



National Pg 3

EAC States raise capacity in healthcare



National Pg 4

Reap from regional blocs - call



National Pg 5

CCBRT launches obstetric fistula programme



At least 19 killed in fuel truck crash in western Uganda

KAMPALA

AT least 19 people were killed when a fuel truck exploded after losing control and ramming into three cars in western Uganda on Sunday, police said in a statement.

Earlier yesterday, authorities said nine bodies had been retrieved from the crash site and transported to a nearby health center "for further post-mortem analysis and DNA profiling."

Another body was found trapped under the truck, police said.

Nine more people who were injured in the accident died later from their wounds, police spokesman Fred Enanga told Reuters on Monday morning.



The accident occurred at a small trading center on a highway between the capital Kampala and Kasese town near the border with Democratic Republic of Congo

The accident occurred at a small trading center on a highway between the capital Kampala and Kasese town near the border with Democratic Republic of Congo.

Flames from the blast tore through at least 25 shops nearby.

Fatal road crashes are frequent in the East African country, often the result of lax law enforcement, poorly serviced vehicles and potholed roads.

At least 85 people died in neighboring Tanzania on Aug. 10 after a fuel tanker exploded in the town of Morogoro, as flames ripped through a crowd that had gathered to siphon petrol from it.

AfDB issues \$180m loan for outer ring road in Dodoma



Finance and Planning ministry Permanent Secretary Doto James (R) and Alex Mubiru, the African Development Bank Group's Country Manager in Tanzania, exchange documents in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after signing a US\$180 million (414 billion/-) AfDB soft loan agreement for financing the construction of tarmac ring roads covering a combined distance of 110.2km as well as improvements to infrastructure in Dodoma city. Photo: Finance ministry

Alex Mubiru, the AfDB country manager for Tanzania, said the road will be connecting all the four radial roads through Dodoma city to Arusha, Iringa, Singida and Dar es Salaam and hence will significantly reduce congestion around the country's capital since national and international traffic will by-pass the city centre

By Henry Mwangonde

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) yesterday signed a \$180 million (414.07bn/-) loan agreement with the government for financing the construction of the 110.2 kilometer Dodoma City Outer Ring road to bitumen standard.

It is expected that through the agreements, the bank will make available \$138 million through its window and \$42 million through the recent Africa Growing Together Fund, a Chinese government fund administered by the bank.

"I wish to express the government's appreciation for the bank's support in stepping up infrastructure development in order to realize our desire to become a trade and logistical hub for eastern and southern Africa region," said Finance and Planning Permanent Secretary Doto James.

The loan signed yesterday will increase the amount of funds committed by the bank to



Upon completion in the next two years, the road will provide efficient road transport access to Dodoma city and facilitate national and international trade flows

finance ongoing road projects in Tanzania from \$858.16 million to \$1.038 billion (2.39trn/-).

Upon completion in the next two years, the road will provide efficient road transport access to Dodoma city and facilitate national and international trade flows.

The ring road links with the Cape to Cairo road or the Great North Road Highway which covers eight countries namely South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt, apart from a central corridor road connecting Tanzania and neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) Chief Executive Officer Patrick Mfugale said the project will involve construction of the dual carriageway ring to bitumen standard from Nala-Veyula-Ihumwa-Matumbulu to Nala. It also targets development of social infrastructure such

Tanzania, Kenya mapping border with new beacons

By Marc Nkwame, Arusha

TANZANIA and Kenya have kicked off an initiative to retrace their boundary to plant new demarcation beacons along the borderline stretching from Lake Natron to Tarakea via Namanga.

Marius Kabunduburu, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements explained here yesterday that the move is part of a wider exercise to demarcate the country's boundaries by placing new beacons along the breadth of Tanzania's borders, with Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia,



The exercise follows a United Nations resolution which directs the countries to formalize boundaries drawn up at the Berlin Conference of 1884

Malawi, Mozambique and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) conducting the same exercise.

The exercise entails, among other activities, aerial photographing, ground mapping and surveying, along with recording coordinates for the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Kabunduburu was speaking in Arusha during a taskforce meeting on how to execute the borderline demarcation along the Kenya-Tanzania boundary.

Most beacons and other signs demarcating the borderline have been destroyed, worn off

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Open embassy in Dar, tour groups urge Israel

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOURISM stakeholders have urged Israel to open a fully-fledged embassy in Dar es Salaam to make it easier for visa processing.

Currently, Tanzanians are required to travel to Nairobi to process a travel visa, an expensive and time wasting procedure.

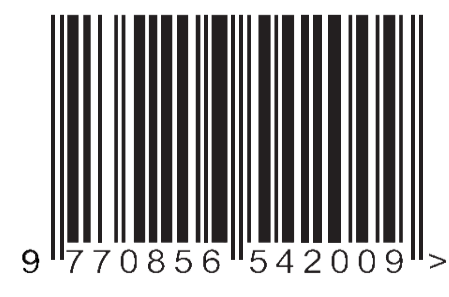
Speaking during the sendoff farewell of a group



of 64 tourists traveling to Israel, the stakeholders called on the Middle East state to work on the challenge so as also to boost trade between the two countries.

Excellent Guides Tanzania tour coordination officer Harrison Chonjo said that opening a small or full-fledged embassy in Tanzania will also stimulate tourism growth as many people

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AfDB issues \$180m loan for outer ring road in Dodoma

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as water sources and strengthening health centres, rehabilitation of feeder roads and pilot road safety measures around the project.

Alex Mubiru, the AfDB country manager for Tanzania said the road will be connecting all the four radial roads through Dodoma city to Arusha, Iringa, Singida and Dar es Salaam and hence will significantly reduce congestion around the country's capital since national and international traffic will by-pass the city centre.

"The project will greatly improve the

mobility of goods and services around the country's capital. More importantly it will improve regional cooperation and integration within the East African region and beyond," he said.

The estimated total project cost is approximately \$214.69 million, with 64-percent financed by an AfDB sovereign loan, 20-percent from the Africa Growing Together Fund (AGTF) and 16-percent sourced from the Treasury.

The project will support Tanzania's economic and social development agenda, related to improving mobility around the country's capital, he added.

Kabendera case adjourned after application by the prosecution

By Guardian Reporter

JOURNALIST Erick Kabendera yesterday appeared before Kisutu Magistrate Court for Economic Sabotage crime facing him. However, the case could not proceed after the prosecution claimed that investigations were yet to be completed.

The court has, therefore, set August 30, 2019 for the next court appearance for the freelance journalist who was arrested on July 29.

Erick Kabendera faces charges of money laundering, tax evasion and involvement in organized crime.

According to the prosecution, on diverse dates between January 2015 and July 2019 in Dar es Salaam, and with other persons, the accused knowingly facilitated a criminal racket.

The state further claims that the accused (in the second offence) failed to pay taxes amounting to 173.247m/- that was payable to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

In the third and final count, the journalist is accused of obtaining 173.247m/-, while knowing that the said money was the proceeds of offences, namely: tax evasion and involvement in organized crime.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein swears in Khadija Khamis Rajab as Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Isles Industry and Trade ministry. The event was held at State House in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Businesses and services in Dodoma city were yesterday brought to standstill for over six hours following a strike by commuter bus drivers who are demanding for small-scale traders to leave Sabasaba station.

According to the drivers, the petty traders have been putting their products irregularly thus bringing car pile-up and inconvenience to would be travelers.

The strike brought havoc in the area as passengers were left stranded with other being forced to find alternative transport in order to go to work.

The chairman of the city's drivers association Shukuru Mushi said that they reached the decision to send peace message for the authorities to

Businesses paralysed and passengers stranded as drivers strike in Dodoma

take measures as the petty traders in the areas were not only goers but also bus operators. "We are not against the city's authority but our concern is the safety of both travelers and bus operators because the traders have taken a big bar park the station which left a small park slot for the buses, this brings inconveniences and risks safety of the public as a whole," he said.

According to him, the traders are putting products like tomatoes, onions, vegetables, shoes, clothes and other merchandise at the bus station something 'which is not fair at all.'

"The situation is becoming worse as the number of the traders is increasing daily and this is a great threat to us... there are also meat and maize rosters at the station, this is a very great risk," he added.

Mushi further added that the congestion at the station had recently one drivers went to jail after causing an accident.

Amina Ramadhani, one of the traders said that they are forced to do businesses at the bus station due to availability of customers.

"We are after customers and nothing

this is why we come all the way to this place only to hunt for customers who can buy our products..." she said.

Following the situation, Dodoma city council director Godwin Kunambi director all petty traders to leave the area as the government is looking for a better place for them to do their businesses.

He wanted to get a list of the traders at the station for the work to commence immediately. "One of the areas which the traders may use to conduct businesses are Bonanza and Sabasaba markets.



Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako addresses Tanzanian students who have landed Chinese Government scholarships for this year. This was at a reception held in Dar es Salaam yesterday to bid them farewell. Right is China's Ambassador to Tanzania, Wang Ke. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Govt appeals for more Chinese medical scholarships

By Correspondent James Kandoya

TANZANIA yesterday appealed to Chinese government to reconsider increasing the number of scholarships for medical fields from 20 to 40 next year to cover the shortage of experts in the related field.

Minister for Education, Science and Technology and Vocational Training Prof Joyce Ndalichako made the appeal at the farewell reception for Tanzanian Students on 2019 China government scholarship that was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

She said due to commitment of the Chinese government, it has therefore increased the number of scholarships from 120 scholarship in 2018 to 259 this year.

According to her, the decision had come just one year since President

John Magufuli made the appeal to his counterpart President of China, Xi Jinping

"Indeed it is a fully commitment of Chinese government following our request to reconsider providing more scholarships in medical studies," she said.

She said that in this year a total of 259 Tanzanians had acquired scholarships to pursue courses in finance, geology, medical, construction and computer to mention the few.

The minister noted that out of 61 students acquired scholarships attended the farewell reception at the embassy premises, 20 were from medical studies while 41 students were for other general studies.

"A medical study is one of the area that faces shortage of experts. I therefore call on the

Chinese government to further reconsider increasing the number of scholarships in that particular field," she said.

Ndalichako said apart from medical studies, there were also a need to train other experts in the field of government priorities such as Standard Gauge Rail (SGR) and the J.N hydropower Plant (Stigler's Gorge).

For her part, the Chinese Ambassador to Tanzania Wang Ke said the cooperation in education has been depended by china providing about a hundred government scholarships to Tanzania annually, and Tanzania offering ten scholarships.

She said up to now China has provided about 1900 government scholarships and vocational training programme for some 6,100 Tanzanians to study in China.

The envoy added that along with the deepening cooperation of mutual benefit between China and Tanzania, more and more Tanzania students choose to study in China.

"Tanzania and China are good friends, good brothers and good partners. The belt and road initiative" made in 2013 by president Xi Jinping of China has been carried out successfully in Tanzania, providing impetus and industrialization efforts of Tanzania," she said.

The Ambassador Ke noted that up to date, the Chinese enterprises have invested a total of more than US \$ 7 billion in Tanzania.

According to her, that was a result of cooperation between the two countries can be seen in all areas of Tanzania's economic development and all aspects of people's life

Open embassy in Dar, tour groups urge Israel

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will be able to travel to Israel without the visa processing hurdle.

He said there is a good number of Tanzanians who are interested in visiting Israel to view numerous tourist attractions there but they fail due to visa processing complications.

He said that air transport between Tanzania and Israel has been improved so tourist companies are now encouraging more people to visit the Middle East state, and also those from Israel to visit Tanzania.

Another group of tourists is slated for October, and like the current one, it is also linked to various religious groups which treat visiting Israel as a pilgrimage.

The touring group leader, Fr. Melodius Mlowe from the Njombe Catholic diocese said that the tourists are coming from various regions and they have been encouraged to visit the country to witness attractions there but also for pilgrimage.

"Apart from the religious aspect, the

Tanzanians will be in a position to learn a number of things there as the Middle East nation is far more advanced in science and technology...so sending them there will give chance for them to grab something be it in technology or any kind of innovation," he asserted.

Immaculate Tairo, one of the travelers called on Tanzanians to build a culture of visiting tourist attractions in the country but also others abroad so as to learn various opportunities for their own enhancement.

"Tourism is not expensive as many would think. It is just a matter of saving little by little throughout the year or even two years...If you are eager to travel to a certain country, you start saving until you get the money."

Last year, Tanzania opened its embassy in Tel Aviv to become the 15th African state to establish full diplomatic ties with the Middle East state. Israel has also expressed its willingness to open an embassy in Dar es Salaam to strengthen diplomatic and economic relations between the two countries.

Tanzania, Kenya mapping border with new beacons

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or simply disappeared, paving the way for people to cross boundaries and encroach other states, knowingly or out of ignorance.

The Kenya International Boundaries Officer, Juster Nkoroi said the exercise follows a United Nations resolution which directs the countries to formalize boundaries drawn up at the Berlin Conference of 1884.

"We have until 2022 to complete the exercise. Initially the work was supposed to be done in 2012 but the deadline was extended to 2017 and as it happens the target was again moved to 2022," she explained.

The meeting is being attended by land surveyors, mapping and administrative officials from the two countries.

Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mrisho Gambo said his office will

contribute to the effort by informing elders and executive officers to sensitize people so that they take part in the exercise and assist in surveys.

On the Tanzanian side the exercise has already covered the first part of the border line from Tarime District in Mara Region, down to Lake Natron area via Loliendo and Sale divisions of Ngorongoro District in Arusha Region.

The second phase will entail the demarcation of the next part of borderline from Lake Natron area, onto Namanga, West Kilimanjaro to Tarakea in Rombo District of Kilimanjaro Region.

The country's borders that run through lakes and other water bodies are to be measured and marked using the 'UN Convention on Law of the Sea' (UNCLOS), the top ministerial official remarked.



A food vendor at Mburahati kwa Jongu in Dar es Salaam pictured yesterday cooking 'ugali' for sale. This is a flour-based dish popular across Africa and usually served with all manner of stews, curries or vegetables. Photo: John Badi

Regional centres of excellence in EAC bloc up capacity in healthcare delivery

By Guardian Reporter

Pareno, Mercy Chebeni and Christine Zawadi.

THE East African Community has expanded the region's capacity to deliver high quality health services through the establishment of regional centres of excellence (RCoEs) in the Partner States.

EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, Christophe Bazivamo, further disclosed that the the RCoEs would also provide quality education, vocational training and research to students and practitioners in the health sector.

Bazivamo named the RCoEs as those for Kidney Diseases (Kenya); Heart Diseases (Tanzania); Cancer (Uganda); e-Health, Biomedical Engineering and Health Rehabilitation Sciences (Rwanda), and; Vaccines, Immunisation and Health Supply Chain Management (Rwanda).

"We cannot develop skills adequately in these areas at the national level, but we can do so through these Centres of Excellence in the Partner States," said Bazivamo.

Bazivamo said it was anticipated that the Centres of Excellence in health would reduce the huge numbers of East Africans travelling to India to seek specialised medical care.

Bazivamo was speaking at the EAC Headquarters when he received three Senators from the Kenya Senate Standing Committee on National Cohesion, Equal Opportunity and Regional Integration. The Senate Committee is undertaking a fact-finding mission to engage EAC Organs and Institutions from 18th to 30th August, 2019. On the team were Senators Judy

The DSG briefed the Senators on the progress made by the Community in the four stages of integration, namely: the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation.

He cited some of the achievements made by the EAC over the past two decades as: increased intra-regional trade, reduction of non-tariff barriers, infrastructure development, harmonisation of education systems and curricula, development of the EAC international e-passport, signing of Mutual Recognition Agreements, payment of tuition fees at local rates by EAC nationals studying in other Partner States, and increased cross-border investment.

He singled out the tendency by Partner States to prioritise national programmes as opposed to those agreed upon at the regional level saying this posed challenges to the implementation of EAC projects and programmes.

In her remarks, Senator Judy Pareno said that the Committee was on a fact-finding mission to enable them understand the EAC and the role of the Community's Organs and Institutions in the implementation of the EAC Treaty, in addition to their achievements and challenges.

The Senators noted that there was lack of awareness among East Africans on the EAC integration process, adding that Partner States governments and the EAC should do more to sensitise people at the grassroots on the Community and its role in their lives.

By Guardian Reporter

UK awards postgraduate scholarships for five staff from Ministry of Finance

FINANCE and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango yesterday handed out awards to five officials in the latest round of scholars from his ministry who will travel to the UK in September to begin their post graduate studies funded by the UK.

The Scholarship Scheme, implemented by the British Council Tanzania, is funded by UK aid and is part of a broader UK programme launched in 2017 supporting the Government of Tanzania to strengthen macro-fiscal management, improve public financial management systems and increase domestic revenue.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Dr Mpango said: "I am pleased to note that the work performance of our staff that

have gone through this programme is very impressive. On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of UK through DFID for this important support. This programme has added a lot of value to the Government's stock of human capital."

Also present at the launch was the Head of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) in Tanzania, Beth Arthy.

For her part Arthy highlighted that the scheme which is now in its third

year was a testament to the strong partnership between Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

Following completion of the postgraduate course, staff will return to serve in the Ministry. One of the scholars said: "It is our belief that after completing our course, we shall apply the knowledge and experience we learnt in UK to bring changes in our community, implement our industrialization policy, and help the government to boost our economy and reduce poverty in the country."

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Government counsels youth to go seeking maximum benefits resulting from membership of Tanzania in Sadc, other blocs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

YOUTHS in the country have been urged to tap into opportunities that come along with Tanzania's membership in two of regional economic blocs of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The call was made by the minister of State in the President's Office, (Regional Administration and Local Government), Selemani Jafo, noting that young people in the country stand to benefit from both blocs.

Speaking while officiating at the International Youth Day, nationally celebrated here, the minister argued that youths should go for opportunities beyond the national borders.

He said, "Basing on what you have showcased here at the meeting it is very clear that Tanzanian youth have the potential and ability to capture market in the two regional blocks and beyond".

He reminded that the government has done all it takes to build the country's image in the neighbouring countries, making it easier for youth to access market and other opportunities abroad.

Jafo noted that this year's theme on the International Youth Day "Transforming Education" is crucial in considering how education can help young people in the country help themselves in nation building strategies.

The minister also observed that the theme is in line with the government's plans to provide quality education for all, bearing in mind that the industrialisation drive need educated

young people.

According to Jafo, the meeting came at a time when the government is working on how best to empower youths, adding that resolutions from it will be worked on by the government.

He noted that it was good that young men and women from the 31 regions in the country, 26 regions in the mainland and five in the Isles are being brought together for a common purpose.

He urged youths in the country to be proactive, tap every opportunity in the government plans, adding that the government will always listen to them.

Jafo said that even the recent government's efforts to ensure that district councils set aside money for youths, women and the disabled is a result of public outcry.

On his part, the Deputy Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Culture, Arts and Sports of Zanzibar, Amour Hamil Bakari noted that both governments have taken initiatives to ensure youths are not left behind in various development endeavours.

He added that towards 2020, a lot of educational changes are taking place and young people must have the right attitude for the move.



Basing on what you have showcased here at the meeting it is very clear that Tanzanian youth have the potential and ability to capture market in the two regional blocks and beyond



Kiswahili na Utamaduni (literally, Kiswahili & Culture) trainer Alex Anselem (L) teaches the language to Japanese nationals at a centre based at Msasani in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

MINISTER of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, Selemani Jafo yesterday handed over 30 vehicles worth 2.72bn/- to regional education officers in a push to strengthen development of the sector in the country.

Speaking during the handing over event yesterday in Dar es Salaam Jafo said that the new bought Toyota land cruiser vehicles should be distributed to all education officers in the 26

Jafo hands over 2.72 billion/- worth of vehicles to regional education officers

regions and the remaining four be given to the ministry's education department to strengthen monitoring of the sector.

"In efforts to improve the education sector in the country, availability of reliable and quality transport to our education officers is vital...the government is now doing this in

practical for example we started by renovating old schools whereby 62 schools were refurbished in the first phase," he said.

According to him, for a very long time education officers have been grappling with lack of reliable transport to enable them to penetrate to rural areas to

monitor progress in the sector.

Minister Jafo wanted the officials to make well use of the vehicles by taking good care for them to last long and help to bring the intended results.

Earlier, Eng Nyamhanga, the ministry permanent secretary said that the vehicles are worth 72m/- each.

CSOs appeal for inclusion of PWDs in planning and execution of SDGs

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE civil society organisations have recommended enhancement of 2 percent of the constituency development funds for people with disabilities (PWDs) in order to ensure access of funds to promote economic inclusion and entrepreneurship within their communities.

That is according to the recent launched report by Tanzania civil society organisation analysing the status of implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the country.

The CSO's report responds to the government report on the status of implementation for sustainable development goals, which was presented in the high level political forum (HLPF) under the voluntary National Review (VNR)

They said, there is a need to increase visibility backed by data and research findings to make the case for increasing funding towards improved interventions that aims at promoting and protecting the welfare of persons with disabilities in Tanzania.

The report added that there is a need for establishment of the regional, district and grassroot platform for the people with disabilities in order to encourage peer meetings and interventions that aims at sharing experiences and discussing issues

of concern and trigger action in the communities.

A one-day session for launching the report was prepared by FORUMCC, in collaboration with Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform funded by Pan African Climate and Environmental Justice Alliance (PACJA) under the project for strengthening partnership for effective implementation of the agenda 2030 in East Africa supported by GIZ.

"There is a need to establish specific desks for PWDs in the inter-ministerial sector in order to facilitate easy communication and special prioritization in accessing services," report said.

According to the report, people with disabilities are often among the poorest and most marginalized in society.

"Disability has a significant impact on health, employment, education and income generation," the report explained.

Lack of friendly infrastructure in the premises where services are being provided, is a major hindrance for PWDs in accessing these services.

"There is a little inclusion of persons with disabilities in the planning, execution and monitoring of the participation of PWDs has been minimal," the report reads further.

This is partly because most policy makers do not have detailed understanding and knowledge on

PWDs issues and the associated challenges.

According to National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), out of 3,450,986 people with disability aged 5 years and above, 2,228,280 equivalents to 64.6 percent were literate, whereby the literacy rate of PWDs in urban areas was higher compared with that of rural areas which is 58.7 percent.

For her part country director for action on disability and development International Tanzania (ADD) Rose Tesha thanked the government for including PWDs in the report that was presented in the higher level political forum (HLPF), contrary to former reports which didn't include them.

