamu 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 Shamba lulu 19:00 Uchumi na biashara 19:30 Isidingo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipima joto 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 CNN International</p> <p>SATURDAY 04 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto wetu 10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt 11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 11:30 Usafiri wako 12:00 Shamba lulu 12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p> <p>14:45 Igizo rpt: Riziki 15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo 15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele 16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt 17:00 Shamsham za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Igizo: Elininyo 19:00 Sanaa na wasanii 19:30 Jungu Kuu 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele 21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo 22:30 Isidingo rpt 01:00 CNN International</p> <p>SUNDAY 05 May</p> <p>5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 Habari 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Isidingo 11:45 Aibu Yako 11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt 12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: It wasn't me 2 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:00 Mwangaza 16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk 16:45 Mjue zaidi 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mapishi 18:30 Mizengwe rpt 18:45 Matukio ya wiki 19:30 Igizo: Mtego 20:00 Habari 21:05 Mizengwe 21:00 Bongo Movie: 22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)</p>	<p>10:00 Culinary delight rpt 10:30 Innovation rpt 11:00 Out n'about rpt 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:00 Business edition rpt 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea 14:30 Telenovela rpt: Ilijimae 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt 17:45 Bundesliga kick off 18:15 Capchat rpt 19:15 Mizengwe 19:30 The Decor 20:00 Iron Chef. 21:00 Out n' About 21:30 Movie: Absolute zero 23:00 Grapes of Justice rpt 01:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Sun 28 April</p> <p>08:00 CNN International 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Iron chef rpt 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt 13:00 Shamba lulu 13:30 Series rpt: Life is a teacher 15:15 Aibu yako 15:30 Drive it rpt 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the sea 21:00 Shift 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Series rpt: Ilijimae 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Mon 29 April</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo 12:00 Turning the spotlight rpt: 12:30 Drive it rpt 13:00 Series rpt : Grapes of justice 13:45 Series rpt: Ilijimae 14:30 Usafiri wako rpt 15:00 Cookery rpt: Culinary Delight 15:30 Toyota world of wildlife rpt 16:00 CNN International 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt 18:15 Meza huru 19:00 The Décor rpt 19:30 Business edition 20:00 Series: Life is a teacher 20:45 The Monday Agenda 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Kipima Joto 00:00 Al Jazeera</p> <p>Tues 30 April</p> <p>06:00 Al Jazeera 08:00 CNN International News 09:00 Al Jazeera 10:00 Kumekucha 10:30 Kumekucha Michezo 11:30 Kumekucha Kishindo</p>
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CAPITAL

Sat 27 April
08:00 CNN International
09:00 Drive It rpt
09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt



Total Market Capitalization

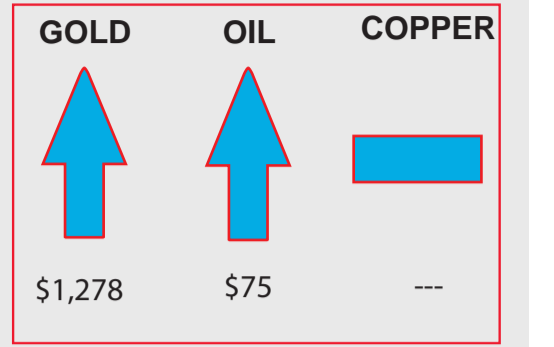
TZS	19,604.30 bln (USD 8,562.64 mln)
Indices April 25, 2019	
TSI	3,482.82 +1,463.96
DSEI	2,033.89 -1,448.93

AVERAGE PRICES FOR FOOD CROPS TSH/100KG

Maize	60500.00	Finger Millet	142850.00
Rice	185208.33	Wheat	132666.67
Sorghum	78571.43	Beans	173541.67
Bulrush Millet	84200.00	Round potatoes	73375.00

Exchange Rates (DSE)

Currency	Buying	Selling
EUR	2,578.38	2,605.09
USD	2,278.12	2,300.91
KES	22.57	22.75
GBP	2,986.62	3,017.64



Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange

Date: April 25, 2019

Company	Closing	Prev	Chg (%)
ACA	4,770	4,750	+0.42
CRDB	125	125	+0.00
DCB	340	340	+0.00
DSE	1,280	1,280	+0.00
EABL	4,960	4,820	+2.90
JHL	9,250	9,250	+0.00
KA	110	110	+0.00
KCB	1,020	1,010	+0.99
MBP	490	490	+0.00
MCB	500	500	+0.00
MKCB	800	800	+0.00
MUCOB	400	400	+0.00
NICO	170	170	+0.00
NMB	2,340	2,340	+0.00
NMG	1,320	1,340	-1.49
PAL	400	400	+0.00
SWALA	490	490	+0.00
SWIS	1,700	1,700	+0.00
TBL	11,400	11,400	+0.00
TCC	17,000	17,000	+0.00
TCCL	600	600	+0.00
TICL	385	385	+0.00
TOL	660	660	+0.00
TPCC	2,100	2,100	+0.00
TTP	120	120	+0.00
USL	10	10	+0.00
VODA	800	800	+0.00
YETU	600	600	+0.00

DSE MARKET SUMMARY

TSI	3,482.82	+1,463.96
DSEI	2,033.89	-1,448.93

TRADING STATS

Market Cap (bln)	19,604.32
Equity Turnover	142,742,705.00
Total Volume	79,036
Total Deals	28

TOP MOVERS

CRDB	125	52,565
TPCC	2,100	16,280
TBL	11,400	10,000

GAINERS & LOSERS

Company	Price	Change
NMG	1,320	-1.49%
KCB	1,020	+0.99%
ACA	4,770	+0.42%
EABL	4,960	+2.90%

Interbank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM)

Date	Amount Traded (Mn USD)	High	Low	Weighted Average
24/Apr/2019	2.30	2,307.00	2,298.50	2,300.97
23/Apr/2019	6.25	2,309.00	2,300.00	2,300.95
18/Apr/2019	11.55	2,308.00	2,292.00	2,300.90
17/Apr/2019	2.20	2,308.00	2,298.45	2,300.94
16/Apr/2019	2.10	2,308.00	2,298.40	2,300.84
15/Apr/2019	1.70	2,316.00	2,298.40	2,300.93
11/Apr/2019	1.50	2,309.00	2,298.45	2,300.94

Inter-bank Local Money Markets

Date	Volume (million-TZS)	High	Low	Weighted Average Rate (WAR)
24/Apr/2019	70,700	5.75	5.00	5.17
23/Apr/2019	37,000	5.75	5.00	5.41
18/Apr/2019	43,000	6.00	5.00	5.45
17/Apr/2019	41,200	5.50	5.00	5.29
16/Apr/2019	53,550	5.50	4.90	5.24

Tanzania Shilling On Average bases

The USDZTS traded at 2,300.0000 on Friday April 26. Historically, the Tanzania Shilling reached an all time high of 2360 in March of 2019 and a record low of 1014.30 in December of 2004.

Gold eyes weekly gain as dollar dips ahead of U.S. GDP data

* Bullion up about 0.5 pct so far this week
 * Spot gold neutral in \$1,274-\$1,284 range- analyst
 * U.S. GDP data due at 1230 GMT

LONDON, April 26. (Reuters) - Gold rose on Friday, pulling further away from the four-month low it hit earlier this week as the U.S. dollar and Treasury yields dipped ahead of U.S. growth data, putting bullion on track for its first weekly gain in five.

Spot gold was up 0.4 percent at \$1,281.67 per ounce at 0948 GMT, after earlier hitting its highest since April 16 at \$1,282.98.

The metal, which reached its lowest since late December on Tuesday at \$1,265.90, is up 0.5 percent so far this week, and is poised for its weekly first gain since the week ended March 22.

U.S. gold futures edged up 0.3 percent to \$1,283.40.

The dollar retreated from 23-month highs ahead of the first-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data due later in the day, while global shares eyed a fifth straight weekly gain despite subdued trade.

"The moves in the forex market are favourable for the precious metals in general, with the euro firmer against the U.S. dollar and a slightly lower dollar index," Quantitative Commodity Research analyst Peter Fertig said.

"In addition, declining longer-term bond yields in the euro zone and the U.S. are also supporting (precious) as the opportunity cost of holding gold is declining," Fertig said. Even strong data out of U.S. was unlikely to change the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary strategy, he added.

According to a Reuters poll, major central banks are done tightening policy as the global growth outlook has softened across developed and emerging economies, with scant prospects for a surge in inflation.

