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'I Can' awards winners PLWD rights 'envoys'

By Henry Mwangonde

WINNERS of the late Dr Reginald Mengi's I Can awards 2019 were yesterday declared ambassadors for the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities in an initiative aimed at embracing and honouring the legacy of the founder.

The trustee for the foundation Jacqueline Ntuyabaliwe Mengi who graced the occasion said at the event in Dar es Salaam that the winners have been awarded so as to inspire others to do great things.

She called upon people with disabilities to live up to what the late Dr Mengi believed, saying that on her part she will ensure she takes from where he left.

"Am happy that the foundation was formed, established when he was still alive, and this is a foundation for all of us to play our role in ensuring that PLWDs were supported to achieve their dreams," she said.

Jackline, widow of the late Dr Mengi who was speaking to the media for the first time since the death of her husband used the opportunity to thank the government and Tanzanians for the love they showed to her family during the trying time.



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The Managing Director for the Dr Reginald Mengi Persons with Disabilities Foundation, Shimimana Ntuyabaliwe, said the aim was to recognize but also ensure that the dream that the late Dr Mengi wanted the disabled to be was realized.

"The late Dr Mengi dedicated his whole life

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Congestion in prisons: CJ faults police and bail law



Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma speaks at the Judiciary of Tanzania's 60th Admission and Enrolment of Advocates of the High Court of Tanzania to the Bar at the Law School of Tanzania grounds in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

As for miscarriage of justice, Prof Juma said the blame should go to investigators of cases before prosecution since it is evidence adduced that can help judges and magistrates determine cases quickly

By Guardian Reporter

CHIEF Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma yesterday sought to exonerate the Judiciary from blame on congestion in prisons and reported miscarriages of justice, pointing a finger at investigators and restrictive laws on bail.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the swearing in of 720 new advocates, Prof Juma recommended that laws be changed to allow bail for suspects of currently unbailable crimes including murder,



Now that we have national identity cards, the documents can be used to bail out a suspect instead of tough conditions," the top Judiciary official intoned.

"As Judiciary, we recommend that we adopt a system like Kenya where the courts determine bail. The issue should not be restricted in law as it is now. If that is done, we won't have the problem of congestion," the CJ said.

Contrary to the long-held belief that crimes such as murder are not bailable, if courts are given a free hand to deal with the issue, things will improve in prisons and the example where the system is working is just across the border in Kenya.

With regard to bail conditions, he said demands for immovable property were restric-

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TCAA tasks national team on WHO Ebola readiness scores

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) has appealed to the national team on the management of public health events in civil aviation to urgently work on areas of weaknesses and meet international standards to effectively protect the country against the risk of Ebola and other communicable diseases.

Speaking yesterday in Dar es Salaam during the opening of the team's quarterly meeting, TCAA Director General Hamza Johari said that the outcome of an assessment on International Health



We are going to work on the areas of weakness urgently, conduct another mock assessment and invite WHO to conduct their own," he elaborated.

Regulations (IHR) carried out in May and June last year at three international airports and two domestic ones was promising but more needs to be done.

"I urge airport operators and public health officials at the airports to work hard to ensure that areas of weakness noticed during the mock assessment are addressed before we invite the World Health Organisation (WHO) for their assessment," Johari said.

Scores for the assessment carried out using a WHO calculator at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), Amani Abeid Karume International Airport, Kilimanjaro

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Kenyan MP in diplomatic row visits Tanzania

NAIROBI

A Kenyan Member of Parliament who sparked a diplomatic row with Tanzania, after making allegedly xenophobic remarks, is now visiting the country.

Charles Njagua, who is also known as Jaguar, was arrested last month after a video of him, calling on Tanzanian and Ugandan traders to leave the country, was widely shared on social media.

He was held in police custody for over a week and was released on July 6 after paying a \$4,800 (£3,800) bail.



"No country would allow people who do not have permits to do illegal business," he said.

The comments angered some Tanzanian lawmakers who called on Kenyans to be kicked out of their country.

