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MPs push gender sensitivity in their climate change legislative input

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the National Assembly have pledged to take action to strengthen the enactment and implementation of gender responsible policies, plans and strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Under the umbrella of Tanzanian Women Parliamentarian Group (TWPG), a number of MPs asserted that there is need for gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation.

The aim is to enhance public awareness and knowledge on the critical role of gender in implementing climate change actions.

"Climate change adversely affects all people but women are more at risk for they are involved in effects of climate change at a day to day level," said Urambo MP, Margret Sitta (pictured).

Sitta who is the chairperson of TWPG made that statement following a two days awareness creation seminar for MPs.



Women are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and climate change when their rights and socio-economic status are not equal to those of men

She cited drought impact where women are in intensely involved in agriculture and the search for water, thus they feel the pinch of climate change more acutely than other members of society.

There is need to have plans and strategies at national and regional or district levels, and providing a platform to kick-start the process of revising the Tanzania Gender and Climate Change Action Plan.

The group is now planning to identify gender and climate change champions among MPs to advocate sharper mainstreaming of gender and climate change in the national and district development planning and budgeting process.

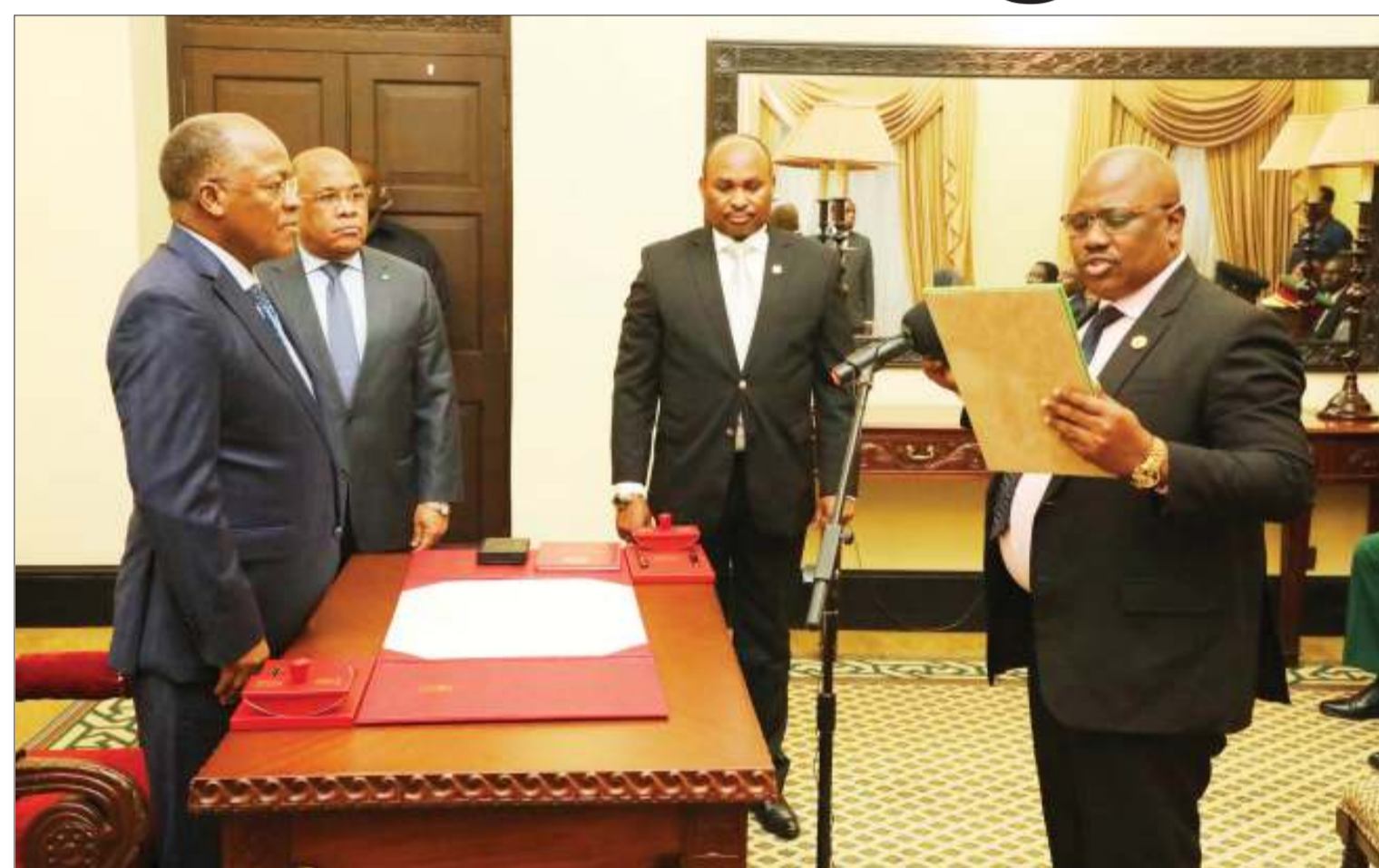
The champions will work to further generate evidence to support engagement with MPs to increase understanding on climate change and its impact in Tanzania.

Special Seats MP Fatma Toufique (CCM) said at the same event that climate change is currently the greatest challenge facing humanity across the world.

Impacts in Tanzania include among others higher temperatures, increase in frequency and magnitude of droughts and floods, as

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How CP Diwani Athuman rose to intelligence chief



President John Magufuli swears in Diwani Athuman Msuya as Tanzania Intelligence and Security Services director general at State House in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Until earlier in the day, Msuya headed the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau as director general since early September last year. Photo: State House

But what was the journey of Diwani Athuman Msuya to the helm of Tanzania's intelligence agency?

By Guardian Reporter

WHEN President John Magufuli declared in September last year that Commissioner of Police Diwani Athuman Msuya was not only a career police officer but also an intelligence expert, the vision was clear that he was destined for great things.

Yesterday, the Head of State appointed the serving Director General of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) as the new Director General of the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Services (TISS).

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications at the State House said the new chief of intelligence was sworn in yesterday and his predecessor, Dr Modestus Kipilimba, will be assigned other duties.

But what was the journey of Diwani Athuman Msuya to the helm of Tanzania's intelligence agency?

While in the Tanzania police force CP Athuman served as Regional Police Commander (RPC) for various regions including Mbeya and Shinyanga before being appointed Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) by former President Jakaya Kikwete in May 2015.

Before that appointment he was the Deputy DCI and Acting DCI, then on October 29, 2016, President Magufuli removed him from that office and promised to assign him other duties.

Three weeks later he was appointed the new Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) for Kagera Region.

He was brought back to Dar es Salaam to lead the anti-graft agency PCCB, replacing



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Commissioner of Police Valentino Mlowola who was appointed ambassador.

Dr Kipilimba becomes the incumbent holding the director's position at TISS for the shortest period since independence, with the organ having been created during the trusteeship, in 1948.

Earlier, Dr Kipilimba was the director of elections at the National Electoral Commission especially administering updating of the voter register.

At the start of the fifth phase government Dr Kipilimba was appointed head of the National Identification Agency (NIDA) before being shifted to TISS.

Over the years TISS has been headed by Emilio Mzena (1961 to 1975), Dr Lawrence Gama (1975-78) and Dr Hassy Kitine (1978-80).

The agency was later under current Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs Dr Augustine Mahiga (1980-83) and Lieutenant General Imrani Kombe (1983-1995).

After Lt Gen Kombe the office was assumed by Apsan Mwang'onda (1995-2005) followed by Othman Rashid Othman (2005-2016).

Discharged tanker fire survivors' moving, emotional thanksgiving

By Henry Mwangonde

THREE survivors of the oil tanker explosion that has claimed more than 100 lives, who were yesterday discharged from the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) have described their survival as a lucky escape from death since 36 out of 47 with whom they were admitted succumbed to the burns.

With scars on all visible parts of their bodies, the still emotional trio found it difficult to express their feelings when thinking of those who did not survive the horror and pains of the burning.

"I didn't expect to be alive but it is God's will that I am here," said Mikidadi Issa (32).

He described his survival as a miracle, thanking Tanzanians who extended help enabling him to be rushed to MNH where doctors and nurses



It has been a long and challenging journey to ensure we save their lives and we are very thankful to the government and all those who supported us in all ways

managed keep him alive.

The native of Morogoro where the accident occurred last month also extended his expression of gratitude to the Morogoro Regional Referral Hospital where the patients were treated before being taken to MNH.

"I have nothing to pay anyone who contributed to me being alive; God will pay them," he said.

Shaaban Abdallah (23), recalled that he was in critical condition when he arrived at MNH and didn't expect to make it. He was ready to let his soul separate from the body but somehow, miraculously, it didn't happen.

"It pains me to realize that we have lost a big number of people, some of whom were our parents, children, wives, uncles and other

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Ratify Africa free trade pact, TPSF urges govt

By Francis Kajubi

THE Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) yesterday called on the government to ratify the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) pact to accelerate intra-African trade and boost the continent's trading position in the world.

Tanzania and Burundi in the East African region are lagging behind in ratification of the agreement by their legislative bodies, despite that their state leaders signed the agreement.

At a dialogue hosted by TPSF with chief executive officers of various major companies yesterday in

Dar es Salaam, members of the private sector blamed the government for silence while it signed the agreement mid this year.

The dialogue meant to track how prepared is the Tanzania private sector in entering the continental trade umbrella and how the government has responded to the new realities.

In his remarks, TPSF chairman Salum Shamte (pictured) said there has lately been a lot of discussion around Africa about a single market for the whole of Africa but little is being

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Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan signs a condolence book at the High Commission of Zimbabwe in Dar es Salaam yesterday in the wake of the recent death of former Zimbabwean President Robert Gabriel Mugabe. Photo: VPO

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discussed in Tanzania.

"The AfCFTA is of crucial importance since it brings together 55 African Union member states to join forces in competing with the rest of the world. The continental market covers more than 1.2 billion people with a fast growing middle class," he stated.

A promising youth populace and a combined gross domestic product of more than US\$3.4 trillion is a major tool for Africans to come together and compete with global economic entities on an equal basis," he further noted.

Citing estimates of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, he said that AfCFTA has the potential to boost intra-Africa trade by 52.3 per cent.

"To my knowledge, some of the contributing factors to not ratifying the agreement is lack of clarity of how AfCFTA will directly and indirectly benefit the Tanzania economy and its

Ratify Africa free trade pact, TPSF urges govt

people," he told the gathering, urging that "Tanzanians must choose either to ratify or get prepared to step aside and watch others do business."

The Chief Guest at the dialogue, Ali Mufuruki, who is chairman and CEO of InfoTech Investment Group, has participated single handedly in many high profile platforms where AfCFTA was discussed, signed and launched. He said that as the heads of African states approved the agreement in July, the government is bound by convention to finalize the process.

He said so far 45 countries have signed the pact from which 70 per cent have ratified it through their legislative bodies for their governments to participate fully.

The pact has officialized two months ago and thus became an effective trade agreement across the continent regardless of whether there are

countries which have not yet ratified it, he asserted.

"We the business community are concerned with the AfCFTA since we are the ones who do business. We have decided to remind the government to accomplish this task so that we don't lag behind in benefiting from the platform," the veteran CEO intoned.

Big economies in the continent such as Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt and Morocco had already ratified the pact, he said, elaborating that many African countries are now getting into strengthening their aviation industry. With the continental trade union they can join forces to compete the rest of the world, he stated.

"The aviation industry is growing in Africa but still we lack the crucial tools to compete. We don't have enough pilot schools and airplane service hubs. With this union we can come together

and decide which country will host the professional requirements instead of flying money abroad," he emphatically appealed.

In the same vein he lamented that Africa was still a big importer of cars while the continent has everything needed to establish such factories if countries join forces through a free trade structure like AfCFTA.

Hussein Kamote, the former policy and advocacy director at the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) said the AfCFTA is vital for the local private sector to prosper in the continent, thus the government ought to show it is concerned about the matter.

Reached for comment on what the government was doing to ratify the pact, the Minister of Industries, Trade and Investment, Innocent Bashungwa didn't respond.

Discharged tanker fire survivors' moving, emotional thanksgiving

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relatives. We have nothing to say but pray for them," he said.

Abdallah said he was looking forward to start his tattered life again, calling for the government, institutions and individual well wishers to support him and his colleagues who survived to start their lives afresh.

"I thank the nurses, doctors and all those who worked hard to ensure we regain our health," he said.

The third survivor who was released together with Issa and Abdallah was processing his discharge documents when the duo spoke to the media.

Dr Edwin Mrema, a surgeon at MNH who was among a team of experts who treated the survivors since last month said the survivors were in a critical state when being received at the hospital.

"It has been a long and challenging journey to ensure we save their lives and we are very thankful to the government and all those who supported us in all ways," he said.

Out of 11 patients still at the hospital yesterday, three have been discharged, one is in the Intensive Care Unit and the last is in the regular wards.

"We conducted a surgery on the patient who is in ICU as he was severely hit by the fire and after seeing that the burnt parts were a threat to his life," he said.

Dr Mrema said those in wards are in good health, with psychologists and physiotherapists handling their cases for more care.

An explosion last month killed more than 100 people who were mostly trying to collect leaking petrol from an overturned fuel tanker.

Witnesses said the tanker tipped over as it tried to avoid a motorcycle, and locals quickly converged on the scene to collect fuel.

The explosion was said to have been triggered when a man tried to retrieve the truck's battery, creating sparks that ignited the fuel, on the basis of police affirmations.

Many of the victims were motorbike taxi drivers who rushed to the scene to try to siphon off leaking petrol. A video posted on social media taken before the explosion showed dozens of people carrying yellow jerry cans around the tanker.

The blast, which took place Saturday August 10th is the latest in a series of similar disasters in Africa and at least the third this year.

I thank the nurses, doctors and all those who worked hard to ensure we regain our health

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well as rising sea levels.

"Women are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and climate change when their rights and socio-economic status are not equal to those of men," she said.

The World Bank estimates that the gender productivity gap in terms of aggregate cost per annum in Africa is \$105 million in Tanzania, \$100 million in Malawi and \$67 million in Uganda, the legislator noted.

She cited further data affirming that the Bank of America notes that achieving women's equality could

boost global GDP by up to 13 percent. It is therefore critical to incorporate gender considerations into national policies, programmes and plans for adaptation and mitigation measures, she emphasized.

Shakwaanande Natai, the national coordinator for the Tanzania National Smart Agriculture Alliance (TCAA) argued that despite remarkable progress Tanzania has made in terms of developing gender sensitive policies, their implementation is still a challenge, where gender and climate change adaptation and mitigation actions constitutes a special challenge, she added.

Six grain warehouses launched in Morogoro

By Guardian reporter

MOROGORO Regional Commissioner Dr Stephen Kebwe, the European Union representative and Swiss development organization Helvetas yesterday jointly inaugurated six grain warehouses constructed and some rehabilitated by the Rice Postharvest Management (RIPOMA) project.

The warehouses located in Kilosa and Mvomero districts benefit more than 15,000 rural community members.

Dr Kebwe said: "I would like to assure the European Union and HELVETAS that the Morogoro Regional government will stand forward to ensure that respective District Authorities will continue to support the project and district agricultural experts will provide quality agricultural education to farmers." "These warehouses will significantly contribute to the reduction of post-harvest losses. In addition, it will facilitate aggregation points for collective marketing for better prices and easy access to the finance through the banks," added the Regional Commissioner.

The representative of the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania, Anna Costantini said: "With this project, EU and Helvetas have contributed to boost the rice sector in Morogoro.

It is our sincere hope that the seeds planted by RIPOMA will continue to grow, also thanks to the partnerships established with Local Government Authorities, training and research institutes and private sector, as well as the broader support that EU will continue to provide to agriculture in Southern Highlands."

HELVETAS Deputy Country Director Daniel Kalimbiya: "I expect that the warehouses will be protected and used in an efficient way by the community and the government in order to improve income, food and nutrition security, also thanks to the adoption of postharvest practices and technologies. I wish to thank

the European Union, the Local Authorities and Central Government, and key stakeholders for empowering smallholder farmers especially women and youth in Morogoro."

The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Beatus Malema, said that "these warehouses are very important facilities for the local communities of Morogoro, for food security, increased income and access to finance, through the warehouse receipt system."

The inauguration ceremony was attended by representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Planning; Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children; and Mvomero and Kilosa District Commissioners.

The event was also attended by officials from the Regional and District offices, representatives from SIDO, HELVETAS, DBB, JRT and CODERT project staff.

The warehouses, worth 508.56m/- is one of the key interventions of the project "Empowering Smallholder Women and Youth Farmers on Rice Postharvest Management and Marketing (RIPOMA)".

RIPOMA is a three-year project with a total budget of EUR 1,875,000 (4.768bn/-) of which the European Union contributes 80 per cent and HELVETAS 20 per cent. HELVETAS implements this project jointly with Community Development and Relief Trust (CODERT), Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO), JRT Agri-services (JRT), DBB Agro-Initiative, the Districts' Local Authorities and the Government of Tanzania.

Empowering Smallholder Women and Youth Farmers on Rice Postharvest Management and Marketing (RIPOMA)



Omary Mikidaki Issa (R) and Shabani Abdallah (2nd-R), who are among the survivors of early last month's oil tanker fire at Msamvu in Morogoro municipality which has been confirmed to have led to the deaths of more than a hundred people, speak to journalists at Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam yesterday shortly after being discharged from the referral medical facility. Others include MNH surgeon Dr Edwin Mrema (L) and Head of Emergency Medicine Dr Juma Mfinanga (2nd-L). Photo: Correspondent Mary Geoffrey

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Insurance Institute of Tanzania (IIT) in collaboration with the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) is expected to award best performers and achievers in the country's insurance industry.

This is the first time for the insurance bodies to award best performers in the insurance sector.

Speaking to a member of press yesterday in Dar es Salaam, the General Secretary of IIT Ernest Kilumbi said that the performers will be awarded during the 22nd Annual Insurance weeks, to be held in Mwanza Region between September 21 and 27, this year.

He said the first Annual Excellent Insurance Awards is aimed at improving the perception of insurance industry in the country.

Kilumbi explained that the Awards aim at rewarding and celebrating

IIT, TIRA to award best performers and achievers in insurance industry

leaders, best performers and achievers in the Tanzanian insurance industry; identifying and stimulating distinctive innovations in the insurance sector; encouraging sustainable growth in terms of insurance premiums combined with business profitability in the sector. He said: "We've found that it is fitting to initiate these awards to identify, recognize and reward excellence in the management, leadership and governance of insurance as a sector in Tanzania."

He said the purpose of the annual insurance awards is to provide knowledge and information by sharing best practice, experiences and expertise, foster innovation and

creativity in the insurance sector and build awareness and confidence in the public, NGOs, CSOs and donors.

He further said that the award aims at promoting the role of government in ensuring that insurance is a resource for all and encourage local participation and enhance greater regional collaboration in the development and promotion of insurance.

According to Kilumbi, the initial screening of all entries for each award category was done by a three layer process comprised of three independent committees whereby a total of 72 applications were received.

"Out of those, thirty two were shortlisted while forty was rejected on

various grounds," he explained.

The award categories are Insurance Company of the year, Most Innovative Insurance Product Award, Corporate Social Responsibilities Award (CSR) Insurance Brokerage of The Year (IBY) Insurance Awareness Campaign of the Year (ACY) Young Achievers Research Development and Ideas (YAR)

TIRA Commissioner Dr Musa Juma said the commemoration will involve gathering of senior executives and top professionals is acknowledged as the premier networking event for insurance players in Tanzania

Annual Insurance Day conference themed "Uplifting Insurance Penetration: Insure the Uninsured"



Standard Seven pupils at Dar es Salaam's Diamond Primary School in celebratory mood moments after completing their national examinations yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Complete Mtera expansion work on time, Kalemani tells contractor

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

MINISTER for Energy Dr Medard Kalemani has asked a contractor who is implementing Mtera Substation expansion project which is expected to cater for more than 70 villages in the Iringa and Dodoma regions to complete the work on time.

The call was made by the Minister on Tuesday immediately after conducting an impromptu inspection at the construction site where he expressed dissatisfaction with the speed of the contractor, SUNIR Company from Iran.

The contractor installing two substation transformers is scheduled to complete the project by October 4 this year to enable the villagers have reliable electricity as they are now using low voltage power. "In 2017, November we gave this contractor a job that he had to complete within 18 months but he has not worked well and the work being done here is not in line with the action that had to be achieved by now," said Dr Kalemani.

In addition, after arriving at the project site, Dr Kalemani found that only four employees were on duty and the company's contractor from Iran was out of work, so he instructed the project manager from TANESCO to make sure the contractor added the workers.

He also directed that the Iranian contractor make sure he arrives in the country within three days to take steps to make the project work faster.

He said that the facility will have two transformers capable of 10MVA each and the amount allocated for the project is US\$3.2 million.

"These transformers are currently at Dar es Salaam port but I am advising TANESCO and the Rural Energy Agency (REA), to ensure that these transformers are released from the port within five days to be installed and operational," said Dr Kalemani. He explained that initially the Mtera Power Station was originally built to serve the power plant area only but the Government decided to expand the facility to also serve the surrounding areas and villages.

The Minister of Energy was accompanied by Assistant Electricity Commissioner, Engineer Innocent Luoga and Acting Director-General of REA, Engineer Amos Maganga.

He said as they walked through the project and saddened by the progress of the project in particular and gave instructions to the contractor within five days he had brought the transformers

from the port and started fixing them immediately.

This \$ 3 million US dollar project built by the Iran-based company SUNIRI was supposed to be completed in just 18 months but since November 2017 nothing has been done to make it a hot mess.

The fact is that the contractor in charge of the project is outside the country despite the government funding but instead leaving the project manager working on the project.

Dr Kalemani said that the government has high expectations for the project which is expected to cater for over 300 residents but, ironically, there are only two laborers in the project and this is mentioned after the arrival of the minister.

He said that due to the incompleteness of the project it resulted in a low voltage in the rural electrification (REA) project in more than 70 villages in Iringa and Dodoma.

On the Meter Dam side, the Minister of Energy Dr Medard Kalemani was satisfied with the condition of the dam and added that the water level was over 692.23 meters.

He said the condition of the dam is good so there will be no electricity problem for this year because there is enough water.

Dr Kalemani also instructs district officials, heads of regions and officials close to the Mtera dam to make sure they protect the sources of water so that the water can increase.

He added that the viability of the project to generate electricity the Mtera depends on the availability of fresh water sources in the area.

The Mtera dam and power station

Mtera Dam is the largest dam in the country in terms of height, crest length and concrete volume.

Its impounded reservoir is also the largest man-made lake in Tanzania. The Dam is also the road bridge between the Iringa and Dodoma regions and is part of the Great North Road (Cape Town to Cairo).

The Mtera Dam is a concrete structure of the buttress type with crest level at 701.5 metres above sea level. The main tributaries to the dam are the Great Ruaha, Little Ruaha and Kisigo Rivers. The Dam was completed in December 1980 and was inaugurated by the late President Mwalimu J.K.Nyerere on 19th February 1981.

Mtera Hydropower Plant has an installed capacity of 80MW. The power generation started in 22nd May 1988 for unit 1 and 7th December 1988 for unit 2 respectively.

Govt unveils plan to revive, improve coconut farming

By Guardian Reporter

THE government yesterday unveiled plan to revive and improve coconut farming including working closely with farmers so as to boost production of the crop's oil and related products to cater for country and international market demand.

According to the deputy minister for Agriculture, Omary Mgumba, farmers in the southern regions of Mtwara and Lindi have received training on the production of the crop as well as knowledge and skills on smart coconut oil process so as to grab the market.

He also said that the government is holding talks with the Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) to get quality coconut seedlings and supply to farmers for best results.

Mgumba said this in Parliament when was responding to a question from Special Seats MP, Zaynab Vulu (CCM) who to know the government's strategy to find revive the production of coconut as it was in previous years.

The MP also wanted to know the government's plans to also find stable market for the products. "Everything found in a coconut tree is important this include its coconut itself, branches, coconut water, roots and the tree," she noted.

Responding Mgumba acknowledged that coconut production in the country has remained low for years thus failing to serve the available market demand.

According to him, the potential of coconut farming is yet to be fully exploited, so what we should focus now is encouraging production of the crop, educating farmers on better farming methods and processing for sale.

Reports show that Tanzania is the Africa's biggest producers of coconuts and tenth in the world. But recently production has declined and it is now being forced to import them from neighboring countries.

The deputy minister said that the government also recognizes the potential available in the crop that's it has stated investing heavily to improve its production for the country

"Currently there is high demand of virgin coconut oil, so farmers should start investing in this...The government will be there to provide support by linking them to markets by also to trainings...One litre of virgin coconut oil is sold up 40,000/-," he said.

He further said that so far at least 74 farmers in Lindi and Mtwara regions have already been trained on value chain, better ways of coconut farming and virgin oil processing.

"We have also capacitated 50 farmers in Bagamoyo district, Coast region with training and modern machines to process up to 500 litres of virgin coconut oil."

The deputy minister highlighted that the government has also established a special farm totaling 54 hectares at the Chambezi Research Centre in Bagamoyo so as to produce as more quality coconut seedlings to supply to farmers at lower price.

According to him, in the year 2018/19 the government produced at least 11,000 coconut seedlings and supplied to farmers in the regions of Mwanza and Rukwa.

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

Parliamentary group rolls out anti-malaria onslaught

THE Tanzania Parliamentarians Against Malaria (TAPAMA) have embarked on an initiative seeking to galvanize political will to help the country eliminate malaria by 2030.

The project unveiled here on Wednesday will strengthen political engagement and data-driven accountability and action at the constituency and national level.

The project is set to broaden TAPAMA, an all-parties parliamentary group against malaria's role and support institutionalization of accountability and action through an enhanced malaria scorecard, which uses existing routinely collected data from the District Health Information Systems.

