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At least 400 Commonwealth Africa MPs set for Isles meet

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

TANZANIA is set to host another high-profile conference with the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) - Africa Region which will bring together over 400 delegates scheduled for 31st August to 5th September.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Job Ndugai (pictured), said the convention will take place in Zanzibar and will be inaugurated by the President of Zanzibar, Dr Ali Mohammed Shein.

He said various dignitaries such as speakers of parliament from the member states, their deputies, MPs and ambassadors representing those countries in Tanzania have been invited.

Speakers of parliament in other regions have also been invited. "At least 20 national assembly speakers from member states and a number of MPs from those countries have

JPM: Investments flows key to assessing envoys



President John Magufuli has an audience at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday with Tanzanian ambassadors and high commissioners accredited to various countries. Photo: State House

"I want you to be very aggressive. If someone tries to frustrate you, I'm here—write to me and see if that person won't be the one frustrated. I want to see action, not words"

By Guardian Reporter

THE performance of ambassadors representing Tanzania abroad will henceforth be gauged on the number and impact of investments they have attracted into the country, President John Magufuli declared yesterday.

Addressing 43 ambassadors who paid him a courtesy call at the State House in Dar es Salaam, the president challenged the envoys to engage more in economic diplomacy with a view to bringing more investors with ventures that improve the lives of Tanzanians.

"I want you envoys to bring in investments. It's time to ask: what have I brought home? Have I

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This is great honour to our parliament and we appreciate the acknowledgement by the member states in the Commonwealth association

confirmed their participation," he said.

The annual meeting takes place in rotation among the member states, with Gaborone, the Botswana capital last year hosting 400 delegates at the annual meeting.

Ndugai said that this year's annual meeting is likely to have more delegates since many have shown interest in attending, "bearing in mind that it will be held in nation's tourist town as well as the peace and tranquility in Tanzania."

He asserted that since there are many forms of tourism in the country, the meeting is likely bring into the nation substantial amount of foreign currencies injected into circulation.

Other benefits that would come with the meeting are income from service delivery like accommodation, food and restaurant services, vehicle hire and taxi services, and selling of other goods such as souvenirs, he stated.

Other benefits include advertising the vast national tourism attraction sites that Tanzania exhibits, he elaborated, noting further that the Tanzanian parliament is well recognized in Africa for its active participation, making it

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Redesigning SMEs policy to include gas, minerals

By Henry Mwangonde

KEY processes towards inclusion of emerging sectors such as gas and minerals in the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) policy of 2003 have been completed, the government said yesterday.

Already, the process for gathering views from stakeholders has been finalized and what remains is the writing of the new policy, on the basis of remarks by the Director of Small and Medium Enterprises in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Dr Consolata Ishebabi.

She told journalists that the process of assessing and reviewing some of the key areas to be changed has been finalized.

She was speaking at the small and medium enterprises development policy assessment

dissemination workshop organised by UN Women Tanzania, a global intergovernmental organisation.

She said the government intends to put the new policy in place within a year from now.

The challenge currently is to make small and medium enterprises (SMEs) move from micro higher, for instance from small to medium.

"The new policy will address some of the key issues such as how to stimulate small businesses to grow into large ones," the director noted.

Prof Aurelia Kamuzora, an economics lecturer at Mzumbe University who presented a study on assessment of medium and small enterprises policy said women can empower themselves despite the various challenges that

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Mpina dissolves dairy board, blaming 'underperformance'

By Guardian Reporter

LIVESTOCK and Fisheries minister Luhaga Mpina has sent the directors of the Tanzania Dairy Board packing, citing problems relating to performance.

A statement issued yesterday by the acting head of the ministry's communication unit, Rehema Mbulalina, said the move was with immediate effect, implying that the board was itself dissolved. "The minister has made the decision because he is not satisfied with the board's performance," reads the statement, in part.

The board, which was charged with both regulatory and promotional functions in the country's dairy sector, has been in existence for 14 years. It was launched in November 2005 following the enactment of the Dairy Industry Act in 2004.

Among other functions, the board was responsible for developing and monitoring the implementation of plans and strategies designed to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and efficiency in milk production, processing and marketing in the country.

According to the statement, the board was effectively a flop since the levels of Tanzania's milk production and sale are lower than those in African countries with fewer livestock.

The statement alluded to concerns by the minister during milk promotion week celebrations in Arusha in June this year over poor performance by the Tanzania dairy industry despite the big number of livestock the country boasts.

Minister Mpina took issue with the industry's sluggish growth, which he blamed on poor

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MONDAY TO SUNDAY





Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan leads a Cabinet meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: VPO

Renowned conservationist Wayne Lotter, 11 others honoured for fighting wildlife crime

GENEVA

WILDLIFE law enforcement champions from 10 countries were recognized Tuesday with the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva.

The Animal Welfare Institute presents the prestigious award to individuals, organizations and agencies that have demonstrated excellence in combating wildlife crime.

"The importance of efforts to combat wildlife crime cannot be understated," said AWI President Cathy Liss. "Those honored today for their superlative efforts, including 16 rangers who died

in the line of duty, should be recognized worldwide for their dedication to saving the unique biodiversity of this planet from wildlife criminals who steal wildlife from all of us."

The 2019 winners are PAMS Foundation and the late Wayne Lotter in Tanzania, for empowering individuals to protect wildlife and wild places. The foundation's support for rangers and game scouts through anti-poaching training and aerial surveillance, and its collaboration with Tanzania's National Task Force Anti-Poaching have significantly increased arrests and prosecutions of wildlife traffickers, including ivory trade kingpins "Shetani" Boniface Matthew Mariango and the "Queen of Ivory," Yang Feng Glan. Lotter, one of PAMS' co-founders and a prominent conservationist, was

murdered in 2017 in Tanzania because of his anti-poaching efforts.

Others are Dr Elizabeth Ehi-Ebewele, (Nigeria), Limbe Wildlife Centre (Cameroon), Vivek Menon, (India) Rameshwar Singh Thakur (India), Julius Kariuki Kimani, and Julius Maluki Mwandai (Kenya), Lorena Alfonsina Fernández (Honduras), and Ross Galbraith (Canada). Others are Josefina L. de Leon (Philippines), Anti-Smuggling Bureau of China Customs, Patrick Muhayirwa, Charles Syaira, Jonas Malyani, Pacifique Fikirini, Faustin Nzabakurikiza, Jean Byamungu, Barthelme Mulewa, Théodore Prince, Liévin Kasumba, Kanawa Sibomana, Ila Muranda, Rachel Baraka, Kasereka Ezéchiel, Freddy Muliro, Hakizimana Chadrack, and Musubaho Maliro Antwi (DRC)

Since 1997, 124 individuals and/or agencies from 38 countries have received the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award, which is only given at CITES CoPs. This year, CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero presented the award at a ceremony hosted by the Species Survival Network.

The award is named after the late chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement. Bavin substantially elevated the fight against wildlife crime in the United States and internationally, pioneering the use of covert investigations and sting operations to expose illegal wildlife trade and advocating for the use of forensic science to identify and prosecute wildlife criminals.

JPM: Investments flows key to assessing envoys

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made possible the construction of a factory, road, bridge or any other building?" the Directorate of Presidential Communications quoted him in a statement.

Dr Magufuli gave the envoys the green light to pull investors into the country without being deterred by anybody in the government, not even the sector ministries.

"I want you to be very aggressive. If someone tries to frustrate you, I'm here—write to me and see if that person won't be the one frustrated. I want to see action, not words," he emphasized.

The country's envoys ambassadors have been around since August 13, touring various development projects being implemented, and had commended the president for the job being done.

The projects they visited include the 2,115 mw Nyerere Hydropower project at the Stiegler's Gorge in Rufiji, the standard gauge railway, terminal three of the Julius Nyerere International Airport, Ubungo road interchange, expansion of the port of Dar es Salaam, gas distribution facility - Taifa Gas and

the Tanzanite or new Selander Bridge.

The envoys also visited projects in Zanzibar including Michenzani shopping mall, terminal three of the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, Fumba modern apartments, Zanzibar North- Bububu - Mkokotoni road and new port berth for oil and gas at Manga Coast area.

The envoys said that the implementation of these projects and other improvements in social services have brought a lot of respect for Tanzania in the international community. They point to the fact that the country is on the right track towards its aspiration to become a middle income economy by 2025," the statement intoned.

Tanzania's Development Vision 2025 (2016/17-2020/21) promotes social and economic development with focus on developing an industrial economy concentrating on the growth of the local industrial sector and natural gas use.

The Vision was first adopted in 2000 with the goal of transforming the country into a strong and competitive middle income economy by 2025.

At least 400 Commonwealth Africa MPs set for Isles meet

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host many of CPA's small meetings.

"This is great honour to our parliament and we appreciate the acknowledgement by the member states in the Commonwealth association," the speaker declared.

Ndugai also noted that Tanzania as the host will use the occasion to request the CPA meeting to approve some of the money raised during the meeting to be spend on building a five star hotel in Dodoma.

The hotel, he clarified will be the property of CPA, built on a plot that the Dodoma city council authority had set aside for the continental parliamentary association.

Speaking at the briefing, the Clerk to the National Assembly, Stephen Kagaigai noted that preparations for the meeting have been completed. It will resemble the recently concluded Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) meeting in Dar es Salaam, he added.

Redesigning SMEs policy to include gas, minerals

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they encounter.

The study mentioned some key challenges that hinder women SMEs to grow as including house caring roles, children and domestic violence.

"Most of the women in SMEs become more concerned with house caring than business. This make return on investment remain low or flat," she said.

UN Women representative for Tanzania, Hodan Addou said the assessment report follows a study by UN Women and the ministry that was

conducted last year.

"Through this partnership, we successfully collaborated in assessing the implementation of the 2003 policy with a broader view. The task is to inform the enterprises development 2003 policy to blend it into all programmes working towards the development of the SMEs sector," she said.

"Women who make up the majority of the poor are also the face of SMEs in Tanzania and the rest of the African continent," the representative underlined.

Kenya inks agreement with telecom firm to increase forest cover

NAIROBI

KENYAN government yesterday signed an agreement with telecommunications firm, Safaricom to expand forest cover through planting an additional five million trees in the next five years.

Peter Kinyua, chairman of Kenya Forest Service (KFS), said the new agreement with Safaricom will promote restoration of depleted forests in north western parts of the country that are a source of livelihood to farmers and herders.

"The agreement we have signed today with Safaricom will involve establishment of indigenous tree seedlings in our protected forests. Restoring the health of these forests is a key to achieve sustainable development," said Kinyua.

The new agreement was announced during the launch of Safaricom's eighth sustainability report that called for greater involvement of businesses to drive equitable and green growth in Kenya.

Kinyua said the government is keen to partner with the private sector to

expand forest cover from the current 7.2 percent to a minimum of 10 percent by 2022.

"We have engaged a number of corporate organizations to help achieve the 10 percent forest cover. Recently, some commercial banks agreed to be part of this program to reclaim our forests," said Kinyua.

He said the government is providing space inside protected forests to enable businesses establish tree seedlings and partner with community based groups to promote reforestation.

Stephen Chege, head of corporate affairs at Safaricom, said the company will engage with Kenya Forest Service in a structured manner to tackle depletion of the vital ecosystem that is to blame for disrupting rural livelihoods. "As a company, we have committed ourselves to support the government expand the forest cover in line with our sustainable business principles," said Chege.

He said that Safaricom has rallied behind environmental stewardship in the light of climate change that has negatively impacted on businesses and community livelihoods.



Mbeya Regional Police Commander Ulrich Matei pictured in Mbeya city yesterday showing journalists elephant tusks he said police intercepted in Chunya District recently, adding that four people were arrested in connection with the incident. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Mpina dissolves dairy board over 'underperformance'

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management, adding that the production and processing of dairy products was still low largely owing to lack of morale and seriousness by those supposed to oversee the sub-sector.

He said Kenya and Uganda produce 5.6 billion and 2.7 billion litres of milk annually, respectively, while Tanzania has more livestock and grazing land than its two neighbours but trails both with just 2.2 billion litres.

The minister also noted that, despite producing 2.7 billion litres of milk, Tanzania processed only 70 million litres - while Kenya preserved 803 million litres for processing.

Apart from processing issues, consumption of milk in Tanzania is low chiefly because of what authorities attribute to lack of public awareness on the health benefits of drinking milk.

Tanzanians, which has an estimated 32.5 million head of cattle, ranks third in the region in milk consumption - the

amount put at 47 litres per person a year.

The country has 18.8 million goats and some 5.3 million sheep alongside 1.9 million pigs, 38.2 million 'indigenous' chickens and 36.6 million 'improved' chickens. Its livestock sector employs about 50 half the population, which is equivalent to 4.6 million households with incomes mainly depending on livestock.

In March this year, the government launched the Tanzania Livestock

Master Plan as part of a strategy to address the daunting challenges facing the dairy sectors and help the country achieve the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025.

One of the vision's goals is that, by year 2025, there should be a livestock sector able to run commercially through the sustainable use of improved and more productive livestock to ensure food security, improved incomes for households and the nation while conserving the environment.



Selemani Jafu, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government), pictured in Dodoma city yesterday opening a meeting for teachers organised by NMB Bank Pic. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Buy coffee processing plants, minister orders co-op unions

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga yesterday directed cooperative unions to purchase modern coffee processing plants that will produce quality products to serve for both local and international markets.

Hasunga made the directives here when speaking during the official launch of coffee auctions in Mbeya, Songwe regions. He wanted all councils in the two regions to invest in the production of quality seedlings as well as training extension officers to improve the produce.

The minister said that in order to protect the quality of the coffee to win national and foreign markets, the use of modern machinery to process coffee was inevitable.

According to him, currently, the country has only 481 coffee processing plants, which is relatively low compared to the amount of coffee produced.

"So I urge all stakeholders to recognize the importance of purchasing these machines for the country to produce a well refined and quality coffee and win the international market," Hasunga said.

He said that in efforts to ensure that Tanzania produces quality coffee, the government has been working closely with various stakeholders to grow quality seedlings, loans to farmers groups and

regular trainings.

"All these measures have enabled the coffee production to raise from 43,625 tonnes of clean coffee in 2017/2018 season to 68,147 tonnes in the 2018/2019 season," he added.

The minister however pointed out that small scale farmers are yet to be reached with proper education and tools thus leading to production of low-quality coffee.

He said that the government is determined to transform the sector to enable it contribute more in the country's economy by fighting poverty and unemployment.

"We will continue improving business environment of the produce, facilitate the production of quality seedlings as well as capacitate farmers with prerequisite skills, knowledge and tools to improve farming," he added.

The commencement of zonal coffee auctions is the implementation of the government's directives to the crop's board to make sure that it supervise the start of the auctions in the fiscal year 2019/20 in four zones.

They are Mbeya/Songwe Zone; Ruvuma/ Njombe Zone; Lake Zone where the auctions are being held in Kagera and North Zone which include Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions.

NIDA improves national identity card registration, issuance

By Guardian Reporter

EFFORTS are being made by the National Identification Authority (NIDA) to ease the process of obtaining national identification cards and national identification numbers.

A statement issued by the authority said yesterday that this effort is being conducted to react appropriately to the urgent wish of citizens to obtain

identification numbers and cards.

Expressing its recognition of the importance that the public attaches to national identification so as to obtain services in the government and in the private sector, the statement said that local governments will henceforth be facilitated to conduct the registration process.

The statement reiterated that services that can only obtain with a

national registration number includes a passport, opening a commercial entity, obtaining a tax identification number, land occupancy certificate, registering a simcard, getting a public service job, opening an account and obtaining loans from financial institutions and the Higher Education Student Loans Board (HESLB).

"Therefore the need to use the national identification card to

obtain these essential economic and social services has caused local residents and resident visitors to show up at NIDA offices in large numbers to be registered and be recognized so as to obtain national identification papers.

"For people to show up in large numbers for registration at NIDA offices to obtain identification numbers or cards is a patriotic act and confirms

that they have grasped the importance and use of national identity numbers and national identity cards," the statement noted, vowing that NIDA has primed itself to render the services so as to obtain identity papers and furnish them in concerned institutions when the need arises.

"This is vital to enhancing productivity in the economy as a whole and in personal economic endeavors,"

it said, outlining solutions proposed to stem the flow of large numbers of people to NIDA offices to seek identification papers.

Issuing of national identification numbers to urban and rural local government authorities so that people don't have to take the trouble to displace themselves over large distances to seek registration in NIDA offices at district level.

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY IN TRADE & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EAST, HORN & CENTRAL AFRICA



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

TMEA, with an annual expenditure of around US\$100 million, is now the leading aid-for-trade facility in the world. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi with vibrant and successful operations in EAC-Arusha, Burundi, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda. The first phase of TMEA delivered exceptional results which directly contributed to substantial gains in East Africa's trade and regional integration environment in terms of reduced transit times, improved border efficiency, and reduced barriers to trade.

We are now in the second phase and we aim to deliver even more large-scale impact to maximise the potential benefits of aid-for-trade interventions which lead to sustainable and inclusive prosperity through job creation, poverty reduction and enhanced economic welfare.

We are looking for high calibre, results-oriented and experienced professional to join our team in the position below.

Director, Private Sector Advocacy

The Director, Private Sector Advocacy will be responsible for directing and monitoring TradeMark East Africa's (TMEA's) workstreams related to the Private Sector Advocacy portfolio at the regional and national levels in the countries in which TMEA operates, in line with TMEA project documents and the TMEA Theory of Change (TOC). The primary objective will be to enhance private sector organisations' (PSOs) capacity to proactively and positively influence decision-making, to accelerate dispute resolution, to sustain political buy-in, to increase commitment and to reduce overall programme risks in TMEA's project clusters.

The ideal candidate will possess an undergraduate degree with at least 12 years of relevant working experience OR a Master's degree with at least 10 years of relevant working experience (i.e. experience gained while working in private sector and civil society development, policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement preferably in regional integration, trade facilitation and business environment reform and related areas). In addition, s/he will have a minimum of five years' experience leading and managing programmes related to trade and regional integration/development co-operation in the countries in which TMEA operates (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda).

Application details

The detailed job profile for this post can be accessed on our website www.trademarkea.com.

This position is available on contract to 30 June 2023 with the possibility of renewal. Please apply online through <http://www.trademarkea.com/work-with-us/> by Friday, 20 September 2019, 5.00pm Kenyan time. Attach your cover letter and detailed CV, including details of your qualifications, experience, and present position. Your application should also include a working e-mail address, daytime telephone contacts, and names and contact details of three referees. Interviews will be conducted in November 2019.

Please note that we will only consider applications received on-line through the link provided above. Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted. We reserve the right to accept or reject any application. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Qualified women and persons living with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Diversity & Inclusion is our pulse!

TMEA is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to open and transparent recruitment processes. We are committed to a culture that supports, celebrates and respects the unique and authentic self of each of our employees and partners. We believe that our work is better accomplished, success achieved and mission realised when we fully embrace the value in our differences by establishing a workforce that reflect the communities we work with. We are therefore committed to diversity across race, cultures, ethnicity or national origins, religious and political beliefs, age, disability, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, marital status or educational background; so that all are free to be who they are, and freely express their views and beliefs. We do so knowing that diversity and inclusion have tangible benefits not only to our organisation, but also to the communities we work with.

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INNOVATION LAB FOR FOOD SECURITY POLICY

The Agricultural Sector Policy and Institutional Reform Strengthening (ASPIRES) project is part of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy funded through USAID. The project goal is to accelerate Tanzania's adoption of more effective policies and programs in order to drive broad-based agricultural sector growth, improve household food security and nutrition, and reduce poverty. The project is implemented by Michigan State University (MSU) through ASPIRES Tanzania. ASPIRES is registered as an NGO in Tanzania.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ASPIRES Tanzania would like to recruit candidates for the positions described below, subject to availability of funds.

1. DEPUTY CHIEF OF PARTY (DCOP)

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Coordinate with the Chief of Party in management of the technical components, providing programmatic leadership and overseeing the strategic planning of activities in support of the project goals and objectives, including the determination of project priorities and appropriate technical initiatives
- Oversee policy research and analytical studies
- Ensure results-oriented technical components and high-quality and timely deliverables and reports, focusing on synergistic coordination of all technical areas
- Advise national counterparts on technical issues and participate in relevant advisory and/or working groups with counterparts, partner institutions, the Agriculture Sector Lead Ministries (ASLMs) and all other local stakeholders
- Represent the project in public and professional circles through meetings, conferences, and presentations
- Develop and modify as necessary the technical work plans and budget
- Coordinate activities with other agencies and closely collaborate with key staff on implementing activities
- Ensure technical compliance with USAID rules and regulations
- Work closely with MSU home office to ensure effective, timely and coordinated project implementation
- Focus on achieving results in all areas on schedule and maintain positive relationships with GoT officials, partners, and implementing partners
- Perform other duties as assigned by the CoP

Education and Experience

- A graduate degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics, Business Administration or related field
- At least 10 years of relevant work experience in agriculture, agribusiness development, research and policy
- Experience in development projects and administrative functions in institutions
- Excellent research and analytical skills and demonstrated experience in policy issues
- Effective verbal and written communications skills and he/she/must be fluent in English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams
- Strong results orientation, demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, statistics software and spreadsheet software.
- Experience with donor-funded projects is desirable

2. FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Essential Duties & Responsibilities

- Provide support to CoP and Head of Operations in-country financial leadership of ASPIRES
- Monitor budgets and expenditures for project activities
- Ensure that adequate financial controls are in place to maintain proper accountability of expenditures
- Ensure that financial transactions are properly authorized, recorded, have adequate supporting documentation, are maintained and can be easily extracted for the purpose of preparing financial statements and audits
- Ensure that all procurement processes and expenditures of the project are in accordance with MSU and project guidelines
- Prepare and submit timely and accurate financial reports according to ASPIRES and donors' policies
- Arrange for travel, hotel reservations and logistical support for project staff
- Provide administrative and logistical support for organization of events, conferences, visits, etc.
- Participate in meetings and prepare routine correspondence, memoranda and reports
- Other administrative/financial assignments as requested by the Chief of Party

Education and Experience

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Business or equivalent is required
- A Certified Public Accountant (local or international) is desirable
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience in finance and administrative functions
- Excellent analytical skills and demonstrated experience in preparation of financial reports and working with budgets
- Effective verbal and written communications skills and he/she must be fluent in English
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate and work effectively with cross-cultural teams
- Strong results orientation, demonstrated ability to balance multiple projects with a high level of accuracy and the ability to prioritize tasks and work independently
- Excellent working knowledge of word processing, database, accounting packages and spreadsheet software
- Experience with donor-funded projects is desirable

APPLICATION SUBMISSION:
Applications should be submitted to: aspires Tanzania@yahoo.com and copy to serabora@gmail.com. The application should include: a) Your CV with 3 names and addresses of referees; An application letter with 1-page Annex of the Statement of Purpose; and Copies of your academic certificates. The application deadline is COB August 30th, 2019.

ASPIRES will only respond to short-listed candidates. Thus, if you do not hear from us you should be aware that your application was not successful.

Kenyans arrested in Tarime for engaging in voters registration

By Correspondent Ambrose Wantaigwa, Tarime

IMMIGRATION department in Tarime District has conducted an impromptu operation around the centers adjacent to the Tanzanian-Kenyan border and managed to nab two Kenyans who were unlawfully engaged in the ongoing voters registration exercise in the region.

The Tarime District Immigration Officer Shaaban Kinanda said in Tarime recently that the Duo were apprehended by officers on patrol at Kenyamanyori ward on Tuesday morning while trying to register as eligible voters at a station identified as Tagota.

The officer did not immediately release the names of the suspects on the basis that the department was collaborating with other security organs including the police to conduct a reliable identification process concerning the residency of the non-citizens.

"We are collaborating with other agencies to seek tangible information concerning detailed identities of the suspects including the motives of their activities and also questioning concerning their stay here before we proceed with legal steps," said Kinanda.

According to Kinanda, the department has already directed local leaders elsewhere to cooperate with registration officials stationed mainly at stations bordering the neighboring Kenya to see to it that only eligible citizens are taking part in the ongoing exercise.

"Local leaders are characterized by among

other things their closeness to the concerned community, therefore conversant with the daily activities and identity of wananchi at their respective areas of influence and thus, able to provide reliable information on criminals and their actions before they strike," said Kinanda.

Kinanda called on all wananchi who have mingled and also managed to conduct marriages with partners across the neighboring countries to strictly abide by the existing immigration laws to strictly direct their spouses to conclude residency regulations solely to evade unnecessary commotions with officers on patrol.

He further cited staff shortage as one of the challenges in the exercise, which caused unnecessary accumulation of services at the District main office and also officers to conduct operations in all registration stations at a time.

He also cited lack of transport as one of the challenges affecting the daily performance of the immigration department in the area, which is being triggered by the geographical location of the area.

He also cited countless unofficial routes as another predicament that allows unscrupulous people to smuggle goods and even illegal immigrants.

He however pledged to improve the department's daily performance to keep off illegal immigrants, with particular attention to those who are sneaking into the ongoing voter registration exercise in the district.



National Assembly Speaker Job Ndugai (L) briefs journalists in Dodoma yesterday on delegations expected to attend the 50th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Africa Regional 2019 Conference scheduled to be held in Zanzibar from August 30 to September 5. Photo courtesy of National Assembly

Police in Mbeya arrest four over illegal ivory possession

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region have arrested four people over illegal possession of 13 pieces of elephant tusks.

Addressing journalists here, Mbeya Regional Police Commander, Ulrich Matei said that the suspected poachers were arrested in different locations.

He said that in the first incident, police arrested two suspects Zungu Paulo (45) and Baraka Lazaro (40) all residents of Lupa village in Chunya District, who were illegally found with three pieces of elephant tusks, whose worth was yet to be established.

Matei said the suspects were arrested on August 19, this year at around 2pm in Lupa village going around looking

for customers on the street with the task in the bag.

Commander Matei mentioned the other suspects were Igelele Daniel (42) and Nyirenda John 'Daimon' (32) residents of Isangawana Village who were found with 10 pieces of elephant tusk with no permission.

He said the suspects were arrested by the Police Force on August 19, at 2:15

pm at a Guesthouse at Itewe ward in Chunya district.

"The exact value of the arrested elephant tusk is not yet established, we have noted that both suspects are illegal hunters, legal procedure are underway to bring them to court for further action," said RPC Matei.

The RPC said, the police is continuing with the search in various areas of the

region to fight various crime incidents in order to ensure the region is safe.