Tanzania's government also summoned Kenya's high commissioner to explain the comments.

Njagua told the BBC that he "loves" Tanzania and has a family in the country.

He posted a picture of himself in Tanzanian's capital, Dodoma.

Charles Njagua Kanyi, better known by his stage name Jaguar, is a Kenyan singer,

entrepreneur, politician and philanthropist. From humble beginnings, Jaguar was born in a family of three siblings. He grew up in the suburbs of Nairobi where he attended school. At the age of Eleven Jaguar lost his mother who by then was the only guardian. He was forced to enroll in informal employment working several odd jobs to earn a living.

Through struggles working as a tout in Nairobi's public service vehicles, and support from friends managed to complete school.

Jaguar first made forays as a recording

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artist in 2004 where he recorded and released his first single "Utaweza Kweli" under the Mandugu Digital record label. He later joined East Africa's music power house, Ogopa Deejays in 2005 where he recorded and released several singles among them his most popular hit single "kigeugeu." In 2013 Jaguar began recording with Main Switch Studios. Founded by Jaguar's one of the long serving record producers, Philip Makanda formerly from Ogopa Deejays.

This transition didn't come short of any releases and he has been a part of the stable to date. He has since recorded several hit singles including Kipepeo, Kioo and One centimeter, an African collaboration featuring popular Nigerian recording artist, Iyanya. He has also featured

popular South African duo, Mafikizolo in his single titled "Going Nowhere"

Jaguar has over the years established his own enterprises that have now become very lucrative Businesses. Besides his music business, Jaguar owns a fleet of personal luxury cars and is known to have investments in real estate as well as the transport and aviation industry.

On 9 August 2017 Jaguar was elected to serve the Constituency of Starehe in Nairobi on a Jubilee party ticket after defeating Steve Mbogo, Boniface Mwangi and Mwaniki Kwenya. Jaguar previously defeated incumbent MP of Starehe Maina Kamanda in a hotly contested nomination race for the Jubilee Party ticket in April 2017.

AGENCIES



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa checks books at the newly renovated reference library at Same Secondary School in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday. Next to him is the school's headmaster, Hoza Mgonja. Photo: PMO

Congestion in prisons: CJ faults police and bail law

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ive, denying some deserving suspects their right to freedom as their cases are being heard.

"Now that we have national identity cards, the documents can be used to bail out a suspect instead of tough conditions," the top Judiciary official intoned.

As for miscarriage of justice, Prof Juma said the blame should go to in-

vestigators of cases before prosecution since it is evidence adduced that can help judges and magistrates determine cases quickly.

He said suspects facing murder, economic sabotage, drug trafficking and sexual offences are prone to staying longer in remand because their cases are not bailable in the midst of incomplete or delayed investigation.

"The blame should go to investiga-

tors, not the Judiciary or any other entity for that matter," the CJ said.

The comments come hot in the heels of an on the spot inspection of congestion in jail and miscarriage of justice in a visit by President Dr John Magufuli in Mwanza lately.

Addressing reporters in Mwanza on Wednesday, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Dr Augustine Mahiga said most prisons are con-

gested with some having double their capacity of inmates.

On Wednesday, President Magufuli ordered a countrywide audit of prisons and release of those found to be victims of miscarriage of justice.

Speaking in Kongwa district, Dodoma region, the Head of State said the decision has been informed by what he encountered during his impromptu visit to Butimba Prison in Mwanza

on Tuesday where he learned of rampant miscarriage of justice.

"I direct the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with other security organs to visit all prisons in the country, talk to the inmates and ensure that those who are not supposed to be there are released," he said.

While at Butimba, inmates raised

a number of issues to the president, including corruption in the corridors of justice, delayed cases, twisted charges, wrongful imprisonment and violence within the facility.

Since directing that something be done about the injustices in Mwanza on Tuesday, some prisons had already worked on the matter with scores having been released by Wednesday.



