



LEADERSHIP



COUNSELING WOMEN AT WORK PLACES PAGE 4

CLIMATE



MORTALITY RATES IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES PAGE 5

EDUCATION



DON BOSCO VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES PAGE 6

SCHOLARSHIPS



EXCHANGE PROGRAMME A FOOT AS EAC MARKS ANNIVERSARY PAGE 7



UK firm organises Tanzania oil, gas congress slated for October this year

LONDON

ENERGY Minister Dr Medard Kalemami has confirmed his attendance at the Tanzania Oil and Gas Congress in October where he will give updates on the recently announced plans for a syndicate of oil companies to commence construction of the \$30bn LNG project in 2022.

In March, the government stated that it was expecting to complete negotiations with a group of international oil companies in September to develop the project. Led by Norwegian energy firm Statoil and Platinum, Equinor, the group also consists of Royal Dutch Shell, ExxonMobil, Ophir Energy and Pavilion Energy.

These international companies will work closely on the project, alongside the state-run Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

In a budget presentation to the National Assembly, the minister stated that the project would be completed in 2028, having installed the capacity to produce 10 million tonnes per annum of liquefied natural gas.

Currently, prospective investors in the project



are holding separate talks with the government negotiation team, which ministerial officials say are likely to be concluded in seven months.

The Bank of Tanzania says that work on the project will increase annual economic growth, which currently stands at around seven per cent, by another two percentage points.

Those keen to learn more about the movements in Tanzania's gas market would find

TURN TO PAGE 2

JPM: Split Selous reserve, create new national park



President John Magufuli follows a briefing shortly after laying the foundation stone of the 2,115-Megawatt Rufiji Hydropower project near the border between Morogoro and Coast regions yesterday. Others include First Lady Janeth Magufuli, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Energy minister Dr Medard Kalemami and Egyptian Energy minister Dr Mohamed Shaker. Photo: State House

I know many people from inside and outside the country oppose the project, claiming that it has a negative environmental impact, but the fact is that the project will have much positive impact.

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday directed the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to split Selous Game Reserve and make the upper part a national park, in a move aimed at scaling up conservation.

He issued the directive when speaking at a function to lay the foundation stone for construction of the massive Rufiji hydropower facility at the Stiegler's Gorge site.

Dr Magufuli said that he was interested to see the proposed national park be named Nyerere National Park.



About 400 hectares of forest are harvested each day for charcoal and firewood... this won't happen after the completion of the project because we will have sufficient cheap power.

He said the lower part of the country's largest wildlife reserve and UNESCO World Heritage Site should retain its current status as a game reserve, while the upper part should become a national park.

Explaining his choice of name, he said that the father of the nation was the one who conceived the idea of constructing a hydropower station at the Rufiji delta, in the Selous.

He further asserted that establishing a national park will help the country to generate more revenue through tourism, which currently contributes 17.6 percent to GDP and provides direct employment to more than 600,000 people.

"By having a national park we will receive

TURN TO PAGE 2

USAID-funded anti-malaria drive cuts prevalence among expectant mothers

By Henry Mwangonde, Mtwara

MTWARA and Lindi have managed to cut malaria deaths and its effects on expectant mothers and their unborn babies by more than 80 percent after adopting a package of best practices that was applied in a timely manner under strict supervision.

Mtwara Regional Medical Officer Dr Silvia Mamkwe said in an interview that through the programme women are told to start maternity clinic before the pregnancy reaches two months in order to get proper health information as well as easy tracking.

This was pursued in data collection at



house to house level, mentorship campaigns and teamwork among stakeholders, she said. Despite being endemic to malaria with a prevalence of 14.3 percent in Mtwara region and 11.7 percent for Lindi region, the two regions face other challenges such as cultural practices which push women to deliver at home for various reasons.

The situation is different now through the use of Malaria Services and Data Quality Improvement Supportive Supervision (MSDQISS), a checklist under the Boresha Afya Southern Zone, a five year program funded by the United States Agency for International

house to house level, mentorship campaigns and teamwork among stakeholders, she said. Despite being endemic to malaria with a prevalence of 14.3 percent in Mtwara region and 11.7 percent for Lindi region, the two regions face other challenges such as cultural practices which push women to deliver at home for various reasons.

The situation is different now through the use of Malaria Services and Data Quality Improvement Supportive Supervision (MSDQISS), a checklist under the Boresha Afya Southern Zone, a five year program funded by the United States Agency for International

TURN TO PAGE 2

FAO warns of desert locust outbreak across East Africa

By Guardian Reporter

THE Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) has warned that an outbreak of desert locust was looming in East Africa.

FAO said in a statement that the desert locust is likely to invade Kenya by the end of this year in the absence of urgent interventions.

"Locust breeding that is being amplified by heavy rains can pose a serious threat to agricultural production in the region," the statement asserted.

The pest could multiply and spread due to



weather conditions hence causing damage to crops, it said.

This could result in potentially adverse impacts on agricultural seasonal yields and local economies, affecting food security and livelihoods of populations in countries of the region, the agency cautioned.

Desert locust swarms last invaded Kenya in 2007 and aerial control operations were required to bring the situation under control.

FAO said that mature swarms were seen at several locations during the past weeks, causing substantial crop damage in northeast Somalia.

Hopper bands are now forming along the northwest coast and probably in the northeast parts of Somalia, arising from eggs laid by the swarms. This could give rise to new swarms by about late August, it affirmed.

Meanwhile, FAO has initiated the process of purchasing additional equipment to increase the capacity of governments to respond to the desert locust menace.

FAO has appealed to the international community to help build capacities in Eritrea, Ethiopia and northern Somalia that are especially threatened.

TURN TO PAGE 2



FAO warns of desert locust outbreak in East Africa

FROM PAGE 1

It called on regional countries to monitor field conditions through regular ground surveys and undertake necessary control measures whenever they detect the massive colonies of insects.

Swarms of tens of millions of locusts can fly up to 150 kilometres a day with the wind, and desert locusts (*Schistocerca gregaria*) live about three months, with a female locust laying about

300 eggs.

A desert locust adult can consume roughly its own weight in fresh food per day that is about two grams. A tiny swarm eats the same amount of food in one day as about 35 000 people, FAO said in an observation.

Traditionally, swarms of desert locusts have been recorded down to their breeding areas in the eastern Africa region and Yemen each September, the statement added.

UK firm organises Tanzania oil, gas congress for this October

FROM PAGE 1

It is beneficial to attend the Tanzania Oil & Gas Congress, which brings together key players in Tanzania's oil and gas value chain.

Delegates at the high-profile event slated for Dar es Salaam on 2 - 3 October will be the first to hear about Tanzania's exciting investment opportunities directly from the Minister of Energy, top government officials, regulators and industry leaders.

The CWC Group, a

leading UK firm in oil and gas training and organization of events, is central to the convening of the country's oil and gas congress. "We have a wealth of knowledge offering top-level strategic events around the world. We work closely with many governments, NOCs and international corporations to highlight the key issues and challenges facing the global energy industry and facilitate debate to find solutions," it said in a statement.

Kenya, Botswana seek to partner in green energy exploration

NAIVASHA

KENYA is keen to partner with Botswana in exploration and production of more green energy to address the rising demand for electricity, an energy official said on Wednesday.

Rebecca Miano, chief executive officer at the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), said that the power producer was ready and keen to offer Botswana expertise in various sectors of electricity production.

"So far KenGen has 310 drilled wells producing 690MW from geothermal and this will increase by an extra 165MW in the next couple of weeks," Miano said in Naivasha, about 90 km northwest of Nairobi during a tour of geothermal projects by visiting Botswana President Eric Mokogetse Masi.

KenGen plans to expand into oil and mining in the near future, Miano said, noting that the company had considerable wealth of experience and expertise in renewable energy sources such as hydro, wind and geothermal power.

She said the visit by the Botswana president coincided with the firm's long-term strategy which included the development of regional partnerships.

She said Kenya is Africa's number one geothermal energy producer and is among the top 10 in the

world. Currently this potential is being harnessed in Olkaria, Menengai and Eburru fields.

Currently, 70 percent of Kenya's installed electricity is derived from renewable sources, which is more than three times the global average.

Speaking during the visit, President Masi praised KenGen for the contribution it had made towards securing Kenya's energy.

He pointed out that geothermal, being one of the sources of renewable energy, was the best option at a time when the world was grappling with the effects of climate change.

"This is an eye opener for many countries in the region and we should do away with the current competition along borders and seek a common regulator for electricity," he said.

The Botswana president added that his country was keen to learn and corroborate with Kenya in electricity production and supply as currently the former was yet to achieve its power demand.

According to him, Botswana relied on solar power, adding that 62 percent of residents in the Southern Africa country were connected to electricity.

"Botswana has very high potential of solar energy and we are keen to work with Kenya in exploration of more green energy," he said.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein exchanges greetings with Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi on arrival at Abeid Zanzibar's Amani Karume International Airport yesterday from the UK. Photo: Zanzibar State House

JPM: Split Selous reserve, create new national park

FROM PAGE 1

many tourists hence more revenues and we will continue to earn money from the 47 hunting blocks at the Selous Game Reserve," he said amid applause.

The power project is located southeast of the Selous, which covers 50,000 square km and borders Coast and Morogoro regions. Building a dam on the Stiegler's Gorge is a decision of the current government to deliver on a 1980 plan that could not take off earlier owing to resource

constraints.

The project is expected to employ more than 10,000 people directly and indirectly during the three years of its execution.

The project will also boost tourism through sport fishing, boat rides and photographic safaris, the president remarked. In earlier remarks, President Magufuli allayed fears that the project's implementation will negatively impact the environment.

"I know many people from inside and outside the

country oppose the project, claiming that it has a negative environmental impact, but the fact is that the project will have much positive impact."

"About 400 hectares of forest are harvested each day for charcoal and firewood... this won't happen after the completion of the project because we will have sufficient cheap power," he said.

"After all, the project will be implemented in 1,922 per cent out of more than 50,000 kilometer area that host Selous Game Reserve," he

said in illustration.

He however tasked Egyptian contractors—Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric to complete the project on time for the country to start having reliable power, boosting the drive towards industrialization.

In another development, President Magufuli has ordered that the cash obtained from the gold worth over 2bn/- be used in the construction of a road leading to the Rufiji power project site.

He said that there was no

better way of making use of the money. On Wednesday the president received 35.34 kilogram of gold handed over by Kenya's foreign minister, Monica Juma who led a high profile delegation that included Kenya's DPP, Noordin Haji.

The gold was smuggled through Mwanza Airport and the Kilimanjaro International Airport and intercepted at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi in clearing, with the smugglers failing to finish their itinerary

to Dubai, UAE.

On his part, the Minister for Energy, Dr Medard Kalemani said that the US\$2.9 billion (6.5 trillion/-) Stiegler's Gorge power project will be completed in 35 months and the 2,115-megawatt dam construction has now reached 15 percent.

Earlier, the Egyptian Energy Minister Dr Mohamed Shaker El-Markabi assured the president that the project, implemented by two Egyptian construction firms, will be completed on time.



Simiyu regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka (2nd-L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the Nane-Nane (Farmers Day - climaxing on August 8) exhibition, which is this year being held at national level in the region. He is with senior officials from the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela) and the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade). Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Two arrested in Kenya over heroin trafficking

MOMBASA

KENYAN anti-narcotics detectives yesterday held two men over suspected trafficking heroin in the coastal city of Mombasa.

Following a tip-off, detectives arrested the suspects, aged 34 and 24, in an apartment in a crime-infested

district of Mombasa, said Johnstone Ipara, the port city's police commander.

The police also seized several packets of white powder and one million shillings (9,655 U.S. dollars) of cash on the spot, believed to be proceeds from the illegal trade, the Kenyan Directorate of Criminal In-

vestigations (DCI) tweeted later in the day. Further testing ascertained that the confiscated drugs were heroin, the DCI said.

Ipara told reporters that the case is still under investigation.

Drug seizures have become a common phenomenon in Mombasa, a critical logistics hub in Kenya.

USAID-funded anti-malaria drive reduces prevalence among expectant mothers

FROM PAGE 1

Development (USAID).

"We have established data summits which meet monthly to inspect all register books down to our health centres and dispensaries. At the same time whenever we have a maternal death case the team visits the scene within 24 hours to demand what happened," she told The Guardian in her office in Mtwara yesterday.

Dr Mamkwe cited a quarterly report for last year which showed that out of 9,000 women who gave birth in the region, more than 700 gave birth at home and on their way to hospital.

Through the programme healthcare providers and community based health service providers have been trained.

"These women put their lives and the lives of their babies at risk as they are not being attended by health workers during delivery. This makes chances of maternal deaths rise sharply," the regional officer underlined.

The programme also sensitizes expectant mothers to take Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SP) tablets as part of antenatal care services to boost immunity among expectant mothers and their unborn babies against malaria.

The RMO said uptake of

SP Intermittent Preventive Treatment in pregnancy (IPTp1) (IPTp2) therapy for Mtwara now stands at 84 percent.

The drug is given during pregnancy to reduce maternal malaria episodes, maternal and fetal anaemia, placental parasitaemia, low birth weight and neonatal mortality.

The Regional Medical Officer for Lindi, Dr John Sijaona said that more than 80 percent of expectant mothers have received at least two doses of SP in the region.

In 2016 when the programme started malaria prevalence in the region stood at 17 percent and now it has dropped to 12 percent, he said.

There still exist some social barriers in the uptake of the drugs for pregnant women, including cultural practices, poverty and insufficient knowledge about malaria.

As it is the case in many other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, malaria is the leading cause of death in Tanzania among children under age five. Malaria transmission is high throughout the year, contributing to development of partial immunity within the first two years of life.

Malaria prevalence in the country decreased by half from 14.4 per cent recorded in 2016 to 7.3 in 2018.



Julius Mbilinyi, Director of the Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry's Department, addresses a capacity building workshop for widows held in Dodoma city yesterday on the importance of economic empowerment. Photo courtesy of Health ministry

Many youth have no knowledge of empowerment funds - study

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

DESPITE the government efforts to empower youth in the country, most of them are still not aware of the existing opportunities, a study has shown.

A youth led research conducted by Restless Development, a local non-governmental organization (NGO) in Kigamboni, Kinondoni, Morogoro municipalities and Dodoma city showed that only 25.6 per cent of those interviewed had knowledge of youth development fund spearheaded by the government.

The NGO through its programme dubbed, 'Kijana Wajibika' which translates as 'Youth Lets be Responsible' was aimed at empowering young people, educating them on life skills, leadership, and responsibility of youth in the society, among others

The programme's deputy coordinator,

Denice Simeo, addressing a press conference here yesterday noted that out of 6,265 youth interviewed study, 4,659, being 74.4 per cent said they do not know anything about the youth fund.

Nevertheless, at least 92 per cent of the interviewees admitted that they have not made any efforts to get information about the fund "Even those who got information, most of them said to have got it from close people like family members, friends, followed by ward office" said Simeo.

He said the programme implemented for the past two years had a component to evaluate youth understanding on the government's youth fund aimed at empowering the young people to employ themselves, engage in entrepreneurial activities, among others.

He said the government upon realization on the big number of many unem-

ployed young people in the country took a bold step, setting aside four per cent of own sourced revenue at district council level for youth empowerment.

"Despite this important undertaking by the government to help youth development, there is still big number of the targeted group who are yet to be reached, complaining of lack of employment and capital to start business" he noted.

He also argued that the research shows that those who got financial support through the youth development fund is not big, among those interviewed, 614 who are in groups, UPATIKANAJI WA ,86 others, being 14.3 per cent have witnessed youth groups get money. He said some 489 youth, being 79.6 per cent have never witnessed this while 39 others, being 6.1 per cent know nothing about money disbursement to youth groups. The programme coordinator also said that the re-

search has revealed that money set aside for the youth fund has increased between 2015 and 2018 but the amount being taken by the targeted audience is still low. This he said is a clear indication that youth awareness on the fund is still low.

The organization recommends that the government and other stakeholders to invest further in educating the youth on the development fund, letting them know the procedures and conditions.

It also calls on the government to review processes, procedures and conditions, making them similar in all district councils in the country.

It also challenges youth to be proactive, seek information pertaining to them at the right places including ward executive officer's offices, development department offices as well as youth development at district, regional and national level.

Former Speaker Anne Makinda counsels women to be proactive

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

FORMER Speaker of the National Assembly, Anna Makinda has urged women parliamentarians and special seats ward councilors to be good custodians of the country's natural resources so that they benefit all citizens.

Makinda made this call yesterday in Mwanza when speaking at a meeting that was organised by TGNP Mtandao attending the Association of Local Authority of Tanzania (ALAT)'s building capacity seminar for women leaders.

She said that women parliamentarians and special seat ward councilors' contribution was not seen or recognised by society because of lack of confidence, as a result they have failed to make progress.

"The problem of us women leaders, we have fear, we are not ready to appear and be responsible and accountable to the citizens, by claiming these are just special seats. Adding

We also started by being special seats representatives, but then we got an opportunity and went for constituencies because we were confident, and responsible. And we ensured our capacities abilities in leadership positions known to everyone," she explained.

So, she has urged these women on the different positions to go and serve their people with integrity and honest, eventually they will recognise their contributions.

Meanwhile, Makinda has called upon ALAT leaders to ensure people get quality social services in their

respective district councils. And also make sure people are aware of what is being done by their councils for their welfare.

For her part, speaking earlier the chairperson for ALAT Women leaders, who is also the chairperson of the Morogoro District Council, Kibena Kingo, has promised that they would ensure all women chairpersons heading district councils become role models in their daily responsibilities.

"We will ensure corruption, embezzlement of public things and money set aside for intended purposes are well utilised, spent and kept."

"I kindly urge you councils' women leaders, including ward councilors, we women have been entrusted and offered these positions, let's faithfully oversee our councils' resources.

Let's establish a net work meant to eradicate gender abuse and harassment. Let's set aside a gender budgeting that will improve life and wellbeing of all people without discrimination," she urged.

Present at that meeting were the national chairperson of ALAT Gulamhafeez Mukadam, and Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Settlement Development Angelina Mabula and the Member of Parliament for Ilemela Constituency.

Tanzania has 185 district councils, five of which are being lead by women. The councils are Biharamulo, Hai, Mwanza, Morogoro and Gairo. These have agreed to ensure their councils become role models on bringing development and gender in all leadership positions and plans.



Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto seated on one of two motorcycles donated to the force by Wuzhou Investment Ltd, which is based at Mkuranga in Coast Region. This was at an event held in Dodoma on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

African tourism sector should target China - experts

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICAN countries should target Chinese tourists, collaborate and address hurdles which

discourage tourists from visiting the continent, said African tourism players on Thursday at Africa Resilient Summit.

Taleb Rifai, former secre-

tary-general of the United Nations' World Tourism Organization, told Xinhua that governments should take tourism seriously.

"Tourism is the new oil

that never runs out but continue to create income and jobs. The more you take care of it the more it grows unlike natural resources," he said.

AU expresses grave concern over Ebola outbreak in DRC

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) has reiterated its grave concern over the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The outbreak also presents a serious threat to peace and security in the country, the region and the African continent as a whole, according to an AU statement.

The Ebola virus has caused 1,621 deaths in the DRC as of July 17 in an outbreak that is

the second largest in the history of Ebola since it was discovered in 1976.

The World Health Organization (WHO) last week declared the Ebola virus disease outbreak as public health emergency of international concern.

In its latest meeting, the AU Peace and Security Council deliberated on the outbreak of Ebola in the Eastern part of the DRC, whereby it called for urgent measures to control the disease and

eliminate its spreading to other parts of the country or neighboring countries, said the statement.

Strongly condemning the attacks against public health centers and health workers in the eastern part of the DRC, the Council urged all armed groups in Eastern DRC to observe an immediate ceasefire to allow public health workers to fulfill their mandate, consisting in saving lives of innocent civilians.

NOTICE

TANZANIA PROTEINS CORPORATION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the above company is being voluntarily wound up.

Members.



TANZANIA REVENUE AUTHORITY

ISO 9001: 2015 Certified

PUBLIC NOTICE

EFFECTIVE DATE FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC TAX STAMPS SYSTEM ON NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES (CARBONATED/SOFT DRINKS)

It is canonical to the general public that the judicious application of Electronic Tax Stamps System (hereinafter referred to as "ETS") for cigarettes, wines, spirits, beer, and all kinds of alcoholic beverages started on **15th January 2019**. Indeed, this was Phase I of ETS implementation. The same has, thus far, been (and continues to be) implemented successfully. Our profound thanks to all taxpayers for supporting and cooperating with Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in the **Phase I** of ETS implementation.

Following the aforesaid, therefore, the general public is hereby informed that on **1st August 2019** shall be the effective date for implementation of Phase II of using ETS. Indeed, Phase II of the same shall apply to products such as "sweetened or flavored waters and other non-alcoholic beverages, with the exclusion of fruit vegetable juice of tariff heading 20.09". The aforesaid effective date is announced, well in advance, in accordance with the provisions of **Regulation 29** of The Electronic Tax Stamps Regulations, 2018 and that the specified products shall include all locally produced or imported as mentioned above.

Admittedly, the abovementioned products in **Phase II** were not affixed with tax stamps prior to an introduction of ETS. Henceforth, all products currently present in the market and in the warehouses of either the manufacturers or importers will continue to be traded for up to **31st January 2020**. It follows, therefore that, after the fixed end date (that is, on 31st January 2020), all relevant goods shall be affixed with ETS. The public is, further, categorically notified to take note and understand that the new manufactured or imported products must be affixed with ETS as from **1st August 2019** as clarified above.

Likewise, TRA wishes to inform the general public that every manufacturer and importer of the specified goods shall be required to declare all quantities of products with no ETS in their possession (unsold) in the prescribed form (which is downloadable at www.tra.go.tz) and each TRA Regional Office before the effective date. Finally, all the manufacturers, producers, and importers of the specified products are reminded to **submit full details of their brands, forecasts of quantities** of ETS they intend to use before the effective date and make registration in the Electronic Tax Stamp Management System (ETSMS) to enable ordering of the new tax stamps through a secure web portal (<https://taxstamp.tra.go.tz/>) available in the TRA website.

The effective date for the other items not mentioned in Phase II shall be announced later. Such products include fruit or vegetable juices, waters, and films/music products (CDs/DVDs/Tapes). For more information and inquiries you may visit the nearest TRA Office, Website (www.tra.go.tz), or use TRA Call Centre through Toll Free Number **0800 750 075** or **0800 780 078** or email: services@tra.go.tz

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Dr. Edwin P. Mhede, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER GENERAL
24th July 2019

How IoT is helping fight malnutrition in Tanzania with next-gen flour mills

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

VODAFONE is using its internet of things technology to support agriculture projects in countries throughout Africa, starting with an IoT-enabled flour mill in Tanzania designed to tackle malnutrition.

The network provider's IoT wing Vodafone IoT believes that by closely monitoring crops its technology can help to mitigate negative effects on harvests.

According to Vodafone, the IoT technology is also built to improve employee efficiency and provide visibility into businesses' supply chain and operations.

Sanku, a non-profit organisation that provides fortified flour across southern and east Africa uses technology called a dosifier machine to enable small flour mills to produce flour with the right amount of nutrients required.

Vodafone provides Sanku with its managed IoT connectivity platform to improve the effectiveness of its technology. It is integrated to collect the

data and transmit it to a cloud-based database every five minutes.

"We got in touch with them [Sanku] and helped them to add our connectivity to their solution, and that's how we started," Ludovico Fassati, head of IoT at Vodafone Americas told Computerworld UK. "We became closer to understand what they're doing and help them really enjoy what they're doing, which is a great job."

"So, we had to do some testing on the mills and make sure that we had the right coverage and speed for transmitting the data. In this particular case, we also shared a lot of knowledge we have in the agriculture business coming from other regions with all the features we have."

Sanku, which was founded in 2013, initially used one vehicle to deliver nutrients across areas in Tanzania. However, this became a challenge in terms of efficiency and cost.

Using Vodafone's IoT connectivity platform, Sanku workers are now able to connect to 100

flour mills with real-time alerts that notify employees when the mills run out of flour or require maintenance.

The IoT solution was added to make the dosifier machine smarter, enabling real-time data to appear on a fitted dashboard to make it easier to access delivery routes, meal production and staffing.

"What's happening now, all the real-time and production data, how much they're producing and how much they require to be restocked is being populated in our ERP system," Felix Brooks-Church, co-founding president & CEO at Sanku told Computerworld UK.

According to Brooks-Church, the company is now able to quickly spot problems with its infrastructure, as well as enabling Sanku to pilot the machines online. While the IoT project is only currently live in Tanzania, the organisation plans to scale to other African countries in the next few years.