"We therefore request the government report to be sustainable and to ensure that schools are having enough and professional teachers together with better infrastructures for PWDs," she emphasized.

Tesha added that there is a need for more advocacies to PWDs to help them understand what is planned for them in order to benefit from it. This is because we believe people with disabilities are able enough to contribute to the economy.

"Data for people with disabilities needs to be systematically analyzed in order to know how many of them are there to simplify allocation of resources to them," she explained.



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VACANCY – Regional Project Officer

Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation – Tanzania is a non-government organization (NGO) dedicated to supporting the provision of high-quality, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care and treatment to HIV – exposed and infected children and adolescents in the Lake and Southern Highlands Zones of Tanzania. Baylor Tanzania is affiliated with Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) Network which is headquartered at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA. Baylor-Tanzania is funded by the United State Agency for International Development (USAID), working to support the Government of Tanzania through Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to improve provision of services for children and adolescent infected and living with HIV in the Lake and Southern Highland Zones.

Post: Regional Project Officer
Location: Mbeya

Position summary:

The Regional Project Officer reports to the Zonal Program Manager and serves as liaison between the COE and Scale Up districts. She/he advises field division management and requests clinical specialists based on facility needs. She/he also represents Baylor-Tanzania by serving on regional health committees and identifying activities for partnerships and appropriate commitment of resources

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Faced with a biting shortage of tap water, residents of Goba in suburban Dar es Salaam make do with water from a shallow well in washing their clothes, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msaia

DC in Korogwe dishes out 1.6m/- for roofing 12 classrooms, toilets

By Correspondent Ibrahim Bakari

KOROGWE District Commissioner Kissa Gwakisa has dishied out construction materials worth 1.6m/- for roofing 12 classrooms and toilets in the district town council.

The donation is part of the DC's contribution to the campaign called 'Nivushe nitimize ndoto zangu' which literally means assist me to realise my dreams, which targets to build more classroom, mobilise resources to improve teaching and learning environment in the district.

The classrooms are being built by Brac Tanzania—an international non-government organisation, which has been implementing education programmes for early childhood, and secondary education for those who missed it and vocational and life skills training to girls and youth.

In Korogwe Town Council (KTC), the NGO has been executing the programmes through 'Education Empowerment and Life Skills for Adolescent girls and Young Children (EELAYC) project'.

Speaking soon after handing over the donation, DC Gwakisa lauded the contribu-

tion made by Brac-Tanzania, through then Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) support in complementing government's efforts to improve teaching and learning environment in schools.

"As government we've the responsibility of contributing building materials for the construction of those classrooms," the DC said, adding: "KTC is also a key player in ensuring that all girls have access to education."

For his part, Brac-Tanzania, Tanga office manager Manoa William said EELAYC project in KTC started in 2018, targeting girls who missed out secondary education by providing secondary education through qualifying tests and through National Elderly Education Programme.

He explained that current there about 206 registered girls who are studying secondary education programme through evening classes into 12 centres in Korogwe town council who are also being taught life skills and 347 children between 3-5 years who registered for early childhood education. He also noted the 12 classrooms cost 80m/- and the toilets cost 16m/-.



Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) has his Tigo SIM-card registered at the weekend through the biometric process at the mobile phone service provider's booth at the venue of the 39th Southern African Community (SADC) Heads of State and Government Summit held in Dar es Salaam. The firm was the official internet provider for the summit, which saw President John Magufuli assume the 16-nation bloc's revolving chairmanship and the minister take over as chairman of its Council of Ministers. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

CCBRT and Equinor Tanzania launch obstetric fistula treatment programme

By Guardian Reporter

THE Dar es Salaam-based Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) hospital in collaboration with Equinor Tanzania and the Lindi regional health management team has launched a two-year obstetric fistula treatment programme.

Speaking during the launch ceremony at Mpilipili primary school grounds in the Lindi district, CCBRT's

Chief Executive Officer, Brenda Msangi, expressed her profound gratitude to Equinor Tanzania for their generous support for Tanzanian women who suffer from obstetric fistula, a preventable and treatable medical condition caused by prolonged, obstructed labour.

With estimates that around 3,000 women in Tanzania develop the condition every year, a significant unmet need for comprehensive treatment remains.

It is for this reason, in 2012 CCBRT launched the campaign "Fistula is Treatable" to raise national awareness and promote treatment, with the support of the government and other key stakeholders. "Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth in which women are left incontinent; uncontrollably leaking urine and/or faeces.

Women who face this condition are subject to stigma and discrimination

in their communities, and face uncertainty about having more children, divorce, depression, social isolation and deepening poverty.

Ensuring fistula treatment is available within the region will encourage more women living with this condition to show up and get treated, hence allowing them to recover from the emotional trauma and social isolation that comes with fistula.

The condition has been virtually eliminated in the world's wealthier


countries, so with partners like Equinor we know that we can eliminate fistula in Tanzania", said Brenda.

Equinor Tanzania has generously committed USD 100,000 for CCBRT to facilitate treatment for 80 women who suffer from fistula in the Lindi Region over two years.

Equinor Tanzania Country Manager, Dr. Mette Halvorsen Ottoy, explained: "At Equinor, we believe the way we deliver is as important as what we deliver. In Tanzania, we have

discovered gas and we are working towards the development of resources. But we also recognize the need to partner with the local communities hosting our business, for mutual growth and development".

She added that Equinor is humbled to be part of this important initiative, as a partner of CCBRT and the Government of Tanzania, to engage closely with the local community and support initiatives that enhance community's social and economic progress.



FSDT
FINANCIAL SECTOR DEEPENING TRUST

TITLE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR SUPPLY OF TANZANIA INSTANT PAYMENT SYSTEM (TIPS) HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE TO THE FINANCIAL SECTOR DEEPENING TRUST (FSDT) ON BEHALF OF THE BANK OF TANZANIA

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. INTRODUCTION

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

1. Advocating for an improved policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework at national and sub-national levels of financial services
2. Promoting more relevant market infrastructure and ways to reduce transaction costs between FSPs and potential clients
3. Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of MSMEs
4. Stimulating improved access to financial products and services that respond to the needs of households and individual.

FSDT, is facilitating the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) in developing and implementing the Tanzania Instant Payment System (TIPS), that is an Interoperable national real time payment platform to be used by all Financial Services Providers

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

Financial Deepening Trust Fund on behalf of the Bank of Tanzania, intends to acquire a Supplier(s) to provide the Hardware and/or Software to BoT that will host and support TIPS operations

3. SCOPE OF WORK

1. Supplying at the most competitive rates, the software and/or hardware based on the specifications provided in Annex 1 and Annex 2.
2. Providing Technical Support as and when needed, so as to ensure the software and hardware is correctly installed and configured works as required
3. Providing training and support to a maximum of 5 selected Bank of Tanzania staff on installation, configuration and effectively using the hardware and software as well as providing manuals
4. Provide three (3) months post implementation/installation support

4. SUBMISSION

The deadline for submission of the proposal documents is **1600hours EAT on the 30 August 2019**. Submission after this time will not be considered

For more details on application requirements, full scope of work and detailed requirements visit www.fsd.or.tz/opportunities. We only consider applications that adhere to expression of interest requirements.

www.nbc.co.tz

Benki ya Taifa ya Biashara inampongeza Mheshimiwa Rais wetu Dkt. John Pombe Magufuli kwa kuwa Mwenyeketi mpya wa SADC.







Benki ya Taifa la Wazalendo





Mbeya regional commissioner Albert Chalamila (C, wearing a hat) takes a breather alongside residents of Kambikatoto in Chunya District when members of the region's defence and security committee toured development projects in the ward at the weekend. Pastoralists in the area contribute 3.3m/- towards the construction of teachers' houses. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Health ministers meet in Brazzaville for talks on state of health in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

HEALTH Ministers from 47 African countries are meeting in will meet in Congo Brazzaville for the 69th session of the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa.

The Regional Committee is the WHO decision-making body in the region, convening once a year to discuss and endorse regional policies, activities and financial plans to improve people's health.

According to a statement issued yesterday, more than 400 participants, including WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti, ministers of health from the 47 member states, senior health ministry officials, representatives of UN agencies, civil society, bilateral and multilateral organizations and other development partners, are expected to attend this annual flagship event.

The five-day health promotion

meeting, which kicked off yesterday is meant to raise awareness on the importance of physical exercise.

The panelists include WHO Director-General Tedros Ghebreyesus; WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr Matshidiso Moeti; and Minister of Health, Republic of Congo Jacqueline Lydia Mikolo.

The report on the implementation of the Transformation Agenda - the reform programme of the WHO Secretariat in the African Region will be presented by Dr Moeti, the Regional Director. The report will highlight successes achieved and challenges faced by WHO as it supports countries to improve health and well-being across the region.

With each of the 47 countries in the region facing health security threats that exact an enormous human and economic toll, there is need for a new strategy that draws on lessons learned and takes into consideration contemporary evidence

and innovations to facilitate the achievement of universal health coverage and Sustainable Development Goal 3. This new strategy, if endorsed and implemented, will improve early detection and reporting of priority diseases and outbreaks, leading to an effective response and thus strengthening countries' capacity for public health emergency preparedness and response at all levels.

Changing lifestyles, prevailing food production processes and marketing practices have led to an increasing consumption of inexpensive processed foods of low nutritional quality with high energy, fat and salt content. This has contributed to an increase in the number of undernourished people in sub-Saharan Africa, from 181 million in 2010 to almost 222 million in 2016. The strategy provides guidance to countries to stem the tide of rising malnutrition, obesity and diet-related non-communicable diseases by 2025.

High-tech entrepreneurship now best sector to invest, advises AfDB

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

THE president of the African Development Bank Akinwumi Adesina has warned that Africa will face 100 million jobless citizens by 2050 if it doesn't invest in the sort of high-tech entrepreneurship which has made Palo Alto a global landmark.

Adesina is one of the continent's most respected economic thinkers, believes it's time for the continent to start building Googles and Facebooks of its own.

Adesina's remarks come as the region is already in the grip of a startup boom. Hordes of talented young professionals, frustrated by a lack of opportunities in Europe and the U.S., are returning to their home countries in a trend dubbed 'the brain gain', and they've helped create over 400 innovation hubs from Marrakesh to Dakar.

With the backing of investment funds such as Africa50, which has created a risk capital fund worth \$870 million specifically for early-stage startups, many commentators are speculating that Africa will soon have its own version of Silicon Valley. In Kigali, this excitement is reaching a fever pitch.

A \$2 billion tech colony known as Kigali Innovation City is soaring in the hills above the capital, backed by \$400 million from Africa50. The hub will house technology firms, biotech companies and academic centres of excellence. The ultimate aim is to create over 50,000 jobs a year, as well as minting 30,000 graduates and securing a combined \$450 million in exports and FDI.

It's all part of Vision 2020, a policy blueprint launched by Rwandan President Paul Kagame when he was elected in 2000. Kagame, still in office nearly two decades on, has long dreamed of turning Rwanda into a middle-income state. As Vision 2020 makes clear, entrepreneurship is "the backbone" of this development, reducing Rwanda's reliance on international funding.

To this end, Kagame has introduced a raft of ambitious policies for prospective entrepreneurs. His government has created the Doing Business Steering Committee, with a specific remit to slash red tape, and requirements for starting a business

have been drastically simplified; in fact, the whole process now takes as little as three days.

New investment laws, aimed partly at foreign firms, offer a string of tempting tax breaks, and recent insolvency legislation is designed to strengthen confidence while making it easier to access credit.

The reforms have certainly had an impact. The World Bank says Rwanda is now the 29th easiest country in the world to do business; it's also been named the best place in Africa to get credit.

Kagame has succeeded in wooing global blue-chips such as Visa, and he's now he's determined to cement Kigali's reputation as a global hub through initiatives such as a recent summit, which drew over 100 youth leaders for entrepreneurship training.

Rwanda is not the only African country determined to become a magnet for entrepreneurs. Senegal is rolling out a new \$50 million fund for digital projects, specifically aimed at women and young people. Dakar aims to train 100,000 entrepreneurs and is in the process of streamlining the administrative procedure to start a business.

The latest measures to support entrepreneurs are part of Senegalese president Macky Sall's pro-business economic masterplan. The Sall administration has also taken steps to curry foreign investment, promising international firms that they'll get the same treatment as their domestic counterparts and their property will never be snatched away from them.

Sall's courting of foreign investment marks a sharp contrast from former Senegalese leader Abdoulaye Wade's regime, which was notorious for its treatment of foreign firms such as Millicom - ordered to pay a \$200 million bribe by the president's son.

Sall's election in 2012 provoked a sea change, as the new president made cracking down on corruption a top priority. Sall has tried to repair the damage done by Wade's tenure with a brand-new anti-corruption body, which has helped the country rise steadily through Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index. It now ranks as one of the least corrupt countries in Africa, providing

solid backing for Sall's pro-business drive.

Certain key sectors, such as agriculture, are particularly in the Sall administration's sights. As the president explained at the recent Tony Elumelu entrepreneurship forum, "We must have the capacity to feed our continent and that means developing agricultural entrepreneurship - especially with young people in mind. Because if agriculture is modernized, we'll have hundreds of millions of young people who could be entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector, prospering and developing businesses".

If anything, the impact of these reforms has been even more dramatic than in Rwanda. Senegal now boasts the continent's third-fastest-growing economy, with annual GDP growth of 7%. Not only that, but Dakar is becoming a tech hub to rival Kigali, with plans for 35,000 ICT jobs by 2025.

A new innovation centre is set to open in Dakar in 2021 to bolster the country's SMEs, with 20,000 square metres of laboratories, offices and a business incubator. Just as Sall intended, Senegal is earning a particularly strong reputation for female entrepreneurship, with women developing everything from medical QR codes to apps that prevent domestic violence.

Senegal and Rwanda offer an encouraging blueprint for other African countries to follow, after early attempts to create a global technology hub on the continent fizzled out. Kenya rolled out lavish plans for a technopolis in the town of Konza way back in 2013; the complex has yet to materialize. At about the same time as Konza was being rolled out, Ghana's then-president John Mahama was burying the ceremonial spade on Hope City, an ICT monolith which would create 50,000 jobs. Today, the project is effectively dead.

Rwanda and Senegal's successes, however, are likely to resuscitate their neighbours' digital entrepreneurship hopes. Uganda, for example, which is still battling Ebola and struggling to reverse chronic youth unemployment, is pushing people towards entrepreneurship - in the hope of realizing the sort of progress seen in Kigali and Dakar.

Conservation: Chome Nature Forest Reserve proves useful

By Correspondent John Ngunge

VEGETATION cover has started resurfacing in the Chome Nature Forest Reserve in Same District of Kilimanjaro Region, thanks to the conservation efforts made by different environmental stakeholders.

"In the past the situation was bad as people used to invade the forest for charcoal, timber and illegal mining activities, but after adopting a number of interventions, things started improving," said Sosthenes Rwamugira, principal Conservation Officer at Chome Forest Nature Reserve.

He attested that the situation in then forest has been improving and people living around it are now aware of the dangers of unsustainable management of forests.

"The situation we're seeing now is results of number players, from the government and environmental organizations, which chipped-in and evicted illegal loggers and miners who stormed into the forest as they were looking for alluvial gold," he said, adding:

"We have been working together with Eastern Arc Mountains Conservation Endowment Fund (EAMCEF) in conserving the forest since 2012, where they donated about 28m/- each year for conservation purposes."

Rwamugira said: "The impact of the interventions is clearly observed as vegetation cover has rejuvenated and the number of tourists visiting the nature reserve has also increased."

The highest altitude in the reserve has Shengena peak, covering 14,231 hectares of various forest types.

The reserve, which sits in the part of the Eastern Arc mountains, nominated for the World Heritage List in 2010, has numerous bird species and several types of monkeys.

"All these are key features that lure more tourists," Rwamugira said.

Senior land and environmental officer from Same District Council, John Nnko, said that multiple approaches were deployed to make the campaign against illegal loggers and miners successful.

Apart from evicting illegal loggers and miners,

Nnko said that local communities were trained on various entrepreneurship skills that helped to reduce pressure to the nature reserve such as building charcoal-saving stoves, beekeeping, and butterfly farming.

Muheza-based EAMCEF coordinator Magreth Victor also revealed that among other initiative made by the fund is to engage local communities in refilling open gold pit mines in the reserve and direct the river to its normal direction as well as replanting natural trees.

"As you can see, the situation at this area has recovered, we are seeing this new plants growing and the river having restored," she said.

In collaboration with the government, the fund has been supporting patrols in the reserve against invaders, rehabilitation of roads around the reserve and helping nearby villagers with income generating projects.

Funds' assistant conservator, Halfayo Ngoma, admitted the invasion of illegal loggers and miners in 2010 in the forest puts the reserve on the verge of extinction. "Water in the river that passes at the heart of the nature reserve was polluted by illegal miners. But, now the situation has normalized," he said, commending the joint efforts made by EAMCEF and other stakeholders in rescuing the nature forest reserve.

EAMCEF executive director, Francis Sabuni said that the implementation of forest conservation and management projects aimed to achieve effective biodiversity conservation and improved forest.

He said that the Eastern Arc Mountain Forests being major catchment areas which collectively provide water for many regions such as Morogoro, Dodoma, Iringa, Coast, Tanga and Dar es Salaam and most of the major industries in the country.

He said that in total these mountain catchments supply water to over 25% of the more than 50 million Tanzania Mainland populations.

EAMCEF had been supporting more than 400 projects worth about 6.3bn/- in six major mountains blocks that consist a network of eight nature reserves and one National Park stretching in four regions and 11 district councils from August 2006 to December 2018.



An Estim construction firm worker plays his part in the ongoing first-phase expansion of the stretch of Morogoro Road running from Dar es Salaam suburb Kimara to Kibaha in Coast Region into a six-lane dual carriageway, as captured at Kimara Stop Over yesterday. Photo: John Badi

By Angela Barnes

ELEPHANT ivory and the fate of mako sharks were high on the agenda at a wildlife conference in Geneva.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) regulates the buying and selling of species at risk of extinction around the world.

Discussions between the 183 signatories of CITES got underway on Saturday and are set to run until August 28. They will consider 56 proposals covering 36,000 species.

The animals being discussed include pangolins (scaly anteaters) - hunted for their protective scales, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine - rhinos, Asian big cats, and

Elephants and sharks high on agenda at the CITES wildlife convention in Geneva

cheetahs.

Global trade in shark fins is driving demand for mako sharks, guitarfish and wedgefish, driving them to extinction, according to CITES.

African elephants also remain a species of concern - a global ban on ivory sales was imposed in 1989 to curb poaching.

Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe are now seeking to open up ivory trade under certain conditions, according to Tom De Meulenaer, chief of CITES scientific services.

De Meulenaer said southern African countries were arguing that they now manage elephant numbers well.

Kaddu Sebunya, CEO of the African Wildlife Foundation and a leading conservationist, said: "We are losing 35 million elephants on the continent annually so this is not sustainable."

"The numbers are now less than half a million. You do the math. We will have no African elephants left in the next coming centuries so this is a very very big problem for us on the continent."



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His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli,

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Head Office Wholesale Retail & Corporate
Jamhuri Street, P.O Box 20073, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Tel: 2117090, 2117358, 2136344 **Fax:** 2117357
Mobile: 0713 325 488, 0787 333 007 **E-mail:** info@masumin.co.tz
0626 333 000 sales@masumin.co.tz



CALL FREE: 0800-00-24

215280501

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales and Marketing: KAUTHAR DSOUZA
0767223311
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

Tactical use of bush meat can help cut hunger, malnutrition

ENTHUSIASTS of roasted meat in open air spots are grinning with expectation after the government announced that it will be putting hippos on sale to reduce dangers to people living near rivers and lakes infested with the animals, along with a much smaller margin of crocodiles. There was a sharp difference in the position of the government concerning the two animals, which appears to be strategic in nature as only ten per cent of crocodiles are to be placed on auction, while any hippos will be hunted. It implies that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism is protecting crocodiles but why not in the reserves?

If anything, it is crocodile hunting that would be fun to tourists as their skin is often valued, unless there are protective conventions in the CITES or other global accords, where crocodiles are listed in some auxiliary list as needing a minimum of protection. But the local record in Tanzania for example is quite different, as it is rapidly becoming evident for elephants as well, that despite the global cry for the protection of this imposing beast, the level of destruction at the local level is rising. That means there needs to be a wider avenue to making some revenues or even bush meat use out of crocodiles as well.

One area which can help authorities put the bush meat to good use is directing the meat to the market and dampen profits and productivity of livestock herders but to people needing assistance of public authorities in one form or another. One such category is hospitalized people, another would be young people in schools who get a

paltry meat diet if any, while the meat that would be offloaded to society could as well be targeted in a way to needy families. Some kind of labour exchange could as well be sought out in exchange for the meat, especially where the claimants are men to pay for likely misuse.

The problem that comes up is whether the ministry has a workable infrastructure to direct the bush meat bonanza for charitable purposes instead of simply whetting appetites and risking raising levels of blood pressure, diabetes etc owing to cheap roasted meat. A slight or significant impact on the profit margin of livestock keepers would also be noticed, though this may have a positive aspect of easing access to meat for poor families. There is certain amount of complication in how the bush meat prospect is not just added to the market but put to more uses than markets, in case it can be arranged.

One possible modality is what is usually known as a public-private partnership, that organizations that are concerned with nutrition in assisted areas like hospitals, prisons, families receiving subsidies for instance the Social Action Trust Fund (SATF) and even public health facilities where lactating women report from time to time, can do the job. They can work with an interested party that can carry out such hunting after obtaining a permit, and put up a modality for charitable disposal of at least a portion of animals they hunt. This hasn't so far been mooted but it would help to make better use of resources, as it would improve nutrition to an extent, and any extent is good to obviate deficits like stunted children.

Africa needs more appropriate technology for milk production

MILK is a nutrient-rich, white liquid food produced by the mammary glands of mammals. It is the primary source of nutrition for infant mammals (including humans who are breastfed) before they are able to digest other types of food. Early-lactation milk contains colostrum, which carries the mother's antibodies to its young and can reduce the risk of many diseases. It contains many other nutrients including protein and lactose. Interspecies consumption of milk is not uncommon, particularly among humans, many of whom consume the milk of other mammals.

As an agricultural product, milk, also called dairy milk, is extracted from farm animals during or soon after pregnancy. Dairy farms produced about 730 million tonnes of milk in 2011, from 260 million dairy cows. India is the world's largest producer of milk, and is the leading exporter of skimmed milk powder, yet it exports few other milk products.