Dr Reginald Mengi Persons with Disabilities Foundation trustee Jacqueline Ntuyabaliwe-Mengi briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday when naming this year's winners of the late Dr Reginald Mengi's I Can Awards as ambassadors for the rights and empowerment of people with disabilities. Left is the foundation's Managing Director, Shimimana Ntuyabaliwe. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

'I Can' awards winners PLWD rights envoys

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servicing the disabled, and the foundation was established mainly to continue this great job that he left with us," she said.

In December 2018, the foundation launched Tanzania's first awards to recognize talents and achievements of people with disability, unveiling its inaugural winners in February 2019 during the philanthropist's annual dinner with people with disability.

The awards recognizes disabled people

who have done great things which can be used as examples to the society in areas like education, politics, leadership, entrepreneurship, entertainment, sports and others.

The foundation was formed in pursuit of Dr Mengi's contributions towards improving the lives of disabled people in the country.

During this year's dinner, Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa proposed the establishment of a foundation to coordinate and address some of the

challenges facing disabled people in honor and appreciation for the passionate commitment by Dr Mengi in advocating for the welfare of the needy.

The premier who graced the luncheon hosted by Dr Mengi for people with disabilities in Dar es Salaam said the IPP chairman had done enough, maintaining that it was time for the government and other stakeholders to join him on this initiative.

He said it was enough now for Dr Mengi to carry the whole burden of assisting

people with disabilities personally. Dr Mengi led the way for 24 years. The PM proposed the foundation to be named 'Dr Reginald Mengi Disabled Foundation' and promised to inject 10m/- in the fund once it begins operations.

The name of the foundation was to be an appreciation for the personal efforts by Dr Mengi and his family in giving what he has earned for the needy, and he would go into records as one of the few Tanzanians who are passionate with the lives of others, the premier had underlined.

TCAA tasks national team on WHO Ebola readiness scores

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International Airport (KIA), Mwanza Airport and Songwe Airport stood at 73 to 81 per cent whereas the pass level is set at 80 per cent, he said.

"Passing the WHO assessment will mean growth of the air transport industry subsector in our country," he specified.

Daniel Malanga, the chairman of the national team for the worldwide Collaborative Arrangement and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA) said areas of improvement include putting in place isolation areas at airports, effective documentation systems and involvement of stakeholders.

Malanga, the TCAA director for economic regulation, named some areas of strength as per the previous assessment as emergency contingency preparedness, walkthrough thermo scanners and running water.

"We are going to work on the areas of weakness urgently, conduct another mock assessment and invite WHO to conduct their own," he elaborated.

Apart from TCAA, the national CAPSCA team is comprised of representatives from ministerial agencies covering Health, Works, Transport and Communication, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Tourism and Natural Resources,

Agriculture, Livestock as well as Disaster Management (PMO).

The call for action follows the declaration of Ebola outbreak in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo a "public health emergency of international concern" by WHO.

The current outbreak in parts of eastern DR Congo has so far killed more than 1,600 people. Last week, the first case was detected in Goma, home to more than one million people.

The PHEIC provision announced on Wednesday is the highest level of alarm the WHO can sound and has only been used four times previously.

This includes the Ebola epidemic that devastated parts of West Africa from 2014 to 2016, killing more than 11,000 people.

"It is time for the world to take notice," said WHO chief Tedros Ghebreyesus at a news conference in Geneva at which the emergency situation was declared.

The outbreak, the second largest in history, started in August 2018 and is affecting two provinces in DR Congo - North Kivu and Ituri.

More than 2,500 people have been infected and two-thirds of them have died.

It took 224 days for the number of cases to reach 1,000 but just a further 71 days to reach 2,000 in the current outbreak, observers noted.



Newly sworn-in advocates of the High Court of Tanzania (from-L) Hamza Hilal, Mohamed Mpochi and Abia Richard visibly delighted moments after being admitted to the Bar at the Judiciary of Tanzania's 60th Admission and Enrolment of Advocates ceremony held at the Law School of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Acacia finally agrees to increased buyout offer from Barrick

By Guardian Reporter

BARRICK Gold has raised an offer that would give it full control of Acacia Mining, bowing to minority shareholders as it tries to resolve a tax dispute with the Tanzanian government.