"There has been significant progress in reducing the burden of malaria with prevalence dropping drastically from 14.4 percent in 2016 to 7.3 percent by 2018. This significant progress is a result of coordinated action by the government of Tanzania's National Malaria Control Programme. To avoid backtracking and accelerate the response we need increased action, more resources, increased partnerships, multisectoral action and greater accountability. As parliamentarians we have a greater role in supporting this vision towards achieving the goal of zero malaria by 2030" said Riziki Lulida (Special seats-CUF), the Chairperson of TAPAMA.

The project will support the development of a malaria scorecard app for smartphones and tablets. The initiative will also see the development malaria advocacy and communication strategy and provide guidelines for parliamentarians on key advocacy, resource mobilisation and accountability actions. Under the initiative

Parliamentarians will be trained on using the scorecard tools. Routine scorecard review meetings to drive accelerated action will be conducted in four high malaria burden regions (Kigoma, Geita, Kagera, Lindi/Mtwara). TAPAMA will further engage in regional advocacy including playing a major role in the SADC Malaria Day event in November 2019.

Parliamentarians are major partners in advancing the malaria agenda. Parliamentarians can play a major role at the constituency level in advocating for service provision and enhancing participation through sharing information, role modeling, intervening with traditional structures and service providers at constituency level and spearheading oversight and accountability for malaria. At the national level parliamentarians can support the malaria agenda through expenditure tracking, creating a conducive policy environment, effectively advocating for an effective response as well as promoting accountability for results, sufficient resources and transparency of decisions and resource use.

STANFORD, COLUMBIA, CORNELL, AND PRINCETON UNIVERSITIES VISIT TANZANIA FOR INFORMATION SESSIONS.

TanSAO congratulates the above students for being accepted into Columbia, Stanford, Cornell and Princeton where they are pursuing their undergraduate studies. TanSAO wishes them all the best in their studies.

Golden Tulip Hotel, Masaki
Sunday, September 15th | 03:00 P.M.
FREE OF CHARGE!

Students, teachers, counselors and parents are cordially welcome!

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)

TENDER TITLE: VIDEO CONFERENCE TECHNICAL EXPERT

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190102

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is financing the Technical Adviser post of a Video Conference Technical Expert to assist the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat in ensuring that the Video Conference System and network environment is operational according to service level requirements. The Video Conference Technical Expert will be based at the EAC Secretariat in Arusha, Tanzania.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) document for this assignment can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit their applications via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarkea.com quoting the tender title and number. The closing date for applications is 4 October 2019.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender five days or less prior to the submission



Rwandan investors set to invest in meat processing in Kagera

By Correspondent Mutayoba Arbogast, Bukoba

A TEAM of ten investors from Rwanda landed in the region with the intention of investing in modern animal husbandry and meat processing industry.

The arrival of the investors is the result of the last month's Kagera Investment Week, which was held in Bukoba Municipality and opened by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa.

The Rwandan business moguls who were received by Kagera Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General Marco Gaguti are in final touches of registering a joint company in the country for that purpose.

Team leader, William Kawamala told the RC that they're determined and well prepared to invest in modern cattle husbandry and beef processing by international standards, after having been satisfied by National Ranching Company (NARCO) officers assurance of livestock and land during the investment week, and that they have come to see the area for grazing and, where the processing plant will be built.

The RC directed Prof Phillemon Wambura (pictured), NARCO Acting Chief Executive Officer and other officials from regional secretariat, to show them the allocated land, and when the registration of their company is over, the investment starts.

Prof Wambura said Kagera region has plenty opportunities for investing in beef and milk processing plants, and pastures.

Opening the regional week, Majaliwa called on investors, both local and

foreign, to invest in Kagera Region by constructing medium and large processing industries due to its conducive environment and political tranquillity.

He described Kagera as a strategically located region, sharing borders with four countries, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya across Lake Victoria, with a population market of 190 million.

Equally, he challenged Tanzanians to grab investment opportunities in the Great Lakes regions, especially in the hospitality industry.

He said traders on border regions of Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Simiyu, Mara and Kigoma should forge close links and make regular visits to neighbouring countries.

Tanzania has the second largest livestock in the African continent, comprising of approximately 32.5 million heads of cattle, of which 98 percent is indigenous breeds, thus needs modern husbandry to fuel its economy.

Regions with high share of livestock in Tanzania mainland include Tabora (8.7 per cent); Mwanza (7.9 per cent); and Manyara (7.2 per cent).



Tigo chief business officer Pavan Ramdhan briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the firm's office internet service targeting SMEs shortly after launching it. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondents Michael Sikapundwa,

Ulanga

ULANGA District Commissioner, Ngollo Ng'waniduhu Malenya has ordered commuter bus drivers plying the Ifakara-Ulanga route to charge a fare of 5,000/- as endorsed by the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

DC made a call here when speaking during the meeting with commuter bus owners, drivers, and LATRA officials.

DC s Malenya said commuter bus operators have been using passengers' ignorance to charge them exorbitant fares, which in fact are contrary to the one which has been approved by LATRA.

He said that commuter bus drivers

Refrain from charging inflated fares, DC orders bus operators

have been charging 10, 000/- per trip between the two points, instead of the approved 5,000/-.

The distance between Ifakara and Ulanga is 82 km.

The DC warned commuter bus owners to stop from running business with super profit since fuel consumption for go and return between the two points costs only 35,000/-.

She assured the operators that the government was working on improving the rough road between the two points.

The official said that the fine for

anyone who will go against the LATRA's endorsed fare is tough; hence operators need to adhere to the law governing transport in the area.

For his part, LATRA's official Endrew Mlacha insisted legal fare is 5,000/- for 82kilometers, and not 10,000/- as the commuter bus operators charge.

Mlacha encouraged operators to venture into big buses rather than van such as Toyota Noah, whose capacity is only 10 passengers

He said that commuters plying the Ifakara-Ulanga route must be identified by selected color and LATRA's special

marks showing fares and other key information.

The official further revealed that other bus fares for Mahenge- Morogoro route for ordinary class is 12,600/-, semi luxury (16,200/-) and luxury (17,800/-), while Dar es Salaam-Mahenge route the fare is ordinary (19,700/-) while semi luxury (26,500/-) and luxury (29,900/-).

For his part, Ulanga Officer Commanding District (OCD), Ramadhan Kitanto called for commuter bus drivers to adhere to the fare of 5,000/-, as charging above that will plunge them into court.

Advocate: Kabendera's health requires specialised treatment

By Guardian Reporter

THE case against freelance journalist Erick Kabendera was yesterday postponed until next week, where the accused will be expected to come and brief the court on his health condition.

The journalists has been in custody since July over his alleged involvement in money laundering and tax evasion

The Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Court was told that investigations into the case are yet to be completed.

Senior Kisutu Resident Magistrate Augustine Rwigizile made the decision after Kabendera updated the court of his health.

Kabendera told the court that there was no medical equipment at the prison's medical facility "but they took my blood pressure and the condition improved for a while after three injections they had on me.

"The doctor asked me to do

some exercises and I felt better for sometimes. But for the past eight days I have been experiencing hip pain and my bone is intensively hurting," he added.

The journalist's lawyer advocate Jebra Kambole asked Magistrate Rwigizile to direct the Tanzania Prison Service to grant his client a chance to go and see a specialist so that he can be properly diagnosed.

He said: "Our client is sick and can barely walk because his right leg was paralyzed and he cannot even breathe appropriately at night."

Advocate Kambole asked court's intervention.

But, State attorney Wankyo Simon told the court that the Prison Service has its own arrangement of according detainees with medical treatment and that the last time he checked with them they said Kabendera was being attended to.

Kabendera arrived at the court's building yesterday while walking with difficulties, visibly in pain and exhausted as he dragged his left leg.

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

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

The state further claims that the accused (in the second offence) failed to pay taxes amounting to Sh173.247 million that was payable to the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

In the third and final count, the journalist is accused of obtaining Sh173.247 million, while knowing that the said money was the proceeds of offences, namely: tax evasion and involvement in organized crime.



TENDER NOTIFICATION

Consultancy Services to conduct LSF Mid-term Evaluation

Reference: LSF/40/MTE- T

The Organization

The Legal Services Facility, represented by the Chief Executive Officer, is a registered NGO with Registration No. 00NGO/R2/00011. LSF strives to increase access to justice for all, in particular for women, through legal empowerment approaches. LSF channels funding on equal opportunity basis to organizations which promote, provide or support legal aid and paralegal services and work toward empowerment of poor women, children and men.

Overall Objective of Midterm evaluation

The main purpose of the mid-term evaluation is to assess whether the overall Programme is on track in terms of achieving its set objectives, as well as, to provide learning and areas of improvements for the current ongoing Programme implementation setting the trend for the remaining two and half years.

Scope and focus of the Assignment:

- The mid-term evaluation will cover 30 months of implementation from January 2017 to June 2019. The mid-term Programme evaluation will assess the effectiveness of the implementation strategies. This will include the implementation modalities, grant making modality, and capacity development approaches adopted by the Programme.
- It will also look at issues of coordination, partnership arrangements, institutional strengthening, beneficiary participation, and sustainability of the Programme.
- To assess the synergy with other programs implemented in the area of governance and suggest ways of creating more synergy. The linkage of LSF results to donors' country programme.
- To assess whether the Programme implementation strategy has been optimum and recommend areas for improvement and learning
- The mid-term evaluation will include review of the project design, and assumptions made at the beginning of the Programme development process.

Time frame for the assignment

The mid-term evaluation will be conducted between October and November 2019 for an estimated 45 working days. Upon signing of the contract, the consultant will be given the necessary working documents and information for reference. The final report is expected on 20 December 2019.

Tender procedure

To assist in the preparation of the Tender, the LSF has compiled a tender package that contains the Terms of Reference, Tender Submission form and other documents.

- The tender package will be available and forms can be downloaded from our website www.lsfz.org as from 13th September 2019 onward.
- The tenders should follow the formats and provide the documentation as indicated in the tender package.
- A clarification meeting for interested parties will be held at the LSF office on Thursday 26th September 2019 at 14:00 hrs.

The deadline for submission of the tender is Friday 11th October, 2019 at 14.00 hrs.

All tenders have to be submitted in a sealed envelope by hand delivery (a signed and dated receipt will be provided to the deliverer) to the address below:

Chief Executive Officer
Legal Services Facility
Bima Street, Nyati Rd Mikochehi B
P.O. Box 31480
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Tel: 0222 781061

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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION
COUNTRY OFFICE DAR ES SALAAM

INVITATION TO BID REFERENCE N° ILODAR/02/2019

The International Labour Organisation, Country Office Dar es salaam, with its premises at Kazi House building, Plot No. 76/27 & 105/27, Maktaba Street now call for interested companies for **Development of a Simplified Business Registration & Training Application for Young (Male and Female) Entrepreneurs.**

Interested companies may obtain bidding documents from www.ilo.org/daressalaam. Companies should submit their technical and financial proposals using an inner and outer envelope. The proposals should be placed in each envelopes and should be marked separately as "Technical" and "Financial".

Bids must be received on or before 23/09/2019 at 04:00 PM EAT

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Dodoma city director Godwin Kunambi (R) and NBC officials in jovial mood at the recent launch of the bank's Dodoma Business Club in the country's capital. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge has asked businesspeople in the country's capital to acquire loans from financial institutions so that they can boost their business especially now when the city is growing rapidly.

In his speech read on his behalf by Dodoma City Council Director, Godwin Kunambi during the official launching of the business club by the National Bank of Commerce (NBC), apart from commending NBC for the initiative, Dr Mahenge said there was a need for businesspeople in Dodoma to capitalize on financial institutions so that they can have financial strength to help them to benefit from the country's economic opportunities.

Currently, the regional authorities are implementing various robust development projects including roads, the largest bus stand in East African region, expansion of Dodoma airport, construction of resting gardens which will have a higher capacity of financial flows thus helping people to use banks effectively including NBC so they can double their capital which will help them to invest more in various businesses.

The RC further advised businesspeople

Government urges businesspeople to tap into opportunities in Dodoma city

to invest in the transport sector, explaining that Dodoma City Council is now planning to phase out all minibuses in the city to allow only operators of larger buses popularly known as Coasters.

Giving details on the newly launched business club in Dodoma region, NBC head of SMEs and Retail Banking, Evance Luhimbo said the business clubs that are being established in various regions aim at providing capacity building to NBC customers including various technological improvements within the financial institution. He also said that the clubs help NBC customers in networking with other businesspeople as well as discussing various challenges they are facing including taxes.

"Our bank has embarked on robust service delivery improvements to our customers and in order to make our services nearer to people we have decided that we should remain closer to them," he noted.

According to Luhimbo, apart from equipping the customers with skills on how best to access the services, the bank has equally

been connecting the businesspeople with all influential public institutions such as The Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, ministries of Agriculture and that of Industries and Trade, the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) and TCCIA, among others.

In his presentation during a validation workshop prior to official launching of the club, TCCIA Manager for Industrial Development, Patrick Magai and NEEC Coordinator of Empowerment Programmes, Nyakaho Mahemba advised small businesspeople to merge their capital so that they can be able to participate in major business opportunities inside and outside the country.

Speaking on behalf of fellow participants at the workshop, a businessman, Ponsian Rweyemela, commended NBC for its sweeping changes in the administration, advising the bank and other financial institutions to increase ATM machines in Dodoma region insisting that since it was elevated to city status the population has so far been increasing rapidly.

Stick to procedures, govt tells importers, freight forwarders

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government has asked importers and freight forwarders to make sure that they follow all procedures when executing their duties.

An official from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Athuman Kissumo revealed this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when speaking at a sensitization seminar for importers and freight forwarders.

The one-day seminar was organised by TBS attracted more than 70 participants from Dar es Salaam.

Kissumo who is also Senior quality assurance manager said that some of them do not follow procedures in importing goods.

He said they have been facing some importers who do not want to test their products with relevant authorities before they import to Tanzania.

He said others use unofficial routes or borders to import their goods which most of them are sub standards.

"We urge all of you to follow all procedures which includes testing quality of the goods before being shipped to our country, this would help to avoid heavy penalty or returned back to the country of origin if found to be substandard," he emphasized.

He also said TBS has reduced or removed many charges imposed on various services.

He said inspection fee has been reduced significantly while registration cost has been removed.

"We have improved our

services including putting affordable fees in order to enable manufacturers conduct their business more easily, he said.

He said at the moment, TBS has appointed four agents to test quality of products abroad; they are Intertek, Bureau Veritas, CCIC and SGS.

He noted that the new product conformity assessment programme was introduced to control certain categories of imported consumer goods.

The objective of the PVoC is to ensure that all imports of regulated products comply with the approved Tanzanian technical regulations prior to shipment.

The Bureau appointed four companies to conduct PVoC services for used motor vehicles only.

The companies are Japan Auto Appraisal Institute (JAAI), Quality Inspection Services (QIS), and East Africa Automotive Service Company Limited (EAA), all of which are bases in Japan JABAL Kilimanjaro Autoelect Mech. Inspection based in United Arab Emirates

He warned all vehicle importers of used vehicles from Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) countries to make sure their imports are inspected before being transported to the country; otherwise they would risk legal action.

Speaking on behalf of others, Edward Urio, the Vice Chairman of Tanzania Freight Forwarders Association (TAFFA), thanked TBS for

organising the seminar. He said the seminar plays a crucial role for them to understand various roles and procedures in importing goods.

He asked Standards Watchdog to work on challenges under the Pre- Shipment Verification of Conformity to Standards (PVoC) in order to ease business and improve economy of Tanzania.

According to him PVoC system had many challenges which needed immediate intervention from the government.

Opening the seminar, the TBS Acting Director General, Johannes Maganga, asked manufacturers to attend various discussion groups relating to importation procedures.

He said the organisation has been organising such seminars in various regions to enable importers conduct their business without a challenge. "We have conducted such seminars in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Arusha and Tanga regions where we have been educating importers and freight forwarders about various issues," he said.

Maganga said the bureau will organise similar seminars in Mbeya region later this year.

According to him yesterday seminar aimed at educating participants on procedures of importing goods and registration of food and cosmetics warehouses, scrapped fees according to the Finance Bill of the year 2019.

It also aimed to inform them about online application system and discuss various challenges related to standards.

By Guardian Reporter

COMMONWEALTH women's affairs ministers are expected to assemble in Kenya's capital Nairobi next week for their triennial meeting to consider a robust strategy to achieve gender equality goals in all 53 member countries by 2030.

The strategy will include provisions to help increase women's access to leadership, to achieve a minimum number of years of free quality education, to boost family planning and health services and to ensure legal protection from violence.

The 12th Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting will be held between September 19 and 20, this year and will be chaired by Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender.

Ministers and senior officials will discuss topical issues hampering women's progress, including sexual and reproductive health rights and anti-discriminatory laws in the economic sector.

Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said: "The meeting is an immensely valuable opportunity for our member countries collectively to monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving Commonwealth priorities on gender equality and attainments under Sustainable Development Goal 5 and related national or regional commitments.

"Recommendations and decisions made by ministers at the meeting will help to shape innovative Commonwealth approaches to accelerate gender equality, which is such a vital part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "Assessing progress is

Commonwealth women's affairs ministers to join forces on gender equality strategy

particularly important as we prepare for the 25th anniversaries of the International Conference on Population and Development and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action."

Ministers will be presented with a summary on the status of gender equality in the Commonwealth in four priority areas: women in leadership, women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, and gender and climate change.

The summary reveals 'impressive improvements' in areas such as maternal health, primary education and women's

participation in the workforce. However, in some domains, women's status has remained 'stagnant or even declined'. It indicates that in 13 Commonwealth countries, the significant marker of 30 per cent or more women in parliament has been achieved, plus gender parity in primary school enrolments is close to being attained.

Prof Kobia said: "This meeting provides a platform to strategise on emerging gender issues by examining critical areas that still require further attention; share experiences and lessons learned; and forge common positions for accelerating gender equality and empowerment of women and girls."



Advertisements of Employment

1. Salesman

Qualification:

- Applicant should be a holder of form IV/VI with Diploma in Sales and Marketing / Business Administration or any related field from recognized Institution.

Key skills & Abilities:

- Skills and knowledge of customer care and customer services.
- Ability and skills of route sales.
- Ability to forecast sales / load to be taken for each day to the location assigned.
- Able to work independently with minimum supervision.
- Self motivated, flexible person and a good team player.
- Ability to seek out and develop news business and maximize all possible opportunities to increase Sales.

- ✓ **Experience** : Any experience in the same related field will be an added advantage.

Mode of Application:

All applications accompanied with cover letter, photocopies of certificates and CVs to be sent to undersigned address, reach him not later than 21/09/2019.

The Managing Director,
Bonite Bottlers Ltd,
P. O. Box 1352,
MOSHI.

215416701

www.nbc.co.tz

TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR VARIOUS SERVICES

1. National Bank of Commerce Limited has set aside funds for the procurement of various services during financial year 2019/2020, it is intended that, part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the various contracts.
2. Request for proposal is open to all eligible service providers with proven experience and capacity to offer the required services. Interested eligible bidders are invited to apply for the provision of below list of Information Technology supplies and services;
 - i. Online trade Management platform
 - ii. Enterprise Service Bus solution
 - iii. Employee Learning Management System
 - iv. Employee Declaration System
 - v. Business resilience and crisis management system
 - vi. Pricing and Billing Solution
 - vii. Information Technology Incident Management System
 - viii. Human resources Management System
 - ix. Financial Crime Compliance online platform
 - x. Foreign Account Tax Compliance notification Tool
 - xi. Supply and Personalization of Debit Cards
 - xii. Development of an Integrated Digital Channel platform
 - xiii. SMS Notification platform
 - xiv. Corporate Online Banking Solution
 - xv. Customer management System (Onboarding, complaints management and payments)
 - xvi. Cyber Security solutions
 - xvii. Loan Processing solution
 - xviii. Information Technology Project Management system
 - xix. Supply and Maintenance of Point of Sale Machine (POS)
3. Request for Proposal documents can be downloaded from the website www.nbc.co.tz and then click 'Procurement' to access the document.
4. All Proposals in one original and one copy set properly filled in, and enclosed in sealed envelope marked as per service name written on the RFP Document and should be addressed to; **CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED, HEAD OFFICE BUILDING, 6th FLOOR, and P. O. BOX 1863 DAR ES SALAAM.**
5. Sealed applications and Bids must be submitted not later than **Friday, 27th September 2019 at 1600 hrs.** Proposal shall be delivered by hand to the Tender Box located at reception of Head Office building, ground floor along Sokoine Drive /Azikiwe Street.

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE LIMITED**

The Bank for a Working Nation



215417001



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Amref Health Africa is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) whose mission is "to improve the health of people by partnering with and empowering communities and strengthening health systems". Amref Health Africa has over 1000 employees throughout Africa with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Amref Health Africa has offices in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, South Sudan and Senegal and a number of offices in Europe and North America for fundraising. Amref Health Africa-Tanzania is largely supported by Multilateral, Bilateral and National donors, implementing several programmes including HIV/AIDS/TB/Malaria, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Water and sanitation, e learning programme and clinical outreach. Amref Health Africa -Tanzania has the following vacancies:

1. Position Title	: Regional Community Service Coordinator (1)
Location/Work Station	: Tanga,
Reports to	: Community Services Advisor

Job summary:

The focus of the Regional Community Services Coordinator is to strengthen and coordinate the rapid implementation of a PEPFAR funded, comprehensive, community-based HIV prevention, testing, linkage, and retention services project targeting key vulnerable populations (KVP) in Tanga region. He/she will provide leadership in engaging Community stakeholders including collaborating with R/CHMT to support community based services, with technical advice and guidance from the Community Services Advisor

Specific Responsibilities and Duties:

- Lead and manage field staff working on the community-based HIV prevention project reaching KVP in Tanga region
- Plan and coordinate all meetings and trainings
- Develop annual and quarterly work plans and supervise implementation at the regional level to ensure all targets are met
- Implement community test-and-treat strategies and identify gaps to improve uptake of treatment initiation and linkage to care among targeted populations.
- Coordinate the provision of the Linkage Case Management (LCM) services
- Organize the orientation of the local government authorities and other stakeholders about the community-based HIV prevention project
- Organize the training/orientation of healthcare workers in the selected health facilities on the community-based HIV prevention project
- Liaise with regional authorities and stakeholders as the representative for Amref regional office for Community services technical and supportive guidance
- Participate in the development of the referral network model between the community-based outreach and health facility services
- Participate in the development and implementation of strategies to improve the provision of comprehensive community-based services including opportunistic infection, TB, STI screening, family planning (FP) needs assessment and referrals.
- Participate in the development and implementation of innovative approaches for index testing.
- Coordinate and conduct mapping of hot spots and size estimation where KVP including adolescent girls and young women are found
- Collaborate with organizations for execution of sub-agreements and service agreements
- Supervise the recruitment and training of community outreach Volunteers (COV) and lay counselors from peer groups to implement the outreach services.
- Supervise the recruitment and training of Community Expert Client (CEC) to implement the linkage Case Management Services (LCM) and Tracking
- Mentor and supervise community outreach Volunteers and Community Expert Client regularly and frequently during outreach sessions and lead regular meetings
- Ensure adequate data collection and timely, complete and clean reporting of regional data to the central level
- Perform any other relevant duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Qualification

- Master's Degree in Public Health, Medical background or Social Science Degree with strong medical/public health experience is highly preferred.
- Medical or Social Science Degree or Master's
- Experience working with the Regional and Local Government authorities
- Proven relationship building skills as well as in facilitation, leadership and Coordination
- Proven critical analysis skills and report writing skills
- At least 4 years of hands on experiences at a senior position in community based program NGO which is active in health development
- Good interpersonal and people management skills a team player and builder
- Good command of English and Swahili language will be an added advantage

2. Position Title	: Community Service Officers (2)
Location/Work Station	: Tanga
Reports to	: Community Services Advisor

Job summary:

The focus of the Community services to strengthen referrals and linkage from testing services to enrolment, retention and adherence to ART in the first 12 months in respective Districts with frequent technical advice and guidance from the project Community services Advisor

Specific responsibilities and duties:

- Assist the Community linkage tracking ad in strengthening linkage to HIV care through use of the expert client's peer navigators to physically escort newly diagnosed PLHIV to the CTC.
- Strengthen bidirectional referrals from community HIV testing services and follow up of partners of index clients at the facility.
- Strengthen Linkage and retention of clients in treatment including identification and operationalization of community-based ART delivery models that are flexible and responsive to the needs of PLHIV (using CHW and stable clients).
- Support adherence and improve community support groups to support PLHIVs adherence to ART and TB medication
- Provide linkage of PLHIV to the economic strengthening and life skills training
- Assist the community linkage advisor in the implementation of community programs specifically on engagement of community health workers on tracing of defaulters to minimize the loss to follow up of pre ART and ART clients through improving evidence linkages between health facilities and community.
- Responsible with achievement of agreed targets and outputs of HIV care and support at community level
- Collaborate with CHMTs to identify training needs for community health workers and organize basic and refresher trainings using currently
- Carry out any other responsibilities as assigned by supervisor.

Qualification

- Degree in Public Health or Medical /Social Sciences Degree with strong Public Health Experience.
- Medical /Social Sciences Degree
- Proven critical analysis skills and report writing skills
- At least 3 years of hands on experiences at a senior position in community based program NGO which is active in health development
- Ability to maintain confidentiality regarding Clients health status and sensitive information in data sources
- Good interpersonal and people management skills a team player and builder
- Good command of English and Swahili language will be an added advantage

3. Position Title	: Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (2)
Location/Work Station	: Tanga
Reports to	: Associate Director Strategic Information

Job summary:

Reporting to the Associate Director Strategic Information, the M&E Officer will provide leadership to Amref's HIV Community Services portfolio in strengthening district and regional HIV M&E Systems by ensuring that all activities meet the highest standards through provision of strategic information which will inform the right direction of the program. S/he will oversee HIV Community Services teams focused on designing and implementation of M&E strategies including data quality assurance and associated frameworks.