"It was definitely IoT that took the lead on that," Brooks-Church added. "It allowed us to automate our business as pre-



Noreen Lyimo (R), a Form Six leaver from Baobab Secondary School in Bagamoyo District, in jovial mood on Thursday shortly after the school's management awarded her a laptop for emerging Number 1 in Business as per recently released results of the national examinations. Looking on (from-L) are headmaster Venance Hongoa, board chairman Bakari Bakari, chief guest Prof Ulingeta Mbamba of the University of Dar es Salaam, school manager Sophia Mawenye and Coast Region's education officer, Abdul Maulid. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Research: Zanzibar has maintained malaria prevalence below one per cent for ten years

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW research has suggested that a better understanding of human behavior at night -- when malaria mosquitoes are biting -- could be key to preventing lingering cases.

The study led by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP), which is based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Ifakara Health Institute and the Zanzibar Malaria Elimination Program.

The new study, published recently in Malaria Journal, found

that targeting men who work and socialize outside the home in the evenings and travelers and seasonal workers who may bring malaria to the islands from mainland Tanzania could accelerate elimination of the disease.

Zanzibar has maintained malaria prevalence below one percent for the past decade, but elimination of the deadly mosquito-borne disease remains elusive, despite the widespread use of insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor spraying.

"We've seen such great pro-

gress, but it's hard to eliminate the remaining cases," says CCP's April Monroe, PhD, who led the research. "It's the typical last mile problem: Sometimes the hardest part of the journey comes at the end. To get there, we need to focus our attention now on human behavior, instead of solely on mosquito behavior as we did in the past."

The World Health Organization estimates that between 2000 and 2015, the rate of new malaria cases declined by 37 percent globally and malaria deaths fell by 60 percent, with

6.2 million lives saved. Three quarters of those gains can be attributed to interventions such as insecticide-treated bed nets and indoor spraying for mosquitoes.

But those interventions are only designed to work indoors.

For the study, Monroe and her colleagues analyzed data from 62 in-depth interviews with community members and leaders conducted in December 2016 and April/May 2017. The researchers also looked at data from night time observation of routine community

activities, such as buying and selling at local shops, watching television in public spaces and socializing in small groups, as well as large-scale community events such as weddings and religious ceremonies.

The researchers found little evidence of people using protection against mosquitoes outdoors. "Participants reported that topical repellants were not widely available in the community and were only sold at shops in town," the authors noted.

As one woman who was interviewed remarked, "When

you are outside, you really can't wear the bed nets, can you?"

In low-transmission settings like Zanzibar, children under five are no longer considered the population most at risk for malaria infection. They are sleeping under their nets and are typically at home or near home after dark. It is men who are often outside at night, whether working or socializing, which could put them at higher risk.

Zanzibar is made up of a series of islands in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Tanzania,

where transmission of malaria is more common. Travelers from the mainland are understood to bring many of the malaria cases found in Zanzibar with them. When a mosquito bites a person infected with the parasite, it infects the mosquito which can then transmit the disease to someone else.

Seasonal workers from mainland Tanzania come to Zanzibar for a variety of reasons, including to work in the fields from planting to harvest time and they often do not have mosquito nets. Some communities



Painting of road safety signs on progress near the Maramba Mawili road junction at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpeza

MP donates assortment of items to 2 secondary schools

By Correspondent Amri Lugungula, Kisarawe

SPECIAL seats MP, Zaynabu Vulu yesterday donated assorted items to two secondary schools in efforts to improve teaching and learning environment in Kisarawe district, Coast region.

Schools which had benefited from the donation are Kimani and Chanizge secondary schools.

Among the donated items include, water tanks, 20 boxes of text books, 250 cartons of exercise books, five cartons of sanitary towels, 45 ream of ruled papers and 300 pieces of test tubes.

The Kimani secondary school's

acting headmaster Anicet Sauli commended the MP for the support, calling other well-wishers to join the wagon by supporting education in the district. He, however appealed to education stakeholders to support his school with desks, chairs and tables—a challenge which he described as chronic and thwarts education development in the area.

The school head described the situation at the school as bad to the extent that one desk is being shared by two or three students while others sitting on the floor during examination session.

He said the school had also a problem of receiving form one students who could neither read nor write due to unknown reasons. Some stu-

dents at Chanizge Secondary School also requested the lawmaker to help them to get desks, tables and chairs due to the shortage of the commodities. In her response, Vulu promised the schools that she would find solutions to get the commodities, urging district authority to solve challenges facing school children in the area.

UNAIDS calls on countries to accelerate efforts, close service gaps to end the AIDS epidemic among children, adolescents

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

A NEW report released on Monday at the 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science in Mexico City, Mexico, shows that the world is lagging behind in its commitment to end the AIDS epidemic among children and adolescents.

The report, Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS Free, shows that the pace of progress in reducing new HIV infections among children and expanding access to treatment for children, adolescents and pregnant women living with HIV has slowed significantly and that global targets set for 2018 have been missed, despite important gains being made in some countries.

Globally, around 160 000 children aged 0-14 years became newly infected with HIV in 2018. This is a major decrease from 240 000 new infections in 2010. However, the bold and important target set for 2018 was fewer than 40 000 new infections.

"The failure to reach the 2018 targets to reduce new HIV infections among children and adolescents and to widen access to life-saving treatment is both disappointing and frustrating," said Gunilla Carlsson, UNAIDS Executive Director, a.i. "We need to act quickly to turn this situation around and honour the commitment to end the AIDS epidemic for the next generation."

Around 82% of pregnant women living with HIV now have access to antiretroviral medicines. There has been considerable progress among countries in eastern and southern Africa, with more than 90% of pregnant women accessing antiretroviral medicines in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe and 95% or higher in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zambia.

This has resulted in a 41% reduction in new HIV infections among children, with remarkable reductions achieved in Botswana (85%), Rwanda (83%), Malawi (76%), Namibia (71%), Zimbabwe (69%) and Uganda (65%) since 2010.

The progress made by these countries shows what can be achieved through strong political leadership, rapid policy adoption and concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

The report throws light on where gaps need to be filled to prevent new HIV infections occurring among children. For example, in eastern Africa, 10 000 of 26 000 new HIV infections among children in 2018 were the result of women not being retained on treatment throughout pregnancy and breastfeeding.

In southern Africa, 17 000 of 53 000 new infections among children were the result of the mother becoming infected with HIV during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

A total of 16 000 new infections could have been averted in southern Africa by retaining mothers on treatment throughout pregnancy and breastfeeding. In western and central Africa, almost 27 000 of the 44 000 new infections could have been averted if their mothers had accessed antiretroviral medicines.



A vendor tastes her home-made chili sauce yesterday moments before bottling it ready for sale at Dar es Salaam's Magogoni Ferry. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Study shows link between climate change, mortality rates in 3 African countries

By Guardian Reporter

NEW research has established a correlation between high mortality rate and climate change in African countries like Kenya, Mali and Malawi.

The study, which investigated whether climate variability contributed to higher death rates in rural Kenya, Mali, and Malawi during 2008 and 2009, found that cold snaps increased mortality in Kenya, but reduced mortality in Mali and Malawi.

It argued that differences in geography and the general climatic conditions may explain the differences. Kenya's topography includes mountainous regions, resulting in temperatures that can drop as low as 7.6 degrees Celsius.

Mali and Malawi, on the other hand, are largely flat, with minimum temperatures that remain much higher, respectively at 19.6 degrees Celsius and 13.24 degrees Celsius.

Excessive rain - which may lead to drowning and death - and droughts were associated with increased mortality in Kenya and Malawi. Droughts often exacerbate an already precarious food insecurity issue.

The report says that African countries are hit by far fewer natural disasters compared to the rest of the world. But interestingly they suffer much more.

In 2016 African countries were hit by 17% of natural disasters compared to other regions of the world but ranked third in the number of people who died or were displaced

at approximately 31.8 million.

The Asian continent accounted for the most natural disasters at 47% but while disaster mortality in Asia has been decreasing, it has been rising in Africa.

Some of the reasons for this scenario include socio-economic and political factors, health, climate and geographical location.

High mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa affect the region's ability to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

There have been a number of studies on causes of mortality in sub-Saharan Africa, including malnutrition, vector-borne diseases such as malaria and sexually-transmitted diseases such as HIV-Aids. None, however, have focused on the impact of climate change on mortality.

The study recommends policymakers to focus on climate change in relation to mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa. With more adverse climate events such as heatwaves, cold snaps, droughts, floods and storms, mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa are likely to increase.

That there should be early warning systems for floods and cold snaps to protect against these events in these countries.

The Governments should help people reduce over-dependence on farms through improved access to agricultural extension services, distributing drought-resistant crop varieties and installing irrigation systems.

Malawi in post-election impasse as former president intervenes

BLANTYRE

MALAWI former and first democratic president, Bakili Muluzi has called the Malawi Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) leaders to a dialogue on the ongoing post-election violence in the country.

The former Malawi leader met the HRDC leaders at his residence in the country's commercial city of Blantyre

where he pleaded with the human rights activists to suspend the demonstrations and allow for negotiations.

HRDC has been leading Malawians in demonstrations to force the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) Chairperson Jane Ansah to resign on allegations that she had mismanaged the May 21 presidential election results which led to President Peter Mutharika's win.

Since May 21 the HRDC has led Ma-

lawians across the country into the anti-Jane Ansah demonstrations which have since spiraled into destruction and looting of public and private property.

During the nearly 3-hour meeting, Muluzi pleaded with the HRDC leaders to postpone the demonstrations scheduled on Thursday to "allow me to meet the authorities on the other side in Lilongwe and see what would be their response," Muluzi told Xinhua.

But the HRDC leaders who were led by the Coalition's Chairperson, Timothy Mtambo, snubbed the former Malawi President's appeal, saying they would go ahead with the demonstrations anyway.

The HRDC chairperson said if Ansah resigned the Coalition would slow down on the demonstrations but added that they would continue criticizing the nepotism, corruption and impunity in the country.

UN warned corporate courts could thwart climate efforts

By Natalie Sauer

LITTLE known but ubiquitous corporate courts will increasingly hamstring climate efforts unless governments take urgent action to reform them, campaigners warn.

The EU is locking horns with a bloc of countries led by the US and Japan over a mechanism included in more than 3,000 trade deals, ahead of UN talks in Vienna in October.

Investor state dispute settlement (ISDS) is a system of private courts that allows foreign investors to bypass domestic courts and sue governments in cases where national policies hurt their profits. It raises the prospect of fossil fuel corporations claiming billions of dollars in compensation for climate legislation enact-

ed under the Paris Agreement, including carbon taxes or initiatives to phase out fossil fuels.

"The ISDS system has given rise to an alarming number of claims against environmental measures, which are already the fastest growing trigger for dispute," said Amandine Van Den Berghe, a lawyer with Client Earth.

"Amid this climate emergency, we call on governments to respect their international commitments, and push for a deep and systemic reform of ISDS, so that these mechanisms are not able to undermine efforts to save the planet."

EU moots crackdown on deforestation through supply chains

Importantly, legal experts say challenges under ISDS do not need to succeed to have a chilling effect on regulation. While it

is hard to draw a direct link, they pointed to a case where France watered down a proposed 2017 law to phase out oil and gas extraction, after oil company Vermilion threatened to sue.

Client Earth urged countries to exit investment treaties with ISDS. Those not ready to ditch treaties because of political or economic pressures could alternatively press for radical reform of corporate courts, it suggested.

Preventing the use of ISDS in the case of policies contributing to the Paris Agreement would be one way to stop investors weaponizing it against the climate.

Other options include requiring claimants to go through domestic courts before the ISDS system, empowering third parties, such as communities affected by investments, to bring counterclaims, or

integrating climate change considerations into the calculation of compensation.

So far, none of the leading national submissions take up these ideas. Instead, they limit themselves to addressing some of the most glaring deficiencies of the process, such as conflicts of interest of arbitrators.

Comment: How von der Leyen could make a carbon border tax work

Under the current system, there is nothing to stop an arbitrator serving as witness or counsel - so-called "double-hatting". Arbitrators can also take jobs in the private and public sectors.

One example is Yves Fortier, a director on the board of mining company Rio Tinto, who has acted as an arbitrator in cases involving mining companies. In April,

Fortier was one of the arbitrators to greenlight gas and oil explorations by Shell in a dispute against the Filipino government.

Led by the US and Japan, a group of countries including Chile, Russia, Mexico and Australia that are part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership have proposed tackling such conflicts of interest by introducing a code of conduct for arbitrators and counsels.

The EU, where backlash against ISDS led trade commissioner Cecilia Malmström to brand it "the most toxic acronym in Europe", seeks to address these concerns through the creation of a whole new institution: the multilateral investment tribunal (MIT).

The proposal seeks to avoid conflicts of interests by employing full-time judges. It also sets out transparency rules, an ap-

peal process and a way for third parties to submit interventions to court if they have an interest in the outcome of the dispute.

Climate news straight to your inbox? Sign up here

While these features make the MIT a more progressive proposal than that floated by the US and Japan, it is "still far from what we consider being a real progressive and systemic reform", Van Den Berghe said.

"At the moment there seems to be no appetite for such improvements at the European Commission," Bart-Jaap Verbeek, trade analyst at the Dutch think tank SOMO and observer in the talks, told Climate Home News.

"In fact, the director general trade official responsible for ISDS is quite frank and clear about his position: in his view, there is nothing

wrong with the substantive investment protection standards, only with the procedural aspects of how these are being enforced in terms of transparency, legitimacy, consistency and independence. In his words - 'Justice needs to be seen'."

In time, the bloc intends the MIT to replace the patchwork of ISDS across different treaties. The MIT, a document by the European Commission reads, would "be for investment dispute settlement what the World Trade Organisation is for trade dispute settlement".

Climate Home News needs your help... We're an independent news outlet dedicated to the most important global stories. If you can spare even a few dollars each month, it would make a huge difference to us.



Almano Mdede, CCM's secretary for Dar es Salaam's Tabata Kisukuru ward, addresses the party's Chemchem branch members yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Muhiddin Msamba

Students urged to acquire skills for self-employment

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha and Agencies

Students have been advised to study hard and acquire skills that would enable them to be on their own, instead of looking for non-existing jobs after school.

"Government departments, ministries and agencies are so choked that there is no room to employ fresh people who have just completed their courses of study". The Executive Director of John Sanie Foundation, John Sanie, has stated.

John Sanie Foundation, a non-governmental organisation, has been working in the districts in the fields of education, health and other social sectors.

Sanie told students who have registered to do vacation classes at the Mphor Senior High School in the Mphor District of the Western Region that it was better to acquire skills that could allow them to be on their own because the employment opportunities were far lesser than

the graduates turned out from institutions every year.

The vacation classes were a collaboration with the Mphor Traditional Council, the Ghana Education Service (GES), Mphor SHS and the John Sanie Foundation targeting over 300 students and school drop outs.

He observed that if a student learnt how to weld, make doughnuts, sew, paint, and repair electrical gadgets among others, the student could be on his or her own because almost every village now is connected to the national grid and so jobs in the rural areas were in abundance and nobody could learn a trade and be left to idle.

Sanie disclosed that his foundation had supported students who were brilliant but needy in the past, adding "the foundation has sent five students including one female student on full scholarship to study outside Ghana."

The foundation is here to help those who cannot climb the educational ladder due to financial con-

straints."

The Executive Director intimated that education was the foundation of any development which could send you to any part of the world so students should take their education very serious.

The Assistant Headmaster of Mphor SHS, Isaac Kwesi Mickson, noted that with the current educational system where students spent a lot of time at home, vacation classes would occupy the students because "the devil finds work for the idle hand".

The Board Chair of the school, Nana Kwampong Aboah II, observed that it was a blessing to have this golden opportunity because not all students get the chance of enjoying vacation classes for no charge.

The Omanhene of the Mphor Traditional Area, Osabarima Kwaw Ensile II, who chaired the function, noted that those in the community above 60 years did not get the opportunity to enjoy vacation classes, adding "you should count yourselves blessed."

Telco companies launch unique mobile phones to meet customer demands

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

TIGO in partnership with Tecno has launched a new digital device to assist merchants, scholars and professionals access digital communications more effectively.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam, the company's relations manager Eric Mkwoye said the mobile phone which is new in the market will provide to customers the best and easiest way to carry over the online and office activities through the digital communication.

The telecom company, which is one of the leading companies to provide reliable and high speed internet services with 4G plus in the country, introduces Techno Phantom 9 mobile mainly to cater the demand of customers who operates their businesses through digital communication.

He said that the product from the telecom company will offer to customers more services including huge storage space which will enable users to keep records of their activities and documents including research, notes/presentations, sales and procurement records.

According to him, Techno Phantom 9 is capable of 128 Rom and 6 ram, together with Android Pie operating system. It is also made up of AMOLED screen of 6.4 inch which is able to take camera of high quality.

For her part communication manager, Woinde Shisael said the new device is part of the company's efforts to invest and develop the digital market in the country that enables people to deliver effectively in their daily activities.

"We understand the great needs that our customers has in accessing the digital world that helps them to perform their daily activities, and that is why we have offered customers internet bonus of 98 GB to be used for a year," she said.

Ambassador of the company Ahmed Salim popularly known as Gabo said the mobile is made up of exclusive applications which are effective for multiple activities including camera, dual front flashlight and in-display fingerprint.

He encourage Tanzanians to make use of the mobile in order to enjoy digital services that has been improved to facilitate daily activities.



Simanjoro District executive director Yefred Myenzi addresses an education stakeholders meeting held in the district on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

SADC regional integration agenda on course

By Kizito Sikuka, Windhoek

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has made significant progress towards achieving its vision of a united, prosperous and integrated region.

SADC chairperson and Namibian president Hage Geingob said major milestones recorded by the regional body include the launch of a free trade area (FTA) in August 2008.

Geingob said this while presenting a report on the status of regional integration in SADC to the inaugural African Union (AU)-Regional Economic Communities (RECs) coordination meeting held in Niamey, Niger, earlier this month.

The FTA, which covers 12 member states, has led to an increase in SADC intra-regional trade to above 22% of the collective gross domestic product,

compared to the pre-FTA era high of around 16%.

Furthermore, the launch of the SADC FTA has allowed consumers in the region to get better products at lower prices due to increased production, while producers are benefiting from tariff-free trade for all goods originating within the region.

The main aim of the FTA is to promote the smooth movement of goods and services across SADC borders, as well as to encourage member states to harmonise trade policies to promote equal competition and increased trade.

Another achievement for SADC is the establishment of a regional payment system to settle cross-border transactions faster without having to rely on intermediary banks from outside the region.

Commonly known as the SADC Real Time Gross Settle-

ment System, it was established in July 2013 and piloted in four countries - Eswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa.

The system is now operational in 14 SADC member states, except for Madagascar and the Union of Comoros.

"The SADC cross-border Real Time Gross Settlement System has improved efficiency and reduced transaction costs," Geingob said.

He said the system has "performed impressively with 81 banks participating, and over 1.2 million transactions settled by the end of 2018, representing N\$5.21 trillion worth of SADC's intra-regional trade."

On the energy front, the establishment of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) has provided a platform for power utilities within the region to share electricity across borders,

thereby allowing countries to manage their energy surpluses and deficits.

All mainland SADC member states, with the exception of Angola, Malawi and Tanzania, are interconnected to the regional grid through SAPP, allowing them to trade electricity.

The island states of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles are not yet members of the SAPP.

The region has witnessed significant investments in renewable and non-renewable energy sources, a development that has seen a number of power generation and transmission projects being implemented during the past decade.

Such investments have led to increased generation capacity in the region, which has faced power deficits since 2007.

With regard to peace and security, the region has remained

largely stable and continues to put in place measures to promote and strengthen its stability.

For example, as part of the good governance and democracy tenets, SADC states have been encouraged to adhere to the revised SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections, which provide a normative peer review framework to measure adherence to standardised universal best practices in relation to the conduct of elections and, ultimately, the prevention of election-related conflicts.

In this regard, since the adoption of the SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections, the region has successfully deployed electoral observation missions to observe elections in member states.

In 2018 and 2019 alone, observer missions were deployed

to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The deployment of the observer missions, supported by the SADC Electoral Advisory Council, has by and large, contributed to the enhanced credibility of electoral processes in member states and towards deepening democracy in the region.

Geingob, who will hand over the chair to Tanzanian president John Magufuli at the 39th SADC summit set for 17-18 August in Dar es Salaam, said the SADC standby force has strengthened capacity for collective defence and rapid response to security threats in the region and in Africa.

Established in 2007, the SADC standby force successfully assumed Africa Standby Force (ASF) roster duties from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019.

The assumption of the ASF standby duties entailed that the SADC force had the primary responsibility of being the first responder to conflict situations on the continent by providing a rapid deployment capability.

The ASF is an important tool of the African peace and security architecture for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the continent.

To mainstream gender in peace and security, SADC has developed a regional framework that will serve as a guide on regional peace and security systems and processes.

Geingob said despite these achievements, various challenges continue to hinder the ability of SADC to make the benefits of belonging to a shared community in southern Africa enjoyable by all its citizens.



Used brassieres are banned across Tanzania but they have proved part of business impossible to beat. This is at Dar es Salaam's Manzese open-air roadside market, as found yesterday. Photo: John Badi

Closing gender digital divide, opens opportunities for women in agriculture

By Busani Bafana

INFORMATION and communication technologies (ICTs) are promoted as an equaliser of opportunities - but this is not always the case for women. Several African initiatives are demonstrating the critical contribution that information and knowledge can make to increase agricultural productivity and run a profitable agribusiness.

Women make up just 25% of the global population with access to the

internet. Africa has the widest gap in internet use between men and women, and only 22% of the overall population is online, according to the World Wide Web Foundation.

African governments need to boost investments in programmes to reduce the growing gender digital divide, says the Foundation.

Thanks to digital innovation however, some women entrepreneurs in Africa are already transforming agriculture and agribusiness through knowledge

sharing, skills training and access to effective markets.

"Agriculture is the future and ICTs are a key platform to including women in agribusiness through skills training, mentorship and access to markets," says agripreneur and director of the African Women Agribusiness Network (AWAN) Beatrice Gakuba, who runs a successful flower export business.

Based in Nairobi, Kenya, AWAN supports women in agriculture in entering global markets through leadership and

management training and networking opportunities.

The network has more than 300 members across Eastern and Southern Africa. "We empower our members with information to access effective markets. We get women in agribusiness together physically and online," says Gakuba. "Virtual platforms such as Facebook and Twitter have helped us to network and share information and knowledge exchange on trade opportunities."

Don Bosco vocational training centres arms 260 students with skills in renewable energy

By Guardian Reporter

A TOTAL of 260 youth have been trained on renewable energy, thanks to the initiatives made by Don Bosco Vocational Training Centres located in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Iringa.

The institution has been working to advance each centre's ability to provide technical and vocational training in renewable energy.

To date, 260 male and female students are accessing renewable energy training at Don Bosco Vocational Training Centers in Dodoma and Iringa.

Don Bosco Oysterbay in Dar es Salaam has been funded over the last two years through a partnership with Misereor, the German Catholic Bishops' Organization for Development Cooperation, to help advance this training capacity.

Building off this work, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation awarded a grant to Salesian Missions to fund the same training initiative at the Don Bosco training centres in Dodoma and Iringa. This has led to the establishment of training laboratories and the remodelling of the solar and electronic classes and workshops at the centres as well as the installation of training equipment and furniture and the development and training of instructors on the new syllabus.

The projects are contributing to increased access to quality technical training on renewable energy in Tanzania.

As the world faces growing environmental degradation and climatic change challenges, there is a need to embrace sustainable development more than ever before.

This has led to a need for leaders and practitioners of technical and vocational education and training to improve their understanding and implementation of education for sustainable development using a whole-institution approach to greening their institutions.

Sikitu Kichele Ngambi is a 29-year-old mother who grew up in the Kuriya tribe in Tanzania's North Western region of Mara bordering Kenya.

There, traditional practices are marginalizing women and men dominate the family. She says, "Previously before coming to Dodoma for electrical and solar energy education, I was a stay home young mother, whose basic role was to attend to all house chores and take care of my four children. I had no voice in the family nor any financial power.

I dropped out from school and had lost hope. I wished to empower myself both intellectually and financially but did not know how."

Ngambi was introduced to the Salesian electrical course by a friend who had heard about it on the radio. She joined in early 2016 and finished the course in October 2018. Through support from the Charles Mott Foundation, she was able to take the course for free.

"I am now confident in my ability to work as a solar expert with knowledge of the components and design of the different solar systems, battery and inverter usage thanks to the theory and practical lessons I took at the Salesian technical school," adds Ngambi.