The higher offer, which values Acacia at £951m (US\$1.1billion) and has won the backing of the company's board, comes just days after Tanzania ordered Acacia to stop using a waste storage facility at its largest gold mine by this weekend.

Mark Bristow, Barrick's chief executive who has been a champion of zero-premium deals in the gold mining industry, said taking full control was the only way to end a two-year tax disagreement with Tanzania that has left the company unable to export gold ore from the African country.

Barrick's first offer in May for the almost 40 per cent of Acacia it does not already own was dismissed as too low by minority shareholders including Odey Asset Management, Fidelity and Legal & General.

It was pitched at an 8 per cent discount to Acacia's share price. As Acacia's majority shareholder, Barrick has been leading discussions with the Tanzanian government, which has refused to deal directly with Acacia.

It has offered to pay \$300m to settle the tax claims and split future returns for the mine 50:50. The order to close a waste

storage facility came days after Acacia was told its North Mara mine had to be investigated before it could export gold.

Three of Acacia's employees remain in jail in Tanzania awaiting charges for alleged corruption.

"Things have become significantly difficult in the country (Tanzania)," said Peter Geleta, chief executive of Acacia.

"We need stability. The current situation is not sustainable."

"Everybody wants a solution, everybody has lost in this dispute and the government wants a solution now," said Geleta.

"I would assume Barrick would get a settlement pretty quickly once this deal has gone through."

Geleta said he would not be joining Barrick once the deal is completed. Analysts at Berenberg said: "We assume that the increased offer level will now be acceptable to the minority shareholders, and note that the Acacia directors have unanimously approved the acquisition."

The new offer of roughly 232p a share will see Barrick pay 0.168 of its stock, up from an earlier exchange ratio of 0.153, and is a premium of as much as 60 per cent.

Under the deal, Acacia investors will also be entitled to a special dividend from the sale of exploration assets. Shares in Acacia rose 19 per cent in London trading on the back of the deal, which the companies anticipate will close in the fourth quarter.



Things have become significantly difficult in the country (Tanzania) We need stability. The current situation is not sustainable

Removal of single-entry permit will promote cultural tourism - minister

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has directed the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) to review the single entry payment system to promote tourist attractions actions in surrounding villages and allow tourists to visit nearby communities.

The single entry payment system into national parks requires a visitor to pay each time he or she re-enters the park or an equivalent tourist site even after straddling to nearby villages and communities.

Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine Kanyasu made the directed on Thursday when opening the 8th Serengeti cultural and tourism exhibition held in Mara region.

Kanyasu added that Tanapa should consider single entry at some national parks but with the use of Biometric Identity to help control unscrupulous people. He said under the biometric system, visitors will have to sign in and out whenever they enter or leave the parks.

The Deputy Minister highlighted that since the introduction of single entry system, cultural tourism has remained dormant as visitors especially those from foreign countries do not visit nearby villages.

"This also affects the income of villagers in these communities because some were rely to sell their traditional products to visiting tourists", he said mentioned some of the mostly affected areas as the Serengeti National Park's western zone along the

Ndabaka gate and some parts in Ruaha National Park.

He said the single entry system has mostly affected areas that are not connected with tarmac roads and air strips. He noted that to avoid paying for each entry, tourists opt to stay within the parks for 24 hours.

Serengeti Regional Commissioner, Nurdin Babu told the deputy minister that 80 per cent of his administrative area is covered by the Serengeti National Park.

Babu admitted the effects of single entry payment system to the villagers insisting most of them depend on the visitors to sell their traditionally made handcrafted goods.

"We need an intervention to this matter because our people have been economi-

cally affected. We are killing cultural tourism", said the Regional Commissioner as he insists on removal of single entry payment system.

The multiple entry payment system into the parks has been among the top desires of the local tour operators for years.

According to them, the system does not encourage the tourists to visit the surrounding villages or communities and back to the parks for accommodation as they are charged for each re-entry.