Specific responsibilities and duties:

- Lead a team supporting timely, accurate and appropriate reporting project activities and results to the program management team
- Collaborate with the project team to design and implement M&E systems to collect, manage and disseminate data by reporting progress towards the program objectives
- Ensure that routinely collected data summaries are available in a timely fashion and a user-friendly format for regular use in program monitoring
- Ensure that Amref best supports districts and regional efforts to review and improve community HIV program performance through the use of quality routinely collected data
- Work with the Strategic Information team to ensure electronic systems are in place to manage and disseminate program data from client to national level.
- Ensure timely and complete data entry from paper-based sources to electronic sources
- Review completed paper-based tools and compare electronic data entries with source documents on a regular basis to verify accuracy of data and make corrections as needed
- Track referral forms and conduct verification with registers and databases at facilities to verify completed referrals and linkage outcomes
- Facilitate generation of queries and ensure data cleaning activities are conducted systematically
- Work with the ICT department to fix any errors and problems observed in the databases and report any systems malfunction to central team as needed
- Lead in training new outreach workers on data collection tools, including referrals, reporting and database
- Conduct regular data quality assessments and joint supportive supervision with CHMT team to ensure the highest degree of program data quality
- Develop all monthly, quarterly, and other reports on all indicators for submission and review to central team
- Ensure all team members maintain security of data tools at all times, including protecting the confidentiality of records and data
- Involved in data reporting quarterly, semi-annually (SAPR) and annually (APR) and any other reports as necessary by GoT and Donor.

Qualification

- Degree in health informatics, social sciences, or statistics
- At least 3 years of "hands on experience" as M&E officer position in HIV prevention, care and treatment. Experience in working with HIV Community interventions will be an added advantage
- Strong data analysis, graphical data presentation, dissemination and report writing skills
- Experience working in NGO which is active in health development.
- Good interpersonal and people management skills a team player and builder.
- Good command of English and Swahili language will be an added advantage.
- Demonstrated familiarity with MOHCDGEC/PEPFAR data systems including DHIS, CTC2 and DATIM
- Excellent speaking, reading, and writing skills in both English and Kiswahili
- Excellent computer skills at minimum with Microsoft Office package including Word, Excel, Power point, and Access

4. Position Title	: Community Field Assistant (3)
Location/Work Station	: Tanga, Korogwe, Muheza or Handeni/Lushoto
Reports to	: Regional Community Services Coordinator

Job summary:

The focus of the Community field Assistant ensuring all the community-based HIV prevention, testing, linkage, and retention services targeting key vulnerable populations (KVP) are implemented at the highest service expected in specific districts

He/she will engage and work closely with Health Facilities, and Providers at the Community settings including collaborating with local government authorities at ward and Village level to support community based services, with technical advice and guidance from the Community Services Coordinator.

Specific responsibilities and duties:

- Develop work plan for day-to-day program implementation at the district level including supervision of field activities
- Supervise the delivery of field-based HIV prevention services to the KPs/PPs by community outreach workers, including scheduling and implementing day and night mobile outreach campaigns.
- Mentor and supervise community outreach workers regularly and frequently during outreach sessions and lead weekly outreach worker meetings;
- Ensure adequate supplies of commodities (condoms and test kits) and other materials (IEC; data collection tools) to outreach workers.
- Support healthcare workers providing KPI/PP friendly services in health facilities and mobile activities via regular supportive supervision.
- Inform and cooperate with local government authorities and other stakeholders on current and upcoming activities for the program
- Participate in the training/orientation of healthcare workers in the selected health facilities on KP/PP program
- Regularly conduct routine mapping/re-mapping of hot spots and size estimation where KPs and PPs are found
- Assist with identifying/screening, recruiting, and training community outreach workers from peer groups to implement the outreach services.
- Review completed data tools on a regular basis and ensure adequate data collection including timely, complete and clean reporting/data transfer to Data Manager
- Manage security of data tools when not in use
- Prepare weekly reports on outreach activities and progress
- Assist in development of the referral network between the outreach and health facility services
- Performing any other relevant duties as assigned by the supervisor

Qualification

- Diploma in Public Health or Bachelor Degree in Public Health, medical background qualifications or related Social Science Degree with strong Public Health Experience.
- Medical/ Social Sciences Diploma, Bachelor Degree in the related field will be an added advantage.
- Proven critical analysis skills and report writing skills
- At least 2 years of hands on experiences at a position in community based program NGO which is active in health development
- Ability to maintain confidentiality regarding Clients health status and sensitive information in data sources
- Ability to interact well with targeted groups and peer outreach workers by facilitating a non-judgemental, non-discriminatory and non stigmatizing environment in the program.
- Good interpersonal and people management skills a team player and builder
- Good command of English and Swahili language will be an added advantage

5. Position	: Human Resources Officer
Location	: Amref Health Africa Country Office in Dar es Salaam
Reports to	: Human Resources Manager

Purpose of the Job

To provide strategic support to the Human Resources functions, Administration and Management and ensuring that operations of the entire Amref Health Africa in Tanzania country program support services run efficiently and effectively in a cost effective manner.

Key Responsibilities/Key Results Areas (KRAS)

1. Employees Relationship

- Provide ongoing coaching, support and advice to the management and employees on people and HR related issues.
- Provide timeous feedback and maintain professional communication to all stakeholders of Amref Health Africa.
- Being available and proactive in addressing people related issues in the Organization by maintaining close relationship with the employees at all levels.
- Support the development and implementation of HR initiatives and systems within Amref Health Africa

2. Performance Management

- Assist in ensuring of the effective communication and implementation of Performance Management system in accordance with Amref Health Africa human resources manual
- Assist the management with identifying of the top performers and implement appropriate action plans to further enhance their performance and career in the organization.
- Responsible on identifying of non-performers and assist management to develop personal development plans and monitor their progress on a monthly basis

3. Compliance Management

- Provide guidance on compliance and counseling on Amref Health Africa policies, procedures and best practice
- Oversee training of Amref Health Africa staff in safety procedures and first aid care giving and compliance to standard operation procedures by Amref Health Africa staff and high performance by security service providers.
- Work with teams to design strategies for continuous process improvement to ensure sustainability of operations at all levels.
- Manage the development and maintenance of human resources systems, policies and procedures.
- Maintain employee records according to Amref Health Africa policy and legal requirements
- Ensure employees compliance with Amref Global Code of Conduct, Safeguarding policy, HR audits and donor audits recommendations

4. Recruitment & Selection

- Create, supervise and implement effective onboarding plans as per Amref Health Africa
- Identify the right candidates for the right job through assessments, interviews and employee profiling processes
- Maintain fair and equitable recruitment approach in line with the specific job requirements
- Conduct relevant employment background and reference checks on all employees and prepare job offers to the successful candidates
- Create a pool of suitable candidates for future employment on data base to meet the employment demands of the business

5. Employee Administration

- Ensure that contracts of permanent and temporary staff are prepared in collaboration with other departments.
- Ensure that salary packages of Amref Health Africa staff members are prepared as per Organization Human Resources policy.
- Ensure that files are opened for new appointments and transfers are done.
- Ensure that files are closed when employees resign or services are terminated.
- Ensure that Time sheet, attendance register sheets is scrutinized monthly.
- Ensure that new employee's forms and contracts are received and completed (Pension Fund, Medical Aid, Social Security, etc.)

6. Disciplinary & Grievances

- Take part in the disciplinary hearing process, assist to verify and confirm warnings and monitor improvement of undesirable behavior and misconduct

7. Routine Administrative functions

- Support the Amref Health Africa HR Unit to conduct staff exit interviews to minimize the staff turnover and retain good performers
- Manage employee mobility through transfers, promotions and terminations
- Ensure that all letters and other correspondences are correct, signed and send out on time
- Provide input to the policy and procedure formulation and amendments on an ongoing basis

Qualification, skills and experience

- Master's Degree in Human Resources Management, Industrial Relations and Business Administration.
- Certification and professional qualifications in Human Resources Management, Strategic Human Resources Management, Industrial Relations, Laws and Business Administration
- Should have strong experience and background in managing compliance issues relating to donors regulations, statutory regulations and local/international established professional standards

- Minimum of six (6) years' experience in similar role, and working at least three years in an NGO/international organizations or a donor funded project
- Skilled in Administration, organization development, strategic orientation and team orientation
- Thorough understanding of the local labor laws; confidentiality, analytical with an eye for detail
- Good communication skills; good organization skills; working with people, drive for results, leading and supervising, persuading and influencing, commitment, and integrity.
- Fluency in English and Kiswahili required (excellent written, spoken and comprehension skills).

If you meet the criteria given above and interested in the vacancies, please send an application letter and CV combined in as one document indicating your present employer and position, daytime telephone contact, names and addresses of three referees. To be considered, your application must be received by **16.30 HOURS September 20, 2019**. Please mention the job title/vacancy name or use the job title as the subject line when applying for this position failure to do that your application may not be retrieved. All correspondences should be directed to: Email: jobs.tanzania@amref.org. Direct application through mail will not be accepted.

- Amref Health Africa is an equal opportunity employer however women and people with disability are encouraged to apply and has a non-smoking environment policy;**
- "Amref Health Africa is committed to the principles of safeguarding in workplace and will not tolerate any form of abuse, wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible"**
- Amref health Africa –Tanzania regrets that only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Amref Health Africa in Tanzania is largely supported by Multilateral, Bilateral and National donors, implementing several programmes including HIV/AIDS/TB/Malaria, Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, Water and sanitation, e learning programme and clinical outreach. Amref Health Africa -Tanzania has the following vacancy:

VACANCY POSITION	: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
LOCATION	: DAR ES SALAAM
REPORTS TO	: HEAD OF PROGRAMMES

JOB SUMMARY

Reporting to the Head of Programmes of Amref Tanzania as the Line Manager and Director of Business Development, Amref HQ as the Functional Manager, The Business Development Manager provides strategic leadership and coordination of donor engagement and proposal writing. S/he uses an entrepreneurial approach in working with the Amref Health Africa Tanzania team to develop and submit high quality institutional and high value donor proposals that are aligned with defined priorities, demonstrate impact, and offer value for money. S/he is proactive in identifying new and non-traditional sources of funding from a range of institutional donors and working to leverage Amref Health Africa's funding prospects. S/he builds the capacity of staff to develop and manage strategic consortium partnerships with other NGOs and private sector organizations. S/he will also oversee the development and implementation of Amref Health Africa Tanzania Resource Mobilization Strategy and Business Development Plan in line with the five years Strategic plan

KEY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: -

Technical Leadership in Proposal development:

- Coordinate and support programme departments to develop sound proposals according to their respective Business Development plans
- Support the roll out of appropriate processes, tools and templates (briefing notes, strategy documents, guidelines) to be used for business development
- Initiate and lead all aspects of proposal development for Amref Tanzania in collaboration with selected proposal development teams
- Serve as the lead writer on specific components of the proposal by facilitating strategy discussions, drafting the narrative (including executive summary, technical approach, staffing and management, monitoring and evaluation, and organizational capabilities) and incorporating reviewer feedback
- Establish and enforce timelines, designate roles and responsibilities, identify partners, at the different stages of proposal development
- Manage proposal development processes and ensure adherence to Amref's policies and procedures
- Review, revise and edit proposals developed by the country technical teams for soundness and compliance with donor requirements
- Coordinate and manage strategic consortium partnerships with appropriate local and international NGOs, CSOs, academic organizations and private sector firms for specific proposals to leverage Amref Health Africa in Tanzania's chances of success in competitive calls for proposals and tender bids
- Prepare monthly reports on pipeline, bid submission, bid wins/losses and submit to the Head of Programmes
- Keep a repository of all the proposals submitted by all the Programme departments

Donor Intelligence, Funding Opportunity Identification and Tracking

- Work with the Head of Programmes, Amref HQ BD team and ENA offices to gather, update and share intelligence on upcoming opportunities, pipelines and donor priorities
- Conduct Donor intelligence gathering
- Develop nurture and cultivate relationship with donors and strategic partnerships that grow Amref Health Africa
- Identify and negotiate potential consortium partnerships with other organizations.
- Identify and negotiate potential support and co-funding opportunities from E/NA offices for Amref Tanzania
- Regularly send out an updated tracker with information on funding opportunities to the Head of Programmes
- Maintain an up to date registration of all donor data bases

Capacity development

- Build the capacity of Amref staff through coaching, mentorship and direct training to participate in technical and cost proposals and other business development efforts through mentoring and direct training
- As a member of the Amref health Africa Core business development team, contribute to the continuous improvement of Amref's systems for identifying, tracking, and pursuing new business opportunities, developing proposals and budgets, and managing institutional knowledge.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE: -

- Minimum Master's degree in social sciences, humanities, development studies, human rights, political science or other relevant discipline
- 5 years of demonstrated business development experience within the international development sector with a variety of donors including but not limited to UNITAID, GFATM, EU, USAID, CDC, DFID, JICA, GAC, UN, NORAD, SIDA, DANIDA GIZ, Italian Cooperation and the like.
- Demonstrated successful experience contributing to writing various sections of proposals including executive summaries, technical approach, and institutional capabilities
- Advanced understanding of proposal compliance requirements within the international development sector for priority donors such as UNITAID, GFATM, EU, USAID, CDC, DFID, JICA, GAC, UN, NORAD, SIDA, DANIDA GIZ, etc
- Knowledge of Tanzania and East Africa context
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and negotiation skills to work effectively in a multi-cultural environment, often at a distance
- Excellent English language skills (written, reading and spoken)
- Excellent writing skills with a sharp focus on details
- Ability to prioritize own workload and work with minimal supervision
- Ability to listen, lead, influence and build consensus
- Sound computer knowledge, word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations
- This position is open to all nationalities

If you meet the criteria given above and interested in the vacancy, please send your application through email to jobs.tanzania@amref.org before **16.30 HOURS September 25, 2019**. Your email should contain an attached application letter and CV combined in as one document indicating your present employer and position, daytime telephone contact, names and addresses of three referees. The subject line of your email application should have the job title of the position you are applying. Failure to do that your application may not be retrieved. Direct application through mail will not be accepted.

- Amref Health Africa is an equal opportunity employer however women and people with disability are encouraged to apply and has a non-smoking environment policy;**
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SuperDoll marketing manager Adam Mubago (R) briefs Tanzania Building Agency director general Daud Kandoro (C) at the ongoing 22nd Buildexpo Africa 2019 in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Left is Expogroup Tanzania representative Benn Moshi. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Bank determined on empowering SMEs with business skills

By Guardian Reporter

KCB Bank Tanzania has expressed its commitment towards supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on how to boost their businesses, hence contribute to the country's development endeavours.

KCB Bank Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, Christine Manyenye revealed this in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday when speaking at the second Biashara Club Workshop, which brought on board over 300 business executives.

KCB Biashara Club is a forum designed specifically for SME customers providing a platform to interact amongst themselves, facilitate training on different business techniques and provide much needed exposure to other businesses and suppliers inside and outside Tanzania.

Since its inception in 2017, KCB Biashara Club has continued to provide much valued and needed support in developing the Tanzanian SME sector through enterprise development

services and building business management skills. In March 2019, KCB Bank held similar event in Arusha.

Manyenye said the bank made deliberate efforts to bring in stakeholders such as Eng Jane Kadoda from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) who spoke on the impact of businesses on the environment as well the importance of adherence to environmental guidelines put in place by the Tanzanian government.

On the other hand, Fasil Boniface a representative from European Investment Bank (EIB) touched on keeping financial records, compartmentalisation of business expenses against personal expenses.

Saada Sipemba a travel expert from Sadio Travel and Tours, a facilitator at the event, spoke on the business opportunities in China and the bank's efforts in making those opportunities a lot more accessible to its customers.

KCB Bank through Biashara Club also arranges business trips

to countries like China, Malaysia and South Africa at reduced costs for its Biashara Club members with the aim of assisting them to gain new markets as well as access different products for import to the Tanzanian market.

Besides benefiting from the training sessions during the various seminars, members of Biashara Club also gain new connections within the club helping them broaden skills and business goals. KCB Bank Tanzania understands the importance of the SME sector in growing the country's economy but also realises that this cannot be achieved if the SMEs do not have the right skills in developing and managing their businesses.

Kenyan farmers embrace mushroom cultivation amid rising demand

NAIROBI

ISSUING instructions to two young men working on his mushroom project inside a garage behind his house, John Kuru, a retired Kenyan army officer fills in a chart he has been using to monitor the progress.

Kuru retreated back to his ancestral village in central Kenya two years ago where most people depend on farming for a living.

He is also a farmer but is practicing it differently. Unlike his neighbors' farms that are teeming with potato crop ready for harvest, his 12-acre farm lies fallow.

"You must be wondering why I would

transform my garage into a farm, yet I have a big land lying idle," said Kuru.

Before hanging his boots, Kuru, 59, tried his hand in potato farming. Almost everyone else in this region grows potatoes and peas something he says he wasn't interested in.

He has now transformed his garage into a mushroom farm and says the amount of money he makes from the small space is incomparable with what he used to make from his 12-acre farm.

"My land will remain idle until I am sure my sweat and money won't go to waste. Ask any farmer around here they will tell you they make no money from these farms despite the hard work

that goes into maintaining them," said Kuru.

After retirement, he enrolled for an agribusiness course at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology where he was trained on mushroom farming.

He ploughed 500,000 shillings (5,000 U.S. dollars), part of his retirement benefits in erecting the structure where he grows the mushrooms.

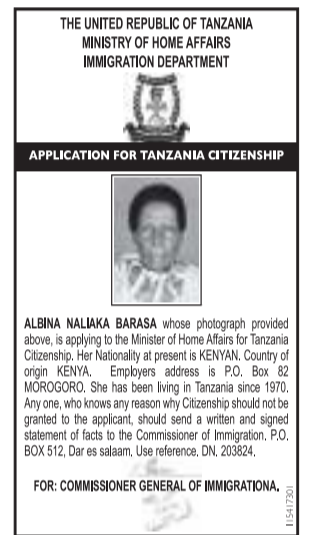
Six months down the line, he says he has recouped this amount and already made a 3,000 dollars profit.


"Mushroom farming is one of the under exploited sectors despite its benefits to consumers and the farmers. Kenyans are looking for alternatives to

red meat and mushrooms are a perfect match. With the right skills on how to grow and maintain them, you can never go wrong," said Kuru.

Kenya produces 500 tons of mushrooms per annum against a 1,200 tons demand both in hotels and home consumption. This is the information Kuru knew before he ventured into growing mushrooms. "I knew I would never lack of a market for my produce, the demand has been on the rise and it's bound to continue growing," said Kuru

Consolata Muindi, the Chief Executive Officer at Splendid Mushroom Enterprise attributes the low production to the many challenges that come with farming mushrooms.





USAID | TANZANIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI)

Request for Quotations

For Supply of Pipes and Fittings

Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech the prime implementing partner for the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with USAID Contract No AID-OAA-I-14-00068/AID-621-TO-16-00003.

WARIDI is a USAID funded five-year activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services

Through this Request for Quotations (RFQs), USAID/WARIDI requests quotations from qualified locally registered Vendors to Supply pipes and fittings as summarized in the table below and detailed in Attachment 7 of bidding documents. The supply is organized in five batches as follows;

Batch 1: WARIDI-0042-2019: CHIKUTI, ISYAGA & GOMBE (ULANGA DC)
Batch 2: WARIDI-0043-2019: IGUMBILO, MWAYA-CHIKWELA & SINYAULIME (MOROGORO DC & ULANGA DC)
Batch 3: WARIDI-0044-2019: NGERENGERE (MOROGORO DC)
Batch 4: WARIDI-0045-2019: BEREGA & BUNGOMA/MKINDO (KILOSA DC & MVOMERO DC)
Batch 5: WARIDI-0046-2019: LULANZI/LUHINDO, LUSINGA & UTENGULE (KILOLO DC)


Type of pipes	Size	Class
GS Pipes	3/4 inch - 6 inch	Medium to Heavy Duty
HDPE Pipes	25mm - 110mm	PN10 - PN16
uPVC Pipes	75mm - 160mm	PN10 - PN16
IPS Pipes	25mm	PN10

A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained via email from Procurement and Contracts **Manager, Winrock International, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, email: waridi.procurement@winrock.org no later than Friday September 20, 2019. Any questions should be sent by Friday September 20, 2019 at 5.00pm East Africa Time; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email on Monday September 23, 2019.

Quotations must be received no later than 12:00 Noon East African Time on Friday, September 27, 2019. Late submissions will not be accepted. All quotations are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in the bidding documents. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Bids shall be opened in public, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend, at **Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, at 2.00 pm, on Friday, September 27, 2019.

Winrock International



USAID | TANZANIA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI)

Request for Proposal

For Construction and Rehabilitation of 5 Gravity and Pumping Water Supply Schemes in Morogoro

Winrock International is a sub-contractor to Tetra Tech the prime implementing partner for the USAID/Tanzania Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (USAID/WARIDI) pursuant to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with USAID Contract No AID-OAA-I-14-00068/AID-621-TO-16-00003.

WARIDI is a USAID funded five-year activity which seeks to achieve improvements in health, water resources management, agriculture, climate change adaptation and the environment in Tanzania. WARIDI promotes state-of-the-art approaches in cross-sectoral, integrated management of water-related resources and services

Through this Request For Proposal (RFP), USAID/WARIDI requests for quotations from qualified locally registered contractors (Registration by Contractors Registration Board is a must) to bid for the Construction and Rehabilitation of any of the following Gravity and Pumping Water Supply Schemes;

WARIDI-0029-2019-Chikuti (Ulanga District, Morogoro Region)
WARIDI-0030-2019-Mwaya-Chikwela (Ulanga District, Morogoro Region)
WARIDI-0034-2019-Igumbilo (Ulanga District, Morogoro Region)
WARIDI-0035-2019-Isyaga (Ulanga District, Morogoro Region)
WARIDI-0047-2019-Gombe-Lukande (Ulanga District, Morogoro Region)

A complete set of the Bidding Documents may be obtained via email from **Procurement and Contracts Manager, Winrock International, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, email: waridi.procurement@winrock.org no later than Friday September 20, 2019 at 5:00pm EAT. Any questions should be sent by Friday September 20, 2019 at 5.00pm EAT; and will be responded to in one all-inclusive written document provided to all bidders via email on Monday September 23, 2019.

Quotations must be received no later than 12:00 Noon East African Time on Friday, October 4, 2019. Late submissions will not be accepted. All quotations are to be submitted following the guidelines listed in the bidding documents. Telephone requests will not be honored.

Bids shall be opened in public, in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend, at **Winrock International offices, JR House, Old Dar es Salaam Road, P.O Box 768, Morogoro, Tanzania**, at 2.00 pm, on Friday, October 4, 2019.

Winrock International

FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Workable solutions needed for project implementation

Poor implementation of projects stands as one of the issues that make the government lose sleep and the citizenry become impatient with the way things are going.

This 'habit' fills stacks of pages - along with problems with public procurement - in annual reports of the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) and in routine parliamentary questions. Often the government has to come up with new funds to re-do projects. Of course, it just can't cancel the projects, as that would amount to punishing innocent people.

Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa shoulders the unenviable task of 'resurrecting' up to 88 major water projects stalled in various parts of the country from as long ago as 2010. He has been blaming poor management and unscrupulous engineers for the situation, and it is clear that this has nearly always been the situation.

The minister is saying that the projects will be revived, but can the situation be controlled and such losses curtailed?

Prof Mbarawa has unveiled a plan to revive projects undertaken between 2010 and 2013 but without producing a drop of water despite having consumed billions of shillings in taxpayers' money.

But he says that the problem had to do with past managements and engineers that spent vast sums of government funds without achieving intended results, which makes one find reason to wonder how assuring this is: Didn't this faulty behaviour come up because the firms involved would not actually suffer any losses?

Inaugurating a 331 million/- water project supported by Germany and meant to be implemented from July 2018 to May 2019 and benefit more than 11,800 people, the minister warned that the government would no longer entertain such shoddy work.

This is a showcase project implemented on schedule, while several others apparently did not see the light of day. So, rather than declare that shoddy work would not be entertained, would it be much better ensuring that the mess would actually be forestalled?

Judging by the mood among a whole series of power brokers, much as they would shed the proverbial crocodile tears at such dereliction of public trust in handling billions of shillings for vital water or other projects, one sobering feature comes up.

And it is that many people who used to enjoy the "fruits" of negligence and short-changing the public as in these 90-odd water projects are biting their lower lips and waiting. They want the government to relax its vigilance on theft and misuse of public funds, or the younger ones wait for softer climes later.

Prof Mbarawa said the project was first designed and implemented in 2013 but did not produce water, intoning that it was shameful that the government had taken six years to bring water to people simply owing to problems with engineers and managers working on the project.

One point the minister didn't touch was that the current project implement system makes it 'smart' for people not to implement projects, as it will not hurt them. Will he minister change this?

Engineers and managers are going to have utmost incentive to finish projects in due and proper form if they show drawings and bids and the lowest or similar bidder is selected, obtains bank credit for materials and puts up the project.

Yes, the winner would be paid with interest, but the government would not lose money. Engineers and managers wouldn't cheat but speed up implementation. Let's consider all this.

Land professionals shouldn't agitate for restriction of rent

LAND sector professionals have been having intense discussions on the situation in the real estate and property fields, appealing for serious intervention in the land sector so that a more streamlined policy environment is created.

The focus of that appeal was a mixed bag, presented as a quest for modernisation of the sector but containing elements of policies taken up in past decades, like the Rent Restriction Act of 1964, which was dropped when the sector was being rationalised three decades later.

The land sector professionals argue that policy needs to protect landlords as well as tenants, explaining the two aspects of the policy as formalisation of property on the one hand - which thus protects landlords - and regulation of rental charges.

The latter is meant to protect tenants against what in the past was known as exploitation - meaning unmerited profits, which though isn't the same as fraud but 'unequal contracts' between landlords and tenants.

In sum, this kind of legislation prevents landlords from setting the rents they deem fit to take care of clearing bank loans and getting the right clients.

Rest restriction was passed in the early 1960s era of continuing Africanisation, where the government was making efforts to get public servants into the city centre and enable them to live in the immediate surroundings of the central business districts of major towns.