Ngambi does both electrical and solar work in her community which generates and contributes to her family's income.

Student exchange programme afoot as EAC marks 20th anniversary

By Guardian Reporter

THE Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), an institution of the East African Community (EAC), is currently running an advert for the nascent EAC Scholarship Programme.

The advert is basically inviting applications for Master's degree scholarships tenable at universities in four EAC Partner States, namely Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The advert, which runs from 5th July to 1st August, 2019, was first published in the 6th - 12th July edition of the weekly The East African newspaper.

The number of available scholarships under the programme is 157 under six thematic areas, namely: Mathematics; Engineering; Informatics; Science; Technology, and; Business Science.

The EAC Scholarship Programme is the product of a financing agreement of €5 million signed between the EAC and the Federal Republic of Germany on 9th April, 2018. The scholarship programme is being implemented in cooperation with IUCEA and KfW, the German Development Bank.

The goal of the programme is to promote the integration agenda in East Africa by supporting higher education students. Scholarship

beneficiaries will undoubtedly foster awareness about the integration, and spur social change and economic growth.

The programme is designed to support EAC students with academic talent and leadership qualities. In addition to the provision of scholarships, the EAC scholars will be actively facilitated through programme activities such as regional leadership seminars and mentoring schemes.

It is further anticipated that the beneficiaries of the scholarship programme will become highly skilled 'change agents' for their home communities as qualified professionals with a strong understanding of regional challenges, approaches and expertise in their subject fields.

The EAC region has a long history of cooperation in education particularly between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, which are the founders of the Community. The EAC is cognizant of the fact that most of its aspirations can only be achieved through high quality and relevant education and training.

Under Article 103(a) of the EAC Treaty, Partner States undertook to promote cooperation in the development of science and technology, which are viewed as the prime movers of regional integration and development. The

Community's objective then is to develop a completely harmonized East African education system for the enhancement of a productive human resource base.

Inherent in a harmonized education system are: the establishment of a common reference to facilitate comparability, compatibility, equation and mutual recognition of education/training systems and qualifications among Partner States.

There is also the shared view among Partner States on quality, criteria, standards and learning outcomes; promoting mobility of students and labour to foster integration, and; promotion of the region as a Common Higher Education Area.

The harmonization of education systems and curricula dates way back to the first Community. The EAC had a single examination system and same curricula. The University of East Africa (UEA) had its main campus in Makerere, Kampala, Uganda with affiliate colleges in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi.

In the early 1970s, UEA split into three independent universities: the University of Dar es Salaam, Makerere University in Uganda, and the University of Nairobi.

The EAC acknowledges that youth traditionally bring energy, drive and passion to any ac-

tivity they embark on, and the integration process in East Africa is no exception.

Added to this is the Community's view that the youth will be the major beneficiaries of an integrated East Africa which is expected to bring with it various benefits which include, among other things, harmonized fees in institutions of higher learning, increased employment opportunities, better infrastructure, increased trade and investment, and socio-cultural integration.

Some of the youth are already reaping these benefits of the integration.

The EA Scholarship Programme is modelled on the Erasmus Programme (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) - an EU student exchange programme that was established in 1987.

Erasmus scholars study at least three months or undertake an internship of at least two months to an academic year in another European country.

The programme has an in-built guarantee credit transfer scheme as long as the scholars abide by the terms previously set. A key component of the programme is that students do not pay extra tuition fees to the university that they visit. Scholars are also eligible to apply for an Erasmus grant to cover additional expenses

occasioned by studying abroad.

For many EU students, Erasmus is their first time to live and study in another country. Erasmus has then become a cultural phenomenon and is highly popular among many students in Europe. The programme fosters learning and understanding of the host country.

The EAC on its part is convinced that the scholarship programme will help nurture a pan-East African identity among the youth. A year abroad will enable students to visit EAC Partner States other than the ones in which they were born and demystify any suspicions and mistrusts that could be inherent among citizens of one's country vis-à-vis other countries. It will be a perfect opportunity for exposure of the youth to various peoples and cultures in East Africa.

As the EAC commemorates its 20th anniversary, it anticipates that the student exchange initiative engendered by the scholarship programme will foster regional integration by giving students a chance to live and learn in Partner States other than their own.

Going forward, the Community's dream is that support for the scholarship programme will expand to include funding from philanthropists, Partner States' governments, corporates and charitable foundations.



Street cleaners deployed by Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipality at work along the Magomeni Usalama stretch of Morogoro Road yesterday. Photo: John Badi

New panel on leadership pledges push on equality

ACCRA

A PANEL of eminent persons from Africa and around the globe has pledged to champion key policy issues critical to Africa's future, particularly gender equality, youth and leadership as drivers of economic transformation, with a focus on constructing a gender and transformation index.

Inaugurated on 16 July in Accra, the Transformation Leadership Panel (TLP) will work with regional bodies such as the African Union and the African Development Bank, as well as with global development organisations.

The TLP is an initiative of the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), whose founder, K.Y. Amoako, is a former executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Liberian President, is Chair of the panel. Ghana's Finance Minister, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, attended the meeting and emphasised the importance of jobs, particularly for Africa's youth.

The TLP has been established to advocate on critical challenges facing the continent, notably climate change, demographics, innovation and regional integration.

These are seen as areas where Africa's leaders must take bold action to either avoid negative impacts, for example on climate change or the demographic bulge in many countries.

Likewise, action on innovation and regional integration can take advantage of opportunities for transformative change.

Meteorological authorities improve weather forecasts for Lake Victoria

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER AND AGENCIES

TWICE-daily weather forecasts are now being issued for the fishing community on Lake Victoria as part of a coordinated campaign to improve early warning systems and increase resilience to extreme weather in the largest freshwater body in Africa and the biggest inland fishery in the world.

Until now, Lake Victoria has lacked effective early warning systems to protect those who depend on it. Thousands of fishermen and small boat operators die on the lake each year, affecting 40 000 dependents and compounding the poverty cycle. Locals get caught in deadly storms either because there is no weather warning, they do not receive the warning message, or the message

is not taken seriously because it is presented in an unclear way.

"As fishermen, the problem that we face is that we encounter strong winds, fog, heavy clouds and water spouts. They just show up unexpectedly, making it difficult for us to do our work well," says Joseph Omer a fisherman in Jinja, Uganda.

The Kenya Meteorological Department and Uganda National

Meteorological Authority are providing marine forecasts, including wind magnitude and direction, waves, rainfall intensity and distribution, and visibility on the Lake. The Tanzania Meteorological Agency and Meteorological Authority will also start providing forecasts very soon.

The forecasts have been developed as part of the HIGH impact Weather Lake System

project, known as HIGHWAY, which brings together partners including the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and UK and the US National Center for Atmospheric Research. It is managed by the WMO and funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

Such efforts builds upon

WMO-led Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) which strengthened countries' capacity to deliver improved forecasts and warnings of severe weather to save lives and livelihoods, and protect property and infrastructure.

WMO has produced a video demonstrating the need and the benefits of the three-year project.

The NMHSs of the countries bordering the Lake (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) forecast for their own sectors of the lake. A key driver for the HIGHWAY project is therefore to coordinate early warning services for the Lake and its basin, with potentially one centralised operational centre utilising all available information and data from the whole basin.

Illegal fishing endangers ecosystems and food security

By Darunee Sukanan

JUST as in sport, so in environmental protection, receiving a yellow card (or "warned status") is an indication that you've committed a bad foul. You've been issued a warning to mend your ways. The European Union hands out yellow cards to countries that it considers to be in violation of sustainable fishing practices.

In an attempt to get their yellow card (or "warned status") lifted, these countries can improve the management of their fisheries by tackling illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing practices that pose dangers to aquatic resources in their national waters.

IUU fishing usually happens in countries with weak fisheries management and lax law enforcement. Harmful and unsustainable fishing practices can deplete marine resources, leading to the collapse of local fisheries. If a country fails to improve its record, it could find itself red-carded and thus banned from the lucrative EU market for its marine products.

Thailand, a country famed for its seafood, was handed a yellow

card in 2015. The status, however, was withdrawn this past January as the Southeast Asian nation was found to have made substantive progress in addressing shortcomings in its fishing practices. The Thai government's attempts at doing so have included regulating the mesh sizes in trawl fishing nets in order to reduce bycatch.

Yet despite such progress, marine fish stocks in Thai waters continue to be depleted. The country's National Fisheries Association has warned that short-bodied mackerel (known as the "fish of the nation" locally because they are highly popular domestically) may go extinct from the Gulf of Thailand in a few years unless immediate action is taken.

Every year the Department of Fisheries closes the upper part of the Gulf of Thailand during the breeding season for various species of fish, including short-bodied mackerel. Various pelagic fish start migrating from the south of the Thai Gulf to its northern part to find spawning grounds. During this period, fishing boats are not allowed in select areas.

Blast fishing is a lucrative practice but a highly destructive one.

Yet many local fishermen continue to flout this ban by illegally catching adult female fish during their breeding season, which can greatly reduce the number of newly spawned fish. As a result, local stocks of numerous fish species can be depleted within just a few short years.

The difficulty of protecting aquatic resources in Thailand is reflected by the plight of mackerel in local waters. As overfishing and illegal fishing continue to harm marine ecosystems, domestic fish stocks are dwindling fast. Soon fish will hardly be enough for domestic consumption, let alone for foreign exports.

Local experts stress that forbidding the use of certain net types, and enforcing that ban rigorously, can make a big difference to fish populations. "I put my position at stake," Mongkol Sukcharoenkhana, president of the National Fisheries Association of Thailand, wagers. "I will quit [my job] if the Fisheries Department strictly forbids the use of gill nets during the short-bodied mackerel's egg-laying season, but the number of short-bodied mackerel does not increase."



Kindergarten pupil Elieda Isaack of Bukumbi Primary School in Misungwi District, Mwanza Region, goes through the book she is holding during a visit to the school on Thursday by Tixon Nzunda (kneeling-R), Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government - Education). Photo: Correspondent Mathew Kwembe

Human trafficking a global challenge, with no country really fully protected

ON the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, let us reaffirm our commitment to stop criminals from ruthlessly exploiting people for profit and to help victims rebuild their lives." - UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex. Since 2003 the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has collected information on about 225,000 victims of trafficking detected worldwide. Globally countries are detecting and reporting more victims, and are convicting more traffickers. This can be the result of increased capacity to identify victims and/or an increased number of trafficked victims.

Every country in the world is affected by human trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit, or destination for victims. Traffickers the world over continue to target women and girls. The vast majority of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and 35 per cent of those trafficked for forced labour are female. Conflict further exacerbates vulnerabilities, with armed groups exploiting civilians and traffickers targeting forcibly displaced people. Data also shows that trafficking happens all around us as the share of persons trafficked within their own country has doubled in recent years to 58 per cent of all detected victims, according to the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

The Trust Fund facilitates effective, on-the-ground assistance and protection to victims of trafficking, through grants to specialized NGOs. It aims to prioritize victims coming from a context of armed conflict and those identified among large refugee and migration flows.

In September 2015, the world adopted the 2030 Sustainable Development

Agenda and embraced goals and targets on trafficking in persons. These goals call for an end to trafficking and violence against children; as well as the need for measures against human trafficking, and they strive for the elimination of all forms of violence against and exploitation of women and girls.

Despite many countries having national trafficking laws in place which are in line with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, people continue to be trafficked. What is more, in many countries, victims may still be criminalized while the impunity of traffickers prevails.

Therefore, on the 2019 World Day UNODC is focusing on highlighting the importance of Government action in the interest of victims of trafficking. But the call to action is not only to Governments, we encourage everyone to take action to prevent this heinous crime.

Human trafficking is a global problem and no country is immune to it. Millions of victims fall into the hands of traffickers, lured by fake promises and deceit.

Data also shows that trafficking happens all around us as the share of persons trafficked within their own country has doubled in recent years to 58 per cent of all detected victims, according to the 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

Despite many countries having national trafficking laws in place which are in line with the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, people continue to be trafficked. What is more, in many countries, victims may still be criminalized while the impunity of traffickers prevails.

Therefore, on the 2019 World Day UNODC is focusing on highlighting the importance of Government action in the interest of victims of trafficking. But the call to action is not only to governments, we encourage everyone to take action to prevent

This is why experts keep harping on the need to keep an eye on hepatitis

WORLD Hepatitis Day, observed on July 28 every year, aims to raise global awareness of hepatitis, a group of infectious diseases known as Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E - and encourage prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Hepatitis affects hundreds of millions of people worldwide, causing acute and chronic disease and killing close to 1.4 million people every year.

Hepatitis B is one of the most common infectious diseases in the world with high prevalence in most of sub-Saharan Africa countries. The complexity in its diagnosis and treatment poses a significant management challenge in the resource-limited settings including Tanzania, where most of the tests and drugs are either unavailable or unaffordable.

World Hepatitis Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Health Day, World Blood Donor Day, World Immunization Week, World Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Malaria Day and World AIDS Day.

Hepatitis groups, patients and advocates worldwide take part in events on 28 July. Notably in 2012, a Guinness World Record was created when 12,588 people from 20 countries did the Three Wise Monkeys actions on World Hepatitis Day to signify the willful ignorance of the disease.

The inaugural International Hepatitis C Awareness day, coordinated by various European and Middle Eastern Patient Groups and Baby Muriel, took place on October 1, 2004. However many patient groups continued to mark 'hepatitis day' on disparate dates.

For this reason in 2008, the World

Hepatitis Alliance in collaboration with patient groups declared May 19 the first global World Hepatitis Day.

The idea of Hepatitis day originated in Cuttack, Odisha.

As mentioned by Blumberg himself in his autobiography, Professor SP Singh, Head of the department of Gastroenterology, SCB Cuttack proposed to celebrate Hepatitis day in the institute on 28th of July.

Following the adoption of a resolution during the 63rd World Health Assembly in May 2010, World Hepatitis Day was given global endorsement as the primary focus for national and international awareness-raising efforts and the date was changed to July 28 in honour of Nobel Laureate Baruch Samuel Blumberg, discoverer of the hepatitis B virus, who celebrates his birthday on that date.

The resolution resolves that 28 July shall be designated as World Hepatitis Day in order to provide an opportunity for education and greater understanding of viral hepatitis as a global public health problem, and to stimulate the strengthening of preventive and control measures of this disease in member States.

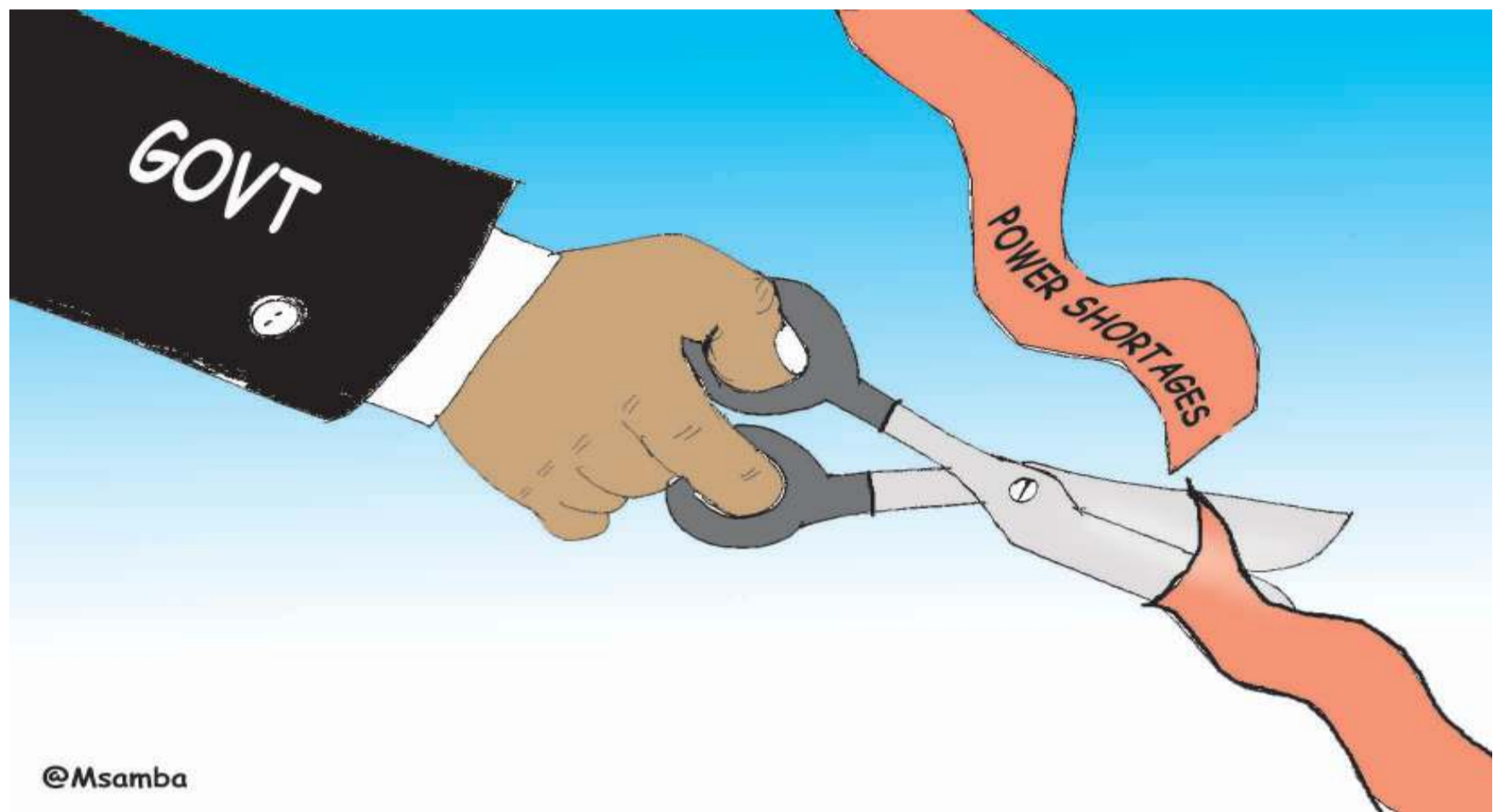
World Hepatitis Day is now recognised in over 100 countries each year through events such as free screenings, poster campaigns, demonstrations, concerts, talk shows, flash mobs and vaccination drives, amongst many others. Each year a report is published by the WHO and the World Hepatitis Alliance detailing all the events across the world.

Signs and symptoms of acute hepatitis appear quickly. They include: fatigue, flu-like symptoms, dark urine, pale stool, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, unexplained weight loss, yellow skin and eyes, which may be signs of jaundice.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts
MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk
General Line: 022 2700735/8
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising
Manager Sales & Marketing:
Kauthar D'souza
Cel: + 255 767 223311 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: lppmedia.com



@Msamba

The perfect storm is coming in Zimbabwe

By Eddie Cross

I do not know what we have to say or do to get those in authority here to understand that if they do nothing, Zimbabwe is headed for a political storm, which could change everything or even sink the ship.

I am regarded as a perpetual optimist, I am not really as I think quite rationally, but I always try to put forward a solution or way forward that I think is in the national interest.

What am I talking about? Right now we have fuel queues like I have never seen before, we have electricity outages for 18 hours a day.

Last week I learned of massive corruption at the Grain Marketing Board, which has revealed that the maize stocks are simply not there and furthermore, what is there is unfit even for livestock consumption.

A real panic is on to get maize here and fast. But at the same time, prices for everything are being set at an exchange rate of 8 to 12 to 1 or even more.

The rapid rise in prices has halted temporarily following the rash of measures adopted 10 days ago with SI 142, but there is every sign that we are going to see it decline still further -- the difference being that the so-called bank rate is now leading rather than the informal exchange rate markets.

Add to that shortages of key foods such as bread and cooking oil, both essentials in our national diets, and you have the making of a perfect political storm.

Choose your basis for a decent riot and will a dispirited police and army be able to handle the subsequent events? I very much doubt it, that is why the army was used both in 2018 and 2019, in January, with disastrous results.

I have been saying to anyone who will listen in the past two weeks that action across a broad front is needed to get markets operating properly and to get prices down to a more reasonable level and to fix the shortages. Sounds like a tall order, but it's not.

The key is the interbank market for foreign exchange. Under pressure from the Finance minister, the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has announced the formation of a monetary policy committee and an interbank market operating on a willing seller, willing buyer basis.

The former was announced as far back as December 2018, the latter in February this year -- seven and five months ago.

Nothing has been done to bring them into existence. I said at a meeting last week, attended by the RBZ that no such market exists.

The RBZ responded that the banks published an exchange rate every day -- there must be a market. But there is nothing of the sort.

No electronic platform and no open, transparent, physical market where buyers and sellers of foreign exchange can operate and clear demand on a daily basis.

There is no formal market, banks continue to trade on their own with what resources they individually control.

Let me repeat what I have been saying for months: We are on the right track policy-wise, our macro-economic fundamentals are fine, we have a fiscal surplus and are holding down government expenditure and we now have a foreign exchange surplus. So why the crisis?

There should be no crisis, our foreign exchange earnings come from three main sources -- exports of goods and services, income from tourism and what we call "invisibles" or net transfers and remittances from the Diaspora.

Exports last year were US\$4.3 billion, the other income about US\$1.6 and the Diaspora -- who knows?

What I know is that we have five million or more adult Zimbabweans living and working outside the country; three million in South Africa, the rest overseas.

Money transfer agencies have millions of Zimbabwean clients, none report transfers on average below US\$50 per month. If you say 50 x 5 million, you get US\$3 billion per annum.

Mukuru reports average transfers in 2018 of US\$78 per transfer.

In my view, Diaspora remittances are not less than US\$3 billion.

Look around you -- queues of people collecting money, house building worth billions every year -- three million tonnes of cement, school fees, groceries and chema (bereavement) payments.

If this is the case, we have about US\$9 billion in forex available to meet our needs for imports and other things.

Our imports have declined



Eddie Cross is a columnist and author of the article

nearly 25% because of low domestic demand at crazy prices.

These inflows of foreign currency are being managed by three institutional sectors -- the banks, the RBZ and the open market money traders.

In each sector they are motivated, not by determining the real market price on a willing seller/buyer basis, but by getting the highest return for the dollar -- the banks are chasing their tails driven by their clients and the money changers make money on every turn and their clients want top dollar.

So the exchange rate runs. The major impact of the de-dollarisation and SI 142 was to bring the foreign exchange in the informal market more into the banks and this is what has reduced the exchange rate in the past 10 days from 15 to 1 to 8 to 12 to 1.

But the RBZ remains at the centre of this brewing storm in its inexplicable reluctance to implement stated policy.

Over the past two weeks they are supposed to have put half their retentions from exports onto the interbank market for trading purposes.

That is nearly US\$1.5 billion

a year or US\$6 million a day -- a considerable sum. Banks report no such activity.

I can understand why, because we continue to see the RBZ doing crazy things -- they are issuing letters of credit to support purchases of fuel and electricity and raw materials for the food industry -- all good you say.

But if we are selling fuel at half the landed cost of the stuff, maize at 30% of its real value, wheat at the same rate and electricity at 2US cents a kWh -- we are going broke rapidly. When we give government US\$21 million to buy luxury cars from Croco Motors at 1 to 1, we have bought that foreign exchange at 8 or 9 to one -- the entire loss of \$150 million goes into the RBZ overdraft -- the most inflationary form of borrowing that is available.

Despite denials, I see new bond notes in the market -- still smelling of printer's ink. What are they doing with that?

They are buying gold and then using the gold to settle the bank's external liabilities.

It is months since we saw any significant statistics on anything from the central bank. What are they hiding? The truth is the RBZ is totally out of control.

Why is this important? What has it got to do with the perfect storm?

Everything. If we had an interbank market -- say, a daily gathering of traders of foreign exchange in the basement of the RBZ building in Harare.

If all foreign exchange from all sources was placed on that table every morning at, say, 10am.

If all banks came to the market with their clients' needs, a price would emerge from that table, which would reflect real supply and demand.

If I am right about the supply and demand of hard currency in Zimbabwe, the rate would come down immediately -- my colleagues on the Economists Round Table, a local think-tank, agree; it would fall below 4 to 1.

Human Rights Watch disappoints on human rights

GENEVA

ON 22 July 2019, Kenneth Roth published an article in *Publico*, Lisbon, entitled: "UN Chief Guterres has disappointed on Human Rights".

This essay lampooning Antonio Guterres is not a voice "against the tide" but very much mainstream - and demonstrably skewed. Major NGOs headquartered in rich advanced countries and enjoying generous funding from the Establishment may not always think "out of the box" and are as likely, as are the interest groups which support them, to politicize human rights and therefore to disappoint rights holders in smaller or weaker countries.