The ever increasing rise in domestic demand for dairy products and a large demand-supply gap could lead to India being a net importer of dairy products in the future. New Zealand, Germany and the Netherlands are the largest exporters of milk products. China and Russia were the world's largest importers of milk and milk products until 2016 when both countries became self-sufficient, contributing to a worldwide glut of milk.

Throughout the world, more than six billion people consume milk and milk products. Over 750 million people live in dairy farming households.

Africa's milk production is on the decline even as production in Europe, Asia and America rises, according to a report published recently.

This is not because Africa lacks the potential but due to lack of appropriate technology. According to the Food and Agriculture

Organization, Africa produced 35.4 metric tonnes in 2017. This represents 5.2 per cent of the total global production of cow milk of 675.6 metric tonnes in 2017.

One of the key challenge in the East Africa region dairy industry is on how to increase productivity and production of milk to meet the increasing market demand for milk and milk products.

Increasing urbanization, growth of the middle increase, and increased awareness by consumers on milk quality and safety have cumulatively expanded the market for quality and safe milk and milk products, says the report.

To address this, the East Africa governments should explore on several strategies to promote medium to large scale milk production through private investments and cooperative based dairy production units. The future of the national, regional, and global dairy industry is dependent on efficiency throughout the value chain, compliance to regulatory and market requirements, value addition, technology adoption, and environmental conservation, among other factors, adds the report.

According to the UN food agency, Africa has the potential to increase milk production and meet the requirements of the 1.2 billion inhabitants and leave a surplus for exports, with adoption and implementation of appropriate strategies.

Data from FAO shows that global exports of dairy products, in milk equivalents, increased from 72.9 million tonnes in 2017 to 75 million tonnes in 2018, a growth of three per cent.



Humanitarian action in Africa: Children's rights are first - a call for practical action

By Richard Kgomotso Montsho

CHILDREN'S rights are the human rights of children with particular attention to the rights of special protection and care afforded to minors. The 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as "any human being below the age of eighteen years, unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier." Children's rights include their right to association with both parents, human identity as well as the basic needs for physical protection, food, universal state-paid education, health care, and criminal laws appropriate for the age and development of the child, equal protection of the child's civil rights, and freedom from discrimination on the basis of the child's race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability, colour, ethnicity, or other characteristics. Interpretations of children's rights range from allowing children the capacity for autonomous action to the enforcement of children being physically, mentally and emotionally free from abuse, though what constitutes "abuse" is a matter of debate. Other definitions include the rights to care and nurturing. There are no definitions of other terms used to describe young people such as "adolescents", "teenagers", or "youth" in international law, but the children's rights movement is considered distinct from the youth rights movement. The field of children's rights spans the fields of law, politics, religion, and morality.

There is an emerging narrative that seems to emphasize that children's rights must not be presented as exclusive but should also come with responsibilities for the children. While this school of thought is reasonable, there is a need to draw our attention to the fact that, the African continent is not even halfway towards realising Africa's Agenda for Children 2040. Africa's Agenda for Children presents ten (10) aspirations that require practical and deliberate actions to translate children's rights into a reality. These aspirations speak to the fundamental rights of children living on the continent.

These aspirations will once again come to the spotlight as we commemorate the Day of the African Child this June 16. The theme for this year: "Humanitarian Action in Africa: Children's Rights First" places emphasis on countries to ensure that 'every child is protected against violence, and 'every child is free from the impact of armed conflicts and other disasters or emergency situations. Both these



issues are critical in the African Agenda for Children 2040.

While the entire continent is celebrating the Day of African Child, the reality for an African Child is still shocking and disturbing. The statistics and reports reveal disturbing facts that should not be ignored.

In South Africa, the estimated child homicide rate is 5.5 homicides per 100 000 children, which is more than twice the global average. This is a glaring statistic that illustrates the need for urgent action in addressing child protection in South Africa. In Mozambique, 1 million children were affected by Cyclone Idai and subsequent floods. This means 1 million more children who have been left homeless, orphaned, or out of school on the African continent and in need of urgent humanitarian assistance for their survival and development.

The violence in the border region between Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger has left 1,478 schools closed. This presents a huge challenge in so far as access to education for children in that region is concerned. In northeast Nigeria, armed groups, including Boko Haram abducted 110 girls and one boy from a school. In the Central African Republic, a dramatic resurgence in fighting has enveloped much of the country, with two out of three children in need of humanitarian assistance. Not only are they at risk because of the conflict in the region but they are going to be left behind with limited access to

skills that could have improved their future.

Image by Sasin Tipchai from Pixabay

In South Sudan, more than one million children under age 5 are estimated to be acutely malnourished, including more than 273,600 who are severely malnourished due to drought. (OCHA, 13 Feb 2017). In Uganda, almost one-third of children under 5 years are stunted. Stunting increases with age, peaking at 37 percent among children 18-35 months. (UBOS and ICF 2018). Stunting is the result of growing under limited provision of food, health, and care. Research has shown that stunting has a huge impact on not only the children's development but the continent's progress in the long term.

The glaring statistics shared above do not present a caring 'Mother Africa' that is fit for her children. This demonstrate that Africa requires a lot of practical actions to protect her children. Thus, as we celebrate the 2019 Day of the African Child, we should always remember the brave action children took in defence of their rights on the 16th June in Soweto, South Africa. The fundamental question is, what should we do to lessen the sufferings experienced by children across the continent?

The effect of humanitarian crises leads to hunger, malnutrition, abuse, lack of access to education and health care, which pose a serious threat to the survival, development and protection of the children on the continent. Therefore, the 2019 Day of the African

Child should highlight the huge task ahead of the African leaders, child rights actors and all key stakeholders in promoting and protecting the rights of children and facilitating unlimited access to comprehensive care and basic services to all affected children. The 2019 DAC should also be a moment of reflection on the continent's commitments in fostering an Africa fit for Children. But most importantly, a moment to call for urgent practical actions that prioritise children's safety, wellbeing, protection, education and health in the country budgets, policies, prevention and response programmes.

Richard Kgomotso Montsho is the Children's Rights Manger at the Graça Machel Trust. He has 15 years' experience in promoting and protecting children's social, economic, protective, civil and political rights. He actively participates in the child rights reporting processes to the treaty bodies such as the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. He is an active member of the Civil Society Organisation forum in the continent. He is a great advocate for meaningful child participation; to this end he initiated South Africa's first Children's Complimentary report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and initiated the development of the South Africa's National Child Participation Framework.

SADC integration by procurement requires common market structures

By Nimi Mweta

PROUREMENT rather loosely defined is the process by which public organizations purchase goods, the rules they are required to follow, etc. Private organizations are also covered by these regulations but the scale differs, whether it is in the range of total value of goods or in the sourcing, as both national interests and fair play between suppliers of various goods - as well as defrauding shareholders or partners by wrongful purchasing - are all targeted by regulations. Procurement is supposed to be ruled by market dictates, but procurement regulation is mostly the opposite, and when one seeks to attain auxiliary political objectives, it is further complicated.

Attaining regional integration by sourcing of public goods and services within the member states of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is in a sense at odds with current emphasis on removing non-tariff barriers in trade within and between countries. For procurement restriction is a particularly illustrative example of non-tariff barriers, where the portion of the market (that is, of potential suppliers of goods or services) being targeted for exclusion can't address the matter commercially, e.g. by lowering their price quotations. Being excluded for other reasons than pricing or sanitary and phytosanitary considerations is market disruptive.

Global procurement data shows that in the Middle East and Africa, central government purchases range from 9 per cent to 13 per cent of a country's to-



tal economy, indicating that public procurement plays a vital role in a country.' A study in that direction says that 'public procurement has important economic and political implications, and ensuring that the process is economical and efficient is crucial.' The trouble with SADC intra-regional procurement drive is that it adds another parameter of localizing procurement at the regional level, or extending it so.

While ordinary rules governing pro-

urement require a vast stakeholder comprehension drive or cultivated habit that is well understood across the spectrum of actors, redirecting such efforts to a SADC dimension is tricky. It may involve the waiving of standard requirements to obviate the likely result, where the outcome is a targeted SADC entrepreneur or public entity. That is not easy to reconcile with market and stakeholder prerogatives un-

less the benefiting company has links with the stakeholders it seeks to eliminate - that is, in favoring one of them by a side door.

Unlike the simple act of purchasing goods where an individual decides what goods he or she needs and where they can be bought, procurement is different as it has a range of stakeholders or vested interested parties, protected by law in that expression of interest. This

means that the buyer or purchasing organization can't look aside, ignore those interest holders in the vicinity and pick someone else far from that location, by own fancies as it were. In Tanzania a scenario of this sort arose, on the basis of a parliamentary inquiry, which became the Richmond scandal. That is why any procurement diversion from localized interested parties has to be of utmost importance to a country, in the sense that it is the government that looks outside and picks the relevant entity, or country that entity exists, either for more comfortable prices or bilateral ties.

It means that governments in the SADC zone will have to furnish reasons acceptable to lobbies back home for redirecting procurement sourcing from local companies to regional stakeholders. It is unlikely that this will be done by simply extending the breadth of citizenship requirements for bidders, but usually the presence of a local branch or subsidiary - in which cast it is a locally registered firm with a parent company - many suffice. Yet there are issues of local content, and in that case that subsidiary will have to be manufacturing the product, which is procuring locally.

That is why common market structures that aren't so far on the agenda for SADC integration but a

free trade area will have to be taken into account, as a free trade area is more so in relation to goods. A company that can sell goods in another country might not be in a position to put up bids in a procurement matter, as foreign goods are paid for at the port, and procurement needs substantial local content for it to be valid. SADC member states with the possible exception of South Africa have scant opportunity of establishing firms in the other states for now, but new multinational enterprises based in SADC states are coming up, and will soon change the picture.

That is why there is a paradox about regional integration efforts vis a vis efforts by the European Union to sign an economic partnership agreement with most of sub-Saharan Africa that have been stymied for the better part of two decades, as the issue was mooted in 2000, following a World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruling against preferences for African exports to the EU. The final date would have been 2007 but in actual fact the negotiations - and reticence - started in earnest at that time and the foot dragging has continued apace. Yet only with EPA are most of SADC states likely to have foreign companies coming in droves to purchase firms or parcel out the shares, thus building major domestic brands that facilitate easy procurement across borders.

China proving key to reducing Africa's wildlife trafficking

BY DUNCAN E OMONDI GUMBA AND RICHARD CHELIN

CHINA'S proactive stance against illicit wildlife trafficking in Africa in recent years has helped shift trends in this crime. Where cooperation has occurred with certain African countries, wildlife smuggling has moved to other parts of the continent. This shows that tougher measures are working - and African countries with high rates of trafficking should follow suit.

Africa presents enormous potential for China's Belt and Road Initiative. It is a vital source of raw materials for the Chinese manufacturing industry and a market for its imports. The reputational risks posed by poaching by a few Chinese nationals in Africa are enormous for a country keen to maintain and extend its economic dominance in the world.

Since 2017, China has closed its domestic ivory market and banned commercial processing of rhino horns and tiger bones. It has tightened legislation on trade in endangered fauna and flora. The country has 'provided funds, equipment, manpower and technology to support African countries in the conservation of endangered species and habitats,' says Peng Youdong, leader of the Chinese campaign.

Some Chinese nationals continue to smuggle endangered species and lesser-known plant and animal products. The recent sentencing in Tanzania of Yang Feng Glan to 15 years in prison for ivory smuggling demonstrates the need for such campaigns.

Other Chinese nationals have also been arrested in international law enforcement operations. In July 2018, the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) disrupted a major criminal supply chain led by a Chinese national. The task force is an inter-governmental organisation that facilitates collaboration among states that have signed the Lusaka Agreement. It investigates violations of national laws pertaining to illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.

Investigations showed the criminal network was smuggling tons of elephant tusks and pangolin scales from Africa to Asia. 'This is one of several supply chains powered by Chinese, Vietnamese and West African organised crime networks,' LATF director Edward Phiri told ENACT.

He said the predominant route of the supply chain - Brazzaville to Lagos, Nigeria, via Cameroon's Douala port - shows that Central and West African countries now provide important transit points. This signals a recent shift by criminal networks from East and Southern Africa. For years these two regions grabbed international attention for rhino horn and ivory trafficking.



In the 2000s, South African ports were the largest conduits for ivory trafficking on the continent. Between 2009 and 2012, enhanced South African law enforcement efforts drove criminal networks to East Africa. International cooperation was key, especially following a memorandum of understanding between South Africa and China in 2013. That same year, large ivory seizures were recorded in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. For the first time, the seizures exceeded those in Asia, according to a report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This marked a shift in ivory trafficking through Kenya and Tanzania, which became the new leading hubs for trafficking ivory out of Africa. The two countries have since 2014 fostered cooperation with China, which has extended to them millions of dollars in support of conservation. Uganda, however, remains a ma-

West and Central Africa can learn from successes in East and Southern Africa on illicit wildlife trade. File photo

major transit point to Central and West Africa.

According to the OECD report, Nigerian, Togolese and Cameroonian ports have emerged as new hubs in the illicit ivory trade. East and Southern Africa remain convenient for sourcing wildlife products illegally, and transporting them to Central and West Africa is viable. 'The networks operate collection centres in several countries. They accumulate the contraband before finally shipping it to Asia, especially China,' says Phiri.

Taye Teferi, Africa policy and partnership coordinator of the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC, told ENACT that cooperation between African countries and China provide a strong deterrence for kingpins or ringleaders. This is mainly due to the fear of extradi-

tion to China, where culprits could face stiffer penalties and even the death penalty.

China's Wildlife Protection Law took effect on 1 January 2017 after amendments that aligned it with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Article 27 prohibits the sale, purchase or use of rare or almost-extinct wild species, and their products that are under special national protection. China's new awareness campaign and legislative changes demonstrate political will to combat wildlife crime and promote the conservation of endangered species.

Now Central and West Africa need to move fast to block the networks of wildlife criminals who are rapidly infiltrating these regions. A

CITES report on elephant poaching shows increasing pressure on elephant numbers in Central and West Africa compared to Southern and East Africa.

TRAFFIC has documented that ivory sold in Nigeria comes from Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Gabon, with Cameroon playing a pivotal role in the smuggling networks.

Regional blocs and countries should urgently replicate the same measures that helped to mitigate these threats in Southern and East Africa. Cameroon and Nigeria should cooperate with China to exchange intelligence information on criminal networks.

This can also be done through multilateral agreements between China and the African Union or var-

ious regional economic communities in Central and West Africa. The Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is one platform where African heads of state can enhance law enforcement cooperation to combat the illicit wildlife trade.

Once Africa has bolstered itself against wildlife criminals across all regions through successful cooperation with China, the same model can be applied to other markets in Asia. Japan, for example, is another major market for wildlife products, as are other minor Asian destinations such as Vietnam, Thailand and Laos.

Duncan E Omondi Gumba, ENACT Regional coordinator - East and Horn of Africa, ISS and Richard Chelin, Researcher, Southern Africa, ENACT, ISS

A key role for 1.8bn youth in UN's 2030 development agenda

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN Population Fund (UNFPA) is convinced that the world's 1.8 billion adolescents and youth - a quarter of the global population - have a key role to play in helping implement the UN's 2030 Development Agenda.

In an interview with IPS, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme) Dereje Wordofa, said "young people are at the centre of sustainable development".

"If we do not work with, and for them, there is no way we can achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030, or UNFPA's three transformative results," he warned.

Through "My Body, My Life, My World!", UNFPA is also contributing to each of the five priorities of the UN's overall Youth Strategy, "Youth 2030".

"If we make coherent, tailored, large-scale reforms and investments, especially in health (including sexual and reproductive health), skills development, and employment, those nations can achieve a huge demographic dividend from their healthy, empowered young populations," Dereje Wordofa, UNFPA Deputy Executive Director (Programme)

"These are engagement, participation and advocacy, informed and healthy foundations, economic empowerment through decent work, and peace and resilience," he pointed out.

Speaking during International Youth Day on August 11, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres complained schools are "not equipping young people with the skills they need to navigate the technological revolution."

Last year, he also stressed the importance of young people in addressing the challenges confronting the contemporary world, including peace, impacts of climate change and growing inequalities.

"The best hope [to address these] challenges is with the new generations. We need to make sure that we are able to strongly invest in those new generations," said Guterres, urging the international community to be fully engaged in addressing a key problem of youth unemployment.

Asked how realistic was UNFPA's strategy in poverty-stricken communities struggling to survive on less than \$1.25



Students in Primary Seven at Zanaki Primary School in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania during an English language class. Credit: Sarah Farhat/World Bank.

a day, Wordofa told IPS: "Having lived and worked in many countries affected by poverty and deprivation, including in my own Ethiopia, I couldn't agree with you more".

He said Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG 1) is a lynchpin for all the other SDGs, and in all sectors of development "we are contributing towards reducing poverty. I believe empowered young people will play a vital role here too".

"At UNFPA, we firmly believe that one of the most essential routes to achieving sustainable development lies in educating and empowering young people to make decisions about their health and wellbeing, giving them the tools to take charge of their lives, to drive development, and to sustain peace".

"We must recognize that adolescents and young people make up the majority of the population in many economically poor nations," he declared.

"If we make coherent, tailored, large-scale reforms and investments, especially in health (including sexual and reproductive health), skills development, and employment, those nations can achieve a huge demographic dividend from their healthy, empowered young populations," said Wordofa, who earlier served as the International Regional Director, Eastern and Southern Africa, at SOS Children's Villages and Regional Director for Africa at the American Friends Service Committee.

In this context, he pointed out that UNFPA's "My Body, My Life, My World!" is a human-centric approach: "we are emphasizing how all the different issues affecting adolescents and youth today are interlinked and inseparable".

"For example, without rights and choices over their bodies, it is not possible for young people to have full control over their lives and actively shape their communities and end poverty. So we must continue to address the complex determinants that affect young people's health and wellbeing," he noted.

Excerpts from the interview:
IPS: How best would you describe the UNFPA's new strategy on adolescents and youth?

WORDOFA: UNFPA's vision is to create a world where every young person can make their own choices and enjoy their rights. The strategy titled "My body, my life, my world!" is our new rallying cry for every young person to have the knowledge and power to make informed choices about their bodies and lives, and to participate in transforming their world.

The strategy puts young people - their talents, hopes, perspectives and unique needs - at the very centre of sustainable development,

and offers a new approach to collaborate with, invest in, and champion young people around the world. It encompasses everything that was called for and promised by world leaders at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) back in 1994 in Cairo.

"My Body, My Life, My World!" provides a new narrative for all of UNFPA's youth work, building on the organization's strategic plan and the UN's "Youth 2030" strategy, and putting young people's sexual and reproductive health and rights at the core of what we do both in development and humanitarian settings.

In addition to the crucial need for young people to enjoy their right to sexual and reproductive health, the strategy also includes their fundamental right to participate in sustainable development, humanitarian action and sustaining peace.

By working with and for young people, we will deliver across the three spheres that matter to them - their body, life, and world. This will be essential if we are to finally fulfil the promise of the ICPD of rights and choices for all adolescents and youth.

IPS: Are you working on a deadline for its implementa-

tion?

WORDOFA: UNFPA seeks to achieve its three transformative goals by 2030; namely zero unmet need for family planning, zero maternal deaths and zero violence and harmful practices against women and girls. "My Body, My Life, My World!" will be a key accelerator to achieving these three goals.

IPS: Do you think the world's 1.8 billion adolescents and youth now remain largely marginalized in decisions relating to reproductive health, marriage and child-bearing?

WORDOFA: Yes! It is a sad fact that far too many young people are still a long way from being able to exercise their reproductive rights, despite being promised them by world leaders twenty-five years ago at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

The numbers are staggering: 21 per cent of girls worldwide are married before age 18. Tens of thousands of girls get married every day. And every day in developing countries, 20,000 girls under age 18 give birth: this amounts to 7.3 million births a year.

The choices young people make - or are forced to make - determine their lives now, their futures as adults, and the health of future generations. A single choice, for example, to stay in school may protect against early pregnancy, child marriage, gender-based violence and HIV infection.

Yet many young people will not be able to make that choice. Poverty, humanitarian crises, race, ethnicity, gender and cultural traditions are just some of the barriers that may stand in the way.

IPS: What role can civil society play in promoting the Youth strategy in the developing world?

WORDOFA: Making a real difference in the lives of young people rests on shared leadership and shared responsibility. Youth-led and youth-serving organizations, governments, community leaders, UN entities, civil society, academia,

the private sector and the media all have essential roles to play.

As UNFPA, we take pride in being a trusted ally and partner for youth leaders, organizations and networks. We systematically invest in strengthening national and regional youth-led networks, and pioneering models for youth leadership and participation in many countries.

Adolescents and youth both benefit from our programmes, and as our close partners, offer vital contributions to shaping their design and implementation.

For "My Body, My Life, My World!" we are excited to strengthen and broaden our partnership base and collaborate with youth-led organizations, community-based organizations, but also INGOs, to scale up joint implementation efforts with young people.

IPS: How will your young professional network - the Tangerines - described as the first of its kind in the UN system, be deployed in promoting your new strategy?

WORDOFA: The Tangerines played an important role in formulating and shaping the strategy. We will continue to provide a safe space and promote an organizational culture that encourages young professionals within UNFPA to be closely linked to the implementation of "My Body, My Life, My World!" We know we need to start by walking the talk.

At the conception phase of the Strategy, we conducted a global survey with Tangerine members and consulted with our Executive Director, Dr Natalia Kanem, and the UN Secretary General's Youth Envoy to explore how UNFPA was delivering for young people and what could be strengthened.

We are planning to collaborate closely with the Tangerines for the global launch and promotion of the Strategy, as well as when thinking about how we can reach young people and operationalize the strategy.

The writer can be contacted at thalifteen@ips.org

Establishing a science and technology park is no walk in the park

By Tengfei Wang

THE success of Silicon Valley has been inspirational for many countries worldwide wishing to establish science and technology parks. In Asia, successful science and technology parks can be found in many economies, including China, Japan and Thailand.

Despite this, if the precursory conditions are not in place, a science and technology park could turn into a white elephant project. This is a key message from the ESCAP guidebook titled Establishing Science and Technology Parks: A Reference Guidebook for Policymakers in Asia and the Pacific.

Worldwide and in the region, most science and technology parks are in economically advanced or large economies. As developing economies attempt to close the technology gap, governments are increasingly turning to science and technology parks as a key driver of their national strategies.