The result was that the city started to develop on its edges, with people obtaining plots to build low-cost houses in an informal sector manner - with the city centre becoming a depressed area.

With trends of accumulation rising

from the mid-1980s and the subsequent decade, liberalisation helped to modernise the cities, facilitated by eliminating rent restrictions.

Appeals to restrict rent charges within a defined regulatory context have since then shifted from a strategic parameter at a political level to the articulation of ideology and pursuit of privileges of staying at a good place at low rents. The stumbling block is that there are unavoidable negative results from that kind of policy, whose net impact is worse than the problem the change in policy sought to redress.

Restricting rents makes anyone become eligible for, or capable of, staying in any part of town - that is, a person renting a room at, say, Magomeni in Dar es Salaam would pay the same rent if he or she obtained a room in the posh Oysterbay suburb, which would open a can of worms.

With that sort of ease of movement, two agencies would control who lives in what room and thus in what area - political or administrative authority on the one hand and bribes on the other hand. At that time there would be 'residential space allocation committees', because rentable space would likely also diminish rapidly as landlords can't invest in housing if they don't have a final say on rents.

Ideas like limiting rent payments to monthly instalments work for the National Housing Corporation, where whole offices are occupied by people following up rents. However, an individual with lots of other work to do just wouldn't knock everyday following up rent of the past month.

Land sector professionals ought to move with the times and give ideas on how to ease the conditions of doing business, where rent restriction is poisonous to realistic housing sector modernisation.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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



By Eromo Egbejule

DIADIE Aboubacar had an epiphany in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea as the boat taking him and other migrants to Europe was waylaid by a gang of Nigerian, Guinean and Senegalese pirates who later sold them to slave merchants. It was September 2017, two years after the young Guinean had left to find a better life in Europe via North Africa.

"I decided to return home if I survived," he recalls. He did survive, thanks to a chance interception at a Libyan prison by officials of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) a month later. These days, the 28-year-old runs his own pineapple plantation just outside Kindia, Guinea's fourth-largest city.

Aboubacar is among a growing number of Guineans who are part of an ambitious experiment to turn one of the world's poorest nations into a major pineapple producer and reduce dangerous economic migration.

Despite large bauxite and iron ore deposits, this tiny West African nation has an annual per capita gross domestic product of just \$885. More than half of the country's 12 million-strong population is under the age of 25, and that combination of youth and poverty has long fuelled migration.

In 2016, two years after the outbreak of an Ebola epidemic added another incentive to leave, 13,342 economic migrants from Guinea reached the shores of Italy. Only Nigeria and Eritrea sent more migrants to Italy that year.

Now, Guinea is turning to the humble pineapple to stanch that flow. The country's government - through a "development unit" called the GDU - is partnering with Guinean smallholder farmers and international supporters to offer youth an economic opportunity aimed at dissuading them from fleeing. These efforts are also targeting returnees like Aboubacar.

Since starting in 2017, this initiative has already roped in 400 farms and more than doubled the area under pineapple cultivation in Guinea, from 250 to 550 hectares, under the supervision of the smallholder association known as La Fédération des Planteurs de la Filière Fruit de la Basse Guinée (FEPAF-BG).

The country's pineapple production has nearly doubled, from 10,000 to 18,000 tonnes. Already, more than 2,000 people have found employment. Some farmers have set up training schools to prepare the next Guinean generation.

A pineapple farmer can typically earn up to \$2,500 over an 18-month cycle with just half a hectare. The Guinean government has set the revival of the pineapple value chain as a national priority.

Experts say Guinea's homegrown fix to migration also helps Europe and could serve as a model for other countries. The initiative is receiving

The humble pineapple curbs Guinean immigration to Europe



Pineapples growing on Mbalou's plantation. Photo: Eromo Egbejule

investments from the European Union (\$5.5 million), Belgium's development agency Enabel (\$3.3 million) and the Islamic Bank of Guinea (\$200,000) for irrigation equipment and fertilisers.

There are signs of success. Though a broader crackdown from Italy has led to a reduction in overall numbers of migrants, Guinea, the third-biggest source nation in 2016, is now eighth. In the first seven months of this year, only 91 Guineans reached Italy, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"We are doing this to create employment for young people, including those who failed to go to Europe and come back here," says FEPAF-BG president Moussa Camara.

It's still early days, and exports are, for the moment, limited to other West African nations like Mali and Senegal. But the Guinean government is seeking Geographical Indication (GI) status for the Baronne de Rothschild variety of pineapples for which the country's soil is particularly fertile.

The variety can grow in all seasons, over an 18-month period. According to experts, the GI tag will allow Guinean farmers to demand higher markup prices, especially when the country begins exporting to Europe.

This also means that the humble pineapple is making a comeback in Guinea. In the 1960s, the country controlled a quarter of global pineapple exports. But tensions with France, an attempted coup by Portuguese-supported rebels, ethnic tensions and socialist policies combined to take a toll on its economy.

By the 1980s, a juicier variety called the MD2 in Costa Rica emerged as the most popular pineapple globally, and Costa Rica remains the world's largest pineapple producer. Guinea wants to

reclaim its place.

"The GDU set the revival of the pineapple value chain as a national priority," says Adélaïde Kourouma, a Conakry-based researcher familiar with the initiative.

Pineapple is favoured over other crops because it is less cost-intensive and more profitable than other crops that grow on Guinean soil, such as yams or bananas, says Camara. "That is why the young people who don't have money can farm pineapple," he explains.

The FEPAF-BG trains young Guineans in everything from fertiliser applications to irrigation techniques and helps them secure loans and financial support from donor agencies. It also connects farmers with agricultural advisers. Smallholder farmers have been the main beneficiaries so far, but larger producers are now being supported too.

Hadja Mbalou, for one, is preaching the gospel of agriculture to Guinea's next generation at her farm in Friguagbé, a village some ten kilometers southwest of Kindia.

The FEPAF-BG gave her a water pump and fertilizer - on credit - to get her started. There, she processes a popular dried pineapple appetiser, runs two restaurants and hosts a school. She wants young Guineans to stay and try to improve their country instead of risking their lives to get to Europe.

"I started doing it to encourage young people, including my two young daughters," says Mbalou, adding: "I keep telling them that they should be interested in the work going on here because we have to develop our country to be like those places in Europe we envy."

Mbalou trains her students in pineapple cultivation and processing, and also shows "people who are planning to go to Europe videos of the terrible journey there". The students, usually between 18 and 30 years old, come from different backgrounds - from teenage migrant returnees to international students.

In all, 217 have been trained at Mbalou's school so far, in batches of 35, and each programme lasts two to five months.

Key challenges persist. Many of Guinea's roads are pothole-laden, and both the police and security officials regularly demand bribes from farmers and traders transporting produce. "The government needs to fix these roads," says Mbalou.

Only one-third of the population has access to electricity. The government subsidises seeds, but bureaucratic procedures make it hard to access them easily.

Attracting foreign investments, not just donor aid, also remains difficult, with Guinea ranking 152 out of 190 countries on the World Bank's 2018 Ease of Doing Business Index - though that's an improvement from the earlier ranking of 169.

But the pineapple-shaped hope still shines through for many Guineans like Aboubacar, whose first harvest is just around the corner. "I am just happy to be home and working," he says.

Mbalou is meanwhile confident that the prickly fruit will help Guinea stem the tide of illegal migration. "Previously, people didn't have confidence, but now they know they can stay here and farm pineapples," she says, adding: "If they were leaving to get money they can get here, so why should they go?"

• An IOM report filed from Conakry, Guinea.

Fighting fraud from the top pays most – and this is the explanation

By AYANDA KOTOBÉ IN JOHANNESBURG

WHY do we stop at traffic lights? It's not because we are naturally attuned to seeing red as the order to stop. If that were the case, red dresses and apples wouldn't be as popular as they are! Red catches our attention, but we stop at a red light because everyone else does.

Humans copy each other. It's often said that if you want people to be more comfortable with you, mimic how they sit or stand. Psychologists call this 'mirroring', but it doesn't just happen during social gatherings. Seeing someone drop a bit of trash or cut a traffic light gives us a slight nudge into thinking it is okay – that if he or she is doing it, maybe I can too.

Fraud is at its essence the result of mirroring. It would be convenient to consider all fraudsters as hardened criminals who'd sell their granny if the price were right.

But fraud investigators often point out that such activities have simple beginnings. The Enron scandal, so devastating that it destroyed an American energy giant, had its roots in some minor manipulations to meet earnings expectations. Yet when the people involved got away with that, they scaled up and even justified their actions as legitimate – at least to themselves.

This is why fraud prevention starts at the top. There has to be no tolerance among an organisation's leaders for fraud. When accountability and consequences are lacking, fraud will thrive. The culture of an environment, as well as its treatment of ethics and governance, will reflect management's attitude towards fraud.

Leadership attitudes are fundamental, reinforced by internal controls to spot fraud. Illegal activities usually involve acts that siphon amounts from a business's coffers. These can include payroll fraud, writing double cheques for payments, skimming tax money or over-ordering.



A common fraud in South Africa and elsewhere is to overvalue a purchase and split the difference with the supplier. More recent activities include credit card fraud and bank scams. The Bankers Association of Botswana warned last year that fraudsters are becoming increasingly savvy about loopholes, especially technology ones – that organisations are not fixing fast enough.

In all these examples, it only takes a few people to abuse the trust they earned. Sadly, it's the company that suffers when their wrongdoing is uncovered, usually because it became cataclysmic...

These can be prevented by internal checks and structures to monitor governance and compliance. Companies should also create pipelines for concerned parties and whistle-blowers to relay their suspicions.

The Committee of Sponsoring Organisations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) sets out five components for an effective fraud prevention

system: control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information & communication, and monitoring. These work together to establish sound internal controls through directed leadership, shared values and a culture that supports accountability.

Increasingly, more of these controls can be automated in modern companies, particularly where high transaction volumes take place. It's additionally effective to consolidate suppliers to a few that you know can be trusted and are serious about their integrity. Creating reliable procurement channels with those suppliers will help employees stick to legitimate activities.

There is also no reason any more to be ignorant of a company's finances: even if you have accountants and other fiscal gatekeepers, it is possible with modern software services to generate ad hoc reports and scrutinise patterns using visualisation dashboards.

At Kenya's major banks, employee fraud is often a greater risk than third-party fraud. Headline-grabbing South

African frauds such as seen at Fidentia and Steinhoff were perpetrated by the very accountants meant to have policed such activities.

It might sound as if the fight against fraud means reducing trust in employees. This isn't the case. Instead, it is about narrowing those gaps where fraud might take place, so as not to normalise such activities.

The tone should start at the top, from leadership and management who embrace sound controls and good governance. Consequences must be enforced and felt.

Everyone will eventually ignore a traffic light if they see enough people doing this. In some countries, you can see traffic officers haplessly directing vehicles that ignore them.

Are all those drivers criminals? In terms of traffic laws, yes. But did they start as criminals? No. And do they see their behaviour as bad? It's unlikely. Not until they are caught – and if it were business fraud, by then it might be too late for their employers.

As long as politicians remain complicit, xenophobia and Afrophobia will continue

By Sebastian Van As

WE are all aware that South Africa is a very violent society. Every year approximately 18,000 people are murdered, and approximately 55,000 people sexually abused or raped. Though the media has recently provided the impression that there is a new crime wave, violence and crime are not new to this country with its long history of slavery, oppression, colonialism and apartheid.

During the apartheid era, black Africans were generally seen as a major threat to society by the relatively small group of whites. According to Antjie Krog, listening to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings, the feeling grows that the apartheid struggle was not really between racist, supremacist whites and brave, organised fighters, but rather between brutal white police and innocent black people.

The mechanism of scapegoating certain people and their subsequent expulsion from society has been practiced by a large number of societies, with usually detrimental effects to the group being scapegoated. When the pestilence struck France in 1349, people reacted by accusing Jews of poisoning the water sources and proceeded to massacre them. Goebbels and Hitler also accused Jews of numerous ills; according to the two Nazis, Jews were the main threat to German society and had to be dispossessed, expelled and later exterminated.

Anyone who was politically opposed to the communist regime in the USSR was identified as "insane" (any right-thinking person would, of course, admire and adopt the communist system) and were locked up in institutions for patients with severe psychiatric disorders. In the post-Second World War United States, anyone with possible communist alliances, family, friends or even acquaintances was tarnished as dangerous to society and expelled from social life and any official job or institution.



In South Africa, there has been a strong tendency to deal with possible threats with this mechanism of scapegoating. In the late 1990s, the era where both HIV/AIDS and sexual violence and rape were starting to feature dominantly in the South African press and media, it was all too easy for the South African public to link these two. Child rapists were identified as evil carriers of the HIV virus. It was thought that these people turned to "witch doctors" who then prescribed the treatment of sexual contact with a child or non-sexually active elderly woman to be cured from their disease.

Crime and violence are generally regarded as being performed by ugly, unknown strangers. We guard ourselves behind high walls, electric fences and require guns to defend ourselves in time of possible attacks. However, evidence shows that a huge proportion of violent crimes is committed by friends and family (80%-90%) and not by unknown strangers.

The reality is that a significant component of crime is associated with alcohol and drugs, which are tolerated to a large extent in our society. About 70% of all trauma is closely linked to alcohol and drugs. The ideal place for many of us to discuss crime is around the braai, beer in hand. We talk about how bad the crime is and afterwards

we drive our cars home, intoxicated and careless.

Recently, many xenophobic attacks have taken place in South Africa. Again, this is not a new phenomenon. Xenophobia, in the greater context, may be an adverse effect of nation-building. Since 1990, immigrants, especially black Africans, have had a very hard time living in South Africa. Foreigners have endured and suffered numerous attacks over the last two decades.

The hundreds of Somali nationals who died as a result of xenophobic attacks over the past decade represent only the tip of the iceberg; numerous foreigners have been attacked, assaulted, mutilated and murdered.

All this occurs while it is a well-researched and known fact that foreigners, even illegal ones, contribute positively to an economy.

According to a study by Hussein Solomon and Hitomi Kosaka, one of the most striking features of xenophobia in South Africa is that it appears to have taken on a primarily racial form. It seems to be directed at especially black migrants, from elsewhere on the continent, as opposed to, for example, Europeans or Americans, who are, to a certain extent practically welcomed with open arms. This racially selective xenophobia is exemplified by the fact

Targeted poverty alleviation: The China story that must be told

By Robert Lawrence Kuhn

honesty.

AS the 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China approaches, it is a time to appreciate the past in order to anticipate the future. China has accomplished a great deal, yet China's greatest accomplishment is still under-appreciated: targeted poverty alleviation. It is the China story that must be told.

In the early decades of reform, leaders focused rightly on economic growth, which, as a natural consequence, brought hundreds of millions of Chinese out of poverty, the greatest developmental success story in human history.

Intensifying after the 18th CPC National Congress in late 2012, when Xi Jinping became CPC general secretary, the realization set in that there were about 100 million

Chinese who were intractably poor.

Whether because of geographic isolation in remote mountain villages or because they didn't have sufficient education or decent jobs or because they were old or infirm, economic development would never be sufficient: no matter how much China's economy would grow, no matter how large China's GDP per capita would become, these intractably poor would remain intractably poor.

China's first national goal is to realize a 'moderately prosperous society' by 2020 and President Xi asserts, wisely, that China cannot be a 'moderately prosperous society' if any of its citizens continue to live below the line of absolute poverty.

I experienced first-hand the impact of Xi's remarkable statement: 'I have spent more energy on poverty alleviation than on anything else.' I do not know of any other national leader who has given such a personal testimonial.

It was in November 2013, in a poor county in central China's Hunan Province, that Xi first proposed the concept of "targeted" or "precision" poverty alleviation. He said, "Targeted measures should be made based on practical situations, and empty slogans should be avoided".

"Targeted" means individualized attention, with the policies to support them, including identification criteria of poor people and customized plans and programs to bring each out of poverty.

The success of China's targeted poverty alleviation campaign, bringing 10 to 14 million people per year out of absolute poverty, depends on strict, quantitative and transparent procedures.

It starts by defining absolute poverty with standardized methods, using annual income, but also including tests of adequate health-care, education and sanitation, like flush toilets.

Various methods of poverty alleviation are employed: industry, creating a sustainable micro-business; relocating, moving people from remote areas; education and training; ecological compensation for those living in environmentally vulnerable areas; and social security, medical subsidies and direct payments to those who cannot work.

Every impoverished household is guaranteed help and every village has designated officials to carry out targeted measures. Five levels of local Party secretaries coordinate their roles – provincial, municipal, county, township, village. Third-party evaluations are conducted regularly and randomly to assure accuracy and

Empowering words with actions, President Xi regularly visits poor counties and villages across China, asserting the Party's commitment to alleviate poverty. Some people outside of China may be surprised to learn that he considers poverty alleviation to be his most important task.

In order to tell the story of China's targeted poverty alleviation to the world, I traveled across China for weeks, embedded in poverty alleviation programs.

I met poor villagers, local officials, special monitors – those being lifted out of poverty, those assigned to do the lifting, and those recruited to do the checking.

I followed cases to get a textured and intimate portrayal of China's poverty alleviation campaign and the systems and organization needed to implement it.

Certainly, I had known the extremes of poverty of China. Over the past 15 years I have visited all parts of the country, including the poorest regions – but still, as much as I thought I knew China, I was surprised by what I found.

I found that every poor family has its own file, a literal notebook, each with its own targeted plan to lift each above the line of absolute poverty – that's millions of poor families with customized plans, each monitored regularly and reported centrally.

I witnessed a "democratic evaluation" in a remote village, where villagers voted into poverty status one young man whose father had cancer, and cheered when another man was raised out of poverty status.

Equally startling, local officials are dispatched to impoverished villages to manage poverty alleviation. With career stakes high and funding vast, cheating and stealing should be no surprise.

Of the 122,100 cases of corruption reported in China in 2017, 48,700 – more than one third – related to poverty alleviation work.

It's extraordinarily good that the government releases such unflattering statistics. China will not allow falsifying data, or misappropriating funds, to undermine its poverty alleviation goals.

At the beginning of 2019, the number of those still living in absolute poverty was down to 16.6 million; though lifting the last would be the hardest, China is on track to eliminate all absolute poverty by the end of 2020.

Those who recognize China's unprecedented poverty-alleviation success must also recognize its causal relationship to China's system of one-party leadership rule, and a strong, command-down government. Without such robust authority, it would not seem possible for China to reach its poverty-alleviation goals.

I tell the story of China's targeted poverty alleviation to give insight into the real China. I also want to change certain stereotypes about China. In my 20 years of telling the story of China to the world, I believe China's targeted poverty alleviation campaign is the single most powerful story to undermine biases and change people's understanding of China. When historians of the future write the chronicles of our times, a feature may well be China's targeted poverty alleviation.

Dr. Kuhn is one of two Americans who was awarded the China Reform Friendship Medal in 2018.

Time to test Félix Tshisekedi's vision for the DRC

BY STEPHANIE WOLTERS

THE Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) new government was finally sworn in last week. This was after eight months of drawn-out deliberations between former president Joseph Kabila's Front Commun pour le Congo (FCC) platform and new President Félix Tshisekedi's Coalition pour le changement (CACH). In line with the FCC's overwhelming majority in parliament, it got 42

ministries against CACH's 23.

Neither the time it has taken to form a government, nor the heavy degree of control that Kabila unsurprisingly plans to assert, bode well for the new government's ability to become functional or effective.

The DRC weathered a bout of political paralysis during the extended electoral delay between 2015 and 2018. That, together with the lack of urgency in forming the new government indicate that the DRC's new hybrid elite is

preoccupied not with the population and its many urgent needs, but with itself.

Since Tshisekedi became president in January, the key question has been: Is this really a change? The liberation of some political prisoners, the return of exiled politicians like Moïse Katumbi, and a slightly more tolerant attitude towards critics and civil society activists have tided many over until now. Many have been waiting for the government's formation as the next big clue as to Tshisekedi's capacities and intentions.

In the end, aside from the repatriation of who gets how many ministries, the composition of the new government doesn't tell us much.

And now that the waiting game is over, it's time to set new benchmarks for the Tshisekedi government.

The priorities for the 2023 period should be both short and long term. First, ensuring that the 2023 elections are free and fair is essential. For that to happen, there must be reform of the Constitutional Court and the Independent National



To set his country on a new path, the DRC's new president must look to his allies. File photo



Job title: DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Location: Dar Es Salaam

About WFT

Women Fund Tanzania - "Empowering Local Women Heroes" (WFT) is a registered local NGO based in Dar Es Salaam. WFT work towards promotion of women's rights and gender equality agenda through grant making, capacity enhancement, resource mobilization, strategic alliance building for collective organizing, voice and strengthened women's movement in the country. Its vision is to see a Tanzanian society where women and girls and children realize their full potential and engage fully in the transformation of their communities in order to achieve empowerment and social justice and its mission is to contribute to the building of a strong women's and children's movement in Tanzania.

We are looking for a dynamic, passionate, and innovative individual with the requisite knowledge, experience and skills to join our pragmatic team at WFT

The incumbent will be expected to :

1. Management and Operations

- Administer everyday functions for organization and coordinate with executive director to prepare all long-term strategies to achieve all institutional goals and evaluate performance of various team functions and responsibilities.
- Manage all internal communication for organization in coordination with Executive Director according to necessary timeframe.
- Support the Head of Finance to monitor and assess the Fund's financial activities according to existing policies, review financial trends and make inputs into program grants and financial contracts.
- Collaborate with the Head of Programs and the team to review program goals and objectives and evaluate progress and effectiveness; provide support to achieve all project deliverables within required timeframe and prepare all work plans and grant deliverables as per requirement.
- Support the development of strong team integration to achieve all conversation objectives and coordinate with various departments to schedule all agenda for meetings and ensure compliance to all contract deliverables within required timeframe and maintain quality for all procedures.
- Develop and maintain knowledge on all philanthropic institutions and manage all communication with public and donors on various programs.

2. Business Development and Sustainability

- Review and regularly updates a comprehensive organizational development and sustainability plan, with targeted goals, objectives, methods, quantifiable outcomes and timelines to achieve agency sustainability and annual budget goals.
- In collaboration with the Head of Programs, develops program sustainability strategies to ensure financial viability of programs and services
- Identifies resourcing opportunities with different stakeholders within the country and diaspora that can be engaged to mobilized new resources to support the women's movement in Tanzania
- Builds partnerships and strategic alliances that will extend the organization's brand in the Tanzania and beyond its borders and increase avenues of support the Fund and the movement's it supports.
- Provides oversight for all aspects of the Fund's business development and resource mobilization functions, including: proposal writing, events, marketing/development,

media relations, social networking, Annual Report, website, newsletters and branding.

- Supervise and manage personnel working in the resource mobilization and communications teams and serve as a member of the senior management team.
- Collaborates with staff, Board of Directors, partners, vendors and other staff to carry out the mission and goals of our organization
- Stays abreast of developments in the field of philanthropy (including feminist philanthropy, impact investments, development aid), women and girl's human rights, movement building and organizational development nationally regionally and globally to help guide our Fund's core mission and strategy

Qualification and Experience

Well-qualified candidates should possess 5-7 years' experience with a minimum of a master's degree in development studies, business development, and women's rights issues as well as non-profit leadership with fundraising and philanthropy experience. Other experience includes, but is not limited to, public relations, prospecting, business development and negotiation. Persuasive writing, strong verbal communication and the ability to interact at the executive level are other key qualifications. Demonstrated track record with technical skills set in operations and fiscal management; strategic thinking and implementation; staff supervision, performance accountability and mentoring; and strong executive leadership and planning skills.

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- Adaptability: Attitude of optimism and "can-do" orientation with ability to think creatively and navigate successfully past barriers and obstacles.
- Initiative: Highly self-motivated and adaptable with the drive to self-improve and exceed goals
- Persuasion: Ability to present concepts, ideas and proposals in a manner that is perceived positively by and clearly resonates with intended audiences and stakeholders, while encouraging action.
- Professionalism: Ability to project a mature and professional attitude, demeanor and appearance as is appropriate to a given situation
- Relationship Management: Instinctive motivation and ability to develop, nurture and balance positive professional relationships and connections with key stakeholders, including situations in which stakeholders may be competitors with each other or otherwise have unaligned interests.
- Sense of Urgency: Ability to prioritize, plan and move decisively when necessary to meet timeframes and instill in others the importance of anticipating and acting to avoid timing crises
- Big Picture Thinking: Ability to see future trends and pathways that can contribute to long-term organizational success

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How to apply

The interested party may apply by sending resume and cover letter through the email info@wft.or.tz or the physical address provided below. **By 30th September 2019.** If you won't hear from us within fourteen days from the deadline please count that, your application has not been successful.

Physical Address
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Women Fund Tanzania (WFT),
P.O. BOX 79235,
Dar es Salaam

Electoral Commission. Both institutions are heavily politicised and were pillars of the 2018 electoral fraud.

Introducing such reforms - which must be passed by Parliament - will be seen as a challenge by Kabila and, because of his party's overwhelming majority, success of such initiatives on the first try is doubtful. But the attempt will not go unnoticed by the population, which has made its desire for change clear.

If Tshisekedi wants to take this issue on, he can create longer-term pressure and channel the popular support for fundamental change that helped lead Kabila to back away from a third term. DRC civil society groups, including the Catholic Church, would be essential allies in such a push. International actors could help by supporting the DRC's vibrant civil society to become effective watchdogs and advocates for reform.

Restoring political freedoms, including the right to criticise the government, is another priority issue. It goes hand in hand with the reform of key institutions, and is an area where Tshisekedi has relatively free rein as it doesn't require legislative changes or approval from the prime minister or government.

In fact the Congolese constitution guarantees the right to freedom of assembly and expression. The harder part will be to rein in the security services, especially the domestic intelligence agency, Lagence nationale de renseignements. The agency has spearheaded crackdowns on govern-

ment critics and manages the country's clandestine prisons.