While they do contribute to exposing situations of human rights violations worldwide, they are not exempt from biases which reflect the structure of their central governing bodies or the cultural environment within which they operate.

They cannot arrogate to themselves the sole legitimacy to speak in the name of the civil society of many countries, and when they claim to do so, they may disappoint rightsholders, particularly in the developing countries, whose priorities are frequently different from theirs.

Sober analysis and stocktaking are necessary to determine whether and to what extent the priorities and agendas of NGOs like HRW are set by the overall interests of the established power-structures and multiple elites in many countries. Kenneth Roth's article expressing disappointment at the human rights performance of Secretary General Antonio Guterres fails to identify the root causes of human rights violations. His admonitions have little or no preventative value, and do not formulate constructive recommendations such as, for instance, the provision of advisory services and technical assistance to many countries that need it and have asked for it.

HRW's "naming and shaming" strategy has been inconclusive at best because "naming and shaming" depends on the authority of the "namer" and



the impartiality of the methodology. Kenneth Roth's bludgeoning of the UN Secretary General in this regard is yet another expression of grandstanding and even of a measure of arrogance.

HRW's criticism of China, Russia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, would be more persuasive if the organisation addressed with the same intensity the egregious violations of human rights in many other countries.

For instance, Mr. Roth does not mention the denial of the right of self-determination to millions of people, the retrogression in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights (prohibited by the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), the looting of natural resources and degradation of the environment by transnational corporations and their neocolonial schemes, the impunity enjoyed by politicians who engage in aggressive wars and by paramilitaries and private security companies, the devastating human rights impact of blockades by source

countries and economic sanctions on the populations of Gaza, Syria, Iran and Venezuela, which have caused and continue to cause tens of thousands of deaths.

The politicization or as we now witness with concern, the "weaponization" of human rights is taking the world on a slippery slope. When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted in 1948, Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Malik, René Cassin and others spoke of human dignity and the inalienable rights of human beings, but article 29 of UDHR also reminded us that "everyone has duties to the community". Indeed, what is most necessary is global education in human rights, including the human right to peace, education in empathy and solidarity with others - compassion, not predatory competition in "the human rights industry" on a "holier than thou" ticket.

Meanwhile, Secretary-General Anto-

nio Guterres should not be expected to act as a Human Rights NGO. This high office is not that of an unaccountable activist. It is neither that of a general that can blast any state at will nor is it a secretary that has to be subservient to the prevailing powers that be.

That high official must recognize the reality of the power balance that he cannot fundamentally alter but must strive with obduracy and at times courage to stretch the international community towards more compliance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Most importantly this means the promotion of peace through conflict-prevention, good offices, impartial mediation, disarmament and yes, human rights. When all diplomacy fails and only then may "naming and shaming" become an option. But it is a default option and a sign of diplomatic failure.

IPS

Where to from here in Algeria?

BY MATTHEW HERBERT

IT is Friday in Algeria. Once again - as they have for 23 weeks - protesters will fill the streets of cities across the country. Their ranks represent a cross-section of Algeria: young and old, men and women, office workers and labourers. All marching peacefully, many draped in Algerian flags, calling for democracy and civil rights.

The duration, momentum and peaceful nature of the protests underscore the strong support by many Algerians for an overhaul of the deeply unpopular political system. The protests have already accomplished more than many observers expected. Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the long-serving president whose bid for another term prompted the rallies, is out of power.

Despite this, the political uncertainty in Algeria is far from being resolved. Government efforts to placate the public through largely symbolic actions - such as the arrest of widely disliked former regime officials or businessmen - have only fuelled demand for more comprehensive change. The protesters refuse to accept any vestiges of the old regime in positions of power. This includes both interim President Abdelkader Bensalah and Prime Minister Noureddine Bedoui.

Protesters' rejection of these figures along with government's preferred transition process led to the cancellation of elections planned for 4 July. On 9 July the interim government's mandate expired, creating a constitutional vacuum even as it remains in power.

Despite the creation of a national dialogue forum, there is no clarity on what happens next. This uncertainty is exacerbated by a worsening stand-off between the protest movement and the government. Police are taking a harder line, and are arresting growing numbers of protesters and dissidents. Army chief of staff General Ahmed Gaïd Salah, believed to be the key decision maker at present, has issued strong statements condemning those advocating against the government's transition plans.

But impediments to a negotiated solution exist on both sides. Among the protesters there is little formal leadership or encompassing ideology apart from denying Bouteflika another term.



Initially, this was one of the movement's greatest strengths. The leaderless approach prevented the government from detaining organisers, while the lack of ideology enabled a broad-based coalition of protesters to cooperate.

Now, leaderless has become a weakness. It offers no clear point for the government to negotiate with or means to distil the demands of the street into concrete policy proposals. For constructive negotiations to begin, the protester's leadership needs to consolidate. Their focus should then be on building consensus between the different class, gender and geographic constituencies about what the protest movement stands for politically. These demands can then be negotiated with government.

Factors and factions within government also challenge the dialogue process. The military has played a decisive, though largely behind-the-scenes, role in political decision making since independence. It is deeply vested in the old system partly for institutional reasons - the defence budget increased fivefold during the Bouteflika years. Current and retired senior officers are also personally vested in the system, with many leveraging their years of service into lucrative business opportunities.

The institutional and personal inter-

Political settlement is a long way off, but the peaceful and tenacious nature of the protests are hopeful signs. File photo

ests of the military in maintaining the status quo make negotiations harder. Senior officers whose agreement is needed for concessions are those whose interests are most affected by significant change.

Further complicating negotiations is the lack of unity within the military. Unexpected and unusual removals of several senior officers from key command posts in mid- to late-2018 and again in July underscored these divisions. Discord narrows the space for concessions by Salah and other senior officers. Too many concessions, or concessions on key priorities, could lead to Salah and other senior officers being removed from their positions.

The transition process will hinge on how the protesters and the government - mainly the military - are able to overcome their internal interests and constraints, and find consensus.

The outcome will also be influenced by external factors. In particular, the trajectory of the economy and the actions of terrorist groups could have a major impact. Algeria's economy has worsened significantly over recent years. Further deterioration, fuelled by negative popular perception, poses risks to both sides.

The risks are greatest for the government's position in negotiations. A wors-

ening economy will exacerbate Algerians' grievances and redouble support for the protesters. Protesters also run a risk though, particularly if government links the faltering economy to protesters' intransigence.

Terrorist activity could also significantly affect the transition. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb cells exist in Algeria, and though the group's capacity has declined, it remains a dangerous threat. One or two deadly or high-profile attacks could derail the fragile transition process by swaying attitudes and decision making among protesters, the military or broader society.

While foreign states have an understandable interest in the outcome of Algeria's transition, they should recognise that they have only a limited productive role to play in the process. There is little space for foreign mediation, with government unlikely to support such an intervention.

This doesn't mean foreign actors have no part to play. Rather, they should focus on publicly stating their support and privately exerting diplomatic pressure for a transition process that is broad-based, peaceful and focused on building a social consensus on Algeria's future.

ISS



(From left) African Union chairperson and president of Rwanda Paul Kagame, president of Niger Mahamadou Issoufou and African Union Commission chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat at the launch of AfCFTA in Kigali in March 2018. Photo: File

Nigeria finally throws its weight behind African continental free trade area

ABUJA, Nigeria

ON 7 July 2019, Nigeria finally threw its weight behind the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) when President Muhammadu Buhari signed the treaty at a summit of African heads of state in Niamey. In normal circumstances, that shouldn't have been big news.

But Nigeria sent shockwaves through the continent when it withheld approval for AfCFTA in March last year at a summit in Kigali. Nigeria's action surprised many as the country was initially one of the drivers of the single African market idea. 44 African countries had signed the agreement nonetheless.

It's obvious why Nigeria's participation and endorsement matters. It's not just Africa's most populous country with some 200 million people; it's also the continent's largest economy with a GDP of more than USD 405bn. Based on that and its stature in international relations, Nigeria's support was indispensable for its success.

The free trade area of about 1.2 billion people and a GDP of around USD 2.5 trillion promises to be the largest trading bloc in the world. Its advocates also say it gives hope of growing intra-African trade beyond its currently low level of around 17 per cent.

Tariff and non-tariff barriers (the many documents exporters must carry cause long delays at African borders) make intra-African trade costlier than Africa's trade with other regions. In comparison, the levels of Africa's trade with other continents have historically been much higher.

If the continent wants to achieve the socio-economic development encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030, AfCFTA could be a game changer.

A win-win situation?

"There is no doubt that AfCFTA will reduce or eliminate barriers to trade and harmonize standards on the continent," said Yinka Adeyemi, a senior adviser at the United Nations.

Economic Commission for Africa. "It will also provide an overarching framework within which regions can address their peculiar challenges in a specific manner."

For Nigeria, this could be a win-win. Some of the country's banks are already doing business in more than a dozen African countries. Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, has multi-billion dollar cement plants operating across the continent.

Its booming movie industry, known as Nollywood, is already a household name across Africa. The country's music industry too stands to gain from a single African market. The logic is that, when businesses thrive, more workers are hired who will then plough back their wages into the economy, thus boost-

ing growth. That would ensure prosperity for millions of Nigerians working in those sectors.

But major Nigerian stakeholders, including the leading workers' union and representatives of local chambers of commerce, are not convinced that these potential benefits would materialise, and asked the government to first consult at home before proceeding.

With presidential elections looming early in 2019, the government hesitated, not willing to risk losing the votes of millions of workers and unemployed people who fear more jobs could potentially be moved elsewhere.

"We at the Nigeria Labour Congress are shocked by the sheer impunity and blatant lack of consultation in the process that has led to this," Ayuba Wabba, president of the Congress, said early last year when it was apparent that the government was planning to sign the agreement alongside other African countries. He thinks that AfCFTA is an "extremely dangerous and radioactive neoliberal policy", inimical to the fortunes of Nigeria's workers.

The workers' body's key objections were that AfCFTA would open the country's borders to an influx of goods that would kill local industries. Nigeria's porous borders have been a burden on the economy for decades.

In the once boisterous textile industry, more than 100 factories have collapsed, resulting in the loss of 500,000 jobs from the 1990s onwards because of cheap textile imports from China and other Asian countries. At its peak in the 1980s, the Nigerian textile industry was the second largest employer in the country after the government.

Will the implementation work?

For this reason, Nigerians want to ensure that under AfCFTA, foreign products will not be re-labelled as originating, for example, from the neighbouring Republic of Benin when, in reality, they have been shipped into the country from Asia.

Nigerians are worried that there may not be enough safeguards in the continental trade agreement to stop smuggled cars, motor bikes, vegetable oil, fruit juices and wines, imported through Benin's port of Cotonou into the country for decades, from hurting the economy.

Yet, AfCFTA promises immense benefits for Nigeria in the manufacturing sector if it can improve infrastructure such as energy, roads, rail and air transport. Improved power supply to industries as well as its small and medium-scale enterprises will put Nigeria in a position to compete with producers from other countries. With a thriving manufacturing sector, Nigeria's economy would also be diversified away from crude oil.

IPS

Flags of inconvenience: Noose tightens around Iranian shipping

LONDON/DUBAI/PANAMA CITY

SOMEWHERE on its journey from the waters off Iran, around Africa's southern tip and into the Mediterranean, the Grace 1 oil tanker lost the flag under which it sailed and ceased to be registered to Panama. Iran later claimed it as its own.

The ship carrying 2 million barrels of Iranian crude was seized by British Royal Marines off Gibraltar, raising tensions in the Gulf where Iran detained a UK-flagged ship in retaliation.

Grace 1 remains impounded, not because of its flag but because it was suspected of taking oil to Syria in breach of EU sanctions, an allegation that Iran denies.

Yet Panama's move on May 29 to strike it from its register mid-voyage was part of a global squeeze on Iranian shipping.

Nations that register vessels under so-called "flags of convenience" allowing them to sail legally have de-listed dozens of tankers owned by Iran in recent months, tightening the economic noose around it.

In the biggest cull, Panama, the world's most important flag state, removed 59 tankers linked to Iran and Syria earlier this year, a decision welcomed by the United States which wants to cut off Tehran's vital oil exports.

Panama and some other key flag states are looking more closely at the thousands of ships on their registers to ensure they comply with U.S. sanctions that were re-imposed against Iran last year and tightened further since.

A Reuters analysis of shipping registry data shows that Panama has de-listed around 55 Iranian tankers since January. Togo has de-listed at least three and Sierra Leone one.

That represents the majority of its operational fleet of tankers, the lifeblood of the oil-dominated economy, although Iran may have re-registered some ships under new flag states.

When a vessel loses its flag, it typically loses insurance cover if it does not immediately find an alternative, and may be barred from calling at ports. Flags of convenience also provide a layer of cover for a vessel's ultimate owner.

International registries charge fees to ship owners to use their flags and offer tax incentives to attract business.

Iran said it still had plenty of options. "There are so many shipping companies that we can use. In spite of U.S.



pressure, many friendly countries are happy to help us and have offered to help us regarding this issue," said an Iranian shipping official, when asked about tankers being de-listed.

Some nations have expressed caution, however. The world's third biggest shipping registry, Liberia, said its database automatically identified vessels with Iranian ownership or other connections to the country.

"Thus, any potential request to register a vessel with Iranian connection triggers an alert and gets carefully vetted by the Registry's compliance and management personnel," the registry said.

Liberia said it was working closely with U.S. authorities to prevent what it called "malign activity" in maritime trade.

IRANIAN FLAG

In many cases Iran has re-listed ships under its own flag, complicating efforts to move oil and other goods to and from the dwindling number of countries willing to do business with it.

Some shipping specialists said the Iranian flag was problematic because individuals working for the registry in Iran could be designated under U.S. sanctions, and so present a risk for anyone dealing with vessels listed by them.

"Most insurance companies or banks

An audit to remove doubts over voter registration figures would help achieve free and fair elections. File photo

will not be able to deal with the Iranian flag as it is in effect dealing with the Iranian state," said Mike Salthouse, deputy global director with ship insurer the North of England P&I.

Customs officials may also sit up and take notice.

"One of the problems with an Iranian-flagged ship is that there is a 50 percent chance that a customs officer will undertake a search, which means the cargo will be delayed," said a U.N. sanctions investigator, who declined to be named. "These all add to the costs."

A former U.S. diplomat said Washington was often in contact with Panama and other flag states to keep vessel registries "clean".

"We are continuing to disrupt the Qods Force's illicit shipments of oil, which benefit terrorist groups like Hezbollah as well as the Assad regime (in Syria)," said a spokesman at the U.S. State Department.

Qods Force refers to an elite unit of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps that is in charge of the Guards' overseas operations, and Hezbollah is an Iran-backed, heavily armed Shi'ite

Muslim group that forms part of Lebanon's coalition government.

"Nearly 80 tankers involved in sanctionable activity have been denied the flags they need to sail," the spokesman added.

FALSE FLAGS

De-flagging Iranian ships is just one way the international community can squeeze Iran.

U.S. sanctions on oil exports aim to reduce Iran's sales to zero. Iran has vowed to continue exporting.

In the first three weeks of June Iran exported around 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), a fraction of the 2.5 million bpd that Iran shipped before President Donald Trump's exit in May last year from the 2015 nuclear deal with major powers.

Egypt could also complicate life for Tehran if it denies passage to tankers heading to the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal. The alternative route around Africa, taken by Grace 1 before its seizure, is far longer.

Refinitiv shipping data showed the Masal, an Iranian-flagged oil tanker, anchored in the Suez Canal's waiting zone on July 6. It stayed there until July 12, when it

began to sail south. It exited the Red Sea on July 17 and docked at Larak Island, Iran on July 23.

Two Egyptian intelligence sources told Reuters that the tanker was halted in the Red Sea in July by authorities "without anyone knowing the reason".

A second senior Iranian government official involved in shipping declined to comment when asked about the Masal.

The Suez Canal Authority's spokesman said Egypt did not bar vessels from crossing the canal except in times of war, in accordance with the Constantinople Convention. He declined to comment further.

Britain tightened the screw when it seized the Grace 1 supertanker on July 4, accusing it of violating sanctions against Syria.

Two Iranian-flagged ships have been stranded for weeks at Brazilian ports due to a lack of fuel, which state-run oil firm Petrobras refuses to sell them due to U.S. sanctions. Two more Iranian ships in Brazil could also be left without enough fuel to sail home.

A recent incident off Pakistan's coast last month points to the lengths Iran has gone to in order

to keep trading.

The Iranian cargo carrier Hayan left from the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas on June 3 and set sail for Karachi on Pakistan's coast, according to ship tracking data from maritime risk analysts Windward.

On June 7, it changed its name to Mehri II and its flag to that of Samoa, the data showed, as it made its way toward Karachi port.

Six days later, the vessel conducted a ship-to-ship transfer of its unknown cargo further up Pakistan's coast.

The ship then returned home, changing its flag back to Iran and its name back to Hayan.

Imran Ul Haq, spokesman for the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency, said they had no information, when asked about the Iranian ship's activity.

Iran has frequently used ship-to-ship transfers to move oil and oil products since U.S. sanctions were reimposed.

Shipping data also show that a separate Iranian-owned cargo ship, the Ya Haydar, has been sailing around the Gulf and reporting its flag as that of Samoa.

Samoa denies allowing Iran to register any ships under its flag.

"The said vessels Hayan or Ya Haydar are not, and have never been listed, nor registered on the Samoa's registry of vessels," said Anastacia Amoa-Stowers of the Maritime department at Samoa's Ministry of Works, Transport & Infrastructure.

"Given there are currently no Iranian ships listed on Samoa's registry, there is no action to de-list a vessel. Additionally, there has never been any Iranian ships listed on Samoa's vessel registry - previously and at present."

Amoa-Stowers said Samoa was a closed registry, meaning that any foreign vessel flying its flag was doing so illegally.

The second senior Iranian government official involved in shipping declined to comment when asked about the two vessels.

A spokeswoman with the International Maritime Organization said the UN's shipping agency had received information from Samoa which has been circulated to member states.

African youth vow to be on frontline of climate change fight as crises mount

NAIROBI

JESSICA Gimo is yet to overcome the painful memories of her encounter with devastations wrought by Cyclone Idai that battered her native country of Mozambique in March this year.

The 25-year-old law major and volunteer with a grassroots environmental conservation network is convinced that climate change was partly to blame for the catastrophe that swept across the southeast African region, killing an estimated 900 people and displacing more than 1.5 million others.

Speaking at an international climate change forum held in Nairobi recently, Gimo said the worst cyclone ever to hit the southern hemisphere was a wake-up call for the youth to be on the frontline of efforts to advocate sustainable practices that are key to protecting the planet and its natural resources.

"When cyclone Idai battered Mozambique, the destruction it left in its wake was too gruesome and myself in particular almost lost family members who were marooned in their homesteads but were rescued by well-wishers," said Gimo.

She revealed that a visit to her grandmother's residence near Beira port in central Mozambique shed light on the depth of a humanitarian crisis that attracted global attention.

"It was during the tour of my grandmother's homestead that was completely flooded that I came face to face with the grim reality of lost livelihoods though her neighbors were on hand to lend support," said Gimo.

She has joined a growing rank of African youth who have become climate change warriors as the phenomenon poses existential threat to the conti-



nent's economies, communities and ecosystems.

More than 360 young people who attended the international climate change conference in Nairobi were united in their resolve to leverage on their energy and creativity to help their countries withstand a phenomenon that is to blame for worsening habitat loss, hunger, water scarcity and infectious diseases.

The two-day summit that was organized by the United Nations Envi-

ronment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with green advocacy groups and faith-based organizations, underscored the critical role of African youth to promote climate resilience in the continent.

Joyce Msuya, deputy executive director of UNEP, said climate and biodiversity crisis that has become pronounced in Africa requires bold intervention from the youthful demographic to mini-

mize its negative impacts.

"There should be bold actions coming from the African youth to help limit the devastating impacts of climate change on the continent. These youth are key to helping educate communities on practices that promote sustainability," said Msuya.

Christine Kasengele, a 25-year-old education major from Zambia who is a member of a community-based climate change advocacy

group, said that greater involvement of the youth is key to achieving Africa's green and sustainability agenda.

"The youth of this continent are requesting our governments to develop friendly policies that can inspire us to make significant contribution to climate change fight," said Kasengele.

"Climate change is now an emergency and it threatens our collective future. The youth

should be involved in reforestation and promotion of clean energy to minimize carbon emissions," she added.

African youth have rallied behind innovations that aim to enhance the capacity of local communities to cope with negative impacts of climate change like droughts, hunger and loss of biodiversity.

Dennis Murefu, a 30-year-old Kenyan communication specialist and founder of an organization that promotes organic farming, said the youth have a duty to educate communities on food production systems that are climate resilient.

"It is high time the youth took over the roles of educators and influencers to help our communities deal with an ever present threat of a warming planet to their livelihoods," said Murefu.

"One area I think the youth can be more effective is training communities how to carry out climate-smart agriculture and make use of solar and other forms of renewable energy," he added.

Experts attending the forum agreed that African youth who comprise more than 60 percent of the population are key to accelerating the continent's green transformation through promotion of innovations that tackle climate change.

Gary Lewis, director of UNEP's Program and Policy Division, said that African governments should ensure the youth are adequately involved in the implementation of projects that promote climate resilience.

Xinhua

How it feels for adults after being circumcised

By Felister Peter, Morogoro

"I was previously ashamed to take a bath at the river with my workmates, I had to wait for them to finish and then take a quick wash in the dark. I am grateful to my boss for advising me to go for circumcision", said Joseph Anthony (21) a brick maker residing at Mgaza village in Kasanga ward, Morogoro urban district.

Anthony said: "Last week after we finished work, my boss, Samadu Abdul told me about an organization that was conducting free circumcision for males aged 20 years and above. He convinced me to go for it, and I accepted".

Free circumcision services are now provided within all the districts in Morogoro region, thanks to an International Non-Governmental Organization—Jhpiego for procuring a mobile clinic which apart from circumcision, offers combined HIV/Aids services, Tuberculosis (TB) and blood pressure (BP) testing and family planning.

The mobile clinic is part of the various health interventions done by Jhpiego through its two HIV/Aids projects namely, SAUTI and AIDSFree with the support from USAID through PEPFAR.

Anthony (pictured) narrates that on July 20th, this year, he took his young brother with him to the mobile clinic where they were received by a team of professional health services providers and nurses. He said they were first counseled and tested for HIV before proceeding to the

surgery room within the truck.

He said the cutting was done successfully and they were advised to go back for dressing procedures after three days. Dressing is conducted at Jhpiego's identified centers located at SabaSaba health center and Morogoro regional referral hospital.

"I am happy to be among the few first males to get the service at the mobile clinic. Today, is the fifth day since I was circumcised, I am progressing well and I don't feel any pain", he said.

"Both, my parents and my girlfriend were happy when I came back home and told them about the cutting", said the brick maker who can hardly raise not more than 240,000 per month.

A single mud-brick is sold between 140/- and 150/-.

He advised other males who are not circumcised to go for it since it has a number of benefits that includes reducing the risks of HIV infections and Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

He added: "The nurses insisted me to use condoms when making love to my partner to avoid being infected with STDs and HIV".

Interviewed, Samadu Abdul said he first got the news about free circumcision through a community radio. He said there were also vehicles passing around the Streets encouraging people to go for circumcision at the mobile clinic.

"I had to educate them on the importance of circumcision before advising them to go for it. We didn't tell their parents at first, but when they heard about

the news, they were all happy", he said.

Another beneficiary of the free circumcision service, Leonard Ased (20) said: "I first heard about free circumcision services through radio in June this year. I shared the news with my uncle and aunt who decided to take me to Morogoro regional hospital on July 18th 2019, and I was lucky to be circumcised on the same day in the medical truck at Bigwa".

Ased who completed his ordinary level secondary education in 2018, admitted that it was difficult for him to mix with fellow students during shower over fears of being humiliated.

"I used to hide in the toilet or behind a tree when changing clothes before playing football. I was doing this to avoid being laughed at by the girls and my fellow students", narrated Ased calling upon young male Tanzanians who are not circumcised to go for it due to its benefits.

He noted that despite being told that male circumcision reduces chances of HIV and STDs infection, nurses insisted on him to use condoms when making love.

Reasons for delayed circumcision
Joseph Anthony, whose family has eight males stated that only six of them have been circumcised. He linked the delays to be circumcised with financial constraints adding the cost for circumcision at health centers within the area is between 35,000/- and 40,000/-.

Leonard Ased said he was



circumcised at adulthood due to traditional beliefs whereas some people of his tribe (Sukuma) do not believe on circumcision.