For example, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) reported that approximately 80 per cent of the countries surveyed (including developed, developing and least developed countries) planned to use specialized zones, including science and technology parks, as a part of their 21st century industrial or science, technology and innovation (STI) policies.

Placing the physical infrastructure of a science and technology park is often straightforward. To make it work, however, is more complicated. Only 25 per cent of science and technology parks in an advanced economy could be regarded successful in achieving their goals.

How do we ensure a science and technology park is a success?

Before a science and technology park is developed, it is essential to check whether the pre-conditions are in place. These key precursor condi-



tions are:

1. The key tenants or the anchor tenants - such as national research institutes - are committed to staying in the science and technology park. Anchor tenants are crucial to ensuring that a science and technology park has its backbone and may be useful in attracting other firms to co-locate;

2. A management team with all the skills necessary for managing

The Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research. File photo

the science and technology park can be identified and assembled. The management team needs to have expertise in not only research and development, but also business, marketing, negotiation and communications.

Furthermore, the management team must be able to adjust its strategy to an ever-changing environment. Such multi-tasking means, for many developing

countries, that assembling an effective management team is a real challenge;

3. A strong science base in the surrounding areas of the science and technology park is already available. This factor is important because a science base in the surrounding area will provide potential tenants of the science and technology park. In addition, this will ensure that the

firms within the park can easily communicate with firms outside the park;

4. The city or area where a science and technology park will be built is attractive to talented researchers and entrepreneurs;

5. An entrepreneurial culture is available in the city or country where a science and technology park will be built.

This factor is particularly important if the key objective of a science and technology park is to foster start-ups and entrepreneurs;

6. Finance, especially seed and venture capital, is available in the city or country where a science and technology park will be built. These resources are critical to support long-term STI initiatives and build upon existing research.

In addition, it is important to assess a science and technology park in a broad national or local economic context. In this connection, key questions should be asked on what can be achieved by establishing a science and technology park and whether there are better but alternative ways to achieving that goal.

While a science and technology park can be developed by the private sector, if a government or public sector finances the development of the park or provides other incentives such as tax exemption or reduction, the science and technology park needs to provide social benefits such as advanced research and development, which subsequently boosts its national STI and/or economic development.

The guidebook was launched at the inaugural Asia-Pacific Innovation Forum. Close collaboration with the Asian Science Park Association ensured not only the relevance of the guidebook but also its effective dissemination.

Tengfei Wang is Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Brewer embarking on environmental sustainability drive by planting trees

By Guardian Correspondent

SERENGETI Breweries Limited (SBL) has embarked on a tree planting campaign aimed at conserving the environment through increasing its vegetation cover.

Last week, the brewer undertook tree planting exercise in its brewery in Moshi and in Mwangi districts, Kilimanjaro region where the brewer planted thousands of trees.

SBL managing director, Mark Ocitti said that the initiative is geared towards conserving the environment through increasing its vegetation cover.

Environmental degradation remains an issue of serious concern in Tanzania, so confirms available statistics. With an estimated 39.9 per cent of forest cover, Tanzania, according to Project Gaia (projectgaia.com), has an annual deforestation rate of about 1 per cent (around 400,000 hectares) which is twice the global rate of 0.5 per cent per year.

While putting this fraught situation into context, Project Gaia, a non-profit organization which prides itself in 'providing access to sustainable fuels with a view to changing the face of energy poverty', notes that between 1990 and 2010, Tanzania had lost a whopping 19.4 per cent of its forested land, which is an equivalent of about 8 million hectares.

The grim revelation, which must send a chilling sensation into the spines of environmental stakeholders, should also jolt the government, through its relevant organs into action before the situation morphs into monstrous proportions, rendering it too difficult to control.

More alarming, perhaps, is another disclosure from 'an assessment of global forests' by the United Nations (UN) Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) suggesting that more than 5.8 million hectares of Tanzania's forest were lost to defor-

estation and degradation between 2000 and 2015-representing approximately 10 per cent of the country's overall forest cover!

Among the top factors that come to the fore in causing this dire situation, we are told, are: unsustainable charcoal production, shifting cultivation and illegal timber trading-these being the most recurrent and persistently gnawing culprits, besides other motley of 'lesser' factors. The problems caused by these factors include land degradation, loss of wildlife habitats and deforestation, among others-and are so calamitous that urgent action is required to nib them in the bud.

This could be one of the reasons that the government, being aware that the fight against environmental degradation could not be won alone, came up with an environmental policy that particularly lays emphasis on the need to develop ways for encouraging a holistic multi-sectoral approach to environmental management by integrating environmental concerns in sectoral policies, strategies and decisions.

It is in this light that some organizations and companies, among them SBL have underscored the fundamental role that environmental preservation plays in their daily operations and indeed within the communities where they operate.

According to SBL, environmental issues play a dominant role within its entire operational ecosystem. Environmental conservation stands out among the brewer's top four social intervention core pillars.

The other three pillars include Water of Life (WOL) (Provision of clean and safe water to needy communities), a scholarship support program for needy students to further their academic pursuits) and promotion of Responsible Drinking with a Donk Drink and Drive program.

It's for this concern that SBL - the brewer of Pilsner, Tusker, Serengeti Premium among other



famous beer trademarks - last week rolled out tree-planting campaign within the precincts of one of its breweries located in Moshi in Kilimanjaro Region, an ambitious commitment that targets to plant thousands of trees in the region. "SBL has committed to plant thousands of trees in Kilimanjaro Region as part of its community environmental support program, a testimony to our commitment to the preservation of the environment around the community where we operate, Moshi being one of them", said the managing director.

He added: "This noble initiative has come at a time when there are concerted efforts to limit greenhouse gases emissions both regionally and globally, in order to combat climate change and guarantee a safe and protected environment for future generations".

The managing director underpinned the multi-pronged benefits of tree-planting, citing among them the trees' ability to create an ecosystem to provide habitat for man and animals, reducing climate change, purifying the

air, providing shelter, reinforcing the soil, serving as catalysts for water catchment, preventing soil erosion, preventing water pollution, acting as a renewable energy source, natural air conditioning and even cooling down the streets and highways-all alternating as multiple catalysts in the sustainability of the lives of all species.

The brewer's efforts in promoting the preservation of the environment is effectively intertwined with Water of Life (WOL) projects in Kilimanjaro Region and other regions in the country in which it drills boreholes for needy communities, benefiting millions of residents across the country.

The boreholes too are used to boost irrigation in the regions where SBL has initiated its agri-business project that supports large-scale farmers who grow cereals that provide raw materials that the beer-maker uses for its beer production.

The tree-planting session was graced by The British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sarah

Cooke, accompanied by the United Kingdom's (UK) Prime Minister's Trade Envoy, Andrew Rosindell.

Cooke lauded SBL and said that Britain was a strong supporter of trade and investment in the country, noting that it was among the best examples of her country's investments in Tanzania.

She added: "Together with our other investments in the country, we remit about 5 per cent of the total income as taxes to Tanzania, thus contributing to the nation's economic growth". (SBL is among the companies that are under the stable of Diageo plc, a British multinational alcoholic beverage company and one of the world's largest producers of spirits and beers-with its headquarters in London, England and offices on six continents).

For his part, Rosindell hailed SBL's tree-planting initiative, adding that his participation in the exercise underlined the cordial and sustainable relations between UK and Tanzania.

IMF warns Zimbabwe against pay boost as living standards crash

HARARE

THE International Monetary Fund cautioned Zimbabwe's government against boosting wages for state workers after the introduction of a new currency pushed up inflation and reduced spending power to a 10th of what it was six

months ago.

The warning puts the IMF at odds with Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube, who said in an interview he's in favour of boosting wages in both the public and private sectors to restore living standards and create consumer demand.

Ncube is looking for ways to revive an economy that's forecast to contract this year for the first time in a decade.

In the six years to 2016, Zimbabwe boosted pay for its about 400,000 civil servants to a level that makes up more than 90% of

tax revenue, compared with 40% in 2010, said Patrick Imam, the IMF's resident representative.

"The government wage bill is now on a sustainable footing," he said in response to questions. "Looking ahead, it is crucial that public wage growth be aligned

with economic growth and government revenue."

Read more about Ncube's economic recovery plans for Zimbabwe

In February, the government said a quasi-currency known as bond notes, and RTGS\$ in their

electronic form, would no longer trade at parity with the U.S. dollar and in June it reintroduced the Zimbabwe dollar, which it had abolished in 2009 after a bout of hyperinflation. It also banned the use of the American currency. The exchange rate is now about

10 to the U.S. dollar and the price of goods bought by middle class workers, such as civil servants, has risen in tandem as these are mostly imported. Officially annual inflation is at 176%, but some analysts estimate it's as high as 570%.



Boys on their way home from school gather around to drink from a bucket and quench their thirst in India.

Africa: US\$300m for STEM skills development

By Maina Waruru

THE African Development Bank is partnering with the Association for the Development of Education in Africa and the African Union to launch a US\$300 million fund to support the development of technical and science education on the continent.

The African Education Fund will finance training in post-secondary education including Technical Vocational Education and Training, STEM and Science, Technology and Innovation skills.

It will be a "unique" Africa-initiated, continental level education fund designed, led and managed by Africans, and will become operational in 2020 according to the fund's

coordinator Sydney Tetteh.

"The objective of the AEF is to primarily pool domestic resources mobilised together with Regional Member Countries and complemented by multilateral and bilateral contributors, the private sector and philanthropic foundations to finance projects that would contribute to human capital and skills development across Africa," Tetteh told the PIE News.

According to the official, it will be financed through a mixed model of grants and concessional loans, with grants focused on technical assistance to countries.

The aim is to help increase domestic

revenue generation to support education financing, education policy review and development in AEF focus areas, reforming curriculum, and in financing research and knowledge generation.

"Low-cost loans and some grants will focus significantly on infrastructure and equipment financing in identified key areas", Tetteh disclosed.

Besides complimenting other education financing initiatives on the continent, the AEF, Tetteh added, is different in that it focuses exclusively on Africa, and mobilised African resources entrenching local ownership and accountability.

A quarter of the world's population 'under extremely high water stress'

By Sandrine Amiel

ONE-quarter of the world's population is facing "extremely high water stress", a newly published ranking has revealed.

Data published by the World Resources Institute (WRI) shows 17 countries - including San Marino - fall into this category.

"Water stress is the biggest crisis no one is talking about," said Dr Andrew Steer, president and CEO of WRI.

"Its consequences are in plain sight in the form of food insecurity, conflict and migration, and financial instability."

Most of southern Europe falls into the 'high water stress' category, with some cities and region facing an even deeper crisis.

Qatar, Israel, India, Pakistan, or Iran are among the most water-stressed countries, according to the new data, drinking up an average of 80% of available water

resources every year. Under these circumstances, "even small dry shocks - which are set to increase due to climate change - can produce dire consequences," the institute warned in a statement.

San Marino is the only country in Europe facing extremely high water stress, according to the new data.

Raoul Chiaruzzi, head of the San Marino State Agency for Public Services, told Euronews the microstate depended almost entirely on Italy for water supply.

According to an agreement concluded between the two countries, Italy provides San Marino with more than 90% of its water supplies.

The extremely high stress faced by San Marino is linked to its geographical position, its small size and absence of autonomous water resources, the civil servant said.

Meanwhile, Cyprus, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy - and even rainy Belgium - were ranked among the 44

highly water-stressed countries, meaning that on average more than 40% of available supply is withdrawn every year.

"Such a narrow gap between supply and demand leaves countries vulnerable to fluctuations like droughts or increased water withdrawals, which is why we're seeing more and more communities facing their own 'Day Zeros' and other crises," the Institute noted.

Among other examples, Rome was forced to cut water pressure at night for several days in 2017 amid a severe drought.

Pockets of extreme water stress exist even in countries where water resources are overall satisfactory, the Institute said.

"A new generation of solutions is emerging, but nowhere near fast enough. Failure to act will be massively expensive in human lives and livelihoods," Steer warned.

Its consequences are in plain sight in the form of food insecurity, conflict and migration, and financial instability



South Africa pushes for trade in endangered wildlife

By Andreas Wilson-Spath

THE South African government, together with those of the DRC, Namibia and Zimbabwe, is proposing measures which, if enacted, could open the door to the international trade in elephant ivory, rhino horn and other endangered species.

In a submission to the eighteenth conference of the parties (CoP18) to CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) to be held in Switzerland in September 2019, the countries argue for a major overhaul in the way in which the organisation operates.

They believe they should be allowed to sell threatened wildlife species anywhere in the world in the same way that mineral resources and mass-produced plastic trinkets are traded on global commercial markets.

The changes to CITES they are asking for would pave the way for southern African countries to legally sell stockpiled ivory and rhino horn, which would put immense pressure on wild animal species already under severe threat of long-term extinction.

Unfair treatment?

One of the proposed amendments would make it easier to move species from one CITES Appendix to another. Animals and plants listed in the organisation's Appendix I are effectively barred from commercial international trade, while those on Appendix II can only be traded under special circumstances.

The countries suggesting the changes claim to be victims of discriminatory CITES procedures, contend that trade prohibitions have not put an end to the illegal trade in wildlife products like rhino horn, and claim that "more and more species that are well protected in southern Africa and demonstrably sustainably used" are being "targeted" by "proposals from outside the southern African region" for transfer to Appendix I.

Making it faster and easier to move species such as elephants and rhinos from appendices that restrict trade is clearly one of the intended outcomes. The authors of the document argue that "progress has been extremely slow" on this front.



Women in Maiduguri Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. Photo/IRIN

Other recommendations would bring CITES more in line with the World Trade Organisation's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a neo-liberal regulatory regime that facilitates unfettered access to global markets for commercial goods and services. South Africa and its partner countries claim CITES "provides for discrimination" and offers "no provisions against unfair trade practices". They evidently believe that what they consider to be "discriminatory and trade-restricting measures" enacted by CITES could be successfully challenged under GATT rules.

According to Mary Rice, the executive director of the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), "the relationship between GATT and CITES has been explored at multiple CoPs between 2006 and 2013".

"The parties to CITES rejected all recommendations submitted through that process, so we believe that no review is needed," Rice said.

The proposal isn't the only one pushing for trade liberalisation. Namibia wants the current protections on its population of southern white rhinos to be lowered, while Zambia, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe want to be allowed to sell ivory internationally and Eswatini argues it should be permitted to trade in rhino horn.

But not all African governments agree.

In sharp contrast to southern African proposals, 10 countries further to the north, including Kenya, Ivory Coast and Gabon want all African elephants to be moved to Appendix I in order to protect the species as a whole. Elephant populations in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Namibia are listed in Appendix II. Conservationists contend that it makes little sense to classify animals of the same species in different appendices just because they happen to be found within the boundaries of a particular country, especially if those species are migratory and in overall decline across the continent, as is the case for elephants.

Anti-poor?

Charges that CITES is neo-imperialist, neo-colonialist and "definitely not pro-poor", because its anti-trade policies deprive rural communities of the opportunity to "realise the full economic value of their wildlife resources" and starve conservation programmes of funds, would sound less hollow if they didn't come from governments that have consistently shown themselves to be deeply corrupt, captured by powerful corporate interests and ineffectual at addressing some of the most basic

grievances of their citizens – from crippling poverty to the non-delivery of services.

The sale of wildlife products in these countries is much more likely to benefit political elites and their cronies than the rural poor whose poverty the authors' of the document invoke.

In a similar vein, their assertion that trophy hunting in southern Africa is "well-regulated" is extremely dubious in light of South Africa's sordid record of canned lion hunting and the illegal killing of Cecil, Zimbabwe's most famous lion in 2015, to name just two relatively high-profile examples.

As has become routine for ardent supporters of trophy hunting – an elite activity if ever there was one – they ignore the fact that non-consumptive ecotourism provides consistently higher economic benefits for a larger base of people than commercial hunting. What's more, there is mounting scientific evidence that killing wildlife for trophies is not possible without detrimental effects on herds and populations.

Sustainable use or profit-driven exploitation?

In essence, the countries proposing these changes to CITES are

upset that current rules prohibit them from deriving profits from wild animals which they consider to be valuable products that they should be entitled to harvest and sell as they see fit. They consider their autonomy unfairly restricted by regulations imposed on them by "ever so many armchair critics and self-proclaimed experts".

At the most fundamental level, at the heart of this matter is a longstanding dispute over what is meant by "sustainable use" of wildlife. In a modern-day equivalent of enclosure, the countries proposing the changes to CITES consider all wildlife found within their borders to be their property and a commodity that they should be allowed to produce, harvest and sell competitively in markets around the world just as they are permitted to trade in ore and agricultural produce.

They contend that they are able to do so "sustainably" – without doing harm to, or causing the extinction of, species. Concerns about the conservation of wild animals in their natural habitat feature little in this view. To them, there is no discernible difference between species of wildlife and domesticated livestock, and they insist both should be exploitable as products for financial profit.

South Africa is one of the best examples of this philosophy in action. Over the past decade or so, the government, guided by economists promoting extreme free-market policies and the unrestricted commodification and commercialisation of nature, has succeeded in crafting laws and regulations that explicitly lay out this interpretation of sustainable use, for instance in the case of lions and rhinos.

The government-supported industry of breeding lions in captivity in South Africa provides an illustration of the outcomes of this philosophy. Supposedly proud of its global wildlife conservation status, the country now hosts more of these caged and commodified lions than live in its national parks

and nature reserves.

The problem is that wild animals are not the same as commercial goods and lions bred in captivity for the sole purpose of becoming targets for wealthy trophy hunters and a ready supply of bones for the market in traditional Chinese medicine, are neither capable of surviving in the wild nor have any conservation value whatsoever. In fact, one could argue that they are no longer truly lions in an ecological sense.

An extinction crisis

Arguments by South Africa and others to expand international wildlife trade must be seen in the context of dire warnings from the scientific community. Earlier in 2019, a devastating UN report highlighted evidence that the exploitation of wildlife is a major threat to a global ecosystem that is being ravaged by species extinction at an extremely alarming and historically unprecedented rate. In light of this, international conservation organisations like Humane Society International are calling on world leaders to resist proposals for changes to CITES that would facilitate trade.

While conservationists agree that the meaning of sustainable use needs to be clarified within CITES, they do so for fundamentally different reasons to those offered by the authors of the proposal. They argue that wild animal species and nature as a whole cannot be treated as supposedly renewable resources and a form of capital that can be exploited indefinitely in simplistic economic terms. Any interpretation of sustainable use must be founded on ecological science, not on economic bottom lines.

Global biodiversity, healthy natural ecosystems and intact wilderness landscapes are not just beautiful and part of every human's heritage, they are the very basis on which civilisation is built. They are not just "nice-to-haves", but fundamental requirements for the survival of our own species.

DM

Decades on, China's medical teams help resurrect public health in Africa

NAIROBI

ON a rainy morning ahead of the World Humanitarian Day, villagers gathered on the outskirts of the western Ethiopian city of Jimma to commemorate a Chinese doctor who was buried there after died in the country more than four decades ago.

The doctor, named Mei Gengnian, led the first Chinese medical aid team to Ethiopia in 1974. He served the local communities in Jimma and passed away in a car accident in 1975.

Local residents have kept him in dear memory by cleaning his tomb every year, and his living legacy is widely regarded as a core manifestation of the broadly celebrated cooperation between Ethiopia and China in public health.

Since 1963, some 220 million patients in 48 African countries have been treated by Chinese medical personnel as of 2018, according to the National Health Commission. Currently, 983 Chinese doctors are providing free medical services in 45 African countries.

Woldie Idris, who was in his late 30s during the time of Mei's voluntary healthcare service, recalls the crowded funeral of the beloved Chinese doctor. "The doctor's death was a devastating moment for the whole population of Jimma and its surroundings," Idris told Xinhua.

"Thousands of people, including children and old people, were in deep grief while attending the funeral." Mei's contributions are still highly regarded among locals, with the old generation passing on the late doctor's legacy.

Zewdie Haile, a notable member of the hilly China Tomb Village, is one of the second-generation voluntary protectors of Mei's tomb.

Haile was about three years old when Mei passed away. She inherited tomb cleaning and guarding work from her late father, who was a re-



A Cameroonian resident receives free medical check in Mbalmayo, Cameroon, Aug. 3, 2019. (Xinhua)

spected traditional leader in the forested town.

Over 44 years later, Mei is still fondly remembered, not only for his selfless service, but for his legacy that has kept bringing Chinese goodwill to the East African country, according to Haile.

Mintesenot Minale is one beneficiary of the Mei Gengnian scholarship, which is provided by Mei's foundation for medical students enrolled at the Jimma University.

"The doctor Mei foundation is a very good opportunity for students like me," Minale said. "With these new opportunities from the Chinese government, we can develop our potential and do better."

"Inspired by Mei's legacy, many Chinese people often come here and provide support for the whole community," Marcon Bashaye, a professor of sociology at the university, told Xinhua.

In April 2018, a new road was built in Jimma and the tiny China Tomb Village by China Communications Construction Company Ltd. and financed by the Chinese government.

Named after Mei, the new road is "a clear manifestation of the historic Ethiopia-China friendly relations," said Tan Jian, Chinese ambassador to Ethiopia, during the road's inauguration event, adding that China will further strengthen cooperation with Ethiopia as the country strives for middle-income status by 2025.

FROM ONE GENERATION TO NEXT

Mei was among the thousands of Chinese doctors who have toiled to improve the public health across the African continent.

In 56 years, over 21,000 Chinese medical workers like Mei have been sent to Africa. Together with local government programs, they have been changing the continent's health conditions for better.

Some Chinese families have been providing medical aid in Africa for three generations. Lin Xiaojun's family is one of them. On a one-year aid mission, Lin is a member of the 29th batch of Chinese teams to Tanzania's semi-autonomous Zanzibar archipelago.

Although it was Lin's first visit to Zanzibar, the island and its people are not new to him. "Working in Zanzibar as a medical team member is kind of a family tradition," said Lin, who arrived in Zanzibar in early July.

"My mother-in-law, Zhou Xi-ayou, came to work in Zanzibar

in 1997 on a two-year aid mission, and her uncle, Zhou Zhiyao, came to Zanzibar two times in 1964 and 1977 with the Chinese medical team," said Lin. For Lin, Zanzibar is not only an island, but where the memory of two generations in his family lives on.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Chinese medical teams work closely with local doctors and impart their medical expertise and skills, said Haji Mwita Haji, former head of Zanzibar Mnazi Mmoja Hospital, when commenting on Lin and his colleagues' work.