Improving governance, including through getting tough on corruption, is a longer-term challenge. But International Monetary Fund (IMF)-driven economic reform, especially when it comes to improved governance and targeted anti-corruption efforts, may be easier avenues for significant positive change. This is especially the case if external players such as the IMF take the lead on an agenda that is vital to the DRC's future but which is too sensitive for Tshisekedi to tackle alone.

In 2012 the IMF suspended a three-year US\$522 million loan over the government's lack of transparency in a 2011 mining deal. Earlier this year, for the first time since then, it conducted an Article IV mission to evaluate the economy.

A second assessment mission will take place in October at the invitation of the DRC government. The IMF said last week that the leadership change provided 'an opportunity to put in place transformational reforms to strengthen public finances, boost growth of the non-extractive sector, tackle corruption, and reduce widespread poverty'.

Stabilising the eastern DRC was one of Tshisekedi's campaign promises and is a key area for his government. This is an obvious priority, but a complicated task, and one that numerous national and international actors have been engaged in with limited success for 20 years.

Tshisekedi's more open and coop-

erative attitude towards and engagement with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) is a positive first step in the right direction. So too is his concerted engagement with regional leaders from Uganda, Rwanda and Angola. Although it's too early to tell whether such engagements are sincere, and can lead to sustained dialogue and co-operation, the DRC's change in leadership has created new momentum, and opportunities to revitalise a regional approach to peace in the eastern DRC and the wider Great Lakes Region.

Regional and international actors who want to support Tshisekedi can do so by emphasising that peace in the eastern DRC doesn't depend only on domestic dynamics, but also on improved governance and more functional democracy in Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi. These all face armed opposition groups that are using the eastern DRC as a rear base.

The DRC has always had more than its share of spoilers, and the recent change in leadership hasn't altered that. Tshisekedi's chance is that his controversial ascendance to the presidency was accepted as a change that was better than the status quo.

He faces tough realities and constraints, but with civil society, the people and the international community on the side of change, he has formidable allies if he wants to set the DRC on a new path.

Stephanie Wolters, Senior Research Fellow, ISS Pretoria

There's no need for a better version of a corrupt system

By Mmusi Maimane

IT works like this: Big Business goes and buys itself a Big Politician through what is euphemistically called "contributions". In return, the Big Politician directs contracts to the Big Business through the Big State. Co-opted into this closed loop is Big Labour, who are kept happy, silent and complicit through guaranteed above-inflation wage increases. And locked out of this system are all those without work; but, as long as Big Welfare pays out, they won't rise up.

It is a system that has been around since the dawn of our democracy and kept intact by each successive administration.

Our sole obsession should be to create jobs and bring more excluded South Africans - almost all of whom are black - into the economy. But this system of the ANC does the exact opposite. It encourages and legitimises corruption and it rewards the same small group of connected businesses over and over, which just widens the gap between the insiders and the outsiders.

As with the ANC's flawed version of redress, B-BBEE, it has led to greater levels of poverty and inequality by excluding more people from the economy. If we want real redress in our society, we need to focus on inclusive growth and the broadening of opportunities for all South Africans.

This system of the ANC is bound to fail because it will inevitably strangle the economy until neither the wage increases nor the welfare component can be maintained. And when this finally happens it will unleash a level of civil unrest in society that we have not seen since the height of apartheid.

By now everyone knows exactly how the game works. If you want your share of the spoils, you either have to be a connected cadre and extract it through B-BBEE or you have to buy yourself a politician and extract it through contracts and tenders. It is a system rigged in favour of big business, at the expense of small businesses and ordinary South Africans. It is hardly surprising then that some voices in the business community have come out in support of such suicidal schemes as prescribed assets and National Health Insurance. Everyone is simply jostling for position.

It was naïve to think, as so many did and still do, that any of this would change by simply swapping out the brazen corruption of Jacob Zuma for the more presentable Cyril Ramaphosa without touching the underlying rot. The problem with our so-called new dawn is that the ANC's crooked business scheme has now been given an acceptable face. This has bought hungry cadres more time at the feeding trough and propelled our country even further towards disaster.

When I asked the President in Parliament to explain the Bosasa donation, my concern wasn't the ANC's practice of vote-buying, although that is troubling in itself. My concern was that the payment displayed all the signs of this system of buying a politician in order to cash in through future business. And remember, we're not only talking about the President's R500,000. The moment he won his party's leadership contest at Nasrec, the monthly payments for his son's so-called consulting work started rolling in from Bosasa - the same company that had already landed state contracts to the tune of R12-billion with the help of bribes totalling R70-million.

If that's the age-old modus operandi

of the ANC, why would these payments to the President and his son be any different? If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, it probably is a duck.

A slightly more palatable, slightly less crude façade to this system is simply not good enough. It needs to be destroyed entirely. Because right now we are heading for disaster. Our economy has stalled, our tax revenue is shrinking and the threat of civil unrest grows by the day as frustrated and desperate South Africans have nowhere left to turn.

We need to urgently reform our politics so that we can reform our economy and then reform our society. There is no short cut to this. It has to be done right.

It all starts with a realignment of our politics. Those who cling to the idea of racial nationalism - whether it's the EFF on the left or the FF+ on the right - have more in common with each other than with those seeking to build a strong centre around shared values. Let them go and pursue their divisive goals and let the rest of us focus on building a shared vision and a shared future for South Africa. If this requires a split down the middle of the ANC, then so be it.

Once we have this political realignment in place, we can make the big changes needed to reform our economy. We can then, once and for all, abandon the outdated idea of a big, all-powerful, all-controlling state. We can free up our economy and introduce much-needed competition in our public sector.

Government doesn't need to run three struggling airlines. It doesn't need to produce 90% of our electricity through a failed power utility. We can't continue to bail out these entities while we cannot afford to deploy sufficient police to communities under attack.

Beehive fencing can help mitigate human-elephant conflict - report

By Hannah Thomasy

HUMAN-elephant conflict poses major threats to the well-being of both humans and animals. Crop-raiding by elephants across Asia and Africa can be devastating for small farmers, leading to food insecurity, lost opportunity costs, and even death. Crop-raiding and property damage can also result in negative attitudes towards elephant conservation and retaliatory killings of elephants.

Finding effective and inexpensive solutions has proven extremely difficult. Farmers guarding their fields at night lose sleep and put themselves in potentially close proximity to hungry elephants. Killing "problem" elephants is not only inhumane, but is also ineffective at reducing human-elephant conflict. Electric fences, while effective in theory, often fail in practice because they are costly and difficult to maintain.

Bees to the rescue

More recently, conservationists have explored the use of beehive fences as a humane and eco-friendly way to protect crops from elephants. Zoologist Lucy King of the NGO Save the Elephants told Mongabay the idea came from Kenyan farmers, who noticed that elephants avoided foraging in trees that contained beehives.

In the late 2000s, King and several Save the Elephants colleagues conducted a pilot study to determine if beehive fences could protect farms in Kenya. They placed locally constructed beehives on fence posts every 8 meters (about 26 feet) and connected them with wires. If an elephant tried to enter between the hives, it would knock into the wires, causing the hives to sway and disturbing the bees. In this study, the researchers found that elephant raids were reduced by almost half on a farm with a beehive fence compared to an unprotected farm.

Since then, King and her colleagues have conducted two sets of field trials in Kenya. The first set of trials, published in 2011, found that beehive fences were better at protecting crops than traditional thorn bush barriers. The second set of trials, published in 2017, reported that 80 percent of elephants that approached the beehive fences were deterred from entering the farms. However, this second study did not report data from control farms - those not protected with beehive fences - so we cannot know if this represents a significant improvement.

Currently, King and her colleagues at Save the Elephants are studying or implementing beehive fences for crop protection in 15 countries in Africa and four countries in Asia. The beehive fence concept has generated high levels of interest and acceptance among farmers in Africa and Asia. In Kenya, participating farms more than doubled over the course of field trials as farmers requested to join, and in Thailand, over 80 percent of cassava and sugar cane plantation owners reported that they were interested in trying beehive fences.

However, comparatively few studies on beehive fences have been performed in Asia. One small study in India observed that elephants were less likely to enter agricultural areas through areas with beehive fences, although statistical evaluations were not performed.

Beehive fences can provide many benefits to a community. In addition to humanely deterring elephants from entering farms, bees provide pollination services (which could increase crop yields) and honey (which farmers can sell to diversify their income). King and colleagues also found that even long-term use of beehive fences does not seem to negatively impact wild bee diversity.

Problems and solutions

Although these trials seem to show great success overall, beehive fences have yet to be implemented at a broad scale. Wildlife veterinarian Richard Hoare, a member of the IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict Task Force states that, "the sample sizes of farms in bee fence projects claiming success are too small to be extrapolated to general use."

Furthermore, beehive fences don't work everywhere, and several factors can decrease their efficacy, including the design of the fences, the species of bee, and bee activity. A trial in Zimbabwe did not find any difference in crop damage between farms with beehives and those without. However, this may be because hives were hung on poles and not connected with wire. In other words, elephants could easily pass between the hives without disturbing the bees.

Efficacy may also be affected by the species of bees that live in different regions. King says that the honey bees kept in many parts of Asia - called *Apis cerana indica* - are much less aggressive than African bee species and are less effective at deterring elephants.

Even for beehives inhabited by the same species, not all hives deter elephants equally. A trial in Gabon found that while high-activity hives were very effective at protecting fruit trees from elephants, low-activity hives (and empty hives) were less effective. Unfortunately, this same study found that bees in very high-activity hives may produce less honey and be more aggressive than bees in low-activity hives.

Challenges inherent to beekeeping have affected the effectiveness of some beehive fence projects. Conservationist and biological anthropologist Katarzyna Nowak told Mongabay that in many places in Africa, beekeepers simply provide hives and must wait for bees to come colonize them, sometimes resulting in low hive occupancy and consequently, less effective beehive fences. Furthermore, it can be hazardous to work with hundreds of stinging insects. African bees can be very aggressive - during one trial, two goats were stung to death, and people could not work in nearby fields when a hive was knocked down.

Due to hazards like these, Hoare notes that the beehive fence technique, "will most likely only work in rural communities with a previous culture of beekeeping." Indeed, Nowak says that it's very important to take community history and preferences into account on these projects. "It's as much about how people receive the particular deterrent method - and therefore maintain it - as it is about the efficacy of it," she says.

Another problem is that hives and the honey within them are subject to theft - sometimes by other humans, but often by honey badgers. Colonies often abandon a hive after a honey badger attack. However, simple additions like cages or motion-activated lights have shown promise in reducing honey badger impact on beehives.

King says one of the biggest threats to beehive fence projects in more arid areas is actually climate change. "With climate change, the rainfall has become so erratic that we're getting erratic flowering seasons, so the bees are being affected," she says. "We're losing colonies because they're not holding on through the dry seasons...I don't know what it means for our project long-term."

Some of the challenges of keeping bees - like hive maintenance, attacks by honey badgers, bee stings, and problems with hive occupation during the dry season - could be solved by using a stimulus that mimics bees rather than actual bees.

Some trials have shown that buzzing bee sounds seemed to disturb elephants - one study found that 94 percent of African elephant families quickly left the area when the sound of disturbed bees was played. In India, news reports have detailed minor reductions in elephant fatalities in train collisions by using bee noises near the train tracks (although it's unclear if this small decrease merely represents random variation that occurs year-to-year). Another study found that chemicals contained in bee alarm pheromones seemed to cause elephants to hesitate or retreat.

But these bee-mimickers aren't universally applicable either. A study in South Africa noted that elephants appeared, at most, mildly disturbed or attentive in response to bee noises alone. Another study found that Asian elephants did not retreat from beehive noises significantly more than they moved away from control noises (although they



Beehive fence in Kenya protecting maize (corn) from elephants that approach looking for a high-calorie meal.

did move farther away when movement occurred).

The human-elephant conflict toolbox

The moral of the story is that no single technique is 100 percent effective. Researchers acknowledge that several strategies should be used to foster the peaceful coexistence of elephants and people. "I'm a huge fan of what we call the human-elephant conflict toolbox," says

King. "There's a variety of options you can use to keep elephants out of your farm and to live better with elephants. Without question, beehive fences should be one of those tools, but it's not necessarily a silver bullet for the entire problem, nor are any of the others."

Several other strategies have been determined to be at least partially effective, including setting off small handheld fireworks putting chili oil on fences surrounding crops. King

says her team is experimenting with growing crops that are regionally appropriate but less palatable for elephants. These include tea, ginger, sunflowers, and chilis.

Overall, King says that beehive fences have been quite successful and word of that success has spread. "We have people queuing up for beehive fences, literally coming to the research center and emailing me from all over the world, requesting these."



The STEP team in southern Tanzania discussing the beehive fence including the costs and benefits of shielding hives from direct sun in the form of makuti thatch roofs.



A camera trap photo captured after midnight of an elephant bull turning away from the beehive fence (one of the hives is on the left)

Gender parity fundamental to driving African growth

By Kabous Le Roux

THE world will only reach gender parity in the year 2236 at the current rate of progress, according to United Nations Women.

Ensuring the full development and productive deployment of half the world's population will radically transform African economies.

Female labour force participation on the continent varies widely, from a high of 84% in Rwanda to a low of 19% in Somalia.

South Africa has a female labour force participation rate of 49%.

Sola David-Borha, chief executive, Africa regions, Standard Bank Group, and UN Women's

Anne Githuku-Shongwe shared details of their partnership to help achieve gender parity on the sidelines of the 2019 World Economic Forum in Cape Town.

"If we do nothing different, gender inequality will persist for the next 217 years," said Githuku-Shongwe.

She detailed the UN's "HeForShe" solidarity campaign for the

advancement of gender equality.

The campaign is grounded in the idea that gender inequality negatively affects all people.

It encourages both genders to be agents of change.

She also spoke about the UN's "Unstereotype Alliance".

When you sell a Jaguar, why do we need a half-naked woman

as a sales pitch?

David-Borha argued that achieving gender equality should be fundamental to the way you run a business.

Standard Bank wants 40% of its executives to be a woman by 2023.

"It's an ambitious target; the bank is only halfway there," said David-Borha.

The bank is aiming to transform the gender makeup of CEOs in the 19 countries outside of South Africa where it operates. Only about 10% of chief executives are women. We're going to double that by 2021.

Standard Bank exists to drive Africa's growth, she said. "You can't ignore women."

"It's a business imperative! In

sub-Saharan Africa, more than half of agricultural production is done by women. In the SADC region about 70% of informal traders are women. Women are actively involved in economic activity. What they don't have is access to finance."

Empowering women drives economic growth. "At Standard Bank, this is our purpose."

Big power conflicts increasingly taking place in outer space

GENEVA

NEARLY every article on 'space security' begins with the acknowledgement that satellites and space-based services are critical for modern societies. And with good reason.

Space technologies provide tools that enable worldwide communications, remote sensing and global navigation. Even militaries are highly dependent on data and services from satellites, providing intelligence, missile guidance and early-warning detection.

Whether it be the US, Russia, China, or any other major military force, all employ space capabilities to some extent.

As a result of this dependence, some militaries are developing the tools to deny their adversaries the use and benefit of space systems. These capabilities come in several different categories, but they all share one common feature: they are threats to space systems. This is not unexpected.

Much the same as aircraft and anti-aircraft weapons, it was only a matter of time before military actors began developing the means to neutralise advantages gained from space.

Yet while this technology has previously been limited to a few players, new innovations in asymmetric warfare are quickly changing the dynamics of what might be conflict in space.

Moreover, there is a very small possibility (and it is highly remote) that some capabilities be put in space that can target objects in the atmosphere or on the surface of the Earth. These weapon systems would represent a threat from space systems.

As unlikely as this possibility might be, it is sufficiently real for some states who see counterspace weapons as possible insurance against attempts at 'dominance' in outer space.

The Secure World Foundation (SWF) – a think-tank based in Washington, DC – maintains a global counterspace capabilities assessment. This open-source document uses publicly available information to show which countries are developing what capabilities.

The principal actors pursuing such capabilities are the US, Russia, China and India. While the assessment includes a few other outliers that might have the building blocks for coun-



terspace capabilities (i.e. Israel, Iran, Pakistan, North Korea), recent events indicate that there are more countries now actively seeking 'weapons in space', including France and Japan.

There are four main types of counterspace capabilities. The first is 'kinetic', namely those that use physical force to cause damage to a satellite. This includes anti-satellite missiles (like the one recently used by India) or even co-orbital drones. These drones are highly manoeuvrable craft that can repair, refuel or even remove satellites from orbit. Such tools can be used for beneficial purposes, like debris removal, or possibly to attack satellites.

The second type of counterspace capability is 'non-kinetic', which use high-powered energy to cause disruption or damage to satellites. At present, several countries are developing lasers that could be used in this way, including the US, Russia, China and France.

In the 1980s, then-US President Ronald Reagan launched an initiative called Star Wars, which consisted of satellites with missile interceptors that could destroy ICBMs in orbit.

Space exhibition at the United Nations in Vienna. Credit: UNIS Vienna

The main problem with kinetic and non-kinetic weapons is that when they damage or destroy a satellite, they also create debris, which does not necessarily come back down to Earth right away. As one expert once told me, it is like having a war in which the bullets never stop flying.

The other two categories of capabilities are less destructive but are much more prevalent. Electronic counterspace capabilities, which includes jamming and spoofing, is easily accessible to many actors, including non-state actors. The same can be said for cyber capabilities, which can be deployed for espionage, surveillance, or even destruction of space systems.

One of the major concerns with these two categories of capabilities is that there is no consensus around when 'interference' becomes an attack. This is particularly worrying as NATO just announced plans to declare that an 'attack' on a satellite is enough to trigger collective self-defence.

There is no indication whether there is consensus among NATO members as to what is considered an attack on a space object, nor whether that same view is shared with any other countries.

Threats 'from' space systems. While the counterspace capabilities listed above describe current threats 'to' space systems, there is another challenge that features often in space security talks, namely threats 'from' space systems.

These are different because rather than targeting space objects, these capabilities would be able to target objects in the atmosphere or on the ground. At present, no country has ever even hinted at plans to deploy such weapons, except the US.

In the 1980s, then-US President Ronald Reagan launched an initiative called Star Wars, which consisted of satellites with missile interceptors that could destroy ICBMs in orbit. This idea has long been refuted as being about as technically or economically feasible as deploying 'pink dragons'

in space.

Nevertheless, space-based missile interceptors are being discussed by the US once again, albeit at a very superficial level. The concern here is that space-based missile defence is a pretext to deploy missiles that can strike surface targets. And while many experts cite the extreme remoteness of the possibility of such a weapon system ever being deployed, the mere perception of a threat is creating real challenges in multilateral discussions.

Multilateral efforts to mitigate threats

UN member states acknowledged the growing challenges to space security decades ago, yet there is little progress on this issue. States are generally divided into two camps. Some (mostly Western, developed states) are concerned about threats 'to' their space systems, and want voluntary measures to provide transparency in space. This includes measures like launch notifications, sharing orbital data and publishing national space

policies.

Others (led by Russia and China but also including most of the rest of the world), are not opposed to voluntary measures but would prefer to see a treaty, which is legally binding. These states are also concerned by the possibility (albeit still a remote one) that someone might one day put weapons in space that can threaten people on the ground. For these states, only a legally binding instrument will suffice.

For the moment, there does not seem to be much room for consensus. The two camps in space security discussions continue to hold firm on their positions. One option for moving forward might be to focus on specific issues that affect all, such as the testing of destructive anti-satellite technology that creates debris.

However, more ambitious solutions will likely continue to be out of reach, particularly if space-based missile defence continues to feature in the background of multilateral discussions without being directly addressed.

New York commemorates 18th anniversary of 9/11 attacks

NEW YORK

FLAGS were flown at half-staff, wailing bagpipes reverberated through the streets, and a moment of solemn silence was observed across New York City on the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people here 18 years ago.

An annual remembrance ceremony was held on Wednesday morning at the Ground Zero National September 11 Memorial & Museum in Lower Manhattan, where the World Trade Center Twin Towers once stood.

It was a personal event for family members and friends of the victims, whose names were recited one by one in a solemn process which lasted several hours.

Representatives took turns to the podium to tell the stories of their lost loved ones, while many stood silently in tears while others held photos of the victims.

After the ceremony was over shortly after midday, several people stayed on at the Memorial pools in the blockaded area, looking for a quiet moment to express their grief.

The bronze panels skirting the edge of the pool of the memorial were shining under the sun, with lines of victims' names inscribed there evoking haunting memories of the attack.

A woman in black stared at the name of the person she's been missing for 18 years, carefully putting several white roses onto the panel while whispering a prayer.

Unable to hold back her tears, an elderly couple standing nearby handed her a napkin and tried to console her with an assuring pat on her shoulder.

A senior gentleman brought his grandson to "meet" someone the toddler had never seen before, just to make sure this dark chapter in history would



never be forgotten for generations to come.

Petra Schmidt came here for her former colleagues at Aon, an insurance company which had offices in both of the Twin Towers. "We lost 176 people," she said. "We do this every year. It's very important to us. We never want to forget what happened here, and we want to make sure our colleagues are remembered."

Walking out of the Ground Zero in the uniform of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY), Joseph Donovan is one of the first responders of the attacks.

People visit the Pepperdine Wave of Flags display at Pepperdine University in Malibu, the United States, on Sept. 11, 2019, to mourn the victims of the 9/11 terror attacks which happened 18 years ago. (Xinhua)

When the tragedy happened, he had already retired as a firefighter for the New York Stock Exchange.

However, he still rushed to the scene as the second plane plummeted into the south tower. "The noise was inexplicable. I thought the building snapped in half, to tell you the truth," Donovan recalled.

He came here every year over the past 18 years to remember his 343 former colleagues of the FDNY killed that day, including his cousin Gerald Duffy, who worked at the Ladder Company 21, a firehouse

that lost seven members. "I'll be here until I can't come here (any more).

And I hope God gives me the strength to keep coming back for a while longer," said the 80-year-old. Donovan worked at the site for 10 months in the aftermath of the attacks. Six years ago, he was diagnosed with lung cancer.

The number of rescuers, cleaners and civilians who have been diagnosed with various diseases after being exposed to toxics in the 9/11 debris, like Donovan, is increasing.

On July 23, U.S. Senate approved a bill that ensures financial support through 2090 for medical claims of thousands of first responders of 9/11.

"That was a fight, but it had to be done," Donovan commented on the passing of the bill. "I'm fine now. But there are thousands of people who caught a disease related to the 9/11."

Though it's always a tough day on Sept. 11, Donovan said "it's gotten better" and his cousin's family is "well supported and they are com-

ing along fine." "Everybody has to move on. You can't carry this thing forever.

So you have to move on at some point in time," said the veteran fireman who worked 25 years rescuing people's lives. Donovan's following destination was the FDNY Memorial Wall located across the street, where a wreath was laid at the center and many passers-by stopped to hold a moment of mourning. "I can find my cousin's name on the wall. I'm going to give a salute and I go on my way," he said. **Xinhua**

CRDB SEEKS TO BANKROLL GOVT MEGA-INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

By Property Watch Reporter

In a bid to ensure that the government's mega-infrastructure projects are implemented smoothly, CRDB Bank Plc has come up with new products to back contractors, subcontractors, equipment and service suppliers.

The bank's Chief Commercial Officer, Joseph Witti told a stakeholders business forum in Dar es Salaam earlier this week that, "CRDB tupo tayali, meaning we are ready to provide all kinds of financial support to all vendors, suppliers and subcontractors."

He told representatives of companies undertaking the giant Rufiji Hydroelectric Power Project and Dar es Salaam to Mwanza Standard Gauge Railway Project that the bank has lined up a number of products and services aimed at facilitating their work.

"We have recently introduced bridge financing products specifically tailored to suit suppliers and contractors needs with flexible conditions, self-secured by contracts and therefore do not need landed properties, namely purchase order financing, contract financing and invoice discounting," Witti noted.

He said CRDB has also come up with overdrafts and investment loans to finance the acquisition of construction equipment, vehicles, machines, buses and other assets. The bank's CCO named other products as bid guarantees, advance payment guarantees, performance guarantee and letter credit.

"Our credit facilities are granted at attractive rates, shortest turnaround time with flexible conditions to suit suppliers and contractor's needs," he assured them while pointing out that the bank has deployed a team of dedicated relationship managers equipped with the capability to provide clients with the best in the market products and services designed to cater for projects' needs.

Earlier this year, CRDB Bank issued an overdraft facility of US\$20 million and US\$88 million in terms of advance payment and performance guarantee in favour of Turkish contractor, Yerpi Merkez which the main contractor of the first SGR project.

CRDB Bank has also granted the sum of US\$221 million as advance and performance bond in support of RHPP main contractor, JV Arab Contractors and Elsewedy Electric of Egypt. Witti said the bank's leadership is happy with President John Magufuli's focus on mega infrastructure projects and the em-



President John Magufuli listens as an engineer gives details on the Rufiji Hydroelectric Power Project using a 3D model of the project when he launched construction work in July this year. File photo.

bracing a private public partnership model in implementing such projects.

"This is the best way of developing and empowering the local private sector through joint ventures with large international firms in areas such as sub-contracting of civil works, electrical works, facilities management," he added.

In April this year, CRDB's Managing Director, Abdulmajid Nsekela assured the government of his bank's financial

muscle to bankroll any mega projects if need arises in future.

"Today is a special occasion for our country because this is a special event because we are marking an important step towards implementation of this mega project," said Nsekela whose bank provided 51 percent of guarantee to Tanesco for the implementation of the RHPP. Nsekela pointed out that when approached to provide the guarantee for the 2,100 megawatts hydro-electric

power project, the two banks accepted because they support the government's industrialization agenda.

"In addition to this guarantee, our banks are also able to provide funding for the project if need arises in future," the CRDB chief assured while pointing out that Stiegler's Gorge power supply will not only provide the country with cheap electricity needed for rapid industrialization but also reliable power supply.

Knight Frank: TanHouse is already 85 pc sold, occupied

By Property Watch Reporter

THE 17 floors TanHouse commercial building along New Bagamoyo Road in Dar es Salaam where several high-rise buildings are almost empty, is actually occupied by 85 percent.