"I was shy talking to my mother about circumcision, I came to Morogoro early this year and was comfortable to talk about it with my uncle and aunt. I was happy when they both agreed to take me to hospital for the cut", said Ased who is expecting to join the Arusha Institute of Accountancy (AIA) in October for the Basic Technician Certificate on Business Management.

Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Dr Steven Kebwe said there are many males especially in remote rural areas who are yet to be circumcised due to various reasons calling upon them to use the free services to be circumcised. He said that recent research conducted by AMREF Tanzania in Lake Zone regions indicates that male circumcision can reduce HIV/Aids infection by 40 percent.

More than 800,000 people have so far been circumcised in Morogoro region under the AIDSFree project from 2009 to 2019, according to Dr Silverius Kesanta who is the project's Technical Advisor for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) and Early Infant Male

Circumcision (EIMC).

Dr Kesanta noted that delayed circumcision is caused by a number of reasons including traditional beliefs where parents want their children circumcision to be performed in a non-clinical setting by a traditional provider as a rite of passage into manhood.

He said such challenges were mostly experienced in Iringa and Njombe regions, while the service was positively received in Singida and Morogoro region where a lot of males have been circumcised.

Sustainability of the project

Morogoro Regional Medical Officer, Kusirye Ukio said they are putting in place strategies to ensure sustainability of the project after completion of Jhpiego's AIDSFree project. He said the region will make sure male circumcision services that are currently provided through the mobile clinic continue to be offered in all the districts.

Dr Silverius Kesanta is the project Technical Advisor for Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) and Early Infant Male Circumcision (EIMC), he said the international NGO has started to provide capacity building trainings

to health care providers as well as improving health facilities to be able to conduct circumcision. He said they are also capacitating regional and district health management teams.

"The free male circumcision services we offer is not in the government budget, we help and support them to be able to offer similar services at health centers and hospitals using the available resources and equipment. We are now collecting data that will enable us to plan accordingly", said Dr Kesanta.

He noted that they have formed task forces at both regional and district level that works to ensure sustainability of the project.

"So far, we have got positive response from the government, it's our believe that the task forces will help in preparing budgets and implementation plans for offering of circumcision services.

The AIDSFree program was initially introduced to scale up Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision in Iringa, Njombe and Tabora regions. In October 2017, in collaboration with USAID and the National AIDS Control Program, AIDSFree expanded its support to Morogoro and Singida regions.

New leadership panel pledges push on equality

ACCRA

A PANEL of eminent persons from Africa and around the globe has pledged to champion key policy issues critical to Africa's future, particularly gender equality, youth and leadership as drivers of economic transformation, with a focus on constructing a gender and transformation index.

Inaugurated on 16 July in Accra, the Transformation Leadership Panel (TLP) will work with regional bodies such as the Af-

rican Union and the African Development Bank, as well as with global development organisations.

The TLP is an initiative of the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET), whose founder, K.Y. Amoako, is a former executive secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa. H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former Liberian President, is Chair of the panel.

Ghana's Finance Minister, Hon. Ken Ofori-Atta, attended the meeting and emphasised the

importance of jobs, particularly for Africa's youth.

The TLP has been established to advocate on critical challenges facing the continent, notably climate change, demographics, innovation and regional integration. These are seen as areas where Africa's leaders must take bold action to either avoid negative impacts, for example on climate change or the demographic bulge in many countries. Likewise, action on innovation and regional integration can take

advantage of opportunities for transformative change.

Members of the TLP were selected based on their significant expertise in the focus areas, as well as proven leadership or commitment to African transformation strategies. Together, they form an influential group of change-makers who can galvanise action among African leaders and advocate for Africa on the global stage.

Speaking after the inaugural meeting, ACET Founder and President, Dr. K.Y. Amoako

expressed the "sense of urgency" by Panel members "individually and collectively to promote this agenda at the international level and most importantly at regional level in Africa and to actively engage with leaders and key stakeholders to move that agenda forward."

In addition to H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Dr. K.Y. Amoako, panel members include Masood Ahmed, President of the Center for Global Development; Dolika Banda,

non-executive Director of the CDC Group and CEO of African Risk Capacity; Charles Boamah, Senior Vice President of the African Development Bank; and Ann Cotton, OBE, Founder and Trustee of Camfed International.

Other members are Bineta Diop, a prominent women's rights activist; Rebecca Enonchong, Founder & CEO of AppsTech & I/O Spaces; Hafez Ghanem, World Bank Vice President for Africa; Acha Leke, McKinsey and Company's Af-

rica Region Chair; and Ibrahim Hassane Mayaki, former prime minister of Niger & CEO, New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Other members are James Mwangi, Managing Director & CEO of Equity Group Holdings; Ndidi Nwuneli, Founder of Leap Africa; Reeta Roy, President & CEO of the Mastercard Foundation; Gayle Smith, President and CEO of the ONE Campaign; and Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Making drones work for small farmers

By Alexandra Popescu

HUMANS and satellites have a hard time beating a drone's eye for detail in scanning farming systems from above. Flying below the clouds, collecting and sending images in almost real-time, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) gained ground quickly in agriculture in the last decade as part of so-called precision agriculture.

Among their wide range of applications, they can help farmers check crops' health, track livestock, plan fertilization, assess damages, and map fields at high-resolution.

A growing number of drone models for agriculture are sold on every continent – but many experts question whether drones fulfill the needs of all farmers across the world.

While the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia have increasingly embraced agri-tech, developing countries, where farm sizes average around 2.5 acres, have been slower adopters.

Making drones work for smallholders remains an issue, explains Joseph Messina, professor of geography at Michigan State University. "One of the challenges is how to translate drone technology into something that gives useful information to farmers," says Messina to Food Tank.

Investments in agricultural drones grew by 344 percent between 2013 and 2015, says a report from market researcher Ipsos, leading to drops

in the once prohibitive drone price tag. The cost of running a basic agricultural drone dropped by five times over the last five years, from \$50,000 to \$10,000, explains Messina, making more smallholders able to afford UAVs.

"But it's another thing to tell them something actually useful [using drones]," says Messina.

The data drones provide boils down to plant health and a little bit on the environment, he explains. Drone-collected images might tell farmers where to fertilize, whether to spray pesticides or where their equipment has failed.

"Industrial farmers have more resources to address problems quickly," Messina explains, but smallholders in developing countries have fewer solutions at hand.

As a smallholder farmer in a developing country, "you can go out into the field and weed yourself or you go to town for waged labor," says Messina to Food Tank; however, drones offer small farmers an advantage by facilitating early decision-making, allowing them to spot issues sooner through drone data than through the human eye.

Drones' ability to fly under the clouds, where satellites don't reach "is huge, especially for the Global South," Messina explains. "You can process shadow much more easily than through the clouds; in rain-fed environments that was much more useful than I expected."

"Drones can identify locations where you can make sustainable choices for the smallholder," says Messina to Food Tank.

Drones can help small farms tackle soil loss by spotting degraded land needing restoration with planted trees and resulting green manure – a fertilizer made up of fallen leaves or uprooted plants that are plowed back into the soil to deliver nutrients. "It's a good way to improve soil structure by collecting the leaves and working them into the ground," says Messina.

But small plots can still limit drones' capabilities. Monoculture systems are easier to assess, says Messina, with crops such as corn being highly suited for management via drones.

In developing countries, farmers tend to plant a large diversity of crops over their few acres, which can be problematic. "In Malawi [our researchers] mostly looked at maize, pigeon peas and pumpkins, and they are easy to identify."

With plants that are very similar – such as sorghum and maize in their different growth stages – you have to know what is there before making an assessment," argues Messina.

For indigenous crops that lack a long history of development, such as teff, "there is greater uncertainty with the technology, but you would be able to identify problems in the crop more quickly with drones," Messina says.

Across Sub-Saharan countries, the African Union has supported the



spread of commercial drones for agriculture through the Eyes In The Sky, Smart Techs on the Ground project.

Across Sub-Saharan countries, the African Union has supported the spread of commercial drones for agriculture through the Eyes

In The Sky, Smart Techs on the Ground project, led by the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).

But in its report on drones, the same body points out that while drone research focuses mainly on the kind of information technology can provide, it's not looking enough at what inter-

ventions make drones cost-effective for African smallholders who have little land, tenure issues and a multitude of farming systems. The legal landscape for drones is also problematic.

While in the United States drone operations are heavily regulated – mainly for safety reasons, Messina says – the low altitude imposed on flights prevent them from covering large areas. Only about 26 percent of African countries have laws targeting UAVs, states the African Union; across the continent, the lack of legal clarity, harsh restrictions, or temporary bans of UAVs until laws are enforced are

slowing the industry's takeoff.

As neighboring countries such as Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique regulate drones differently, "your ability to come up with something that might work across all of these environments decreases," says Messina.

"We are trying to come up with solutions so we can ultimately give information to the farmer quickly enough for them to make decisions," says Messina to Food Tank.

"Many times we focus on this developed-world lens, without recognizing somewhere else a farmer will go and do this by hand."

The public projectile

By Sam Sole

BOTH the public protector and President Cyril Ramaphosa's lawyers appear to have missed an important parliamentary decision that casts doubt on Busi Mkhwebane's most serious findings against the president.

One of the key planks of the public protector's findings was that donations to the effort to the so-called CR17 campaign, to elect Ramaphosa as ANC president, constituted a financial interest that accrued to him personally.

She found Ramaphosa failed to disclose these donations to Parliament and had exposed himself to the risk of a conflict between his official responsibilities and his private interests.

She ruled that this was a violation of the Executive Ethics Code and amounted to conduct inconsistent with his office, as contemplated by section 96 of the Constitution.

But in August 2017 Parliament's Joint Committee on Ethics and Members' Interests had examined almost exactly the same issue with respect to Democratic Alliance leader Mmusi Maimane - and found the committee could not make a finding because the parliamentary code was not clear enough on the issue of internal party campaign donations.

The code of conduct for Members of Parliament uses a similar scheme and wording to the Executive Ethics Code, which applies to the members of the executive.

Maimane accepted sponsorships for his campaign for the leadership of the DA at its 2015 electoral conference and initially made no disclosure of the benefit in his 2015 parliamentary declaration of interests.

The code makes it compulsory to declare "any direct financial sponsorship or assistance from non-party sources", but Maimane argued that he obtained no direct benefit as his campaign manager was in control of all the information, funds and donations received for the leadership campaign.

Parliament's joint committee on ethics and member's interests held he had violated the code, but Maimane successfully challenged that finding in the Cape High Court, which ordered that the matter be remitted for consideration by a reconstituted committee.

On 31 August 2017 the committee published its finding: "The code is vague on the disclosure of campaign funding. In the light of the vagueness of the Code, the Committee is not in a position to make a finding of nondisclosure in this case."

The committee recommended the code be amended to clarify the regulation of campaign funding, something that has yet not happened.

Ramaphosa won a narrow victory against Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma at the Nasrec elective conference in December 2017 and in February 2018 Jacob Zuma resigned as president after a tense stand-off with his detractors, paving the way for Ramaphosa to assume the highest office.

Nine months later, on 6 November 2018 during a question session in Parliament, Ramaphosa was unexpectedly challenged by Maimane about a R500,000 payment into a trust account in October 2017.

Maimane alleged the payment was made on behalf of Ramaphosa's son, Andile, by controversial businessman Gavin Watson, the chief executive of services company Bosasa, now renamed African Global Operations (AGO).

Ramaphosa answered that he had questioned his son about the allegation and his son had told him he had a consultancy contract with AGO and had provided services to the company.

However, 10 days later Ramaphosa sent a letter to the Speaker of the National Assembly to correct the answer. In this letter he said he had since been informed that the specific payment Maimane referred to was actually a donation toward his CR17 campaign.

Both Maimane and the EFF's Floyd Shivambu lodged complaints with the public protector.

Maimane asked Mkhwebane to investigate whether Ramaphosa had lied to Parliament and whether there was an improper relationship between Ramaphosa and AGO, due to the R500,000 passing through several intermediaries instead of via a straightforward donation to the CR17 campaign, thus raising the suspicion of money laundering.

Shivambu's complaint specifically



Democratic Alliance (DA) Mmusi Maimane



President Cyril Ramaphosa



Then Public Protector Thuli Madonsela



Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng

asked her to investigate whether Ramaphosa had misled Parliament in violation of the Executive Ethics Code.

Mkhwebane used the single donation to extend her investigation to cover Ramaphosa's entire ANC election campaign.

Unlike the parliamentary ethics committee, Mkhwebane had no trouble concluding that Ramaphosa had acted contrary to the code.

She ruled: "President Ramaphosa as a presidential candidate for the ANC political party received campaign contributions which benefitted him in his personal capacity. He was therefore duty-bound to declare such financial benefit accruing to him from the campaign pledges. Failure to disclose the said material benefits, including a donation from AGO, constitutes a breach of the Code."

In her remedial action, she ordered the Speaker to refer her report to the parliamentary ethics committee, presumably so that they could discipline the president in terms of the code.

However, it is the same committee that found the provisions of the code too vague to apply to donations received in the course of intra-party election campaigns.

Ramaphosa has in the meantime challenged her findings, instructing his lawyers to apply to court to review and set aside the public protector's report.

The missile

The Financial Mail has branded Mkhwebane "an inept hired gun" and Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan asserted in court papers that she has permitted her office and its extensive powers to be "weaponised" in a "political war" - charges she strenuously denies.

It is a proposition strengthened by the Constitutional Court's recent finding that she acted "in bad faith and in a grossly unreasonable manner" in relation to a separate matter involving the Reserve Bank.

But if Mkhwebane is an unguided missile, she has also done us a favour by highlighting problems with the legal framework governing her office and the gaps in party funding disclosure.

The Nkandla judgment, delivered with passion and gravitas by Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, was celebrated as a necessary slapdown of then-president Zuma.

Zuma had attempted to evade the remedial action ordered by Mkhwebane's predecessor, Thuli Madonsela, to the effect that Zuma personally pay a portion of the non-security aspects of the R250-million upgrade of his Nkandla

homestead.

But the Nkandla judgment created a monster which, if Gordhan is to be believed, has been weaponised by Ramaphosa's enemies.

Before Nkandla, there was no legal clarity on whether the public protector's orders of remedial action were binding. Indeed, Zuma simply ignored them while setting up a competing process, in which first the police minister and then a parliamentary committee absolved him of any liability.

Mogoeng appeared to blow that discretion away, ruling: "When remedial action is binding, compliance is not optional, whatever reservations the affected party might have about its fairness, appropriateness or lawfulness. For this reason, the remedial action taken against those under investigation cannot be ignored without any legal consequences."

The only solution for anyone aggrieved by the public protector's findings, the chief justice ruled, was to go to court to have her decision reviewed and set aside.

That ruling set up problems the Constitutional Court is now going to have to resolve - and it seems likely that the flurry of Mkhwebane's findings around Gordhan and Ramaphosa himself are going to land quite swiftly at the steps of the apex court.

Those problems flow from the extraordinary power and discretion granted to the public protector: she can subpoena documents and witnesses, and she has the power to determine her own investigative process, which may be deep and rigorous in some cases and quite superficial in others.

She is constitutionally empowered to take binding remedial action on the basis of preliminary findings or prima facie findings; she can pursue the trail of suspicion from the public sector into the private realm, and she can order any "appropriate remedy".

As Mogoeng herself put it: "Hers are indeed very wide powers that leave no lever of government power above scrutiny, coincidental 'embarrassment' and censure..."

"However sensitive, embarrassing and far-reaching the implications of her report and findings, she is constitutionally empowered to take action that has that

effect, if it is the best attempt at curing the root cause of the complaint."

In short, she is detective, judge, jury and executioner.

That makes the public protector's office open to great abuse and manipulation. It makes her a potential political projectile.

While Mogoeng noted that her power to take appropriate remedial action was "wide but certainly not unfettered" he offered no substantive guidance on how those limits were to be defined or imposed, especially given that the grounds for a court review are more limited than those of an appeal.

His only counterbalance was to note that her office had to be "impartial and to exercise the powers and functions vested in it without fear, favour or prejudice".

Given that, in the Nkandla judgement, the scheme the chief justice set out relied for restraint on the unimpeachable conduct of the public protector, it is odd that in the recent Reserve Bank case, he appeared to bend over backwards in a dissenting judgment to excuse conduct by Mkhwebane that all but one of his colleagues viewed as demanding the unprecedented censure of a personal punitive costs order.

The target

Some of the strengths as well as some of the weaknesses and, arguably, abuses of the public protector's office are on display in the Ramaphosa report.

First, lawyers for the president attempted to argue during the course of her investigation that her whole investigation of his funding campaign was unlawful.

They argued: "The CR17 campaign and its fundraising operations do not concern public administration or the exercise of public or statutory power. Therefore, the public protector has no jurisdiction in terms of the Public Protector Act to investigate the matter at all."

Mkhwebane countered by citing *The Public Protector v Mail & Guardian Ltd*, the 2011 case in which the M&G and amaBhungane's two managing partners reviewed and set aside a finding of then public protector Lawrence Mushwana.

That related to the Oilgate scan-

dal, where payments from PetroSA were diverted to the ANC via a private company. Mushwana had exonerated those implicated by arguing he was not empowered to follow the trail of money once it left the public sphere.

The Supreme Court of Appeal disagreed, noting, in a passage cited by Mkhwebane, "Although the conduct that may be investigated is circumscribed I think it is important to bear in mind that there is no circumscription of the persons from whom and the bodies from which information may be sought in the course of an investigation. The Act confers upon the public protector sweeping powers to discover information from any person at all."

Mkhwebane argues in her report: "The issues raised by [Maimane and Shivambu] are based on the donation made by Bosasa towards the CR17 campaign and were lodged against President Ramaphosa in terms of Executive Members' Ethics Act as he was the deputy president at the time."

She claims, with justification, that she simply followed the money trail to discover whether Ramaphosa indeed placed himself at risk of a conflict between his private interests and his public duties.

But, as with other cases, it is the process of her investigation and the quality of her reasoning and remedy that raise questions about her bona fides.

First, she appears to take little account of Ramaphosa's other arguments, which are borne out by the view taken by the parliamentary committee in the Maimane case. During the course of her investigation, the president's lawyers argued:

- Ramaphosa's initial statement about the purpose of the R500,000 Bosasa payment - that it was for his son Andile - was an innocent mistake made also by Maimane when he posed the question to which Ramaphosa responded. It was corrected by Ramaphosa when he became aware of the facts.
- Ramaphosa tried to avoid placing himself at the risk of a conflict by agreeing he would not be told who the donors were and how much they had given.
- No money was taken from the campaign and given to

the president or his family. In fact, the president contributed R62-million and loaned the campaign a further R31-million.

- The president was not required by the Executive Ethics Code to declare the donations to CR17. The donations belonged to the campaign and not the president; it owned and controlled the money.

- This interpretation is borne out by the fact that other politicians, across party lines, also do not declare the contributions to their election campaigns;

- If the public protector were to censure the president for his failure to declare this income, she would also have to extend her investigation to all other politicians who failed to disclose the donations made to their party-political election campaigns.

- This last point is surely correct. We all deserve to know the role that money plays in our politics across the board.

In addition, the ANC's role as a dominant party means that its internal leadership contest is like a US presidential campaign and has a direct impact on national politics.

In that case it also should make no difference if the candidate is an MP. If Dlamini Zuma had won, she would have carried with her the same potential conflict that Mkhwebane alleges is attached to Ramaphosa, despite not having been an MP at the time. Indeed, she still does carry that baggage, given that she is a minister.

The genesis of the power and latitude granted to the public protector was that she was institutionally a problem solver, not a prosecutor; a protector, not a persecutor.

The extraordinary language used by Mogoeng in the Nkandla judgment betrayed the unrealistic expectations placed on her office: "She is the embodiment of a biblical David... who fights the most powerful and very well-resourced Goliath... The Public Protector is one of the true crusaders and champions of anti-corruption and clean governance."

But what happens when David turns and fights for the Philistines?

Mogoeng - and the court as whole - should have foreseen that possibility. Now they must deal with that reality. **DM**

CREATIVITY

It's paradise-garden for Caroline Abwoga

NAIROBI

Two years ago, Caroline Dimba Abwoga moved back to Kenya and decided to take up her passion for gardening and landscaping.

Before that November in 2017, she had been a banker at the Trade and Development Bank in Zimbabwe, where she had lived for 14 years. "Carol's Landscapes was something that was born out of my pure love for plants, flowers and gardens," she says.

"Being around plants is a very calming thing for me, the same way yoga or listening to music could be for someone else. I could spend all day in a garden. This is also as long as they are healthy and thriving. (Laughs). Otherwise I would just be demotivated."

Currently, her team is made up of six: a supervisor, four gardeners and a cleaning lady. She has undertaken many projects since registering her company, with both residential and commercial clients. She offers maintenance services on a weekly basis for the residential clients who happen to be more in number.

Carol prefers keeping her clients confidential, but her favourite project has to be of one garden she did in Runda Evergreen. "We chose a blend of colourful flowering and non-flowering plants. We layered them well and they came out so beautifully. We also planted Arabica grass for her, which is lush and very green."

According to Carol, it's very difficult to know how much good landscaping and gardening should cost because it all depends on a client's specifications. One might want grass, another might prefer trees. "However, on the issue of terrain, we're very flexible and can work on whatever the client has," she says.

She mentions how important investing in equipment has been for her company in the long run, with her most unique one being a mower which is very powerful. "We invested in a very good model which is able to cover the large landscapes we get at times. We have also invested in a roller which ensures that the grass we have planted is level," she says. "That's one of the top tips I would give to someone who wants to start out in the gardening and landscaping industry."

Caroline is big on colours. She believes in the impact it can have on a

space. This is why she prefers coloured cabro as opposed to the grey ones which she finds dull. "Colour lightens up landscapes. On top of that, there are many alternatives to cabro. Tiles, for example, are relatively affordable, look very nice and are as strong as cabro," she says.

Over the years, Carol has learnt that trending plants really depend on the weather. She says that fuchsia is making a killing at the moment, seeing as the weather is relatively cold. The flowers are over-the-top beautiful and can last the entire cold season.

Her nursery is clean proof of her love for indoor plants, as well as plants that do not require as much sunlight to thrive. "My favourite plant would be the money plant. It's very resilient and requires little maintenance. If looked after properly, this plant can turn out very beautifully," she mentions.

The entrepreneur keeps up with trends by reading vastly and sharing gardening and landscaping information with people in her industry. "I'm a member of the Kenya Horticultural Association. We get a lot of advice on how to take care of our plants. I am also part of a group of environmentalists where we share ideas of latest trends, plants and practices."

Like any other business, Carol is faced with challenges too. For her, it's the competition she gets from people who have been in the game longer. "Penetrating the market has been the most challenging thing to do. It's hard to convince clients to go for our services instead of someone who's been around for more than 10 years." But all Carol wants in five years is to grow. Initially, she worked from home. She has her own nursery, office and solid client base now.

"In the next five years, I hope to have an even bigger nursery and to increase our clientele. We're getting many referrals, something that's a good sign for us. The only way is up," says the mother-of-three.

Her days always have to start in the office, no matter how early she's needed on site. "It helps me plan my day better. I will be on site for a few hours in a day depending on the type of work being done. My colleagues spend longer hours on site because of delegating duties, of course."



Caroline Abwoga of Carol's Landscapes, a business entity that offers gardening and landscaping services, supplying clients with pots, trees, shrubs and ground covers. July 24, 2019

DIVERSIFICATION

Vodafone to create separate towers company, consider IPO

LONDON

Vodafone Group plans to carve out its phone towers into a new business and consider an initial public offering or minority stake sale to lower debt.

The shares rose as much as 8.5% in early London trading after the carrier announced plans to separate Europe's largest towers portfolio by May 2020. The business will consist of 61,700 masts in 10 countries, Vodafone said in a statement alongside financial results that beat expectations.

The move comes out of a review started last year by Nick Read shortly after he became chief executive officer to consider how to raise money from

infrastructure to reduce leverage and help the cash-constrained carrier fund the rollout of fifth-generation mobile networks. Since then, Read has been pursuing tower-sharing with rivals and overhauling existing deals, including with Telefonica SA's O2 in the UK and Telecom Italia's Inwit. Vodafone also said it's received several offers for tower assets in recent months.

"We are moving very quickly. It's one of the things that I prioritised coming into the role," Read said on a call with journalists. Vodafone joins European carriers including Altice Europe and Iliad SA in taking advantage of rising de-

mand for telecom infrastructure from private equity funds flush with cash.