"Whenever we have problems and ask for their help, Chinese doctors never say no to our requests. They work round the clock to help our people," said Haji.

During her aid mission in the Guinean capital of Conakry last year, Zhang Lei, an obstetrician from Beijing, was deeply concerned about the poor maternity and childbirth care conditions in local communities.

Besides providing clinical services, she conducted a thorough assessment and helped local hospitals figure out what they need to improve maternity care and childbirth safety.

"In the future, we hope to help Guinea train more gynaecologists and obstetricians, so that all the babies there can be born safely and grow up healthily," said Zhang.

Chinese teams are also bringing advanced medical technologies to African countries to provide patients with an increasingly wide range of services, such as phacoemulsification and minimally invasive heart surgeries.

"I can now conduct a thorough clinical test and conduct an anal-

ysis of all types through the training I have acquired from the Chinese medical team," said Moses Senesie, a laboratory technician at the Sierra Leone-China Friendship Hospital in the town of Jui.

The laboratory is now well-equipped to detect any viral disease, including Ebola. "China has significantly contributed to Africa's ongoing combat against the Ebola outbreak as well as to the development of the Africa CDC," or the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said John Nkengasong, director of the young institution.

The Africa CDC, which was officially launched in January 2017 at the African Union (AU) headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, has been supporting at least nine AU member countries to effectively respond to 12 Ebola virus outbreaks.

In 2014, when the Ebola outbreak wreaked havoc in West Africa, China immediately sent some 1,200 medical workers and communicable disease experts to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to help overcome the crisis, in stark contrast to some countries which were primarily focused on evacuating their own citizens out of the Ebola-hit land.

As of 2018, some 280 million patients in 71 countries, including 48 countries in Africa, have been treated by 26,000 Chinese health workers, of whom 51 have died in the line of duty.

"The African people are good friends of the Chinese people," said Zhang. "We are willing to help improve the health of our African friends, as well as the capacity of our African colleagues, so as to help carry on the China-Africa friendship forever."

Xinhua



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Lindi graphite's Australian investor sees significant growth in January

By Smart Money Reporter

AN Australian based company which is investing in Lindi Jumbo graphite project, Walkabout Resources Limited has posted a 313 percent share price increase since January this year.

In a new report published by an Australian magazine, Paydirt recently, Walkabout which is listed at Australian Stock Exchange had its value capped at \$120 million, thanks to its share appreciation.

The Paydirt report further stated that Walkabout is doing far much better compared to its peers in the market which have been struggling to post gains as investors continue to steer clear of smaller resources companies.

Even more impressive is that Walkabout has achieved its price rise based on its flagship Lindi Jumbo graphite project in Tanzania, both a commodity and jurisdiction which have been on the nose in recent times, the report noted. Quoting Walkabout's Executive Director, Allan Mulligan, the report said the company's performance so far this year, is testament to the perseverance of both management and shareholders.

"We believe the market has seen the value in Walkabout because we've maintained our strategy of high-grade, reduced risk, premium products from the beginning," Mulligan said while pointing out that despite



Walkabout Resources Limited's Executive Director, Allan Mulligan making a presentation at a past event.

delays associated with the Lindi project, the company has signed bidding deals with buyers of its commodity.

"We have also achieved what we said we would although there have been delays

such as the mining licence, and the signing of the binding offtake agreements is evidence that the revenue model [with the price structuring in the offtake] is now real," Mulligan pointed out.

"In a sector ruled by multiple product lines, opaque pricing and confidential marketing agreements it is often difficult for developers to prove to financiers their project economics are based on something more than ambitious projections," he added.

Walkabout has already signed three binding offtake agreements over output from Lindi Jumbo in April this year with graphite producer, Inner Mongolia Qianxin Graphite Company Limited (for up to 50 percent of planned production) and graphite products manufacturer, Qingdao Risingdawn Graphite Technology Company Limited (25 percent annual production).

These offtake deals were followed by sales, purchase and marketing agreements with Hong Kong trading house Wogen Pacific Limited for 10-30,000 tons per annum of graphite concentrate from Lindi Jumbo.

"Under the multilayered agreement, Wogen will make an advanced payment worth 80 percent of the value of each consignment on receipt of shipping documents," Mulligan said noting that the Wogen deal would not only reduce supply chain cash-flow risks but also open Walkabout up to the trader's international marketing networks.

"The agreement allows us to utilise all of their marketing facilities; from ware-houses to their marketing team, which will be a huge benefit for us.

Access to a graphite marketing team adds

another layer to the growing confidence within Walkabout that Lindi Jumbo will be the next graphite project into production," the Executive Director noted.

In May, the company announced it had raised \$3.1 million via placement to fund an early start works programme at Lindi Jumbo. The early start programme is intended to have the project shovel, ready as soon as financing is settled.

"The early start programme has started with our local Tanzanian mining contractor beginning earthworks on the road, plant site and tailings facility," he stressed while pointing out that in China, the early-start work includes Yantai Jinpeng Mining and Machinery Company Pty Limited starting primary and long lead equipment procurement and manufacture for a \$US500,000 down payment.

"Jinpeng is getting that procurement and manufacturing of the key plant equipment such as the major components of the mills and the flotation cells. We have sent an engineer and metallurgist to project manage that in China.

So, while we wait for Walkabout nears funding finish line Walkabout Resources has been gathering the kind of market momentum which has become a rarity for juniors in 2019," Mulligan stated while assuring shareholders that the company has full support from the government which has had issues with Acacia Mining Plc.

African Development Bank says risks to growth are 'increasing by the day'

DAR ES SALAAM

THE US-China trade war and uncertainty over Brexit pose risks to Africa's economic prospects that are "increasing by the day," the head of the African Development Bank (AfDB) told Reuters. The trade dispute between the world's two largest economies has roiled global markets and unnerved investors as it stretches into its second year with no end in sight.

Britain, meanwhile, appears to be on course to leave the European Union on October 31 without a transition deal, which economists fear could severely disrupt trade flows. Akinwumi Adesina, president of the AfDB, said the bank could review its economic growth projection for Africa - of 4% in 2019 and 4.1% in 2020 - if global external shocks accelerate.

"We normally revise this depending on global external shocks that could

slowdown global growth and these issues are increasing by the day," Adesina told Reuters late on Saturday on the sidelines of the Southern African Development Community meeting in Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

"You have Brexit, you also have the recent challenges between Pakistan and India that have flared off there, plus you have the trade war between the United States and China. All these things can combine to slow global growth, with implications for African countries."

The bank chief said African nations need to boost trade with each other and add value to agricultural produce to cushion the impact of external shocks. "I think the trade war has significantly impacted economic growth prospects in China and therefore import demand from China has fallen significantly and so demand for

products and raw materials from Africa will only fall even further," he said.

"It will also have another effect with regard to China's own outward-bound investments on the continent," he added, saying these could also affect official development assistance. Adesina said a continental free-trade zone launched last month, the African Continental Free Trade Area, could help speed up economic growth and development, but African nations needed to remove non-tariff barriers to boost trade.

"The countries that have always been facing lower volatilities have always been the ones that do a lot more in terms of regional trade and do not rely on exports of raw materials," Adesina said. "The challenges cannot be solved unless all the barriers come down. Free mobility of labour, free mobility of capital and free mobility of people."



AfDB president Akinwumi Adesina says it could review its economic growth projection for Africa - of 4% in 2019 and 4.1% in 2020 - if global external shocks accelerate. File photo

Britain's eco-friendly royals face carbon emission criticism

LONDON

PRINCE Harry and Meghan Markle are facing a backlash after jetting off to the South of France on a private jet.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex landed in Nice on Wednesday, August 15 with three-month-old baby Archie having flown from London in a 12-seater Cessna Citation Sovereign jet. The royal couple have previously spoken publicly about climate change and the need for people to reduce their carbon footprints.

The royal couple's flight is esti-

imated to have created seven times more carbon emissions per person than a commercial flight. Registered to jet-leasing company NetJet, the aircraft is part of an obligatory car-van emission programme. However there are no standard certifications to show if this offsetting programme is credible.

Marlene Godwin, a British MP, took to twitter to call the royal couple's behaviour hypocritical. It is not the first private jet that the royal couple have taken this summer. Two days prior the pair returned by private jet from Ibiza where they

had been celebrating the duchess's birthday.

A post on the couple's Instagram in July 1 highlighted the dangers of climate change and quoted Prince Harry saying: "Only now are we starting to notice and understand the damage that we've been causing. With nearly 7.7 billion people inhabiting this Earth, every choice, every footprint, every action makes a difference."

Earlier this month, Harry was also criticised for flying privately to a four-day climate change event in Sicily. Perhaps the pair should take

their lead from Harry's grandmother: Queen Elizabeth is one of the best-travelled monarchs in British history and has journeyed extensively both by commercial aircraft and by passenger train.

Members of the British Royal Family often fly commercially and Prince Harry and Meghan did so when they flew with Qantas in 2018 for their tour of Australia. Charter planes are often preferred for trips where royals need to stop in multiple countries or destinations or where security could be an issue on a scheduled flight.

East African deals hit Sh113bn in six months

NAIROBI

THE value of disclosed corporate deals in East Africa rose by 82 percent to hit Sh113.6 billion (\$11.36 billion) in the first six months of the year, driven by activity in the financial, energy and manufacturing sectors.

Analysis by I&M Burbidge Capital Ltd shows that the number of deals increased by 15 to 49, mainly in the private equity, mergers and acquisitions space. Private equity (PE) activity remains high as many funds that invested in the region in the early part of the decade now exit from positions, largely by offloading stakes to follow PE funds.

"The total deal value and volume for the year-to-date (rose) to about \$1.1 billion (Sh113.6 billion) and 49 deals respectively compared to \$603 million (Sh62.3 billion) and 34 deals during the first half of 2018," said I&M Burbidge in the June financial review report.

"The highest volume of deals in the year-to-date has been recorded in the financial services sector - 11 out of the 49 disclosed deals. "Other sectors that have seen significant deal activity are energy, oil and gas, ICT, healthcare and FMCG (Fast-moving consumer goods)."

Private equity deals made up the bulk of the activity in the six months at 33, followed by mergers and acquisitions at 15. In terms of disclosed value, mergers and acquisitions lead in the market at \$552.6 million (Sh57 billion), partly due to the regulatory approvals that mean information about the ticket size is made public by the regulators.

The PE deals, on the other hand, are often closed without the value of a financial investment being disclosed. In the first half of 2019, the value that was disclosed stood at \$484 million (Sh50 billion), this being for both entries and exits.

Kwimba, Nzega thank NMB for desks donation but deficit remains

By Smart Money Reporter

KWIMBA and Nzega district commissioners have thanked NMB Bank Plc's management for donating 607 desks worth 55m/- to several public primary schools in the two districts last week.

Acting Kwimba DC, Ally Nyakia and Nzega's Godfrey Ngupula said public schools in the two districts are still facing a number of challenges such as desks, chairs and classrooms. Nyakia said as the government is targeting to improve quality education in the country, support from stakeholders such as NMB is important.

"Education is a very important sector in ensuring that the government's goal of making the country a middle income economy by 2025 is realised," Nyakia said while appealing to other stakeholders to borrow a leaf from NMB's generosity.

"Without making significant progress in education, it is impossible to realise the goals of the Fifth Phase Government of becoming a middle income industrial economy," Nyakia stated saying even development in science and technology is centred around an educated population.

He requested NMB management to open a branch at Sumve so that public employees and business people have easy access to banking services which they currently get at the district headquarters which is 40 kilometres away.

Kwimba's District Education Officer, Vedastus Nyambalije said the NMB donation will help reduce the shortage of desks in the district which now stands at 5,280. Nyambalije said the district has 118,025 pupils enrolled in 151 primary schools who need 33,514 desks. "Before NMB's donation, we had 27,727 desks which meant that the deficit was 6,978 but has now gone down to 5,280," he revealed.

Nzega DC, Ngupula backed his Kwimba peer by observing that the 100 desks which NMB donated to his district will go a long way in improving the learning environment. "This donation will translate into quality education with better results for our students who are needed to back the government's development blue-print targeting industrialization," Ngupula said.

Speaking after handing over the desks, NMB's acting Lake Zone Manager, Amos Mubusi said so far, the bank has already spent over 570m/- out of an allocated 1bn/- to finance education, health and disaster relief management projects.



NMB interim Managing Director, Albert Jonkergouw

"We are impressed by the performance of the Fifth Phase Government hence feel obliged to support such development efforts by investing in public services because it's the very public that has made NMB a big success," Mubusi said.

He said the bank decided to invest in the two district's schools after receiving requests from authorities.

Under interim Managing Director, Albert Jonkergouw, NMB has continued to be the largest commercial bank in the market posting a pre-tax profit of 142bn/- for the year ending December 31 2018 which was a 3 percent increase from 138bn/- made in 2017. The bank allocates a percent of its net profit for investment in social services notably education, health and disaster relief.

Soft commodities are on their biggest losing streak in two years

LONDON

A GAUGE of soft commodity returns just capped its longest run of weekly losses since May 2017 as signs of ample supply of coffee and sugar collide with demand concerns. Escalating US-China trade tensions are fanning recession fears that are rippling through financial markets. In the case of cotton, price-supportive weather is

being undermined by concern that new US tariffs on imports of Chinese textiles will push up costs for consumers and erode fibre demand.

"The backdrop for commodities has deteriorated in July-August as multiple headwinds buffet the global macroeconomic outlook," Fitch Solutions analysts said Friday in a report. "As a result, we remain neutral on most commodities over the rest

of the year, in particular towards industrial metals and most agricultural commodity prices." It's not all doom and gloom though. The sugar market's forecast shift into deficit is supportive of prices, according to Citigroup. The recent price pullback in both coffee and sweetener present buying opportunities for users, Aakash Doshi, director of research at the bank said in a note this week.

IMF warns Zimbabwe against pay boost as living standards crash

HARARE

FINANCE minister in favour of boosting wages in both the public and private sectors to restore living standards and create consumer demand.

The International Monetary Fund's resident representative in Zimbabwe warned the government against boosting wages for state workers after the introduction of a new currency pushed up inflation and reduced spending power to a 10th of what it was as recently as February.

In the six years to 2016 Zimbabwe boosted pay for its about 400 000 civil servants to a level where their pay accounted for more than 90% of tax revenue compared with 40% in 2010, Patrick Imam, the IMF's representative, said.

"The government wage bill is now on a sustainable footing," he said in response to questions. "Looking ahead, it is crucial that public wage growth be aligned with economic growth and government revenue."

This puts the IMF at odds with Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube, who said in an interview that he's in favour of boosting wages in both the public and private sectors to restore living standards and create consumer demand. Ncube has also said he expects the economy to contract this year for the first time since 2008.

"What people are feeling is really wage compression," he said. "Prices adjusted instantly



Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube.

to the exchange rate, but wages have been too slow to catch up with the adjustment. The issue is about wage adjustment and I'm a big champion of wage adjustment."

In February the government said a quasi-currency known as bond notes, and RTGS in their electronic form, would no longer trade at parity with the US dollar and in June it reintroduced the Zimbabwe dollar, which it had abolished in 2009 after a bout of hyperinflation. It also banned the use of the American currency. The exchange rate is now about 10 to the US dollar and the price of goods bought by middle class workers, such as civil servants, has risen in tandem as these are mostly imported. Officially annual inflation is at 176%, but some analysts have estimated that it's as high as 570%.

Police violently dispersed protesters against plunging living stand-

ards in the capital, Harare, on Friday. More demonstrations are planned for this week even as police banned it. With 3 000 workers who've been fired, there's limited room to cut the number of public servants further. Both the IMF and the government say that more health workers and teachers will be needed in coming years.

Ncube's government has implemented harsh austerity measures including regular hikes to fuel prices in a bid to comply with an IMF staff monitored program seen as a precursor to getting debt relief that's needed to restore an economy that's been stagnant for two decades. It will also need to implement a series of political reforms to convince its creditors to participate in any debt restructuring. The IMF programme is due to end in March with its first review scheduled for next month.

"The staff monitored programme is also intended to assist in resolving the long-standing arrears to external creditors and facilitate re-engagement with the international community," Imam said. "Given the recent history of Zimbabwe, in particular the fact that the country has arrears to other international organizations, as well as bilateral arrears, the fund is not yet in a position to financially support the country."

Zimbabwe's economy collapsed after a wave of seizures of white-owned commercial farms that began in 2000 slashed export income. In November 2017 Robert Mugabe, who has led the country since 1980, was ousted as president in a coup and replaced by Emmerson Mnangagwa. Ncube was appointed about a year ago and tasked with putting the economy back on a sound footing.

Banks worried over new SA law giving clients debt relief

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African banks are concerned that some of their customers will get away with not having to repay their debt.

President Cyril Ramaphosa earlier this week signed the National Credit Amendment Bill into law, setting the groundwork for over-indebted consumers to have payments suspended, in part or full, for as many as 24 months, or even scrapped if their financial situation has been found to have worsened.

The bill was opposed by the banking industry, clothing retailers who provide credit and the opposition Democratic Alliance as it would drive up the cost of loans for low-income earners, restrict lending and encourage bad behaviour from borrowers.

"It's disappointing that after our petition, the president made no attempt to interact with the industry and understand our concerns," Cas Coovadia, the managing director of the Banking Association of South Africa, said on Friday. "This is an issue of serious concern."

The association did an economic impact assessment and engaged the Department of Trade and Industry, which is spearheading the bill, and found that banks will either have to price in higher risks or avoid lending to low-income customers altogether.

"This could have serious economic implications," Coovadia said. "We will await the gazetting of the bill and details around its implementation. We will sit down and consider our other options."

South Africa's National Treasury estimates that the debt-relief proposals could result in the write-off of R13.2 billion to R20 billion (\$1.3 billion) of debt under provisions of the bill, Johannesburg-based newspaper Business Day reported. The bill provides for the extinguishing of the debt for consumers who earn a gross monthly income of no more than R7 500, have unsecured debt amounting to R50 000, and who have been found to be critically indebted by the National Credit Regulator.

The six-member FTSE/JSE Africa Banks Index fell 0.7% by 12:09 pm in Johannesburg on Friday, led lower by Capitec Bank, the nation's largest unsecured-credit provider, which was down 2.3%.



Cas Coovadia, the managing director of the Banking Association of South Africa.

CBK warns against online forex dealers

NAIROBI

THE Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) has again warned citizens against unauthorised foreign-exchange trading as analysts asked for a ban on third-party payment-service providers handling unapproved currency trades.

The warning on the flourishing trade comes two years after stringent rules to protect consumers took effect. The CBK warned of the unlicensed and unregulated online foreign exchange (forex) dealers and platforms and urged Kenyans to only deal with "genuine and licensed financial institutions and entities."

The regulator urged consumers to check the licensing status of dealers from the CBK website (www.centralbank.go.ke) and/or CMA website (www.cma.or.ke). In 2017, new rules took effect requiring Kenya's online currency traders to obtain a licence from the Capital Markets Authority. Sources, however, say many rogue firms have refused to seek licences, exposing users.

"Many have failed to register. We are warning them first. The business is not illegal but it requires approval. It means clients must be informed about the risks, investing experience, leverage limits; the trader/dealer must be fit and proper, should be formally admitted into a trading platform like LIFFE," said an official who sought anonymity to speak freely.

To effectively rein in the rogue firms, analysts on Friday urged CBK to issue a decree warning third-party payment-service providers not to handle unapproved currency trading. "One smart move might be to stop banks accepting instructions to transfer money to these brokers," said risk analyst Deepak Dave of Riverside Capital who added that there was a precedent in the late '90s when pyramid schemes started.

The CMA, the capital markets regulator, earlier estimated about 50,000 people, including brokers, dealers and money managers, are in the business and are mainly using offshore platforms that are not overseen by Kenyan regulators to offer the service.

Please Call Me inventor wants more than R10bn

JOHANNESBURG

NKOSANA Makate, the inventor of Please Call Me, has revealed publicly for the first time that Vodacom offered him a settlement of R47 million during his latest compensation talks with the telecommunications giant.

However, Makate is heading back to court to challenge the settlement offered by Vodacom Group CEO Shameel Joosub, which is adding another twist to the battle that has drawn out for more than 10 years.

Makate and Vodacom have been reluctant to disclose a settlement figure, citing confidentiality agreements entered into by both parties since the Constitutional Court ordered in 2016 that they enter into in good faith negotiations to determine reasonable compensation.

In court papers launched at the high court in Pretoria on August 7, Makate said Vodacom's Joosub offered him a settlement of R47 million during a January 9 meeting with lawyers from both parties. He described the figure as "inherently unfair." Joosub's involvement in settlement talks is part of the Constitutional Court's order that enabled him to arbitrate negotiations after a deadlock on compensation materialised.

Makate has launched an application at the high court for an order that seeks, among other things, to review and set aside Joosub's settlement offer and force Vodacom to disclose the revenue the company has generated from Please Call Me since it was launched in March 2001. Please Call Me enables a user without airtime to send a text to be called back by another subscriber.

Makate also wants the court to order that he is entitled to be paid 5% of total revenue that Please Call Me has generated from March 2001 plus accrued interest.

On this score, Makate believes that Vodacom owes him a settlement of R10.2 billion, which excludes accrued interest and all the legal fees incurred since the Constitutional Court judgment. He wants Vodacom to pay him a settlement that takes into account his legal fees.

In court papers, Makate said his legal team has calculated that Please Call Me



Nkosana Makate, the inventor of Please Call Me

has earned Vodacom R205 billion in call revenue from 2001 to 2020 (a forecast), which excludes, among other things, advertising revenue linked to the innovation.

The R47m in perspective

Considering the R47 million settlement that Vodacom offered, Makate said it "sounds like a significant sum of money". However, "it is in fact merely 0.023% of the R205 billion call revenue Vodacom allegedly generated from 2001.

"There is no sense in which an amount of 0.023% can be said to be a reasonable share of the revenue concerned, which can be up to 85% as in other instances," he said. A Vodacom spokesperson said the company is aware that Makate launched court papers, but it is "not in a position to comment on the merits of the application". It will oppose the court application.

Hard to determine revenue

Vodacom recently rejected Makate's claims about the Please Call Me service generating revenue running into billions of rands. Vodacom chief financial officer Till Streichert said the service was free for a limited promotional period when it was launched.