Multiple entries into the parks without additional charges would enable the visitors to access the tourist sites more than once and hence spend more days in the country, having settled the required payment in the first instance.



Mohammad Building Ltd engineer Jaferj Mohamad (3rd-L, gesturing) pictured yesterday briefing a delegation comprising officials from the World Bank and the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) who toured Nzuguni, the suburban Dodoma site where a modern market and a central bus terminal are undergoing construction. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Premier calls for strategic planning at workplaces

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa yesterday challenged public servants to prepare strategic work plans which will enable them achieve targeted results.

He said each of the servants in public sectors must have strategic plans that will later be used to measure their performances.

The Premier made the statement when addressing public servants at Same district, Kilimanjaro region.

"You were brought here to work

for the people. As civil servants, our major role is to save the public regardless of their tribes, colour and religious beliefs", insisted the PM.

Majaliwa noted that since the government took stringent measures against ghost workers that included suspension from their positions, they are subjected to work diligently to meet Tanzanians expectations.

The PM called upon civil servants to oversee the implementation of the CCM manifesto because it was the ruling party.

He spoke against a tendency of

staying in offices for a long time without listening to people saying they should go out and solve people's problems.

"You should go out there and stay for atleast some days to listen to what they are saying and the problems that bothers them," he said.

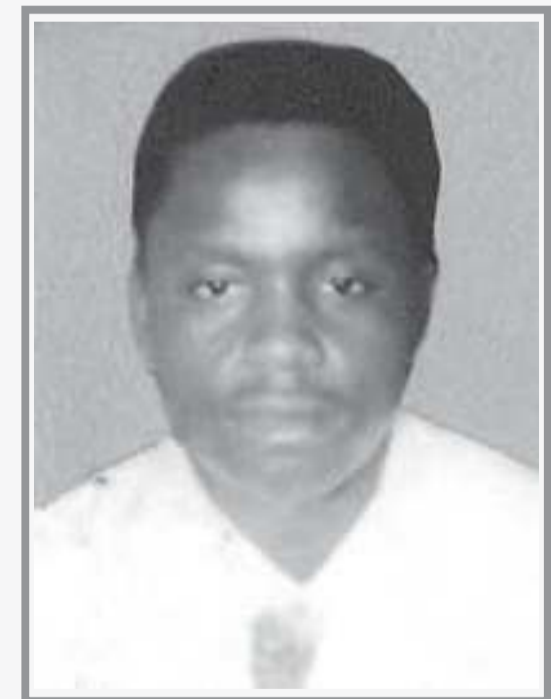
He directed the District Commissioner to administer the exercise by ensuring that work with Members of Parliament and Councilors to solve people's problems.

In another development, the PM asked the civil servants to ensure

they collaborate with other leaders to ensure they collectively solve the challenges. PM Majaliwa made the remarks when he addressed civil servants in Moshi Kilimanjaro on the sidelines of his tour to the region. "Everyone must understand his or her boundaries between him and those of colleagues because everyone has his or her own task to serve people," he said.

He added by calling upon the servants to remember President John Magufuli's slogan which calls for hard work for better results.

PUBLIC NOTICE



Mr. ALI USSI ALI

Mr. ALI USSI ALI (D.O.B 23/07/1977) pictured above is wanted in connection with thief.

If you know the location of this subject, Please contact at any police station or call no. 0716 381 575 for any information.

Police report No: KW/RB/2513/2013

Cameroon faced with refugee crisis as the Anglophone conflict escalates in the west

YAUONDE

MORE than a million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Cameroon, as the Anglophone crisis deteriorates in the west of the country.

At the end of June, a spokesman for UNICEF, Toby Fricker, said: "Around 450,000 of these people – half of whom are children – are internally displaced. . . . "For many children, it has been three years since they last set foot in a classroom. Due to a ban on education by non-state armed groups and attacks, over 80 per cent of schools have been closed, affecting more than 600,000 children."

Violence in the west of Cameroon between the military and Anglophone separatists is thought to be the main reason behind the disruption, and is affecting hundreds of thousands of people.