Higher valuations
Telecom infrastructure businesses are separate from their phone-carrier customers command richer valuations, because they have steady income streams that are insulated from the underlying consumer. Boston-based American Tower Corp., with a market value of \$91 billion, trades at a price-to-earnings multiple of 67, according to data compiled by Bloomberg, compared with 22 for Vodafone.

Shares of China Tower Corp., the state-owned wireless infrastructure owner,

have surged 63% since the company raised \$6.9 billion in an IPO last year. China Tower was formed by combining tower assets of China Mobile Ltd., China Unicom Hong Kong and China Telecom in 2015 as part of a broader plan to reform the nation's state-dominated wireless industry.

TowerCo, as Vodafone is calling the unit for now, would have annual revenue of 1.7 billion euros (\$1.9 billion) and earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation of about 900 million euros. That could imply an enterprise value of 16 billion euros, depending on the company's structure, according to

James Ratzler, an analyst New Street Research in London.

"These tower companies at the moment, given there's an insatiable appetite for yield assets, can trade anywhere from 18 to 21 times Ebitda, so these assets trade on high high multiples at the moment where you have strong anchor tenant agreements," Ratzler said.

Vodafone announced the tower plans alongside fiscal first-quarter financial results that beat analysts' estimates, as the company benefited from pricing changes in Italy and slowed customer losses. Organic service revenue fell 0.2%, compared with the average analyst esti-

mate for a decline of 0.6%, according to a company-compiled consensus.

What Bloomberg Intelligence says
Vodafone's better-than-expected 0.2% organic-service revenue contraction, driven by Italy and Turkey in IQ, together with further postpaid churn reduction, should set the backdrop for a gradual recovery. Risks nevertheless exist, as fixed-customer additions come under pressure from fiercer competition in Spain and Germany and a market slowdown in Italy. - Erhan Gurses, telecom analyst. Vodafone shares were up 7.3% to 141.50 pence as of 8:22 a.m. in London.



Facili Boniphace, a financial literacy Trainer from the European Investment Bank, lectures entrepreneurs on the basics of business and financial management during an NMB Business Club seminar for customers held this week in Mtwara Municipality. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

Engen, Visa come up with juicy offers for motorists in Tanzania

By Beatrice Philemon

MOTORISTS in the country using Visa cards or mobile phone e-wallets and other forms of digital payments for fuel bought at Engen Tanzania Limited's pump stations will get cash vouchers of up to 5,000/-

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the launch of a two-month promotion, Visa Tanzania Country Manager Olive Njoroge said everyone qualifies for the awards naming daladala, Bajaj, boda boda riders and private motorists as favourite candidates.

Njoroge said Engen customers can use any Visa enabled credit card or Visa is open for everyone, people can now use Visa on Mobile in their mobile phones and pay for their fuel in all areas where Engen Tanzania has services stations.

This campaign will run for two months starting today, July 26th to September 22nd this year. People

can pay with Visa on Mobile or by simply swapping their Visa enabled cards at point of sale," Njoroge noted saying the promotion is aimed at weaning consumers from cash payments. She said apart from cash vouchers, customers will also get other gifts after buying fuel digitally.

"We believe that this campaign will also increase the awareness of consumers in the simplicity of digital payments and encourage adoption of using such means of payment regularly other than cash," Njoroge added.

Visa Inc. is the world's leader in digital payments with a mission to champion cashless economies as it is associated with many risks including theft. "Our advantaged global processing network, VisaNet, provides secure and reliable payments around the world and is capable of handling more than 65,000 transaction messages a second," the Visa Tanzania

Manager bragged.

Seconding Njoroge's observation, Engen Tanzania, Managing Director, Paul Muhato said they have decided partner with Visa and introduce the promotion to discourage cash payments by motorists when buying fuel.

"Cash payments are a risk to our customers and also to us but it also increases costs when you have to move bulky cash from one point to another," Muhato said while pointing out that all Engen service stations in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Dodoma and Morogoro qualify for the promotion.

"It is simple and straight forward to use Visa card or Visa on Mobile, you don't need to walk to an ATM to withdraw cash to purchase fuel," he said while urging customers to adopt digital payment solution for safety and security.

WITHDRAWAL

Indian billionaire out for exit from diversified firm

NEW DELHI

Indian billionaire Anil Agarwal, once the biggest shareholder in Anglo American, plans to exit his stake in the diversified mining company. Volcan Investments Agarwal's holding company, will unwind the position by calling an exchangeable bond, part of an unusual structure that effectively gave him the shares on loan.

Agarwal will likely make about \$500 million from his investment and pocket between \$200 million and \$300 million after fees, according to people familiar with the matter who asked not to be identified. It's a small gain considering Anglo shares have soared more than 80% since March 2017, when Agarwal announced his intentions.

The future of Anglo American, one of the most iconic names in mining, has been in question ever since Agarwal built his surprise stake.

Analysts have speculated about plans to break up or merge Anglo, which owns some of the best copper, diamond and platinum mines in the world. But the market moved against Agarwal, making any prospective plans more difficult.

The billionaire maintained that his interest in Anglo was a family investment and he didn't intend to make a takeover offer. Even so, the structure used to hold the Anglo investment was unusual because it offered Agarwal voting rights and minimal exposure to the stock price.

Lacked firepower

"As Anglo American's share price climbed, it became even more clear that Agarwal lacked the firepower to work an approach," said Ben Davis, an analyst at Liberum Capital Markets. "He's made far less than he would have done with a straight investment, though his bankers would have done well out of it."



Anil Agarwal, billionaire and owner of Vedanta Resources.

The biggest challenge Agarwal would have faced is the surge in Anglo's share price since he bought his first tranche. His two listed ventures, Vedanta and Hindustan Zinc, slumped over the same period making any kind of merger hard to ex-

ecute. At the same time, presumed allies such as South Africa's Public Investment looked less aligned.

Agarwal amassed his stake through a mandatory exchangeable bond issued by Volcan and secured by Anglo shares. The bonds were issued in March and September 2017 and financed the \$3.5 billion pound (\$4.4 billion) investment.

Volcan now plans to call the exchangeable bond, according to a statement released late Thursday, meaning investors who owned the Volcan bond will receive Anglo shares. The mining company could see higher trading volumes in the coming days as the new Anglo shareholders close out the short positions they used as a hedge, said RBC Capital Markets.

"The unwind of this structure will remove, in our view, any tangible potential for Volcan to pursue large scale corporate activity with Anglo American going forward," said Tyler Broda, an analyst at RBC. "We would not expect to see any fundamental derating in Anglo American on the back of this adventurous bond coming to an end."

CHARITY

Tanzanian, Turkish dentists to 2,000-plus Dar, Moro residents

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter
OVER 2000 residents of Dar es Salaam and Morogoro regions who included primary school pupils received dental examination and treatment by a group of Turkish and local dentists in the past two weeks.

In a statement yesterday, Turkish Association of Friends of Africa (TADD) which is a civil society organization founded in 2015 in Istanbul, said in collaboration with School of Dentistry at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences conducted several dental examinations and treatments at Mchikichini Primary School in Morogoro and at Ashura Orphanage at Vingunguti. "As a result of the visiting dentists and their peers camping in Morogoro, 2,000 dental examinations and 400 dental treatments were accomplished during five days alongside 1,000 oral and dental training for primary school pupils," the statement said. The group comprises of 10 people and included seven dental specialists, one nurse, a dental technician and a lawyer.

Turkish Ambassador to Tanzania, Ali Davuto lu participated in the TADD events at Ashura Orphanage which has Ye im Davuto lu, the ambassador's wife as honorary presi-



Turkish Ambassador Ali Davuto lu (in black suit) with a team of dentists who participated in two weeks of free examination, treatment and sensitisation of the public in Dar es Salaam and Morogoro regions. Photo courtesy of Turkish Embassy.

dent. Tanzania's Ambassador to Turkey, Professor Elizabeth Kiondo accompanied the team of dentists. In addition, TADD also distributed toothpastes and toothbrushes to local residents who turned up

for dental and oral examination, treatment and training. Within the scope of the 'Experience share program' which is undertaken by the TKA, another team consisting of 15 volunteer students from faculties

of dentistry and medicine in Turkey also participated in Morogoro region. TADD whose formation was aimed at boosting between Turkey and African countries in the fields of education, health and economy

and create awareness of Africa by Turks, organized the voluntary project code named, 'Oral and dental health' backed by Turkish Embassy and TKA (Turkish Coordination and Cooperation Agency).



(L-R): Thierry Henry, Nadine Ndahiro, Kevin Shema and Arsene Gatera.

INDUSTRIOUS

Six students start out entrepreneurial journey

KIGALI

Ordinarily, university students prefer to spend their free time on leisure activities. This is however not the case for six students.

Kevin Shema, Nadine Ndahiro, Arsene Gatera, Shema Irankunda, Thierry Henry, and Gentil Ndoba, all second-year students at African Leadership University have found a passion in transforming banana fibre into useful products.

From banana trunks they are currently producing paper bags, invitation and wedding cards and papers. Banana trunk is the stem of a banana plant.

How they do it

The team collects banana trunk from farmers within Kigali, who plant bananas after the fruit has been harvested. Considering that most farmers do not have much use of them banana trunks and are likely to dispose them, the students talk to farmers who give them for free instead.

After collection, Shema who is also the brains behind the

idea said they chop the banana trunks into small pieces, cook them manually, and then later blend to get final products. All the activities happen at his home in Kigali, where he has set aside a small space for this particular work.

The students are working on partnering with six cooperatives mainly in Eastern province; whom they will be working with by providing the banana trunks in exchange of some money per stalk. The team meets twice a week to evaluate and task everyone on what to do.

According to Shema, they started with RWF 20, 000 which they got from their stipend. How they exhibit their work, he said they take advantage of exhibitions and conferences, also sell some of their products to visitors who visit their Campus.

How the idea surfaced
After joining the Campus, Shema says that he came up with the idea challenged by Hult prize, which required them as students to provide employment opportunity to more than

10,000 young people.

Hult prize is an annual, year-long competition that crowd-sources ideas from MBA and college students after challenging them to solve a pressing social issue around topics such as food security, water access, energy, and education.

This is when the twenty-one-year-old started pondering on what he can do to impact other young people. "One day I visited a certain supermarket, after purchasing goods, they were packed in a well clean envelope which after reaching home, I unpacked the goods and disposed the bag," he said.

According to him, the one-time use of the bags didn't make much sense, he thought of doing something that will at least see such paper bags recycled into something else useful. After some research, he found out that one could recycle the paper bags, however, the capital to do this was beyond his means at the moment as a student.

This is when he thought of an alternative which was making

bags not from trees but from the banana trunks, that is easily available and accessible at no cost. After carrying out some research, Shema found out that there is a company within, using same raw material to produce sanitary pads.

He then opted to use the material to make something else instead. He gathered his five friends and commenced making the products, working as a team. "My colleagues were okay with idea because first, they were passionate about bringing a difference in the world of innovation and at the same time wanted to do something that will see them independent," he said.

Early this year, the students got a chance to participate in Hult Prize regional competition in Dubai where they secured a spot by being second at the campus level. The team was competing against 30 Universities with only two teams being from Africa.

Early this year, they took part in the Re-Invent Hackaton competition organized by the

Garage48. The team was given 48 hours to make any tangible thing whereby they produced a shopping bag, which saw them ranked third out of twelve teams.

Hackaton is a 48 hours long brainstorming marathon during which an idea is transformed into a working prototype. Participants gather together and pitch ideas on stage. After, competitors present their outcome on the stage, a winner is selected.

The team was given one-year free mentorship by Compound55, which is a social enterprise that harnesses the power of connecting people and communities for social impact, focusing on the use of information and communication technologies.

When it comes to setbacks, Shema said currently accessing machines to boost their productivity and efficiency has been hard. "Investment and knowledge are huge challenges when it comes to young people who want to start their own enterprises," added Shema.

DIVERSIFICATION

Does investing in gyms make sense?

NAIROBI

"Three years ago, one of the gyms I was working with closed leaving me stranded with the clients I was training. I had to think fast not to lose them and I rented a small room at Hardy, Karen area," says the 40-year-old.

He then started investing in a bigger space that he named 'Laban's Gym'. The fitness trainer says that a gym is a worthy investment though as an entrepreneur, it does not pay off at first. "Exercising has taught me to be resilient and I have watched the gym grow. The equipment is quite expensive so I started off slowly and gradually build on it," he says.

Physical fitness was not his first career choice because he wanted to study medicine but he did not qualify. Being a physical fitness fanatic, one time he got an opportunity of step in for a trainer in a gym, an experience that excited him.

He later decided to train at Bodywise Health Club. With 20 years in the fitness industry, he has worked at the Karen Country Club for nine years, at Serena Hotel gym and as a freelance trainer in different gyms in Nairobi. At his gym, two trainers assist him and Jonah Tuyishime, a 31-year-old is one of them.

Jonah, a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Psychology) graduate started fitness training in his second year in university. "My passion for sports and athletes began in my earlier days when I was still in primary school," explains Jonah.

"Today, I'm a fitness consultant, which means that beyond training, I will advise on basic nutrition, sports, psychology and will also link customers up with a nutritionist and physiotherapist on a need-to basis," he says.

Jonah says he realised there was a gap in the fitness industry in Kenya as most of the trainers were only focused on exercises. "Exercising are superficial. This means it is designed for the body to enhance your look. How and what you eat is the bottom-line. You cannot go to the gym, eat the wrong foods and expect to see any change," says Jonah.

"Knowing what to eat, how to eat it, cooking method and when to eat is ultimately the backbone of a healthy body."

Stay on top

With a number of gyms popping up almost everywhere in the city, Laban says investors have to ensure that they stay on top of the game and keep with fitness trends. He is a member of Idea Health and Fitness Association that brings together fitness instructors, club and studio owners to learn everything from healthy diets to new workouts. Laban says gym membership has grown over the years compared to 10 years ago.

"Both men and women come to the gym because they want to look good. Everyone wants a well-sculptured toned body. However, in most facilities, the number of women outnumbers men. This is because men prefer to engage more in outdoor activities," he says.

I meet him at his gym busy working out. He exercises about six times a week, for an average of 45 minutes. "Even when I get bored, I incorporate cross-training, marathon, hiking or swimming," he says.

Jonah Tuyishime, a trainer in general fitness shares some of these trends in the fitness industry: Women love Zumba and it has been slowly gaining popularity in recent years. This could be attributed to the fact that it is a fun way of keeping fit as it is dance.

Martial Arts

Women are enrolling more for martial arts classes, especially self-defence. Most prefer kick-boxing, karate and taekwondo.

Lifestyle changes

Currently, there is a high influx of people that want to lose weight due to increased awareness of the importance of staying healthy.

Age groups

Most senior citizens are enrolling in gyms on doctor's advice. However, the 20-40 year-olds go to gyms for a healthier lifestyle. They look up TV celebrities who motivate them to be lean.

Personal goals

Some people are not necessarily interested in losing weight; some just want a well sculptured body. Generally, men are more into building their bodies and looking more masculine while women are more about losing weight and looking curvier.

The first thing most women want is to lose the belly. The fitness trainer advises people not to get into training to lose weight. "When losing weight is your ultimate goal, you will stop training as soon as you achieve it. Rather make training a lifestyle to continue reaping the benefits of overall health, which include; cardiovascular, respiratory, better coordination and strong bones," he notes.



Laban Okemwa during a training session at the outdoor gym in Nairobi's Karen.

WORLD

Britain plans emergency budget in autumn

LONDON

BRITAIN will hold an emergency budget in the autumn, a junior interior minister said on Friday, as Prime Minister Boris Johnson braces for a potential no-deal Brexit and speculation mounts about a possible national election.

Johnson took office on Wednesday pledging to do a new Brexit deal with the European Union but also to ramp up no-deal preparations. He has announced a raft of spending pledges including increasing police numbers by 20,000 to help cut crime.

"The prime minister has also announced there's going to be an emergency budget in the autumn which will be designed to stimulate the economy," Kit Malthouse told Sky News.

"What you hope is that a more strongly growing economy will produce greater tax revenue which we

can pay for some of the things that we want to do," he said.

Johnson has not announced an emergency budget. The finance minister said it was up to Sajid Javid, the finance minister whose official title is Chancellor of the Exchequer, to announce fiscal events.

"As usual, the Chancellor will announce the timings of any fiscal event," a Treasury spokesman said. A source said there were no current plans for an emergency budget.

Typically an autumn budget takes place between late October and early December.

If Johnson is unable to convince the European Union to do a new Brexit deal and lawmakers try to prevent a no-deal exit then there is speculation that he could call an election.

Johnson, who made more than 30 billion pounds (US\$37 billion) worth of spending commitments during his leadership campaign, said on Thurs-



UK and EU flags outside the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. (File photo)

day his pledges had been modest "so far".

He has said that spending could be financed using the 27 billion pound "fiscal headroom", an amount of extra borrowing possible without breaking a budget deficit cap of 2% of GDP introduced by former finance minister Philip Hammond.

Javid said during his failed bid to lead the Conservative Party that he would prepare for a no-deal Brexit with an emergency budget that would include tax cuts for businesses and individuals.

Before he was appointed to the post Javid said he wanted to cut tax for the lowest earners but

would also consider scrapping the top rate of income tax, if he thought it would inject more dynamism into the economy.

Malthouse said a pledge to boost police numbers would cost about 500 million pounds (US\$622 million) in the first year.

Malthouse said "there's certainly headroom in the finances."

"We've gone from a situation at the start of 2010 where we were borrowing one pound in every four that the government spent to now borrowing one pound in every thirty four so we've got a bit of room for manoeuvre."

Agencies

Russia says it will ban think-tank formerly run by US envoy

MOSCOW

RUSSIA said on Thursday it was preparing to ban the Atlantic Council, a think-tank formerly run by the US ambassador to Moscow, which Russia's prosecutor general described as a security threat.



"It has been established that the activities of this organization present a threat to the fundamentals of the constitutional order and security of the Russian Federation," the prosecutor general's office said.

It gave no further details of the reasons for the ban.

The move follows steps taken by Moscow against several other foreign non-government organizations since Russia's relations with the West deteriorated over the Ukrainian crisis in 2014 and financial sanctions that followed.

The General Prosecutor's Office said it had handed over its ruling to the Russian ministry of justice.

"We are proud of the council's long tradition of work with Russians and on Russia, and are disappointed that Russian authorities have announced this step," the Atlantic Council said in a statement sent by email to Reuters, adding that it had not been informed of the decision by the authorities.

US ambassador Jon Huntsman (pictured) served as chairman of the think tank from 2014 until 2017, when he was appointed to his diplomatic post by President Donald Trump.

Agencies

China-US trade talks to resume in Shanghai

By Jing Shuiyu and Li Xiang

TOP negotiators from China and the United States will meet in Shanghai on Tuesday and Wednesday for the first time since President Xi Jinping and his US counterpart Donald Trump agreed in June to resume economic and trade consultations.

Analysts said that holding the 12th round of talks in Shanghai, the country's financial hub, will help the US have a more direct understanding of China a nation that is determined to further open up. Previously, the trade talks in China took place in Beijing.

Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng said that holding the negotiations in different places is not unusual. "Shanghai has good conditions for conducting consultations," Gao said.

The meeting is expected to implement the consensus reached between the top leaders of both countries at the G20 Summit in Japan last month, Gao said at a regular news conference.

US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will meet with Vice-Premier Liu He to continue negotiations aimed at improving the bilateral trade relationship, the White House said in a statement on Wednesday.

Ni Yueju, a researcher at the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Shanghai remains at the forefront of the country's opening-up.

"The choice to hold the next round of trade talks in Shanghai demonstrates China's determination to further open up the economy," Ni said, adding that the country's first free trade zone was located in the municipality.

"The planned negotiations will mainly cover issues that have not yet been resolved, for example, whether the US will lift tariffs on Chinese products and remove Chinese companies from a blacklist," Ni said.

The US placed several Chinese companies, like telecommunications giant Huawei Technologies, on an Entity List that prevents them from buying from US companies without Washington's approval.

"In the upcoming talks, the two sides may also discuss whether China will resume its purchase of US agricultural products," Ni said.

If both sides can negotiate on the basis of sincerity and equality, they may achieve some breakthroughs in addressing the aforementioned issues, Ni added.

Zhou Mi, deputy director of the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation's Institute of American and Oceania Studies, said the upcoming talks will be an opportunity for China and the US to address their core concerns and reaffirm their consensus on key issues.

"The external environment and economic situations of the two countries have changed since the last round of trade negotiations. The meeting will allow the two sides to confirm their consensus, which is crucial for making progress in the trade talks," Zhou said.

Xinhua

Erdogan says Turkey will turn elsewhere if US will not sell F-35s

MOSCOW/ISTANBUL

PRESIDENT Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday Turkey would turn elsewhere for fighter jets if the United States will not sell it F-35s, adding that the US decision to cut Ankara from the jet production programme would not deter it from meeting its needs.

The United States said last week it was removing NATO ally Turkey from the F-35 program, as it long threatened, after Ankara purchased and received delivery of Russian S-400 air defense missile systems.

US President Donald Trump has yet to decide on sanctions on Turkey that appear to be required by US law.

Erdogan, speaking publicly about Ankara's strained ties with Washington for the first time in 11 days, said he hoped US officials would be "reasonable" on the question of sanctions.

Russia completed delivery Thursday of the first shipment of S-400 systems to Turkey, according to media reports.

More than 30 special flights have been made to Turkey starting from July 12 with the first batch of elements of the air defense system, Sputnik news agency said.

The two countries are now negotiating to continue cooperation on the issue, including the organization of licensed production of elements of the S-400 systems in Turkey.



"The S-400 supplies have strengthened not only the Turkish air defense network, but also the strategic partnership of our countries," Alexander Mikheev, CEO of Russia's state-run arms exporter Rosoboronexport, was quoted as saying.

According to the Turkish Defense Ministry, the deployment of S-400 systems is likely to begin in October.

In 2017, Russia and Turkey signed an agreement worth US\$2.5 billion for two batches of batteries of the S-400 surface-to-air missile system, which is considered the most advanced of its kind in Russia, capable of destroying targets at a distance of up to 400 km and a height of up to 30 km. Agencies

Mourning leader, Tunisians look forward to smooth transition

BAB ALIOUA, Tunisia

TUNISIANS mourning President Beji Caid Essebsi voiced pride yesterday at measures under way to choose his successor, saying his work guiding the country to democracy after a 2011 revolution helped make a peaceful handover of power possible.

Essebsi died aged 92 on Thursday, setting in motion a constitutional process toward selecting a new head of state.

Hundreds of women, men and children stood under a strong sun outside the military hospital where he died, and later watched as his coffin was taken to Carthage presidential palace under heavy security.

Many expressed respect for his role overseeing political reforms in the north African country after the overthrow of veteran autocrat Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali.

"Today we lost a father to all Tunisians," said a woman named Salma Hbib.



An ambulance that carries the body of late Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi is seen in Tunis, Tunisia yesterday. REUTERS

"There are no tanks in the streets, no curfew, no statements from the army," she added. "Today we have gained a democratic state through a quiet and wonderful transition..."

Tunisia has been hailed as the

only democratic success of the Arab Spring uprisings, with a new constitution, free elections and a coalition government of moderate Islamist and secular parties in a region otherwise struggling with upheaval.

A state funeral is expected on Saturday, and international leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron will attend.

"It was a sad day with the loss of our President Essebsi," said Moncef Marzouki, a former president and one of Essebsi's most determined rivals.

"A STATE OF LAW"

"But I am also proud of this smooth transition. We are fortunate to be in an advanced path in democracy transition, we are moving to a state of law."

A few hours after the death of Essebsi, parliament speaker Mohamed Ennaceur was sworn in as interim president in line with the constitution. The electoral commission announced a presidential election for Sept. 15, two months earlier than previously scheduled. A parliamentary vote is set for Oct. 6.

The coming elections will be the third set of polls in which Tunisians have been able to vote freely

since the revolution.

Essebsi rose to prominence after Ben Ali's overthrow, which was followed by revolts against authoritarian leaders across the Middle East, including in nearby Libya and Egypt.

Drafted in as premier after Ben Ali's fall, Essebsi in 2012 founded the secular Nidaa Tounes party, now part of the governing coalition, to counter-balance the resurgence of Islamists who were suppressed under Ben Ali. Two years later, Essebsi became Tunisia's first freely elected head of state.

Political progress has not been matched by economic advances. Unemployment stands at about 15%, up from 12% in 2010, due to weak growth and low investment.

Near Carthage palace, a young man named Nabil said: "We are deeply saddened, but I hope Tunisia will remain as consistent and cohesive as Essebsi wanted."

"Will miss you, Bajbouj," he said, using Essebsi's nickname.