Knight Frank Tanzania Limited's Head of Agency Department, Othman Jumbe said reports that the towering building is largely empty are untrue. "The property is actually more than 85 percent occupied as of today and was completed in 2014 not last year," Jumbe said while noting that all government taxes and other related fees were also cleared.

He however did not give details if the building has been sold to new occupants or occupied by tenants choosing instead to simply say that it is almost sold out. The New Bagamoyo Road from Morocco to Mwenje is dotted by several new high-rise commercial buildings which are almost empty as tenants and outright buyers are hard to come-by.

Property experts said that although the government's decision to relocate its capital from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma might have caused the property market glut in the commercial capital, massive investment by Chinese developers, pension funds and National Housing Corporation has led to oversupply of space.

TanHouse is offering a minimum of 70 square meters and maximum of 1,000 square meters at a rate of US\$17.5 (over 40,222/-) per square meter for a minimum period of three months for tenants while tenants seeking a whole floor which is 1,000 square meters, get it at a discounted rate of US\$14.5 (over 33,335/-) per square meter.



TanHouse main entrance in Dar es Salaam.

Pension fund put to task over 'expensive' housing projects

KIGALI

MEMBERS of the parliamentary Public Accounts Committee (PAC) have grilled Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB) for developing houses that only cater for the interests of the middle and high-income earners.

Informed by the Auditor General 2016-2017 report, MPs asked RSSB officials to explain why most of the housing projects have excluded low-income earners. "The investments by RSSB are people's money and that is why members' contri-

butions must be invested to serve all social categories of Rwandans," said MP Beline Uwineza.

Analysing the investments, Annociata Mukarugwiza, the Deputy Chairperson of the committee, said that some houses are sold at a slow pace which increases administrative and management fees as well as prolonged project payback.

By December last year, only 213 of 504 houses at the Vision City real estate in Gaciliro, Kigali were booked, she disclosed. "The cumulative sales revenues stood at Rwf18.8 billion which is 25 per cent

of the expected revenue of Rwf75 billion," she revealed, adding that these are for only the high middle-income segment of the population.

Officials from RSSB said that around 100 houses at Vision City estate are yet to be booked. MPs also said that the occupancy rate of some houses constructed by RSSB is low, citing the commercial buildings in the districts of Karongi, Rwamagana, Nyanza, Nyagatare and others.

"RSSB should follow up on every investment to ensure that members get returns," Mukarugwiza

said. Richard Dusabe, the Director-General of RSSB, told MPs that due to various issues, the return on their investments was still low.

"The return on our investments is still around 6 per cent. This is very low and we need human capital and brains that can help us invest in areas with high returns. We need to perform better since this institution contributes 10 per cent of all national economic drivers," he said.

He noted that the public pension body is working with private companies to design a project that will

build affordable houses, valued at between Rwf15 million and Rwf20 million.

"We want low-income earners to feel included in our investment products. We are going to design a project where we can build 10,000 housing units of such kind. By the end of the year we will have completed the study," he said.

The Auditor General, Obadiah Biraro, urged the board to draft a wish list which parliament and the Auditor General could base on while advocating for reforms or restructuring.

South Africa's luxury cemeteries: No equality, not even in death

JOHANNESBURG

WITH hot tea, Wi-Fi and soft sofas - not to mention native birds and a rippling dam - a new breed of luxury cemetery is reinforcing divides between Johannesburg's haves and have-nots.

Memorial Park cemetery in Soweto, South Africa's biggest township, is one of five cemeteries owned by listed company Calgro M3, whose fortunes are tied to land and housing. The plush cemeteries they have added to their portfolio of houses and retirement homes have sharply divided opinion: lauded as a wise investment by some, derided as elitist by others.

In a nation where land and who owns it are sensitive and contested topics, the business of dying has split opinion too. "Everyone deserves a decent sendoff," said Lawrence Poole, who buried his cousin in the cemetery last month.

"But unfortunately this is dependent on your pocket," he said from the Nasrec Memorial Park office. Grave plots at the park range from R24 500 to R360 000 for an eight-person family plot with extra features such as plants and benches.

A burial plot at a public cemetery costs R3 000 on average. Aside from the luxury extras, Memorial Parks promise

a well-maintained and safe space to bury and mourn loved ones in a country known for widespread crime, even in cemeteries.

Mourners have reported graveside muggings, ransacked cars and even coffins dug up to be resold to unsuspecting customers. Land is a hot button in the world's most unequal country, according to the World Bank, where the richest 10% of South Africans own about 71% of the country's wealth, and the bottom 60% control only 7%.

Last year, President Cyril Ramaphosa launched a process to change the Constitution with a proposed redistribution of land aimed at addressing high levels of inequality. With 72% of farm land owned by whites who, according to a government land audit, make up just 10% of the population, discontent has triggered protests and occupations. Dead or alive, the inequality persists.

"The cemetery is an idiom for the segregation we still see today in post-apartheid South Africa," said Thulisile Mphambukeli, a senior lecturer in urban and regional planning at the University of the Free State.

In Johannesburg there are 32 public cemeteries, plus a handful of private ones, according to the City

of Johannesburg. With about 14 000 burials a year, the city estimates there are enough plots available for the next half century.

"Designer cemeteries segregate South Africans on class. It is a continuity of inequality created by apartheid," Mphambukeli said. Memorial Parks denies any "economic apartheid." "This is not an elitist space," said Wikus Lategan, CEO of Calgro M3.

He said the company buries South Africans from many religions, races and income groups, and that his company is providing a much-needed service. "South Africans invest in funeral policies that can cover the costs," said Lategan, whose fees include security, maintenance and tombstone licensing.

Lategan added that the plots can be paid for over time, with no additional costs, making them accessible to a wider market. "There is such a great need for this." "In public cemeteries, mourners visit graves fearing they can be raped or attacked."

Police say exact figures on cemetery crime are not documented but local media have reported rapes, muggings and headstone theft nationwide. "We are restoring safety and dignity," Lategan said. A total of 18.9 million South Africans have funeral insurance, according to



Memorial Park cemetery in Soweto, South Africa

online comparison website, hippo.co.za.

"The cost of a funeral is up to you," said Masentle Zikalala, a government official who has reserved five grave plots for her family at the Nasrec cemetery. "A 'decent' funeral can be simple, with few people and

a basic meal afterwards. But generally, this is not how South African funerals are," said Zikalala.

The average funeral will involve a cow for slaughtering at about R6 000 rand, undertaker fees at about R4 000, a tombstone that can go up to R7 000 and a casket

for R8 000 rand, according to online insurance quotes. This in a country with a 29% unemployment rate, according to official government statistics.

Despite this, South African households can spend up to a year's salary on a funeral, according to research

published by the University of Chicago Press. Although an estimated quarter of the near 4 000 funerals examined in the study had some form of insurance, another quarter had to borrow to meet the cost.

"We have funerals sometimes where 10 000 to 15 000 people attend," explained Lategan. This can all be very different in public cemeteries.

Khanyi, who asked that her real name be concealed, recalled her grandmother's burial in 2018 in Klipspruit public cemetery in Soweto, about 15 minutes from the Nasrec Memorial Park.

"We wanted her to be buried with my grandfather, but the cemetery was full, so the plan was to open up my grandfather's grave and bury them together," said Khanyi.

But it was raining heavily and Khanyi's family were told they would have to bury their grandmother in another cemetery.

GEITA REGION SETS ASIDE 300HA LAND BANK FOR SEZ INVESTORS

By Correspondent Prosper Makene

SOME 300 hectares of prime land has been set aside by Geita regional authorities for special economic zone investments.

Regional Commissioner, Engineer Gabriel Robert said in Dar es Salaam this week that his administration is aggressively scouting for private investors to turn Geita region into a single, multi-tier, mega special economic zone hub.

"If an investor wants to build a manufacturing factory, the land will be given free on the understanding that they will provide employment to our people as well as pay taxes," Eng Gabriel said.

He added that the mineral rich Lake Zone region wants investments in manufacturing industries, agri-parks, fisheries, automobile and modern technologies. The RC further said that his region is already in touch with United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) to support in the initiative of establishing the SEZ.

"We have contacted the UNDP seeking their support because we want to see the SEZ in Geita becomes a pioneer, laboratory and leader in the revitalization and transformation of Lake Zone into an industrial hub creating jobs," he added.

Eng Gabriel said in a bid to kick-start infrastructure and other related services at the designated SEZ area, the region will use funds received from gold miners and other sources to finance such aspects which will attract private investors.

Among other things, the SEZ will also incorporate an international trade exhibition centre and industrial park targeting the bigger East African Community market. It will also have conference facilities as well as traditional villages.

On his part, Geita Town Council Chairman, Leonard Bugomola said their ambitious goal will soon become a reality as ground clearing work has already started.



An Air Tanzania Company Limited plane with President John Magufuli on board touches down at Chato Airport in Geita Region when it made its maiden flight there in June this year. File photo

"Already, there are some companies which have showed commitments to collectively invest in our SEZ project," Bugomola said.

"The area that we have allocated for SEZ projects is next to the main road from Mwanza

to Geita and has everything that investors need. Therefore as a chairman of town council, I once again welcome investor to our region."

Geographically, Geita is close to the borders with Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda as well as

DR Congo, which have vast resources including minerals in Kivu Region. Geita Region produces about 35 percent of the country's gold.

Export Processing Zones Authority's Director General, Joseph Simbakalia advised Geita

regional leaders to invest heavily in infrastructure if the SEZ ambition is to materialise. He named necessary infrastructure and services as reliable power supply, skilled human capital, roads, water supply and modern means of transportation.

Cameroon unveils Huawei-built video surveillance centre

YAOUNDE

CAMEROON last week unveiled its national command centre for video surveillance facility, part of the country's Intelligent City Project.

The centre, implemented by Huawei, was formally introduced by Prime Minister Joseph Dion Ngute. Huawei is the principal technology partner of state-run Cameroon Telecommunications (Camtel) which provides the connectivity for transmission of footage. The centre also runs off Huawei equipment.

Huawei made headlines after a recent Wall Street Journal report implicated the company's technicians as part of an organised effort to help government representatives from Uganda, Zambia and Algeria to use technology to spy on critics and political opponents.

In Cameroon, a Camtel representative, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said when the Chinese carry out telecoms installations, engineers remain behind to manage infrastructure. "They are reluctant to transfer technology to local staff because they want to remain there," the source disclosed.

Techies at Cameroon's Silicon Mountain, like Otto Akama, are now suspicious of Huawei and claim most of the telecommunications infrastructure is sourced from the Chinese tech firm. The company, through Camtel, technically installs and manages the country's lone fibre optic backbone.

Huawei has yet to respond to requests for comment. However, it is on record as having publi-



Cameroon's national command centre for video surveillance.

cally denied any wrongdoing in any of its business operations. Officials of the General Delegation of National Security say considering the security challenges Cameroon is facing, general mobilisation ought to remain constant.

A statement issued by security officials reads: "Efforts have so far been geared towards modernity, where safety of the citizens remains the focal point of police action. By opting the use of the video sur-

veillance systems throughout the national territory, the forces of law and order intend to combat acts of banditry, terrorism and other crimes that undermine social peace. Thus, the video surveillance is a reliable solution."

The pilot phase of the Cameroon Intelligent City Project started in August 2014 and consisted of 70 CCTV cameras in six localities, namely Yaounde, Douala, Garoua-Bouali, Kye-Ossi, Waza and Kousserrie.

Approximately 1,500 cameras, 65 basic transmission stations, four control centres and 1,000 transceiver stations have already been installed. This equipment has been deployed in the cities of Yaounde, Douala, Buea, Limbe, Kousserrie, Waza, Garoua-Bouali, Bafoussam, Garoua and Kye-Ossi and installation is expected to continue in Bertoua, Maroua, Ngaoundere, Bamenda, Ebolowa, Kribi, Amchide, Fotokol and Kenzou.

Telco debuts Microsoft enabled office internet targeting SMEs

By Property Watch Reporter

AN Office Internet service backed by latest Microsoft technology has been launched by Tigo Tanzania Limited targeting small and medium size enterprises.

Tigo's Chief Business Officer, Pavan Ramdhani said in Dar es Salaam this week that the latest product is aimed at further cementing telecommunications company's business leadership in delivering innovative solutions for firms to focus on their core business. "Having this service, customers will enjoy super-fast internet with the latest business applications from Microsoft," Ramdhani said noting that the product comes after the telco launched its Home Internet service recently.

He said that the Office Internet comes with the added benefit of customers receiving internet bundles monthly without them having to manually top up, this in-turn ensures seamless connectivity on the fastest 4G+ technology mobile in the country.

He added that customers that they now have the ability to combine the best connectivity experience with world-class collaboration tools from Microsoft.

"We worked in collaboration with our business customers, and they have highlighted three key challenges with the existing services available in the market: the time it takes to install an internet service, the speed of that connection and the lack of meaningful, business-oriented applications and tools," Ramdhani added.

"We are proud to announce that our Office Internet is the first service that combines super-fast 4G+ mobile connectivity with world-class cloud-based collaboration tools from Microsoft," he pointed out.

For his part, Mobile Product Specialist, Brian Swai backed Ramdhani by noting that the new service is completely wireless, meaning that all a customer needs to do is simply switch on their MiFi device or router.



NBC's Lindi Branch Manager, Lovin Mapunda (C-in-jacket), hands over 135 iron sheets and 30 bags of cement worth more than 4m/- to Lindi District Commissioner Shaibu Ndamanga in support of the construction of Rondo Police Station in Lindi earlier this week. To the DC's left is Lindi Police Officer Commanding District's representative, Inspector Benard Simpemba. Photo: courtesy of NBC

Naivasha forum to discuss African smart cities

NAIROBI

MORE than 500 experts are set to converge in Naivasha to discuss smart cities in Africa in the wake of increased urbanisation.

The two-day event will bring together experts including real estate players, local and international investors, donors and county as well as national government officials. The forum comes at a time cities are grappling with growing urban populations which has brought with it challenges of mobility, sanitation, security, among others.

Experts say these challenges have created the need for cities to be innovative

in order to improve quality of life for residents.

A smart city targets energy savings and adopts environmentally-friendly technologies, which promote sustainable development.

The Naivasha conference has been organised by the Institute of Certified Investment and Financial Analysts (ICIFA).

"The conference will ... identify ways of enhancing economic competitiveness of Africa through functional cities, identify opportunities for partnership between governments and businesses in driving smart cities investments and encourage a proactive approach in shaping smart cities policies and investments

in Africa," said ICIFA chairman Jonah Ayabei.

Zhou Yimin, a renowned urban developer from Singapore is expected share expertise on development of smart cities and funding at the event. Nairobi and Cape Town rank among the most technologically advanced African cities. Both cities look at Singapore as a role model for the city of the future.

Mr Yimin has been a key figure in smart city development in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries.

He is a researcher and senior Assistant Director at Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities.

TECHNOLOGY

INDIA'S PROPERTY MARKET AT A CROSSROADS AMID REFORMS AND A LIQUIDITY CRUNCH



A new housing estate in Bangalore, India.

MUMBAI

INDIA'S property sector is going through upheaval amid a slowing economy as the government tries to reform the sector in the midst of a liquidity crunch that has pushed many developers out of business. Given the challenges, it has come as a relief to many real estate firms in Asia's third-largest economy that policymakers have taken some steps to help the ailing industry.

The country's relatively new real estate regulation and development act, fully implemented in 2017, aims to protect home buyers and increase oversight on developers. The measures include making it mandatory for projects and agents to register under the real estate regulator and requires developers to deposit 70 per cent of the money collected from property buyers in a separate bank account, usually known as an escrow account. There is strict punishment for those who violate the law, with developers facing up to three years in jail.

The looming threat of jail time means that it is more difficult and riskier for companies to depend on off plan payments from customers to build their projects.

Analysts and developers say that looking at the bigger picture, real estate in India has gone through a huge period of transition over the past few years. Reforms including demonetisation - a ban on the two highest value banknotes to crack down on illegal money flows - in 2016, followed by the introduction of a new goods and services tax in 2017, and then the real estate regulation act of 2017 have all had developers coming to grips with change.

While not every business has survived these measures, many larger companies welcome tighter regulations, saying that transparency and

consumer confidence in the industry has improved as a result. "Earlier there were a lot of fly-by-night developers," says Gaurav Gupta, the director of Omkar Realtors, one of Mumbai's major developers, which has projects boasting multi-million dollar penthouses. "The market has definitely shifted towards branded developers now."

Meanwhile, the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), announced that from October 1 it will be mandatory for all banks to link new retail loans, including home loans, to an external interest rate benchmark.

There have been widespread concerns that although the RBI has cut interest rates at its past four monetary policy meetings this year, these rate reductions are not necessarily being passed on to consumers.

"This will aid the home buyers to avail faster and cheaper home loans," says Niranjan Hiranandani, the national president of industry group Naredco. In addition, the government two weeks ago unveiled a plan to inject 700 billion rupees into public sector banks.

"This rejig of the spending model by the government is a clear intent to stoke demand and ease bank credit which had hit across the industry acutely," says Mr Hiranandani. Many developers have managed to work within these new regulations and some say the current economic situation is more of a worry.

The liquidity crisis that has hurt real estate companies began last September in the country's non-bank financial sector. It erupted when one of the sector's biggest companies, IL&FS, unexpectedly defaulted on loans.

After that, the flow of cash in the system reduced as capital markets and other financing sources became wary of giving money to these institutions, also known as "shadow banks". Property developers in India had been heavily dependent on loans from non-banking financial companies to fund construction. This has led to work on many projects stalling in India.

"The real estate sector is undergoing a period of stress," says Rohit Gera, the managing director of Gera Developments, based in the city of Pune. "Many developers have run out of money for ongoing projects."

The property sector forms a significant part of the country's economy, accounting for up to 6 per cent of gross domestic product and is the second-largest employer in India after agriculture, according to official figures.

Partly because of the liquidity crunch, real estate firms are now struggling for funding for projects and the number of developers in India's major cities has plummeted 36 per cent between October 2018 to March 2019, compared to the previous six months, according to property consultancy JLL.

"Real estate is not in very good shape," says Samantak Das, the chief economist and executive director of research at JLL India.

"Developers are facing a lot of problems in terms of financing activity. Now, the other problem is that the economic sentiment means that buyers are postponing their decisions" and real estate companies "have either gone out of business or they've consolidated with better performing developers."

Shiv Parekh, the co-founder of hBits, a Mumbai-based commercial real estate platform and a director at Raycon Infrastructure, says although it is largely the residential sector that has been impacted by the current environment, he has noticed that developers are selling off commercial real estate to secure cash for other projects.

"We're being slightly benefited by the situation because we're a platform that provides liquidity to developers so we're one of the avenues that a lot of developers are looking at to liquidate their assets," says Mr Parekh. Some industry insiders are hopeful that the government is poised to announce a big stimulus package for the real estate sector.

Ankit Kansal, the founder and managing director of Indian real estate consultancy 360 Realtors, says that prices have stagnated or fallen in major cities in India. But he is optimistic that the challenges will be addressed and that the government will "take prudent steps towards completing the stalled projects with the help of fiscal stimulus." "In addition, more liquidity will be provided [and] rules will be modified to enable easy bank funding for developers," he adds.

José Braganza, the joint managing director at B&F Ventures, a real estate company in Goa, echoes those sentiments. "Broadly speaking, when the economy is sluggish, so is real estate which is the current state in the country. However, we do expect the government to be conscientious in tiding it through."

Property developer Mr Gera hopes that the market turns around soon, given what he describes as an unsustainable situation.

"In real terms, prices are at a long time low and with the burden of GST (goods and services tax), there is no way developers can continue with the existing margins," he says. "Therefore, as soon as demand comes back into the market we expect to see prices rebound."



The TripAdvisor stand at the International Tourism Trade Fair (FITUR) in Madrid.

TripAdvisor slammed for fake hotel reviews

LONDON

US travel and restaurant website TripAdvisor has failed to do enough to stop fake hotel reviews, British consumer association Which? said in a study published on Friday.

A total of 15 out of 100 top-rated hotels around the world displayed TripAdvisor reviews showing "blatant" signs of being fake, the study found. TripAdvisor responded that it was committed to ensuring accurate information and catching fraudsters, while Which? added that the website had taken down hundreds of reviews after its investigation.

"TripAdvisor's failure to stop fake reviews and take strong action against hotels that abuse the system risks misleading millions of travellers and potentially ruining their holidays," said Naomi Leach, head of the Which? travel division.

She added: "Sites like TripAdvisor must do more to ensure the information on their platforms is reliable, and if they continue to fall short they should be compelled to make changes so holidaymakers are no longer at risk of being duped by a flood of fake reviews."

TripAdvisor spokesman James Kay told the BBC that it would "very aggressively" weed out fake reviews. "We are

doing this more than any other platform out there," he added.

Problem destinations Which? said it had identified problems at hotels in the Middle East, particularly in Cairo and also in Jordan. And two Las Vegas hotels received almost half of their hundreds of five-star TripAdvisor reviews from first-time reviewers who had never used the site before — nor used it since. Friday's Which? study was published as British regulators seek to tackle the sale of fake and misleading online reviews.

The Competition and Markets Authority has already urged social media giant Facebook and auction marketplace eBay to stop the sale of fake reviews on their sites. In December 2017, hoaxers briefly transformed a garden shed to London's top restaurant on TripAdvisor. "The Shed at Dulwich", based in a south London back garden, offered invited guests conceptual dishes named after moods, including "Lust, rabbit kidneys on toast", "Empathetic, vegan clams in a clear broth" and "Contemplation, a deconstructed Aberdeen stew."

The non-existent eatery had worked its way up the rankings thanks to fake reviews sent from different computers to avoid TripAdvisor's defences, but it was rapidly removed.

The world's largest underwater theme park opens in Bahrain

BAHRAIN

AN eco-friendly underwater theme park has opened in Bahrain. Dive Bahrain, a 100,000 square metre dive site, complete with sunken Boeing 747, is now ready for scuba divers to explore, located to the north of the Gulf country.

The newly opened dive site, which is said to be the largest of its kind in the world, was opened by Bahrain's Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Zayed bin Rashid Al Zayani, on Friday, September 6. It opened to the public on Saturday, September 7. As well as the sunken plane, there is an artificial reef and marine life for divers to see and explore.

The eco-friendly focus of the site has been a focus of Dive Bahrain. Organisers say that the submerged plane is the "first aircraft to be used as a reef which [has been] have been

processed in a truly eco-friendly and pollutant free manner."

They add that "phase one of the project includes submerging the aircraft, a replica of a pearl merchant's house and sail structures. Future phases of the project are still being studied but could include reef balls, ships and sculptures."

Future phases will include sunken ships and a sculpture gallery.

When the project was announced, President of the Supreme Council for Environment, Sheikh Abdullah bin Hamad Al Khalifa, said the 100,000 square metre site would also feature a "replica of a traditional Bahraini pearl merchant's house, artificial coral reefs and other sculptures fabricated from eco-friendly materials" to encourage marine life. To access the site, divers must go through a licensed dive centre. Full details can be found at dive-bahrain.com.

Hyperloop 'ready to go' with work on India project to begin next year

ABU DHABI

FUTURISTIC transport system promises to cut trip from Dubai to Abu Dhabi to 12 minutes - if it becomes a reality. A company developing a version of the futuristic Hyperloop transport system has declared that it is "ready to go" - with construction of a track in India to begin as early as next year.

Jay Walder, the chief executive of Virgin Hyperloop One, said during the World Energy Congress in Abu Dhabi that the five-year-old company had learned lessons from almost 500 journeys conducted on a test track in Nevada, where it had hit speeds of almost 400 kilometres per hour, proving that the technology works. It is envisaged that the company's full version of Hyperloop, which involves a pod travelling through a vacuum tube, will be able to reach speeds of 1,080kmph.

It could potentially mean a journey between Abu Dhabi and Dubai would take just 12 minutes and a trip between the UAE capital and Riyadh could be made in about 48 minutes. "My whole background is running large-scale transport systems," said Mr Walder, who has previously had high-profile roles managing public transport in London, New York and Hong Kong.

"The point of my being here is we are at the place where we should, and want to, and are ready, to deliver real projects now. "We're completely confident on the technology. We're continuing to innovate our technology but we're innovating off of something that works... we're ready to go." Several companies and universities are now working on Hyperloop systems, with the idea first floated by Tesla's Elon Musk in 2013.

Giving an update on his com-



A model of the Virgin Hyperloop on show at the World Energy Congress in Abu Dhabi.

pany's plans at the congress, where a full-size model of a section of Hyperloop pod has been set up for delegates to inspect,

Mr Walder said work would soon begin on a 12km stretch of track in India which would allow regulators to approve the new tech-

nology. It is part of a wide-ranging project aiming to create a 150km track linking Mumbai and Pune,

meaning a journey that takes three hours by car could be completed in 25 minutes.

Among the visitors to the model pod this week was India's energy minister. "The Indian government has now designated hyperloop as an infrastructure mode," Mr Walder said. "So it takes its place alongside roads, bridges and trains."

"We could have the project awarded in the very beginning of next year, we could be shovels in the ground in late 2020. It will take a couple of years to build out the first phase of this, the first 12km, and then we begin the regulatory process. We could have a working hyperloop in India, for a 12km stretch, certainly by 2023 or 2024."

The company is also in talks about possible projects in several US states, and has a long-standing interest in the UAE and wider Middle East. Virgin Hyperloop

One is considering building a centre of excellence, including manufacturing facilities, in Saudi Arabia and it counts DP World, the Dubai-based ports operator, and the Abu Dhabi Capital Group, as major investors.

"One of the things we look to a lot is the connected Gulf," he said. "It's easy to think about Abu Dhabi to Dubai, of course, but what if we extend our vision a little further than that? Abu Dhabi to Riyadh in about 48 minutes, Riyadh to Jeddah in about 50 minutes."