In another incident, the regional police chief said two people have died in head-on collision which occurred on Tuesday at around 3pm at ZZK area near Mbalizi Township on the outskirts of Mbeya City.

He named the one who died as MT.90399 CPL Fred Grayson of

Tanzania People Defense Force (TPDF).

Matei said that accident involved a car with registration number T. 219 CSU, which was coming from Songwe International Airport to Mbeya City and the collided with the truck with registration numbers T.838 APZ.

The RPC said preliminary investigation show that speeding as a source of the accident.



CLARIFICATION ON THE USAGE OF PERIODIC STATEMENTS ON ISSUES REGARDING TO VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) DURING PURCHASES OF FINANCIAL SERVICES.

Dar es Salaam, 23rd August, 2019

Following various inquiries and feedback from taxpayers regarding returns and claims of VAT in respect of bank charges on transactions, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) would like to clarify as follows:-

As per amendment made in Regulation 35(A)(1) of Value Added Tax Act of 2018 which stipulates that supplier of financial services shall issue a periodic statements that shall be deemed as tax invoices and shall have the following particulars; Name, Address, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), and VAT registration Number of service provider and the customer, date of the periodic statement, description of transaction on the statement, total consideration excluding value added tax, applicable VAT and total VAT Charged and total price payable by the recipient of services.

Under this notice all banks are required to issue monthly periodic statements to their customers registered for VAT purposes bearing the above mentioned particulars within ten days after the end of the month to which a tax period relates to enable them to claim VAT charged by bank on financial transactions. Non VAT registered taxpayers persons may be issued with normal statements which may not necessarily contain above mentioned particulars.

Furthermore, together with the conditions stipulated under section 86 of VAT Act, the periodic statements issued by banks are neither required to bear the words 'Tax Invoice' in the header nor sequential numbering as per Regulation 35(A) (3) (a) and (b). Thus, the issued periodic statements are legally acceptable as EFD receipts, and allowed to be used as evidence during submission of VAT monthly returns and claims.

For more information please visit TRA website www.tra.go.tz or call Customer Service Centre "Toll free" 0800 750 075 or 0800 780 078. WhatsApp 0744233333, Email: huduma@tra.go.tz

"Together We Build Our Nation"

Issued by:
The Department for Taxpayer Services and Education
TRA- HEADQUATERS



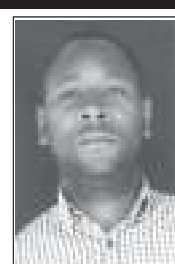
Mbulu district commissioner Chelestino Mofuga opens a tap to inaugurate a water project at Endamilay in Manyara Region yesterday. It is funded by Norwegian Church Aid and coordinated by Haydom 4CCP Centre. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Getrude Mbago

THE Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) is next week expected to hold a peace and family festival in Dar es Salaam as part of complementing government's efforts on peace and reconciliation for the country's development.

The FFWPU is a global faith-based organisation,

KUPOTEA KWA PASPORT



PRISCUS ANDREA NGOWI
Mtajwa hapo juu amepotelewa na passport yenye no. TAE 077905 iliyotolewa na ofisi ya uhamijaji mwaka 2019.

Kwa yeyote atakayeiona atoe taarifa kituo chochote cha polisi
RB NO MKR/RB/3735/19

Federation to host peace and family festival in Dar next week

a network of families and family-related organisations from different religions with the goal of promoting ideal families as envisaged by God.

Addressing reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the federation's national leader Stylos Simbamwene said that the festival will be held at the National Stadium and will bring together over 40, 000 youth and married couples to educate and learn more on how to seek and maintain peace and make sure that it prevails from the family level.

"The main goal is for people to live in harmony. What is important is that what unites us is bigger than what separates us. We are supposed to value what unites us. We will be missing opportunities if we there

no peace be it in family or nation level," he said.

He said that during the festival all people including those preparing to enter into marriages will learn and reap knowledge on how to have healthier relationships and families for their development.

He noted; "Many youth fall into bad relationships because they have little knowledge or self-awareness and poor relationship skills. The lives and future of our youth can be improved by teaching good decision-making, the nature of healthy relationships, how to avoid destructive relationships and make smart choices about sex, and preparation for lasting loving marriages."

According to Simbamwene, much of the success and fulfillment in life

depends on creating healthy relationships, but yet this is one of the most challenging task as most of marriages nowadays are being surrounded by conflicts and misunderstanding.

He noted that studies have shown that couples that learn realistic expectations, gender differences, problem-solving and communication skills have happier and longer lasting relationships.

He urged Tanzanians to continue maintaining peace, tolerance, stability and national unity to achieve the country's development goals.

"We need peace and stability for our development. Everyone has a role to make sure that we remain united starting from our families to the national level," he added.



Mwaliimu Commercial Bank Plc board of directors chairman Herman Kessy addresses the bank Third Annual General Meeting held in Mtwara municipality yesterday. He is with the bank's CEO, Richard Makungwa (L) and board member Said Kambi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Mtwara

MWALIMU Commercial Bank (MCB) yesterday announced its plan to automate and digitalise its services to ensure that all customers do transactions everywhere they are in the country.

Bank's chief executive officer (CEO), Richard Makungwa revealed this yesterday when speaking at the third bank's shareholders meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) held here.

A total of 400 shareholders met to receive and discuss the 2018 bank's performance report. Shareholders are also expected to come up with a number of recommendations for the bank's future growth.

He also said that the bank will soon join into VISA payment network to allow customers do transactions everywhere without any problem.

"As bank we're working hard to ensure that our shareholders and customers

MCB digitalises services to lure more customers

get better services, taking into account that teachers are our main customers, who are everywhere in the country. That's why we're coming up with innovative ideas to ensure we easily reach our clients," he said.

Makungwa also assured the shareholders that the bank was in the right track and its capital is stable and meets the requirements set by Bank of Tanzania (BoT), which play a regulatory role and supervision of financial institutions in the country.

Opening the meeting, bank's Board of Directors chairman, Herman Kessy said that MCB got insurance agency license, hence calling major shareholders--- Tanzania Teachers' Union (TTU), Public Service Pension Funds (PSPF) and National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) to use the ser-

vice for the benefit of the bank and all shareholders.

Kessy also cited the establishment of branches at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Mwanza and Mbeya regions as among the achievements recorded by the bank last year.

Earlier, shareholders were trained on digital banking services, which was being facilitated by the digital banking service manager, John Mhina.

The seminar was meant to inform the shareholders on the importance of financial disciplines and saving culture.

Participants were also trained on stock exchange, capital markets and treasury

bonds. The bank is wholly-owned and promoted by an umbrella trade union of teachers in Tanzania. Tanzania Teacher's Union (TTU) is a trade union established under the Employment and Labour Relations Act 2004.

There are over 200 000 members across all regions in the country. MCB meets an important need to provide affordable and accessible banking products and services to teachers in Tanzania. MCB offers a diverse range of products and services geared to empower teachers and other civil servants to improve their living conditions and transform their lives.

Comprehensive irrigation guidelines to boost productivity in central zone

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TWENTY TWO district councils in central part of the country have been given comprehensive guideline on irrigation activities, which will help to boost irrigation in the area.

The guideline has been prepared under the implementation of the Capacity Development for the Promotion of Irrigation Schemes Project (TANCAIC II), which is being executed in 16 councils, which are being supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Eng Amy Mchelle from the National Irrigation Commission (NIRC) revealed this when speaking during the guideline handing over ceremony here recently.

He said that the move provide a room for extension, irrigation and marketing officers as

well as council directors to use the document to unveil irrigation projects in their respective areas.

He said TANCAID is being implemented in 61 councils across the country, though 36 councils have been given more attention and they are the one which have been given the guideline.

Eng Mchelle said in Dodoma Irrigation Zone involving three regions of Dodoma, Singida and Manyara and 22 councils.

"Those councils will be given funds to manage and refurbish irrigation scheme infrastructures in their areas," he said.

Acting agriculture, irrigation and cooperative officer in Simanjiro District, Fabiani Malagila said that the guideline will help to reinforce irrigation sector as well as hatching new irrigation projects in the district.

According to him, TANCAID II project involved

three schemes--Lemkuna, Ngage and Kambi ya Choka, which are performing well as doubling food crop production per hectare.

Malagila also revealed that the move has also increased Simanjiro District Council's revenue collection to 200m/- per year.

"I'm optimistic that having this guideline will top us as performing better district council in the agricultural sector," he said.

His counterpart from Manyoni District Council Fadhilli Chimsala said that his council got irrigation scheme as a pilot project, which is being financed by TANCAID II. "Through this project, water conflicts have gone down and farming activities has improved in the district," he said, adding that council revenue collection has increased from 1.5m/- to 14m/- per year, which is a big achievement.

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UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY

Tender No. AE/003/2019-20/HQ/W/05

For

CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROAD TO TMA WEATHER RADAR SITE AT MBAE HILL TO GRAVEL STANDARD IN MTWARA MIKINDANI MUNICIPAL (2.02KM)

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Date: 23st August 2019

- This Invitation for Tenders follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project which appeared in the PPRA Journal and portal.
- The Government of Tanzania has set aside funds for the operation of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for the Construction of Access Road to TMA Radar Station at Mbae Hill to Gravel Standard in Mtwara Mikindani Municipal (2.02km).
- The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) now invites sealed tenders from eligible National Civil Engineering contractors registered with the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) in Class V and above for carrying out the contract for the Construction of Access Road to TMA Radar Site at Mbae Hill to Gravel Standard in Mtwara Mikindani Municipal (2.02km).
- Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procurement procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 and are open to national Tenderers only as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the Tender Data Sheet.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of the Secretary of the Tender Board, Tanzania Meteorological Authority, Head Office, Ubungo Plaza Building, Room No. 310, 3rd Floor from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm on Mondays to Fridays inclusive except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English Language and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tshs. 100,000.00 (Tanzanian shillings One Hundred Thousand only). Payment should be made through GePG portal after obtaining electronic invoice/bill from the Director General Tanzania Meteorological Authority.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Securing Declaration in the format provided in the Tendering Documents.
- All Tenders in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address: Director General Tanzania Meteorological Authority, P.O. Box 3056, Dar es Salaam located at Ubungo Plaza, 3rd Floor, Room No. 310, at or before 12.30 hour's local time on Friday 6th September 2019. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Tanzania Meteorological Authority Conference Room 3rd floor, Ubungo Plaza.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

DIRECTOR GENERAL
TANZANIA METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY
P. O. BOX 3056, DAR ES SALAAM

MAMLAKA YA DAWA NA VIFAA TIBA

TAARIFA KWA UMMA 21 Agosti, 2019

UWEPWA KWENYE SOKO WA DAWA BANDIA YA KAPSULI YENYE JINA 'COLD CAP'

- Mamlaka ya Dawa na Vifaa Tiba (TMDA) ni Wakala wa Serikali chini ya Wizara ya Afya, Maendeleo ya Jamii, Jinsia, Wazee na Watoto yenye jukumu la kudhibiti ubora, usalama na ufanisi wa dawa, vifaa tiba na vitendanishi.
- TMDA inapenda kuutangazia umma kwamba kupitia mifumo yake ya ukaguzi na ufuatiliaji wa bidhaa katika soko imebaini uwepo wa dawa bandia ya kapsuli yenye jina Cold cap inayoonesha kwenye lebo yake kuwa inatengenezwa nchini India.
- Dawa hii bandia inatofautiana kwa kiasi kikubwa na dawa halisi aina ya Coldcap inayotengenezwa na kiwanda cha Regal Pharmaceuticals Ltd kilichopo Nairobi nchini Kenya, na ambayo imesajiliwa hapa nchini.
- Maelezo ya namna ya kutambua dawa bandia hii aina ya Cold cap ni kama inavyoelezwa katika Jedwali hapo chini.

| Na. Maelezo ya dawa bandia aina ya Cold cap | Dawa halisi ya Coldcap iliyosajiliwa |
|--|--|
| <p>4.1 Muonekano wa kifungashio (box).</p> <p>i. Muonekano wa rangi ya bluu ilipopauka ambayo imezungukwa na mstari wa rangi nyeupe iliyoifanganisha rangi ya zambarau.</p> <p>ii. Kuna mchoro wa kapsuli ambayo upande mmoja wa capsule hiyo una rangi nyekundu na upande mwingine una madoa doa mekundu. Kapsuli hiyo haina herufi wala maandishi yoyote.</p> <p>iii. Neno 'Cold cap' halijaunganika, ni maneno mawili.</p> <p>iv. Imeanikwa nchi tu ilipotengenezwa, haina jina la mtengenezaji.</p> | <p>i. Muonekano wake ni wa rangi ya pinki iliyopauka ambayo imezungukwa na rangi ya bluu.</p> <p>ii. Kuna mchoro wa kapsuli ya rangi ya pinki ambayo juu yake ina herufi R iliyondani ya duara na chini ya herufi hiyo kuna maneno yaliyoandikwa kwa rangi nyekundu COLDCAP ORIGINAL.</p> <p>iii. Neno 'Coldcap' limeunganika kama neno moja.</p> <p>iv. Imetengenezwa na kiwanda cha Regal Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Nairobi</p> |
| <p>4.2 Muonekano wa kapsuli:-</p> <p>i. Upande mmoja wa kapsuli una rangi ya pinki na upande mwingine hauna rangi.</p> <p>ii. Kapsuli inaonesha dawa iliyo ndani ambayo ni chembechembe za duara za rangi ya njano, nyeupe na pinki.</p> | <p>i. Kapsuli yote ina rangi ya pinki.</p> <p>ii. Kapsuli haioneshi dawa iliyo ndani. Hata hivyo dawa ndani ya kapsuli ni unga mweupe.</p> |

- Kwa taarifa hii wananchi wote ambao wamenunua dawa hizi kutoka kwenye maduka ya dawa wanashauriwa warudishe waliponunua.
- Wauzaji wa jumla wote ambao wana dawa aina ya Cold cap yenye muonekano wa Cold cap bandia kama iliyofanuliwa hapo juu kwenye stoo au maghala yao wanaelekezwa kuacha kuzisambaza na wawasiliane na TMDA ili kupewa utaratibu wa wapi pa kuzipeleka.
- TMDA inatoa rai kwa wananchi wote kuendelea kutoa taarifa ikiwa watabaini kampuni, kikundi, mitandao au mtu yeyote anayejihusisha na utengenezaji, usambazaji au uuzaji wa dawa bandia ili hatua stahiki ziweze kuchukuliwa kwa mujibu wa sheria.

Imetolewa na:
Kaimu Mkurugenzi Mkuu,
S.L.P 1253, Dodoma Au
S.L.P 77150, Dar es Salaam
Simu: +255 22 2452108/2450512/2450751
Nukushi: +255 22 2450793
Simu bila Malipo: 0800110084

Solar power firm changing 500,000 Tanzanian lives

By Guardian Correspondent

Mobisol Tanzania has increased its customers' base to over 100,000 active customers serving over 500,000 Tanzanians nationally.

Mobisol, Coast Region Sales Manager, Wesley Muyenze revealed this on Tuesday while speaking to reporters on the company's successes and business strategies.

He said that is due to the fact that majority of Tanzanians are now aware of the use of solar-power as an alternative source of energy which has helped the company.

He said solar-power electricity is a viable source of renewable energy in many residences and many countries have already discovered the reality and have turned away from the common sources of electricity such as coal as an alternative source of energy.

Muyenze said he is grateful to Tanzanians, some of whom have disconnected the electricity generated from conventional sources and used the solar-power energy sold by his company Mobisol.

Mobisol Tanzania has installed 10,710 KW plant which is equivalent to 10.71 MW. In essence this is greater than the maximum power capacity produced at Nyumba ya Mungu hydro power (8MW) in Mwanza Kilimanjaro or even Somanga thermal power station whose production capacity 7.5MW.

"With more than 100,000 solar home systems installed since its establishment in Tanzania, Mobisol has managed to reach more than 500,000 peo-

ple (in Tanzania) and contributes to a reduction of more than 30,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually."

"However due to the growing customer base in our company, we have decided to offer a gift where the customer who buys the W 40 machine gets the battery and panels completely free of charge, so I welcome Tanzanians and our customers to come to our stores so that they can buy our products and get these offers," he said.

He noted that his company recognizes that serving over 500,000 customers is not a simple job and added that the situation gains momentum due to rapidly growing public awareness over solar-power energy as a reliable alternative source of energy.

However, he said that the nation could not achieve its industrialisation drive dreams without reliable electricity in many parts of the country so that as a company they would make sure they will reach many people especially in the rural areas.

For her part a customer of the electric plants sold by the company from Tarime, Sophia Simon said the company's machinery is strong and haven't turned off even during rainfall season.

"With more than 100,000 solar home systems installed since its establishment in Tanzania, Mobisol has managed to reach more than 500,000 people (in Tanzania) and contributes to a reduction of more than 30,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions annually"



Tanzania Agriculture Support Organisation (TASO) chairman Lieutenant (retired) Shabani Muyombo (L) opens a meeting of the association's central committee in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

BANKOK

A KENYAN man has been arrested at the international airport in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, trying to smuggle into the country 68 capsules of cocaine.

Glenn Chibasellow Ooko had swallowed the capsules that were later found to contain a total of 1.2kg of cocaine, the Thai drug authorities said on Wednesday.

Airport security had an X-ray showing the objects in the man's stomach and alerted Thailand's Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB).

Kenyan arrested in Thailand over cocaine

A Nigerian man, 40-year-old Joseph Ukpa Osita, who was also arrested, had allegedly hired the Kenyan to bring in drugs to Thailand and other countries in the region.

"This is part of a drug network in Thailand," the AFP quotes an ONCB statement as saying.

Ooko, 43, had flown into Bangkok on Monday from Ethiopia, media reported.

Niyom Termsrisuk of the ONCB said,

the arrests were part of a crackdown on drug trafficking and the authorities had arrested 43 suspects since last October.

Thirty-six were trying to smuggle drugs out and seven to smuggle drugs in. They intercepted 21,685 grams of crystal meth ("ice"), 24,100 grams of heroin, 30,478 ecstasy pills, 25,190 grams of cocaine and 32,214 grams of ketamine at the various international airports.

Niyom warned Thais travelling

abroad, especially to Japan, to spurn strangers asking them to carry anything on their behalf. They could be duped into smuggling narcotics. He said there were cases of Thai travellers being arrested for attempting to smuggle drugs into Japan, most often women lured by the promise of free passage if they carried drugs in their luggage. Anyone with information about possible trafficking activity can call the 24-hour ONCB hotline at 1386.



THE CHOICE IS YOURS... A hat vendor hunts for customers along an Oysterbay section of Dar es Salaam's Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road yesterday. He gave the going price as anything between 5,000/- and 15,000/-, largely depending on quality and one's competence in bargaining. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 500 hair dressing entrepreneurs in Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni District can now access soft loans through their mobile phones, thanks to Kopafasta Company for capacitating the group with latest skills and knowledge to improve their business.

Kopafasta is a Tanzanian firm which stands as an economic savior of low-income Tanzanians by providing monthly loans without the need of collateral.

Speaking during the training in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday, the Kinondoni District administrative secretary (DAS) Judith Elias said that the move shows how the company is keen in supporting the government's efforts to address poverty among people but also improve financial inclusion.

She urged the hairdressers to utilise the opportunity by requesting enough loans, have discipline in spending so as to improve their businesses.

"Without investing on proper use of the funds

Entrepreneurs in Dar get shot in the arm to improve businesses

that the beneficiaries receive, no improvement will be observed advising the recipients to refrain from lavish spending and instead focus on improving their businesses."

The company's manager Patrick Kang'ombe said the aim is to enable Tanzanians with low income access loans at a faster rate without the need of putting up an asset beforehand.

"Most of the hairdressers do not have decent offices to work, so giving them soft loans would be a big help to enable them improve their working environment and attract more customers," he said.

He said that the Kopafasta Company was launched in April this year with a mission of bringing the difference in the Micro-loaning industry by reaching the mass that is within the informal sector with no collateral.

"Starting with the artisans and craftsmen, Kopafasta now assists over 10,000 individual artists across the country using QR Technology. In partnership with the Tanzania Arts and Crafts Identification Project (TACIP), kopafasta provides loans to all the artisans, craftsmen and other small-scale entrepreneurs," Kang'ombe noted.

Speaking, some of the entrepreneurs commended the firm for recognizing the group and moving forward to assist it by providing capital.

"The training has transformed our thinking capacity, we now see far away in terms of improving our businesses. We can now access loans without any tough process to follow. We have also been taught to avoid lavish spending of the funds," said Hilda Adam, one of the beneficiaries.

Zanzibar due to market itself as a single tourist destination

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

LOOKING to position itself as a tourist destination in East Africa, Zanzibar is now looking to create a tourist brand that would make the island attract more tourists to its Indian Ocean beaches and cultural and historical sites.

Launched last month, the new tourist marketing brand is aimed to expose Zanzibar as a single tourist destination on the Indian Ocean coast, banking on its tourist attractions across the island.

Zanzibar's key tourists markets are Europe, North America, Southeast Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Zanzibar minister for Information, Tourism and Heritage, Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, said recently that the "Destination Marketing Brand" was launched in July of this year to market the island's tourism as a key tourist destination in Africa.

He said that the Destination Marketing Brand targets to involve various tourist companies operating in Zanzibar, aimed at bringing them together to market Zanzibar tourism under an umbrella of destination Zanzibar, focusing on the island's tourist attractions and services provided to the tourists.

"We are looking to launch a committee on Destination Marketing that will be an umbrella body to market our tourist products under a single roof as to pull more tourists to visit Zanzibar," Kombo said.

He said that tourist companies on the island have been marketing their own services, mostly the international hotels which have been selling themselves more than products available in the island.

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He said that Destination Marketing will mostly target international tourist markets across the world to attract more visitors to the island with marketing initiatives including the promotion of cultural festivals.

Competing with other Indian Ocean islands such as Seychelles, Reunion, Mauritius, and Zanzibar has at least 6,200 beds in 6

classes of accommodation.

Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohammed Shein had earlier said that his government was looking to boost security in key areas where foreign visitors prefer visiting.

He said that the number of tourist stays had increased from 6 to 8 days during the past 5 years, adding that conservation of key historical sites of the island's Stone Town and the Indian Ocean beaches were key priorities of his government.

Tourism accounts for 27 percent of Zanzibar's GDP and 80 percent of its foreign revenue gains.

Zanzibar launched last year annual tourism shows targeting to promote its tourism and the rest of Africa sharing the Indian Ocean waters. The Zanzibar Tourism Show will be taking place in September this year as the island targets to attract 650,000 visitors next year.

Under the Strategic Tourism Plan from 2015 to 2020, Zanzibar is looking to increase average length of stay from 8 days to 10 days, also tourist daily spending of \$307 to \$570 during the entire 10 days of visit to the island.

The Plan which is now under the implementation by both the Zanzibar government and private tourist stakeholders is looking to attract more tourists to extend their stay from 7 days to 10 days, also spending more money on the island.

The Plan also targets to achieve its objectives to pull more tourists to stay longer through marketing campaigns across the world that would attract visitors to visit new tourist attractive areas on the island which had once not been marketed at full force.

Zanzibar is also looking to compete with other East African destinations including Kenya by marketing itself as a Conference Tourism Destination, attracting foreign and international hotel investors and better air-line connectivity with other East African countries.

Major Gulf carriers like Emirates, Flydubai, Qatar Airways, Oman Air, and Etihad, all of which fly frequently to Africa, are catalysts for development of beach tourism on the Indian Ocean coast.

With a population of about one million people, Zanzibar's economy depends mostly on Indian Ocean resources and tourism and international trade.

The island has been a target for high-class tourists, competing closely with the Vanilla Islands made up of Seychelles, Mauritius, and the Maldives.

Cruise ship tourism is another source of tourist income to Zanzibar due to the island's geographical position with its proximity in the Indian Ocean island ports of Durban (South Africa), Beira (Mozambique), and Mombasa on the Kenyan coast.