The Anglophone regions in the north-west and south-west are attempting to break

away from the Francophone-majority country.

The UN has said that at least 1800 people have been killed and more than half a million displaced in two years since fighting began.

A United States Congressional delegation that visited Cameroon at the beginning of July urged the government to hold unconditional talks with the rebels: something that it has previously refused to do.

A California Congresswoman, Karen Bass, said earlier this month: "We especially want to see a peaceful dialogue, a peaceful resolution without conditions. We want to see all sides come to the table. We recently passed a resolution in Congress saying this, and we wanted to come and see first-hand what is happening in the country."

A government spokesman, Rene Emmanuel Sadi, said: "At a time when Cameroon is resolutely moving towards its emergence, everything must and will be done to

preserve peace and stability. Cameroon is and remains a rule of law."

Fricker said: "Children and their families are . . . fleeing armed violence, attacks on their homes and schools, abduction, sexual violence, and recruitment into armed groups. Imposed lockdowns, or ghost-town days, set in place by non-state armed groups, are affecting people's freedom of movement and the delivery of humanitarian assistance".

"Thousands of people lack access or have reduced access to basic services such as healthcare and safe drinking water, and livelihoods have been destroyed. As of December 2018, an estimated 40 per cent of health facilities in the south-west region were not functioning. . . .

"The targeting of education is putting the future of an entire generation of children at risk – children who, with the right support and opportunities, can build a more stable and prosperous future."



An official (L-foreground) with Germany's GOPA-International Energy Consultants, a firm working on a Tanzania-Kenya power interconnection project, briefs Arusha regional commissioner Mrisho Gambo (R) and Arumeru district commissioner Jerry Muro (2nd-R) on the project on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shiza

Experts from East Africa and Western Indian Ocean chart enhanced co-operation in drug investigations

By Guardian Reporter

THIRTY-FIVE senior prosecutors experts in dealing with drug trafficking cases from East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean met in Zanzibar this week to discuss ways to enhance investigation and prosecution of complex trafficking of narcotics drugs along the 'Southern Route' from Iran, Pakistan coast to East Africa

through the Indian Ocean.

The meeting held under the umbrella of the East Africa Association of Prosecutors (EAAP) resulted into establishment of an informal network of prosecutors from the region, designed specifically, to build trust, facilitate the exchange of information, and promote joint transnational investigations of drug trafficking, thus strengthening the Public Prosecution

Offices in the region of East Africa and the Indian Ocean.

The creation of the network shall foster regional co-operation, and serve as a mechanism for exchanging knowledge and best practices.

The Zanzibar conference has addressed many operational issues and provided an opportunity for bringing together prosecutors from, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mau-

ritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Some of the topics included, lessons from investigating cocaine trafficking networks (facilitated by a European Prosecutor), the drugs-terrorism nexus, developing and retaining financial investigation experts, multi-commodity networks (namely, cocaine and heroin), asset recovery net-

works and strategic planning for the disruption of organized crime networks.

The important event was organised by the Secretariat General of the East Africa Association of Prosecutors in partnership with the European Union Action against Drugs and Organized Crime (EU-ACT) with funds from the European Union Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.

The EU-ACT Project is designed to promote the comprehensive and balanced EU approach on drugs, and enhance synergies with the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime.

The Project, which is funded under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), shall support the aforementioned countries in the implementation of the 2030

agenda for sustainable development (SDG 16.a) and the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document on the World Drug Problem.

A partnership involving relevant authorities and institutions from Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom implements the EU-ACT Project, with the project being led by the Spanish International Foundation of Administration and Public Policies (FIADPP).



Roast cashewnuts on sale at a spot along the Kisutu stretch of Dar es Salaam's Mkunguni Street yesterday - but just no customers anywhere around... Photo: John Badi

Zimbabwe farmers challenge banning of private maize sales

HARARE

TWO farmers Allan Markham and Clever Rambanapasi aggrieved by the banning of private maize sales by the government have approached the High Court to contest the move.