"In essence, what this is doing is shrinking space. We define distance by the modes of transportation we know. If we're going to drive from one place to another, how much time will it take? We redefine the distance between Abu Dhabi and Dubai to be 12 minutes, we redefine the distance between Abu Dhabi and Riyadh to be 48 minutes."

WORLD

Biden and Warren to share stage for first time at Democratic presidential debate

HOUSTON

LEADING Democratic White House contenders Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren were expected to share the stage for the first time yesterday when the top 10 candidates for the party's presidential nomination meet in a debate in Houston.

The third debate in the race to find a challenger to Republican President Donald Trump in the November 2020 election will spotlight the party's ideological divisions, with moderate front-runner Biden at center stage flanked by progressives Warren and Bernie Sanders, both U.S. senators.

Seven other Democrats, including U.S. Senators Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey, and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, also will participate as all of the party's highest-polling candidates square off for the first time.

Earlier debates in June and July were split over two nights to accommodate a

crowded field of 20 contenders. But the party toughened the qualifying criteria to winnow the field and give a bigger spotlight to the top candidates.

"For us, it's a great opportunity to advance," Buttigieg told reporters in New Hampshire last weekend. "It's still 10 at a time, but now we at least know looking at that stage that the nominee will emerge from that group."

The first two rounds of debates have been contentious. Biden came under repeated attacks led by Harris and Booker for his record on race and criminal justice reform and his views on healthcare.

Warren and Sanders, old allies who have promised not to criticize each other, teamed up during the second round of debates in Detroit to defend their progressive agenda when attacked by more moderate candidates.

But this time, Warren could be a bigger target for criticism - and have more incentive to criticize Biden. A steady rise in opinion polls over the past two



Joe Biden (R) and Elizabeth Warren

months has moved her ahead of Sanders into second place nationally in the Real Clear Politics polling average.

Warren and Biden have tangled before. She challenged him more than a decade ago when she was a law professor over his support for a bill to make it harder to declare bankruptcy for personal debts. Biden represented Delaware, home to several large credit card companies, in the U.S. Senate.

Biden has held his front-runner status in opinion polls since he entered the Democratic nominating race in April, with Warren and Sanders battling for second behind him. None of the other contenders reaches double digits in most polls at this point.

'GO ON THE ATTACK'

For the other contenders at the edges of the stage, the task will be simply to make an impression.

"You may have candidates on the stage who have no other option but to go on the attack," said Chris Kofinis, a Democratic strategist who worked on the presidential campaign of former U.S. Senator John Edwards.

"If you are any of the bottom seven, you have to say something or do something to stand out. It's simple math," he said.

The sharp bickering during the first two rounds of the debates dismayed some Democrats, who

have urged the candidates to rein in their attacks and focus on laying out their own affirmative agendas.

"A lot of us have talked to the candidates directly, and I think you are going to see people really offering a vision," said Ray Buckley, chairman of the New Hampshire state party. "Right now, this country does not need to hear about Democrats squabbling."

Also participating in the debate in Houston will be U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, former U.S. Housing Secretary Julian Castro, former U.S. Representative Beto O'Rourke and entrepreneur Andrew Yang.

Castro, also the former mayor of San Antonio, and O'Rourke are both from Texas, which will vote on Super Tuesday early in the nominating schedule next year.

The Houston debate, to be televised by ABC News, is scheduled to last for up to three hours.

"This is a great opportunity for me. We'll have more people watching because it's just one night," Klobuchar told reporters.

Many of the candidates left off the stage have grumbled about the Democratic National Committee doubling the fundraising and polling requirements from the first two debates.

One more contender, billionaire activist Tom Steyer, managed to qualify last week for the October debate. That ensures two nights of Democratic debates again next month. **Agencies**

Multinational firms still investing in China despite US tariffs

WASHINGTON

DESPITE U.S. tariffs on China's exports to the United States, it appears, at least so far, that multinational firms, including those based in the United States, continue to find China an "attractive environment for new investment," U.S. economist Nicholas Lardy said on Tuesday.

In an article titled "Are Foreign Companies Really Leaving China in Doves?," Lardy, a senior fellow at the Washington D.C.-based Peterson Institute for International Economics, refuted U.S. President Donald Trump's claim that the "exodus of foreign firms," along with

other factors, is placing increasing economic pressure on China and thus making it anxious to reach a deal with the United States.

Trump, "in defending his trade war with China, has yet again let his Twitter fingers get ahead of reality," the veteran China watcher said, referring to a tweet in August in which the president said "China wants to make a deal so badly."

Thousands of companies are leaving because of the tariffs, they must stem the flow.

"Firstly, Lardy argued, the trade war has not dampened foreign direct investment (FDI) in China and "there is little support for the view that large numbers of foreign firms



are fleeing China; the opposite seems to be the case." Nonfinancial FDI in China is currently running at an annual rate of almost 140 billion U.S. dollars, which means that thousands of new foreign firms are established in China every month, Lardy said.

Moreover, since the tariff war broke out in mid-2018, FDI has expanded about 3 percent annually, roughly the same pace as in the

previous five years, he said.

Secondly, Lardy said, anecdotes of a handful of firms leaving China do not confirm a broad trend. Foreign firms have been moving out of China for decades, he said, with some entering with business strategies that fail and then exit, and others, especially those exporting the most labor-intensive consumer goods, moving production to other countries with much lower wages.

Thirdly, Lardy said, a large share of foreign firms in China, especially U.S. firms, are there primarily to produce goods to sell on China's "still rapidly growing domestic market," noting that these firms

"have no incentive" to relocate within Asia, much less to the United States.

Fourthly, Lardy said, "relocating production out of China is easier said than done." The economist pointed out that foreign affiliates operating in China draw on an extensive local supply chain that has been built up over the decades and employ about 25 million Chinese workers, a significant share of which is skilled engineers and managers. Vietnam is commonly mentioned as an alternative, but is "too small to absorb more than a tiny fraction of production" by foreign enterprises now operating in China, Lardy added. **Xinhua**

British opposition parties demand recall of Parliament

LONDON

THREE British main opposition parties joined forces Wednesday night demanding that Prime Minister Boris Johnson immediately recall the Parliament.

The Labour Party, along with the Scottish Nationalist Party and the Liberal Democrats led the demand, following a Scottish court ruling that the prime minister's suspension of Parliament was unlawful.

The case will go to a Supreme Court hearing next week. Despite growing protests, Downing Street made it clear that Johnson (pictured) would not reopen Parliament until Oct. 14 unless ordered to do so by the Supreme Court, Britain's highest legal body.

In another major development Wednesday night, the government refused to publish details of internal discussions about the suspension, or prorogation of the House of Commons despite Members of Parliament (MPs) voted to force the release.

But the government did comply with a call by MPs in the same vote to release the so-called Operation Yellowhammer papers, which warned of the risk of riots, rises in food prices and reduced medical supplies if Britain leaves the EU without a deal.

Cabinet Minister Michael Gove said other information sought by MPs was unreasonable and disproportionate. Earlier Wednesday, former Conservative Attorney General Dominic Grieve said the prime minister must resign if



it turns out that he had given the British monarch the wrong advice. Grieve was one of 21 politicians sacked last week from the Conservative benches for voting with the opposition.

Opposition MPs had argued that Johnson's decision to prorogue parliament was designed to stifle parliamentary debate

on Britain's future in the European Union. Labour's shadow Brexit secretary Keir Starmer joined the chorus of politicians calling on Johnson to reopen the Parliament to enable MPs to hold the prime minister to account. "This is really important. The idea of shutting down parliament offended people across the country and then they felt they weren't being told the truth," said Starmer.

The minority Liberal Democrats also called for parliament to be restored, with its Brexit spokesman Tom Brake accusing Johnson of "trampling on the very values and principles the United Kingdom was

founded upon." British media reported that about 40 of the 650 MPs returned to work on Wednesday to protest the Parliament suspension and show their support for the Scottish ruling.

Chair of the House of Commons Brexit committee and Labour politician Hilary Benn, Liberal Democrat leader Jo Swinson and Labour's Meg Hillier were among those gathering outside Westminster, saying they will continue to work throughout the suspension, even though they cannot hold any debates or speak in the famous chamber of the House of Commons. **Agencies**

Trump disposes of hawkish Bolton after policy differences became unresolvable

WASHINGTON

JOHN BOLTON, the third U.S. national security advisor during the Trump administration, ended his tenure Tuesday, as his relationship with the president frayed over policy differences.

Bolton's exit has rid the Trump administration of one of its most hawkish figures, who actively pushed for tougher stance in dealing with Iran, the Taliban and others.

While Bolton's departure has dampened the mood of few inside Washington and around the world, and is expected to improve the flexibility of U.S. foreign policy, it's far from certain that the White House would embrace a softer tone.

NOT ALIGNED

U.S. President Donald Trump announced Tuesday Bolton's departure in a series of tweets, which was unexpected for many as the White House had put out a guidance earlier that had Bolton (pictured) participating in a press briefing in the afternoon.

"I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the administration, and therefore I asked John for his resignation," Trump tweeted.

Trump added that he had asked for the resignation on Monday night, and received it Tuesday morning.

Bolton quickly offered a counter narrative, saying he had offered his resignation Monday night. He later told a Fox News reporter: "Let's be



clear, I resigned."

According to top officials of the Trump administration, Bolton, who entered office in April 2018, has had long-running policy differences with Trump.

Bolton's "priorities and policies just don't line up with the president," according to White House Spokesman

Hogan Gidley.

It's no secret in Washington that Bolton and Trump had different ideas regarding a slew of foreign policy issues, including Iran, Venezuela, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Bolton had been actively pushing for a military approach to Iran and Venezuela, and had called for exerting more pressure on the DPRK. The hard-line rhetoric was viewed to undermine Trump's campaign pledge to reduce U.S. overseas military operations, and ran counter to Trump's diplomatic efforts with the leaders of the DPRK and Iran.

U.S. media reported that the most recent fallout between Trump and Bolton erupted over a secret plan to

invite Taliban leaders and the Afghanisthan president to Camp David to hammer out a peace deal, which would help pave the way for a withdrawal from the war-torn country. Bolton reportedly opposed reaching a deal with the Taliban, triggering a heated argument between the two that led to the ousting.

NOT SURPRISING

While the announcement of Bolton's exit came at an unexpected timing, his departure has long been anticipated.

In an opinion piece published Tuesday, CNN said "it is surprising that Bolton's tenure even lasted this long," given his many clashes with Trump.

U.S. media had previously reported that Trump had been growing more

impatient with Bolton as he became less convinced that Bolton's advice would hand him a major foreign policy victory during his first tenure in office.

The impatience have led to a public show of contradiction during Trump's visit to Japan earlier this year, when he denied he was seeking regime change in Iran, while Bolton asserted otherwise.

Republican senators had mixed response to Bolton's departure. Mitt Romney of Utah said it was "an extraordinary loss for our nation and for the White House," while Rand Paul of Kentucky said "the threat of war worldwide goes down exponentially" with Bolton's exit. **Xinhua**

Alibaba launches undergraduate e-commerce programme for African students

HANGZHOU/KIGALI

CHINA'S e-commerce giant Alibaba on Wednesday launched its first undergraduate cross-border e-commerce program for African students.

The 22 students from Rwanda arrived in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou, where Alibaba is headquartered, Tuesday, the 20th anniversary of the tech giant.

"You came at the right time and to the right place," said Zeng Ming, president of Alibaba Business School with the Hangzhou Normal University, at the opening ceremony. The school is not a traditional business school, but one that focuses on the internet economy, said Zeng.

"Foreign students can take courses related to the internet, global trade and cross-border e-commerce and also gain firsthand experience of the development of China's digital economy," he said.

"This opportunity will change our lives," said 18-year-old Mike Manzi. He said that after graduation, he hopes to set up an e-commerce platform back in his country that helps simplify tax declarations and customs clearance for cross-border trade.

The programme is part of a cooperation agreement between the Rwandan government and Alibaba under the latter's Electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP) initiative.

Rwanda and Alibaba launched the eWTP in October 2018, making Rwanda the first African country to launch the platform. Since the launch of the eWTP, Rwanda's coffee and tourism products have been sold on Alibaba's e-commerce platforms, including coffee from Rwandan company "Land of a Thousand Hills."

The eWTP demonstrates the friendly development concept of China's Belt and Road Initiative and help connect the world through the internet, said Virgile Rwanyagatare, the Charge d'Affaires at the Rwandan Embassy in China, at the ceremony. China sells goods to the world through e-commerce, and African countries will soon be able to connect to these online platforms, said Rwanyagatare.

"The eWTP is an opportunity for Rwandans, and I believe it will help Rwanda's development in terms of economy and e-commerce," said Manzi.

Rwanda wants to become a middle-income nation by embracing digitalization and smart business transactions through the eWTP, said Sanny Ntayomya, head of communications and marketing at Rwanda Development Board, in a written interview with Xinhua.

The prospects of the eWTP are high in Rwanda, said Ntayomya, and the country hopes the partnership results in more trade with China and the world. "With four-year systematic learning, we hope Rwandan students can integrate into China's digital economy and become a backbone for Rwanda after graduation," said Huang Mingwei, vice president of Alibaba.

Over the past year, Alibaba has provided e-commerce training programs for officials, business owners, entrepreneurs, and college teachers from Rwanda. The company has jointly developed e-commerce courses with Rwanda's African Leadership University.

Rwanyagatare said he expects the students to become strong leaders and develop successful businesses in the future and to teach people back home what they have learned in China. **Xinhua**

Moscow says UN General Assembly meeting on Iranian nuclear deal possible

MOSCOW

A meeting between the parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear program can be held on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York but no agreements have been clearly hammered out yet, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS yesterday.

"There can possibly be held something of the sort in New York at the high level [UNGA]. However, it is premature to talk about it yet."

Contacts for the sake of contacts on any level are only useful to send a message. Nevertheless, the complexity of issues surrounding the JCPOA is so evident today that without agreements and without results such a meeting can only raise more questions," he said.

Ryabkov pointed out that so far there had been no agreements reached to hold a meeting of the joint commission on the Iranian nuclear deal at the level of political directors or ministers, "but that does not mean that work is not carried out."

Tensions over Iran's nuclear program exacerbated after Washington unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018 and slapped US economic sanctions on Iran's oil exports. **Agencies**



President Hassan Rouhani

US warmongers should go, Iran says after Bolton firing

TEHRAN

IRAN'S president urged the US on Wednesday to "put warmongers aside" as tensions roil the Persian Gulf amid an escalating crisis between Washington and Tehran in the wake of the collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

Hassan Rouhani's remarks signaled approval of President Donald Trump's abrupt dismissal of John Bolton as national security adviser, a man routinely pilloried by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif as part of a "B Team" that targeted Iran.

Bolton had for years been critical of Tehran and once promised before an Iranian exile group that they'd be celebrating the overthrow of Iran's government this year.

Bolton's departure also comes amid speculation about Trump potentially meeting Rouhani during the upcoming UN General Assembly this month in New York. Whether such a meeting materializes, however, remains in question, though Iranian comments Wednesday seemed to suggest Tehran would be willing to pin hostilities on the departing Bolton rather than Trump himself.

Rouhani spoke after a Cabinet meeting Wednesday, a day that saw all major newspapers in Iran cover Bolton's departure. The pro-reform Shargh daily newspaper had one large headline that read: "Bolton: A scapegoat for Iran?"

"Americans have to realize that warmongering and warmongers are not to their benefit," the Iranian president said in televised remarks. "They should not only abandon warmongering but also abandon their maximum pressure policy."

Rouhani, in a phone call with French President Emmanuel Macron later Wednesday, repeated his position that if Europe finalizes a way for Iran to sell its oil, Iran would return to the nuclear

deal's commitments.

He also reiterated that lifting US sanctions would bring Tehran back to the negotiating table with world powers, but the post to his official website detailing the call with Macron did not elaborate on what might be up for negotiation. Rouhani said as long as sanctions remain, "negotiating with the US makes no sense."

Ali Rabiee, a government spokesman, said after the meeting that Bolton's dismissal may help the US have a "less biased" attitude toward Iran.

Though he stressed the dismissal was an internal US issue, Rabiee called Bolton "the symbol of America's hawkish policies and its animosity toward Iran."

For his part, Zarif again used Twitter to write about what he calls the #B Team, which included Bolton, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, all hawks on Iran.

Zarif said "the world – minus 3 or 2 panicked cohorts – was breathing a sigh of relief" after Bolton's ouster. "Thirst for war – maximum pressure – should go with the warmonger-in-chief," Zarif wrote.

Hard-liners, however, urged caution. Gen. Mohsen Rezaee, a commander in the powerful Revolutionary Guard and its former chief, said in a tweet: "We will not be deceived by the sacrificing of Bolton."

Ali Shamkhani, a top Iranian security official and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, said Bolton's exit has "no impact" on how Tehran views US policy. He said what matters to Iran is US "compliance with international commitments as well as lifting cruel and illegal sanctions," the semi-official Fars news agency reported Wednesday.

Agencies

Rwanda, Uganda officials to meet in Kigali to discuss improved relations

KIGALI

GOVERNMENT officials from Rwanda and Uganda will meet in Rwandan capital city Kigali next Monday to discuss the implementation of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) of ceasing the hostilities between the two sides, a Rwandan official said Wednesday.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame signed the MoU in August during a quadripartite summit which was also attended by the host Angolan President Joao Lourenco and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) leader Felix Tshisekedi in Luanda.

Ugandan officials will be led by the minister of foreign affairs. Government officials of intelligence and internal affairs from Rwanda and Uganda will attend the meeting, Rwandan Minister of State in charge of East African Affairs Olivier Nduhugirehe told the national television Rwanda Television during a news program.

An ad hoc commission provided in the MoU will come up with tangible solutions that would see a bilateral standoff between two countries being resolved, he said.

The two countries in the MoU committed to refraining from actions conducive to destabilization or subversion in the territory of the other party or neighboring countries and also eliminating all factors that may create such perception.

The leaders of the two countries 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, according to the MoU. The two countries will resume cross-border activities, including movement of persons and goods, the MoU said.

The agreement was expected to take effect immediately upon signature, as committed by the two heads of state.

Xinhua

China's first tariff exemption lists of US products ease trade friction impact, firms' burden

BEIJING

CHINA on Wednesday unveiled the first set of U.S. goods to be excluded from the first round of additional tariffs on U.S. products, which will help effectively deal with economic and trade frictions and ease enterprises' burdens, experts said.

The exemption, which covers two lists with 16 categories of goods, will be valid

from Sept. 17, 2019, to Sept. 16, 2020, the Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council said in a statement.

The first list includes 12 categories and allows affected import enterprises to apply for refunds of levied duties within six months starting Wednesday.

The second list includes four categories that will enjoy the exemption but are not eligible for tariff refunds.

"The tariff exemption mechanism, a common practice used in the United States, Canada and other economies, is helping ease the impact of the China-U.S. economic and trade frictions and enterprises' burdens," according to Chen Huaisheng, a legal expert with the China Chamber of International Commerce.

Zhao Zhiping, deputy secretary general of the China Petroleum and Chemical Industry Federation, said the move would help reduce market fluctuations as the mechanism targets product categories, benefiting not just the applicant, but also other counterparts.

The first batch of tariff exemption applicants totaled over 1,000, and about 300 are qualified, indicating a rather large exemption share. Chen pointed out that China's tariff exemption mecha-

nism covers more products and more firms as it lists product categories instead of specific products, which is practiced by the United States.

It only took over three months for China to process the first batch of applications, according to Chen. "The high efficiency indicates the Chinese government's responsible attitude to the public and enterprises."

Meanwhile, four categories of agricultural and livestock products were listed to help meet the needs of domestic livestock farming and people's daily consumption, observed Tian Zhihong, a professor with China Agricultural University.

Next, the commission will continue to work on the exemption process and release subsequent lists in due course, according to the state-

ment. China has launched three rounds of countermeasures to deal with U.S. tariff hikes since July 2018.

China started to accept the second batch of tariff exemption applications on Sept. 2, which will stay open until Oct. 18. The application details for tariff exemptions of China's third round of tariff countermeasures will be disclosed at a later date.

Xinhua

Russian diplomat warns about nuclear war risk in modern world

MOSCOW

THE risk of a nuclear war exists in modern international environment, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said yesterday.

"There is a risk that a nuclear war could break out. Negative dynamics has been especially noticeable over the past year," Ryabkov (pictured) said, speaking during the presentation of a report "New understanding and ways of enhancing multi-lateral strategic stability" at a TASS press center.

According to the high-ranking



diplomat, Western colleagues' moves are becoming more emotional and sometimes aggressive.

"They are avoiding a substantive discussion on overdue issues and are stonewalling the work of dialogue channels, continue shattering the architecture of arms control and are deliberately pursuing a blatantly destructive line towards ruining effective treaty mechanisms in the sphere of security and stability, which had been in place for dozens of years," Ryabkov explained.

"This is a very dangerous and irresponsible behavior. It may trigger rather negative consequences for strategic stability," the senior diplomat stressed.

Agencies

Supreme Court allows Trump to deny asylum to many Central Americans

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. Supreme Court on Wednesday granted a request by President Donald Trump's administration to fully enforce a new rule that would curtail asylum applications by immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, a key element of his headline immigration policies.

The court said the rule, which requires most immigrants who want asylum to first seek safe haven in a third country through which they traveled on their way to the United States, could go into effect as litigation challenging its legality continues.

Among the nine judges on the court, liberal Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented.

The court's ruling handed a victory to Trump at a time when much of his immigration agenda had been struck down by lower courts. "BIG United States Supreme Court WIN for the Border on Asylum!" Trump said on Twitter.

The rule would bar almost all immigrants from applying for asylum at the southern border. It represents the latest effort by Trump's administration to crack down on immigration, a signature issue during his presidency and 2020 re-election bid.

The American Civil Liberties Union and others who challenged the administration's policy in federal court said it violates U.S. immigration law and accused the administration of failing to follow the correct legal process in issuing the rule, which was unveiled on July 15.

In her dissent, Sotomayor said that the government's rule may be in significant tension with the asylum statute.

"It is especially concerning, moreover, that the rule the government promulgated topples decades of settled asylum practices and affects some of the most



President Donald Trump

vulnerable people in the Western Hemisphere – without affording the public a chance to weigh in."

Eight days after the rule went into effect in July, California-based U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar issued a nationwide injunction blocking it.

Then began a back-and-forth between Tigar and the 9th Circuit, which scaled back the injunction so that the Trump rule was blocked in the border states of California and Arizona while in effect in Texas and New Mexico.

Tigar ruled to restore the nationwide ban on Monday, but the 9th Circuit scaled it back again on Tuesday night.

They were both trumped by Supreme Court, which will allow the asylum restriction to remain in place until the underlying legality of the rule is determined at trial.

"This is just a temporary step, and we're hopeful we'll prevail at the end of the day," ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt said. "The lives of thousands of families are at stake."

The Republican president's administration issued the rule in an attempt to reduce the surging number of asylum claims primarily by Central American migrants who have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in large numbers during his presidency.

The rule would block nearly all families and individuals from countries like El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala from entering the United States as asylum seekers after crossing through Mexico. The rule would keep asylum protections for Mexican citizens.

White House spokesman Hogan Gidley said the Trump administration was "pleased" by the Supreme Court's decision, which he said rejected an "erroneous" ruling by the lower court judge.

But Jerrold Nadler, the Democratic chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee, and Zoe Lofgren, the head of the judiciary panel's immigration subcommittee, called the court's decision disappointing.

Agencies

11 African heads of State confirm attendance at Zimbabwe's Mugabe funeral

HARARE

ZIMBABWE President Emmerson Mnangagwa yesterday said 11 heads of State had so far confirmed attendance at former President Robert Mugabe's funeral parade slated for the National Sports Stadium on Saturday.

Mnangagwa, who was accompanied by members of the ruling ZANU-PF politburo and service chiefs, visited the grieving Mugabe family at its residence yesterday to pay his condolences following Mugabe's death last Friday.

Mugabe died in Singapore last Friday aged 95. Addressing mourners, Mnangagwa pledged his full support to the former First Family and said he would discuss

further details on date and place of burial with Mugabe's widow, Grace.

Mnangagwa said the late former president would forever remain an icon and champion of the liberation struggle.

He denied social media reports that he had sought to bribe traditional leaders who visited him earlier during the week so that they

could influence the government's preferred burial place for Mugabe.

While the government wants him to be buried at the National Heroes Acre in Harare, some family members are understood to be keen on following his wishes that he should be buried next to his mother in his rural home area of Zvimba.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Chinese language department of Sudan's largest university grows as more students enroll

KHARTOUM

THE Chinese Language Department of the University of Khartoum, Sudan's largest university, has seen increasing number of Sudanese students since its establishment 26 years ago, Mohamed Hassan, head of the department, said on Wednesday.

"The Chinese Language Department has become the biggest at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Khartoum in terms of the number of students," Hassan told Xinhua in an interview.

"The Chinese Language Department

was established in 1993. It started with very few students...but now the number has greatly increased," he noted.

This year, the number of the students at the Chinese Language Department has reached 350, while there are around 2,000 students studying Chinese language at Confucius Institute, an affiliate of the University of Khartoum, and the Chinese language is now taught at around 10 Sudanese universities.

Hassan explained that the motivating policies adopted by the Chinese government have contributed to the in-

creasing number of students learning Chinese language.

"The Chinese government encourages our students by granting scholarships for the outstanding ones," he added. "Our Chinese language students are very distinguished ... Our excellence at the Chinese Bridge Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students is the evidence for this, where our student Mohamed Al-Muiz won the first prize at the world level," the school official said.

Hassan also said that the Chinese companies operating in Sudan provide

jobs for graduates of the Chinese Language Department.

He stressed the growing role of the Chinese Language Department in spreading Chinese culture and enhancing the relations between Sudan and China, and expressed hope that the department would expand in the near future.

"We are looking forward to seeing the Chinese Language Department become a college in the future, but our dream is even to see it become a university specialized in teaching Chinese language," Hassan said.