The view is supported by a recent slashing of its growth outlook by the Bank of Canada and a disclosure from the Bank of Japan that it will keep interest rates super-low for at least one more year.

"Despite a significant drop in long-term real rates, gold prices have remained flat year-to-date as recession fears have receded since late last year," Goldman Sachs said in a note.

Central bank gold purchases have been running strong this year, which could support prices, the bank said.

While gold has fallen nearly 5 percent from a peak in February, bullion's recovery from this week's four-month low is painting a neutral picture in technical charts.

Gold looks neutral in a \$1,274-\$1,284 range, and an escape could suggest a direction, said Reuters technical analyst Wang Tao.

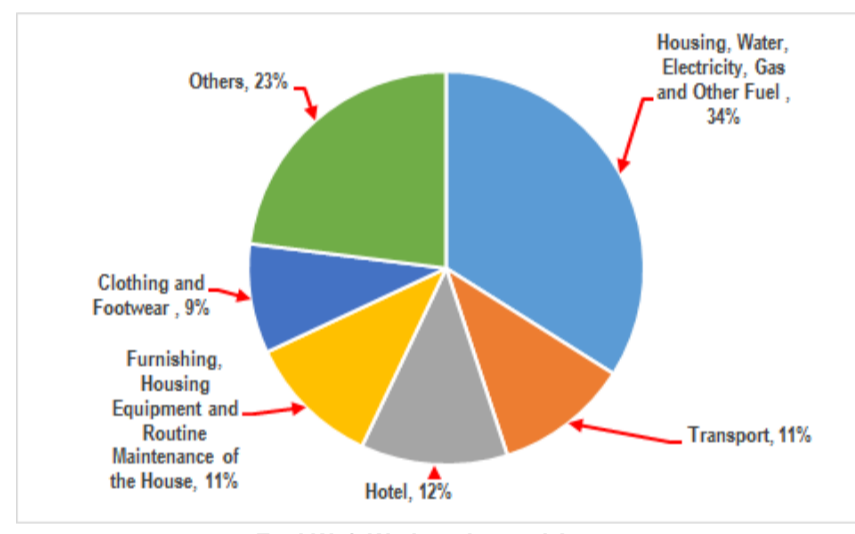
Among other precious metals, silver was up 0.5 percent at \$15.01 per ounce and has gained 0.5 percent so far this week. Platinum rose 0.8 percent to \$890, while palladium was down 0.2 percent at \$1,412.41 per ounce, on track for its first weekly drop in three.

All Share Index : 26 April 2019

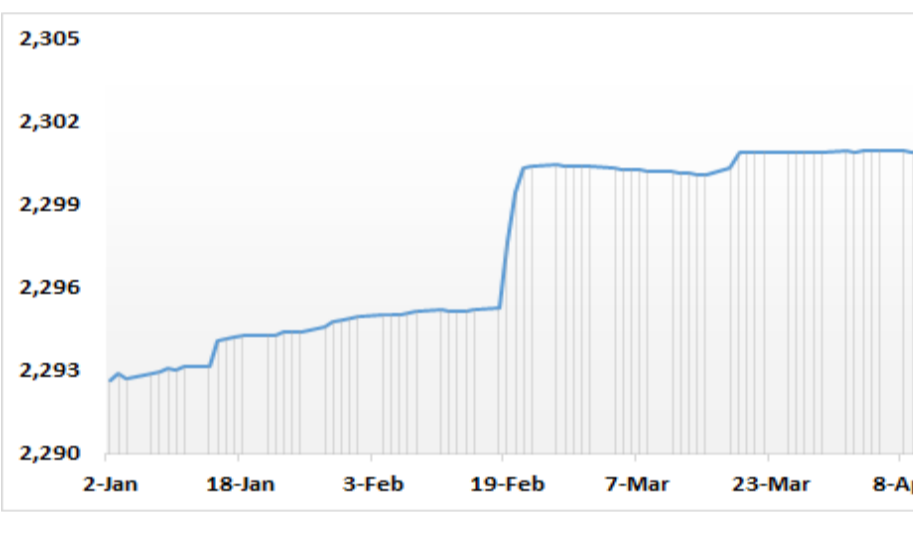
Africa	Actual	Change	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
NSE-All Share	29,920	21.46	0.07%	-0.55%	-3.61%	-26.58%
FTSE/JSE TOP 40	52,342	128.88	-0.25%	-1.58%	4.90%	1.79%
JALSH-All Share	58,650	156.79	-0.27%	-1.50%	4.45%	0.68%
Egypt EGX 30	14,771	0.89	0.01%	-0.62%	0.68%	-19.30%
Casablanca CFG 25	11,130	3.54	0.03%	0.15%	0.41%	-14.76%
NSE All Share	159	0.16	-0.10%	0.28%	0.86%	-11.71%
Nairobi 20	2,858	15.50	-0.54%	-0.42%	0.21%	-22.87%
DSEI	2,034	15.03	0.74%	1.61%	-1.70%	-17.02%
TUN	6,944	2.26	0.03%	0.03%	-0.72%	-2.37%
GGSECI	2,346	15.30	-0.65%	-0.51%	-3.14%	-32.27%
Gaborone	7,866	2.42	0.03%	0.02%	-0.30%	-6.57%
NSX Overall	1,370	0.94	-0.07%	-2.31%	4.62%	-2.39%
SEMDEX	2,146	1.20	-0.06%	-0.44%	-1.12%	-5.62%
Zimbabwe Index	429.39	5.48	1.29%	1.88%	5.84%	30.63%

The DSEI increased 1 points or 0.07% since the beginning of 2019, according to trading on a contract for difference (CFD) that tracks this benchmark index from Tanzania. Historically, the Tanzania All Share Index DSEI reached an all time high of 3686.97 in January of 2019 and a record low of 1161.30 in December of 2010.

Inflation 3.1% - March 2019: Top Movers



Fluctuation of a Shilling



Oil dips but set for milestone run of weekly gains

LONDON, April 26. (Reuters) - Oil prices dipped on Friday on expectations that OPEC will raise output to counter shrinking exports from Iran after sanctions imposed by the United States, where crude stocks have swelled.

Prices are still on course though for the longest run of weekly gains in years, as oil markets have tightened amid an OPEC output cut deal, sanctions on Venezuela and Iran and unsteady production in Libya.

Brent crude futures were at \$74.24 per barrel at 0829 GMT, down 11 cents. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$64.96 per barrel, down 25 cents.

The dip followed Brent's rise above \$75 per barrel for the first time this year on Thursday after Germany, Poland and Slovakia suspended imports of Russian oil via a major pipeline, citing poor quality.

The move cut parts of Europe off from a major supply route. Russia has said it planned to start supplying clean oil via a pipeline on April 29.

WTI is on track for its eighth successive weekly gain, the longest weekly run since the first half of 2015. Brent is set a fifth weekly price gain, the longest stretch in a year.

Crude futures are up around 40 percent so far this year.

Washington said on Monday it would end all exemptions for sanctions against Iran.

"The end of the U.S. waivers on Iran exports will be offset by higher core-OPEC and Russia and as a result we do not expect further price upside, even if volatility is likely to increase in coming months," U.S. bank Goldman Sachs said.

Despite U.S. efforts to drive Iranian oil exports down to zero, many analysts expect some oil to still seep out of the country.

"400,000 to 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude and condensate will continue to be exported," said energy consultancy FGE, down from around 1 million bpd currently.

Jefferies bank saw 500,000 to 600,000 bpd, adding "at least China and potentially India and Turkey will continue to import Iranian crude".

China, the world's biggest buyer of Iranian oil, has formally complained to the United States.

Meanwhile OPEC member Iraq said it could raise its output.

Also providing a cap on prices, U.S. crude inventories last week rose to their highest since October 2017.

"All of this had the makings for a bout of rally fatigue. Indeed, the energy complex is once again struggling for traction this morning as market players await for a fresh catalyst to take prices higher," PVM analysts said in a note.