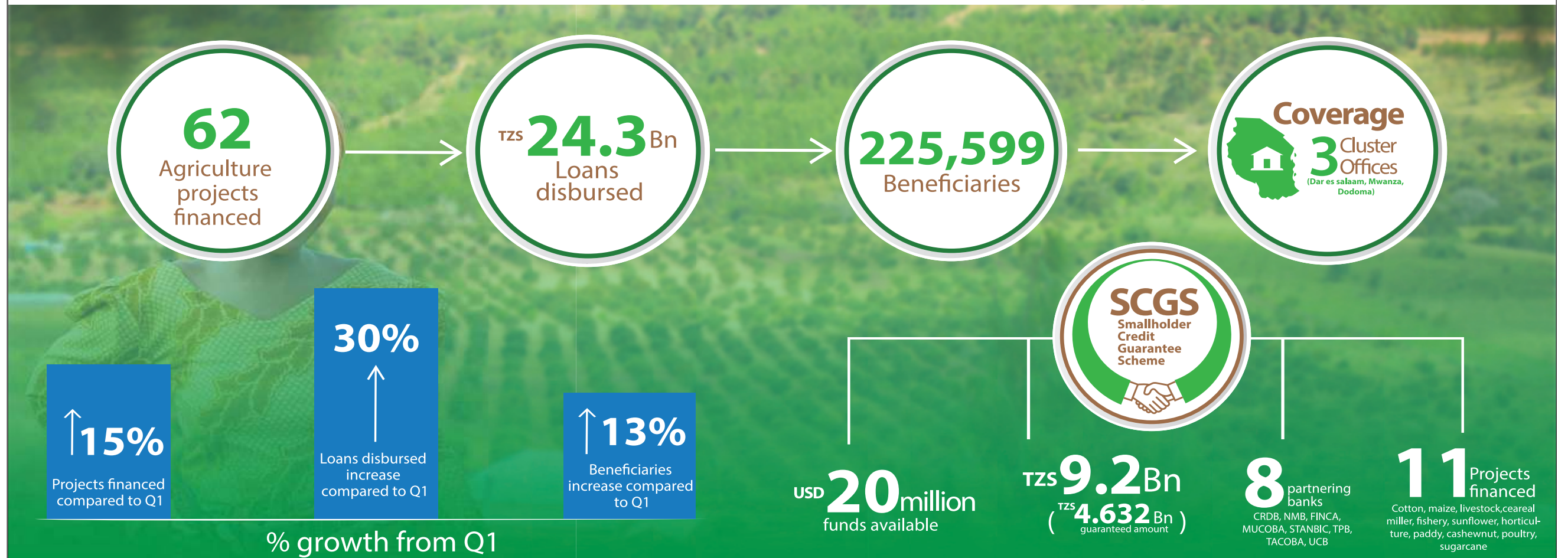
TANZANIAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK(T) LTD

Publication of Financial Statements for Second Quarter Ended 30th June, 2019

Issued pursuant to regulations 7 and 8 of the Banking and Financial institutions (Disclosures) Regulations, 2014

"The Farmers' Bank"

HIGHLIGHT OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR Q2



CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019

| DETAILS | Current Quarter 30-06-2019 | Previous Quarter 31-03-2019 |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Cash | | |
| 2 Balance with Bank of Tanzania | 1,659 | 3,288 |
| 3 Investment in government securities | 2,949 | 3,891 |
| 4 Balance with other banks and financial institutions | 23,238 | 11,723 |
| 5 Cheques and items for clearing | | |
| 6 Interbranch float items | | |
| 7 Bills Negotiated | | |
| 8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances | | |
| 9 Interbank loans receivables | 78,450 | 106,120 |
| 10 Investments in other securities | | |
| 11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (Net of Allowance for Probable Losses) | 688,854 | 619,434 |
| 12 Other Assets | 1,480 | 1,735 |
| 13 Equity Investments | - | - |
| 14 Underwriting accounts | - | - |
| 15 Property, Plant and Equipment | 3,860 | 3,888 |
| 16 TOTAL ASSETS | 800,491 | 750,080 |
| B. LIABILITIES | | |
| 17 Deposits from other banks and financial institution | | |
| 18 Customer deposits | | |
| 19 Cash letters of credit | | |
| 20 Special deposits | 626,291 | 576,028 |
| 21 Payment orders / transfers payable | | |
| 22 Bankers' cheques and draft issued | | |
| 23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable | - | - |
| 24 Acceptances outstanding | | |
| 25 Interbranch float items | | |
| 26 Unearned income and other deferred charges | | |
| 27 Other Liabilities | 2,158 | 2,178 |
| 28 Borrowings | 103,979 | 104,300 |
| 29 TOTAL LIABILITIES | 732,428 | 682,506 |
| 30 NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES) (16 minus 29) | 68,063 | 67,574 |
| C. CAPITAL AND RESERVES | | |
| 31 Paid up share capital | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| 32 Share Premium | - | - |
| 33 Retained earnings | 5,277 | 5,277 |
| 34 Profit / (loss) account | 1,377 | 684 |
| 35 Other capital accounts | 1,409 | 1,613 |
| 36 Minority interest | - | - |
| 37 TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS | 68,063 | 67,574 |
| 38 Contingent liabilities | - | - |
| 39 Non Performing Loans & Advances | 2018 | 1,934 |
| 40 Allowances for Probable Losses | 2,879 | 2,529 |
| 41 Other Non Performing Assets | - | - |
| D. SELECTED FINANCIAL CONDITION INDICATORS | | |
| (i) Shareholders funds to total assets | 8.50% | 9.00% |
| (ii) Non performing loans to total gross loans | 2.31% | 3.00% |
| (iii) Gross loans and advances to total deposits | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| (iv) Loans and Advances to total assets | 86.05% | 83.00% |
| (v) Earning assets to total assets | 46.35% | 51.00% |
| (vi) Deposit growth | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| (vii) Assets growth | 6.72% | 88.00% |

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY AS AT 30TH JUNE 2019

| | Share Capital | Share Premium | Retained Earning | Regulatory Reserve | Others | Total |
|--|---------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Balance as at the beginning of the year | 60,000 | - | 5,277 | - | 1,818 | 67,094 |
| Profit for the Quarter | | | 1,377 | | | 1,377 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | | | | | |
| Transactions with the Owners | | | | | | |
| Dividend Paid | | | | | | |
| Regulatory Reserve | | | | | | |
| General Provision Reserve | | | | | 409 | 409 |
| Others | | | | | | |
| Balance as at the End of the Current Period | 60,000 | - | 6,654 | - | 1,409 | 68,063 |
| Previous Year 31 December 2018 | | | | | | |
| Balance as at the beginning of the year | 60,000 | - | 4,922 | - | 2,615 | 67,537 |
| Profit for the year | | | 1,930 | | | 1,930 |
| Other Comprehensive Income | | | | | | |
| Transactions with the Owners | | | | | | |
| Dividend Paid | | | | | | |
| Regulatory Reserve | | | | | | |
| General Provision Reserve | | | | | 798 | 2,374 |
| Others | | | 1,576 | | | 1,576 |
| Balance as at the End of the Previous Period | 60,000 | - | 5,277 | - | 1,818 | 67,094 |

MINIMUM DISCLOSURE OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Lending rates | 8%- 15% |
| Appraisal fees | 1% |
| Guarantee fees | 1% |

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Kigoma

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

| | Current Quarter 30.06.2019 | Comparative Quarter (Previous Year) 30.06.2018 | Current Year Cumulative 30.06.2019 | Comparative Year Cumulative (Previous Year) 30.06.2018 |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 1. Interest Income | 4,084 | 3,570 | 7,368 | 7,270 |
| 2. Interest Expense | (492) | (473) | (823) | (793) |
| 3. Net Interest Income (1 minus 2) | 3,592 | 3,097 | 6,544 | 6,477 |
| 4. Bad Debts Written Off | - | - | - | - |
| 5. Impairment losses on loans and advances | 202 | 104 | 552 | 213 |
| 6. Non-Interest Income | 693 | 132 | 2,159 | 171 |
| 6.1 Foreign currency dealings and translation gains/loss | (63) | - | 77 | - |
| 6.2 Fees and commissions | 522 | - | 1,673 | - |
| 6.3 Other operating income | 204 | 132 | 409 | 171 |
| 7. Non Interest Expenses: | (3093) | (2,779) | (6,184) | (5,383) |
| 7.1 Salaries and benefits | (1,631) | (1,651) | (3,328) | (3,325) |
| 7.2 Fees and commissions | - | - | - | - |
| 7.3 Other operating expenses | (1,462) | (1,128) | (2,855) | (2,057) |
| 8. Operating Income / (Loss) | 991 | 346 | 1,968 | 1,053 |
| 9. Income tax provision | (297) | (104) | (590) | (316) |
| 10. Net Income (Loss) After Income Tax | 694 | 242 | 1,377 | 737 |
| 11. Number of employees | 69 | 63 | 69 | 63 |
| 12. Basic Earnings per share | - | - | - | - |
| 13. Diluted earnings per share | - | - | - | - |
| 14. Number of branches/zonal offices | 3 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS | | | | |
| (i) Return on average total assets | 0.35% | 0.49% | 0.37% | 1.49% |
| (ii) Return on average shareholders' fund | 4.09% | 1.42% | 4.06% | 4.32% |
| (iii) Non interest expense to gross income | 72.17% | 86.06% | 71.05% | 80.96% |
| (iv) Net interest income to average earning assets | 1.45% | 0.65% | 1.42% | 1.97% |

Average figures shall be computed by assuming up the end balances for respective month in the period divided by number of months in the period

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

| | Current Quarter 30 - Jun - 19 | Previous Quarter 31 - Mar - 19 | Current Quarter 30 - Jun - 19 | Previous Quarter 30 - Jun - 18 |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Operating Income (loss) before tax: | 991 | 997 | 1,968 | 1,053 |
| Adjustment for: | | | | |
| - Adjustment for depreciation | 329 | 330 | 659 | 484 |
| - Impairment Loans and Advances | 202 | 350 | 552 | 212 |
| - Amortization of capital grants | (205) | (204) | (409) | (74) |
| - Net change in loans and Advances | (69,420) | (351,307) | (420,727) | (21,769) |
| - Gain / Loss on Sales of Assets | - | - | - | - |
| - Net Change in statutory minimum reserve | - | - | - | - |
| - Net Change in Deposits | - | - | - | - |
| - Net Change in Short Term Negotiable securities | - | - | - | - |
| - Net change in Loans, Advances and Overdrafts | - | - | - | - |
| - Net change of Placements with maturities over three months | - | - | - | - |
| - Net Change in Other Liabilities | 186 | 803 | 989 | 131 |
| - Net Change in Other Assets | (255) | (869) | (614) | 4,725 |
| - Tax Paid | (151) | (151) | (302) | (109) |
| - Others (Amortization from Grant) | - | - | - | - |
| Net Cash Provided (Used) By Operating Activities | (67,812) | (350,071) | (417,883) | (24,797) |
| CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Dividend Received | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of Fixed Assets | (353) | (672) | (1,025) | (959) |
| Proceeds From Sale of Fixed Assets | - | - | - | - |
| Purchase of Non-Dealing Securities | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds From Sale Non-Dealing Securities | - | - | - | - |
| Others (Special deposits) | - | - | - | - |
| Net Cash Provided (Used) By Investing Activities | (353) | 672 | (1,025) | (959) |
| CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES: | | | | |
| Borrowings | - | - | - | - |
| Repayment of Long-Term Debt | - | - | - | - |
| Proceeds From RIF Project | - | - | - | - |
| Current portion amortisation on Grants | - | - | - | - |
| Proceed from PSCP on Purchase of ICT Systems | - | - | - | - |
| Net Change in Other Borrowings | 50,263 | 350,000 | 400,263 | - |
| Net Cash Provided (Used) By Financing Activities: | 50,263 | 350,000 | 400,263 | 0 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS: | | | | |
| Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents | (17,902) | (743) | (18,654) | (25,756) |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at the Beginning of the Quarter | 124,199 | 124,942 | 124,942 | 151,808 |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents at the End of the Quarter | 106,297 | 124,199 | 106,297 | 126,052 |

SELECTED EXPLANATORY NOTES FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE 2019

We, the undersigned non-executive members of the Board of directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief have been prepared in conformance with the International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirement of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006 and they present a true and fair view.

Signed by: Name Signature Date

Chairperson: Japhet Justine

Director of Finance: Derick Lugemala

Head of Internal Audit: Joyce Maduhu

In preparation of the quarterly financial statements, consistent accounting policies have been used as those applicable to the previous year audited financial statements (if there were changes during the quarter, the changes are explained as per IAS 34 & IAS 8)

TADB TARGET AREAS (IN SUMMARY)

- Irrigation infrastructure development
- access to crops, livestock and fisheries inputs and services

- Development of processing and value shery products

- Development of processing and value shery products

- Develop market access for all priority commodities

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

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Morogoro tanker fire horror: Lessons still come rolling in

WITH many people fighting to put behind them memories of the Morogoro fuel tanker fire tragedy nearly two weeks ago, lessons keep coming in as to where the public or local residents around the scene of accident got it wrong on how to react.

As in many other instances, a single event can have a stream of lessons, at times learned by generations far apart, which can't be told at the start. Something of the sort is now happening - that the issue isn't touching only fuel but also the victims.

That constitutes part of what was generally learned when the tragedy struck - that the habit of turning spots where fuel trucks are involved in accident spots into looting ground is intolerably bad.

This wasn't the first time this kind of situation had occurred, so those found there will likely be different and therefore without memories of what happened in the past. But that just cannot serve as defence.

But there are other, more elevated, lessons about the situation, and definitely other potential disaster sites that can occur for a variety of reasons in that fires can break out even without having fuel to propagate the flames.

It is the whole problem of how to assist victims of fire accidents, as it involves breathing fumes, and this causes damage to internal organs.

Experts at Muhimbili National Hospital have lately explained that when a person in that situation is covered up, the breathing fails and harkens fatality.

There is no doubt that these are lessons that a broad section of the public will take to heart as the tragedy was indeed intense and far-reaching

in its psychological impact, almost numbing the senses in trying to contemplate it.

The burning of upwards of 100 people who then proceed to die at different moments is a massive shock. Nations dread to think when such moments arrive, but they are integral to the passion, drama and tragedy of life.

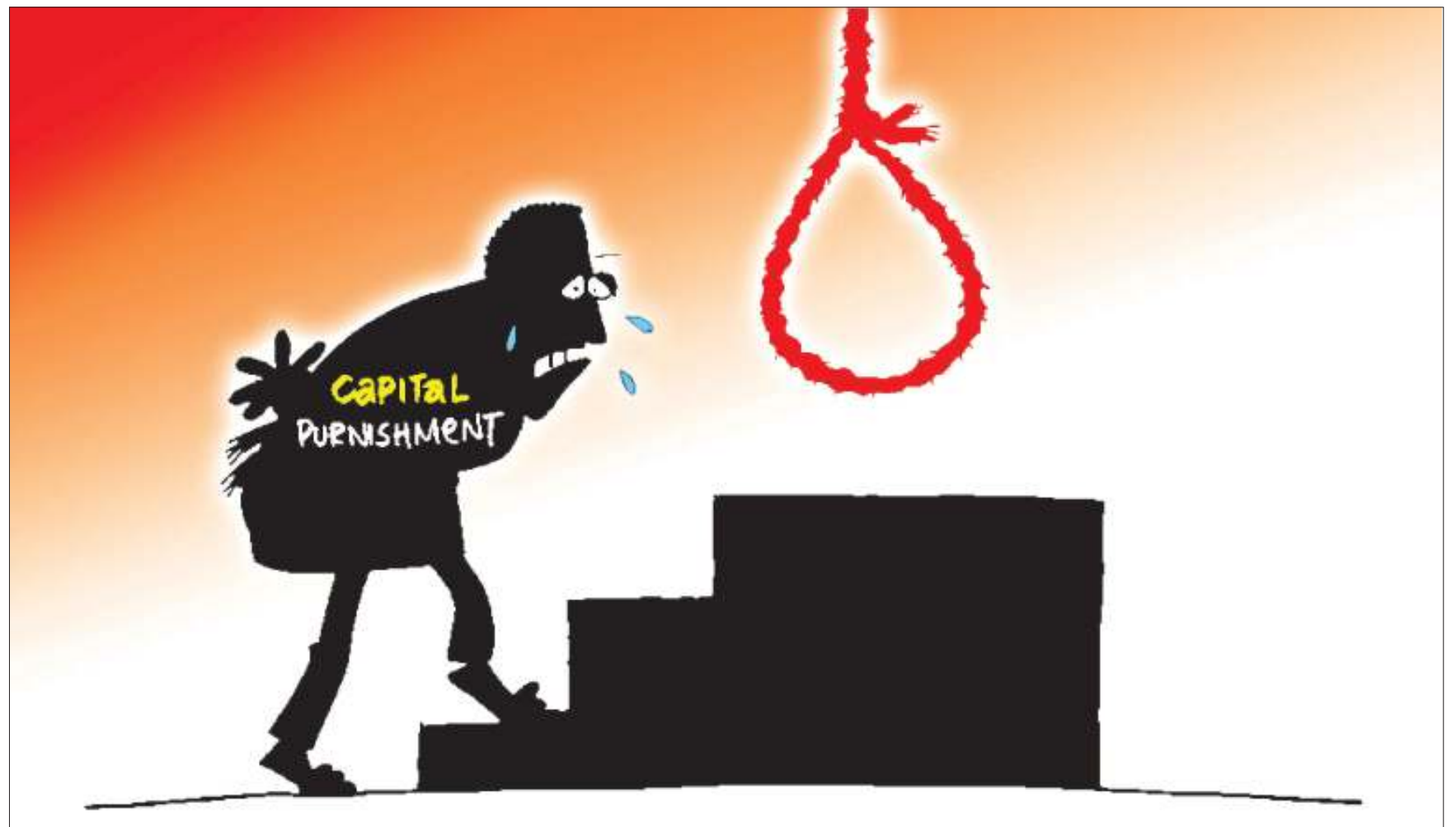
Wisdom has it that dreading such events is one thing, and definitely it is painful imagination rather than prevention or remedy, where it is the lessons of past tragedies that ought to be of help in the future.

Members of the public must now be all the wiser and will hopefully desist from scrambling for free fuel if a tanker overturns. It is reported that another tanker overturned in Mbeya a few days after the Msamvu horror events and no one went anywhere near the scene. While trying to collect fuel in ignorance was a tragedy, doing so later would simply be inexplicably ridiculous.

With the detailed explanations given by Muhimbili National Hospital experts, it is vital to make more efforts to educate and sensitise the public on how to handle fire-related accident victims.

As advised, the patients should be helped to get fresh air rather than being covered up where their already weakened lungs struggle to inhale something positive and not fumes or the toxic air.

It is said that most of us aren't familiar with first aid work, and there was no such kit in the ill-fated Msamvu truck of in the neighbourhood - so, small wonder that the first efforts were immersed in chaos. And let it be chaos from which we have learned important life-saving lessons.



Touching people's lives: The joy and challenge of being a humanitarian



By Nihan Barutçu

AS a social worker with the International Organisation for Migration in Turkey in the field of humanitarian aid, I would say that it is not just a profession but a way of life that demands dedication. Having a career in humanitarian aid was not a choice for me - I just found myself in it.

When you see injustice around yourself, if you feel moved by the sight of a hungry child, women who are victims of violence or the sight of a father who lost his child at sea while escaping war, you somehow find yourself in this field.

You can't help getting that feeling once you hear the sound of a bomb from the other side of the border or taking action when you see something wrong and at times even saving lives.

My aim is to work until disadvantaged groups have reached the same level as the other groups. By taking small steps, I am able to see change for good in society. It's a very satisfying feeling, binding you to life and allowing you to continue working with greater energy and motivation.

The biggest challenge is witnessing suffering and hearing stories that break your heart. While we see terrible things on television or read about them in the newspaper, it is hard and frustrating to see it with your own eyes as it unfolds before you.

Despite these challenges, I strive to

be someone who makes children smile, who is able to sincerely communicate with them through conversations and games and to be a reliable confidant who my fellow women can express themselves with. I define myself as a person who is full of energy and someone that lives to do meaningful things, create awareness and connect with people.

While we, as women, continue to work with as much effort and aptitude as men, our work is often considered to reflect our maternal and compassionate instinct. I refute this stereotypical outlook and believe that our work is also based on ethics, human values and ambition. Humanity has no gender and chromosome!

Many people in society feel that women cannot work in crisis and disaster areas, but I would like them to open their eyes to women humanitarians like me who work at borders subjected to shelling and visit camps that are threatened by dispute and war.

Yes, I am a woman and I am strong - but, more than that, I am a human being. I believe that being human itself is a very powerful cause to help others.

Humanitarian aid must be holistic, and without the support of people in the community we cannot create a significant impact in society. It is the duty and responsibility of all of us to alleviate the pain of people.

Whether professional or as volunteers, humanitarian workers are

touching people's lives, saving and changing them. I want people to see us not as targets but people with the aim to help others. I also want them to know that it's not easy for us to progress or achieve what we do without their support.

Rose Opani, an IOM driver in South Sudan, adds by narrating how a former refugee has built a new life and defied stereotypes in the country:

When I first started driving water trucks around Juba, the communities would ask: "Why is this woman driving a truck?"

I was born in 1984 in a village 48 kilometres from Yei town. When I was eight, my father took one of my sisters and I by bicycle to a school on the border with Uganda. We stayed there for a year before we had to move to the refugee camp in Uganda. We lived with our aunts, uncles and cousins in a refugee camp while our parents stayed back in South Sudan.

I spent three years in the camp, until my father died. His appendix burst and there were no doctors. So, I had to come back to the village to be with my mother, who was a midwife. A year later, we lost her too. So, I went back to the camp.

It took six days to walk there from Yei. When I got back to the camp, I stopped going to school, because there was not enough support.

If we needed a little bit of money for something small like soap, then we would have to go collect firewood from

the forest and make charcoal to sell. It could be dangerous.

Three years later, my uncle took me to Koboko but then he died in a road accident and life became very difficult. I had to start looking for money to support my three sisters. I began to make a little money washing and collecting water for people in the camp.

When I turned 18-years-old, I realised that I could not finish school and decided to leave.

However, I wanted to go back to learning, so I travelled to Kampala and enrolled in an English course and driving school. I did not have enough money to finish, so I went to Juba and worked in a market before I could finish school.

I eventually secured my first driving job, delivering water in Juba. There were many women in driving school in Kampala but there were very few women driving trucks in South Sudan. In 2012, after working for another international organisation in Juba, I joined IOM and now have been a driver with them for six years.

Driving in Juba can be tough - the roads are dangerous and motorcyclists can be careless. In the field, it can be a lot worse. The cars get stuck because of the conditions, especially in the rainy season, and we must get them out without damaging them. But I am happy with the job I am doing as a driver especially because it means that my daughters can go to school.

SADC plans to end NTBs good for EAC integration

IT'S only since Tanzania assumed the chairmanship of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

Already, and very rightly so, Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi is outlining a programme of action aimed at establishing a framework to oversee the harmonisation of standards, policies, laws and regulations covering trade in the 16-member bloc.

At least, this was part of the principal message he had for the high-profile press conference he called in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday.

The minister, who now heads the SADC Council of Ministers, was visibly enthusiastic about the prospect of ending non-tariff barriers (NTBs) in trading.

With SADC intra-regional trade currently standing at below 20 per cent of the respective member-states' total trade, it is likely that the tariff barriers to be removed might not be as significant, as it is institutional and people to people links that have been lacking.

For instance, Tanzania and Zambia have for 40 years been joined by a highway and a standard gauge railway, but investment and trade has been generally has been skimpy, aside from drought moments and purchases of maize from this side of the border.

Lack of harmonisation in EAC and SADC at one point led to trade-based differences of opinion as Tanzania did not offer a 'most favoured nation' view of Kenyan goods in transit from Nairobi

to the Zambian market, not on customs union list. Nasty patches of this nature must be forestalled.

While negotiations to end trade barriers in EAC have usually been slow and drawn out, the spirit that minister Kabudi has demonstrated in relation to harmonisation in the SADC context is altogether different.

Only lately have the personal relations and leadership styles that link President John Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart, Uhuru Kenyatta, showed that a different tonality is possible in EAC cooperation as well.

It is largely this positive spirit that the incoming SADC chairman took to his interim regional leadership position and is likely to put it to good use. It thus suggests that consensus in the EAC has laid the basis for enhanced trade ties among SADC member states.

Trade strategists will notice that the zeal that SADC member states are showing to remove trade barriers is directly proportional to the low level of trade between them, while the difficult tone of negotiations in the EAC context relates to intensity of economic relationships.

In other words, the generosity that Tanzania and other SADC states are showing to one another is not an illustration of differences of character.

It is the low level of likely contention at home when trade barriers are removed, with few local producers feeling any pinch for a number of years. Now we see a galore of opportunities but we must innovate to compete, to avoid repeating tussles on the EAC ground. There is a lot of light at the end of the tunnel.

School children voices as a community transforming tool

By Gaudensia Mngumi

IN the world today children particularly girls are like endangered creatures such as elephants, despite the fact that as humans they are not facing extinction.

Girls undergo terrible 'hiccups' and 'somersaults' that threaten their lives, though they are not hunted to extinction as it is for elephants.

Critical challenges for girls include early marriages, for example the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum in 2016, reported that child marriage remains a problem in the region due to a variety of reasons such as poverty, gender inequality, traditions and insecurity, especially in times of conflicts.

The report further indicates that in at least five countries in the SADC region, almost 40 per cent of the children are married before they are 18 years of age. Malawi and Mozambique are among 10 countries in the world with highest child marriages.

In Tanzania girls are not exempted at all, as they suffer abuses and in some regions like Mtwara violence against child girls is entrenched such that son preference, child denials and early marriages are as well deep-rooted.

One strategy which has been useful in defending girls' rights is to invest in their voices to make 'necessary noises,' in order to protect them from falling into the hands of predators.

Action Aid Tanzania (AATZ), is among institutions that have invested in the Children Voices strategy to serve girls and children as well. In 2010 it formed students' parliaments in several primary schools in Newala and Tandahimba districts in Mtwara region, said Dinno Celestine, the AATZ Newala and Tandahimba coordinator.

Celestine noted that in Tandahimba and Newala because of rampant divorces, children are being raised up in broken homes that affect children upbringing, hence issues like violence against children, child abuse, truancy, child abandoning, early marriages became rampant.

Talking during the recent AATZ officials and media personnel tour in Mtwara region to visit project sites related to education, women, girls empowerment and agribusiness supported by Action Aid, the official said that currently the students' parliament strategy in Tandahimba was being implemented in some primary schools, citing Mnyahi, Nemedi, Ruvuma and Mihambwe.

The programs aim at making the young learners to have a say in things that affect themselves, one of them be-



Tandahimba and Newala Districts AATZ Coordinator, Dinno Celestine, interacting with students parliamentarians in Mnyahi Primary School in Tandahimba.

ing early marriages, school pregnancies and truancy, says Celestine.

The coordinator further noted that this approach has led students, particularly girls to understand realities about things which affect them, and that is the major purpose. In that way, students' parliaments gave the young learners the voice to raise issues like school pregnancies which by then were entrenched in many parts of Mtwara and Lindi regions.

The students' 'senates' targeted topics like girls empowerment, to raise their self-esteem and much more to provide them with a platform and ensure that they have a say in issues that affect their lives in schools and communities.

This increases the demand for their rights such as the right to education, to be given time to read while at home and to challenge violence against girls and children as well.

Furthermore, students both boys and girls are organized during the discussions where they tackle things like children rights, child marriage, education inequality and gender-based violence. The AATZ initiated the parliaments to guide the students on the right route so that they become agents of change in their communities, the coordinator asserted.

"Actually, the students' parliament which has boys and girls MPs and Ministers have made a lot of 'experts' out there, for example Students Voice played a big role during the 2019 African Child Day.

The Nemedi and Mnyahi students' parliamentarians were presented, their voices reaching district officials, councilors and NGO members. Their messages were later aired by television stations during regular programmes for kids.

This was another avenue for further discussions of matters that affect students in Tandahimba schools and

how they can be improved to make our schools a better environment for everyone to learn and enjoy the fruits of education," Celestine underlined.

The Tandahimba and Newala AATZ Coordinator said its their focus that voices of the students are heard at higher levels in order to take the messages to authorities like policy makers, planners and law makers, hence act to improve the lives of children and young learners.

The commitment to use students' parliaments to teach skills, provide information that will inform positive changes to keep all children in schools and in the communities healthy and alive while ensuring that the next generation is protected against child abuse and illiteracy.

Mohamed Lulanje, the Community Development Facilitator (CDF), who liaisons with AATZ and Mnyahi and Nemedi primary schools teachers and students, says the programs has made students learn things that though they affect their lives are not taught to them by their teachers, parents or guardians.

For example for parents, talking about sex, early and teen pregnancy can be difficult and challenging to many but through students' parliaments it has been possible.

"Apart from school learning programs young learners are taught about things which affect their lives. When we discuss issues to talk in the parliament students bring up problems like girls education, parents and police mishandling girls' pregnancy cases, laws that govern children welfare, and anything that they feel is contrary to students' advancement in schools or in their community," the facilitator noted.