He added that Vodacom resolved to shelve its plan to charge for the service when it enjoyed take-up in the market and its competitor MTN decided to launch a similar product. In other words, there was "no direct attributable revenue" as part of Please Call Me as it has never been charged for.

To factor in any incremental revenue generated by customers who had decided to initiate voice calls upon receiving a Please Call Me message would be "highly speculative", said Streichert. "We have been seeing traffic [on calls] evolving over many years. Normal calling patterns have been incremental."

Makate wants the high court to determine the revenue generated by Please Call Me since 2001 or appoint "a new referee" to determine the figure.

Jabs at Joosub

He has called into question the integrity of Joosub in being a deadlock breaker during settlement talks. During oral settlement talks that began on October 2018, Makate accused Joosub of acting "manifestly irregularly, unreasonably, irrationally, unfair, unjustly and inequitably."

Makate said Joosub and Vodacom acted "in bad faith" as he incorrectly based the R47 million settlement on revenue generated by Please Call Me over five years even though the service "has generated revenue for 18 years and continues to do so.

In a transcript of recorded settlement talks, which is contained in Makate's court papers, Joosub allegedly said the "typical duration" for an "untested" innovation in the Vodacom stable would be three years, with five years the longest. Joosub said he was inclined to allow a five-year period, which he believes is "generous" and the "outer limit of what could realistically be contemplated."

Narcissist personality disorder at workplace

CORPORATE WELLNESS



By Bhakti Shah, MPH

and achievements.

- Persistent fantasies of unlimited success, power, brilliance, etc.

- Believe they are uniquely gifted and special, willing to associate only with others of similar status.

- A constant need for attention, affirmation and praise.

- A strong sense of entitlement and expectation of special treatment

- Exploitative of others, taking advantage of them for personal gain

- An inability to empathize

- A perception of being envied while envying others who seem more gifted

- A projected sense of arrogance

NARCISSISTIC Personality Disorder (NPD) is a serious psychological disorder that involves patterns of self-centered thinking. People with NPD typically have a lack of empathy and consideration for other people, coupled with an excessive need for reaffirmation, admiration or acknowledgement. They may come across as cocky, manipulative, selfish, patronizing or demanding - which may manifest itself in professional and personal relationships, leading to serious and diverse problems. Individuals in the workplace have difficulty in handling even the most constructive criticism and are more likely to engage in counterproductive work behavior, especially when their self-esteem is threatened. NPD is typically an external coping mechanism for low self-esteem or feelings of low self-worth.

Rather than withdrawing from individuals with NPD, strategically limit your interactions and time spent in active engagement. Stick to the core objectives, established performance metrics and overall vision of success. Avoid agreeing to out-of-scope or grandiose schemes, which will prevent you from being manipulated.

Allowing the negative energy of these individuals in your space becomes your responsibility. Keep communications direct and precise. Avoid open-ended questions or responses to them. The secret to effectively engaging with these individuals is to minimize responses to closed-ended "yes" or "no" statements.

In the end, the primary take away is not to react emotionally. Always be professional, on-task, focused on the job.

And yet, individuals with NPD tend to be extroverted, open to risks and new experiences, demonstrate high level of confidence and are driven to achieve results over caring for others.

In the increasing diverse working environments, a spectrum of people with varied experiences, backgrounds and behaviors are encountered. There are times when you and your teams must deal with strong personalities within your organization or externally when dealing with clients, suppliers and other stakeholders. It is therefore important to figure out how to deal with them in positive and productive ways.

Reply back to bhakti@impactafya.com or call +255 754 694 643 with your feedback. We welcome your suggestions for corporate wellness tips you'd like to see covered in our future columns.

Bhakti Shah, MPH is the Founder and Managing Director of Impactafya Ltd, collaborating with Workplace Options and Mayo Clinic, USA to provide Corporate Wellness and EAP Solutions in East Africa. Bhakti is also the Advisor for the Africa Business Portal and the Past President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Tanzania.

The following criteria defines NPD:

- A grandiose sense of self-importance, exaggerating their abilities

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Ghanaian small investors left with 9bn cedis nightmare

ACCRA

ISAAC and Bless Boahen saved for months to fund her economics doctorate, but when the time came to cash in the investment, they were left empty handed.

The couple are among at least 70,000 investors who have become collateral damage from a cleanup of Ghana's banking industry. The crackdown, which reduced the number of lenders by a third and saw the closure of 23 savings and loans companies, also triggered a run on fund managers, who couldn't sell their holdings fast enough to meet demand.

That's tying up as much as 9 billion cedis of investments, more than a third of the 25 billion cedis in assets that private fund managers oversee for retail and institutional

investors. "My wife was very disturbed," the 36-year-old said in Kumasi in Ghana's Ashanti Region. They're not getting answers and are now worried they'll never get back the 12,000 cedis they expected back from their investment. "If I knew this would happen, I wouldn't have gone there."

They're in for a long wait. The nation's markets regulator is looking into whether 21 fund managers violated rules by placing their clients' money into illiquid assets. The Securities and Exchange Commission has stepped up the pressure, blocking these money managers from accepting new investments for fear they may pay out existing investors.

"The harm has already been done," said Lord Mensah, a senior finance



Ghana Securities and Exchange Commission's Director General, Daniel Ogbarmey Tetteh.

lecturer at the University of Ghana. "Assets need to be protected." As much as 5bn cedis is tied up in unlisted bonds, direct private-equity stakes and other deals with small and medium-sized businesses, according to the SEC. Another 4bn cedis is stuck in fixed-term investments with banks rescued during the clean up, savings and loans companies, and microlenders.

The SEC hasn't yet released a list of

all the fund managers it is investigating. An 11.2bn-cedis bailout for lenders that were closed down and another package of about 925 million cedis for microcredit companies whose licenses were revoked is helping to release some of the funds locked up in those segments.

"It's cutting across all the finance houses and when it happens like that the government needs to step in to build confidence again," Mr Mensah said. "There's nothing we can do apart from making sure that we create that necessary environment to regain investors' confidence again."

That's of little comfort to the Boahens, who were going to use the money to cover the costs of field-data collection for Bless' thesis with the University of Ghana. After being promised a return of 26 per cent a year on the investment, Isaac, an accountant, had to borrow money against his provident fund. While he got the loan at a reduced rate of 10 per cent a year, Boahen didn't want to go the route of raising debt, he said. "It's costing me more now."

Singapore to raise retirement age reflecting global trend

SINGAPORE

Singapore extended support for older workers of the ageing island nation as the current leadership of the city-state prepares to hand over reins to a new generation in the next few years.

The retirement age will be gradually raised to 65 from 62, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said Sunday in his annual National Day Rally speech. The re-employment age, where employers must offer work in the same organisation, will rise to 70 from 67.

Singapore will also increase

pension-contribution rates for workers so that by 2030, any worker aged 60 or below will get the full rate, Mr Lee said.

The government is looking ahead to elections that must be held by 2021, and Mr Lee - son of the country's founding leader - is preparing to hand power to new leaders "in the next few years". The latest measure builds on support for Mr Lee's government which has already set aside \$4.4 billion this year for a fund that includes subsidised health care for those in their 60s. The pledges come as the trade-dependent nation grapples

with fears of a global recession and an intensifying rivalry between its two biggest trading partners - the US and China. In the past week the government slashed its economic outlook for 2019 to a range of zero to 1 per cent growth, predicting what could be its most sluggish year in a decade, Bloomberg reported.

Singapore has among the lowest retirement ages in the world. However, as life expectancy increases, many countries plan to raise their retirement ages over the next decade.

In the UAE, where the average age of a worker is only 30, the

retirement age for Emiratis is 49 and for expatriate residents is 60. Expatriates who are older than 60 are allowed to work up to the age of 65 after obtaining approval from the Minister of Human Resources and Emiratization or the Undersecretary. After the age of 60, labour cards are renewed annually, according to the UAE government website. Company owners do not have an age limit.

In the European Union, the most common retirement age is 65 years. Spain, Germany and France plan to raise their retirement age from 65 to 67 years, while 68 years in Britain

and Ireland is the target, according to the Finnish Centre for Pensions.

In some countries, retirement age is different for men and women. Women have a lower retirement age because life expectancy tends to be longer for women but generally, as the retirement age rises, women's retirement ages will be the same as those of men, the Finnish pension regulator found.

Following the address in Singapore, the opposition Singapore Democratic Party said Mr Lee had failed to show that citizens actually wanted to work longer. "Many Singaporeans had hoped to

hear bold and dynamic proposals to deal with the challenges facing us in a rapidly changing world with huge geopolitical challenges," the SDP said in an emailed statement. "Unfortunately, I think we were disappointed."

Minister of Manpower Josephine Teo said in March a higher retirement age would encourage workers and employers to invest in upgrading skills and adapting jobs for older workers. Raising the re-employment age would give companies more flexibility to reset work terms - like salary and job scope - to deal with business uncertainties, she said.

WORLD

EU says 'British would be the biggest losers' under no-deal Brexit

BRUSSELS/LONDON

THE European Commission said yesterday that the European Union was ready for a no-deal Brexit and that Britain would suffer most under such a scenario.

Speaking at a regular daily briefing, Commission spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud said a no-deal UK exit would never be the EU's preferred scenario, adding that the Brussels-based executive saw no need for additional contingency preparations at this stage.

"This will obviously cause significant disruption both for citizens and for businesses and this will have a serious negative economic impact," Bertaud said of any abrupt split.

"That would be proportionally much greater in the United Kingdom than it would be in the EU 27 states."

She cited Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as having said that if it came to a no-deal Brexit "it is the British who will unfortunately be the biggest losers".

The opposition Labour Party will do everything possible to stop Britain leaving the EU without a deal on October 31, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said yesterday.

He urged lawmakers that were "serious" about blocking a no-deal Brexit to vote to bring down the government in a no-confidence vote, and said Labour would form a time-limited government to avoid leaving the EU without a deal.

"We will do everything necessary to stop a disastrous no-deal, for which this government has no mandate," Corbyn said in a speech in Corby in central England.

In London yesterday, the opposition demanded that the UK parliament be recalled from its summer break to discuss steps to mitigate Brexit disruptions after leaked government documents forecast possible food, fuel and medicine shortages should Britain crash out from the bloc.

The Labour Party's finance spokesman John McDonnell the party's second most powerful man, said that the



Britain's main opposition Labour Party, shadow chancellor John McDonnell

looming crisis demanded parliament's summer break be brought to an early end.

"There's a need now to bring MPs (members of parliament) back together again because we need time now to really have a proper debate and discussion about this," McDonnell, a close ally of Corbyn, told BBC radio.

His comments add weight to a demand made on Sunday, signed by more than 100 lawmakers, to recall parliament to discuss what they called a "national emergency".

Parliament is currently not due to sit until Sept 3, when it will reconvene for a short session before breaking up again to allow for annual party conferences. Lawmakers are already fretting that

they do not have enough time to try to stop a no-deal Brexit.

Labour, which is opposed to a no-deal exit, wants to bring down Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government and form its own emergency coalition under Corbyn's leadership to delay Brexit.

Lawmakers from other parties have dismissed the possibility of Corbyn, a veteran leftist, leading any so-called 'Government of National Unity', preferring either someone else to do the job or else to focus on other parliamentary procedures to block a no-deal.

Agencies

Iran warns US against seizing released Iranian oil tanker

DUBAI

AN Iranian tanker sailed through the Mediterranean towards Greece yesterday after it was released from detention off Gibraltar, and Tehran said that any at US move to seize the vessel again would have "heavy consequences".

The Grace 1, renamed the Adrian Darya I, left anchorage off Gibraltar about 11 pm on Sunday. Refinitiv ship tracking data showed on Monday that the vessel was heading to Kalamata in Greece and was scheduled to arrive next Sunday at 0000 GMT.

The seizure of the tanker by British Royal Marines near Gibraltar in July 4 on suspicion it was carrying oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions led to a weeks-long stand-off between Tehran and the West. It also heightened tensions on international oil shipping routes through the Gulf.

Gibraltar, a British overseas territory, lifted the detention order on Thursday but the next day a federal court in Washington issued a warrant for the seizure of the tanker, the oil it carries and nearly US\$1 million.

Gibraltar said on Sunday it could not comply with that request because it was bound by EU law. Washington wanted to detain the tanker on the grounds that it had links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which it has designated a terrorist organisation.

Greek authorities had no immediate comment on the situation.

Iran said yesterday any US attempt to seize the tanker would

have "heavy consequences".

Asked whether the United States could renew its seizure request after the tanker sailed from Gibraltar, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: "Such an action, and even the talk of it...would endanger shipping safety in open seas."

"Iran has issued the necessary warnings through official channels, especially the Swiss embassy, to American officials not to commit such an error because it would have heavy consequences," Mousavi said in remarks broadcast on state television.

Switzerland represents US interests in Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with the United States.

The Adrian Darya, which was re-flagged to Iran after being delisted by Panama on May 29, was fully laden and carrying about 2 million barrels of oil. Refinitiv data showed. The cargo was valued at tens of millions of dollars.

US President Donald Trump pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran in May last year, while the European Union is still part of the accord, which allows Tehran to sell its oil.

Washington wants to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero and reimposed US sanctions which place heavy penalties on any breaches even for non-US citizens and companies, including asset freezes and being cut off from the US financial system.

While EU regulations still allow for companies and citizens in the bloc to engage in trade with Iran, falling foul of US sanctions has meant most banks are unwilling to process even authorised trans-



An Iranian flag flutters on board the Adrian Darya oil tanker, formerly known as Grace 1, off the coast of Gibraltar on Friday. (AFP)

actions such as for food and medicine, finance sources say.

This is likely to be the first major foreign policy challenge for Greece's new Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis since he took office in July if the vessel enters Greek territorial waters.

TANKER HELD BY IRAN

Separately, a senior Iranian lawmaker said a crisis in Iran's ties with Britain, which included Tehran's seizure of a British-flagged tanker last month, would not be over until the tanker reached its destination.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on July 19 seized the Stena Impero

in the Strait of Hormuz waterway for alleged marine violations, two weeks after the Grace 1 was commandeered.

"Until the Iranian oil tanker arrives at its destination the British must help end the crisis," Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a member of parliament's national security and foreign affairs committee, was quoted as saying by the semi-official ISNA news agency.

"This means that the crisis with Britain is not over. Britain has the primary responsibility for ending the oil tanker crisis," Falahatpisheh said.

Mousavi said that Tehran was waiting for a court decision on al-

leged maritime violations by the Stena Impero and he hoped the procedures would be completed as soon as possible.

The head of Iran's judiciary Ebrahim Raisi also said "Iran should claim damages...to teach a lesson to those who acted against international laws and regulations by seizing the tanker".

Iran has denied its tanker was ever headed to Syria, a close ally of Tehran.

The two vessels have since become pawns in a bigger game, feeding into wider hostilities since the United States pulled out of the nuclear agreement with Iran.

Agencies

Commemorating 400 years since the birth of slavery, is Africa free?

TODAY, August 20, 2019 the World is commemorating the first 20 Africans who were taken into slavery by the British to Jamestown (presently the area is in the United States of America (USA))

This is important because it marks British influence and dominance that characterised the way slavery played out and the institutions that followed it.

Prior to this date, Africans had been enslaved in Portugal and Spain. In many black communities, like in the USA, Ghana and other places, on August 20th they organise events which include truth telling and collective liberation

Some communities read statistics about the history of discrimination and violence against black that left an indelible mark on society through today.

Four hundred years after man trade and colonial period, The West still want to control African Nations; they are not ready to let the continent free.

After independence of most African nations, the West still want Africa natural resources, This made them to position themselves as the guardian of its former colonies.

Although they officially left the African continent following decolonization, the west maintained a relationship with the continent through military cooperation and other agreements.

For instance, France had Jacques Foccart, an influential secret advisor and ally of de Gaulle, who developed a network of French and African politicians, leaders and businessmen to maintain control in the former colonies.

For many years, Jacques Foccart masterminded clandestine military coups in French-speaking African countries for Charles de Gaulle and three French presidents after him.

Foccart's secrecy and preference for operating in the shadows were legendary. He was trusted by France's friends in Africa and remained a powerful influence on his country's African policy almost to his death.

After years of underdevelopment which was mainly caused by west, Africa has now reliable development partners in the name of Russia and China, the two have proved their love and care for the continent.

Some months ago, USA National Security Advisor John Bolton presented the Trump administration's "New Africa Strategy" According to the document: "Great power competitors, namely China and Russia, are rapidly expanding their financial and political influence across Africa. They are deliberately and aggressively targeting their investments in the region to gain a competitive advantage over it"

The statement by John Bolton demonstrated that the USA want to have more presence in Africa than any country in the world.

The USA and its allies are still milking Africa as they have proved that they don't believe in win win cooperation and to make life more difficult for the continent they (America and its allies)they are doing everything possible to frustrate others who want to bring business and investment Africa.

According to Dr Mehari Taddele Maru who is an international consultant and a Scholar of peace and security, law and governance, human rights and immigration many African leaders prefer working with Moscow and China than the West, saying the two nations are saviors - trustworthy allies of Africa. They view China and Russia, a countries that does not have a history of colonial aspirations in Africa, as a partner which could provide much-needed funding without any strings attached.

Maru further said China and Russia has significantly expanded African railways, investing in various projects in Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Angola and Nigeria; it is currently building a massive hydropower plant in Angola and has built Africa's longest railway connecting Ethiopia and Djibouti; China has also built the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa and the West African regional bloc ECOWAS in Abuja.

"By contrast, for a long time the US has viewed Africa as a battlefield where it can confront its enemies, whether the Soviets during the Cold War, terrorists after 9/11 or now the Chinese and other countries" he said.

He further said, Washington has never really made a concerted effort to develop its economic relations with the continent. "As a result, trade between the US and Africa has decreased from \$120bn in 2012 to just over \$50bn today. US FDI flows have also slumped from \$9.4bn in 2009 to around \$330m in 2017. The new \$60bn investment fund announced last week is a welcome initiative from the US but it will not be able to challenge Chinese economic presence on the continent" he further explained.

The pressure the US is currently exerting on African countries to move away from partnerships with China and Russia could hurt African economies and development. It could force African countries into making choices that are not in their best economic interests and miss out on important development projects or funding.

Meanwhile, the US-China trade war is already affecting the continent. According to the African Development Bank, it could cause as much as a 2.5 percent decrease in GDP for resource-intensive African economies and a 1.9 percent dip for oil-exporting countries.

Agencies

CHINA has to take necessary countermeasures, said the Customs Tariff Commission of the country's State Council on Aug.15, in response to the US announcement of imposing additional 10 percent tariffs on \$300 billion of Chinese imports.

"The U.S. move seriously violated the consensus reached between the two heads of state in Argentina and Osaka, Japan, and deviated from the right track of settling differences through consultations," the commission noted, signaling a clear stand of China.

After more than a year of the China-US trade frictions, some American officials are still perfecting their backtracking and bullying drama.

Reluctant to admit their vain efforts in front of China's resolution and competence to fight trade bully-

China resolute to fight US tariff bullying to the end

ing, they just opted to start another round of provocation.

However, such ruse will achieve nothing but make the US once again feel the composure of China in the face of extreme pressures.

The US would finally understand that there is no winner in the trade war and escalating trade disputes will do no good to both sides and the world at large.

The big stick of tariffs, in the hands of American officials, is undoubtedly creating an impact that the US is not able to take any more.

According to the new tariff plan published by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the additional tariffs starting from

Sept. 1 will go into effect in two stages from Sept. 1 and Dec. 15 respectively.

Some American officials acknowledged that they did this for Christmas season, just in case some of the tariffs would have an impact on US customers, causing more suffer for the US side rather than China.

Now realizing they are beating their heads against the wall, these American officials finally choose to slow their pace.

However, they would still break their heads if they don't stop.

Why did the US politicians challenge others under the disguise of protecting its national interests but only end up dragging itself into the mire of economic losses? This is a

question they should all contemplate.

In the era of economic globalization, the two largest economies on the global industrial chain have a stake in each other's future.

Over the past forty years, China and the US have seen a fast development of economic and trade cooperation and built a community of shared interests - a mansion jointly constructed by peoples from both countries with their hearts.

The big stick of tariffs may leave scars on the mansion and weather the joint efforts by the two peoples to promote development, but will never shake the mansion's foundation. Any acts that are against the

norm will not be supported.

Of course, there are solutions to the China-US economic and trade disputes, and the consensus reached by the two heads of state in Argentina and Osaka have chartered the course for both countries.

The two countries can always find a mutually acceptable solution through dialogues and consultations on the basis of equality and mutual respect.

Dr. Henry Kissinger once expressed his worry that the US would drive into unknown seas owing to the panic of the rise of other countries. Regrettably, his worry is now shared by all the trading partners of the US.

As an ancient Chinese philosopher said, a country's safety is not determined by its strength but by righteousness.

No matter how the US is bullying the world, the American exceptionalism is not likely to prevail around the globe.

A major country should take actions to spread justice and righteousness on a global scale. China will never compromise on major issues of principle, no matter what extreme measures the US will take.

China does what it says and resolves to counter any provocation. It has the strength to fight to the end. Any attempt to undermine the core interests of China and Chinese people is doomed to fail.

People's Daily

Pakistan decries cross-border fire as Kashmir security eases

SRINAGAR, India

PAKISTAN said Indian troops fired across the Line of Control in the disputed Kashmir region, killing two civilians and wounding another, as some security restrictions were lifted yesterday in the main city of Srinagar.

Pakistan and India often exchange fire in the Himalayan region, but tensions have increased since Aug 5, when New Delhi changed the status of Indian-administered Kashmir, which is split between the nuclear-armed rivals and claimed by both.

Restrictions were eased in parts of Srinagar, where schools for students from preschool to fifth grade were set to reopen after a two-week security lockdown.

But six grade schools in the city were found closed on Monday morning, with no school administrators or students in sight.

"Why would I risk sending my kids to school when the government is uncertain about the security situation?" said Srinagar resident Mohammed Latief, whose children are in the first and third grades.

Paramilitary soldiers armed with assault rifles stood guard at checkpoints, allowing a trickle of vehicular and pedestrian traffic to pass. Many shops and offices remained closed.

The security crackdown and a news blackout were imposed following the decision by India's Hindu nationalist-led government to downgrade the Muslim-majority region's autonomy. Authorities started easing restrictions on Saturday.

Hundreds of people were involved in clashes with security forces that erupted in several Srinagar neighborhoods on Sunday.

Pakistan's foreign ministry said in a statement Monday that civilian casualties occurred Sunday because of "unprovoked cease-fire violations" by India in the border villages of Hot Spring and Chirikot.