Fuel Wef. Wednesday, 3rd Apr 2019

Town	Petrol (TZS/Litre)	Diesel (TZS/Litre)	Kerosene (TZS/Litre)
Dar es Salaam	2,147	2,192	2,096
Arusha	2,192	2,196	2,286
Coast (Kibaha)	2,151	2,196	2,101
Dodoma	2,206	2,250	2,155
Geita	2,312	2,357	2,262
Iringa	2,211	2,256	2,161
Kagera (Bukoba)	2,363	2,407	2,312
Katavi (Mpanda)	2,355	2,400	2,304
Kigoma	2,378	2,423	2,328
Moshi	2,181	2,186	2,276
Lindi	2,141	2,236	2,155
Manyara (Babati)	2,226	2,230	2,230
Mara (Musoma)	2,326	2,370	2,275
Mbeya	2,254	2,299	2,204
Morogoro	2,172	2,217	2,121
Mtwara	2,127	2,222	2,169
Mwanza	2,297	2,342	2,247
Njombe	2,239	2,284	2,189
Rukwa (S'wanga)	2,320	2,365	2,269
Ruvuma (Songea)	2,213	2,308	2,220
Shinyanga	2,276	2,321	2,225
Simiyu (Bariadi)	2,317	2,362	2,267
Singida	2,238	2,282	2,187
Songwe (Vwawa)	2,263	2,308	2,213
Tabora	2,301	2,346	2,251
Tanga	2,135	2,139	2,229

Foreign Exchange- April 23

	Actual	Chg	%Chg
EURUSD	1.12538	0.00062	-0.06%
GBPUSD	1.29946	0.00136	0.10%
AUDUSD	0.71153	0.00207	-0.29%
NZDUSD	0.66636	0.00184	-0.28%
USDJPY	111.83	0.1010	-0.09%
USDCNY	6.72221	0.00941	0.14%
USDCHF	1.01863	0.00323	0.32%
USDCAD	1.33632	0.00182	0.14%
USDMXN	18.8678	0.0414	0.22%
USDINR	69.71	0.02	0.03%
USDBRL	3.9157	0.0103	-0.26%
USDRUB	63.722	0.0982	-0.15%
US Dollar	97.32	0.0404	0.04%
BTCUSD	5,543.57	167	3.11%

Exchange Rates for April 25, 2019

Currency in 100 Units	Spot Buying	Spot Selling
EAST AFRICAN CURRENCIES		
Kenya SHS	2,244.52	2,262.51
Uganda SHS	57.47	61.52
Rwandani Franc	251.53	254.42
Burundi Franc	218.12	219.77
OTHER SELECTED CURRENCIES		
USD	227,818.81	230,097.00
Pound STG	294,911.45	297,952.61
EURO	254,906.47	257,547.57
Canadian \$	169,470.22	171,114.00
Swiss Franc	223,724.65	225,873.17
Japanese YEN	2,037.37	2,057.56
Swedish Kronor	24,245.07	24,479.71
Norweg. Kronor	26,497.34	26,760.76
Danish Kronor	34,148.58	34,484.89
Australian \$	160,133.84	161,758.19
Indian RPS	3,258.88	3,290.44
Pakistan RPS	1,532.78	1,620.40
Zambian Kwacha	18,043.25	18,334.42
Malawian Kwacha	289.17	309.43
Mozambique-MET	3,537.56	3,567.40
Zimbabwe \$	42.63	43.49
SDR	316,030.26	319,190.56
Gold (T/O)	289,729,234.68	292,691,184.29
S. African Rand	15,829.33	15,980.62
UAE Dirham	62,028.65	62,636.99
Singapore \$	167,513.83	169,126.79
Hong Kong \$	29,049.63	29,338.63
Saud Arabian Rial	60,751.68	61,354.29
Kuwait Dinar	748,788.21	756,002.76
Botswana Pula	21,141.59	21,537.08
Chinese Yuan	33,906.65	34,229.93
Malaysia Ringgit	55,228.80	55,713.56
South Korea Won	197.63	199.26
New Zealand	150,519.89	152,117.13

World Commodities (\$) 26 April 2019

Energy	Price	Day	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly
Crude Oil Brent	63.8904	-1.89%	-0.91%	7.59%	-6.14%
Natural gas	2.4845	-1.07%	-1.45%	-8.32%	-10.24%
Gasoline	2.1006	-1.40%	-1.33%	10.88%	-0.82%
Heating oil	2.0564	-2.16%	-2.20%	-4.07%	-4.07%

WORLD

Beijing in full bloom as horticultural expo opens

BEIJING

BEHIND a traditional memorial archway, white houses with grey, tilted tiles on the roof stand near a green pond. In the courtyard, rockeries with cascades sit quietly amid pine trees, plum trees and elms.

It's the garden of east China's Anhui Province at the 2019 Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition.

The garden covers an area of about 3,000 square meters. Eager to present a glimpse of the province's unique culture, designers tried to recreate ancient Anhui village houses for an international audience. Even the memorial archway was made in tribute to the style of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644).

Open from April 29 to Oct. 7, the horticultural expo has drawn international attention, putting Beijing's tourism in full bloom.

The 162-day expo is poised to impress an expected number of 16 million visitors from home and abroad with a huge collection of plants, flowers and eye-catching pavilions as well as ideas for green development.

More than 110 countries and international organizations as well as over 120 non-official exhibitors have confirmed participation, marking the highest attendance in the expo's history.

The exhibitors are vying to present

their latest achievements in horticulture in the 503-hectare expo site at the foot of the Great Wall in Yanqing District on the northern outskirts of the national capital.

More than 2,500 cultural events, such as parades and horticulture competitions, will be held during the expo. Many of the participating countries have also selected a "national day" to hold special events to showcase their distinctive cultures.

This is the second time for China to hold such a high-level horticulture expo. Southwestern Chinese city Kunming held the expo in 1999.

A total of seven major highway projects aimed at improving traffic conditions for the expo have been completed.

According to Beijing's transport department, the newly-built highways will not only relieve traffic pressure on the previous national highways leading to the exhibition site but also promote development and tourism in the neighboring areas.

The expo has finished its sponsorship work, signing contracts worth about 1 billion yuan (149 million U.S. dollars) with 25 Chinese firms, including Air China and China Mengniu Dairy Company Limited, a record high sum for similar events in the field.

The firms will not only sponsor, but also serve the expo with products, ser-

vices and technologies, according to a consultant for the event.

A total of 2,000 volunteers have been recruited for the expo. Most of the volunteers have previous experience working in large events and can speak English fluently, and some are proficient in French, German and Spanish, according to the organizer.

Eye-Catching Pavilions

At the center of the expo site stands the Chinese Pavilion, a curved exhibition hall in the shape of "ruyi," a traditional Chinese ornament symbolizing good fortune.

As one of the expo's four main pavilions, the Chinese Pavilion displays a wide variety of plant species from across China and showcases the history of Chinese gardening and horticulture.

Such exquisite designs are found in other main pavilions such as the International Pavilion featuring 94 pillars in the shape of flower umbrellas and the butterfly-shaped, multicolored Guirui Theater which is host to the expo's opening and closing ceremonies.

China's 31 provincial-level regions as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan have spared no effort in presenting their iconic cultural elements in the outdoor exhibit areas, such as the giant panda-themed garden set up by Sichuan Province, miniature Mogao Grottoes by Gansu Province and a model of ancient Tibetan village house by Tibet Autonomous Region.

In a meticulously designed garden covering about 3,000 square meters, southwest China's tourism province Yunnan recreates many of its acclaimed landmarks, such as the ancient Tea Horse Road in northern Yunnan, traditional houses in tourist city Dali and a set of bronze statues displaying the production process of Pu'er Tea.

The spotlight is also on more than 40 gardens and pavilions built by international exhibitors and branded with each country's unique culture and history.

The Azerbaijan Pavilion is modeled on a seashell, which symbolizes the country's "dynamism and passion for development and innovation," said Narmin Jarchalova, director of the pavilion.

Besides Azerbaijan's native plants and flowers, the pavilion exhibits the country's traditional foods, handmade carpets and photos of its scenic spots. Visitors can also watch animated videos showing Azerbaijan's culture inside the wooden pavilion.

A pomegranate tree, which Jarchalova said is a "national symbol for prosperity and fertility," has also been planted beside the pavilion.

Designed to show the quintessence of Japanese gardening, the Japan garden features a lovely courtyard dotted with trees, flowers, rocks, cascades and bamboo walls.

"The design of the Japan garden creates a perfect harmony of the courtyard, the plants, the water and the faraway mountains," said Takahashi Naruki, who is in charge of the construction project. "It represents the pursuit of a green lifestyle in traditional Japanese gardening."

All of the expo pavilions and gardens offer something to fascinate the visitors.