Hashiluna Hamimu, a standard seven student in Mnyahi Primary Schools and a girl parliamentarian has something to brag about.

"Since I become an MP I have learnt a lot. I have confidence on myself. I can say no to any sexual advances. I can tell

men leave me alone, let me finish my school. Don't trap me to sex. I can crush any sexual advances without any fear."

"When you are a girl in our communities you are not given much time to study as it is for boys. Through the students' parliament we have been active and bold. We challenged parents and guardians to give us more time to do our home works and study instead of house works like cooking, fetching water and firewood, nursing the sick and taking care of our siblings," asserts Hashiluna.

Mohamed Mitaji, a boy parliamentarian says the students' parliament has made tremendous impact on his life. "I have learnt a lot of things. Apart from improving my ability to speak in public, it has raised my self-esteem. I have gained much confidence and I can ask questions. Much more I know what the challenges face Tanzanian children such as child marriages, penalty for rape and sexual harassment culprits."

He is now agent of boys' transformation in the school and in the community.

Ajuaye Saidi is Mnyahi students' parliament Speaker, and like other students she has seen changes in the process of being empowered.

"This process of empowerment has taught me new things for instance I have developed the patience to listen to others. I have grasped leadership skills because I am a speaker. As a young girl I care about myself. I am much more confident because students and teachers have developed an impression that I am important ...I can be a leader in the future."

Neema Shungu, Community Development and Gender Desk Officer for Tandahimba district, talking about empowerment programs' outcome in the communities, cited reduced number of school pregnancies as the major result.

For example, having students and NGOs challenging school pregnancies in various platforms has changed the situation, even the community behavior.

In the year 2018 the number of school pregnancies in Tandahimba district were around 54 but this year (January -August) only nine cases have been reported. "For us this is a big achievement," she declared.

In general the teachers and the student community want government support on students' parliament programs to reach many schools, parents, homes and being watched on televisions in many living rooms in order to engage many people and delivered the much needed communication of promoting the welfare of the Tanzania child.



Dr Bahle Zondo with executive members of the uMsinga Farm Project.

Innovative solution to rural community unemployment in S. Africa wins award

By Special Correspondent

AGCO Agriculture Foundation (AAF), a private entity with a strong commitment to providing a holistic approach to the global prevention and relief of hunger through impactful initiatives and sustainable agricultural development, has just announced the Bahle Zondo Foundation in South Africa as the first organisation globally to receive the newly-launched AAF Award.

The award goes to the Bahle Zondo Foundation (BZF) for its innovative solutions in addressing rural unemployment through its work at the uMsinga Farming Project in KwaZulu-Natal. Philanthropist Dr Bahle Zondo established the project in August 2018 with a clear objective: to create job opportunities for local women, provide them with the chance to become successful agripreneurs and empower them with the means to sustain themselves and their families.

Just one year later, the project provides employment for some 50 women who run and manage the farm. Recently the project harvested its first crop - sugar beans. BZF assisted them in finding a market for their produce and, thanks to the sales' income, the women are now better able to support their households as well as invest in further inputs for the next planting season.

"We are thrilled to present our first AAF Award to the Bahle Zondo Foundation and highlight its impressive work in creating the uMsinga Farming Project," said AGCO Agriculture Foundation managing director Metti Richenhagen. "The award recognises the BZF's work in solving challenges in the community. The highly impactful initiative is going to elevate this rural community while approaching economic growth and food security through sustainable agricultural development," added the MD.

As the winner of the award, BZF will receive US dollars 50,000 towards further community development projects. Initiated by AGCO Corporation, a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of agricultural machinery and solutions, AAF started its non-profit activities last year and contributes to specific global

Sustainable Development Goals developed by the United Nations that seek to end hunger and provide basic necessities to a growing world population.

With a seed fund of US dollars 78,000, Dr Zondo was inspired to create the uMsinga Farming Project following a protest by women outside the local primary school in Msinga.

The women were appealing for more job opportunities with the school's feeding scheme but it was not possible for the school to employ them. Dr Zondo came up with his alternative solution to utilise their skills by establishing the project and merging three informal cooperatives on communal land with sites varying from two to 50 hectares.

BZF's objective is for the women to become self-sufficient but, in the meantime, it has set aside a budget to pay them a stipend until the farm generates enough income to provide wages. Currently, BZF supports women from the co-operatives as well as casual workers who assist with clearing weeds and trees and erecting fencing around the project's cultivated land. This stipend has served as an incentive to attract local youth to the project.

"BZF is doing fantastic work in fostering and uplifting the emerging farming sector in this locality and is led by Dr Zondo, who truly knows his community's development needs," adds noted Richenhagen, adding: "The project is having a positive direct social, economic and environmental impact on its community and is a fine example of the initiatives the AAF is looking forward to supporting."

Richenhagen presented the AAF Award to Dr Zondo at BZF's first anniversary celebrations held at uMsinga in KwaZulu-Natal August 17. Joining the celebrations was Bongzi Sithole-Moloi, a member of the executive committee of the KwaZulu-Natal Agriculture & Rural Development Department, and AGCO Vice President & General Manager, Africa, Nuradin Osman.

AAF is domiciled in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, and its operations are managed from Duluth, Georgia.

An AGCO Agriculture Foundation dispatch filed from Duluth in the US.

What early US presidential polls tell us about the 2020 race

NEW YORK

ANYONE paying the slightest attention to the Democratic presidential campaign has likely seen headlines on the latest "horse race" opinion polls, highlighting one candidate's rise or another's decline.

Campaigns trumpet, or minimize, the numbers depending on how they fared. But with the first nominating contest in Iowa still five months away, what do these surveys really tell us about will happen in the November 2020 presidential election?

The quick answer: Early polls should be taken with a grain of salt, or perhaps even a full shaker. But they can offer a snapshot of where the race stands today and at least some insight into where it might go in the months to come.

Here's a guide to reading, and understanding, polls at this stage of the outsized, 23-candidate Democratic contest:

HOW ARE POLITICAL POLLS CONDUCTED?

Professional pollsters rely on answers from a sample of people - anywhere from a few hundred respondents to 1,000 or more - intended to represent a much larger population.

In political surveys, pollsters are often interested specifically in registered voters or likely voters. Many more people say they will vote than actually do so, forcing pollsters to use other data, such as past voting behavior, to estimate the probability of casting ballots.

Some pollsters rely on phone interviews. Others, including Ipsos, which conducts surveys for Reuters, employ online questionnaires. All polls have a margin of error - a measure of confidence that the results reflect the broader population - calculated based on the size of the sample.

WHAT DOES HISTORY TELL US ABOUT POLLS AT THIS STAGE?

National presidential primary polls - that is, polls that measure support for one party's candidates - this early in the election cycle have been a mixed bag in predicting the eventual winner.

In August 2007, Hillary Clinton held a nearly 20-percentage point lead across a dozen national polls over Barack Obama, who would capture the Democratic nomination the following year.

The man who would win the Republican Party's nod, John McCain, hovered around 12%, with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani leading the pack with support from nearly one-third of respondents.

But in the 2016 cycle, both the eventual nominees, Clinton and Republican Donald Trump, held significant leads in the polls by August 2015. Like this year's Democratic contest, the Republican field from which Trump emerged was enormous by historical standards.

Past results are not necessarily an indicator of what will happen this time around, experts warned.

"We only have this happen every four years," said Joe Lenski, executive vice president at Edison Research, which conducts national exit polls.



US President Donald Trump

"It's not like we have thousands of examples."

HOW TRUSTWORTHY ARE PRIMARY POLLS?

Primary polls are considerably less predictive than general election polls pitting two nominees against each other.

For one, voters' preferences are more fluid ahead of primaries, in part because they cannot rely on party affiliation alone to determine their choices. In a general election, most voters flock to the candidate who represents their preferred party.

"Primaries are a lot harder, because there isn't that partisan signaling," said Chris Jackson, who runs the public polling unit at Ipsos.

The size of the Democratic field this cycle may also contribute to the uncertainty by giving people so many options.

Voters may engage in strategic behavior, shifting allegiances based on

how candidates are performing. Howard Dean led most Democratic primary surveys in 2003 until John Kerry, the eventual nominee, won the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire, sending him skyrocketing in national polls.

Name recognition also plays a major role at this stage, when many Americans simply are not focused on the campaign.

That said, name recognition is often based on factors that reinforce a candidate's strength. Joe Biden, who is leading most polls in the 2020 Democratic race, is well known because he was a vice president for two terms and has deep ties to the party's establishment.

Analysts expect turnout in 2020 to hit levels not seen in decades, given the high level of political engagement in the era of Trump.

That introduces more uncertainty for pollsters, who must make assumptions about voters who have not historically cast ballots but who are likely to do so next year.

"The pollsters don't really know who's going to show up in a primary," said Michael McDonald, a professor at the University of Florida who studies polling.

General election polls at this stage - pitting Trump against various possible Democratic nominees - are virtually meaningless, according to research by the polling analysis website FiveThirtyEight.

That's because they are asking about hypothetical matchups involving candidates who remain unfamiliar to many Americans.

Reality check: Africa's bid to silence the guns

BY PETER FABRICIUS

BOTH the value and the flaw of the African Union's (AU) Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020 is the breadth of its vision. In offering practical steps for realising the AU's ambitious plan to end conflict - adopted in 2013 as a flagship project of its wider developmental blueprint Agenda 2063 - the Master Roadmap identifies just about all of Africa's familiar ills as causes of its endemic violence.

Inequality, poverty, undemocratic behaviour, gross violations of human rights, proliferation of illegal arms, fragility of states, government corruption, illicit financial flows from the continent, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, climate change, lack of implementation by AU member states of the many treaties and decisions on these and other issues, the United Nations' failure to fund more of the AU's own peacekeeping efforts ... etc.

The self-criticism is often sharp and unsparring, including the observation that one of the causes of African conflicts is 'the failure of liberation movements to transform themselves into dynamic governing political parties able to operate in pluralistic democratic societies'.

The roadmap also berates many member states and the AU itself for persistently ignoring the often glaringly obvious early warning signs of brewing conflict and violence. These usually come in the form of those same violations of democracy and human rights.

The roadmap is often pertinent and even radical in the solutions it proposes. Not least it suggests stiffer sanctions against AU members that perpetrate the undemocratic behaviours that provoke violence. But, as Oxfam's Désiré Assogbavi pointed out in 2017 after the roadmap was adopted by the AU, it was always too generic to be achieved in the three years that remained then.

He proposed that the AU focus on the worst conflicts, setting benchmarks and time frames. It should also identify and address the most volatile potential conflicts. Assogbavi suggested that the AU more formally institutionalise its mechanisms for tougher sanctions against member states for unconstitutional be-



If Africa really wants to end violence, states will need to take their own peace project more seriously. File photo

haviour.

More than two years later, these observations are just as pertinent, while the recommendations remain just as unimplemented. For example, the continuing tolerance of undemocratic behaviour.

It does seem something of an anomaly that it was Equatorial Guinea that introduced a resolution at the UN Security Council in February this year for greater cooperation between the UN and AU in silencing the guns. This is after all a very repressive country - one that perpetrates many of the underlying causes of violence identified in the roadmap.

The AU is of course only as strong as its member states and since many of them are deeply undemocratic, they are unlikely to reprimand or sanction others for the same flaws. But then it must be acknowledged that that is going to be a major obstacle to silencing the guns.

After just six years of the whole initiative and barely three of the roadmap, it's no surprise that Africa remains far from silencing all or even most of the guns. Some successes in peace efforts have been registered, such as the Ethiopia-

Eritrea peace accord, the Sudan peace deal, the revitalised South Sudan peace deal, the mediations in Madagascar and Central African Republic - although many remain tentative.

However the Uppsala Conflict Data Program, the most comprehensive global monitor of conflicts, shows that despite some fluctuations either way, the 2018 death toll from organised violence in Africa barely changed from that of 2013. It was 15 455 in 2013, jumped steeply to 24 264 in 2014, dropped to 20 515 in 2015, dropped again to 17 416 in 2016, rose to 18 308 in 2017, then dropped to 15 003 in 2018.

Now, as the Institute for Security Studies' Peace and Security Council Report notes, the AU has just adopted as its 2020 theme 'Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa's development'.

This seems like a last push to, if not silence, at least lower the decibel levels of the guns by 31 Decem-

ber 2020. (Even if the key phrase 'by 2020' has been quietly dropped from the title.) This seems to be a tacit acknowledgement of failure, or perhaps just reality - that the guns will not go quiet next year.

The PSC Report believes the project 'was ambitious from the outset' and that the roadmap was bound to struggle given its tight deadline. It does conjecture though, that adopting 'silencing the guns' as a theme will 'galvanise stakeholders to take stock of achievements and challenges in implementing the roadmap.' Also that the AU Peace and Security Council will consider these lessons when developing a more robust action plan for achieving peace - but only beyond 2020.

The report says the roadmap faced operational and institutional obstacles, mainly stemming from its assumption that conditions for silencing the guns now existed in Africa.

Instead, it says, 'The activities of violent extremists and other

insurgent groups in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, violence related to political transitions and the unprecedented level of climate change and natural disaster-induced displacement all pose a threat to states' ability to keep their citizens safe.' Indeed the Uppsala data shows the Nigeria-Sahel axis has the highest death rates.

Like Assogbavi, the PSC Report notes member states' lack of political will to implement AU decisions as a major source of conflict. It also finds the roadmap to be unrealistic in its expectations of AU institutions that aren't yet fully functional. Equally unrealistic is its proposal that member states and regional economic communities as well as the AU and its organs themselves fund all the ambitious recommendations.

But the report also notes that the AU Peace Fund has secured more funding from member states than ever before. This raises hopes that it can finance the implementation of more peace and security

activities. Appointing former AU peace and security commissioner and former Algerian foreign minister Ramtane Lamamra as AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa has also raised hopes.

In the above-mentioned February UN Security Council debate, African contributors tended to emphasise what outsiders could and should do to help silence the guns. For example, the need for more Security Council support for AU peacekeeping, and noting that the small arms flooding the continent were almost all manufactured abroad.

True enough. But the one thing the AU and its member states have in both their power and their budgets to do, is to enforce the AU's own stated values of democracy, human rights, respect for the rule of law and good governance. That would be a good place to start in order at least to nip future conflicts in the bud.

Peter Fabricius, ISS Consult-

It's not China's fault that some US companies are going out of business

IT is already an old trick for some people in the US to pass the buck for whatever crises that arise in their own country.

Recently, they brought up the theory that China dumped goods onto the US market, striking their industries and causing native companies to close down.

Filled with anger, they condemned China as if the country has to take the blame for the collapse of American companies. How unreasonable is that?

Anyone with some insight will know immediately that the US is trying to frame China and make the latter a scapegoat for its own fault.

China has always traded with other countries legally and legitimately on the basis of free trade. It is a natural economic phenomenon that Chinese goods show strong competitiveness in international markets with relatively low costs of production and high quality.

Some US officials keep preaching free market competition, yet what they have done doesn't seem to conform to their words.

The US randomly compared the price of products from a third-party country with that from China and then determined that China dumped goods on the American market.

In 2014, the World Trade Organization decided that the 25 anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigations conducted by the US against China from 2006 to 2012 violated the WTO rules. Clearly, the US has abused the punitive measures.

Since the US falsely diagnosed its problem, it is impossible for it to provide right prescriptions.

In 2009, United Steelworkers (USW) claimed that a total of five US tire factories closed and 5,100 workers became unemployed from 2004



to 2008.

Using this as an excuse, America added 35 percent, 30 percent, and 25 percent punitive tariffs for three consecutive years respectively on Chinese passenger car and light truck tires. At one point, the export volume of affected tire products to the US declined by more than 60 percent.

However, the market share of US products didn't increase and the country failed to protect domestic industries or improve employment.

Within three years, 1,200 jobs were

added in the US tire industry. However, American consumers spent \$1.1 billion more on tire and related products and the retail industry lost more than 3,700 jobs.

It is a proven fact that accusing others with no warrant and even abusing punitive tariffs could only bring unfortunate consequences.

With the economy developing and the industry being upgraded, it is economic normalcy as

well as an objective law to eliminate some outdated production capacity.

In the book *The Choice: A Fable of Free Trade and Protectionism*, American economist Russell Roberts told a story about Ed Johnson, a fictional US television manufacturer, who traveled to the future with David Ricardo, proponent of comparative advantage theory.

Johnson was very depressed when his television factory col-

lapsed. But Ricardo told him that the secret of success lies in comparative advantage and opportunity cost.

The US can only maximize its profits by converting to the industry that it is better at and making the products that bring more profits. Then it could use the money it earns to buy TV sets. In the process, the US is still a winner.

Today, the US has upgraded its industries to high-end manu-

facturing, modern service, and etc. Over 80 percent of the job losses can be traced back to the improved efficiency brought by new technologies.

This is an inevitable trend in line with economic development as well as a pragmatic choice made by the US itself. It is hard for the world to understand why the US becomes so resentful and angry.

It seems that the US got sick, yet it forced others to take medicine.

In the era of economic globalization, market encourages countries to join the international industrial chain with their advantages. The international production system is increasingly connected and the division of labor is becoming clearer.

While enjoying the benefits brought about by the division of labor in the global market, some US officials pretended to be the victims and even blamed other countries for the collapse of American businesses in market competition.

This fully exposed the bullying nature of some Americans, who are good at making things up to satisfy their greed for profits.

It is impossible to address the issue in America by spreading rumors and smearing other countries or by setting up thresholds and adopting trade protectionism.

The escalating US-China economic and trade frictions unilaterally provoked by the US have caused more and more American companies to lay off their staff, which is a convincing evidence.

People's Daily

Destination Kivu Belt : A new hiking trail expected to boost cultural tourism in Rwanda

By James Nkurunziza

The Institute of National Museums of Rwanda (INMR) in collaboration with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH carried out a three-day familiarization trip to promote cultural tourism as a lucrative and exciting experience.

The trip was conducted under the theme "Discovering the Richard Kandt Trail". The participants of the familiarization trip included local tour operators, media houses, representatives from MINISPOC, the Rwanda Tourism Chamber, INMR and GIZ.

Richard Kandt was the first German colonial resident of Rwanda during the colonial era. The trail leads to different sites that mark important stages of Kandt's life.

While it does so, it educates and informs about the time under colonial administration. Hence, Kandt's years spent in Rwanda and his expeditions through East Africa between 1898-1914 are the vehicle to transport an important period of Rwandan history that has inevitably shaped the Rwandan heritage.

The trail, for instance, leads the visitors to Kandt's residence in Shangi as well as to the farthest source of the Nile in Nyungwe National Park. It is the INMR's mission to promote and preserve these historical sites.

The trip was organized with the intention of raising awareness about this new tourism product. The Richard Kandt Trail can easily be combined with already existing tourism attractions in Rwanda and thus becomes a divers and exciting experience.

On the first day of the Richard Kandt Trail familiarization trip, the group visited the golden monkeys in the Volcanoes National Park that were scientifically named after Richard Kandt (*Cercopithecus kandti*).

The species is listed as endangered on the Red List of Threatened Species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and hence subject to special protection.

To visit the rare primates, visitors have to hike about one and half hours. The destination at the foot of the volcanoes allows for spectacular views of the Virunga Mountains.

The trail through the neighboring communities also gives a glimpse into the lives of the people living in this part of the country.

The next stop was a visit at a Community Based Tourism Enterprise (CBTE) in Karongi district, the Tugarure Umuco Association.

The CBTE is located at the former residence of King Kigeli IV Rwabugiri in Rubengera. The association invites tourists to experience ancient Rwandan culture by participating in activities such as plays and dances.

Director-General of the Institute of National Museums of Rwanda, Ambassador Robert Masozera, commended the initiative taken by the local community to promote cultural tourism.

"I want to express my support to this community for having promoted cultural tourism and because of that, all members of this Community Based Tourism Enterprise will receive trainings to enhance their knowledge about cultural tourism."

Masozera also pledged to support the CBTE with informational material and visits to the museums to learn more about how to receive visitors. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed between the INMR and the Tugarure Umuco Association to manifest the collaboration.

On the second day of the trip, the team made a stop at The Museum of Environment in Karongi, which is known for its exhibits on renewable and non-renewable energy, biodiversity as well as an herbal-medicine garden on the rooftop.

According to Frank Dushimimana, a guide at this museum, the herbs in the garden are believed to treat a number of illnesses including malaria, headache and bruises.

The team proceeded to Richard Kandt's former residence in Shangi, Nyamasheke district, which is beautifully located at a lakeside and surrounded by old trees. The residence used to be Kandt's basis form where he conducted most of his research as well as planned expeditions. The place is histor-



On the Richard Kandt Trail many beautiful sites, such as Lake Kivu and the golden monkeys in the Volcanoes National Park, can be visited.

ically recognized as the venue at which the first ever catholic mass was held in Rwanda.

It is also the place, where dialogues between the Germans in Rwanda and Belgians in Congo were held in relation to the boundaries of both countries. In his book "Caput Nili", Kandt mentions his efforts as a mediator between both parties during these dialogues. In the final decision making, his map of Lake Kivu was used to set the borders of both countries.

The second day was concluded with a trip to Nkombo Island under the guidance of the Abagi Cooperative, a local CBTE that promotes tourism in the region through activities such as boat rides, island visits and night fishing.

The Nkombo Island is located in the western province of Rwanda in Rusizi district. Due to their unique location, the inhabitants developed a slightly different culture from the one that can be found on Rwanda's mainland.

They showcase their rich and authentic cul-

ture by welcoming the visitors with traditional songs and dances after the 45 minutes boat ride on beautiful Lake Kivu. The representative of the Rwanda Chamber of Tourism and coordinator of the Kivu Belt Destination Management Unit (DMU), Henry Mugwari, also commended the organizers of the familiarization trip.

He believes that this trip will create exposure for the tour operators and bring tourists to the region. "I find the Richard Kandt Trail is a valuable addition to the beautiful Kivu Belt Destination and the familiarization trip was a great opportunity to also give exposure to some of the tourism products available.

We will promote the Richard Kandt Trail through all our platforms as Destination Kivu Belt and that includes the website and social media among others."

The final stop on the trip was the source of the Nile in the Nyungwe National Park. There are many discussions about the source of the

Nile - Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda all claim to have it. Till this day, the source that Kandt discovered in 1898 is believed to be the farthest. The small water basin in the middle of the Nyungwe forest has not only brought about controversy worldwide but also rose many questions regarding how big or small the source of a big water body can be.

"We believe more efforts in the development and upgrading of tourism products will contribute not only to the increase of what Rwanda offers to the tourists, but also to the growth of the nation's economy.

The Richard Kandt Trail was developed in partnership with the Institute of National Museums of Rwanda and Rwanda Development Board to increase the number of tourism activities in terms of historical and cultural tourism," said Jean Bosco Kubwimana, Tourism Advisor at GIZ Rwanda and Head of the Regional GIZ Office in Rubavu.

African health ministers agree on an all-fronts push to control rise in vector-borne diseases

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

WITH countries in Africa experiencing increased cases and deaths due to malaria and other vector-borne diseases, 47 health ministers endorsed the region's first aggressive plan for vector control across the continent that recognizes the need for an all-fronts push on eliminating the disease transmitters.

The plan, in the form of the Framework on the Implementation of the Global Vector Control Response, is a significant recalibration of how to bring vector-

borne diseases under control.

It contains 10 priorities for reducing the burden and threat of vector-borne diseases in the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region through locally adapted and sustainable practices targeting mosquitoes as well as snails, black flies, sand flies, Tsetse flies, ticks, fleas and copepods.

While the impacts of climate change have helped expand the environments favourable to the vectors, the previous package of approaches to prevention and elimination for vector-borne diseases did not prioritize vector

control interventions. This was largely due to human resource, technical and infrastructural capacity gaps in vector surveillance and research.

Due to those gaps, the transmitters of the diseases over time freely adjusted their behaviours and strengthened their resistance to existing insecticides. As the region continued the needed investment in treatment as well as treated bed nets and indoor spraying to bring down the numbers of people dying, many vectors changed their known behaviours. Mosquitoes, for example, known to bite indoors, began bit-

ing people outdoors. The surveillance and evaluation of the evolutionary changes and associated research lagged and thus failed to keep pace.

Speaking during the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, which is taking place in Brazzaville, the Republic of Congo, Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa said, "In the extraordinary push to improve access to case management services for vector-borne diseases and reduce disease transmission through protective interventions, we lost sight of disease surveillance and

research." She recalled that effective vector control along with stronger diagnosis and case management reduced the malaria cases and deaths in the WHO African Region between 2000 and 2015.

"Now that we have exhausted our arsenal of interventions and the vectors are gaining an upper hand, and we have to do things differently," she said.

The framework's priorities take into consideration the alarming challenges of insecticide resistance, the new mosquito behaviours, environmental risks (unplanned urbanization),

health system weaknesses, the weak entomological monitoring and evidence for decision-making and the depleted expertise and the dearth of domestic resources to sustain interventions and collaboration.

The African region has a troubling high burden of vector-borne diseases, primarily malaria, yellow fever, chikungunya, dengue and schistosomiasis. While the risk of transmission for Zika virus disease remains high, information on incidence and trends of the disease is limited. The 10 WHO Member States with the highest burden of malaria re-

ported an estimated 3.5 million more malaria cases in 2017 than the previous year. More than 440 million people are at risk of yellow fever in the region, despite the availability of a vaccine and improved surveillance.

In response to the increasing threat of vector-borne diseases, the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution in May 2017 on the Global Vector Control Response 2017-2030 strategy to strengthen vector management through increased capacity, improved surveillance, better coordination and integrated actions across sectors and diseases.



Participating in a panel discussion on the agricultural economic outlook was Dr Ndimiso Mazibuko (a senior economist with the National Agricultural Marketing Council), Ikageng Maluleke (an agricultural economist with Grain SA) and Mreki Mosia (the GM of Project Development Facilitation at the Land Bank).

Agriculture is gateway for rural and urban youth

By Dawn Noemdoe

"AGRICULTURE is increasingly being seen as a gateway industry for rural and urban youth who wish to create dynamic and rewarding livelihoods for themselves," says Mreki Mosia, the general manager of project development facilitation at the Land Bank.

Mosia was one of the panellists deliberating South Africa's agricultural economic outlook at the fourth Annual AFASA Young Farmers Summit earlier today. He was joined by two fellow economists, Dr Ndimiso Mazibuko from the National Agricultural Marketing Council (NAMC) and Ikageng Maluleke from Grain SA.