Markham is a philanthropist who buys and sells maize in communities to support many charities.

"One of the works I do is to buy maize from farmers particularly communal farmers which I use to feed vulnerable communities particularly the urban poor in place like Harcliffe, Highfield and Glenview," he described his work in brief. Rambanapasi is a Murehwa communal farmer who runs a small pig production and buys maize from rural communities in the same district.

Lands Minister, Perrance Shiri was cited as the first respondent as well as the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) as second.

On June 28, the Minister published new regulations requiring all maize to be sold to GMB in a move designed to control prices of the staple meal.

The Statutory Instrument 145 of 2019 also banned the transportation of more than five bags of maize except when making deliveries to the government-run GMB.

Police would be empowered to seize maize where breaches occur and individuals falling foul of the new legal requirements face up to two years in prison.

But the two in their court application said this was not fair. "Once a product has been declared controlled, Section 30 makes it clear that no person shall remove a controlled product from the prescribed area and bring into a prescribed area any agricultural product or any product derived thereof when the prescribed area has become a controlled product without the permission of GMB" states the regulation.

Both the Act and the Regulations also make it clear that no one too can purchase a controlled product other than from GMB.

What this therefore means is that the minister has set up a monopoly and indeed a dangerous monopoly in respect of which anyone who trades in grain whether is a buyer or seller can only do so through the GMB and can only do so at a fixed price of ZWL1, 400.

The farmers claimed that the declaration essentially affects the contractual right of farmers and traders of buying grain from any party or individual.

According to the regulations, no person or statutory body or company or entity shall sell or otherwise dispose of any maize except to a contractor or to the Grain Marketing Board.

"No person who is not a producer of maize (farmer) or who is not a contractor shall sell maize to the GMB... No person or statutory body or entity shall buy or otherwise acquire any maize from any farmer or producer otherwise than through the GMB," the regulations say.

SADC: Celebrating life, legacy of Nelson Mandela

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) has joined the international community in celebrating the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, who stands as an enduring symbol of democracy and liberation in South Africa and world at large.

A statement by SADC Executive Secretary, Dr Stergomena Tax on

the Nelson Mandela International Day stated that SADC recognize his contribution to the well-being of humanity, including the protection of gender equality and human rights

"SADC reaffirms its commitment to sustain the legacy of Madiba by working tirelessly towards lasting peace, sustainable development and a dignified life for all SADC citizens. Madiba's values of advancing

regional integration and unity will always be a guidepost for the region to achieve regional stability and social justice and sustainable development", read the statement.

For the past 10 years, the world has been celebrating and honoring a man who has played a leading role in support of international peace, mediation and conflict resolution.

Tax said in a statement that SADC wishes to pay homage to Madiba,

as he was affectionately called, and recognise his contribution to the well-being of humanity, including the protection of gender equality and human rights.

"The life of Nelson Mandela teaches us many lessons. He is one of the greatest sons of the SADC region who lived each day to contribute to the promotion of a better and peaceful world. Each one of us, in the region, should thus be inspired

to play their role in the realization of peace, security and the enhancement of the standard and quality of life for all", read the statement in part.

Every year on July 18th, the world celebrates the Nelson Mandela International Day in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the promotion of Peace, Freedom and Social Justice.



Simanjoro legislator James ole Millya speaks at a meeting during CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally Kakurwa's visit to Orkesumet in Manyara Region on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

PCCB recovers over 50 million/- said to be from laundering

By Guardian Correspondent,

Kigoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Kigoma region has recovered 50,659,608/- that was obtained fraudulently in between April and June this year.

Speaking to journalists here yesterday, PCCB commander in Kigoma, Raphael Mbwambo said the monies were recovered from attempts of allegedly the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco).

He noted that the alleged staffs and a private advocate Michael Mwangati will appear in when investigations into their charges were completed.

Mbwambo explained that the alleged staffs attempted to forge compensation payments to 16 labourers who had worked with the state-owned power firm. The workers are said to file a case against Tanesco in the Commission for Mediation and Arbitration (CMA) in Kigoma.