"The Beijing expo serves as a platform for participating countries to showcase their distinctive cultures," said Jiao Yutong with the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition Coordination Bureau. "It also provides the countries with the opportunity to further cooperate in horticulture and agriculture."

Kingdom of Plants & Flowers

In a 20-meter-high greenhouse that covers 3,000 square meters, rare plants like red san-

dalwood and ficus varietata are flourishing in their new home.

The Plant Pavilion, one of the major pavilions, houses up to 1,000 plant species, including over 100 rare species, said Fu Zhongren, technical manager of the pavilion.

The pavilion also features a rooftop garden filled with colorful, sweet-scented flowers and a plant genetics laboratory where visitors can learn about the latest scientific achievement in plant genome sequencing.

"The Plant Pavilion demonstrates an amazing 'kingdom of botany' to visitors," said Fu.

The Beijing expo presents a large collection of flowers, fruits, vegetables and herbs from across the world, including more than 1,200 species of flowers indigenous to China, such as peony, lotus, orchid, camellia and rhododendron, according to Zhou Jianping, executive deputy director-general of the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition Coordination Bureau.

Visitors can also appreciate more than 40 kinds of new flower species from foreign countries, Zhou added.

In the garden of Anhui Province, more than 300 plant species, including over 200 species native to the province, are put on display.

"The plants in the Anhui garden include endangered species such as *parrotia subaequalis*, and we have made all efforts to take care of them," said Wang Yin, the garden's chief designer.

Rare plant species have also been transplanted from other parts of China to impress visitors to the expo, including a 100-year-old willow tree from Tibet and a 3-meter-tall pine tree from the Qinling Mountains in northwest China.

A vast variety of flowers, vegetables, herbal plants and fruit trees surround the Thailand Pavilion, a house in the style commonly seen in central Thailand.

It will host rotating exhibitions of mango, longan, durian and mangosteen trees as well as orchids and potted flowers during the expo.

The Beijing expo would "attract many visitors to learn about the importance of plants and greening in their lives," said Tim Briercliffe, secretary general of the International Association of Horticultural Producers.

Green Expo

The theme of the Beijing expo is "live green, live better," which is well embodied in the design of the expo gardens and pavilions.

The Chinese Pavilion is designed as an earth-sheltered structure. With most of its exhibition halls embedded in man-made terrace fields, both heat and humidity inside are better preserved, said Jing Quan, with the China Architecture Design and Research Group.

The rainwater collection system on the roof and a storage pond underground are used for terrace field irrigation, Jing said, adding that more than 1,000 photovoltaic glass panels have also been installed on the steel roof to utilize solar energy.

"Taking advantage of the natural conditions to save energy, the design of the Chinese Pavilion incorporates traditional Chinese architectural concepts and Chinese wisdom," Jing said.

During the planning and building of the expo site, the existing 50,000 trees in the area were preserved and became the premise of the design. Meanwhile, over 100,000 trees and shrubs were planted to improve the conditions of wetlands, purify water and provide habitats for migratory birds.

To protect the 15-meter-tall willows lining the road to the Horticultural Life Experience Pavilion, designers adjusted foundation heights of the nearby architectures to better suit the tall trees.

"Despite the costs, we have managed to protect the trees. That is what matters, as ecology comes first," said Zheng Shiwei, chief designer of the pavilion.

Construction wastes, such as stones and slush, have also been turned into walls, roads and a 25-meter-tall hill, on which visitors can overlook the entire expo area.

Next to the expo site stands Guihe River Forest Park with more than 100 kinds of plants, birds, and insects. A buffer zone separates the expo and the park so these species will not be disturbed.

"Visitors may see abundant wildlife here, including swans, during their visit," said Cheng Guanhua, with the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition Coordination Bureau.

Zhou Jianping said the ecology-prioritized principle has not only been stressed for the planning, design, and construction of the expo, but will also be emphasized for its future operation and utilization, such as using electric vehicles in the expo area.

"The Beijing expo provides an exciting opportunity to demonstrate to the world the latest thinking and new ideas on how plants and landscapes can make lives better," said Tim Briercliffe.

"We have a very real expectation that in 2019 Beijing will become recognized as an example for green living," he added.

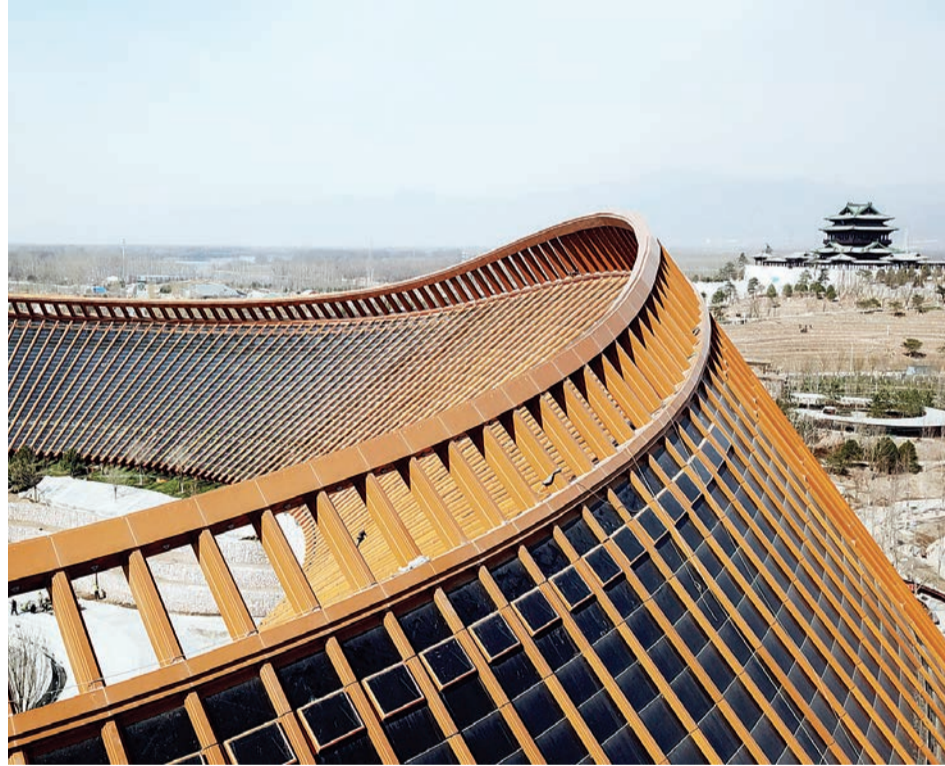
Xinhua



Photo shows a night view of the International Pavilion at the site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 Beijing China (Expo 2019 Beijing) in Yanqing District of Beijing. (Xinhua)



Aerial photo shows the Guirui Theater at the site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 Beijing China (Expo 2019 Beijing). (Xinhua)



Aerial photo shows the Chinese Pavilion and Yongning Pavilion at the site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 Beijing China (Expo 2019 Beijing). (Xinhua)



Aerial photo shows a worker walking on the roof of the International Pavilion at the site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 Beijing China (Expo 2019 Beijing). (Xinhua)



Aerial stitched photo shows the site of the International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 Beijing China (Expo 2019 Beijing) in Yanqing District of Beijing. (Xinhua)

The
Guardian

SPORT



Tiger Woods

Tiger Woods hopeful a 5th Masters leads to more majors

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA.

TIGER Woods hopes winning the Masters to end 11 years without a major will be a spark in his renewed pursuit of the record held by Jack Nicklaus.

Even so, Woods tells GOLFTV it will take "special moments" like his one-shot victory at Augusta National.

"The only thing I can promise you is this, that I will be prepared," Woods said in his first extensive comments since leaving Augusta National with a fifth green jacket.

"Now whether or not it all comes together ... because you need to have mind, body and soul come together for those four days. That doesn't always happen," Woods said. "If you think about it, I've been out here what, 23 years or so? It's only come together 15 times."

Woods spoke to Discovery-owned GOLFTV in a 27-minute interview Thursday as part of his endorsement role to provide exclusive content to the global video streaming service.

Nicklaus set the gold standard in golf with 18 professional majors. Woods won his 14th major in 2008 in the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines when he was 32, and breaking the record seemed inevitable until a fourth surgery on his left knee, and then four surgeries on his back in a three-year span.

"I always thought it was possible, if I had everything go my way," Woods said in the interview. "It took him an entire career to get to 18, so now that I've had another extension to my career – one that I didn't think I had a couple of years ago – if I do things correctly and everything falls my way, yeah, it's a possibility."