The military said a 75-year-old man and a 61-year-old man were killed. It said in a statement that Pakistani troops returned fire at the Indian posts from which mortar fire and anti-tank guided missiles had originated.

It said two Indian troops were killed, but there was no immediate comment



Supporters of Jammu Kashmir Youth Forum hold a huge Kashmiri flag during a demonstration to condemn India and its decisions on Kashmir, in Karachi, Pakistan, on Sunday. (AP)

from New Delhi.

Pakistan and India have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since they won independence from British colonialists in 1947.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi expressed concern over continued cease-fire violations by India

and urged the international community to take note of human rights violations in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Talking to journalists late Sunday in the city of Multan, he challenged Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to hold a vote to determine whether Indian and Kashmiri people support or reject the

changes his government made to Kashmir's status.

India has imposed a security lockdown in the portion of Kashmir it administers to avoid violence in response to the change in the territory's status.

The government has said it is gradually restoring phone lines and easing the lockdown, but changes are slow. Public buses were running in rural areas, but soldiers limited the movement of people on mostly deserted streets in Srinagar.

The Press Trust of India news agency reported that restrictions were reimposed in parts of Srinagar after violence was reported on Saturday.

Amid the rising tensions, authorities in Pakistan issued a flood warning for parts of the eastern town of Kasur after saying India without warning had released water into the River Sutlej and that it could inundate villages in Kasur. The floodwaters are expected to enter Pakistan today morning.

The 1960 Indus Water Treaty brokered by the World Bank requires India to share information with Pakistan about rivers flowing to Pakistan.

Agencies

China urges US to 'keep word' on Hong Kong issue

BEIJING

CHINESE Foreign Ministry yesterday urged the United States to keep its word on the Hong Kong issue.

When asked for comment on U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks that how China deals with the Hong Kong issue will affect China-U.S. trade talks, spokesperson Geng Shuang said at a news briefing that Hong Kong affairs are entirely China's internal affairs.

"President Trump said previously that 'Hong Kong is a part of China. They'll have to deal with that themselves. They don't need advice.' We hope the U.S. side will keep its word," he said.

The demonstrations and violence in Hong Kong have lasted for more than two months, and the rule of law, social order, economy and people's livelihood, stability and international image of Hong Kong have been severely impacted, said the spokesperson.

It turns out that absent the rule of law and order, the so-called 'democracy' and 'freedom' have only led to anarchy and social disorder, and have ultimately damaged the interests of the general public, he added.

According to the spokesperson, Hong Kong's most urgent and overriding task at present is to stop the riots and restore order in accordance with the law.

He said that the central government firmly supports Chief Executive Carrie Lam in leading the SAR government to administer the SAR in accordance with the law, and the Hong Kong police in strictly enforcing the law, as well as the punishment of violent criminals in accordance with the law. *Xinhua*

Agencies

Russian S-400 teams go on high alert to repel enemy missile strike in Baltic Fleet drills

KALININGRAD,

AIR defense troops of Russia's Baltic Fleet have started drills in the westernmost Kaliningrad Region to repel a missile strike against military and civilian facilities, the Fleet's press office reported yesterday.

"Under scheduled combat training measures, the drills involve the crews of S-400 'Triumf' surface-to-air missile systems and Pantsyr S-1 anti-aircraft missile/gun launchers of the Fleet's air defense large unit," the press office said in a statement.

The S-400 combat teams will practice assignments to deploy their systems, search for, classify and track training targets and subsequently perform electronic launches of surface-to-air missiles against a notional enemy's cruise missiles, the statement says.

"In turn, the Pantsyr S-1 crews will stealthily make a march to the training ground to live-fire guns against the targets that simulate air attack weapons," the press office said.

During the drills, the Fleet's radio-technical forces outfitted with the

latest radar stations and automatic control systems will accomplish procedures within the required time limits to deploy radars, detect air targets and transmit the relevant data to the command post of the air defense missile force.

The drills involve over 200 personnel and more than 20 items of military and special hardware, the statement says.

Russia's S-400 'Triumf' (NATO reporting name: SA-21 Growler) is the latest long-and medium-range surface-to-air missile system that went

into service in 2007.

It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, and can also be used against ground installations. The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of up to 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km under intensive enemy fire and jamming.

Russia's state armament program stipulates the purchase of 56 S-400 battalions by 2020, which will allow re-arm 28 Russian two-battalion surface-to-air missile regiments. By now, the Russian Army has deployed 53 S-400 battalions in 23 regiments and

two training centers.

The Pantsyr-S is a short-to medium-range weapon designated to strike air targets with automatic anti-aircraft guns and missiles with radio-command guidance and infrared and radar tracking.

As its specific feature, the weapon combines the multi-channel target acquisition and tracking system and the missile/artillery armament designated to strike targets at an altitude of up to 15 km and within a range of 20 km.

Agencies

Tough measures adopted in Western countries to contain, deter violence in demonstrations

BEIJING

IN some Western countries, tough and comprehensive measures are adopted to contain and deter violence in demonstrations, with goals ranging from seeking an early control of the situation to avoiding violence through precautionary legislation.

TOUGH MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE

In September 2011, anti-riot squads, riot cars, snipers, mounted police were recruited from eight towns to help New York City deal with the Occupy Wall Street movement. Stun batons, taser guns and other devices were used by police to control the situation amid protests, media reports said, and nearly 1,000 people were arrested in two weeks.

Regardless, demands should be expressed in a peaceful fashion, and when demonstrations become radical, police usually choose first to disperse the crowd, noted Li Mingcheng, a retired officer from Los Angeles County, California, speaking from his own experience.

Li said that in dispersing demonstrators, U.S. mounted police usually use water cannons, shields, and smoke bombs among other means. If they fail to put the situation under control, state and federal governments would seek intervention by Na-

tional Guards.

"It is for coping with serious situations or large-scale demonstrations that National Guards are called in," said Henry Lee, a famous detective and former head of the Connecticut state police. "They would use smoke bombs, tear gas and other devices, and issue urgent orders and sometimes implement a curfew."

Lee said that when confronting violence in demonstrations, state police normally use fire engines and high pressure water jets to disperse the mob and make immediate arrests of leading figures and those who assault police.

When faced with sabotage, "police would immediately arrest anyone who intentionally blocks subway and road traffic," said Hugh H. Mo, former deputy head of New York Police Department (NYPD), citing New York City as an example.

When facing assaults on themselves, police would immediately use force to counter life threats from anyone who is armed, including using batons and handcuffs to fend off and subdue assaulters, Mo added.

ARRESTS AND PUNISHMENTS

In August 2011, protests staged in London evolved into chaos that spread to Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Bristol and other cities. Five people were killed in a week of violence including arsons and lootings be-



fore the situation was brought under control.

Media reports said the British authorities beefed up the police force at hotspots with many riot squads, with the police deployed in London alone totaling over 16,000.

Police arrested some 4,000 suspects over the time. British police set up task teams to search for suspects through various means including checking thousands of hours of videos. It took several months to carry out investigations and make arrests, said reports.

Veteran officer Andy Kurdreck said law must be enforced in order to prevent chaos from turning into anarchy, and the perpetrators of assaults on police, including throwing bricks and petrol bombs, should be arrested and punished in accordance with law.

In demonstrations in the United States, people throwing bricks, bottle bombs or carrying out arson attacks that cause se-

rious consequences could face sentences of up to 30 years, Mo said.

Data from the French Interior Ministry showed police arrested some 10,000 people involved in the recent Yellow Vest protests staged on weekends that seriously disrupted social order in France.

LEGISLATION TO DETER VIOLENCE

The French government has adopted a tough stance in the face of the violent Yellow Vest demonstrations. In February, the National Assembly approved a bill designed to reduce and deter violent acts in demonstrations and to make sure perpetrators will be punished.

The legislation authorizes local governments to ban the people who are believed to pose a serious threat to public security from participating in demonstrations. It allows the French police to do more in on-site operations.

Xinhua

UN agency urges African countries to unite during imminent international Climate Action Summit

ADDIS ABABA

THE UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on Sunday urged African countries to voice the continent's united position during the upcoming international Climate Action Summit.

The ECA asked African countries to voice their united position during imminent int'l Climate Action Summit, which is slated to be convened next month by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres.

Amid the call to find a common position in the fight against climate change, the ECA also revealed that it will hold a high-level continental Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa from August 28-30 under the theme "Stepping up Climate Action for Resilient Economies in Africa."

According to James Murombedzi, Chief of the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) at the ECA, the continental conference, which will be held at the African Union (AU) headquarters, "will help ensure Africa comes up with a united position to take to the Climate Action Summit."

"The conference is important as it will discuss the impacts of climate change on the continent," an ECA statement

quoted Murombedzi as saying on Sunday.

"Just earlier in the year we had cyclone Idai that killed thousands in Southern Africa and destroyed infrastructure estimated to be worth over a billion dollars," the ACPC chief said, adding "Those are real consequences that are impacting people's lives on the continent which will be discussed during the meeting, among other topics."

The upcoming climate-themed continental conference "will also help ensure that Africa's voice is amplified and heard at the summit in New York in September," said Murombedzi.

The conference, which will bring together the continent's climate stakeholders, would also examine Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions and define additional actionable climate interventions to alleviate the impacts of climate change on ordinary people, according to the ECA.

The ECA also stressed that "impacts of climate change are being felt everywhere and are having very real consequences on people's lives with national economies being disrupted, increasing costs and negative impacts on health, livelihoods and ecosystems."

Climate change is also accelerating environmental

degradation and species loss, generating conflicts, and constraining the ability of most African countries to attain the global sustainable development goals and ideals of Africa's Agenda 2063.

The ECA also emphasized the United Nations' recent call targeting world leaders "to come to the Climate Action Summit with concrete, realistic plans to enhance their nationally determined contributions by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent over the next decade, and to net zero emissions by 2050 as called for by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report."

According to the ECA, the global Climate Action Summit, among other issues, is expected to deliberate on the climate finance and carbon pricing, energy transition, industry transition, nature-based solutions towards reducing emissions, increasing sink capacity and enhancing resilience within and across forestry, agriculture, oceans, and food systems.

The summit also envisaged to advance mitigation and resilience at urban and local levels, with a focus on new commitments on low-emission buildings, mass transport, and urban infrastructure; and resilience for the urban poor.

Xinhua

Chinese young man helps realise dreams of impoverished African children

A CHINESE man named Yin Binbin, who has worked four years in a Kenyan slum, is making efforts to help the impoverished Kenyan children realize their dreams.

The Mathare Valley, located in Nairobi, is the second largest slum area in Kenya. Covering an area of three square kilometers, it is home to around 600,000 people, most of whom are living in chronic poverty according to the World Bank standard.

The place not only lacks clean drinking water and basic sanitary guarantee, but also is threatened by violence and diseases.

Yin, born in 1990s, came to Kenya for the first time in 2014 as a volunteer teacher at a local primary school. Seeing the shabby

teaching facilities, the young man decided to build a school with concrete for the local students.

After posting information on the internet, Yin received donations from over 1,000 Chinese netizens, and the primary school, Changrong School was finally established.

"I can hardly believe that a primary school in the slum can be built with joint efforts," Yin said excitedly.

From then on, the young man determined to continue bringing benefits to children in the slums. He co-founded Dream Building Service Association (DBSA), a non-profit organization dedicated to the survival and development of children in impoverished areas throughout the world, to do more



A Chinese volunteer is tutoring a slum child in Kenya.

for the children.

So far, the DBSA has recruited over 100 Chinese university students and overseas students.

Local children would cheer Chris, the English name of Yin, once they saw him, and they would also call out "China!"

China!" and give high-fives when seeing Chinese faces.

At the end of 2016, the Caso School in the Mathare Valley was burned down due to an explosion of a neighboring chemical plant. The principal Samuem went to Yin for help, hoping that the DBSA could rebuild the school.

"They are one of the best charity organizations in the slums and have the abilities to reconstruct a new school," the principal said when explaining why he chose the Chinese volunteers.

After more than one year's fundraising and construction, a new two-storey school house was completed this August at the original site, covering an area of over 360 square meters. It has 14

classrooms that can accommodate some 400 students.

Thanks to Chinese firms including Keda Ceramics, the school was one of the best schools at the Mathare Valley, and also the first school decorated with floor tiles and suspended ceilings, said Yin.

Up to now, the DBSA has built three primary schools at Mathare Valley.

In addition, the non-profit organization jointly launched a free lunch program for children in Kenya together with China Social Welfare Foundation, benefiting over 1,600 students at seven slum schools. Now, the charity program has spread to five African countries, including Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Malawi.

"It can be projected that by the end of this year, we will provide free food for more than 10,000 African children. It's hoped that the program can go to dozens of African countries and become an international charity program of China," said Yin.

He added that the free lunch program had signed a memorandum of understanding with Rachel Ruto, the wife of Kenyan Deputy President William Ruto.

She thanked the Chinese volunteers for all the efforts they made for Kenya, saying that the free lunch program could help starving children as well as promote education in impoverished communities.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Tiger Woods, center, walks to the 13th green during the final round of the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, in Medinah, Ill. (AP Photo)

Early end of season for Woods doesn't take away from Masters

MEDINAH, Ill.

FOR the fifth time in the last six years, August on the PGA Tour means no more Tiger Woods for the rest of the season.

Only now he's healthy.

He also is the Masters champion. And that makes it a season he wouldn't trade.

"Very special to win my 15th major and get my fifth jacket," Woods said Sunday. "Those are special moments to be able to have an opportunity like that. And the rest of the tournaments I didn't really play as well as I wanted. But at the end of the day, I'm the one with the green jacket."

Rarely has Woods smiled so wide after not meeting a goal.

His season ended at Medinah, where he won two PGA Championship titles at the peak of his game and his health. He closed with an even-par 72 in the BMW Championship and tied for 37th, nowhere near what he needed to move into the top 30 in the FedEx Cup and advance to the season-ending Tour Championship next week at East Lake.

"It's disappointing," Woods said about not returning to Atlanta. "I wish I could have. Last year culminated in a pretty special moment for me, and it would have been nice to go back there. But I'll be watching the guys on TV."

It will be the 15th time in his career that Woods did not show up to defend a title on the PGA Tour, remarkable considering that Fred Couples only won 15 times in his career. The other occasions of not defending a title usually involved a change in the schedule, a tournament ending or health reasons.

This is the first time because he wasn't eligible.

He started the PGA Tour postseason at No. 28, but withdrew after a 75 in the first round at Liberty National with what he called a mild oblique strain. That dropped him to No. 38 in the FedEx Cup, and he finished at No. 42.

It was mildly surprising Woods even made it to Medinah to give it a try, and he looked fairly normal, except for some rust. He gave it his best shot at returning to the scene of perhaps the biggest moment in golf last year — a victory at East Lake, with thousands of fans spilling inside the ropes to watch Woods cap off his comeback from four back surgeries by beating the best players.

And then he did it again where it really matters — a major.

Woods needed some help from Francesco Molinari's tee shot into Rae's Creek on the 12th hole in the final round, and similar blunders by Brooks Koepka and Tony Finau,

but he looked like the Woods of old instead of an old Woods with his mistake-free finish for a 15th major, his first in 11 years.

Just like that, the count to Jack Nicklaus and his 18 majors was on again.

Instead, that was as good as it got.

He spoke vaguely of his back not being right in the cold of Bethpage Black for the PGA Championship in May, his first tournament since the Masters. He never got on track at Pebble Beach for the U.S. Open. After another long break, he missed the cut at the British Open and then simply wanted to get home.

But he won the Masters, and that makes up for a lot.

"It's like I told him coming off 18, he's got the jacket. That's all that matters," caddie Joe LaCava said. "I'd be lying if I told you I wasn't disappointed with the second half of the season. If I was happy and satisfied, I shouldn't be in the industry."

LaCava also has a sense of how Woods is feeling at age 43 with eight surgeries — four on his knee through 2008, four on his back since 2014.

"By the time we get around to next year, he'll be refocused and be ready and get after it," LaCava said.

The season is over. The year is not.

Woods heads home for a nine-week break before returning for the first PGA Tour event in Japan at the end of October. He has his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas the first week of December, followed by his role as U.S. captain in the Presidents Cup at Royal Melbourne.

He did not make the team. It would be surprising if he picked himself, especially playing only one tournament in Japan, for one of his four captain's choices.

Woods finished the season with 12 tournaments, his shortest PGA Tour season when healthy without any outside distractions. He wasn't always tournament sharp, and now he has two months of no competition.

"I think right now the most important thing is fitness, for sure," Woods said. "Keep going the way I'm going right now because I need to get a little bit stronger in certain body parts, activate different areas. I need to get those parts stronger and then starting building up my game for Japan."

He won't be in Georgia next week for the Tour Championship.

Instead, Woods will be at home in South Florida where he has a green jacket to remind him that yes, it was a year worth celebrating.

AP

New local season preview

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

IT is an incontrovertible truism that some sporting seasons stand out from all of the others and live longer in the memories of connoisseurs and aficionados of matters sports.

This is an indisputable fact which holds true across the enormously vast expanse of the globe.

For example, it is understandable why few years in Nigerian football lore will ever come close to recapturing the spell-binding magic witnessed in 1996.

Indeed, that year, the Nigerian U-23 football team captained by one Nwankwo Kanu made everyone sit up and take notice after they became the first African team in history to triumphantly cart home the gold medal for football at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Interestingly, we experienced a similarly glorious and heady football campaign last season right here in our own neck of the woods in 'Bongoland'.

Firstly, time appeared to momentarily stand still (figuratively at least) when the Taifa Stars admirably secured qualification for this year's AFCON Finals that took place in the 'Home of Ancient Civilization', Egypt a few months ago.

Pleasingly though, there were more record-breaking football feats to come. Indeed, against all the odds, Simba SC went on an improbable, storybook run for the ages in the elite CAF Champions League last season slaying a few towering giants along the way en route to progressing to the quarterfinals of continental club football's most coveted championship.

Nevertheless, now that we stand on the verge of a brand new season on the domestic football patch, the question that is uppermost in the minds of many wananchi is: what can the Stars and the reigning league champions, Simba, do for an encore this time around?

Can they even possibly top their sublime exploits of last season?

Well, with regards to the Msimbazi Street outfit, they have already certainly served fair warning of their typically sky-high ambitions in the new season which is looming large on the horizon. This follows their 4-2 victory over Azam FC in the traditional curtain-raiser to the domestic league campaign the esteemed, one-off Community Shield encounter last Saturday at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

In the big picture, though, many unbridled Simba supporters



Azam FC defender, Bruce Kangwa (R), dribbles past Simba right fullback, Shomari Kapombe, during this year's Community Shield match, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Saturday. Simba won 4-2. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

must have been heartened by the fact that one of the club's new signings, Francis Kahata of Kenya, managed to get himself on the score-sheet last weekend.

Still, despite conquering Azam FC recently, no one disputes the fact that Simba SC will have it

all to do if they are to match their memorable showings of last season.

That being said, it is doubtlessly going to be mightily interesting to see how the Msimbazi Street side perform in the forthcoming league campaign, which is merely a few days away.

Thomas holds on to win BMW Championship

MEDINAH, Ill.

STAKED to a six-shot lead, Justin Thomas spent more time Sunday worrying about what could go wrong than ending 12 months without winning.

And right when it started to go wrong, Thomas delivered his biggest shots in the BMW Championship.

In a span of three holes around the turn at Medinah, his six-shot lead shrunk to two. Thomas answered with two clutch wedge shots, two big putts and sailed to a 4-under 68 to secure a three-shot victory over Patrick Cantlay, who gave him a battle to the end with a 65.

"Patrick played unbelievably, put a lot of heat on me," Thomas said. "In the end, it could have been good for me. It kept me focused, kept my head down. ... I was really nervous going into today. I remembered that it's really hard to win a golf tournament, and I'm glad that I was able to do so."

The timing was ideal.

His first victory since the World Golf Championship at Firestone last year moved him to the top of the FedEx Cup going into the Tour Championship, where he will start the tournament at 10-under par with a two-shot lead under the new scoring format as the final 30 players chase a \$15 million first prize.

"I can certainly say I never slept on a Wednesday lead," Thomas said.

Cantlay, who made four straight birdies around the turn, secured the No. 2 position and will start at 8 under. Brooks Koepka will be 7 under, a staggered start all the way down to even par for the final five players.

That includes Lucas Glover, who went bogey-double bogey until finishing with a two-putt par from 40 feet to secure his first trip to the Tour Championship in 10 years.

It will not include Masters champion Tiger Woods, the defending champion.

Woods was a long shot going into the final round to crack the top 30, and he closed with a 72. East Lake was his first victory in five years, capping his return from four back surgeries, a special moment replaced some six months later by his Masters victory.

"It's disappointing," Woods said. "Last year culminated in a pretty special moment for me and would have been nice to go back there."

Hideki Matsuyama took the 36-hole lead with a 63 until falling back with a 73. He responded with another 63 to finish alone in third, making him one of three players who moved into the top 30 to reach East Lake. The other was Jason Kokrak, but only after J.T. Poston made bogey on his final hole.

The final day to earn the eight automatic spots on the Presidents Cup changed nothing for either team.

Bryson DeChambeau held onto the final spot for the Americans when Tony Finau, who needed to finish alone in third, closed with a 69 and finished fourth. Jason Day failed to work his way into an automatic spot for the International side.

There wasn't supposed to be much drama in the tournament, either, not with Thomas coming off a 61 to build a six-shot lead. Only seven players dating to 1928 had ever lost a six-shot lead on the PGA Tour. Thomas didn't want to be the next.

That's why he shut off his phone on his way to the course. It seemed everyone but him had already declared him the winner, and he found no refuge in the locker room.

"Guys giving me advice in the locker room how to finish off a tournament," Thomas said. "I was like, 'I've done this a couple times guys but, thank you.' That's what I was saying on the way over here. It's a lot of the outside noise that makes it harder sometimes to stay focused."

And the nature of that advice?

"Talk to your caddie a lot. Make sure you keep talking," Thomas said. "OK, as long as you stop talking it's fine with me."

He did talk to his caddie, mostly to get yardage from the rough



Justin Thomas holds the J.K. Wadley trophy after he won the final round at the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, in Medinah, Ill. He finished under 25. (AP Photo)

because he didn't hit a fairway until the fifth hole. Cantlay also got off to a slow start, and Thomas still had his six-shot lead through seven holes. But not for long.