Despite seeing agriculture as a gateway for Mzansi's youth, Mosia states that there are economic headwinds and political uncertainty which makes it difficult to plan ahead for a sector which requires long-term investments for sustained growth.

Maluleke agrees, however, that agricultural production and marketing takes place under a number of risks. These risks, she says, "arise mostly from external forces and if not identified and managed may negatively affect an agribusiness".

The dynamic Maluleke says young farmers need to understand the nature of anticipated economic and political risks. This will help to implement mitigation strategies to cushion farmers against external uncertainties. "Young farmers need to ensure that internal farm efforts are put in place to withstand risks arising from an ever-changing economic and political environment."

Advice to young farmers

Her practical advice to young Mzansi farmers are to maintain liquidity and credit reserves, to spread annual out sales, enterprise diversification, market diversification, constant communications with government, industry associations

and/or private support organisation and to consider other off-farm sources of income.

South African farmers operate under uncertain environments and over recent years they've undergone a recession, drought, a drop in market prices and changing government policies. Maluleke, however, assures young farmers that with good long-term planning and support they can operate successfully.

Meanwhile Mosia believes young people need to start challenging themselves to think beyond traditional agricultural practices and recognise the inherent opportunity in the provision of services which support agricultural production.

"Input supply services (such as seeds, fertilisers and chemicals), market agents, packaging, logistical support and on-farm services are all crucial productive components of the value chain which are not particularly contingent on whether land will be expropriated or not," he adds.

Maluleke also highlighted a number of economic indicators specifically young farmers need to look out for. "Farmers need to look at interest rates; monitoring the value of the rand; looking at the gross domestic product and the rand exchange value."

Mosia furthermore emphasised that Mzansi's young farmers are rightfully concerned about the political and economic landscape of the country, but for a segment of the population which is so well endowed with a sense of urgency, vigour and saviness, this worry should translate into interesting business propositions which can leverage their entrepreneurial nature.

Mazibuko is positive about transformation in the agricultural sector, but as a country we need to be decisive especially when you consider investing into a specific enterprise. He adds that his seen certain industries responding to transformation initiatives that work well but it will take a long time before we are where we need to be.

Conservationists push at CITES conference to ban trophy hunting

GENEVA

A GROUP of activists is trying to persuade an international conservation conference to ban trophy hunting, which outrages some animal lovers but has long been tolerated by some environmentalists as a way of protecting wildlife.

More than 50 members of the European Parliament and 50 environmental groups, led by the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting, signed a petition to the triennial CITES conference taking place this week in Geneva.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international treaty granting degrees of protection to over 35,000 species.

Agreements passed at the conference are legally binding to 183 signatory states, and although they do not supersede national law, they set standards for global trade and tour-

ism.

A trophy hunting ban is not currently on the agenda as resolutions need to be submitted six months ahead. The meeting started Saturday and continues through Aug. 28, with the main decisions usually finalized over the last two days.

A CITES spokesman declined to comment on the letter and said CITES decisions are taken by governments, not the secretariat.

CITES adopted a resolution at its 2016 conference recognizing the compatibility between well-managed trophy hunting and species conservation.

Trophy hunting, while popular with a small group of wealthy big-game hunters, has come under the spotlight in recent years following several high profile cases. The death of a lion called Cecil, shot by an American dentist in Zimbabwe in 2015, sparked global outrage.

The World Wildlife Fund, which is not a signatory to the anti-trophy hunting petition, supports a limited amount of hunting provided it helps local communities prioritize wildlife conservation over alternatives such as cattle raising and habitat conversion for farming.

Eduardo Goncalves, President of the Campaign to Ban Trophy Hunting, rejects this argument.

"Trophy hunting is immoral and cruel," he said, adding that it often goes hand in hand with poaching. He added that trophy hunting brings in pennies compared to ecotourism.

International Union for Conservation of Nature spokeswoman Rosie Cooney, who is attending the CITES conference, said ecotourism and trophy hunting are not mutually exclusive and both should be used to protect wildlife.

Solving the climate crisis is beyond governments

By Claudia Ortiz

THROUGHOUT my ten years working in international development and climate policy, I've mostly heard colleagues talk about the private sector as if it was this intangible, multifaceted medusa with its own business lingo that is impossible for us policy experts to tackle: "the 'private sector' needs a return on investment in order to act on climate" or "the 'private sector' does not have the right incentives, but we need 'private' capital to solve this crisis"

First, we need to untangle who we are talking about when we refer to "the private sector". Are we talking about multinational corporations, wealthy investors, banks, entrepreneurs?

Secondly, unless we approach these actors with the problem, invite them to the discussion table, and hear them out, we will certainly never know the best way to get their interests aligned with climate solutions.

On the other hand, UN organisation and multilateral climate and environment funds interact almost entirely with public institutions and governments. So, when it comes to raising the bar on contributions to the Paris Agreement, climate change adaptation, and accessing climate finance, it seems the ball falls into the governments' court.

We hear the usual refrain: "Governments need to mainstream climate risk into development policies" or "Governments need to act" or "Heads of State need to meet to raise ambition on NDCs [Nationally Determined Contributions that countries made to the Paris Agreement]"

But will Government officials shaking hands and signing project proposals



magically solve the climate crisis?

Here's an idea: create a robust business case – whether it is by showing returns on investments or economic losses due to inaction – for profit-seeking actors to financially back up an NDC or National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and activate most of the domestic heavy-lifting that is needed to make these plans a reality.

In Latin America, we see an urgent need for public-private collaboration regarding action on climate change. As far as climate justice goes, the region is on par with most African and Asian peers: their contribution to global warming is

less than that of USA and Europe.

However, the mega-biodiverse region remains highly vulnerable to climate change, economic growth is fuelling more carbon emissions, and the need for climate-resilient development is vital.

Despite a growing economy, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Latin America is growing at a slower rate than previously anticipated and well below growth rates of other regions, largely due to tightening of global financial conditions and lower com-

modity prices.

Low investment in human capital and entrepreneurship means economic inequality and a vulnerable middle class continues to be an issue in the region, a region that is already over-dependent on natural resources.

This socio-economic situation is further exacerbated by climate change related catastrophic events, changes in rainfall patterns and in temperatures. It is projected that a temperature rise of 2.5°C could have a negative impact on the Latin

American GDP of 1.5 to 5 percent.

To make matters worse, grant and donor funding from multilateral climate and environmental finance sources are on a downward trajectory in the region, partly due to its "middle income" status; meaning governments are expected to use non-grant instruments to mitigate emissions or adapt to climate change.

The bleak reality is that we can no longer rely on grant-funded projects to cut down emissions or urgently adapt to the already devastating effects of the climate crisis.

But, remember the "private sector"? What is the contribution of wealthy investors, small entrepreneurs, and banks to this puzzle? Should they care? Is the region ready?

The good news in Latin America is that opportunities for private capital investment, which has significantly grown in recent years (for example, venture capital investment jumped from US \$500M in 2016 to US \$2 Billion in 2018 in the region) is at an all-time high.

There is also a growing sense of business opportunity amongst regional, national and private banks, investors, and entrepreneurs who understand the implications of climate risks in their value chains, operations, and portfolios.

Impact investors are financing reforestation initiatives in Mexico and climate-resilient productive landscapes in Honduras. Banks are developing innovative and flexible financial instruments

to support small producers in rural Costa Rica protect their water resources through ecosystem-based adaptation.

Honey and cocoa cooperatives in Guatemala have established climate-resilient value chains by understanding the outstanding risks of climate change to their businesses. UNDP has served as a connector for these partnerships and supported on-the-ground projects which are the vehicles for these fascinating initiatives.

Taking advantage of the NDC and NAP processes, policy makers are approaching businesses, corporations and investors to see how they can contribute to finance the implementation of such plans.

Such is the case of Uruguay, Ecuador and Chile, where UNDP and its partners – including Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF) – have been instrumental.

With the Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (concluding August 23), including the Regional NDC Dialogues organised by UNDP in partnership with UNFCCC, we have another opportunity to welcome the private sector to the discussion table.

Regional and national banks, NGOs, think-tanks and consulting firms will all convene in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, along with government representatives from across the region, to find ways of working together to fight climate change.

Claudia Ortiz is UNDP Technical Advisor on Climate Change Adaptation

South must also set international tax rules

SYDNEY and KUALA LUMPUR

RECENTLY, Christine Lagarde, outgoing Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), argued that developing 'countries need a seat at the table' to design rules governing international corporate taxation.

This acknowledges recent IMF findings that developing countries lose approximately USD200 billion in potential tax revenue yearly, about 1.3 per cent of their GDP, due to companies shifting profits to low-tax locations. Oxfam estimated in 2018 that extreme poverty could be eradicated for USD107 billion annually, i.e., about half the lost revenue.

Corporate taxation?

This comes on top of 'beggar thy neighbour' tax competition, encouraged by past policy advice from international financial institutions, such as the IMF and the World Bank, purportedly to entice investments by transnational corporations (TNCs).

Corporate tax rates in developing countries have fallen by about 20 per cent since 1980 with uncertain impacts on 'greenfield' foreign direct investment (FDI) outside resource sectors. In most cases, there have been net revenue losses as developing countries heavily depend on corporate taxation.

Low and middle income countries have lost USD167-200 billion annually, around 1-1.5 per cent of a country's GDP, due to corporate tax competition. As a share of GDP, Sub Saharan African countries have suffered the most revenue losses, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, and South Asia.

BEPS

Developing countries' complaints about tax losses due to TNC profit shifting and tax evasion have long fallen on deaf ears. Designed by developed countries, international corporate tax rules have generally favoured 'residence', mainly developed countries, over 'source', primarily developing countries, where TNCs operate and secure profits.

Developed countries also lose revenues, as TNCs 'game' the rules to minimize their tax liability globally. Estimated annual revenue losses to high-income OECD countries range from 0.15 to 0.7 per cent of GDP, now of greater concern with their heightening fiscal predicaments following



the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

Mandated by the G20, the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project since 2013 has provided countries with tools needed to tackle 'transfer pricing', harmful tax regimes, treaty abuse, etc.

Developing countries still not at table

BEPS actions were decided on, and approved by 44 countries, including OECD, OECD accession countries and other G20 members. Recognizing the different needs of developing countries in its 2014 Report (Part I and Part 2), the OECD sought to address some of their concerns with two initiatives in 2016.

The first was the BEPS Inclusive Framework (IF) to include developing countries as BEPS associates; as of

Christine Lagarde, outgoing Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)

August 2019, 134 countries were members. Second, a Multilateral Instrument (MLI), involving more than 100 developed and developing countries, was negotiated to deal with, among others, tax treaty abuses.

Almost all countries are now in the IF. Yet, it has not improved on the original BEPS actions. While developing country BEPS associates supposedly participate on an 'equal footing', they have no decision-making role. Apparently, 'equal footing' only refers to implementation of the BEPS 4 Minimum Standards. MLI largely addresses OECD member concerns and is not intended to protect the tax rights of source developing countries.

Unsurprisingly, although

raised during IF consultations, developing country concerns – such as allocation of taxing rights between source and residence states, taxation of informal economy and their differential needs – remain largely unaddressed and unresolved.

With such failures implying legitimacy deficits, BEPS measures are unlikely to benefit developing countries very much. In fact, the BEPS Project and the BEPS Inclusive Framework were never intended to deal with challenges faced by developing countries.

Dubious benefits

BEPS has developed in line with OECD international model tax treaties, reflecting developed countries' norms. Its technical

assistance programmes – such as Tax Inspector without Borders (TIWB), by the OECD with the UNDP, and the Platform for Collaboration on Tax, by the IMF, WB, UNDP and OECD – help developing countries to achieve BEPS Minimum Standards, disadvantaging developing countries in several respects:

- Accelerates harmful tax competition: While most developing countries have committed to implement BEPS Minimum Standards by joining the IF, developed countries are still taking unilateral actions fuelling tax competition, e.g., the USA's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and the EU's Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive, disadvantaging developing countries.
- No level playing field: Devel-

oped countries' unilateral actions reflect their continued jockeying for advantage regardless of their ostensible BEPS consensus. Australia and the UK have introduced their own rules to address profit shifting by TNCs, while the US Congress declared that, regardless of BEPS, it would craft tax rules favouring US companies. Developed countries can also opt out of MLI provisions for developing countries. The one-size-fits-all approach thus also penalizes developing countries.

- Too onerous and complex: Most developing countries lack the technical resources, personnel, capacity, technical knowledge and economic means to implement the typically complex and costly BEPS actions. Even with foreign assistance, BEPS implementation burdens their tax administrations. While BEPS implementation may not generate extra revenue, they typically need to spend scarce fiscal resources to comply.

- Distorts priorities: They also divert scarce resources from improving tax administration and reforming taxation to tackling tax evasion by individuals. The BEPS 'one-size-fits-all' approach is problematic as developing countries have different and varied needs.

- Shrinks policy space: Policy discretion in developing countries is also constrained by BEPS. The minimum tax rule, proposed in the OECD public consultation document of February 2019, limits the right of countries to set their own rules. Developing countries risk being blacklisted by the EU for failing to implement BEPS minimum standards.

Hence, developing countries must examine both the costs and benefits of the IF for implementing BEPS minimum standards while continuing to demand meaningful seats at the BEPS negotiating table, which should be truly inclusive and multilateral, e.g., at the United Nations itself, and not just through a donor-dominated UN fund or program, where accountability to developing countries is limited.

STRANDLINE, RIO TINTO TO EXTRACT MINERAL SANDS ON 350-KM-LONG EASTERN COASTLINE

By Property Watch Reporter

MINERAL sand mining stretching across the country's eastern coastline from Tanga to Mtwara regions, is set to commence later this year after Australian based companies, Strandline Resources and Rio Tinto secure funding.

In its second quarterly report for the year ending June 2019, Strandline which operates a joint venture with Rio Tinto, said during a highly successful quarter, it made strong progress across its three key heavy mineral sands projects in Australia and Tanzania.

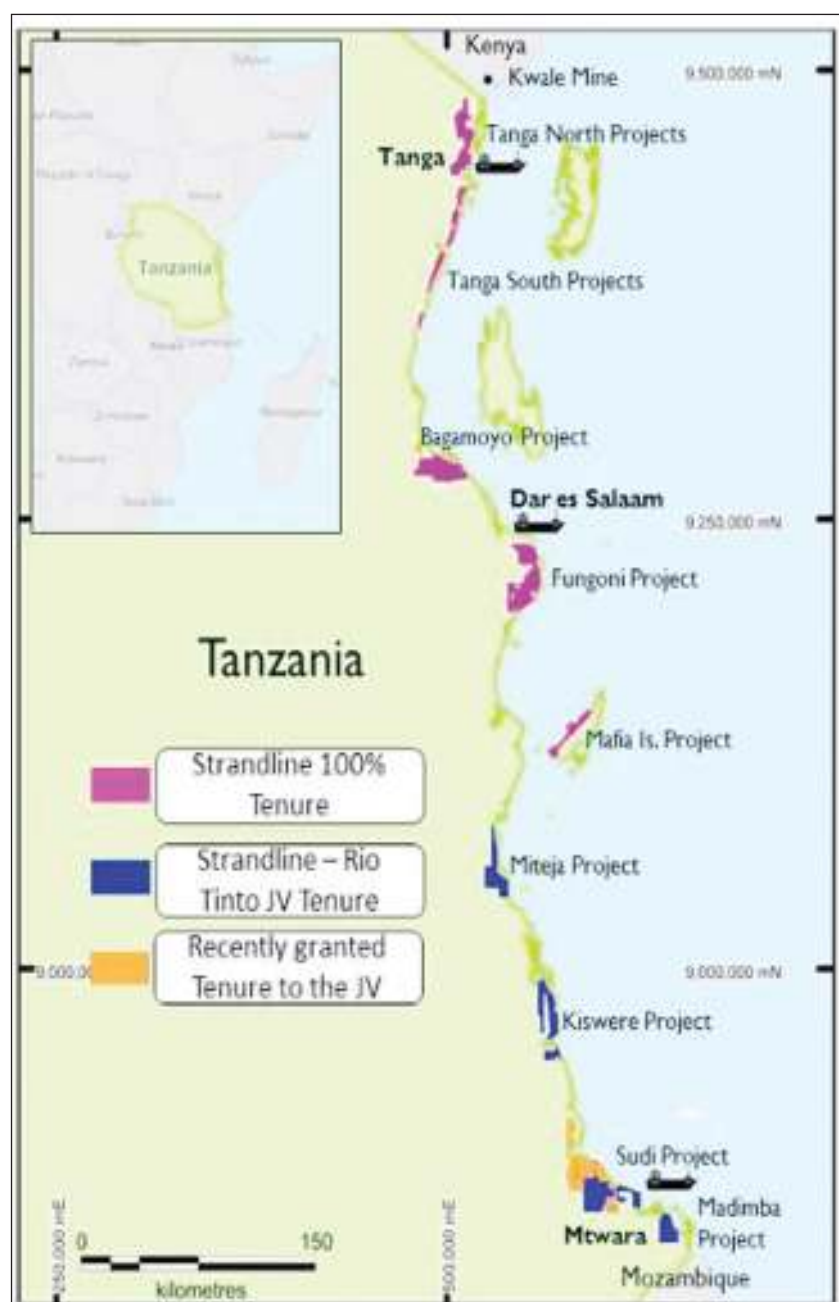
The company said key focus was on advancing its two zircon-titanium rich, development-ready projects of Fungoni 25 kilometres south of Dar es Salaam and the large Tier 1 Coburn Project in Western Australia.

In parallel, the Australian Stock Exchange listed company said it progressed exploration and evaluation activities across a series of high-grade targets spread along 350km of highly prospective Tanzanian coastline, including the large-scale Tanga South Tajiri Project and highly prospective Bagamoyo and Sudi projects.

"Fungoni is Strandline's 100 percent owned high-margin starter project situated 25km from port of Dar es Salaam and is based on a capital efficient and proven execution strategy, with a fixed price engineering procurement and construction contract signed with GR Engineering Services that underpins a 12 month build phase to first production," the company said in its second quarterly report.

The Q2 report further stated that with mining licence and environmental certificate already granted by the authorities because they have been convinced by a host of socio-economic benefits, including capital inflows to the country, high local content, jobs, knowledge sharing and community engagement programs.

"With key development approvals and permits in place, 100 percent of the product pre-sold via offtake, strong government support, major implementation contracts signed and project financing underway, Strandline is well positioned to commercialise its



A map showing Strandline Resources Limited's 350kms area of mineral sand mining stretching from Tanga to Mtwara regions.

first project in Tanzania and capitalise on the growing mineral sands market," the report added.

During the period, the company also achieved another key milestone towards the development of Fungoni, with Nedbank CIB obtaining credit approval to underwrite a five-year, US\$26 million project finance facility.

"Nedbank's decision follows detailed due diligence of technical, financial, market, legal, environmental and social fundamentals," Strandline stated in the report while noting that the facility accounts for the majority of Fungoni's total estimated capital cost of US\$35 million including taxes, levies but excluding financing costs.

On Sudi Project, the report said the earn-in and joint venture agreement with Rio Tinto Mining & Exploration Limited is across Strandline's suite of heavy mineral sand tenements located in the southern region of the country.

"The joint venture has enabled Strandline to accelerate exploration activities on the project area, with Rio Tinto contributing expertise and funding," the report noted further explaining that exploration activities to date have outlined mineral sands anomalies with elevated grades and high-value assemblage from surface with the next phase of drilling to commence across priority targets at Sudi and other areas of interest in the area.

Strandline's portfolio, which includes the Miteja, Kiswero, Sudi and Mtwara prospects, is located in the southern region extends along 350km of the country's eastern coastline, the quarterly report added.

Smart cities top Gartner's hype cycle for Africa

CAPE TOWN

SMART city frameworks, the Internet of things (IOT) and low earth orbit satellite systems are the three technologies that will transform business in Africa within 10 years, says Gartner.

To help business leaders discern what emerging technologies will be commercially viable, each year the Gartner Hype Cycle plots new technologies on a hype graph and highlights trends. This year's ICT Hype Cycle report identifies 24 key technologies and describes how they will impact business performance on the continent during the next 10 years.

The research and advisory firm says 13 of the identified technologies will mature within the next two to 10 years and have a transformational or high impact on businesses. "IT spending continues to rise in Africa alongside the maturity of technologies locally. Seven technologies have entered the 'Slope of Enlightenment' and are climbing toward the 'Plateau of Productivity' in 2019," says Jeff Mann, research VP at Gartner.

Mann elaborates: "For example, cloud office has entered the 'Plateau of Productivity' this year. Companies in Africa have made the move to cloud because of general preference for cloud deployments, but also because of the desire to reduce costs, redeploy IT staff, drive simplicity and provide more functionality to users."

Smart city ambitions

The Gartner report points out smart cities have an intelligent urban ecosystem that is designed to improve citizens' lives, stimulate the economy and protect the environment. As a result, a smart city framework determines the data exchange and information required to build user-ambient services and experiences.

"Smart city frameworks will have a transformational business impact in the next two to five years as cities in Africa apply diverse strategies to accelerate the development of smart city frameworks based on traffic, social and safety issues," states Bettina Tratz-Ryan, research VP at Gartner.

"In many countries, citizens are moving from rural areas into cities, and urbanisation strategies are key to supporting the increasing infrastructure needs, and to aid the urbanisation growth both on a demographic and business level."

Referencing the City of Cape Town, the firm notes the Western Cape capital is investing heavily in wireless communications, not only as a growth engine for the city's financial, manufacturing and tourism industries, but also to create new jobs and build an entrepreneurial base for people.

In Johannesburg, Gartner says the city is using electrification, water management, traffic and green strategies to provide sustainable urban growth. In West Africa, Sierra Leone plans to use a data visualisation system that collects and manages data through blockchain and other sources, in order to understand rural and urban infrastructure and development trends.



A smart city rendition

Maasai Mara hotels run out of beds on wildebeest crossing

NAIROBI

HOTELS in Maasai Mara have run out of bed space on increased tourist arrivals following the annual wildebeest migration. This has compelled visitors to seek accommodation in private homes.

Mara National Reserve management said more than 100,000 tourists have witnessed the migration and more are coming before the spectacle ends next month. Over the years, the peak tourist ar-

rivals for the migration spectacle have been recorded at about 90 percent, giving the facilities room to cope with the high demand. It is different this time around.

The migration from Serengeti National Park in Tanzania started early this year from May as opposed to July and August, catching the hoteliers on the wrong foot. Mara National Reserve administrator Christine Daabash said on Monday the number of tourists had risen in recent weeks.

"The number of tourists has been increasing between April and this month. In April we had 9,000 tourists. This shot to 11,000 in May and 26,535 in June. We expect the number to go up to 100,000 by the end of this month," she said.

Tour operators and hoteliers normally report near full capacity, in large part because of safari-lovers going to watch the spectacular scenes of the hundreds of thousands of wildebeests crossing the Mara River in search of greener

pastures, and running into hungry crocodiles along the way.

Hotel manager Antony Tira said they had been forced to refer some clients to facilities outside the reserve for accommodation. "Most of the boarding facilities within the reserve cannot accommodate more tourists."

"We either look for an alternative hotel in the conservancies around the reserve or move out of our houses with other staff and literary rent the houses to our clients.

Business is good," he said. Locals around the reserve are also cashing in on accommodating tourists seeking the first-hand experience of the Maasai culture like dance, food and bead stitching in special tourism Manyattas.

Tourists pay Sh15,000 per head for a 24-hour stay within a Manyatta. Kenya's earnings from tourism rose by almost a third in 2018 from the previous year to Sh157.4 billion, after visitors increased by 37 per cent.

Real estate expert pleads with state to relax property buying rules for Diaspora

By Property Watch Reporter

THE government should consider relaxing property acquisition rules to allow Diaspora Tanzanians buy and own residential as well as commercial property in their motherland.

Ivory Tower's Head of Real Estate Services, Maina Njuguna said Diaspora Tanzanians have the financial muscles to boost the country's glutted real estate market especially Dar es Salaam which has been badly affected by the government's decision to move its capital to Dodoma.

"The Diaspora constitute a big customer base which can rejuvenate the property market if the rules are relaxed by the state," said Njuguna whose US\$50 million mixed use commercial complex incorporating shopping mall is set for partial opening in November this year.

He said because of restrictive property acquisition regulations which consider Diaspora Tanzanians with dual citizenship as foreigners, the group has resorted to buying property in freehold markets including in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Kenya.

"We just pray that authorities see this group of people as an important class with necessary means to invest in real estate and speed up growth of the country," the Ivory Tower Manager advised while revealing that the Palm Village project's phase one is over 70 percent completed.

The 100,000 square metres Palm Village which located at Mikochei beach in the commercial capital will comprised of the shopping mall, the podium, 180 residential apartments and a four star

hotel with 180-rooms.

"The mall is currently 70 percent let with big international, regional and local brands such as Carrefour. The apartment sales have picked up very much in the last four months," Njuguna said adding that phase three featuring Palm Village Residency with 180 apartments, will have its first occupants in December while the 180 room four star hotel will open in the third quarter of 2020.

Responding to a question on the mode of payment, the Ivory Tower Head of Real Estate said, "Our finance partners, KCB Bank are offering mortgages for willing buyers. We are also open to buyers coming in with their own mortgage partners."

He also joined other developers to plead with the government to scrap value added tax on residential apartments as it constitutes a big burden on buyers most who have to bear an extra 18 percent over and above the asking property price. "This would really be a boost to the property development sector," he added.

In June this year, Ivory Tower's chairman, Janson Huang visited parliament where he rallied lawmakers to buy a stake in the complex or lease space for residence or office accommodation.

"The MPs have shown interest to rent buildings business activities in the Palm Village. We want them to buy or rent," Huang was quoted by the media as saying. Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan laid a foundation stone for the complex last year when she commended the Chinese investors for putting up such a valuable investment in the commercial capital.



An artist's impression of Palm Village's floating swimming pool.

MINISTER CALLS UPON NMB BANK PLC TO USE ITS WIDE NETWORK TO BOOST REVENUE COLLECTION

By Property Watch Reporter

A network of over 220 physical branches covering over 90 percent of the country's administrative districts by NMB Bank Plc should help boost government's revenue collection targets.

Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Local Governments and Regional Administration, Seleman Jaffo said in Dodoma this week while addressing over 300 teachers during celebrations to mark 'Teachers' day' that with presence in all districts of the country, NMB is a bank of convenience to the state.

"Your decision to invest in nationwide physical branches, use of agents and deployment of ATM machines has not only allowed the majority of our people access banking services but also enabled district councils to collect revenue," Jaffo said.