Woods believes his Masters victory – his first major when he was trailing going into the final round – began last summer when he briefly held the lead Sunday at the British Open, and then pushed Brooks Koepka to the end in a runner-up finish at the PGA Championship.

AP

Spurs force Game 7 with 120-103 win over Nuggets

SAN ANTONIO

LaMarcus Aldridge and DeMar DeRozan helped San Antonio overcome a huge effort by Nikola Jokic and force a Game 7 against Denver.

Aldridge scored 26 points and DeRozan added 25 to help the Spurs beat the Nuggets 120-103 on Thursday night.

"They've been great at throwing a punch at us and running away with it," DeRozan said. "We tried to sustain that and understand whatever they do we have to match it, be more aggressive, understand we have to keep our rhythm, being aggressive on both ends and we did that."

Jokic scored 27 of his 43 points in the second half to post the third highest point total this postseason behind the 50 by Portland's Damian Lillard and 45 from Golden State's Kevin Durant. Jokic also finished with 12 rebounds and nine assists to fall an assist shy of his second triple double of the series.

Game 7 is Saturday in Denver, where the Nuggets had the league's best home record during the regular season. The winner will face Portland.

"I don't know, it's my first Game 7," Jokic said when asked what he expected in the finale. "It's probably going to be even tougher than this one."

The young Nuggets have to ponder that after a strong effort wasn't enough in Game 6.

Denver dominated the paint, outscoring San Antonio 72 to 36, but the Nuggets were 8 for 31 outside the paint. The Spurs were 4 for 9 on 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to help overcome Jokic's output.

"He played great tonight, he did his thing, that's for sure," San Antonio center Jakob Poeltl said. "But I think we answered that with a team effort we had a lot of guys coming in and putting up big points and contributing in different ways."

The Spurs had five players score in double figures, including a series-high 19 points from Rudy Gay. Every San Antonio starter shot 50 percent from the field and, for the first time in the series, the Spurs' bench outscored the Nuggets', 36-13.

"We had a lot of people participate tonight," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "Lot of people came and had good games. I think the Nuggets have had that pretty regularly and we had that tonight, so that was great to see."

The Spurs needed the win to continue the series after a listless performance in a 108-90 loss in Denver on Tuesday in which the Nuggets led by as many as 30 points.

San Antonio surged to a 34-24 lead by shooting 67 percent from the field in the first quarter while Denver missed all seven of its 3-point attempts.

Jokic kept the Nuggets in the game in the third quarter, scoring 17 points on 8-for-9 shooting.

San Antonio went on a 22-4 run to open the fourth quarter to take command.



San Antonio Spurs guard Patty Mills (8) shoots past Denver Nuggets guard Will Barton (5) during the second half of Game 6 of an NBA basketball playoff series, Thursday, April 25, 2019, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 120-103. (AP Photo)

Jamal Murray added 16 points and Gary Harris had 14 points for the Nuggets.

Meanwhile, the biggest play Kyle Lowry made in the first round of the Eastern Conference playoffs might have been overlooked.

Game 3 in Orlando, time winding down, Toronto clinging to a three-point lead. Kawhi Leonard's jumper was well short, barely grazing the front of the rim. The rebound hits the floor and ricochets between Orlando's Terrence Ross and D.J. Augustin. They lunged for the ball, and they never had a chance.

Out of nowhere, Lowry swooped in between the Magic guards, grabbed the rebound and extended the possession. Seconds later, game over, Raptors win. Orlando's chance at a tie never came, because Lowry knew exactly what was required in the ultimate moment.

"Kyle does things by example," Toronto coach Nick Nurse said. "He throws his body around. He's continually blocking out guys, seemingly twice his size and keeping them off the glass. He's stepping in and taking charges. Those are inspiring-type plays, I think, that rub off and are contagious and get the rest of the guys on your team to do it."

That's what they need, too. Lowry and the Raptors are headed to the second round of the East playoffs starting Saturday, when they play host to Philadelphia in Game 1. He wasn't a big scorer in the first round,

went scoreless in Game 1 against the Magic – got criticized for it, though that doesn't bother him much anymore – and has basically become Toronto's third scoring option thanks to the acquisition of Leonard and the emergence of Pascal Siakam.

He is not complaining. "It's about winning," Lowry said. "It's a team game. It takes a good team to understand situations, mismatches ... for me, it's about being a good teammate, helping my guys. If I need to score I can go score. If I need to pass, I can pass. But winning games is all that matters."

The Raptors won their last four games of the first round. It's the first four-game winning streak of Lowry's long playoff career.

"It's a blessing to have him on the floor," Leonard said.

The Raptors' playoff shortcomings – and Lowry's – are well-documented. The second round is where their seasons ended in each of the last two years, both in sweeps. They lost in the East finals in 2016. In all three of those seasons, it was LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers that sent them into the summer.

James isn't there to thwart them this time.

His leaving has opened up the path to the East title, and Toronto – the team with the NBA's second-best record this season, 58-24 – might have its best chance yet of reaching the NBA Finals.

"It's going to be an incredibly tough series," Philadelphia coach

Brett Brown said. "I think that Toronto is as good as there is in the NBA and we will be tested immediately."

And the 76ers surely won't consider Lowry a third option.

They played four times this season, and Lowry scored exactly 20 points in three different games – making him one of eight players (Leonard being another) to have that many 20-point outings against the 76ers in this regular season.

"I think we're just continuing to get better," Lowry said. "We're growing as a team, growing as a group. I think our communication is getting a lot better. I think the time that we have in studying one team ... it's really good for us."

His scoring is down, and that's largely by design. The Raptors don't need him going into games thinking he needs to get 25 to give his team the best chance of winning anymore.

Leonard said scoring isn't a valid evaluator of Lowry anymore. He's among Toronto's best at deflections, taking charges, getting steals, diving for loose balls. His toughness isn't in question either – in Game 5 against Orlando, Lowry dislocated a finger on his right, shooting, hand. He popped it back in himself and shook it off afterward.

Nurse equates Lowry's leadership to that of a savvy veteran quarterback. And Leonard doesn't disagree with that comparison.

"He makes us all better," Leonard said.

AP

SportPesa Racing's Perez, Stroll upbeat, Hamilton wary of rivals

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

SPORTPESA Racing Point Formula 1 Team duo of Sergio Perez and Lance Stroll have been ranked 12th and 14th in the latest Formula One world championship standings released on Thursday ahead of this weekend's Azerbaijan Grand Prix in Baku.

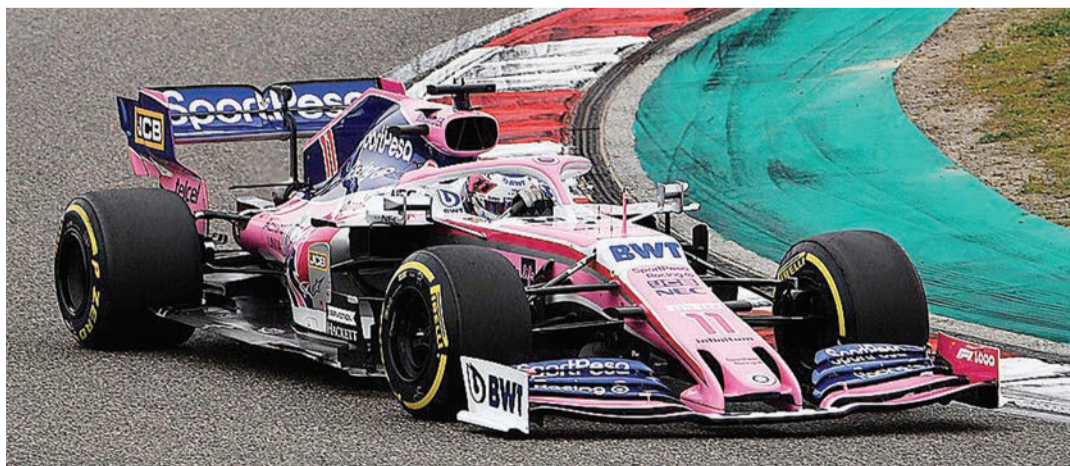
The duo is already revved up for the forthcoming contest where they are optimistic to give series leader Lewis Hamilton a run for his money.

Hamilton admitted he is expecting his main rivals to give him a tough time on the demanding streets of Baku this weekend. The five-time world champion, who heads the embryonic 2019 title race by six points after three races, has struggled to master the Baku circuit in the past and won last year only after Mercedes' team-mate Valtteri Bottas had a puncture when leading with three laps remaining.