Cantlay made an 8-foot birdie on No. 7, followed with a 12-foot birdie on No. 8 and a 6-foot birdie on No. 9. Thomas then helped out by hitting left-handed to get it out and making bogey. Cantlay made his fourth straight birdie, and the lead was down to two with eight holes remaining.

That's when Thomas came to life with a wedge to 2 feet for birdie.

"The birdie on 11 was huge," Thomas said. "That propelled me for the rest of the round."

More important was his 12-foot par putt on the next hole. And then after Cantlay rolled in a 15-

foot birdie on the par-3 13th, Thomas matched him from 12 feet.

Cantlay, who had nine birdies in the final round, missed an 8-foot birdie putt on the 14th and a 15-foot eagle putt on the 15th after driving onto the green.

"When you're as far behind as you are, you kind of need everything to right," Cantlay said. "Neither of those putts dropped at a point where I needed them to."

Thomas finished at 25-under 263 — seven shots lower than what Woods shot at Medinah when he won the 2006 PGA Championship — and earned \$1,665,000. Even more money is at stake next week, though this was a burden lifted. All he cared about was winning.

AP

In 1 game, Bale shows he can still contribute at Real Madrid

MADRID

JUST like that, Gareth Bale is part of the solution for Real Madrid again.

After only one game back as a starter, the player who wasn't wanted by coach Zinedine Zidane a few weeks ago showed he can still contribute to the team.

Zidane started Bale in the team's Spanish league opener on Saturday – less than a month after saying his transfer would be good for everyone – and got a positive response from the Wales forward in a 3-1 win over Celta Vigo.

Bale's good performance was a relief after Zidane and Madrid had struggled to find ways to deal with the forward following failed attempts to transfer him in the offseason.

"He is going to stay," Zidane said Saturday. "All the players we have now are focused on the season ahead. Bale and all the players want to stay and want to do their best to defend this jersey."

Bale had a great first half against Celta, setting up Karim Benzema's opening goal with a perfectly placed cross in the 12th minute. He nearly found the net himself a few moments later with a shot that prompted a good save by the opposing goalkeeper.

After being substituted by Francisco "Isco" Alarcón toward the end of the second half, Bale was saluted by Zidane and his teammates on the bench.

"Bale has helped us win titles, he has scored important goals for us," Madrid midfielder Casemiro said. "We have a lot of respect for him. He has to keep playing, he is a great player."

FAIRYTALE APPEARANCE

Athletic Bilbao striker Ariz Azpilicueta returned from his post-match interview to find his teammates applauding him and chanting his name in the locker room.

The 38-year-old veteran had just scored an amazing overhead kick a minute after entering the match in the 88th, giving Athletic an opening win against defending champion

Barcelona.

It was the perfect start to Aduriz's final season as a player.

The former Spain international announced he will be retiring this season, ending a career that will include more than 400 matches and 170 goals with the Basque Country club.

"Football is so beautiful sometimes because of things like this. It gives you chances like this," Aduriz said. "It will be impossible not to miss this. I'm just incredibly happy to be able to choose how I'm ending my career, and to be able to do it at the place that I love the most."

BARCELONA'S INJURIES

Barcelona is off to its worst league start in a decade and injury woes could keep the two-time defending champions from rebounding quickly.

It remains unclear whether Lionel Messi and Luiz Suárez will be available for the match against Real Betis on Sunday, as both continue to nurse muscle injuries.

Messi got hurt in the preseason and didn't play in Friday's 1-0 loss at Athletic Bilbao, while Suárez didn't make it past halftime in the opener.

Messi is expected to return to practice this week and has a greater chance of being in the lineup against Betis, but Suárez is not as likely to be fit in time for Sunday's game.

Barcelona had won 10 straight league openers.

HARSH RED CARDS

Refereeing officials warned before the league started they would not tolerate fouls that could lead to Achilles injuries.

A couple of players got to see firsthand that the officials were serious about their warning, including Luka Modrić.

The Real Madrid midfielder was sent off for stepping on an opponent from behind in the team's opener against Celta Vigo on Saturday.

A day later, it was Getafe's Jorge Molina who was ejected for a similar foul in the game against Atlético Madrid. In both occasions, the red cards were shown after video reviews.

AP

Bayern Munich sign Coutinho on loan from Barcelona

MUNICH

BUNDESLIGA champions Bayern Munich have signed Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho on loan for the season, the two clubs confirmed on Monday.

Bayern will pay a loan fee of 8.5 million euros and pay his wages. They have the option of making the deal permanent for a fee of 120 million euros.

Coutinho, who joined Barcelona in January last year for approximately 142 million pounds, was the third most expensive transfer in history but he failed to hit the same heights at the Camp Nou as he did with Liverpool.

"FC Barcelona and Bayern Munich have reached an agreement for the loan of the player Philippe Coutinho to the German club for the 2019/20 season," Barcelona said in a statement.

"Barcelona would like to thank to publicly thank Philippe Coutinho for his commitment and dedication wishes him all the best in this new stage of his career."

Coutinho will wear the number 10 shirt previously worn by Dutchman Arjen Robben, who retired at the end of last season.

"We've been working on bringing in Philippe Coutinho for quite some time and we're very happy that we've been able to complete this transfer," Bayern CEO Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

"Our thanks go to FC Barcelona for agreeing to the transfer. With his creativity and outstanding skills, Philippe is a player who will immediately strengthen our attack."

Bayern, who drew their first league game 2-2 with Hertha Berlin last weekend, play away at Schalke on Saturday.

REUTERS

Moved to Arsenal to experience new challenge, says Luiz

LONDON

DEFENDER David Luiz said he decided to move from Chelsea to Premier League rivals Arsenal for a different challenge after an "honest conversation" with manager Frank Lampard about the Stamford Bridge club's new direction.

Luiz, 32, made a deadline day move across London to Arsenal where he signed a two-year contract after spending three seasons in a second stint with Chelsea. He made his Arsenal debut last weekend in a 2-1 home win over Burnley.

With Chelsea operating under a FIFA transfer ban, Lampard's policy has been to build the side with younger players, choosing to start Andreas Christensen and Kurt Zouma in central defence in his first two league games.

"Everyone knows I was so happy in Chelsea and won many trophies there. I had a real honest conversa-

tion with Lamps and Lamps had different ideas for his plans for the year," Luiz told reporters.

"So the best way for me to respect the club where I can was to move on, try a new challenge and give him the opportunity to do his job."

"I'm so happy here as since the first day I felt welcome. This is a big club and I want to be here and see it shine on the pitch and outside."

Luiz said he could have remained at Stamford Bridge, where he had signed a new two-year contract extension at the end of last season after helping the club finish third in the league, but chose to seek a new challenge.

"I am a guy with ambition and that is why I moved," Luiz added. "I could have chosen a comfortable zone and got money and be cool and that is it."

"But I like a new challenge and new things in my life."

REUTERS

Chelsea's front-foot football cost Lampard on Stamford Bridge return

LONDON

THE venue was familiar. The vantage point was not.

Few people on the planet know Stamford Bridge better than Frank Lampard, who turned the West London stadium into his own back garden during a phenomenal 13-year Chelsea career in which he won 11 major trophies and became the club's record goal scorer. But while he probably trampled every single blade of grass on the pitch during his time in Chelsea blue, he didn't spend much time in the dugout. Of the 218 Premier League appearances he made at the Bridge, only 15 came from the bench.

The bench, though, is his new domain, and it was towards that area, just to the right of the players' tunnel, that all eyes in the stadium turned when the new Chelsea manager emerged shortly before kickoff in his side's 1-1 draw with Leicester City on Sunday. Wearing a white tracksuit top and dark blue tracksuit bottoms, he embraced Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers at the mouth of the tunnel before applauding all four sides of the ground, a chorus of "Super Frankie Lampard!" booming down from all around.

A photographic portrait of Lampard against a gold background adorned the front of the match programme. On the walk to the ground down Fulham Road, blue and white "SUPER FRANK LAMPARD" scarves hung from every stall. In the shadow cast by the chunk of wall from the back of the original Shed End, which runs along the stadium's southern perimeter, fans posed for photographs in front of a picture of a beaming Lampard brandishing the Champions League trophy in 2012. Win or lose, this day was always going to be about him.

As it happened, Lampard spent most of the first half standing on the edge of his technical area, rather than sitting in the dugout, and it was from there that he watched Mason Mount give his side a seventh-minute lead that rewarded the hosts' aggressive start to the game. When Wilfred Ndidi turned his back on the play after receiving the ball from goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel, Mount pounced, nicking the ball off the Nigerian and brilliantly clipping a low shot past the flat-footed Schmeichel with his right foot.

Lampard punched the air with delight before turning to flash a telling grin at his coaching staff. Mount was with him on loan at Derby County last season,



Leicester's Wilfred Ndidi, 2nd left, scores his side's first goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Chelsea and Leicester City at Stamford Bridge stadium in London, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. (AP Photo)

where Lampard launched his managerial career, and the 20-year-old academy graduate's integration into the Chelsea first XI is a central pillar of the former England midfielder's quest to make the West London club competitive despite the transfer ban they are under.

Lampard spoke out in defence of Mount after the midfielder's place in the team was questioned by Jose Mourinho, Lampard's former Stamford Bridge mentor, in the wake of Chelsea's 4-0 defeat at Manchester United on the opening weekend. This was vindication, but it would be fleeting.

Chelsea's transfer embargo meant that, contrary to previous seasons, there was only one new signing making his home debut. U.S. international Christian Pulisic had shown exciting glimpses of his talent in Wednesday's penalty shootout defeat

by Liverpool in the UEFA Super Cup, but here he cut a peripheral figure and was withdrawn with 20 minutes remaining. By which time the game had changed completely. Rodgers is no stranger to Stamford Bridge himself, having started his coaching career at Chelsea under Mourinho's tutelage, and as the game wore on his Leicester side assumed control.

Chelsea's commitment to front-foot football – another tenet of the Lampard philosophy – meant they kept leaving space in front of their back four, which Leicester's attacking players streamed into at will. After Hamza Choudhury and James Maddison had threatened, they levelled in the 66th minute when Ndidi found space between Kurt Zouma and Cesar Azpilicueta to head home Maddison's corner from the right and atone for his role in Chelsea's opener.

Lampard's response was to introduce Willian and Mateo Kovacic in place of Jorginho and Pulisic, having earlier sent on Tammy Abraham up front, but Leicester came closest to winning it when the dangerous Maddison skipped past Emerson Palmieri and blazed over. Although Chelsea continued to push, the final whistle brought more relief than frustration to the home supporters.

"That first patch [of the game] was how we want to play, and the rest of the game was not how we want to play," said Lampard, who remains without a win after three games as Chelsea manager.

"In the second half we left far too many spaces for them. That was the disappointing thing for me, that we couldn't sustain that energy from the early part of the game. (Agencies)

Dani Alves' fairytale start at Sao Paulo

By Tim Vickery, South America correspondent

IT was always going to happen.

After spending more than a decade and a half in Europe, Dani Alves made his return to Brazilian football on Saturday – and turned it into a triumph, scoring the only goal of the game in Sao Paulo's 1-0 win at home against Ceara.

A few months ago, this might have been seen as a has-been eeking out the end of his career in a crisis club. The injury that ruled Alves out of last year's World Cup appeared to have brought his days at the top level to an end. He had impressed at Sevilla, hit magnificent heights at Barcelona and proved his worth at Juventus.

Then Paris Saint-Germain brought him in, mainly, it seemed, because he was seen as a stabilising influence on Neymar. And so, at the end of last season, when PSG let Alves go, it was an advance warning that the club had lost patience with their Brazilian star. And so if they no longer needed Neymar, they no longer needed Alves.

But Brazil did. Coach Tite still had a place for him. He would have been captain in last year's World Cup. He was the captain now. And he was not only necessary as a leader, but also as a player – Tite had thought long and hard about the World Cup defeat to Belgium. Against a top level team, Brazil were too open. He would achieve balance by tweaking the role of the full-backs. He was not looking for auxiliary wingers, repeatedly charging up and down the flanks.

Rather than the Liverpool model of the full-back, he was looking to Manchester City – for players who can hold the defensive line, construct from deep and arrive occasionally in the attacking line as an element of surprise. It is a role that can be played by a veteran – and all of this explains why there is still a place in the team for Alves while swashbuckling left-back Marcelo, five years younger, has been discarded.

And so Alves turned the Copa America into a giant billboard advertising his own continued value. He was chosen as the outstanding player of the tournament. He had the prize position in the shop window. He could have gone anywhere – and it is this which has made his return to Brazil so important and dramatic. Much like Juan Sebastian Veron turning his back on Italian football and going home to Estudiantes more than a decade ago, Alves chose with his heart.

He is a Sao Paulo supporter. True, the connection is nothing like as close as that of Veron with Estudiantes. The father of Veron was a massive idol of the club, Veron grew up inside the club's culture and started his career there. And after his glorious second spell with Estudiantes, he has gone on to be the president.

Alves grew up in Brazil's North East, over a thousand miles from Sao Paulo – much further, for example than the distance that separates London from Barcelona. But the glamour clubs of the South East, Rio and Sao Paulo, have always captured nationwide imagination in Brazil, and Alves is just the right age to have fallen under the spell of Sao Paulo's attractive and all conquering side of the early 1990s, coached by Tele Santana and captained by Rai.

An interesting and belated trend in South Ameri-



Dani Alves made his return to Brazil on Saturday – and turned it into a triumph. (Agencies)

can football is for ex-players to be used in directorial positions, and this helps explain some of the recent imports. Italian midfielder Daniele De Rossi joined Boca Juniors in Argentina, persuaded by his former teammate Nico Burdisso, who is now Boca's director of football. And Sao Paulo director Rai played a key role in the seduction of Alves.

Once held up as an example of a well run Brazilian club, Sao Paulo have recently fallen on hard times. Just over a decade ago they won the Brazilian title three times in a row, and beat Liverpool to become Club World champions in 2005. But they all seem a long time in the past. Internal divisions have taken their toll.

The club were humiliatedly knocked

out of this year's Copa Libertadores in the qualifying round – some even saw them as candidates for relegation when the Brazilian league kicked off. Instead, with some interesting young players, they have done better than expected – and now hope to do even better.

Along with Alves, the club have also signed the Spain international Juanfran. He is a right-back – which means that Alves is being pushed forward into an attacking midfield role.

It is worth remembering that when Brazil were down to 10 men and hanging on against Peru in the closing stages of the Copa America final, Real Madrid's Eder Militao came off the bench to play at right-back, pushing the captain higher up the field.

Defending has never been his speciality, and he will now be free to construct – but right-back remains his Brazil position.

He has few quality rivals, and is keen to make a bid to stay in the side all the way to the next World Cup, when he will be closing on 40.

For the time being, the relevance of 40 in his life is that it refers to the number of titles he has won. Sao Paulo fans will be hoping he can add to that number. His storming debut gave cause for hope. Alves lead the field in terms of on target shots and pass completion – and, in a move set up by Juanfran, who also had a fine debut, he burst into the Ceara area to win the points for his side with a cute finish.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Chelsea's front-foot football cost
Lampard on Stamford Bridge return

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Kigurunyembe Secondary School's physical education teacher, Daniel Exaud (in blue T-shirt), trains the school's handball squad in Morogoro last weekend. Over 20 students are participating in the training, which gears towards preparing the squad for the next year's schools competitions at the regional level. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

Morogoro school targets success in 2020 UMISSETA games

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa.

Morogoro

MOROGORO'S Kigurunyembe Secondary School has expressed determination to produce competent performers that will help the region achieve success in the next year's inter-secondary schools games (Umisseta)'s handball competition.

Morogoro won the handball tournament in both boys' and girls' categories in this season's Umisseta games that took place in Mtwara.

With most of the players making the handball team at the school being expected to sit for this year's Form Four national examinations, the school noted it has set its sight on grooming performers for the regional team which will compete in the next year's games.

Daniel Exaud, who coaches Kigurunyembe Secondary School's team, disclosed the schools is set to start grooming Form One pupils for the handball team with a view to seeing to it the youngsters replace the ones that are currently in Form Four.

"The school's management has set up training sessions for over 20 boys, most of whom are in Form One, with a view to producing players for the regional side which will battle it out in the next year's games," Exaud, a product of Mwanza's Malya College of Sports Development, noted.

He said Form One students have enough time to attend training sessions in comparison with their counterparts who are close to sitting for the national examinations.

The school's handball was instrumental in Morogoro's tremendous achievement in the Umisseta games held this year.

The region won five trophies in the games with the region's handball teams winning two of the trophies.

The success has encouraged coach Exaud to opt for morning and evening sessions for his team.

He noted the sessions focus on seeing to it the players are perfecting techniques that include passing and receiving.

He associated the inclusion of overage players in some of the squads which took part in the Umisseta games, which were held in Mtwara, with poor preparation and lack of sustainable strategies.

He added hiring overage players discourages the upcoming performers that are eligible for the games.

He mentioned failure to access sponsorship as one of major challenges that junior sports teams are experiencing.

He said the teams, for that matter, resort to using such equipment like used balls in training sessions.

Training grounds, he noted, also have such equipment like wooden goal posts which can easily be destroyed by either downpour or ants.

"I call on companies, institutions and individuals to invest in handball with a view to seeing to it we produce good players for tournaments which will be held in future, the youngsters can promote the companies' products," he noted.

He pointed out his squad has lined up friendly matches against teams from Morogoro, Alfa and Kizuka secondary schools and St. Joseph College.

The matches, he noted, will make it easy for him to identify his team's weaknesses.

The team's captain David Frank congratulated the government for valuing physical education teachers.

The school's students who are participating in soccer and other sports, he noted, have started taking the sports seriously from the time the physical education teachers were employed.

He promised the team's players will excel in studies and the sport.

Smith moves to No. 2 in Test rankings for batsmen

LONDON

STEVEN Smith has leapfrogged Kane Williamson to second place on the ICC Test rankings for batsmen after amassing 378 runs in three innings at an average of 126 in the ongoing Ashes series.

Pat Cummins, meanwhile, has consolidated his place at the top of the bowlers rankings to such an extent that only four men have ever accumulated more rating points than the 914 he has now (Sydney Barnes 932, George Lohmann 931, Imran Khan 922, Muttiah Muralitharan 920, if you were curious).

Much of the focus though remains on Smith who is in a race against time to be fit for the third Ashes Test at Headingley after sustaining a 'mild concussion' after taking a Jofra Archer bouncer to the neck.

Despite being out of international cricket for a year, he has reduced the gap to the No. 1 spot - currently occupied by Virat Kohli - to just nine points. England captain Joe Root has dropped to ninth place from sixth.

Marnus Labuschagne, who had stepped in as Test cricket's first concussion substitute after Smith was withdrawn from the Lord's Test, vaulted 16 places to 82nd among batsmen.

Labuschagne, too, was struck on the helmet by Archer, but soldiered on to make a gritty 59 that was central to Australia saving the Test.

Ben Stokes, who struck 115 off 165 balls in England's second innings at Lord's, jumped from 32nd to 26th among batsmen while opener Rory Burns gained 17 places to 64th. Burns had followed his century at Edgbaston with a first-innings 53 at Lord's.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne broke into the top ten after his fourth-innings 122 handed Sri Lanka 60 points in their first World Test Championship match, against New Zealand in Galle.

Karunaratne moved from 12th to eighth while New Zealand left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel jumped 14 places to 61st among bowlers after claiming a match haul of six wickets in the Galle Test.

Among the other bowlers in action over the past week, Archer, who created such an impact on debut, entered the rankings in 83rd place, while Jack Leach, also impressive at Lord's, moved up eight spots to No. 40.

And after Sri Lanka's win in Galle, Akila Dananjaya, who picked up five wickets in the first innings, has gone up to 36th position on the table. **AGENCIES**



Yanga defender, Lamine Moro (L), challenges Township Rollers' player in the first leg of the preliminary round of the CAF Champions League which took place in Dar es Salaam two weeks ago. Yanga posted 1-1 draw with Township Rollers. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Yanga SC leaves for Botswana

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA'S soccer big guns, Young Africans (Yanga) Sports Club, jets off for Botswana today for the second leg of the CAF Champions League's preliminary round against Township Rollers, slated for Saturday.

Yanga's acting secretary general Dismas Ten said all preparations for the trip to Botswana are over and his team is in great shape ahead of the match, which will take place in Gaborone.

He said he is confident his side will qualify for the next round of the premier continental club tournament at the expense of Township Rollers.

The two teams were locked to 1-1 draw in the first leg of the preliminary round which took place at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam two weeks ago.

"The team depart tomorrow (today) for Botswana and all players are ready for the encounter against Township Rollers," he

said.

"I'm confident we will qualify for the next round, yes it will not be an easy match, but we are well prepared for them," he said.

He further disclosed that the squad's three newly signed players Mustafa Selemani, David Molinga and Farouk Shikalo will not make the trip due to problems with their transfers.

Yanga had two friendly games against Police Tanzania and AFC Leopards of Kenya last week to prepare for the coming continental assignment.

They lost 2-0 to Police Tanzania in Kilimanjaro and then cruised to 1-0 win over AFC Leopards in Arusha.

After the AFC Leopards game, Yanga head coach Mwynyi Zahera said he has been impressed by the performance of his side and noted he is confident it will register good results in Botswana.

"The squad did not play well in the game against Police Tanzania, but against AFC Leopards we played well," he noted.

"I'm happy with the performance and the weather here in Arusha is very good, it's similar to that of Botswana, our stay in Arusha has helped the players acclimatize with the Gaborone weather."

Meanwhile, Township Rollers head coach, Tomas Trucher, is reported to have said his side will emerge victorious on Saturday and asked his team's supporters to cheer the players.

"We stood firm and we know with a fully packed stadium here at home we can do it. I am asking all Rollers fans to attend the second leg as we, together, can succeed," he disclosed.

Aggregate winners will face the aggregate winners in preliminary round game between Zesco United of Zambia and Green Mamba of Eswatini.

Zesco United enjoyed a 2-0 away win in the first leg, they, for that matter, are in an advantageous position ahead of the second leg to be played in Ndola on Saturday.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT WE ARE IN THIS WORLD TO HELP OTHERS



WHAT ARE OTHERS HERE FOR?

TONIGHT @21:00

EATV **NIRVANA**

TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ [live]
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
14:00 Dakika 10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNews
18:30 Music
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Nirvana
21:30 Wakilisha
22:00 Grace Na Asili Yangu
22:30 Bongo Hits

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09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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