The State Minister who last week announced results of last year's revenue collections by all district, municipal and city councils in the country with an increase from 73 percent of the target in 2017 to 81 percent last year, commended NMB for playing a bigger role.

"Your presence in almost all district councils physically has facilitated this record increase," the State Minister for Local Governments and Regional Administrations added noting that with over 3.5 million customers, NMB is also vehicle facilitating financial inclusion.

Jaffo also praised NMB management for empowering civil servants through personal loans but urged the bank and its peers in the market to revise the rate which is very high hence prohibitive. "I appeal to you



A new NMB Bank branch in Hydom district of Manyara region. File photo.

to review your interest rates because it is not logical for the civil servant to pay the same rate as a business person which drives away teachers from borrowing at banks and instead opt for loan sharks," the Minister charged.

NMB's Central Zone Manager, Nsolo Mlozi said management has plans to continue investing in physical branch networks but also in digital innovation to allow majority of Tanzanians access banking services easily.

"We hope that Treasury will continue to have confidence in us as reliable partners in boosting government's revenue collection and allowing many people access banking services," Mlozi said while stressing that with 31 percent of shares at NMB, the state is part and parcel of the Dar es Salaam based lender.

The bank's Senior Retail Manager, Ally Ngingite backed Mlozi's statement by unveiling that in addition to expanding its branch network, NMB is also targeting teachers in various products and services.

"But we are also consulting with teachers to listen to their grievances so that we address them so that NMB becomes their real bank of choice," Ngingite said noting that they have already met teachers in Coast and Dar es Salaam regions but also Zanzibar while more meetings are planned for other

Beira celebrates 112 years of age and 'political emancipation'

MAPUTO

THE City of Beira celebrated its 112th anniversary on Tuesday still bearing the scars left by Cyclone Idai.

"The reconstruction process represents an opportunity to adopt better planning and construction norms and ensure greater resilience and adaptation to climate change," Mayor Daviz Simango said at an event celebrating the "political emancipation" of the provincial capital of Sofala.

"Celebrating political emancipation, and the anniversary of our Beira, brings me to an understanding of the force that unifies our people. I believe we have here a mission: to build in the present opportunities for the future, and to strive every day to leave a legacy of social and economic development, as well as dignity for future generations," Simango said in a speech at the festively decorated Praça do Município.

In the words of the mayor of Mozambique's second city, and perhaps one of the first to be sacrificed to climate change: "Cyclone Idai was a tough test for our city and for



A hotel in Beira.

each of us, establishing, with its unprecedented intensity, new standards in terms of risk and vulnerability."

"The reconstruction process represents an opportunity to adopt better planning and construction norms and ensure greater resilience and adaptation to climate change in Beira. In this process, we need to raise awareness of a culture of overcoming and adapting at all levels, living with natural hazards in a safe and sustainable way," Simango said, taking advantage of the event to recall that the municipality needed money to carry out the Master Plan is approved long before the recent natural disaster by 2035.

Built on marshy ground at the confluence of the Púnguè and Búzi rivers, and below sea level, the settlement was founded in 1887 and initially named Chiveve, after a local river, but renamed in honour of the Prince of Beira, D. Luís Filipe, who in 1907 was the first member of the Portuguese royal family to visit Mozambique. D. Luís Filipe was the bearer of the royal decree granting Beira the status of a City which, in 2017, housed 592,090 inhabitants.

Commission threatens to destroy nearly 700

ABUJA

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) said it will dismantle 693 unused telecommunications towers across the country, if owners do not comply with an ultimatum.

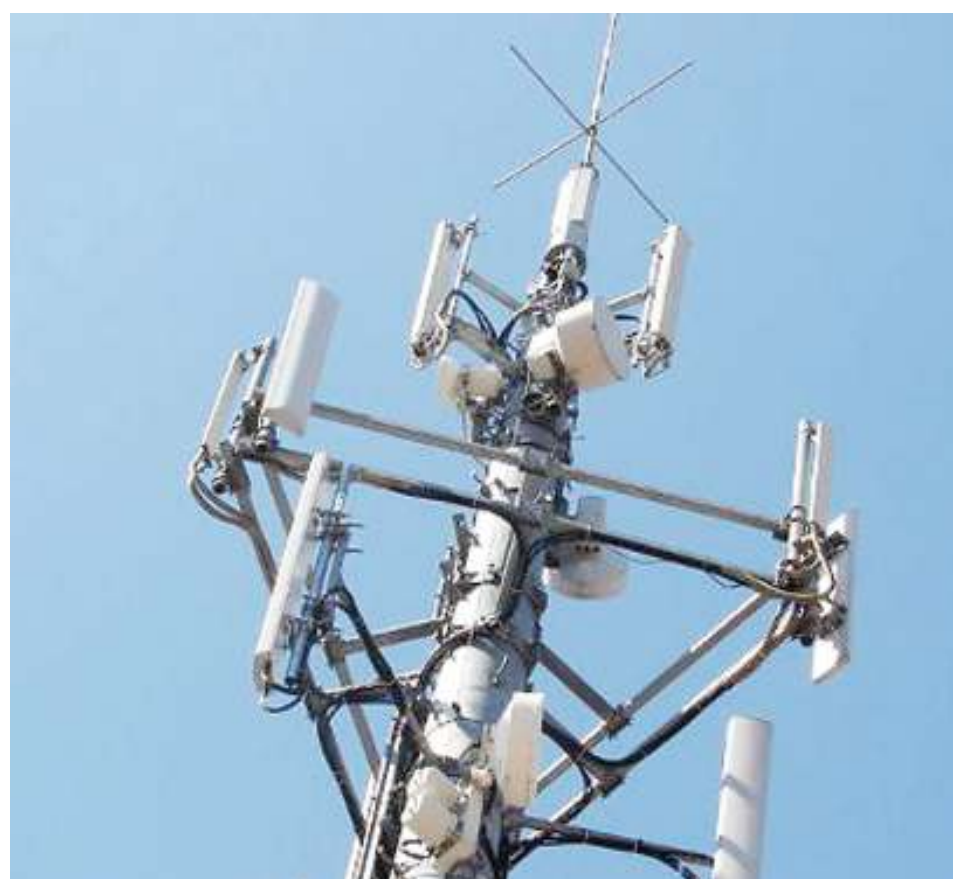
The regulator claims these towers have been abandoned and it has given owners 90 days to 'rehabilitate, commence usage or dismantle and remove' the infrastructure. Whilst the Commission said Nigeria needs 80,000 base stations to ensure reliable telecommunications services, fewer than 50,000 have been deployed to date.

A statement from the NCC reads: "In line with the provision of the Guidelines on Technical Specifications for the Installation of Telecommunications Masts and Towers, owners of the abandoned masts and towers are hereby given notice to rehabilitate, commence usage or dismantle and remove the masts/towers from the relevant locations within 90 days of this notice."

NCC's Director - Public Affairs Henry Nkemadu added that should the regulator take steps and actually dismantle infrastructure, the original owners of the towers in question will pay for the service.

"Affected licensees will be required to reimburse the Commission for expenses in this regard," said Nkemadu. Telecommunication masts continue to dominate discussion around Nigeria's ICT and telecommunications space.

In April 2019 ITWeb Africa reported the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) threatened to de-



A communications tower in the outskirts of Abuja.

molish about 7000 communication towers, claiming the infrastructure did not comply with regulations, specifically height restriction.

In early July 2019, the matter had been escalated to the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) with the NCC claiming the targeted installations were critical national infrastructure and any attempt to disrupt them must be approved by the Adviser.

A review of the 693 towers confirmed that several belong to now defunct CDMA companies which could have sold their base stations to existing operators. Industry experts believe the evolution of base station and mast technologies and the high cost of running this infrastructure could be

the reasons behind abandonment.

They also cite extortion by state officials as a key factor. It is alleged that officials demand payment via tariffs and multiple taxation and threatened to 'shut down installations' until payment is made.

The President of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Olusola Teniola said, "Dismantling them would be an economic loss to the country."

Huge amount of money was spent to build them. If the government had addressed several issues confronting the operators, most of them would have remained active and able to maintain their facilities."

African liquefied natural gas to draw \$103 billion in 2019

MALABO, Equatorial Guinea

AFRICA is an exciting frontier in the global natural gas sector. The continent holds 7.1 per cent of proven global gas reserves and is expected to contribute nearly 10 per cent of global production growth by 2024.

On the demand side, the continent's large, urbanised and industrialised societies of the future will require reliable and sustainable power generation.

With greenfield investments in Nigeria, Egypt, Mozambique and elsewhere reaching nearly \$103 billion this year, it is clear that liquefaction is viewed as the most profitable strategy for realising Africa's gas potential.

Nigeria accounts for over 50 per cent of current LNG production capacity on the continent, with October 2019 seeing a final investment decision on the \$12 billion expansion of the country's liquefaction plant at Bonny Island in Rivers State.

The Train 7 expansion project would increase Nigerian LNG production capacity by 35 per cent, from 22 million tonnes per annum to 30 million. Current indications point to a positive verdict. The 20-year-old facility is owned and operated by a consortium which includes NNPC, Shell, Total and Eni.

In North Africa, Egypt has re-established itself as an

important investment destination following the downturn in the gas sector in 2014. In the first half of this year, the behemoth Zohr offshore gas field produced 11.3 billion cubic meters - 3.6 times more than it did in the first half of last year.

The success is set to continue with reports earlier this year of a new Eni discovery in the Nour North Sinai Concession. Evaluation is ongoing but there are hopes that the new field could rival the Zohr, which would open significant opportunities for investment in new liquefaction plants.

In February, the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Corporation awarded five new gas exploration concessions to Shell, ExxonMobil, Petronas, DEA and Eni in which it expects to see 20 wells drilled.

In June, meanwhile, Anadarko gave its final approval for a \$20 billion gas liquefaction and export terminal in Mozambique. The Area 1 project is the single largest LNG project ever approved in Africa. And, it could be closely followed by Exxon's \$14.7 billion Area 4 development - FID is expected before the end of the year.

Political stability and access to east Asian markets could see Mozambique become a major global gas market over the next decade.

Investors are also paying attention to smaller projects in countries like Mauritania, Senegal and Cameroon. Operators have been able to

deploy floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) technology to realise the value of smaller assets in these markets and this could be a continuing trend in 2020 and beyond.

Eni and partners are considering a \$7 billion FLNG for the Coral South field in Mozambique.

In terms of African demand for LNG, South Africa - the most industrialised economy on the continent - could be an influential market. Heavy coal consumption and unreliable power generation make natural gas an attractive solution to diversify the country's power generation base.

In 2020, Transnet - a state-owned freight logistics firm - is expected to launch a tender for the development of an LNG import terminal at Richards Bay Port. The World Bank's International Finance Corporation has committed \$2 million to fund the project planning.

These and other recent developments reflect a growing and diverse African LNG sector - from top-tier greenfield developments to faster-to-market, agile FLNG operations, and massive new discoveries to expanding existing liquefaction infrastructure.

It is an exciting time to be involved, as demonstrated by the high-profile speakers expected to take part in this year's Gas Exporting Countries' Forum, set to be held here.

AGENCIES

TECHNOLOGY

DUBAI'S GLOBAL VILLAGE GOES REASSURING CUSTOMERS FOLLOWING 'FINGERPRINT HACK'



Main entrance of Dubai's Global Village.

DUBAI

A MAJOR Dubai venue operator has said customers' data has not been compromised following claims that 15,000 fingerprints it held had been easily accessed by hackers.

Global Village, which runs the popular Dubai entertainment complex open between October and April, said it "is currently not facing any security vulnerability." It made the statement after it was named as one of several companies affected by a leak of sensitive data held by an external security firm.

Researchers working with vpnMentor, a cyber security company, said they were able to access more than a million fingerprints, and other sensitive data such as account passwords and photographs, used by a security tool known as Biostar 2.

The platform is used by thousands

of companies, including the largest police force in the UK, to control access to secure parts of facilities. Iffco, the food products group based in Dubai, was also named as one of the global businesses affected. Iffco did not respond to a request for comment.

"We can confirm that Global Village is currently not facing any security vulnerability," a company spokesman told The National. We do not collect any biometric data from our guests and visitors as only entry ticket barcodes are scanned once they enter Global Village. We are currently investigating this report internally and we will not be giving any further comments on it."

The spokesman did not respond to further enquiries as to whether it collected biometric data from people other than customers, for example staff or contractors, who are more likely to be affected given the typical

uses of the security programme.

The researchers claimed they had been able to access large databases used by the Biostar 2 security systems. The data they found could have allowed criminals make changes to security networks potentially allowing them to gain physical access to secure sites, such as security facilities and banks. Individuals could also be left open to identity and theft and fraud, they said.

"The potential for criminal activity and fraud is massive," vpnMentor said, in a report detailing its findings. This is a huge leak that endangers both the businesses and organisations involved, as well as their employees." They pointed out that unlike passwords, fingerprints and other biometric data could not be changed, with leaks potentially affecting victims for life.

The data was publicly available, accessed through manipulating web-

site addresses, the researchers said. They claimed that in total, 23 gigabytes of data containing nearly 30 million records were found exposed online. The data was made private on August 13, almost a week after vpnMentor said it alerted the security firm to its findings.

Suprema, the firm that builds and markets Biostar 2, said in a statement to the BBC News that it was aware of reports of the breach and was taking them "very seriously." "[Suprema] is investigating the allegations in the press reports and will liaise with any appropriate third parties and/or individuals as necessary," the statement said.

London house prices rise for first time since 2017

LONDON

ASKING prices for London homes showed their first annual increase since 2017 this month, as the Brexit-battered market started to show signs of life.

New seller prices were up 1.3 per cent from a year earlier, property website Rightmove said in a report published Monday. They eased just 0.1 percent on the month, the smallest decline for any August since 2006.

Rightmove said a shortage of supply is helping to underpin prices, with the number of new sellers down almost 11 per cent on the year. Meanwhile, sales agreements jumped in what is normally a slow month, suggesting buyers and sellers alike are now taking the plunge after years of waiting for Brexit to be resolved.

"It's been three years since the vote and Brexit fatigue has kicked in," Chris Osmond, sales director at London-based estate agent JOHNS&CO, said in a comment accompanying the report. "After all, life goes on and you can only put plans on hold for so long. We've also seen the number of vendors wanting to cash in on long-held investments increase."

August also saw the largest number of sales nationwide in four years. Rightmove director Miles Shipside said that uncertainty ahead of the October 31 Brexit deadline had potentially encouraged homeowners to sell earlier in the year than normal.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid is mulling stamp duty reforms for UK home sellers as part of a budget due later this year, he told The Times in an interview published



A residential street in Hackney, east London.

on Saturday. While the newspaper reported that tax burden would be shifted from home buyers to sellers to give larger tax bill for those who have benefited from rising property prices, Javid later said he won't support that in a tweet. Nevertheless, "we need bold measures on housing," he said.

The property market has struggled in the recent years, with the prospect of Britain leaving the European Union weighing on prices. London has been particularly badly affected. A

separate report by Acadata found house prices in the capital barely rose in the year through June, with several areas losing more than 10 per cent.

Across the country, the picture is mixed. Asking prices were lower than a year earlier in the south-east and the south-west, while northern England, Scotland and Wales - regions where house prices are cheaper on average - showed solid increases, according to Rightmove.

feasible as a private-public partnership, with European Union aid covering 40 per cent of the cost of €13bn to €20bn, a study commissioned by both countries showed last year. Mr Aas said it's hard to square the results of that study with Mr Vesterbacka's plans.

In a letter last month to the developers seeking more detailed plans, Estonian's Public Administration Minister Jaak Aab said the current timetable

to open the tunnel in 2024 isn't realistic. The 2018 study showed construction would take 15 years to complete.

"We're working on providing more detailed answers to the government so a decision can be taken as soon as possible," according to Paul Kunnapp, a lawyer representing the developer. Some of the details sought by Estonia will only become clear once further studies take place after the government approves

the project, he said.

Finland's government hasn't discussed the tunnel project and it's not part of its policy programme, according to Sabina Lindstrom, director-general of the Networks Department at the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

"We've had unofficial talks with our Estonian colleagues regarding their idea of a memorandum of understanding, but they haven't yet sent an official

request to sign one," she said.

Estonia expects to sign a memorandum with Finland this month, according to Mr Aab's letter from July. But more details on the project are crucial, according to Mr Aas.

"If the developer says today that they don't want any guarantees from the governments, we can't just let them start digging the tunnel," he said. "It doesn't work like that."



Downtown Dubai, Greens, and International City are the top three most popular areas for Chinese investors.

China's appetite for Dubai property grows amid strengthening of Sino-UAE relations

DUBAI

A LARGE number of Chinese people are investing in Dubai's real estate market due to strengthening of ties between the UAE and China and implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative and other developments, according to a property consultant with Coldwell Banker UAE.

Xiaoyun Du said that current trends in both the Chinese stock market and its property market, both of which have been experiencing rapid growth in recent years, have encouraged upper-middle class Chinese nationals to invest in overseas markets, including in Dubai. Depreciation of the yuan, as well as the high rental yields on offer in Dubai, are other factors that are influencing Chinese investors, Ms Xiaoyun said.

Using data from Dubizzle, she identified Downtown Dubai, The Greens and International City as the three most popular areas for Chinese investors to buy ready properties, whereas Dubai Creek Harbour, Meydan and Madinat Jumeirah Living top the areas in terms of off-plan sales.

"Location, annual yield and selling prices are the three of the key factors considered when making purchasing decisions," Ms Xiaoyun said. In Downtown Dubai, the average price of resale properties is between Dh1,700 and Dh2,200 per square foot, which is equivalent to one quarter to one-sixth of the selling price of real estate in Downtown Shanghai, she said.

"For Chinese investors, this price for a fitted flat with a free parking in the heart of Dubai is very cost-effective. The yearly yield in Downtown Dubai is around 6 per cent to 7 per cent, slightly lower than the annual average yearly yield of 8 per cent in Dubai, but because of the above two advantages, Chinese buyers accept this."

The Greens is another popular choice for Chinese investors due to its proximity to Dubai Internet City and Dubai Media City. The average selling price within The Greens is between Dh1,200 and Dh1,500 per square foot and average yields in the community are around 8 per cent.

International City is close to Dragon Mart, the retail and wholesale develop-

ment that has become one of the biggest hubs for Chinese traders in the Mena region. The average selling price in International City is Dh700 to Dh980 per square foot, meaning properties are more affordable, and it offers some of the highest rental yields in Dubai of 8 to 9 per cent, Ms Xiaoyun said.

In off-plan properties, Dubai Creek Harbour is a new development by Emaar Properties and Dubai Holding, and Chinese investors have already become the number one investors in the area. Last year, master developer Emaar Properties announced plans to build a major 'Chinatown' retail and leisure area within the six square kilometre development.

"Emaar's development track in Dubai, including Burj Khalifa and whole Downtown area, instills confidence in Chinese nationals considering investing in projects by the developer. Besides, based on their investment experience in major cities in China, investors are confident that such 'city hub' developments will provide good returns in the near future."

Investments by Chinese nationals accounted for Dh1.7 billion in the first three quarters of 2018, making them the sixth-most active buyers of property, according to the Dubai Land Department. Dubai is targeting Dh1bn of Chinese real estate investments in 2019.

The number of Chinese expats living in Dubai has increased by 53 per cent over the past five years, with around 230,000 Chinese nationals currently living in the emirate and around 4,000 Chinese companies operating.

Figures released by Dubai Tourism yesterday also revealed that Chinese visitor numbers increased 11 per cent in the first six months of 2019. China was the emirate's fourth-biggest market for tourists, welcoming 501,000 overnight visitors from China.

Ties between China and the UAE have strengthened since the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in July 2018. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, also visited China last month. During his visit, a raft of new trade deals between the two countries were announced.

World's longest undersea tunnel hits first blockage

HELSINKI

A PLAN to build the world's longest undersea rail tunnel encountered its first major snag.

Financing of €15 billion was agreed this year for the tunnel to link Finland and Estonia. But the Baltic nation of 1.3 million people wants more details on that funding, the business plan behind the idea and Finland's role before giving the green light.

"We need a clear understanding of where the money is coming from and in what amount," Estonian Economy Minister Taavi Aas said. "Where are the guarantees that it will be completed? The developer hasn't been able to respond how it's estimated the volume of people that will be travelling through there."

The tunnel between Helsinki and Tallinn would span more than 100 kilometres and entails

construction of at least one artificial island. The project was founded by Finnish entrepreneur Peter Vesterbacka, formerly of Rovio Entertainment, which developed the Angry Birds video game.

The financing, to be provided by China's Touchstone Capital Partners, will cover the entire cost of the project, the tunnel company Finest Bay Area Development said in March. A tunnel could be economically

feasible as a private-public partnership, with European Union aid covering 40 per cent of the cost of €13bn to €20bn, a study commissioned by both countries showed last year. Mr Aas said it's hard to square the results of that study with Mr Vesterbacka's plans.

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WORLD

Trump's 'nasty' label draws response from Danish prime minister

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

DENMARK'S youngest ever prime minister has had her job for just over two months. But she's already making international headlines as the target of US President Donald Trump's ire.

On Wednesday, 41-year-old Mette Frederiksen made clear she didn't want the US president's decision to cancel a state visit to Denmark to become a diplomatic crisis.

Trump, who axed a planned Sept 2 trip because he wasn't allowed to buy Greenland, was still welcome to come another time, Frederiksen told reporters in Copenhagen. She also said that the US is one of Denmark's closest allies.

But Trump lashed out later in the day. Frederiksen's use of the word "aburd" to characterize reports of his interest in purchasing Greenland, which is part of the Kingdom of Denmark, was "nasty," according to the former real estate tycoon.

Frederiksen says she doesn't feel her words were disrespectful. "I don't think I have been blunt or harsh in this dis-

ussion," she told state broadcaster DR. "I actually think we have responded very nicely from the Danish side."

"When you are close allies and good friends, like Denmark and the US are, there should also be room for disagreements along the way," Frederiksen said. "I hope we can stop this discussion soon."

Trump says he canceled his trip to Denmark, which was at the invitation of Queen Margrethe II, because of Frederiksen's choice of words.

"When they say it was absurd - and it was said in a very nasty, very sarcastic way - I said, 'We'll make it some other time,'" Trump told reporters. "She's talking to the United States of America. You don't talk to the United States that way, at least under me."

"All she had to do was say, 'No we wouldn't be interested,'" Trump said.

In an effort to defuse the tensions, US ambassador to Denmark, Carla Sands, on Wednesday said that Trump "values and respects" the Danes and is looking forward to a trip at a later date. She added that "great friends and allies" like the US and Denmark "should be



Mette Frederiksen (L) and President Donald Trump

able to discuss all issues openly and candidly."

The political brouhaha over the world's largest island comes from its strategic location in the Arctic. Global warming is making Greenland more accessible to potential oil and mineral resources.

Trump was scheduled to visit Denmark on Sept 2-3 as part of a European tour. But early Wednesday, he tweeted his decision to indefinitely postpone the trip. The move stunned Danes and blindsided the Danish royal palace. Spokeswoman Lene Balleby told The Associated Press that it came as "a surprise" to the royal household, which had formally invited Trump.

The US State Department said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke Wednesday with his Danish counterpart and "expressed appreciation for Denmark's cooperation as one of the United States' allies and Denmark's contributions to address shared global security priorities."

Spokesperson Morgan Ortogus said Pompeo and Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeppe Kofod "also discussed strengthening cooperation with the Kingdom of Denmark - including Greenland - in the Arctic."

On Tuesday, Trump tweeted, "Denmark is a very special country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time."

The vast island of Greenland sits between the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, has a population of 56,000 and has 80% of its land mass covered by a

1.7 million-square-kilometer ice sheet.

For all of Greenland's appeal, scientists consider it the canary in the coal mine for climate change and say its massive ice sheet has seen one of its biggest melts on record this summer, contributing to a global rise in sea levels.

Frederiksen said she is standing behind the government of Greenland.

"A discussion about a potential sale of Greenland has been put forward. It has been rejected by Greenland Premier Kim Kielsen and I fully stand behind that rejection," she told reporters in Copenhagen.

Frederiksen, who took office two months ago in a minority Social Democratic government, went on to say that diplomatic relations between Copenhagen and Washington "are not in any crisis in my opinion" despite Trump's canceled plans.

"The invitation for a stronger strategic cooperation with the Americans in the Arctic is still open," Frederiksen said, adding "the United States is one of our closest allies."

Others in Denmark were not as gracious.

Martin Lidegaard, a former Danish foreign minister, told broadcaster TV2 that it was "a diplomatic farce" and Trump's behavior was "grotesque."

Trump's cancellation was "deeply insulting to the people of Greenland and Denmark," former Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt wrote on Twitter.

Claus Oxfeldt, chairman of Denmark's main police union, told Danish media that authorities had been busy planning the third visit by a sitting US president to the Scandinavian NATO member. "It has created great frustrations to have spent so much time preparing for a visit that is canceled," Oxfeldt was quoted as saying.

Ordinary Danes shook their heads at the news, with many calling Trump immature.

"He thinks he can just buy Greenland. He acts like an elephant in a china shop," said Pernille Iversen, a 41-year-old shopkeeper in Copenhagen. "This is an insult to (Queen) Margrethe, to Denmark," said Steen Gade, a 55-year-old road worker.

In Greenland, Johannes Kyed, an employee with a mine company, told Denmark's TV2 channel that wanting to buy a country and its people is a relic of the past.

Agencies

Russia expects Zelensky to send signals in real life, not on social media - diplomat

MOSCOW

MOSCOW expects Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky to send signals in real life instead of social media, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wrote on Facebook yesterday.



"As for signals, they are expected of you, though not on social media but in real life," she said, commenting on the Ukrainian president's statement that Russia could return to the G8 and take its place "on the agenda of high diplomacy" once Crimea became part of Ukraine again and the conflict in Donbass ended. Zelensky (pictured) also said that Russia had to send serious signals for peace.

Zakharova pointed out that if "high diplomacy" referred to international platforms and forums, including the United Nations Security Council, "then Russia takes part in outlining and implementing the global political agenda."

The Russian diplomat added that "a UN Security Council's resolution approved the Minsk Agreements" so Ukraine "is obliged to comply with them."

Russia and G7

US President Donald Trump told reporters on Tuesday that "it's much more appropriate to have Russia in" [the G8]. According to a senior US administration official cited by CNN, Trump and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron held a telephone conversation on Tuesday and agreed that the Russian president should be invited to the G7 summit in 2020.