That disappointment was a body blow for Bottas who did not fully recover and failed to claim a win as Hamilton romped to his fifth drivers' crown. This time, Hamilton expects him, and Ferrari, to respond.

"I was fortunate to get the win here last year," admitted Hamilton, who has developed a habit of turning unpromising races into valuable podium finishes or wins.

"I wasn't quick enough really, right through the weekend, so it will be interesting this time.



"I'm expecting Valtteri to be quick and I expect the Ferraris to be particularly quick. It will be interesting. I'm going with a mind-set that I've got to improve on my previous performances."

Victory last year was Hamilton's first at the tricky track made up of the season's longest – and very fast – straight and tight corners, some with little run-off and walls.

A reinvigorated Bottas, winner of the season-

opener in Melbourne, but beaten twice since then by Hamilton, has often relished such conditions.

"I'm disappointed that I didn't win from pole in China and I know that was all about the start," he said. "It's all about details and learning from them."

"That's life. It's how it goes sometimes. I know I can turn this around so that's my goal now. I would prefer to be leading."

After three outings, Mercedes have proved they

are in form with three straight one-two finishes, the first team to do so since 1992 when Williams, now struggling, were the dominant force.

Hamilton, however, has warned his team needs to be wary of Ferrari, wounded by their disappointing start after shining in pre-season testing.

Already adrift by 57 points in the constructors' contest, they will be extra keen to bounce back and end Mercedes' run.

New boy Charles Leclerc, in particular, could be a major threat to Hamilton and Bottas as he is a slick street track specialist, won the Baku F2 race from pole in 2017, following his father's death, and is keen to prove Ferrari wrong to use team orders in favour of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel.

"I love racing at Baku and scored my first F1 points there last year," said the 21-year-old Monegasque. "I always go well there."

Hamilton, who spoke in support of an under-fire Vettel earlier this season, was

this week hailed by former Ferrari driver Gerhard Berger as the only man "on the same level" as his ex-McLaren team-mate Ayrton Senna.

Berger's praise made clear that he saw nobody on the grid to equal Hamilton, an assessment sure to add vigour to Vettel's need for success.

Ferrari fans may hope to see the raw power of their car's engines give them a speed advantage on the long Baku straights, but team chief Mattia Binotto was reluctant to encourage the tifosi's dream.

"Let's wait -- Mercedes were very strong in China and Baku is a very difficult circuit," he said, hinting at the track's reputation for creating chaos and the unexpected.

SportPesa, the growing global technology and entertainment company, has been announced as the new title partner for Racing Point in February this year, with the team now known as SportPesa Racing Point F1 Team.

(AGENCIES)

United miles behind as City and Liverpool take title to the wire

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND

THE North West can claim to be the current capital of English football but while Liverpool and Manchester City head into the finale of an extraordinary Premier League title race, the biggest brand of all, Manchester United, are in crisis.

City's 2-0 win over United at Old Trafford on Wednesday not only moved Pep Guardiola's side a point clear of Liverpool at the top of the league, with just three games to go, but also served as a stark reminder of United's fall.

It is a painful time for United and their fans – either the title goes to City, once considered by former Old Trafford boss Alex Ferguson as the “noisy neighbours” and for many years irrelevant in the battle for trophies, or Liverpool, the team down the M62 motorway who United fans truly love to hate.

Liverpool have not won the title since 1990 but under coach Jurgen Klopp they have lost just one league game this season and have reached the Champions League semi-finals for the second year in a row.

City are looking to retain the title they won in record-breaking fashion last year and secure their fourth Premier League crown in eight years. If they win their last three games, they will do just that.

To add to the agony, City and Liverpool are playing some of the finest football the Premier League has ever seen with a collection of world class players delivering entertaining, attacking displays that are delighting a global audience.

United, who last won the Premier League in Ferguson's final season before his retirement in 2013, are in sixth place and in danger of not qualifying for next season's Champions League.

Ferguson enjoyed a 26-year United reign during which he won 28 trophies including 13 league titles but since his departure the club have sacked three managers and are now, under former player Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, in need of a major rebuild.

The 2-0 scoreline on Wednesday barely reflected the gulf in class between a United side lacking quality and character and a City team packed with leaders of the highest technical level.

“They have set the standard in the last two seasons,” said Solskjaer after the match. “What Pep Guardiola has done with his players is remarkable and we are so close to it in the vicinity so we feel it every day.”

“There is a difference in quality. That is why they are top and we are where we are. They have set the standard. Living in Manchester we

cannot be happy with that. It is up to us to close that gap and overtake them,” added the Norwegian.

Solskjaer could easily have said the same of Liverpool, a team that matches attacking flair with aggressive tenacity – exactly the combination United were famed for in the day when the Norway international was among their strikers.

FINANCIAL CLOUT

United can certainly match their rivals when it comes to having the financial resources to compete at the pinnacle of the game – indeed all three clubs have wealthy foreign owners.

City are owned by City Football Group, a holding company in which Abu Dhabi United Group owns an 87 percent stake with the remaining 13 percent held by the China Media Capital consortium.

Liverpool are owned by Fenway Sports Group, an American company which also owns Major League Baseball's Boston Red Sox and a number of smaller U.S sports properties.

United have foreign backers too in the Florida-based Glazer family, who also own the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the National Football League, and the club boasts a range of commercial agreements and sponsorship deals with major global brands.

But while Liverpool and City have used their wealth to assemble outstanding squads and football operations that work in close harmony with their managers, United's structure has become bloated and appears to lack direction.

There is much speculation about the club appointing a Director of Football or Technical Director and, if they do, the chosen person will have to give serious thought to restructuring and streamlining the set-up, especially to improve recruitment.

United's shortcomings were clear on Wednesday with the club having reportedly spent over 50 million pounds (\$64.40 million) for Brazilian midfielder Fred, who has struggled to hold down a regular place or show he is of top Premier League quality.

In contrast, City's 43.5 million pounds investment in Portuguese midfielder Bernardo Silva looks like a bargain as his inventive and energetic play has been central to the team's 11-match winning streak and their fine league campaign overall.

United will need to start finding their own Bernardo Silvas, as well as jettisoning those players who are not up to scratch, if the fans are to be relieved of the pain of watching their team being dominated by their local rivals. (\$1 = 0.7765 pounds)

REUTERS

Title homecoming awaits untouchable Barcelona

BARCELONA

BARCELONA can clinch the Liga title with victory at home to relegation-threatened Levante today – the first step in what they hope will be a clean sweep of trophies this season.

Ernesto Valverde's side are nine points clear of Atletico Madrid with each club having four games left and Barca, who have the better head-to-head record, could be champions before kick off at the Nou Camp if Atleti lose at home to Real Valladolid.

Should second-placed Atletico draw, a point against Levante would be enough for Barcelona to guarantee their 26th league title and eighth in 11 years.

Barca captain Lionel Messi will be able to lift the trophy in front of their supporters after Spanish federation president Luis Rubiales said the team would be handed the silverware on Saturday, instead of at their final home game of the campaign.

Messi will join a select group of players to have won 10 league titles with one club, while midfielder Arturo Vidal will collect an eighth consecutive title since 2012 after winning four championships with Juventus and three with Bayern Munich.

The Catalans began the season by winning the Spanish Super Cup and, assuming they win the league, could lift a third domestic trophy when they face Valencia in the Copa

del Rey final on May 25.

The prize they covet most though is the Champions League, which Real Madrid have dominated in the last three seasons, especially with the final taking place in the Spanish capital.

Valverde can afford to rest players against Levante ahead of next week's Champions League semi-final first leg at home to Liverpool, which will provide the high watermark of a season in which no-one has come close to challenging his side in La Liga.

Barca have led from the front since early December, when they crept ahead of Sevilla and Atletico as Real Madrid endured a nightmarish season and were not considered realistic title rivals until a burst of form in February.

Barca soon knocked their biggest rivals back out of the title race though by marching 12 points clear of them with a 1-0 victory at the Santiago Bernabeu in March.

Atletico could not be written off until Barca overpowered them in April with a 2-0 win which took the Catalans 11 points clear at the top and began a procession towards retaining the title, which they also won at a canter last season.

“We're very happy with how we've worked throughout the season, now we cannot wait for Saturday so we can become champions at our home in front of our fans,” said Sergio Busquets after Barca's 2-0 win at Alaves on Tuesday.