Agencies

Southeast Asian nations say 'no' to waste shipped from developed countries

HONG KONG

A NUMBER of Southeast Asian nations have in recent months intercepted and sent back containers of solid waste that were shipped from developed countries including the United States and Canada.

Last Thursday, the Cambodian government said it would send 83 containers of plastic waste back to the United States and Canada. The rubbish-filled containers were discovered two days earlier at the Sihanoukville Autonomous Port.

"The origins of the garbage were from the United States and Canada," government spokesman Phay Siphon said. "We

will send those rubbish-filled containers back to their original sources."

Environment Ministry Secretary of State and spokesman Neth Pheaktra told Xinhua last Thursday that, "Cambodia does not allow any import of plastic waste to the country for recycling. Cambodia is not the rubbish bin for other countries to dispose of any kind of waste."

Malaysia's Minister of Energy, Technology, Science, Climate Change and Environment Yeo Bee Yin has said recently that developed countries should not ship their waste to developing nations.

"We urge the developed countries to review their management of plastic

waste and stop shipping the garbage out to the developing countries. To be opaque with your own taxpayers about recycling waste and then dump the garbage in our country, is both unfair and uncivilized," she said.

The minister noted that "It is hypocritical of the developed countries to claim a high percentage of recycling statistics when the statistics would include shipping out plastic garbage to the developing nations without a keeping track whether or not the garbage was recycled in an environmentally sound manner."

In the Philippines, the struggle to ship 69 containers back to Canada even trig-

gered a diplomatic spat.

The shipments came to the Philippines in 2013 and 2014. Even though marked as recyclable scrap, the Philippine Bureau of Customs found the containers were consisting of household trash, plastic bottles and bags, newspapers, and used adult diapers.

The Philippine government had demanded Canada ship back the trash and set May 15 the deadline for that. A few hours after the deadline lapsed, Philippine Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin summoned the Philippine ambassador and consuls general, notifying them that Manila would maintain a diminished dip-

lomatic presence in Canada.

The cargo ship commissioned by the Canadian government to repatriate the garbage finally pulled away from the Philippines on May 31. As a result of the row, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte ordered a total ban of waste materials from any foreign countries.

Other Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia has also decided to send back waste shipped from developed countries.

Head of the Indonesian Environmental Protection Coalition Puput TD Putra said he appreciated the government's attitude to return five garbage containers

to United States and he hoped that "the policy is not only limited to symbolization."

"Indeed, Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry should be firm, because we have imported a lot of waste. While we have reduced domestic plastic waste, but now we are actually importing plastic," Puput told reporters.

While urging the government to stand firm on turning back foreign waste, some Indonesian experts also insisted that sanctions should be given to those trade companies that played roles in importing the waste.

Xinhua



Antifa and counter protesters to a far-right rally march during the Unite the Right 2 Rally in Washington, DC, on Aug 12, 2018. (File photo)

Paper: Racial bias 'exposes US hypocrisy on human rights'

BEIJING

AN article by the China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS) has exposed the hypocrisy of the United States on human rights as evidenced by its racial discrimination situation.

"For all its self-styled positioning as a defender of human rights, the United States has neither the will nor the ability to solve the severe problem of racial discrimination on its own territory.

This exposes the institutional and structural defects of the United States," reads the CSHRS article published yesterday.

Racial discrimination in the United States is found in every aspect of people's lives, particularly in law enforcement, the judiciary, the economy and society, according to the article titled "The Deep-Rooted Racial Discrimination in the US Highlights Its Hypocrisy on Human Rights."

Xinhua

More violence in Malawi's post-election protests

LILONGWE

MORE public and private buildings and property have been destroyed in Malawi's cities of Mzuzu and Lilongwe following the post-election protests that continued on Thursday in the country's four cities and other parts.

The protests which are led by the country's Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) are aimed at forcing the country's electoral body chairperson, Jane Ansah, to resign.

HRDC and opposition in Malawi are accusing Ansah of mismanaging the May 21 presidential election results in which the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) Chairperson declared Peter Mutharika winner.

Since Mutharika took oath of office on May 27, the HRDC in collaboration with the opposition has been leading Malawians to protests to force the MEC Chair to step down.

The Thursday protests went on peacefully in the cities of Blantyre, Zomba and other districts across the country but in the capital city, Lilongwe and up north in Mzuzu there were incidences of violence.

In Lilongwe, the protesters broke and torched part of government office complex for the Ministry of Information Communications and Technology and they also stoned and broke the offices of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) head office.

The protesters, who were determined to present their petition to President

Noting that racial discrimination has led to worsening race relations, growing hate crimes, and increasing societal breakdown, the article pointed out that racial discrimination is a structural obstacle to the realization of equal rights and status for racial minorities.

With deep and profound causes, racial discrimination has become a grievous social problem for the United States, and is now a flashpoint for social conflict, according to the article.

The status of race relations in the United States is determined by the country's political structure, historical traditions and ideology, according to the article, adding that without reform of these, there can be no way to break through the impasse in racial discrimination and end the resulting vicious circle in race relations, and the proper protection of the human rights of racial minorities cannot happen.

Mutharika at the state house, Kamuzu Palace, were blocked by the police and the Malawi Defense Force near the Chinese Embassy which is along the road to the palace.

"The protesters were told that they could not go past the Chinese embassy because it is a protected area but after lengthy consultations between the MDF, Police and the HRDC leaders, the protesters were allowed to continue with their march to the state house," local radio, Times, reported.

However, the protesters were later barred again with armed forces 800m away from the main entrance to Kamuzu Palace where Mutharika's adviser on NGOs, Mavuto Bamusi, received the protesters' petition on behalf of Mutharika.

Bamusi assured the protesters that Mutharika would respond to the petition "soon."

"I assure you that I'm going to present the petition to the appointing authority and you are going to get a response soon because right now there's a meeting going on at the palace on the same," said Mutharika's aide.

But the HRDC Chairperson, Timothy Mtambo, told Bamusi that it was "just a matter of time before the Malawians demanding justice will no longer hold it."

In Mzuzu, the protesters burned down government offices, ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) offices and a police unit while in the border district of Karonga the protesters blocked the road to neighbouring Tanzania and no vehicle could pass through. Xinhua

Russia set to create private reusable meteo rocket

MOSCOW

RUSSIA may create a private reusable meteorological rocket, NSTR Rocket Technologies (the rocket's developer) told TASS yesterday.

"The first model will be a single-use meteo rocket but eventually we are planning to create a reusable version," the company said.

Work is nearing completion to create a test prototype. After its trials are over, specialists will start

creating a non-reusable meteo rocket.

It will be capable of lifting 10-15 kg of equipment to an altitude of up to 130 km "for meteorological studies, scientific and technological experiments and commercial orders," the company's press office said.

The trials of the test prototype are planned to be conducted before the end of 2019.

The project was earlier agreed with the Central Aerological Observatory. In the future, the company

plans to get a license from Russia's State Space Corporation Roscosmos, the press office said.

"Considering that we are eventually going to create a super-light carrier rocket, we are planning to start a space license formalizing process in Roscosmos soon," the company said.

The company earlier announced it had completed the trials of a liquid-propellant rocket engine of its own design. Its serial production is expected to start this year.

Agencies



Abbas says Palestinians intend not to abide by deals signed with Israel

RAMALLAH

PALESTINIAN President Mahmoud Abbas announced on Thursday that the Palestinian leadership is intending not to abide by the peace agreements signed with Israel, in response to demolitions of dozens of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem on Monday.

He said during a meeting for the Palestinian leadership held in Ramallah that a committee is to be formed to implement the made decision that was based on previous decisions related to defining the nature of the relationship with Israel.

Three years ago, the Palestinian leadership establishments, the National and Central Councils, had decided to suspend its recognition of the state of Israel until the latter recognizes a Palestinian state on 1967 border, and stop security coordination with Israel.

Abbas chaired earlier on Thursday a joint meeting for Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) executive committee and his Fatah Party to discuss the Israeli homes demolition in Jerusalem.

The call for "the emergency meeting," according to the official news agency WAFA, was made after the Israeli authorities' demolition of 12 buildings, that comprises dozens of housing units in Sur Baher area, southeast of Jerusalem.

On Monday, the Israeli authorities demolished 12 constructions that included 72 apartments in the neighborhood of Sur Baher southeast of Jerusalem.

"The decision not to abide by the agreements signed with Israel was made in light of the state of the Israeli occupation's demolitions of dozens of homes of our people in East Jerusalem the capital of our eternal state," said Abbas.

He added that "hundreds of our people from Sur Baher became displaced, which is clear breaching to the international law and a clear breaching to the international resolutions and all the peace agreements signed between us."

"We won't accept the dictates and imposition of the status quo on the ground by brutal force, specifically in Jerusalem and other places. All are sacred to the Palestinian land," said Abbas.

He stressed that "all the actions of the occupying state in Jerusalem are illegal and false," adding "the American administration through its biased policy to Israel has encouraged the Israeli violations against our people. The Palestinians severed their political ties with the United States following President Donald Trump's declaration in December 2017 that Jerusalem is the capital of the state of Israel.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Ishtayeh said on Thursday that the division of the Palestinian territories into areas (A), (B) and (C) that had been agreed upon with Israel "was no longer in place because Israel did not respect the signed agreements."

Xinhua

Too many in Congo's Ebola outbreak are dying at home

BENI, Congo

TWO-month-old Lahya Kathembo became an orphan in a day. Her mother succumbed to Ebola on a Saturday morning. By sunset her father was dead, too.

They had been sick for more than a week before health workers finally persuaded them to seek treatment, neighbors said. They believed their illness was the work of people jealous about their newborn daughter, a community organizer said, and sought the guidance of a traditional spiritual healer.

The Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo is ravaging Beni, a sprawling city of some 600,000, in large part because so many of the sick are choosing to stay at home. In doing so, they unknowingly infect caregivers and those who mourn them.

"People are waiting until the last minute to bring their family members and when they do it's complicated for us," says Mathieu Kanyama, head of health promotion at the Ebola treatment center in Beni run by the Alliance for International Medical Action, or ALIMA. "Here there are doctors, not magicians."

Nearly one year into the outbreak which has killed more than 1,700 and was declared a global health emergency this month, a rise in community deaths is fueling a resurgence of Ebola in Beni. During a two-week period in July alone, 30 people died at home.

Health teams are now going door-to-door with megaphones trying to get the message out.

"Behind every person who has died there is someone developing a fever," Dr Gaston Tshapenda, who heads the Ebola response in Beni for Congo's health ministry, told his teams.

Many people still don't believe Ebola is real, health experts say, which stymies efforts to control the disease's spread.

Ebola symptoms are also similar to common killers like malaria and typhoid, so those afraid of going to a treatment center often try to self-medicate at home with paracetamol to reduce fever.

But Ebola, unlike those other illnesses, requires the patient to be kept in isolation and away from the comfort of family.

Dr Maurice Kakule, who became one of this outbreak's first Ebola patients after he treated a sick woman at his clinic, is now trying to make it easier for those who are ill to get help in and around Beni, near the border with Uganda.

He and other survivors, who are now immune to the disease, run a motorcycle taxi ambulance. After receiving a phone call for help they go to homes, reassure the sick and take them for medical care without infecting others.

People's most common fear is that they will only leave an Ebola treatment center in a body bag, Kakule says.



In this July 17, 2019 photo, 2-month-old Lahya Kathembo is carried by a nurse waiting for test results at an Ebola treatment center in Beni, Congo. (File photo)

"Some have heard of the problem of Ebola but there have been no survivors in their family," he said. "Since they had relatives die at a treatment center, they think people are killed there and that's why they categorically refuse to go."

They fear, too, that they will die alone, surrounded only by health care personnel covered in protective gear from head to toe.

To try to humanize the care of patients in isolation, ALIMA's Ebola treatment center in Beni places some patients in their own transparent room called a "CUBE," where they can see visitors from their beds. Others share a room with one other patient and a glass window where loved ones can gather.

While there is no licensed treatment for Ebola, patients in eastern Congo are able to take part in clinical trials. That's a welcome change from the 2014-2016 outbreak in West Africa when many patients entered Ebola centers never to come out alive again. More than 11,000 people died.

Still, the measures needed to keep Ebola from spreading remain difficult for many people to accept.

"We cannot be oblivious to the fact that when you're sick with Ebola you're put somewhere away from your family, with a 50% chance of dying alone from your loved ones," said Dr Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, which is helping to fight the outbreak. "I don't blame people for not finding this attractive, despite the fact that we have a clinical trial going on."

The day after the deaths of baby Lahya's parents, a morgue team in pro-

TECTIVE clothing carried their carefully encased bodies to a truck for a funeral procession to a Muslim cemetery on the edge of town.

In the background was the sound of workers hammering away as they built more space at the nearby treatment center to accommodate the growing caseload.

Lahya developed a fever but has tested negative for Ebola. The infant with round cheeks and gold earrings is in an orphanage for now, while her 3-year-old sister is being cared for by neighbors who hope to raise them both.

But the sisters will have to wait a bit longer to be reunited – their adoptive father and former nanny both have tested positive for Ebola and are being treated.

The fateful decision to avoid treatment centers haunts survivors like Asifwe Kavira, 24, who fell ill with Ebola along with eight of her relatives.

Health teams came to the house in Butembo, trying to persuade them to seek treatment. Most of the family, though, said they wanted to treat their fevers at home. After three days of negotiations, Kavira finally agreed to seek help, believing she was on the brink of death.

She would be the only one to survive. Her mother, grandmother, brother and four other relatives all died at home. An older sister joined her at the treatment center, but medical care came too late.

"I tell people now that Ebola exists," Kavira says, "because that is how I lost my entire family."

Agencies

It is dangerous to stir up confrontation between China and the US

By Zhong Sheng

SOME so-called China hawks in the U.S. recently sent an open letter to the White House, trying to instigate confrontation between China and the U.S.

It's obvious that any positive momentum of the development for China-U.S. relations would make them uneasy. Disregarding the common interests of the two peoples, they want to turn the world into chaos. Their practices that poison the relations between China and the U.S. have set an alarm for the world.

Stirring up confrontation between China and the U.S. goes against the general direction of the development of the bilateral ties between the two countries.

China-U.S. relationship is one of the world's most important

bilateral ties. The past 40 years since the establishment of China-U.S. diplomatic ties has proven that the two countries stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation. It is a basic fact that cooperation and dialogue are better than friction and confrontation.

Today, when economic and trade frictions between China and the U.S. have lasted for more than a year, the two countries decide to resume economic and trade consultation on the basis of mutual respect and an equal footing, and the two peoples are in greater expectations for boosting China-U.S. relationship based on coordination, cooperation and stability.

Any attempts of the so-called China hawks in the U.S. to buck the general trend of cooperation

will be in vain.

They are struggling because they are not satisfied with the current situation, and what they did only revealed their distorted mentality.

For instance, the absurd open letter they wrote has only showed the world their outdated mindset such as the zero-sum game mentality. They are not willing and not able to see the facts, so how is it possible for them to think strategically?

Even the U.S. realist geo-strategy theorist Zbigniew Brzezinski firmly insisted that the U.S. and China should never deviate from the track of cooperation, pointing out that as long as the two countries cooperate on common issues, the "Thucydides Trap" can be avoided.

To make it simple, some Amer-

icans are still obsessed with the illusion of hegemony and not willing to see China's achievements in peaceful development.

China has always been a constructor of world peace, a contributor to global development, and a defender of international order, which is why it receives wide welcome and praise from the international community.

Such facts caused even severer envies of the China hawks who set China as an imaginary enemy in their illusion. Eventually, they slandered China, made false accusations against China, and even criticized China's development path as well as internal and foreign policies.

They are not only undermining the development of China-U.S. relations, but also bringing U.S. foreign relations back to

the Cold War or even barbarian times. How arrogant they are!

The trend of time keeps rolling forward just like the earth keeps spinning. The wish to obstruct the development of China-U.S. relations with a letter will never be realized.

Facts have shown that the overriding trend toward cooperation of China-U.S. relations has never changed no matter what the two countries have weathered, and the two peoples have also gained tangible benefits from bilateral cooperation.

With highly converging interests and extensive cooperation areas, China and the U.S. will achieve win-win results if they choose peaceful cooperation and common development, and on the contrary, they will end up with damages and regression if

they choose confrontation, suppression and blockade.

Although it's beyond all question that anyone rational would support cooperation without the least hesitation, some extremely arrogant Americans still enjoy making troubles and assume that the U.S. can take an easy win in any confrontation.

Charles W. Freeman Jr., former U.S. Ambassador to China and chief interpreter of former U.S. President Richard Nixon, recently pointed out in his recent speech that "few phenomena are as discomfiting as the sight of the American people in one of our periodic fits of nativism," suggesting that China is forced by the U.S. into becoming a rival that the latter can't defeat.

Susan L. Shirk, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, also

warned the U.S. about the current situation, saying that the U.S. is at risk of being gripped by "an anti-Chinese version of the Red Scare."

"We've made this mistake once before, during the Cold War," Shirk said. "And I don't think we should make it again."

The concerns of these insightful Americans represented a kind of soberness realized from the contemplation over history. In this regard, the views in the open letter are obviously not the mainstream public opinion in the U.S.

History has taught us a lesson: stirring up confrontation between China and the U.S. is dangerous, while promoting win-win cooperation between them is the correct choice.

People's Daily



Model Janice Dickinson, right, speaks at a press conference, Thursday, July 25, 2019, in Los Angeles, announcing a settlement of her defamation lawsuit against comedian Bill Cosby. The deal allows Dickinson to continue to speak out against Cosby. Looking on at left is Dickinson's attorney Lisa Bloom. (AP Photo)

Cosby accuser Janice Dickinson says deal brings some justice

LOS ANGELES

MODEL and TV personality Janice Dickinson on Thursday called a settlement in her defamation lawsuit against the now imprisoned Bill Cosby a victory that brings a measure of justice, but that in the end is only a partial help.

"In reality, nothing can erase the experience and memory of an assault," Dickinson said at a news conference. "Jail is where he belongs. There are not enough years left for him to pay for what he has done to so many, many women."

Dickinson's attorney, Lisa Bloom, said the case was settled for an "epic" amount, though the terms of the agreement keep the exact figure confidential.

"Janice will be fully and fairly compensated for being branded a liar," Bloom said.

The deal allows Dickinson to continue to speak out against Cosby, which she said she intends to do.

"Sisters, my advice to you is never, ever give up ever, tell your story and stand up for your rights," Dickinson said.

She also urged lawmakers to extend the existing statutes of limitations on sexual assault that prevented them from pursuing their abuse allegations in court. Instead, she and other Cosby accusers sued the comedian for defamation for saying their claims were untrue.

Cosby insurer American International Group Inc. settled the case against his will, as it has with at least eight other women who filed similar lawsuits.

"AIG's settlement of this lawsuit has no bearing whatsoever on the merit of Ms. Dickinson's claims," Cosby's spokesman Andrew Wyatt said

in a statement Thursday. He said Dickinson's case is another example of "AIG robbing Mr. Cosby of the opportunity to clear his name in a court of law, where evidence and truthfulness are supposed to be elevated above headlines and gossip."

Cosby has repeatedly denied both Dickinson's allegations and the defamation allegations, saying that they were statements by his former attorney that he had no part in.

AIG declined comment through a spokesman.

The settlement, which Cosby's spokesman first confirmed Wednesday, brings a long list of litigation involving sexual misconduct and defamation accusations lodged against Cosby around the country near an end. Only a single California claim remains.

Dickinson was among the first for whom the term "supermodel" was used in the 1980s and has become a reality TV regular in recent decades on show's including "America's Next Top Model" and "Celebrity Big Brother."

She testified at Cosby's criminal trial that he drugged and raped her in 1982. She was among several Cosby accusers who were allowed to take the witness stand at the Pennsylvania trial where Cosby was found guilty of drugging and molesting a woman who worked at his alma mater, Temple University, in 2004.

The 82-year-old comedian is serving a 3-to-10 year sentence.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, which Dickinson and other accusers have done.

AP

Hoses, ice packs help tame Tokyo heat before the Olympics

TOKYO

THE heat is on for organizers of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Several days after marking one year to go before the opening ceremony, the notorious Tokyo heat kicked in just in time for a beach volleyball test event that gave organizers a chance to implement their heat counter-measures.

At the Shiokaze Park on Tokyo Bay, the venue for the beach volleyball competition, organizers cooled off the sand with water from firefighter-grade hoses. Some athletes immersed themselves in giant buckets of ice water while others used ice packs to beat the heat.

Volunteers sought refuge in tents that were set up to keep people out of direct sunlight. In the temporary stands set up next to the main court, spectators used hand fans to cool down and were allowed to bring in plastic bottles of water.

Experts have warned the risk of heatstroke in Tokyo has escalated in recent years, while noting the Olympics are expected to take place in conditions when sports activities should normally be halted.

A prolonged rainy season had kept temperatures in the Japanese capital cooler than normal for July but that came to an end at the start of the four-day event where temperatures shot up to 33 degrees Celsius (91 Fahrenheit) on Thursday with humidity that made it feel much hotter. Those are precisely the type of conditions

athletes, spectators and volunteers will have to contend with in a year.

Norway's Anders Mol, who competed in the test event and will be a medal contender in Tokyo, said the heat made it difficult to stay focused.

"It was very unusual, we've never played in these conditions before," Mol said. "I think we under-estimated it a little bit when we came here. We thought it was going to be OK, hotter than usual, but this makes it really difficult to stay mentally focused all the time. It was difficult today."

And things could be worse.

High temperatures have long been a concern of organizers especially after a historic heat-wave hit Japan's capital last summer, with an area near Tokyo seeing a record temperature of 41.1 C (106 F).

The starting times of several events have been pushed back in an attempt to avoid the midday heat. The men's and women's marathons were pushed back one hour to 6 a.m. to mitigate the heat, while the men's 50-km race walk will commence at 5:30 a.m.

Some of the heat counter-measures that organizers will use include using electric fans, large-scale misting towers, and installing special coating over 136 kilometers (85 miles) of roads in the city's center – with reflective material that reduces the surface temperature.

AP



In this June 26, 2019, file photo, R&B singer R. Kelly, center, arrives at the Leighton Criminal Court building for an arraignment on sex-related felonies in Chicago. Kelly, who was arrested in Chicago on July 11, 2019 on a federal grand jury indictment listing 13 counts including sex crimes and obstruction of justice, was ordered held without bond on Tuesday, July 16. (AP Photo)

Prosecutor: More people could be charged in R. Kelly case

CHICAGO

MORE charges and more defendants could be added to the federal case against R. Kelly in Chicago that currently alleges child pornography and other crimes by the R&B singer and two associates, a prosecutor told a judge Thursday.

Prosecutor Angel Krull said a more far-ranging indictment could replace the charging document that led to Kelly's arrest as he walked his dog in Chicago in mid-July. She offered no hints about possible new investigative targets.

Kelly, 52, is being held without bond on charges that include producing child pornography and coercing minors to engage in sex. He faces similar federal charges in New York, along with Illinois charges brought by Cook County prosecutors.

Krull also requested an order protecting evidence and limiting what lawyers can say publicly about it. Media and Kelly fans have harassed witnesses, making them hesitant about testifying and leading one to quit her job, Krull said.

"People who are brave and courageous shouldn't be subject to this," she said.

U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber, who

is expected to rule on the request at a hearing Wednesday, said he has also received emails from Kelly supporters.

Kelly's attorney, Steve Greenberg, told the judge that the proposed protective order was too restrictive, suggesting it could hamper the defense in responding to public comments by witnesses and their lawyers.

The 82-year-old judge revealed at the hearing that before he was assigned to the case this month he hadn't heard of Kelly, a Grammy Award winner whose hits include "Bump N' Grind" and "I Believe I Can Fly."

"My wife thinks it's rather humorous that I didn't know who Mr. Kelly was," he said.

Kelly, who wasn't at Thursday's hearing, has pleaded not guilty to all charges. His co-defendants, ex-manager Derrel McDavid and former employee Milton Brown, also pleaded not guilty to paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to retrieve pornographic videos in a bid to stave off criminal charges.

The defense referred to Michael Avenatti, who represents several Kelly accusers, and who is facing federal fraud charges of his own. He told a news conference this month that Kelly

paid \$2 million to buy the silence of a girl he had sex with and her family.

Leinenweber didn't mention Avenatti by name, but he said whatever lawyer tied to the case was making comments on the allegations "should be advised to keep his mouth shut."

In an unusual intervention, Chicago's acting U.S. marshal, Jason Wojdylo, also asked to speak at the hearing, saying he had concerns about transporting Kelly for an Aug. 2 arraignment in the New York case.