According to CNN, Trump plans to broach the topic at a G7 summit scheduled to take place in Biarritz, France, on August 24-26.

The G7 is a group of industrialized nations that includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The group was renamed the G8 in 1997 when Russia joined the club.

However, following the 2014 events in Ukraine that created a crisis in relations between Russia and the West, the group's western members decided to revert to the G7 model.

Agencies

Iran displays domestically built mobile missile defence system

DUBAI

IRAN displayed what it described as a domestically built long-range, surface-to-air missile air defence system yesterday, at a time of rising tension with the United States.

Iran shot down a US military surveillance drone in the Gulf with a surface-to-air missile in June. It says the drone was over its territory, but the United States says it was in international airspace.

State television showed President Hassan Rouhani attending an unveiling ceremony for the mobile Bavar-373 system, which Iranian media have described as a competitor to the Russian S-300 missile system.

"With this long-range air defence system, we can detect ... targets or planes at more than 300 km, lock it at about 250 km, and destroy it at 200 km," Defence Minister Amir Hatami told state television.

The system's unveiling came on Iran's National Defence Industry Day. Iran has developed a large domestic arms industry in the face of international sanctions and embargoes that have barred it from importing many weapons.

Western military analysts say Iran often exaggerates its weapons capabilities, though concerns about its long-range ballistic missile program contributed to Washington last year leaving the pact that Iran sealed with world powers in 2015 to rein in its nuclear ambitions in exchange for an easing of economic sanctions.

On Tuesday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned at a UN Security Council meeting that, under the Iran nuclear deal, a United Nations arms embargo on Iran was due to expire in October 2020.

Agencies



Uganda, Rwanda sign agreement on non-interference in domestic affairs

LUANDA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame on Wednesday signed, in Luanda, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cease the hostilities between the two central African states.

The agreement was signed during a quadripartite summit which was also attended by the host Angolan President Joao Lourenco and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) leader Felix Tshisekedi.

On the occasion, the Angolan president highlighted the im-

portance of the understanding reached by the two neighboring countries of Rwanda and Uganda.

This is the second meeting of its kind that the Angolan capital hosts in less than two months, bringing together the four cited Heads of State after their last meeting held on July 12 this year.

Wednesday's meeting was designed to allow the four statesmen to witness the signing of the documents that formalize the first consensus reached at their previous meetings, and based on the decisions taken at N'Sele mini-summit held outside Kinshasa (DRC) on

May 31 last year.

The legal instruments signed in Luanda seal the understanding reached between Uganda and Rwanda that will help overcome the tension that has characterized the relations between the two neighboring countries whose animosity also has a strong impact on the security situation of the neighboring DR Congo.

The republic of Angola and the DR Congo facilitated the process. A State House statement from Uganda later said leaders of Uganda and Rwanda met in Angola and agreed to respect each other's sovereignty

and of neighboring countries.

"They committed to refrain from actions conducive to destabilization or subversion in the territory of the other party or neighboring countries and also eliminate all factors that may create such perception," the pact said.

"The leaders will respect and protect the rights and freedoms of the nationals of the other party residing or transiting in their national territories, in accordance with laws of their countries," the agreement added.

The pact said the two countries will resume cross-border activi-

Xinhua

Britain, Germany agree on Brexit with deal, differ on approaches

BERLIN

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel and the visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday reiterated the Brexit with a deal, but were different in approaches.

In his first trip abroad since assuming office, Johnson called again for re-negotiations for the Brexit agreement between Britain and the European Union (EU) in order to avoid Britain leaving the bloc without a deal on Oct. 31.

The EU, Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron have repeatedly rejected to renegotiate the Brexit deal with London. The Brexit deal made under Johnson's predecessor Theresa May was rejected three times by the British Parliament.

The most disputed issue is how to prevent a new border between controls

between the EU member Ireland and British Northern Ireland.

At the joint press conference before the meeting, Johnson said he believed the so-called backstop, an arrangement in the withdrawal deal designed to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland, had "grave, grave defects" and that it therefore "plainly has to go."

"But once we get rid of it, if we change it, then I think there is the real prospect of making progress very rapidly indeed," Johnson added.

Johnson said he was in favor of Britain leaving the EU with a negotiated deal in place, but stressed that he didn't think his predecessor, Theresa May, had made real alternative proposals to the backstop in order to ensure this happened.

Merkel said the backstop was intended only as a transitional rule for the not finally resolved Ireland issue. So far, it



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (L) shakes hands with visiting British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in Berlin, Germany, on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

has been assumed that a final solution will be found in the next two years.

Merkel also emphasized the interest in a "negotiated with-

drawal", but at the same time said that "We are also prepared if such a negotiated withdrawal does not exist".

"But you might find them

in the next 30 days. Why not? Then we're a long way ahead," said Merkel, adding that border controls between Northern Ireland and Ireland would become superfluous and that the integrity of the single market could be safeguarded if Britain and the EU re-define their future relations.

Johnson said Britain and Germany stood shoulder to shoulder on many international issues, including in NATO and in the fight against climate change.

Johnson is scheduled to visit Paris on Thursday to talk with Macron.

The two meetings are likely to help form consensus ahead of the G7 summit from Aug. 24 to 26 in Biarritz in southern France.

Xinhua

US accusation of China forcing technology transfer not right

SOME US officials are interested in discrediting China with the so-called "forced technology transfer" accusation and it seems that they'll never get bored with it. Though their remarks were doubted internationally and domestically, and despised by the US business circle, these officials just couldn't resist stirring things up.

China made a clear commitment that it would not require foreign investors to commit to technology transfer into China in its WTO accession protocol. The WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights sets high standards of intellectual property protection and China did more than it was required through making the commitment. In fact, most WTO members did not make such a promise under the multilateral trading system.

In China, there is no law that requires foreign companies to transfer technologies to their Chinese partners, and technology transfer between enterprises is a normal business practice in international economic cooperation.

What foreign companies and their Chinese counterparts do, such as carrying out technological cooperation in accordance with market principles and signing legally binding agreements on the basis of equal consultation, is a choice independently made by market players for mutual benefits and win-win results.

The enterprises are free to make reasonable demands in negotiations considering cost effectiveness, which is within their rights of bargaining and should be protected.

Foreign investors have every right

to file appeals and lawsuits against monopoly on the basis of international rules if they believe that the Chinese companies are abusing their dominant power in the market.

No company wants to do unprofitable or forced business in China. Insightful people in the world pointed out that the so-called "forced technology transfer" accusation not only violates business ethics, but also insults the intelligence of foreign entrepreneurs.

Input and output have always been correlated. Technological innovation and exchanges drive the advancement of productivity forces. By transferring some technologies, the corporations could effectively recover the cost of innovation and open up the market, which provides follow-up support for them to develop new technologies.

This is the normal operation mode of multinational companies.

What's more, under the highly competitive market environment where only the fittest survives, a company will not possibly share the market and make profits without advanced technologies.

It is odd that some people in the US could stir up trouble from such a simple market rule and economic knowledge.

Daniel Gros, director of the Center for European Policy Studies, pointed out that China's technological progress is an important reason why certain people trumpeted "forced technology transfer".

"Previously, Western companies were more willing to transfer their technology, based on the expectation that Chinese competitors would be

unable to adapt and master it, anyway. With China now producing more graduates with bachelor's degrees in science and engineering than the US and Europe combined, that expectation is no longer tenable." Gros said.

China has a huge market with nearly 1.4 billion and the world's largest and fastest growing middle-income group. The country welcomes foreign investment and did not and will not set a threshold of technology transfer for foreign companies.

Foreign companies and their Chinese partners cooperate in scientific research and transfer technologies driven by market rules and mutual interests, instead of being forced. Their purpose is to occupy a larger share of the market and make more profits.

It is pure nonsense to say that China forces foreign companies to transfer

technologies. In fact, it is the US that has blocked Chinese companies from investing in the American technology enterprises, restricted the export of high-tech materials to China and employed political power to impose pressure on China's private companies.

Some people in the US wish that they could enjoy the benefits on the foreign market and maintain dominance in high technology, cornering other countries to the lower end of the global value chain.

The truth will finally reveal itself and justice always inhabits people's hearts. Some people in the US really need to stop spreading rumors and looking for troubles. Even though they are good at chopping logic and staining others' reputation, their nonsense will eventually be revealed to the entire world.

People's Daily



Achim Steiner

UNDP administrator speaks highly of China's reform and opening up

ADMINISTRATOR of the United Nations Development Programme Achim Steiner recently gave an interview with People's Daily, expressing his high praises for China's reform and opening up.

"Almost 40 years of collaboration between China and UNDP covers a long period of extraordinary development in China, so the UNDP was very privileged to be an early partner to China's economic transformation, and I think over this period we have moved from being a partner bringing expertise and knowledge of our development to China to increasingly being an actor within China's development, innovation and reform process," he said during the interview.

Setting its office in Beijing in as early as 1979, the UNDP is the first UN agency to establish office in China.

Steiner came to China for work almost on a yearly basis in the recent dozen of years. He told People's Daily that China's economic success is without doubt the greatest illustration of the past 40 years.

"We should remember that its GDP about 40 years ago was smaller than that of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and today it is the second largest economy in the world," he noted, adding that China's economic transition is a remarkable success story.

Steiner praised China's achievements in poverty alleviation, saying the country's success in poverty reduction is without precedent.

He noted that all parts of China, from coastal areas to the western parts, even the areas of extreme poverty, had benefited from the rapid GDP growth.

He introduced that the UNDP has promoted for years the concept of multidimensional poverty, which essentially measures the inequality or the deprivation of people not only by daily income, but also the access to education and health services.

"In these domains, it has really delivered a great deal of progress over the last thirty years.

China is, in fact, the only country in the human development index of UNDP that has graduated over this three-decade period from being in the lowest category to now being amongst the highest category," the UNDP administrator said.

Equal and balanced development policymaking has been part of Chi-

na's national development policy-making process for a long time. "In the context of that, China invested heavily also in the social and human capital, so to speak of its population," Steiner said.

China's education scale ranks the first in the world and Chinese people's life expectancy is amongst the top echelon of countries. Steiner believes that these are all indicators that development goes beyond just the GDP growth and is trying to be more inclusive.

As the former executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the vice chair of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development, Steiner is pleased to see China's recent achievements in ecological protection and sustainable green development.

He said the coupling of economic growth from environmental degradation pollution was a difficult journey, but China has begun to show significant success stories.

"I think ultimately the concept of ecological civilization that is now into a part of the 13th Five-Year Development Plan will allow China to become an example of the ecological transformation, perhaps, you know, moving towards a greener economy and development pathway," he noted.

Steiner pointed out that since China's accession to the WTO, it has taken the decision to engage more actively in global processes and the multilateral system.

In recent years, China proposed a great many of new initiatives to promote global governance such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the BRICS New Development Bank.

"I think we can only welcome China's more proactive engagement in the global policy making arena," he said, adding that he hopes China to use the established institutions in the multinational systems so that nations could work together on issues related to free trade, climate change, as well as regional and sub-regional development agendas.

He said that China and UNDP have a great deal of common interests, and he hopes the two parties can continue to work together to promote the common development of the world.

People's Daily

African countries call on Japan to close domestic ivory market

GENEVA

AMID an ongoing international wildlife conference in Geneva to better protect the world's vulnerable species, dozens of African countries on Wednesday called on Japan to save the elephants by closing its domestic ivory market, one of the largest in the world.

The calling came from the African Elephant Coalition, a consortium of 32 member countries aiming for a healthy and viable elephant population free of threats from international ivory trade, during the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the World Wildlife Conference on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) held in Geneva.

The coalition said it believes that Japan's domestic ivory markets is presently one of the largest in the world and helps to fuel the illegal ivory trade, which is indirectly fuels poaching and illegal killing of



African elephants across all regions of Africa.

It urges Japan to follow the examples of China, France, Luxembourg, Singapore and others by closing its ivory markets ahead of Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

"Failure to do so will enable the chance for millions of tourists to access or buy ivory freely. This is not the Olympic legacy Japan wants," it said.

According to the coalition, an average of 55 of these majestic creatures are killed across the African continent every single day, which could

wipe out the entire species within our lifetimes.

Countries all across the world are closing down their ivory markets, irrespective of such requirement from CITES, but in response to the crisis faced by the African elephants.

Illegal killing of elephants for their ivory is a major problem across much of Africa, threatening the survival of many populations of both savannah and forest elephants.

According to CITES, Africa's elephant population has seen the worst declines in 25 years, with a loss of about 111,000 elephants over the 10-year period from 2006 to 2015.

As maintaining a domestic ivory market creates opportunities for laundering illegally obtained ivory and presents monitoring and enforcement challenges, CITES has been calling for the closure of all remaining domestic ivory markets, as a matter of urgency.

Xinhua



ROK says US, DPRK will restart dialogue 'soon'

SEOUL

THE United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) are expected to reopen denuclearisation talks soon and they will go well, a senior official from the Republic of Korea (ROK) said yesterday, boosting hopes for progress in negotiations after a prolonged stalemate.

ROK's deputy national security adviser, Kim Hyun-chong, gave his upbeat assessment after meeting US envoy for DPRK Stephen Biegun in Seoul.

"My impression was that North Korea and the United States would carry out dialogue soon, and it would go well," Kim (pictured) told reporters after the one-hour meeting, without elaborating.

The DPRK is also referred to as North Korea.

Talks aimed at dismantling DPRK's nuclear and missile programmes have stalled since a failed second summit between US President Donald Trump and DPRK leader Kim Jong-un in Vietnam in February.

Trump and Kim met again in June at the inter-Korean border and agreed to reopen working-level negotiations.

But DPRK has fired a series of short-range missiles since then, lambasting US-ROK joint military exercises and the adoption of new weapons, while chastising ROK President Moon Jae-in as "impudent".

A DPRK foreign ministry spokesman on Thursday took issue with ROK's acquisition of American F-35 stealth fighter jets, saying it was not interested in dialogue that was "accompanied by military threats".

Kim, the ROK official, said Biegun expressed gratitude over ROK's restrained response to the DPRK's criticism.

Biegun, who steers the working-level talks, said on Wednesday that he was prepared "to engage" as soon as his DPRK counterparts were ready.

Kim said that ROK's presidential National Security Council would convene later on Thursday to review an intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, that ROK had threatened to scrap amid a spiralling diplomatic and trade dispute.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) could expire on Saturday if either side decides not to roll it over.

According to Kim, Biegun raised the issue, which has worried Washington as the accord is instrumental in three-way efforts to counter DPRK's nuclear and missile threats.

"I've told him we'll carefully examine it and make a decision in a way that serves our national interest," Kim said.

Agencies

Washington governor exits presidential nomination bid

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON state Governor Jay Inslee, who made the fight against climate change the focus of his White House campaign, said on Wednesday he was withdrawing from the race for the 2020 US Democratic presidential nomination.

The 68-year-old Inslee, speaking on MSNBC, said it had become clear he would not be the party's standard-bearer and that he was pulling out of the race. Inslee announced his bid for the Democratic nomination on March 1. "It's become clear that I'm not going to be carrying the ball, I'm not going to be the president, so I'm withdrawing tonight from the race," Inslee said in an interview on MSNBC.

Democrats are vying for their party's nomination to face Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election.

Inslee, whose withdrawal brings the crowded ranks of Democratic candidates to 22, had struggled to break out of the bottom of the pack, with some polls showing him running last in the large field. He was the second Democrat this month to drop out of the race, after former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper withdrew last Thursday.

Inslee released a sweeping plan in June to reclaim US leadership in the fight against climate change that included proposals to resettle hundreds of thousands of climate refugees, and raise barriers to fossil-fuel imports.

His efforts drew praise from his Democratic competitors in the presidential race on Wednesday night.

"Thank you @JayInslee for fighting every day to make sure that climate



Washington Gov Jay Inslee

change remains a primary focus of the election," Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote on Twitter.

Sen Bernie Sanders also praised Inslee's efforts, saying, "There is no more important issue facing humanity."

Inslee said in an email to supporters that polls had shown he was not popular enough to be invited to the party's fall debates, and that his candidacy could not survive being left out of those high-profile events.

"It became clear that we would not meet the DNC's polling threshold, thus we would not have been invited to the fall debates," Inslee said. "As a result, I don't believe we can compete for the attention and exposure needed to have a reasonable shot at the nomination."

Painfully, perhaps, for a candidate

who staked his bid on climate change, Inslee's polling numbers of around 1 percent also appeared on track to exclude him from a televised town hall on climate issues to be held by CNN. The cable news network said candidates would need to win the support of 2% of likely voters in four polls by next week.

Inslee promised to continue to fight for political action on climate change, vowing to hold the next president accountable for adopting a plan.

Several other Democratic candidates, including front-runner Joe Biden, have outlined similar goals of eliminating US emissions of the greenhouse gases scientists blame for the effects of climate change, like sea level rise, droughts, floods and more frequent powerful storms. Agencies

Russia's upgraded Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft features technology for more precise landing

BAIKONUR COSMODROME

RUSSIA'S Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft that lifted off with a humanoid robot on its board towards the International Space Station (ISS) during the test launch of a Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket incorporates improved technology for a more precise landing, State Space Corporation Roscosmos Chief Dmitry Rogozin said yesterday.

"The second part of the tests involves tests during the landing. The spacecraft itself incorporates new solutions that will provide for a more precise landing," the Roscosmos chief said.

The Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket blasted off from the Gagarin Start launch pad of the Baikonur spaceport in Kazakhstan at 06:38 Moscow time on Thursday, delivering the spacecraft into

the near-Earth orbit. The spacecraft with the humanoid robot on its board is set to dock with the ISS at 08:31 Moscow time on August 24 after a two-day flight.

"From 2002, Russia used Soyuz-FG carrier rockets to deliver international crews to the orbital outpost. From 2020, Russia is set to switch to Soyuz-2.1a rockets, which previously delivered only freight spaceships and satel-

lites into orbit. The launch on August 22 is a test blastoff before a manned mission to the International Space Station. The android robot Fedor, which is travelling to the orbital outpost aboard the Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft, has been developed by Android Technology Company and the Advanced Research Fund on a technical assignment from Russia's Emergency Ministry. Agencies

Rescue ship awaits Italy port access in latest migrant standoff

MILAN

TWO charities running rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea have said Italy has ignored requests to allow their ship to bring 356 migrants ashore, exposing Europe's latest failure to deal with African migration.

The Norwegian-flagged ship, Ocean Viking, already stranded at sea for 13 days awaiting port access, has been denied entry by Malta and its two requests to Italian authorities have gone unanswered, they said.

The ship is carrying mostly Africans from Sudan, plucked from the sea in four separate missions. They include more than 100 minors, around 90

of them unaccompanied, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said. Three children are under the age of five.

The plight of the Ocean Viking, run by MSF and another French charity, SOS Méditerranée, threatens to create another migration standoff with Italy if it chooses to head there, after weeks of controversy involving another charity-run rescue ship.

Around 100 migrants were stranded off Italy for almost three weeks on the Open Arms until a prosecutor intervened and ordered them brought ashore against Interior Minister Matteo Salvini's wishes. Five of Italy's EU partners will take them in.



"This is shameful," said Jay Berger, project coordinator for MSF, speaking by satellite phone from the Ocean Viking, in international waters between Malta and the southern Italian island of Linosola.

"Leaving migrants on rescue boats for weeks until the crisis becomes an emergency is becoming the new norm," he said. "We're not trying to force our way into Italian or Maltese waters. We're waiting for a solution

but it is taking too long."

The ship requested port access to Italian authorities on Aug 9 and Aug 12, the charities said. An Italian Transport Ministry spokesman declined to comment. Italy's Foreign Ministry did not respond immediately to an email seeking comment.

Rome has banned entry to private rescue ships, which operate off Libya in international waters close to Italy. Salvini calls them "taxis" for people-smugglers and says Italy should not be "Europe's refugee camp".

Supplies running down Aboard the Ocean Viking, supplies are running down and the crew has begun to ration showers to conserve water, said Frédéric Penard, SOS Méditerranée's director of operations.

"A rescue ship is like an ambulance. People should be transported but not living on it," MSF's Berger said, adding that there was no certainty those on board could endure the wait Open Arms experienced, which would mean another week at sea. The European Commission has invited EU member states to show more "solidarity" and agree to take in migrants aboard the Ocean Viking, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday.

No port except for Tripoli has welcomed the ship, the charities say. They regard the Libyan port as unsafe and fear the migrants would be thrown into detention

centers and suffer human rights abuses if returned to the country.

Luca Pigozzi, a doctor on-board, said that while most migrants were in a stable physical condition, he feared the impact of psychological damage caused by violence suffered when fleeing their home country.

"The situation onboard is becoming more tense," he said.

Libya is a hub for migrants and refugees, many of whom try to reach Europe in unseaworthy boats, fleeing violence and dire poverty in Africa for a better life in Europe. So far this year, more than 600 people have died trying to make the crossing.

Agencies

The
Guardian

SPORT



Michelle and Barack Obama

Film on factory is first Netflix project endorsed by Obamas

NEW YORK

A DOCUMENTARY about an Ohio auto glass factory that is run by a Chinese investor debuted Wednesday on Netflix as the streaming service's first project backed by Michelle and Barack Obama's new production company.

Filmmakers Steven Bogner and Julia Reichert said they learned of the Obamas' interest after "American Factory" was shown at the Sundance film festival and they were pitching the film to Netflix. They were told the Obamas had screened it days earlier.

"They're ecstatic about the support, and in an interview Wednesday were quick to dissuade anyone from the idea that the film is delivering a message either for or against any politician.

"They got what we were trying to do, which is to tell a story that sort of transcends the year-to-year politics," Bogner said.

Bogner and Julia Reichert, who live in the Dayton, Ohio, area where Fuyao Glass replaced an abandoned General Motors plant, said they were initially interested in exploring a culture clash, but the film deepened into a story about the rights of workers, globalization and automation.

The Fuyao plant, bought by Chinese industrialist Cao Dewang, employs some 2,200 American and 200 Chinese workers. The film gives a close-up look at how the cultures adjust to one another. At one point, a Chinese worker explains that Americans are slow because they have fat fingers. Many Chinese at the plant consider the Americans lazy. The Americans at the plant question what they see as Chinese workers unquestioned devotion to a company that robs them of time to enjoy life.

At the factory's opening ceremony, Dave Burrows, the vice president of the American factory, privately curses out Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown for suggesting that the Chinese owner be open to running a union shop. Two years later, after he's been fired, Burrows drives by the factory and bitterly notes that you can't spell Fuyao without an "f" and "u."

Tensions rise when the factory doesn't initially meet production goals, culminating in a bitter fight over the right to unionize.

In one of the last scenes, an employee gives Cao a tour of the factory floor and boasts about how automation provides Fuyao with the opportunity to fire workers.

The name of the Obamas' company, Higher Ground, flashes by in the opening credits, but the Obamas themselves aren't mentioned anywhere. Neither is President Donald Trump.

Netflix worked in partnership with Higher Ground to acquire the film from Participant Media earlier this year, and gave no details about the financing. Netflix released a brief clip Wednesday of the Obamas discussing their interest in the project with the filmmakers.

"One of the many things I love about this film ... is that you let people tell their own story," the former first lady said. "American Factory" doesn't come in with a perspective. It's not an editorial. I mean, you truly let people speak for themselves, and that is a powerful thing that you don't always see happen."

Former President Obama said that they want people to look outside of their own experiences to understand the lives of others.

That "is what a good story does," he said. "It helps all of us feel some solidarity with each other."

Reichert said she's seen some commentary that the Obamas were interested in the film as a criticism of Trump, and said that was stupid.

"It has zero to do with Trump or Obama, or the political scene at all," she said. "It's about the lives of average working people in the heartland. It's really a close up and intimate look at what globalization looks like."

One of the American workers is shown bonding with Chinese colleagues, inviting several to a Thanksgiving dinner and to drive his motorcycle. Later, the worker is fired because it took him too long to use a computer.

Reichert said she and Bogner were grateful to Cao for allowing them access to the factory. The company chairman mostly comes off as a cold-blooded capitalist, but one arresting scene toward the end shows him wrestling with his legacy.

"We hope that people realize that without empathy for people who are different from you, you're not going to solve the political divide," Bogner said. "We're not going to solve gaping problems in this world. You have to put yourself in someone else's shoes to help see and feel other people's points of view."

AP

Djokovic still favourite but defeat gives rivals hope

NEW YORK

NOVAK Djokovic was all set to cruise into the U.S. Open as hot favourite but a semi-final defeat at the Cincinnati Masters last week has at least given hope to his challengers that the world number one is not invincible.

Djokovic was on a roll until Cincinnati, having won three titles, including two Grand Slams, on three different surfaces this year.

He won the Australian Open in January, took the ATP Masters event in Madrid in May, before saving two match points to overcome old foe Roger Federer in the longest men's singles final at Wimbledon in July.

But last weekend's defeat by Russian Daniil Medvedev did not shake the confidence of a man who has spent nine months as the game's top ranked player.

"I see mostly positives really in my game," he said after Saturday's loss, only his seventh in 45 matches this year. "I lost to a player that was playing amazing, so I'll take that and I'll move forward to New York and have a good practice week."

"Then, of course, get myself ready for the Open. I love playing in those conditions there on centre court. I'm going to fight for a title as everyone else does, and I like my chances. I feel good and I look forward to it."

Djokovic, who has won four out of the last five Grand Slams – with his only loss over the past 13 months being in the semi-finals of this year's French Open – will still be one of the favourites to win his fourth U.S. Open title.

A triumph at Flushing Meadows would also take him to within one of Rafael Nadal's total of 18 Grand Slam titles and to within three of Federer's record 20.

OFF-COURT DISTRACTION

Although a men's champion has not defended the U.S. Open crown since Federer in 2008, Djokovic can take encouragement from a fine run of form there in recent years.

Apart from 2017 when he missed the tournament through injury, the Serb has reached at least the semi-finals in Flushing Meadows every year since 2007.

If there is one possible distraction, it comes off the court.

REUTERS

Mainland Premier League Relegation Preview: Four teams must go down

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Mainland Premier League structure will reduce to a 16-team competition in the 2021/22 season from the current 20-team affair.

To get to a 16-team competition, four teams will be automatically relegated, and two will be promoted from First Division League at the end of this new season and the next one.

The play-off format that was introduced last season will add drama with two teams from the top flight fight to retain their status against two teams from the First Division League who will finish as first runners up in their groups.

A gripping battle to beat the drop is expected. While we have all known and accepted Simba, Yanga and Azam are operating on a totally different level financially to everyone else, the playing field has levelled among the rest.