Uganda spearheading East Africa's footballing ascen

BY ED DOVE, SPECIAL TO ESPN

EAST Africa has led the way for the continent in various sporting disciplines, primarily athletics, with the region's footballing achievements lagging behind, yet Uganda coach Sebastien Desabre believes change is afoot.

Speaking to ESPN, the 42-year-old Frenchman outlined his conviction that East Africa has the potential to match the continent's traditional footballing hotbeds. To do so, however, he says resources must be made available for the region's raw athletic talent to progress further.

Four teams from the Council for East and Central Africa Football Associations (CECAFA) have qualified for the upcoming Africa Cup of Nations – the region has previously produced only three qualifiers for a single edition – with Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and Desabre's Uganda representing in Egypt.

And that success is another step that indicates broad progress in East Africa rather than being the simple result of the decision to expand Afcon to a 24-team tournament.

Uganda ended a 39-year absence when they qualified for the 16-team tournament in Gabon two years ago, and the Cranes then were the only East African side to reach the group stage of CAF qualification for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Notable success has been achieved also at club level.

KCCA FC, last season, became the first Ugandan club side to reach the group stage of the CAF Champions League, and Simba of Tanzania this season reached the quarterfinals of the continent's premier club competition for the first time before they were knocked out by five-time champions Tout Puissant Mazembe of Democratic Republic of Congo. Gor Mahia, from Kenya, meanwhile, this season reached the quarterfinals of one of the big two CAF competitions (the CAF Confederation Cup) for the first time since 1992.

“It's not too early [to talk about an East African football renaissance],” Desabre told ESPN.

“Of course, there are 24 teams [at the Africa Cup of Nations] when there were only 16 in previous years, but Kenya still beat Ghana in qualification, [Uganda] had a good campaign, Tanzania qualified. Something's happening in the east, that's undeniable.”

“There's an element of pride. We're proud to have been given an objective, and to have achieved it.”

CECAFA's only two Africa Cup of Nations champions – Ethiopia in 1962 and Sudan in 1970 – are Northeast African, and Uganda, who won the silver medal in 1978, are the only regional team subsequently to have made the final four.

Since the tournament was expanded from eight teams in 1992, only Sudan (in 2012) have reached the knockout stages from the CECAFA region, while no East African team has advanced past the group stage. Indeed, the past 14 tournaments have featured only seven CECAFA qualifiers.

The lack of success is highlighted by the performances of Uganda, who finished fourth in 1962 and second in 1978, having reached the quarterfinals in three of the previous five tournaments, but then failed to qualify for the next 19 editions.

This compares ill with the success of East African nations at other sporting events in the same timespan.

Kenya is Africa's most successful nation at the Olympics, having amassed 107 medals, 19 more than next-best South Africa, since Wilson Kiprugut won the county's first, a bronze in the 800 metres at the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

Ethiopia, third on Africa's Olympics log, with 52 medals, is another nation whose football team represents the CECAFA region, yet, in footballing terms, East Africa lags behind, with no side from the region ever qualifying for the World Cup.

Desabre is currently in his first East African post, having previously coached club sides in West, North and Central Africa, and he points the finger squarely at the previous lack of infrastructure and investment, rather than an absence of raw talent, for the lack of success.

His experiences have afforded him a unique perspective from which to



Sebastien Desabre

assess the region's football, and to identify the qualities of the sport's community in the region as well as the areas where it is being held back.

“In the players, we find this same discipline that comes from the desire to leave the country to build their lives elsewhere and earn their living elsewhere,” Desabre told ESPN.

“That's kind of the same thing [across Africa].”

“For operational things, organisation, it's more organised in the East than in the West. There's this ‘Anglo-

emy] or of other training centres.”

“It's true that it's all new, there's a lot of work to be done, but I'm fairly confident for these clubs, for this country, for East Africa.”

“[Uganda is] part of this, the first footballing improvements that are beginning to come, and I think that in the future, teams like Tanzania, who are already a very good team, Kenya, Uganda, or Zimbabwe, which is a bit further south, will really have their chance at the same level as those of West Africa.”

stand the Cranes in good stead ahead of the challenges to come.

“This was a team that was a bit more based on a defensive profile, really defensive, that relied quite a lot upon the heroics of the goalkeeper [Denis Onyango],” Desabre said of Micho's squad.

Desabre has since inculcated a little more adventure and flair within the team, and they qualified for Egypt by topping Group L ahead of Tanzania, Cape Verde and Lesotho. They qualified with one game to spare, having won four of their six games, scoring seven goals and conceding only three – all three in their final game away to Tanzania in Dar es Salaam.

“Now, we've succeeded in producing good football, in scoring goals, qualifying rather early for the competition,” Desabre said.

“There's been an evolution with the team, because I made strong choices in terms of preparation, hotels, logistics, with staff, as well, with the medical team.”

“We've professionalized – all in 18 months – as this wasn't the case when I arrived; it was still very amateur.”

“I think this was because of the lack of financial support from the government, which isn't the case today, where we have a government that supports the team so that we can put in place things which are absolutely fundamental in our preparation, and which will serve us [well] for the upcoming [Afcon] planning.”

Desabre urged, however, that still more must be done at grassroots level in Uganda if the nation is to realise its potential and spearhead East Africa's continued renaissance.

“Uganda must spare no expense with its infrastructure. Clearly, we have very good players in Uganda, and also the youngsters who played at the [ongoing] Under-17 Afcon in Tanzania.”

“There's potential, clearly, but now we need to improve the country's footballing infrastructure in order for it to be at least playable.”

“There are two clubs in Uganda – KCCA FC and Vipers SC – who have pitches, and the rest play in fields. It's the reality, no one wants to say it, but it's the reality. I live there, I see the matches all the time, and it's a shame that some players evolve on surfaces which slow their progression, even though they're talented.”

That project won't fall upon Desabre's shoulders, but the former Wydad Casablanca coach has already demonstrated that he's relishing the prospect of carrying the baton for now.

With another Afcon on the horizon, expect Uganda – and Desabre – to continue to fly the flag for East Africa's footballing underachievers.



phone touch' that ensures there's a bit more discipline in certain areas, notably with regards to the federation for example, things which are a bit more organised in terms of footballing resources.

“I've been discovering new lands – in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania it's the same kind of thing – there's a lot of quality in terms of football, but for the youngsters, there's nothing; there's no academies, there are no agents.”

“In terms of investment, people are still focusing on [West Africa], because there are big players who have emerged [and moved to play] in Europe directly; but I think in the future it could also be the case in the east.”

“Take Uganda, for example; there are no academies, there are practically no training centres, there's not much there, but there's a real potential to develop it.”

“The national teams and the clubs in these countries still aren't able to capitalise on this kind of development, but this isn't the case in other countries, like Senegal, for example, which is already taking advantage of the development of Diambars [acad-

Tanzania and Kenya are returning to the Africa Cup of Nations in 2019, having not featured since 1980 and 2004 respectively, while Burundi are making their first showing at the continental high table.

Uganda have already enjoyed the fruits of their own renaissance in recent years.

The Cranes ended their 39-year wait for an Africa Cup of Nations appearance when Serbian coach Milutin 'Micho' Sredojevic masterminded their qualification for Gabon 2017.

Similarly, their encouraging showing during the 2018 World Cup qualifiers embellished their standing as one of the continent's emerging forces.

Uganda's average position since the start of FIFA's World Rankings is 91, yet they reached No. 62 under Micho. They are currently ranked No. 79 worldwide, and No. 17 in Africa.

Desabre is confident the work he's done to improve the infrastructure around the team, as well as cultivating the “Anglophone touch” that was exploited by Micho, who geared Uganda to play to their strengths, is bearing fruit on the pitch and will

SPORT

Uganda spearheading East Africa's footballing ascen

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Confederation of African Football (CAF) president, Ahmad Ahmad.

CAF president, SAFA president tour Ngorongoro

By Guardian Reporter, Ngorongoro

PRESIDENT of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Ahmad Ahmad, who is currently in an official tour of Tanzania, has emerged from the Ngorongoro Crater, praising the country's conservation efforts.

Ahmad, who hails from Madagascar, arrived in Arusha on Thursday afternoon, landing at Lake Manyara airstrip amid pounding rains, before being driven to Karatu then on to the Loduare gates, the entrance to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, where he signed the visitors' book and given brief information about the country's leading tourist destination.

He was accompanied by Wallace Karia, the president of Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), and South Africa Football Association (SAFA) president Danny Jordaan, as well as a number of sports and football enthusiasts.