Xinhua



JKT Tanzania fullback, Miraji Madenge (3rd L), blocks Simba SC midfielder, Hassan Dilunga, during the Vodacom Premier League clash which took place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Simba won 3-1. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT MIRAJI MSALA

Key talking points in the Vodacom Premier League after the international break

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

MAINLAND Tanzania Premier League will, after a two-week international football break, return to action this weekend.

After the opening round had registered 19 goals we look ahead to what promises to be another exciting weekend of Tanzania football.

Due to Young Africans and Azam FC's commitments in CAF Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively, there are only eight matches instead of the usual 10 scheduled for this weekend.

Let's take a look at the key talking points ahead of the weekend's action.

Will Kagera Sugar flatter to deceive?

If you are a Kagera Sugar supporter you are probably in football heaven as your side started the season much better than how they ended the last. They won 2-0 away to Biashara United. For a side that avoided relegation through play off that's an encouraging start.

However, last season Kagera Sugar registered an opening day victory but went on a series of draws in their next four matches. It is something they would like to avoid as they face Alliance in Mwanza.

Can Jackson Mayanja buck the trend at KMC FC?

Ugandan coach Jackson Mayanja knows another loss could see him become a dead man walking. They have been knocked out of two competitions, CAF Confederation Cup and CECAFA Kagame Cup and have lost their opening league match.

Having coached in the league for more than four years, Mayanja knows it is a very unforgiving environment and he has to buck the trend.

This weekend against Coastal Union is arguably a must-not-lose match for the former Simba and Kagera Sugar coach, with his detractors likely to become more vocal in their criticism if the club's winless streak continues.

Will Simba grab a successive win?

Simba and Mtwara Sugar kick-off the action at Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam today

evening. Simba are confident after exhausting the demons of early CAF Champions League elimination with a convincing 3-1 victory over JKT Tanzania.

However, they face up to Mtwara Sugar who will prove far trickier opponents than the military side. Although the recent head-to-head stats are heavily in Simba's favour, they should be wary of Mtwara Sugar's attack.

Can Lucas Kikoti keep scoring goals for Namungo FC?

Lucas Kikoti is a player many Tanzania Mainland Premier League fans may not have known before this season. He scored a brace as Namungo FC beat Ndanda FC 2-1. Yet if he, and they, can keep this up, then the newly promoted team could well make a good case for a solid top flight debut.

With Kagera in doubt for Simba's Friday encounter with Mtwara Sugar due to international commitment, this could be a good chance for Kikoti to set an early lead at the top of the scoring charts.

Can Minziro get Singida United back on track?

The once very ambitious Singida United once again lost their opening match after going down 1-0 to Mwanza FC.

This weekend they face another test of character as they travel to Lindi to face a dangerous a confident Namungo outfit.

This is going to be one of the most fascinating matches to watch this weekend. Coach Fred Felix 'Minziro' needs his team to deliver a first win to ease concerns about his own perceived merit of coaching in the top flight, while Namungo will see it as an opportunity to show their credentials. 'Minziro' will need to use all his magic to conjure up a positive result.

Will match officials improve?

Tanzanian match officials have a tendency of ruining matches with their consistent incoherence. True to form the opening matches did have some controversies, topped by an assistant referee incorrectly ruling out a goal scored by Ruwala Shooting.

Dar tennis players set for social tourney

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Tennis Section is set to host a social singles tournament at the end of this month.

One of the tournament's organizers Sanjay Chokshi said the event will be held on September 28 at the premises and they expect many players to compete in it.

"On September 28 we will have a social singles tournament at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, we expect many people to attend," said a brief information from him.

He, however did not issue more details on the event, promising to provide the details latter in the month.

MultiChoice Film Academy graduates visit Parliament



MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Public Relations Department, Johnson Mshana (2nd L) introduces youths that have attended a special training in film production, held in Nairobi, to Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe (L), when the youths visited the minister in Dodoma recently. The four were part of 60 youths from across Africa who attended the program, known as MultiChoice Talent Factory, which is backed by MultiChoice. They youths are Sarah Kimario (3rd L), Jamal Mohamed (3rd R), Wilson Nkya (2nd R) and Jane Moshi. MultiChoice Tanzania Public Relations Officer, Grace Mgaya (C), attended the occasion. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MULTICHOICE TANZANIA

By Guardian Reporter

FOUR youths that have attended a special training in film production known as MultiChoice Talent Factory, supported by MultiChoice Tanzania, visited Parliament session that is taking place in Dodoma.

Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports was the youths' host at the venue.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Tulia Akson, Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, his deputy Juliana Shonza, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Office-Labour, Youths and Employment- Anthony Mavunde,

and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture Arts and Sports, Suzan Mlawi, welcomed the youths.

The officials appealed to the youths to make the most of their training to improve the film industry in the country.

The admitted the film industry has enjoyed progress at the domestic level and, for that matter, the industry's members should have proper training which will help them compete favourably with other countries in the market at the international level.

The members, the official insisted, should also see to it their works reflect culture, norms and

patriotism.

Suzan pledged the government's cooperation with members of various professions in a bid to help their respective professions enjoy success.

She pointed out the members' cooperation with the government is an important aspect in the professions' growth.

She noted the government will keep on seeing to it policies and regulations set for the film industry are modernized in an effort to reflect the profession's growth.

The four youths- Wilson Nkya, Jane Moshi, Jamal Mohamed and Sarah Kimario graduated from a one-year training that is sponsored

by MultiChoice.

A total of 60 youths from various countries from across Africa were selected to participate in the training.

The program was held in three zones, in which the Southern Zone's event took place in Lusaka, Zambia.

Kenya's capital city, Nairobi, served as the program's center for the East Africa Zone, the Western Zone's event took place in Lagos, Nigeria.

The second phase of the program will start in October, in which the other 60 youths will take part in the training.

Tanzania will, once again, field four youths in the training.

Customs ought to motivate creativity - call



Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s Morogoro regional secretary, Shaka Hamidu Shaka (R) receives a Maasai society gift as a symbol of peace and motivation for ending conflicts between pastoralists and farmers in Kilosa District. Shaka was one of guests at a ceremony for ordaining Maasai chief, Mtayani Simanga, in the district last weekend. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

CATTLE herders in Kilosa District in Morogoro should make full use of their customs to improve their lives regional secretary for the ruling party, Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Shaka Hamid, has disclosed.

Hamid pointed out the herders should focus on, for instance, construction of modern houses, sending their children to school and living peacefully with other communities.

Hamid had attended a ceremony for ordaining a Maasai elder, Olaibon Mtayani Simanga, as the tribe's chief. The ceremony took place at Kilangali Ward in the district.

Traditional leaders and several CCM officials were

invited to the ceremony.

Simanga will, as per the tribe's customs, serve as leader for Maasai people in six regions, namely Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Mbeya, Songwe and Njombe.

Hamid disclosed Maasai's customs are important to middle income country, adding the tribe's family duties are allocated according to age groups.

Such a system, he said, ought to be applied by other communities in the country.

"It's time customs united herders and farmers for sustainable progress rather than instigating conflicts in the community," he stressed.

"President John Magufuli implements CCM's customs that aim at serving people the same way Maasai do.

Maasai are committed to allocating work according to age groups, as well as creating conducive environment for performing the tasks."

Hamid promised he will cooperate with the Maasai leader, insisting the government will not condone violence.

"People will enjoy progress once they live peacefully. We will not be an industrialized country if there is no peace."

James hits ground running, United not yet up to speed

LONDON

MANCHESTER United's record in the transfer market in recent seasons has been more miss than hit with the likes of Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Alexis Sanchez, Memphis Depay and Fred all failing to spark for the Old Trafford club.

In former Swansea City winger Daniel James, however, they may just have hit the jackpot with comparisons already being drawn with their former Welsh flyer Ryan Giggs.

United host Leicester City on Saturday aiming to kick-start their season, having managed only one win from their opening four Premier League games.

A haul of five points, seven fewer than leaders and arch-rivals Liverpool, might ordinarily have the fans grumbling already but in James they finally have a player capable of quickening the pulse with his searing pace and trickery.

Since joining from Championship club Swansea for a reported 15 million pounds (\$18.49 million), James has netted three times in the league, including on his debut in the 4-0 hammering of Chelsea. He also scored superb goals in the 2-1 defeat by Crystal Palace and in the 1-1 draw with Southampton.

He was on target again for Wales against Belarus during the international break and Giggs, his national team manager, is effusive in his praise for the 21-year-old who is already looking like one of the best signings in the transfer window.

"He's one of those players, you know what he's going to do, but you can't stop it," Giggs said this week, referring to James' incredible dribbling speed and ability to cut in from the left, where he often plays despite being right-sided, and hit the target.

REUTERS

Madrid have wanted Lewandowski and Pogba, but they won't sell - Perez

MADRID

REAL Madrid president Florentino Perez admitted the LaLiga giants have chased Robert Lewandowski and Paul Pogba.

Bayern Munich striker Lewandowski has been linked to Madrid previously, while they have also targeted Manchester United star Pogba.

Speaking on Wednesday, Perez said Madrid had chased Lewandowski and were experiencing similar in their pursuit of Pogba.

"There are players who do not sell," he said, via Spanish media.

"For Lewandowski, we have gone for several years for him and nothing

because he has no clause and they don't sell him.

"There is no way and that has happened to us with Pogba. When certain players are sold, we can go for them."

Another player Madrid have been linked to is 20-year-old Paris Saint-Germain superstar Kylian Mbappe.

Perez was coy when asked about the France international, who is widely regarded as the best young talent in the world.

"Of course we like a Frenchman that they say out there and we'll go for him," he said. "But they don't sell him."

(Agencies)

'Youngsters not mature enough to carry Man Utd', says Wenger

LONDON

OLE Gunnar Solskjaer's Manchester United is too green to be successful, according to Arsene Wenger's assessment of the Red Devils.

The long-time Arsenal boss is a veteran of three Premier League titles and has a legacy of fighting for England's top honours with Old Trafford legend Sir Alex Ferguson.

With United still struggling to break out of a prolonged slump which began after the departure of the Scot in 2013, Solskjaer has elected to rejuvenate the squad by adding youth to his ranks, notably in the form of Daniel James and Aaron Wan-Bissaka.

It is a tactic that harks back to the days when United's dominance was driven by their youth academy and the 'Class of 92', which included players like Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, David Beckham and Gary Neville, who all went on to establish themselves as legends.

Solskjaer's side, though, have won just once in their four Premier League matches so far this season and find themselves facing an uphill battle to return to the Champions League, while Wenger has written them off with regards the title race.

"When you see Man United they

are one of the examples where there is a potential there, but they have not found a collective way," Wenger told beIN Sports. "Maybe these players are not mature enough to carry the team play of a team like Man United all together."

"That's the big question mark now. You feel there is something coming out but it's not ready."

"That's why I say when you watch them play they are not candidates to fight for the championship."

"Will they emulate what Giggs, Scholes and Beckham did over a number of years? Personally, I'm not convinced."

United lie eighth in the table following the first international break of the season, with only a win over Chelsea on the opening weekend of the season to comfort them.

They play host to Leicester on Saturday as a busy period of the season kicks off then tackle Astana in the Europa League at Old Trafford the following Thursday.

Wenger will doubtless be tracking their progress intently over the weeks to come, as United have a Monday clash against the Gunners to follow on the final day of September.

(Agencies)

FIFA officials to visit Iran after death of 'Blue Girl'

MANCHESTER, England

FIFA officials will visit Iran, following the death of a female fan who set herself on fire in protest at her arrest for attending a match, world soccer's governing body told Reuters on Wednesday.

Sahar Khodayari, dubbed "Blue Girl" due to her favourite team Esteghlal's colours, died in hospital on Monday after her self-immolation outside a court where she feared being jailed for six months having attended the match in disguise as a man.

While foreign women have been allowed limited access to matches, Iranian women have been banned from stadiums when men's teams have been playing since just after the 1979 Islamic revolution.

A FIFA spokesman said that meetings with Iranian soccer officials, expected inside the next two weeks, were part of preparations for Iran's World Cup qualifying games – they face Cambodia at home on Oct. 10 – and were not a specific response to Khodayari's death.

The FIFA officials, however, will check the preparations made by the Iranian FA to provide access to that Oct. 10 match for women.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has previously urged Iranian authorities to take "concrete steps" to allow Iranian and foreign women to buy tickets and attend games.

The death of Khodayari has caused widespread outrage in Iran and internationally and there have been calls on social media for Iran's football federation to be suspended or banned by FIFA.

Popular Iranian exile musician Arash Sobhani, of the group Kiosk, was among those who took to social media to protest and told Reuters that Infantino needed to take action.

"He needs to step up and do what is right. Ban the Iranian federation until they allow all the Iranian women to go to the stadium. They should be just as equal as the men," he said.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, FIFA expressed its condolences and said it reiterated "our calls on the Iranian authorities to ensure the freedom and safety of any women engaged in this legitimate fight to end the stadium ban for women in Iran."

'FOUL LANGUAGE'

Jesper Moller, president of the Danish Football Union, and a member of FIFA's organising committee for competitions, told Danish newspaper Politiken that he expects action from the governing body.



In this file photo taken on June 25, 2018 Iranian women watch the World Cup Group B soccer match between Portugal and Iran at Azadi stadium in Tehran. (AFP)

"FIFA has an independent disciplinary system and they will look at it. I will let them. And once they have given a verdict, it may well be that the case ends up with the international sports court, CAS. But that it (the stadium ban) must be punished is clear," said Moller, who is also a member of European governing body UEFA's executive committee.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's chief of staff said on Wednesday that women would be allowed into stadiums if foul language in chants and sporadic violence was curbed.

"We don't see a problem with women attending if the atmosphere in stadiums is convenient... but with so much foul language among fans and violence, this is not advisable," Mahmoud Vaezi told state television.

He said the sports minister would contact leaders of supporter groups to "improve the atmosphere from a moral standpoint" and special areas for women would be set up in stadiums.

"If there is a well-mannered atmosphere in stadiums, we have no objection

to (the admission of women)," Vaezi told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

Iran's national team won a World Cup qualifier in Hong Kong 2-0 on Tuesday.

Captain Masoud Shojaei issued a statement on Instagram, describing the match as "the most bitter and saddest win of the national team."

"We scored two goals and won the game on the field. But we lost because Sahar is no longer," he wrote.

"Shame on me for not having been able to do anything and shame on those who took away the most obvious right from Sahar and all Sahars."

'EQUALITY IS A LIE'

Former Australia captain and human rights activist Craig Foster told Reuters that FIFA needed to enforce its own rules.

"The FIFA statutes say that discrimination on grounds of gender is punishable by suspension or expulsion," he said.

"If the statutes are not worth upholding, then withdraw them and let football be honest to the women of Iran. Because at the moment, despite the promise,

equality is a lie," he added.

There were signs that the situation regarding female fans in Iran was changing when a group of women were permitted to attend the second leg of the Asian Champions League final in Tehran last November.

Infantino was present at the Azadi Stadium when Persepolis played Japan's Kashima Antlers in front more than 1,000 female fans in a designated "family section".

That came after concerted efforts from pressure groups both inside and outside Iran, who were backed by senior players and former national team coach Carlos Queiroz.

It was hoped the breakthrough, which came after Infantino discussed the issue with Rouhani, would lead to further concessions on the issue in the conservative Islamic nation.

Female fans, however, have been denied access to matches since. At Iran's friendly against Syria in June, women were locked out of the Azadi Stadium and detained by security forces.

REUTERS

English football 'needs to wake up' over players' security - expert

STROUD, United Kingdom

ENGLISH football clubs will only wake up to the security risks their players face when either one of them or a member of their family are maimed or killed, a security expert told AFP.

The stark warning from former soldier Alex Bomberg comes after Arsenal stars Mesut Ozil and Sead Kolasinac were targeted in a carjacking attack by knife-wielding men on mopeds in London in July.

The fallout from that incident resulted in the duo being left out of the opening Premier League fixture with Newcastle due to "further security incidents".

Bomberg, founder and CEO of Intelligent (UK Holdings) Limited, is responsible for the personal protection of nine footballers in Spain and France but says he has had no approaches from England-based players even since the incident involving German star Ozil and Bosnian international Kolasinac.

He said he was surprised that super-rich Premier League players and clubs were underestimating the threat.

"Footballers are more exposed in the United Kingdom, far more exposed," the former aide to the British royal family told AFP at his office in Gloucestershire in the west of England.

"I think we have a serious problem in the UK and it does surprise me how we look at it."

"This is a really serious subject which needs proper attention and I can tell you what will happen; nothing will change dramatically until a footballer or member of his family either is seriously injured or killed."

Bomberg, who says he has been contacted by other players in mainland Europe since the Arsenal stars were attacked, believes footballers and their families are especially vulnerable.

"I came across newspaper clippings from 2009 where they were talking about 21 robberies of British players' homes in a three-year period," he said.

"That is 2009 so where are we now? We are nearly 2020, we were talking about it 10 years ago and it is still a problem today."

He said elite footballers were particularly vulnerable because their movements are so widely known. "It's advertised when footballers are away from home because they are playing football. Straight away that leaves them exposed."

The Ozil incident received widespread coverage because Kolasinac fought off the assailants, but Bomberg says that was the wrong way to respond.

"He did what many young guys would do but he put himself and his friend (Ozil) in danger," said Bomberg. "It could have ended in a very different way, we know how many people get stabbed in London every day." - 'Protecting clubs' assets'

Bomberg, whose clients also include celebrities, members of foreign royal families, lawyers and



English football need to wake up to the threat to footballers and their families security in the wake of the attack on Arsenal stars Mesut Ozil and Sead Kolasinac security expert Alex Bomberg told AFP (AFP Photo)

bankers – he will not divulge their identities – says he teaches clients how to deal with such incidents.

He said he tells them if they are with their family in a car and someone is following them, they should ask themselves: "What are we going to do to prevent them trying to stop the car?"

"Do as the footballers did? Get out and confront them or dial the police, or beep the horn to bring attention to yourselves."

"Or drive to the nearest police station or to a garage forecourt where there is CCTV?"

"It is knowing that. You have got to start somewhere and I believe football-

ers are not being given the right advice."

Bomberg says he believes one of the reasons for such attitudes is a lack of understanding of the concept of security.

"I think that security for a lot of people is a dirty word," he said.

"They think of an old bloke falling asleep in his hut or some guy wearing a yellow vest."

Bomberg's basic entry package costs a cool £400,000 (\$490,000) and uses close protection officers who are normally ex-special forces or policemen.

He said the approach of International Intelligence Limited, which he founded in 2002, was high-tech.

"We can put a technical fence round your property."

"If someone is outside and tweeting 'I am going to (expletive) kill him' they don't need to mention the name as that will still flag up to us because they are using profanity and a threat within that 'geo-fenced' area."

Bomberg is unsure where the duty of care for football clubs ends.

"I think the whole football business industry needs to wake up," he said. "These men and women are the assets of the club."

"Okay the club might have the bricks and mortar of the stadium but these people are the celebrities and what the sponsors are paying for."

"If you have a vehicle worth half a million pounds would you leave it parked randomly somewhere in London?"

"They need to start to realise they have a legal duty of care, a responsibility not just to footballers but to families."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

FIFA officials to visit Iran
after death of 'Blue Girl'

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Stanbic Bank employees register for the Brazuka City Marathon that will be held at Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete (JMK) Youth Park in Dar es Salaam on Sunday to raise funds to support medical treatment for children with cardiac problems, at Stanbic Bank Headquarters yesterday. The bank has sponsored 300 employees to participate in the marathon. PHOTO: GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

Taifa Stars should prepare well for 2022 World Cup qualifiers, says coach

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TAIFA Stars' head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, is adamant the squad needs to prepare thoroughly for the groups' phase of the 2022 World Cup qualifiers for Africa.

Ndayiragije has steered the side to the phase with aggregate win over Burundi in the preliminary stage.

The two team's first leg, which took place in Bujumbura, ended in a 1-1 draw.

Strikers, Simon Msuva and Cedric Amissi, found the back of the net for Taifa Stars and Burundi respectively in the clash.

The return leg which took place in Dar es Salaam saw the two teams again settle for 1-1 draw after regular 90 minutes and extra time, forcing the match to the penalty shootout.

Taifa Stars prevailed in the penalty shootout, with midfielder Himid Mao and defenders, Gadiel Michael and Erasto Nyoni, drilling in the penalties.

Burundi players failed to net the spot kicks to ultimately exit the qualifiers.

The Burundian tactician pleaded for support from all stakeholders for the team's preparations in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers and Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers.

The Tanzania squad knocked Kenya out of the first round of the qualifiers for the competition to secure qualification for the second round.

"What is needed now is good preparations for the World Cup qualifiers and CHAN games. I am sure we have all it takes to be one of the best sides in the continent," he said.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup finals will be the 22nd edition of the global showpiece and will be the first staged in the Arab continent.

The tournament will get underway from November 21- December 18.

The world soccer governing body, FIFA, has yet to announce the dates for the draw for the groups' phase of the 2022 World Cup Africa qualifiers.

Taifa Stars qualified for the groups' stage alongside 13 other teams that played in the preliminary round to join 26 sides that were seeded.

Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) information officer Clifford Ndimbo yesterday could not be reached to disclose if the local football governing body is aware of the dates for the qualifiers.

Confederation of African Football (CAF) also has yet to present the dates only saying that the group stage games would take place in March next year.

The continental football governing body said the 14 winning teams from the preliminary round will join the 26 exempted teams for the group stage, which will have 10 groups of four teams each.

"The draw for the groups will be based on the seeding of the 40 teams into four pots according to the official ranking of FIFA. Each group will contain a team from each of the pot. The details for draw will be communicated later," a post on the CAF website read.

Each winner of the four-team 10 groups will make it to the final two-legged qualifying round to produce five best teams for the 2022 FIFA World Cup finals.

SANLAM Cape Town Marathon 2019 to raise funds for cancer treatment

PRETORIA

THE Sanlam Cape Town Marathon (SCTM) will take place in Cape Town, South Africa on Saturday and Sunday, with the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) being Sanlam's official beneficiary.

Since its re-launch in 2014, the race has gone from strength to strength and in 2018 it was awarded Gold Label status by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) for the second time.

Sydney Mbhele, Chief Executive of Brand at Sanlam, said: "The SCTM is the only climate-neutral marathon in the world. This year, there are 13,500 runners from over 80 countries taking part in the marathon, out of the total 25,000 runners covering all distances. We hope last year's best times of 2:08:31 for men and 2:29:28 for women will be beaten!"

He said the race was selected by Sanlam as a sponsorship in 2014 because it recognized the special contribution the event could make to community-building both within Cape Town and among those that travel from all over the world to participate.

"The race sees people from all walks of life - runners, fans, women, men, kids, old, young, different racial groups and nationalities - come together," Mbhele.

"We are especially cognizant of this unifying role against the backdrop of the current climate in South Africa and on the continent. Given this, the 10 km Peace Run is especially important and has close to 9,000 runners taking part."

The Sanlam Cape Town Marathon, one of 30 Gold Label marathons globally, is known as the best running race on the continent's calendar and is an ideal platform to raise funds and awareness for cancer.

"One in four people in South Africa is affected by cancer. Cancer does not discriminate against age, race or gender. Nor against income. And, as running is one of the most accessible sporting codes for all, we have the responsibility to highlight the illness to make more people aware of how to lower their risk."

This year, we've introduced a number of initiatives to support CANSA and raise awareness. These include a new and dynamic campaign inviting runners and fans to show their 'gees' to support CANSA, the organization for which Sanlam has raised over R45-million in 27 years. Runners and fans can contribute by joining Sanlam's Cancer Crew for CANSA where they can either fundraise by asking family and friends to sponsor their sport activities - like the marathon - or donate directly by visiting: GivenGain.com or SCTM-gees.co.za.

Maria Scholtz, CANSA's Head of Sustainability, said: "Sanlam and CANSA have been taking hands in the fight against cancer for over 27 years. This year, the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon opens up the opportunity for runners to make a difference and run for good as they take on this race for those affected by cancer. We promote regular exercise and physical activity which plays a major role in leading a healthy balanced lifestyle and can lower your cancer risk."



Taifa Stars

Dar media firm, TFF seal contract for broadcasting Taifa Stars' international friendlies

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AZAM Media yesterday signed a new four-year deal worth 6bn/- with Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) for live broadcast of international matches involving the senior national football squad, Taifa Stars.

The two parties moreover signed a contract which will see the media continue to bankroll the Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

The two deals were signed following the expiry of the last season's contract.

Azam Media Director of Sports, Patrick Kahemele, represented his firm in the ceremony, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Kahemele explained that under the new sponsorship, the company will sponsor the ASFC at 4.5bn/- while about 400m/- has

been allocated for beaming of Taifa Stars' international friendly matches live.

He said on top of sponsoring the ASFC, Azam Media will also have rights to beam all of the competition's matches and also disclosed Taifa Stars will be getting 35m/- after each game.

"We are very delighted that we have, today, signed a new contract with TFF, it's a deal worth 6bn/-, under this new four-year deal 4.5bn/- will cater for the ASFC sponsorship while 400m/- is for live broadcast of senior national team's international friendly matches," he noted.

"This means that TFF will, each year, be getting 100m/- from us and 35m/- will be presented to Taifa Stars after each international friendly match which is played on FIFA calendar."

The federation's officials who were pres-

ent at the function thanked Azam Media for the new sponsorship describing it as a game changer in local football.

"We would like to thank Azam Media for this year's sponsorship, this is a springboard and a game changer as far as commercialisation of the game is concerned," one of the federation's officials noted.

"The TV rights elsewhere is the main cash cow of the game, we are happy that the same is getting closer to our football, we ask Azam Media to continue sponsoring us," he added.

In the years which Azam Media has been broadcasting local football matches the quality has been consistent and satisfactory.

The situation has given some of domestic players a window of opportunity to get lucrative deals abroad.

TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY

10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kofi Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
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! Its a party on TV.

eastafrica 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

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko



The draw for the groups will be based on the seeding of the 40 teams into four pots according to the official ranking of FIFA. Each group will contain a team from each of the pot. The details for draw will be communicated later