After Wojdylo asked if Kelly could enter a plea in the New York case by video from Chicago, Leinenweber said Kelly had a right to stand in person before the New York federal judge. Kelly attorneys indicated their client wanted to go to New York despite the difficulties of transporting him between Chicago and New York.

Wojdylo also said Kelly had "declined an opportunity" to have a cellmate or to move out of an isolated holding area at the downtown Chicago federal jail where he's been kept as a safety precaution because of his celebrity status. He didn't explain why Kelly didn't want to move to an area where he could interact with other inmates.

AP

Vettel says he is his own biggest critic

HOCKENHEIM, GERMANY

IF Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel is feeling the pressure ahead of his home German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, then he knows who to blame.

That, the four times Formula One world champion recognised on Thursday, is because he has always been his own harshest critic. "If I get something wrong and do a mistake, I can't be happy with that," the 32-year-old told reporters ahead of Sunday's race at Hockenheim.

"The pressure I put on myself after that is bigger than any external factors. (It's been) the same as long as I can remember."

Vettel's lacklustre form has been under intense scrutiny this season, with his on-form 21-year-old Monegasque team mate Charles Leclerc providing hot competition, and the pressure is mounting.

Last year at Hockenheim Vettel started on pole position only to crash out while leading on a track made slippery by rain.

That turned out to be the costliest of a series of mistakes in 2018 that undid his title charge, handing Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton – who won in Germany – a lead that the Briton never relinquished.

Hamilton is now a five times champion and well on his way to a sixth title, winning seven of the 10 races so far.

Vettel, who won four titles in a row between 2010-13 with Red Bull, has meanwhile looked a shadow of his former self since that mistake.

The German has won just once



since his Hockenheim heartbreak, at the Belgian Grand Prix last August.

Ferrari have been unable to produce a car to match dominant Mercedes this season with the Italian team without a win since now-departed Kimi Raikkonen triumphed in Texas last October.

In his fifth season with the glamour team, Vettel is already 100 points behind championship

leader Hamilton with no realistic hope of challenging for the title.

However, he said the dream of following in boyhood idol Michael Schumacher's footsteps by becoming a champion for the sport's oldest and most successful team remained very much alive.

Driving for Ferrari despite the weight of expectation that goes with it, he said, was a privilege and not a burden.

"I think we all know that Formula One is a world where people are very short sighted which is also fair and part of the game," said Vettel.

"Obviously this year hasn't gone the way we wanted after the last two years.

"Still, I think things are progressing in the right direction in the big picture."

REUTERS

Pochettino apologises after feisty Spurs-United friendly

SHANGHAI

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer has backed Daniel James to handle any rough treatment in the Premier League next season as Mauricio Pochettino was forced to apologise after a bad tempered friendly between Manchester United and Tottenham in China.

James was on the end of a reckless challenge from Moussa Sissoko before the France international appeared to stamp on the former Swansea winger.

Pochettino felt the need to apologise to United after a number of heavy challenges from his players, including Dele Alli who was booked following two heavy challenges.

"I apologise to Manchester United on behalf of our players," said Pochettino. "I was a little bit annoyed about some situations. I was not happy because sometimes you can arrive late and something can happen."

"Sometimes you need to be aggressive and play with passion but the focus is on building our fitness and developing the way we want to play."

Solskjaer said tough challenges are part of the game and was impressed by James' physical style of play.

"We can't lose tackling in football as long as you tackle fairly," said Solskjaer. "[James] is so quick and it's not easy to time tackles against him."

"I can understand why players mistake tackles against him and he's a brave little boy and he jumps, he's taken a few knocks over the tour but as an old man I like to see tackles."

"There's no rolling about or diving. If he stays down, he's injured. But he gets up when he's just hurt. There's a difference between being hurt and injured."

Angel Gomes' first senior goal handed United a 2-1 victory at the Hongkou Stadium to complete a perfect summer tour for Solskjaer after four wins from four.

Eric Bailly left the stadium on crutches and wearing a knee brace on his left leg after suffering an injury just nine minutes after coming on as a second-half substitute.

It was only the Ivory Coast international defender's third game back after undergoing surgery on his right knee at the end of last season.

"It's never nice when you get an injury," said Solskjaer.

"He's done his knee but we're not sure how bad it is. We need to get back to Manchester and do the scans but let's hope for the best."

(Agencies)

'It's pointless hiding it - we want Pepe!' - Napoli boss Ancelotti confirms agent talks

NAPLES

NAPOLI boss Carlo Ancelotti has confirmed that the Serie A side have held talks with Lille winger Nicolas Pepe, adding that their interest in the Ivory Coast international is no secret.

In addition, the Italian coach has added that the Serie A outfit remain keen on Real Madrid forward James Rodriguez as the Colombian continues to look for a new home following the conclusion of his loan with Bayern Munich.

Pepe has been on the radar of several of Europe's biggest clubs during the off-season, but Napoli look poised to beat their rivals to his signature after the player's agents visited the club's training camp on Thursday.

The 24-year-old enjoyed a prolific season in Ligue 1, scoring 23 goals in 41 appearances across all competitions, and being named in both the division's Team of the Year and picking up the coveted Prix Marc-Vivien Foe, awarded to the best African footballer in France.

Speaking to reporters, Ancelotti, who is about to enter his second year at the helm of Napoli, made no secret of his desire to see the winger cross the Alps into Italy to join his side when asked about the presence of Pepe's agents around the club's accommodation.

"They were in our hotel," he admitted to the press. "I said hello, as I did with all the agents who came here."

"Obviously, we are interested in Pepe, his agents are here and there's no point hiding that. Negotiations are in progress and we'll see what happens."

"Pepe is a wide attacking player. We want to find someone who can play between the lines, but also strong with his feet."

On James and whether a deal for Pepe would dampen interest in the Madrid man, he added: "All negotiations are still open."

"Real Madrid want to sell and Napoli want to sign him. There is no optimism or pessimism. There are players who interest us and we'll see what happens."

Ancelotti also played down suggestions that Arkadiusz Milik would be shown the door if Inter's Mauro Icardi was to arrive, with Real Betis having been linked with interest in his availability.

"None of our players are currently on the market," he added. "All the players are here because we intend to keep them."

"Of course, if someone wants to try a new experience, we're here to listen."

(Agencies)

FIFA seeks update from Indian FA as club turmoil rumbles on

MUMBAI

WORLD governing body FIFA has sought an update from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) on the domestic turmoil surrounding the merger of two leagues into one top-tier national championship.

The AIFF's plan to merge the franchise-based Indian Super League (ISL) with the I-League has faced major obstacles and there is little clarity on the roadmap, leaving stakeholders and fans confused about the future of club football.

Earlier this month, the AIFF openly backed the ISL as the country's elite competition for the first time, saying it would recommend the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) awarded its champions a slot in the continent's elite club competition.

In response six I-League clubs wrote to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and FIFA requesting intervention as well as an inquiry into the running of the AIFF.

Following extensive consultation in 2018, a combined FIFA-AFC delegation made a series of recommendations to the AIFF on the matter.

"Many of the elements under discussion are related to suggestions made in a joint FIFA and AFC report,"

FIFA said in a letter addressed to the AIFF requesting an update on the progress of the plans.

"The report's objectives are among others, to provide the AIFF with external expertise and to support your federation and its stakeholders in establishing and implementing a widely-supported, robust medium to long-term strategy."

"As you know, the report is therefore a comprehensive review and professional proposal which also contains a series of clear and concrete recommendations for your further consideration."

The ISL, promoted by billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries and Rupert Murdoch's Star India TV, has grown in popularity since its 2014 launch, whereas interest in the I-League has stagnated.

The I-League was formed in 2007 as a rebrand of the National Football League, which was India's first professional league when it launched in 1996.

The AIFF said earlier this month it was backing the ISL because most of the national team players were playing in the league and it was attracting more fans in stadiums and on TV.

REUTERS

The next Mikel or Ighalo isn't going to come from Nigeria's league

BY COLIN UDOH, SPECIAL TO ESPN

WHILE Cup Final weekend is upon Nigeria, as Kano Pillars go up against Niger Tornadoes to determine who wins the 2019 Aiteo Cup on Sunday, the talk is still on the Super Eagles' Afcon campaign.

Conversation in Nigeria remains centred on the future of coach Gernot Rohr as the team's failure to reach the continental final continues to enrage, but little has been said about the team itself. Specifically, the loss of key personnel.

And therein lies the crux of the matter. The Aiteo final, and the domestic season as a whole, has done little to showcase new talent, so where will Rohr, or the next coach, find players to replace the likes of John Obi Mikel and Odion Ighalo?

The combined retirements of captain Mikel and forward Ighalo have left two huge voids in the team. John Ogu is bound to follow suit soon, and it is possible that, being on the other side of 30, Leon Balogun is not far off. Surely there must be some concern about finding replacements?

Fans and media never seem to let up with telling Super Eagles coaches to pick players from the domestic league, with goalkeeper Ikechukwu Ezenwa the only regular home-based player in the side. But the fact remains that the NPFL has no real talent of international quality, and there is a huge body of evidence to support this.

Two wins in the CAF Champions League (both by Enyimba in 2003 and 2004) are a far cry from other top African nations. The CAF Confederation Cup (including its previous two-competition iterations) offer a slightly better picture, but the wins there came at a time when Nigerian domestic football was on a high and players from local clubs represented the country.

In recent years, performances at continental club competitions have been woeful. Lobi Stars, Nigeria's CAF Champions League representatives last season, travelled to South Africa and were soundly beaten by Mamelodi Sundowns.

It was not just about the result, but the disjointed and predictable play of the Nigerian team that left heads and



Odion Ighalo and John Obi Mikel have exited stage left, but Nigeria's domestic structures don't appear to have found replacements.

fists shaking.

Then, CAF's African Nations Championship (CHAN), which offers a barometer of the strength of national teams sans Europe-based players, provides a clear-eyed metric. It is not one that flatters Nigeria.

The Super Eagles B-side failed to qualify for the first two tournaments, and then at the most recent final in 2018, were thrashed 4-0 by Morocco.

They also shipped four goals against rivals Ghana in the regional WAFU Cup of Nations final in 2017, and will hope to do much better this September at the event in Senegal.

Any manner of spin may be put on these results and performances, but the bottom line is that the players are simply not good enough until they move to Europe and have all their accumulated bad habits trained out of them. On Sunday, Pillars and Tornadoes will square up in the aforementioned Aiteo Cup final. There will be further examples of this lack of formal football education, guaranteed. Anyone even suggesting the national team coach should be there, for anything other than ceremonial reasons, probably needs to rethink some life choices.

At the moment, what the Super

Eagles need are two goalkeepers, one right back, one additional centreback and at least two midfielders. None of those who will be on show on Sunday can fill those gaps.

Prime Mikel on the ball was a wonderful sight to behold. Difficult, one might even say impossible, to shake off the ball and could ping passes with the precision of a German-engineered machine. No player in the domestic league comes close. Ighalo did not have the best first touch in the world, but as a cold-blooded goalscoring forward, his numbers speak for him.

The late Stephen Keshi spent over six months in camp with domestic players and ended up taking just six to the 2013 Africa Cup of Nations, so it isn't for lack of effort on the coaches' parts. Of that number, only two - Godfrey Oboabona and Sunday Mba - played significant minutes. A mere six years later, none are currently anywhere near the Super Eagles team sheet.

Rohr - if he stays - or his replacement, are better served scouting for players already in Europe to fill those gaps. At least for now.

But suggesting that Rohr, or whomever the coach may be in the coming months, picks from the teams

involved in the Final is a line few are brave, or stupid, enough to venture across.

RANKINGS FAVOUR NIGERIA
Bronze may not have been the outcome that the Super Eagles hoped for in Egypt, but their eight games (the joint most of any side under the current ranking period) have seen them move 12 places up the FIFA Rankings released on Thursday.

Although the Super Eagles stayed third in Africa, their climb up the world rankings, from 45th to 33rd, is just reward for both the federation and the coach. Over the last five years, the Super Eagles have not missed a FIFA window, even to play a friendly game.

Of course, playing games without results does little to help the rankings, and the relative stability and consistent results that Rohr has brought to the Super Eagles have also played their part.

In the midst of everything swirling around the federation, coach, and team, this is one small win that deserves celebration. Because there is no doubt that if they had dropped this drastically in the opposite direction, the knives would have been out.

(Agencies)

Arsenal sign Ceballos, Saliba in double swoop

LONDON

ARSENAL have signed Dani Ceballos on a season-long loan from Real Madrid and William Saliba in a €30 million move from Saint-Etienne.

Ceballos, 22, was also subject to an approach by North London rivals Spurs and becomes Arsenal's first big-name signing of the summer, with the club having failed thus far to land Crystal Palace's Wilfried Zaha and Celtic's Kieran Tierney.

"We're excited to see Dani join us," Arsenal boss Unai Emery said. "He is a talented player with big technical ability, creativity and precision."

Sources told ESPN FC that Emery had been decisive in Ceballos accepting Arsenal's proposal even though they won't participate in the Champions League this season.

Ceballos impressed for Spain in the European Under-21 Championship in July, scoring two goals as well as being named in the Team of the Tournament.

The midfielder, who will wear the No. 8 shirt, made 23 league appearances in Real Madrid's tough La Liga campaign last season, scoring three goals. He also made three Champions League appearances.

Ceballos began his career at Real Betis before moving to Madrid in 2017.

Emery said on Sunday that he was happy for the Gunners to wait in the transfer market until the right players comes available after saying last week that he was after "very big, very expensive" signings.

Even with the signing of Ceballos, Arsenal are yet to spend big money this window - Brazilian teenager Gabriel Martinelli is their only other signing this window - as the club battle growing fan unrest at the lack of financial investment from owner Stan Kroenke, which culminated in an angry two-page letter being sent from Arsenal supporters' groups to the club board.

Later on Thursday, Arsenal completed another deal with the signing of Saliba in a deal worth €30m before being loaned back to Saint-Etienne for the upcoming season.

"We're delighted William is joining us," Emery said in a statement. "Many teams wanted him, but he decided he wanted to come to us and be part of our future."

"He will stay in France next season for more experience and then we look forward to him joining our group."

Saliba, who signed his first contract at the age of 17, made his professional debut with Saint-Etienne against Toulouse last September and finished the campaign with 14 league starts under his belt.

"This is the biggest club in England for me, so it was an easy decision," Saliba said. "I didn't think twice about signing here, so I'm really happy."

"This is a big club, and when you come here, you need to be ready. So I'm going to try to have a great season with the club that developed me in order to be ready for Arsenal."



Meanwhile, Arsenal's Mesut Ozil and his wife Amine Gulse were unharmed after being the targets of an attempted carjacking in London on Thursday, a source told ESPN FC.

The incident occurred when the two were pulling up to the home of Ozil's Arsenal teammate Sead Kolasinac, according to the source, when

two assailants approached the car brandishing knives.

In video of the event, Kolasinac can be seen fending off the masked aggressors, with the source saying that Ozil stayed in the car to protect his wife.

Ozil then sped off and was followed by the attackers for about five minutes before arriving at Likya, a Turkish restaurant he likes to frequent in the nearby area of Golders Green, said the source. Employees of the restaurant emerged to help Ozil and confront the attackers.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police said: "It was reported that suspects on motorbikes had attempted to rob a man who was driving a car."

"The driver, along with his passenger, managed to get away unharmed and travelled to a restaurant in Golders Green, where they were spoken to by officers."

No arrests were made. An Arsenal spokesperson said: "We have been in contact with both players and they are fine."

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Man United's 'Iceman' Lindelof:
In my head I'm still a No. 10

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Mufindi Golf Club hosts Monthly Mug tourney

Guardian Reporter

GOLFERS from in and outside Iringa will today be looking to put their skills to show as they battle it out in the Monthly Mug tournament, which will take place at Mufindi Golf Club.

The competition's coordinator, Alfred Mdemu, disclosed golfers from across Tanzania have been invited to take part in the event with a view to bolster competitiveness.

He congratulated the sport's stakeholders that have supported the event. They include Kiwango Security, New Popex Hotel, Times General Supplies, China Tanzania Security Co. Ltd, Mo'oud Pamba and Nevada International Barber.

"We have targeted to ensure the competition takes place every month... I believe our club will, through this tournament, be one of the best domestically," he disclosed.

Mdemu pointed out prizes have been set aside for the overall winner and golfers that will emerge as winners in divisions A, B, C and women category.

He mentioned a section of golfers expected to take part in the competition as Frank Mwinuka, Agustino Dembe, Basili Mtwewe, Teddy Kalinga, Rose Nyenza, Samwel Kileo, Bryson Nyenza, Musa Ndanzi, Frank Ngulo and Yohana Mbadime.

Mufindi Golf Club's golfer Mbadime expressed sincere regards to Mdemu for seeing to it the club enjoys success in the sport.

"Mufindi Golf Club has produced plenty of golfers that have made the country proud, with most of them having turned professionals," he disclosed.

The professionals include Stanley Sanga, David Helela, Richard Mtwewe, Rodrick John, Frank Mwinuka, Aidan Nziku and Brayson Nyenza.

In an effort to see to it Mufindi Golf Club achieve success, the club has set up junior development program as well as hosting tournaments every month.



A golfer puts his skills to show in a recent competition that took place at Mufindi Club's course in Iringa

TAVA urged to improve volleyball management

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

THE government has asked Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA)'s officials and regional authorities to come up with better strategies that can help the association get sponsors for tournaments.

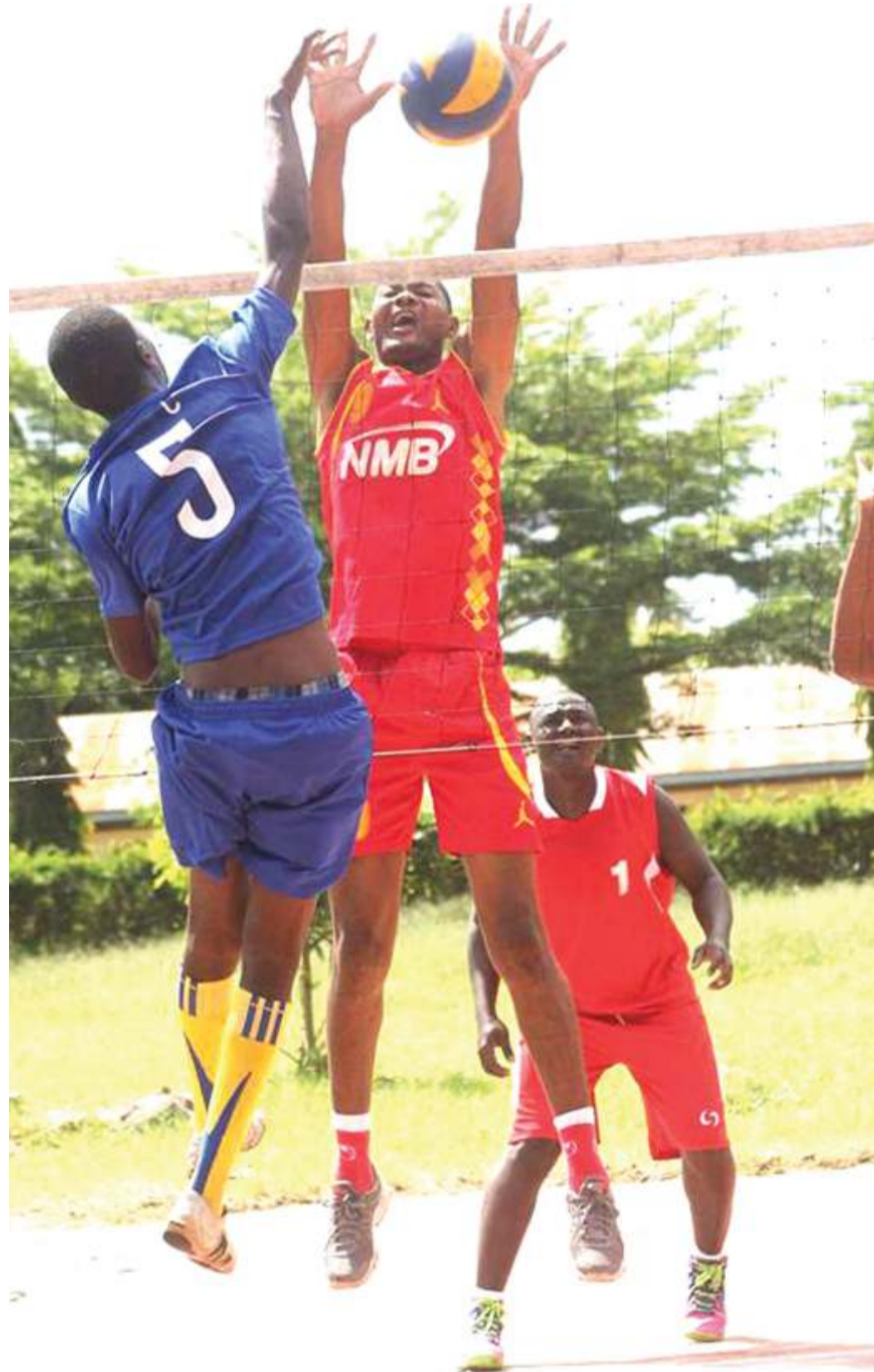
Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza, issued the comment when she graced the opening of this year's national volleyball club championship in Morogoro.

She also appealed to regional authorities to come up with ways for securing support for their respective regional volleyball teams so they can take part in tournaments.

She said the national volleyball governing body has yet to attract sponsors for its tournaments since Morogoro Regional Volleyball Association (Moreva) officials were forced to spend their own money to meet participation costs.

"It pains a lot four regions, Dar es Salaam, Mara, Dodoma and Morogoro, are taking part in the competition whereas other regions have failed to turn up for it due to financial constraints," she added.

She disclosed before the start of the tournament there must be promotion



Volleyball players take part in a regional league's game held in Dar es Salaam recently.

on media, TAVA officials should also knock on the doors of every firm to seek sponsorship.

The TAVA officials, she said, should issue details on how the firms can benefit from sponsoring the association's competitions, otherwise no one can offer support.

She, moreover, congratulated Moreva leadership for good preparation of the tournament although the association has faced financial constraints.

Moro Stars, one of the region's teams battling it out in the competition, won praise for putting scintillating showing in the event's opening match against Jeshi Stars of Dar es Salaam.

The hosts had taken a two-set lead before the match was stopped because of bad light.

The squad led 25-21 and 25-22 in the first and second sets respectively. Jeshi Stars however went on to win 3-2 in the following day.

Moro Stars coach Shukuru Ally noted his team's performance has improved thanks to registration of best performers that include Ford Edward, Said Alhaj and Rashid Mustapha.

The side's showing in this year's tournament is in stark contrast to the performance it showcased in the last year's competition, which took place in Dodoma, where Moro Stars and other Morogoro teams put poor showing.

"We hope to lay our hands on the tournament's trophy this year, we have the best setter as well as defenders," Ally disclosed.

"We, though, need financial support for the squad. The team's management receives material support too."

Ferdinand Kambanyuma, TAVA vice-chairman, promised the next season's championship will be a success.

He nevertheless requested the government to put its weight behind the association's competitions and teams which are representing the country in continental events.

Tanzania, according to the officials, is among top 10 countries in Africa in beach volleyball.

He noted the national volleyball teams, for instance, put impressive showing in recent tournaments which took place in Algeria, Cape Verde and Egypt.

"Volleyball preparations cost less than soccer, it's time the government see the sport as an avenue for promoting tourist attractions," he said.

This year's national volleyball club championship, which was opened on Tuesday, ends today.

Dar karate players win East, Central Africa championship

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S national karate team emerged as winners of East, Central and Southern Africa Karate championship, Ghashuku, which was held at Don Bosco Center in Dar es Salaam recently.

Nestroy Fedeliko, who is the Managing Director of Japan Karate Association (JKA) World Federation Tanzania, said

the tournament involved karate players from four countries namely Kenya, South Africa, Malawi and the hosts Tanzania.

He said the one-week tournament started with a seminar while the actual Kumite and Kata tournament involving individuals from the participating countries took place on the final day.

Fedeliko hailed local athletes for performing well at the tournament.

He said local karate players performed well in individual men and women kata, as well as men's kumite.

The country also produced the most disciplined player in women category and the best junior player.

"It was a good tournament which really opened our eyes, we did well in many

categories, I thank all the players and sponsors of this tournament," he said.

He said best women player and most disciplined man were all from Malawi.

Edward Mtshali from South Africa was the tournament manager, Tanzanians Jerome Mhagama and Abdallah Kambi were chief referee and arbiter respectively.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

PAIN KILLERS ARE NOT GOOD FOR YOU! DO YOU KNOW WHY ARE THEY CALLED KILLERS?