The Chief Conservator at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Freddy Manongi, said the CAF delegation's visit was yet another proof that, Tanzania is the tourism destination of choice on the African continent, adding that Ahmad will further help to promote the Crater through sports.

Ahmad descended into the Crater on Thursday afternoon, as the rain drenched the conservation area. The crater receives around 500,000 visitors in a year.

Despite the midday game drive, (game sighting is best done in early morning), the CAF president managed to see all big fives; Lions, Leopards, Elephants, Buffaloes and the rare Rhinos, not to mention creepy reptiles, large hippos at the Engoitokitok Lake, wildebeests and of course the usual monkeys that usually welcome visitors at Loduare Gate entrance.

After his excursion in the wildlife filled caldera Ahmad expressed satisfaction on his adventurous experience in Ngorongoro as he departed from the Conservation Area on Friday Morning ready to fly to Dar es Salaam city.

Once in Dar, Ahmad was supposed to address a press conference, in the city.

Four years ago, Spain's Real Madrid legends also visited both the crater and Maasai settlements in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, promising to promote the UNESCO accredited World Heritage Site in Madrid.

International sports, pop and movie stars as well as global leaders have been visiting Tanzania's Northern Tourism Circuit for years among them Oprah Winfrey, U2's Bono, Bill Gates, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Simba were below par against KMC FC, says Aussems



Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC left fullback, Salum Chuku (L), challenges Simba SC right fullback Zana Coulibaly during the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League match that took place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA head coach, Patrick Aussems, has confessed that his side did not play well in the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League match against KMC FC at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza on Wednesday.

Simba won 2-1 against battling KMC FC in a game which many questioned the manner in which the referee handled the match as he awarded two penalties to Simba while denying KMC FC what seemed as a clear penalty.

Simba scored the two goals courtesy of Emmanuel Okwi who scored on the 23rd minute and John Bocco through spot kick on the 82nd minute while striker Hassan Kabunda netted KMC FC's goal on

the 57th minute.

The Belgian tactician, though, promised a much improved performance when Simba face Biashara United at the Karume Stadium in Mara today.

The Wednesday win saw Simba collect 66 points from 26 matches, leapfrogging Azam FC to go second in the league's table via superior goal difference.

In a monitored interview after the game, Aussems said they

won the game but did not play well.

"We won today but we did not play well, it was a difficult match but at the end of the day we managed to collect all three points," he said.

The coach hailed his players for a splendid job, but said they should exercise caution in today's game as in football anything can happen.

"We are in a very crucial pe-

riod where my players should exercise caution, we are playing games after every one day but I am confident that we will emerge victorious as our aim is to defend the title," he said.

In today's game, the coach is expected to maintain his player rotation method and most likely start with players who did not play on Wednesday.

However, the game will be very difficult as Biashara United

are second from the bottom of 20-team league with 34 points from 31 games.

The Mara-based side coached by Amri Said will do all they can to see to it that they remain in the league next season

The advantage to them is that they are playing at home under the coach who was the first to defeat Simba this league when he was coaching Mbao FC of Mwanza.



Victor Jackson (R) holds aloft his best navigator trophy with president of Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT), Nizar Jivani, and Dar es Salaam Regional Sports and Culture Officer, Adolf Halii, during national rally championship awards ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday night. Standing extreme left is AAT Chief Executive Officer, Yusuf Ghor. PHOTO: ABBAS GHOR

Huwel crowned motor rally guru

By Correspondent Mohamed Ugasa

IRINGA Motor Sports Club ace driver, Ahmed Huwel, was crowned as an overall national champion by Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) at a brief but colorful ceremony held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday night.

The stout and versatile driver beat a pack of Tanzania drivers in nine rallies staged during the season with exhilarating performance.

Using his newly acquired Ford Pro brand of car, Huwel who bagged his second national championship title since his maiden in 2007, posted precious points in five out of the scheduled rallies to majestically stay on top of the final standings.

He used various navigators on his way to victory that boosted Iringa Club to win the country's best club award for 2018 season as well.

His title winning campaign flagged off with a victory at home in Iringa when he picked up experienced Moses Matovu as a navigator having skipped the season openers staged in Tanga and Moshi earlier in the year.

He again skipped two rallies staged in Arusha and the Africa Rally Championship (ARC) staged in Dar es Salaam before bouncing back in action in the remaining events up to the end of the year.

Tanga-based Awadh Bafadhil played a huge role in Huwel's title winning campaign when he partnered him in two of the rallies staged

in Dar es Salaam by Mzizima and Dar es Salaam Motor sports clubs.

Manmeet Singh provided Huwel with his navigation services during the penultimate rally staged in Arusha (Guru Nanak) before Mysam Fazal added ice on the cake to power Huwel into his final event's victory held in Morogoro and seal off the national championship silverware.

An avalanche of four back-to-back rally victories in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Morogoro still remain as a stellar performance for the driver, who has also sparked in Rwanda and Kenya during the 2018 season.

However, Huwel was not available during the prize-presentation awards and he was represented by Iringa Motor Sports Club's official, Himid Mbata, at the podium.

The Iringa driver has joined Arusha's Gerald Miller (2013 and 2017) and Dar es Salaam's Dharam Pandya (2012 and 2015) as two-time winners in the modern era.

However, all drivers are yet to duplicate legend Kishore Shapriya and Deepak Kotak of Tanganyika Motor Sports Club who dominated domestic events for three seasons in a row from 1996 using Subaru Impreza car.

Holder Jamil Khan was unable to defend his 2017 title.

Behind Huwel was unheralded Tufail Tufail from Dar es Salaam who used Victor Jackson as a navigator throughout the season in their

Subaru Impreza car.

Tufail came close to notch the national title after leading the chase for long spells during the season but his car's mechanical fault in Kigamboni during the Dar rally spoiled his feat.

He broke the gear box to lose precious championship points and open an invitation to Huwel's title charge.

Third-placed in the final standings was Hari Singh rally team's Guljit Dhani. Tufail's navigator, Victor Jackson, was declared as the country's best beating Awadh Bafadhil and third-placed Moses Matovu.

Group winners were Guljit Dhani (N), Tufail (S) and Jayant Shah, title holder for two wheel drives. Navigators' Group N winner was Matovu as Victor Jackson dominated in Group S.

Nizar Jivani, AAT president, Police SSP Esrael Makongo, and SP Godfrey Jengela, presided over the presentation ceremony. Other dignitaries, who were present during the occasion, included Traffic Police Head of Legal Department, ASP Deus Sokoni, SP Abel Swai and Dar es Salaam Regional Sports and Culture Officer, Adolf Halii.

Meanwhile, AAT Chief Executive Officer Yusuf Ghor unveiled one of two carts donated by FIA for training teenagers on how to drive in closed circuits. Ghor said the donation has played important role in training kids before they scale the competitive stage in future.

Rahane confirms County Championship stint with Hampshire

LONDON

INDIA Test vice-captain Ajinkya Rahane will join Hampshire for the County Championship season from next month.

Division One club Hampshire confirmed Rahane's signing as an overseas player on Thursday, as reported by ESPNcricinfo last week.

The 30-year-old Rahane (pictured) is the first India player to represent Hampshire and will replace Aiden Markram, who will finish his stint with Hampshire at the end of the Royal London One-Day Cup group stage in early May to join South Africa's World Cup squad.

Markram was a late signing after Dimuth Karunaratne entered the running to lead Sri Lanka at the World Cup and was subsequently confirmed as captain.

Having been overlooked for the World Cup, Rahane will make his County Championship debut and feature in eight matches through May, June and the start of July, subject to visa clearance. Rahane has played 56 Tests and 90 ODIs. He has scored 3,488 Test runs at an average of 40.55 with nine centuries and 17 fifties, while averaging above 50 with the bat in 125 first-class matches, including 29 hundreds.

"I am excited to be the first Indian to play for Hampshire, a county which has a glowing reputation," Rahane said.

"I hope to score runs and win as a team and would like to thank BCCI for allowing me to play."

Giles White, the Hampshire Director of Cricket, said he was pleased to have a player of Rahane's stature at the club.

"We're delighted to attract a player of Ajinkya's class and with both Aiden and Dimuth selected for the World Cup, we were obviously in the market for a top-order batsman," White said.

"Ajinkya showed an interest early on and the way things have played out it's a great opportunity to get him over - we're really excited to have him with us."

AGENCIES