The standard has fallen among those clubs that should be expected to finish in the top half of the table. Dwindling attendance and decline in sponsorship values has got a lot of teams competing at the same level. The mid-table zone has disappeared. Sides like Kagera Sugar and Mbeya City are equally struggling, calling them mid-table teams feels wrong.

At the end of last season, fifth placed Mtibwa Sugar through 19th placed Stand United were separated by only six points, the range was an underwhelming 50-44 points, and the best goal difference was only positive 2.

With the relegation zone expanded to six teams, it is safe to say at least 14 clubs are going to be caught in the survival battle. Identifying the likeliest teams to fill the bottom six at the end of the season is likely to be a fool's errand. Football is a beautiful game of clashing opinions and so I will try in list teams in danger of going down but in no particular order.

Mbao FC

Mbao has been treading on that relegation line since they topflight debut in 2016/17 season. This one will be no different.

They have twice secured safety in the very last match of the season. It is a club that has a very high turnover of players, virtually beginning from scratch every season. They went through three coaches last season something that highlights their instability which is attributed to financial woes.

Said Khamis who finished as the club's top scorer with nine league goals has been handed the captain's armband and could prove pivotal for the newly appointed coaching duo from Zanzibar, Hemed Morocco and Abdulmutik Haji.

Mwadi FC

In the last campaign Mwadi teetered on the brink of relegation and only managed to survive in the post-season playoffs where they defeated First Division Side Geita Gold.

They were surprisingly the fourth best scoring side but have lost Salim Aiyee, the scorer of 18 of their 47 goals last season.

The appointment of coach Khalid Adam who replaces Burundian Ally Bizimungu does not inspire much confidence and it won't be a surprise if they found themselves in the relegation zone to the very end of the season. Since Petra Diamond decided to cut down on their operations budget, financial challenge means the side can no longer attract decent players they used to do before.

Ndanda FC

Ndanda earned topflight status in the 2014/15 season and have since survived seasons of financial turmoil. Last season they confounded expectations, amid strikes over money, team bus being impounded by a hotel until when Bongo Flavour artiste Rajab Abdul, aka Harmonize, came to their rescue, to finish in the top half of the table.

Fans betting on sentimental favourite Serena to win US Open

NEW YORK

IN the twilight of her remarkable career Serena Williams is more often the sentimental favourite rather than the bettors' choice but the 37-year-old American will be both as she heads to the U.S. Open chasing an elusive 24th record-equalling Grand Slam.

Despite fitness concerns and a title drought that stretches back to the 2017 Australian Open, bookmakers are backing Williams to match Margaret Court's record haul and the New York crowds, as always, will be in her corner when play gets underway on Monday at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center.

A six-time champion at Flushing Meadows, Williams was once money in the bank when it came to the U.S. Open. During a dominating run, she lifted the trophy three years in succession from 2012.

That is no longer the case.

French Open champion Ash Barty or Wimbledon winner Simona Halep, who ran Williams off the court in a lopsided final at the All England Club, may be sounder investments at the betting window but punters are just as likely to follow their hearts as hunches.

In all the four events she has played outside of the majors this year, her title challenges ended abruptly – she either retired mid-match or handed rivals a walkover.

Since Wimbledon, Williams has played one event. Her hardcourt preparations were limited to the Rogers Cup which ended with the former world number one in tears when she was forced to quit the final against Bianca Andreescu after just 19 minutes after suffering back spasms.

The problem has lingered and led to Williams withdrawing from Cincinnati, and once again raised questions about her ability to withstand a two-week grind on the New York hardcourts.

"The most frustrating part is that I've had this before and it's, like, 24, 36 hours where I'm just in crazy spasm and then it's gone," said Williams after her Rogers Cup disappointment. "I'm just taking it a day at a time."

Williams may not strike fear into opponents as she once did but few, if any, will welcome having her on their side of the draw.

Not long ago, just seeing their name alongside Williams would leave opponents a crumbling wreck. The match often won before it had even begun.

But since returning from her maternity break, Williams is the one who has often looked fragile, out of sorts and out of ideas.

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



Ndanda FC midfielder Baraka Majogoro shields the ball from Yanga SC striker Heritier Makambo during the previous season's Mainland Premier League match which was played in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: TANZANIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

They have brought back Malale Hamsini for a millionth time. He knows the challenges of this Mtwaru based team but it remains to be seen if he can pull another miracle to keep them floating in the Mainland Premier League.

Alliance

Given the volatile nature of their owner, Lord Mayor, James Bwire, Alliance coach Athuman Bilal knows his job is at risk even before kickoff. Bwire is a notoriously trigger-happy owner who went through three coaches last season.

Their problems have been compounded with the loss of three key players, Dickson Ambundo, Mapinduzi Balama and Bigirimana Blaise. Ambundo and Bigirimana scored 21 league goals between them last season which is nearly half the number managed by the entire team. Jerson Tegete has been added to aid the striking department based on his experience of competing at the highest level, though judging by his goal returns since he left Yanga a couple of seasons ago, that is expecting too much from him.

In addition, they have a relative inferior coach who is expected to give his all from the word go but they have not really strengthened their squad. Their survival will largely depend on what Mayor Bwire decides to do during the November-December transfer window.

Biashara United

They have been hit by the departure of

Burkina Faso goalkeeper, Nurdin Abalora who moved to newly promoted Namungo and could also lose their two main strikers, Edwin Innocent and Tariq Seif who are bound to move to Egypt.

But they have recruited Ugandan goalkeeper Douglas Kisembo, Joseph Kimwaga from Azam and Ramadhan Chombo 'Redondo' among others to add the much needed experience in the squad. Biashara's fate at the end of the season may depend on how well the respected Amri Said 'Stam' can get the most of a squad that doesn't inspire a lot of optimism.

Ruvu Shooting

We all want to remain with the motor-mouth Masau Bwire. We don't want to see Ruvu Shooting go down for the comical value that their spokesman Bwire adds to the league.

Having had to wait until the last round of last season to save their status, Ruvu Shooting will be hoping that this campaign offers them a much more positive outcome after the appointment of experienced coach, Salum Mayanga.

It is a club that operates like an orphan, it is neither a community side nor a corporate side thus relying on a few individuals to pull through the entire season.

This basically qualifies them to be called a retirement camp as it fields a lot of over the hill players who are employed by the army. On the flip side, it gives them the much needed stability needed in the relegation fight.



Serena Williams

The last 12 months have been an emotional rollercoaster for Williams, filled with rage and tears.

A year ago the U.S. Open final ended in controversy with fiery exchanges between a fuming Williams and the chair umpire, smashed rackets, penalties and Japan's Naomi Osaka walking away with the trophy.

In Toronto earlier this month, Williams was left sobbing after she was unable to finish the Rogers Cup final.

In between, Williams, widely regarded as the greatest women's player of all-time, was a non-factor during a run to the quarter-finals at the Australian Open.

With aborted runs at Indian Wells, Miami and Rome – with Williams picking up a single match win at each event – it seemed as if the glory years were well and truly behind her.

However, just when everyone was ready to write her off, Williams looked more like her old self at Wimbledon – that is until she was shockingly dismissed by Halep.

"I just have to figure out a way to win a final,"

said Williams after Wimbledon. "I have to just keep going, keep trying, keep working, maybe be able to play some tournaments uninjured."

"Just keep moving forward."

There once was no template, no game plan to beat Williams. Her power and guile leaving no areas to attack.

But as Williams approaches her 38th birthday, rivals have figured out that they can beat her by forcing her off the baseline and making her run.

Her fitness and durability have been exposed and opponents are seizing on those weaknesses.

Time is no longer on Williams' side in her quest for a 24th Grand Slam trophy.

"Someone told me I shouldn't look at the records any more," said Williams. "I should just focus on my game."

"I feel like I'm just really on this journey of just doing the best that I can, playing the best that I can when I can."

"I just go out there and play, see what happens. That's kind of how I've been in my whole career. I never thought about time in general."

REUTERS

Ronaldo: I'd be worth €300m in today's market

LISBON

CRISTIANO Ronaldo has said transfer fees in football have got out of hand and that a player of his calibre in the market would now sell for €300 million.

His transfer to Real Madrid from Manchester United in the summer of 2009 was a then world record £80m, but eight years later, Neymar left Barcelona for Paris Saint-Germain for €222m.

Asked what he would likely be sold for now, he told Portuguese TV: "Based on how football is nowadays? It's difficult to calculate.

"Today there is a lot of emphasis placed on potential and the football industry is different. I'm going to put aside [Portugal international Joao] Felix's [€120m transfer to Atletico Madrid from Benfica] case. Nowadays, any player is worth €100m having proved nothing, there is more money in football.

"A goalkeeper, a centre-back is worth €70m, €80m – I don't agree. But this is the world which we live in, the market is like that and you have to respect it. Is there a football player that has more records than me? I don't think there is a player that has more records than me."

Ronaldo left Real Madrid to join Juventus for €100m last summer and, pressed on what his worth would now be, he added: "If I were 25, if a goalkeeper is worth €75m, a player that does and has done what I have done in recent years has to have a value of three or four times that, easily, but I no longer have that desire."

The 34-year-old also said "the challenge" of winning individual and collective trophies at the top level keeps him motivated to continue playing football. The Juve forward said he could retire next year

if he wanted as he has amassed a fortune in wages, endorsements and investments yet the temptation is there to play until he's 41 as he craves more silverware.

"My motivation is my obsession for success, I admit it," he said. "But it is a good obsession.

"I know I'm already in the history of football. I know that I'm one of the best in my field but that is not by chance. I could end my career next year but I could also play until I'm 40 or 41.

"It's about the challenge. I still feel motivated to win individual and collective trophies, and if I wasn't, I would end it [career]. I have everything I want. I have an excellent family, I have spectacular businesses. From a financial standpoint, I'm very well. I don't need football to live well. I will live well all of my life.

"What I always say to myself is to enjoy the moment. My present is excellent and I have to continue to enjoy myself. I look at it as projects and the enthusiasm [they bring]."

Ronaldo helped Juve win Serie A last season, becoming the first player in history to win league titles in England, Spain and in Italy.

"The Juventus project attracted me," Ronaldo said. "It was exciting.

"It was a team that I liked, not only because it's the best team in Italy but it's a combative team that always tried to win the Champions League. I also wanted to win here, like I had done in England and in Spain. I achieved that, something that no player had done."

Ronaldo was recently shortlisted for UEFA Men's Player of the Year award, after also winning the inaugural Nations League with Portugal in the summer.

(Agencies)

Twitter agree to meet with Man United over Pogba abuse

LONDON

TWITTER have reacted to calls for more to be done in preventing racist abuse of footballers on social media platforms by agreeing to meet with representatives of Manchester United they announced on Wednesday.

United executives were keen for a meeting with Twitter after their French World Cup winning midfielder Paul Pogba was the victim of abuse following his penalty miss in Monday's 1-1 draw with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

His team-mate Harry Maguire demanded that Twitter and Instagram be more proactive in stopping "pathetic trolls". England women's football manager Phil Neville said football players should boycott social media.

Pogba was the third footballer to suffer racial abuse in a week for missing a penalty – the others being Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham and second tier side Reading's Yakou Meite.

"Over the next few weeks, Twitter representatives will meet with Manchester United, Kick It Out (anti-discrimination organisation within football) and any other civil

society stakeholders interested in hearing about the proactive work Twitter is doing to address online racist abuse towards certain footballers in the UK," Twitter said in a statement.

"We have always maintained an open and healthy dialogue with our partners in this space, but we know we need to do more to protect our users. Racist behaviour has no place on our platform and we strongly condemn it.

"To this end, we look forward to working more closely with our partners to develop shared solutions together. In the meantime, for Twitter's part, we will continue to proactively monitor the conversation, and take aggressive enforcement action when content violates our Rules."

Twitter rules prohibit users from promoting violence against, threatening or harassing people on the basis of race, ethnicity or other protected groups.

Since 2018, it has increased the number of accounts suspended for evading a previous ban on the service by 45% and tripled the number of accounts suspended within 24 hours after receiving a report.

AFP

Messi 'made me better player', says Ronaldo

LISBON

CRISTIANO Ronaldo admitted on Wednesday his long-time rivalry with Lionel Messi has made him "a better player" and that he enjoys a "healthy" rivalry with the Argentine great.

However, Portuguese star Ronaldo, whose influence at Real Madrid mirrored that of Messi at Barcelona before he left for Juventus, admitted that the pair have never socialised together.

"I really admire the career he has had and from his side, he has already talked of the disappointment when I left Spain because it was a rivalry that he appreciated," Ronaldo told TVI in Portugal.

"It's a good rivalry but it's not unique – Michael Jordan had rival-

ries in basketball, there was Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost in Formula 1. The thing they all had in common is that they were healthy rivalries."

Ronaldo and Messi have won the coveted Ballon d'Or five times each, a factor that helps each player flourish.

"I have no doubt that Messi has made me a better player and vice-versa. When I am winning trophies it must sting him and it's the same for me when he wins," he said.

"I have an excellent professional relationship because we have been sharing the same moments for 15 years.

He added: "We've never had dinner together but I don't see why we can't in the future. I don't see a problem with that."

AFP

Arsenal optimism faces first major test at Liverpool

MANCHESTER, England

THE two remaining teams with 100 percent Premier League records this season go head-to-head on Saturday when Liverpool host a new-look Arsenal at Anfield in an encounter that will act as a barometer to measure the London club's progress.

Unai Emery's Gunners have made a strong start to the campaign with wins at Newcastle United and at home to Burnley but they do not need to look too far into their history to realise this will be a very different challenge.

In December, amid talk of progress in Emery's first season, Arsenal were crushed 5-1 at Anfield with Brazilian Roberto Firmino helping himself to a hat-trick.

It was a display which emphasised just how far the North London club had fallen behind the genuine title contenders and was the latest in series of crushing losses at Liverpool.

The two previous meetings at Anfield ended in 4-0 and 3-1 defeats for Arsene Wenger's Arsenal teams, but there is a fresh optimism around the club after a successful transfer window.

Spanish midfielder Dani Ceballos, on loan from Real Madrid, has made the biggest impression, but Brazilian defender David Luiz has also made a solid start.

A real buzz though surrounds winger Nicolas Pepe, who could help provide ammunition for the impressively prolific strike pairing of Alexandre Lacazette and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Pepe, signed from Lille, for a club-record 72 million pounds (\$87 million), has yet to start but showed flashes of his talent during a substitute appearance in the 2-1 win over Burnley.

European champions Liverpool, however, have won a club-record equalling 11 straight Premier League games and are unbeaten at home for the past two seasons – their last league defeat at Anfield was



Jurgen Klopp

Unai Emery

in April, 2017 against Crystal Palace.

Manager Jurgen Klopp will still be without his first choice goalkeeper, Brazilian Alisson Becker, so Spaniard Adrian will continue to deputise.

Champions Manchester City, held at home to Tottenham Hotspur last week, face a tricky trip to the Vitality Stadium to play Eddie Howe's Bournemouth on Sun-

day. Also on Sunday, Spurs take on struggling Newcastle who have lost their opening two games under new manager Steve Bruce. The weekend kicks off with promoted Aston Villa, yet to earn a point on their return to the top flight, at home to an Everton team who may fancy their chances of breaking into the top six this season.

Manchester United, who were held at

Wolverhampton Wanderers on Monday, look to return to winning ways when Crystal Palace travel to Old Trafford on Saturday.

That match will pit new United defender Aaron Wan Bissaka against the club he left in the close-season.

(\$1 = 0.8249 pounds)

REUTERS

Juventus venture into the unknown with Sarriball

MILAN

IN the last two years, Juventus have introduced a new badge and ditched their distinctive black-and-white striped shirts but, in hiring Maurizio Sarri as coach, they now make possibly the most drastic change of all.

Italy's most successful club in domestic terms with 35 league titles including the last eight in row, Juventus have habitually been a team who want to win without worrying about how they do it.

Massimiliano Allegri, the incumbent for the previous five seasons, fitted the bill perfectly. His teams were pragmatic, versatile and intent on getting the job done as quickly and efficiently as possible.

"(Defending) is just as beautiful as a great attacking move," he said at one point. "I am very happy for those who can turn football into a show but, as far as I'm concerned, if you want to see a show, you should go to the circus."

However, Juventus have now ditched Allegri, a man who won five Serie A titles in as many years in charge and took them to two Champions League finals, in favour of Sarri, who is only happy when his team is playing a high-tempo, passing game.

It is a huge step into the unknown for both parties.

During his three seasons at Napoli, Sarri's side played the most attractive football in Serie A and pushed Juventus all the way.

Yet, mention the 60-year-old to supporters of Chelsea, where he spent last season, and they are more likely to yawn.

Despite winning the Europa League and taking them into next season's Champions League, Sarri – who had never previously won a major title – was unable to fully impose his "Sarriball" philosophy, resulting in a style that was often more sterile than thrilling.

Sarri's methods need intensive training and time to work – something he will not have much of at Juventus where anything other than a ninth successive Serie A title will be regarded a failure.

He also has a well-known reluctance to rotate his squad, which could lead to a number of highly-talented, expensive players spending extended spells on the bench.

On the other hand, if the move works it will bring a whole new dimension to the Turin side, headed by five-times Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo.

Juventus kick off the new season at Parma on Saturday although Sarri's presence is in doubt after he was diagnosed with pneumonia on Monday.

MULTIPLE CHANGES
The champions are not the only big club undergoing a transformation.

Inter Milan, who host Lecce on Monday, have hired former Juventus coach Antonio Conte in a bid to win their first title since 2010.

Conte will again team up his former chief executive Giuseppe Marotta, repeating the partnership which brought Juventus the first three Serie A titles of their current run between 2011 and 2014.

Conte has removed striker Mauro Icardi, their top-scorer for each of the past five seasons, from his plans and the club have signed forward Romelu Lukaku from Manchester United for a reported 80 million dollars.

Neighbours AC Milan have turned to Marco Giampolo, previously at Sampdoria, to replace the fiery Gennaro Gattuso and given him the job of leading them back into the Champions League after a six-season absence.

AS Roma, meanwhile, have appointed Paulo Fonseca, a coach with no previous Serie A experience, to rebuild the side without midfielder and former captain Daniele De Rossi whose 18-year stint ended last



Maurizio Sarri

season after the club declined to offer him a new contract.

That leaves Napoli as the only one of the realistic title challengers to have remained relatively unchanged.

Carlo Ancelotti led them to a another second place – their third in four seasons – in his first season in charge and if he can iron out their inconsistencies which bugged them in the previous campaign, they could end their 30-year wait for a title.

"Last season was a transitional one," said Ancelotti, whose side visit Fiorentina on Saturday. "The bow is pulled and the arrow is ready to fire."

Meanwhile, Serie A should consider having earlier kickoffs to help grow the Asian audience and boost clubs' finances, Juventus chief revenue officer Giorgio Ricci has said.

The "big five" European Leagues enjoyed record revenues in the 2017-18 season, earning a combined 15.6 billion euros, but Serie A lags behind the Premier League, Bundesliga and La Liga.

"We have to find the right balance between domestic and global audiences," Ricci told BBC Sport.

"It is not just about the broadcasting times, it is also about the rights distribution

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Arsenal optimism faces first major test at Liverpool

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Students compete in volleyball in recent East Africa secondary schools games held in Uganda.

East Africa should take school sports seriously, says FEASSA president

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 1000 students from 126 schools from across East Africa region have battled it out in the 18th East Africa secondary schools' games held in Arusha this week.

Six countries are represented in the games, organized by the Federation of East Africa Secondary Schools Sports Associations (FEASSA), with the participants taking part in 14 sports.

Despite not fronting a team this year, Arusha's St Constantine's International School provided both the main location and facilities for the games.

The main location hosted events including swimming, football, basketball, netball, table tennis, hockey and woodball.

Sports disciplines, volleyball, rugby, athletics, handball, goal ball, lawn tennis and badminton took place elsewhere.

"St Constantine's was especially chosen for its beautiful pool, green fields, versatile indoor spaces, secure location and easy access," Leonard Thadeo, the Director of Sports Development from the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Authorities, disclosed.

"With such facilities, teams can play to their best and future athletes can show off the expertise that might one day see them represent their countries."

"Through these games, the schools of East Africa have played the role of nurturing the talents for the National teams in the 14 category sports that we compete in at this level," president of the Federation of East Africa Secondary Schools Sports Associations, Jutus Mugisha, noted.

"It's not by coincidence that for the first time in history, four of our six member countries qualified for the Africa Cup of Nations in football," he said.

"My only advice to countries seeking for sports honours and excellence is one, take school sports competitions seriously."

This year, a large increase in the number of girls taking part saw them participate in sports not previously considered their strong domain.

Results, however, proved them to be a growing force for future competitions despite them still only representing one third of competitors, as disclosed by Stella Mwangomale, netball coordinator.

"St Constantine's is proud to be able to support the larger community by providing their facilities for such competitions," the school's Headmaster, Tony Macfadyen, noted.

"The school is owned by the Hellenic Foundation of Tanzania, which ensures it continues to contribute to the country through ongoing support both within and outside our boundary," he added.

"As a 'Round Square' school we are part of an internationally diverse network, spread over six continents."

"We believe that in order to equip our students for positive, active and engaged global citizenship we must connect and collaborate, thereby offering them more than academic knowledge and qualifications."

"By hosting such events as this, we are introducing them to other African cultures as part of their global knowledge."

Macfadyen expressed disappointment that they were unable to be involved on the fields and in the pool this year.

"However, next year, we will be a force to be reckoned with," he said whilst smiling.

The competitions conclude on Saturday with a prize giving ceremony where a range of medals and awards are given out and new records announced.

The presentation ceremony will be followed by a social event before the students begin the long journey back to their respective homes.

Full-strength India start World Test Championship against improved West Indies

NORTH SOUND

IN 2016, India came to the West Indies and won a four-match Test series 2-0.

Had rain not washed away an entire day's play in Jamaica, and all but 22 overs in Trinidad, they might very well have won 4-0.

Despite the one-sidedness of the result, there were signs that West Indies was putting together a new crop of bankable players.

The lower-middle-order trio of Roston Chase, Shane Dowrich and Jason Holder came together to deny India a win at Sabina Park, and in the next Test in St Lucia, a pace-oriented bowling attack containing a new face in Alzarri Joseph reduced India to 126 for 5 on day one.

Some of the players who made their debuts or first major impressions in that series have gone on to become mainstays, and others, new and old, have joined them to form what is now a fairly settled Test line-up.

The results have followed; since that series, West Indies have won six out of 11 Tests at home - most recently beating England 2-1 - and have also picked up away wins against Pakistan and England.

When India begin the Test leg of their West Indies tour on Thursday, they'll know they're facing a better team than the one they beat in 2016 - particularly in the Caribbean, where their fast bowlers are backed up by the Dukes ball and seaming tracks with steep or inconsistent bounce. Where Tests in the West Indies not too long ago were attritional contests on slow pitches, they are now short, bruising duels featuring regular collapses.

But if this template has brought West Indies Test wins at home in the last three years, it's also brought them losses - to Pakistan, Sri Lanka and England.

India - who have just emerged from a grueling run of away tours that culminated in a first-ever Test series win in Australia - are a better team than any of those three.

When England toured the West Indies earlier this year, for instance, they had three clear weaknesses - top-order batting, spin bowling, and - until Mark Wood came in for the third and final Test - genuinely quick bowling. India are more or less covered in all those areas, and in pretty much every other area.

Where India have rested key players on previous tours of the West Indies - 2011, most notably - they've brought a full-strength squad this time. This, after all, is their first appearance in the World Test Championship.

This, therefore, will be West Indies' biggest test in a while. Their batsmen and bowlers will be called on to maintain their discipline and intensity for longer periods, and solve puzzles that other teams haven't posed them. We know West Indies are a better team than they were in 2016; this series will show us how good they are.

West Indies' fast bowlers have enjoyed themselves at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium over the last couple of years, Kemar Roach in particular.

AGENCIES



Teachers from several primary and secondary schools from across Mwanza attend an introductory coaching course, hosted by Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), in the region. The course, which started on Wednesday, climaxes today. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

Upanga Warriors cricketers sink Uluguru in TCA Premier League

By Guardian Reporter

UPANGA Warriors have issued a sound warning to other competitors in the Tanzania Cricket Association TCA Premier League after registering a 63-run win over Uluguru in Dar es Salaam early this week.

After winning the toss Uluguru opted to field and bowled Upanga Warriors out for 155 runs in 38.2 overs of the match which was held at the University of Dar es Salaam venue.

Upanga Warriors shook off a wobbly start, which saw opening batsman Jumanne Mohamed face early dismissal with nine runs to his name, given fellow opening batsman Mohamed Omary scored 23 runs.

Promising all-rounder Aahil Jessani, as well, experienced a brief stay at the crease, notching 17 runs for the squad.

Experienced performers Kassim Nassor and Khalil Rehemtulla made their presence at the crease felt as they posted 33 runs and 23 runs respectively.

Uluguru's Salmin Yusuf ended with the best bowling figure, as he had four wickets and leaked 38 runs in 8.2 overs.

Agustine Meya, Kibwana Salum and Ally Mtanga as well had notable contribution with the ball, as they ad two wickets apiece.

Chasing 156 runs to win turned out to be a tall order for Uluguru, given they were skittled for 92 runs in 20.2 overs.

Jaffary Kanyita, who batted at number three, had the best innings given he notched 32 runs.

Kanyita's spell was cut short by Mohamed, with the batsman blasting two sixes and two fours.

Yusuf and Ivan Ismail were the other batsmen with double digit figures in the fruitless chase, notching 17 runs and 11 runs respectively.

The trio's efforts, though, failed to help Uluguru turn their fortunes around as team mates were sent back to the in quick succession.

Nassor as well had a good day with the ball, registering three wickets in five overs.

Medium pacer Mohamed posted two wickets in four overs.

Kinondoni Development will lock horns with Amboni at the University of Dar es Salaam oval on Saturday, which will be the competition's only fixture in the day.

The competition, which is held under the auspices of TCA, has brought together outfits from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Tanga.

In another development, efforts by TCA to develop the sport at the domestic level have gained momentum given the association has hosted a three-day introductory coaching course in Mwanza.

Hamis Abdallah, TCA Development Officer, is overseeing the course, which started on Wednesday and is set to climax today.

He is assisted by Rehemtulla, who also serves as TCA Development Coordinator.

The course, as disclosed by Rehemtulla, has brought together 14 primary and secondary schools teachers from across the region and is held at the Butimba Teachers College venue.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kafi Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGIKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)
is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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