"The commission ruled in favour of the workers and ordered the company to pay them 50,659,608/- through their private advocate, Michael Mwangati. We later discovered that the workers were paid the same amount twice, the first from Tanesco headquarters in Dar es Salaam and, again, through Tanesco in Kigoma", explained Mbwambo.

He explained that all the

payments were channeled through the advocate on December 5th 2018. He however Tanesco in Kigoma did not inform the head office in Dar es Salaam about the payment of the advocate.

According to Mbwambo the first suspect, advocate, Michael Mwangati had reimbursed part of the money after discovering that anti-corruption body was investigating the matter.

The Commissioner noted that PCCB has revealed a loss of over 70m/- out the 748,017,500/- allocated for implementation of a water project in Kalinzi and Mlangala village which was completed in August 2018.

He said despite the completion of the water project it was not functional because some of the pumps and equipment had been damaged. He said the anti-corruption body is investigating the matter so that legal measures will be taken against all those involved.

He said that PCCB also discovered misuse of public funds and properties against the former Ujiji district executive director, Dr Jonh Shauri committed in between March and April 2018.

He said the former director pocketed 2,280,000/- as per diem for his Dodoma trip for 19 nights, but realistically he stayed in the country's capital for five days only.

The DED is also accused of using a public vehicle for personal use to Karatu in Arusha city where he spent 528,725/- on fuels.

'Personalised billboards help revolutionise outdoor advertising'

By Guardian Correspondent

AN outdoor advertising company with operations in different parts of the world has said it is all set to increase the number of opportunities for advertisers through digital out-of-home media.

The firm, JCDecaux, made an announcement to that effect in a presentation to key media and advertising industry stakeholders in Dar es Salaam on Thursday.

The briefing session shed light on global media trends and innovative go-to-market strategies tailored to the Tanzanian market.

The company's 'wing' in the country,

JCDecaux Tanzania, has been in business since 2015 in part with the introduction of digital advertising screens.

Jacqueline McCormick, JCDecaux's Regional Director Eastern Africa, highlighted the benefits of reduced advertising clutter for brands, consumers and city authorities.

"Marketing communication is rapidly embracing digital technology as consumers adopt mobile telephony and smart devices," she said.

"As a leading media company, we are transforming the out-of-home landscape to ensure that our clients remain relevant in the customer purchase journey," she added.

Janine Deetlefs, JCDecaux's Sales Manager in Tanzania, meanwhile described their digital screens as "quite safe to drivers as they reduce brightness by 5 per cent between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m."

"The illumination has also increased visibility and safety for pedestrians in the vicinity of the screens. Road safety for drivers and pedestrians is extremely important to us, and this is why we enhanced these features in our screens," added the manager.

The officials outlined how the outdoor media industry has evolved around the world and recommended advertising solutions for local marketing leaders.

They said quality roadside digital

screens have grown into an essential part of beautifying cities, reducing advertising clutter in high density centres, as a result raising advertiser awareness, engaging with consumers and translating to higher returns on investment.

In particular, they said, the use of a network of quality digital advertising screens has vastly changed the landscape in Dar es Salaam, enhancing value to advertisers and consumers.

JCDecaux operated as Continental Outdoor Media until June 2015 and has a presence in 20 countries in Africa, while it is also a market leader in Europe, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Middle-East.

OPEC Fund sets its sights on sustainable growth, maximum development impact

VIENNA

THE highest policy-making body of the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Ministerial Council, has approved the general principles of the Fund's new Strategic Framework.

The new strategy, endorsed here earlier this week, affirms the Fund's commitment to providing support to developing countries - especially low-income ones - in an increasingly complex and challenging development landscape.

OFID Director General Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa told the meeting: "OFID's vision is to be a relevant, agile and efficient development finance institution that can deliver maximum development impact to its partner coun-

tries, while becoming self-sustainable in financing its operations."

Over the coming months, OFID will embark on a journey to diversify its financial resources and to implement a coherent and consistent set of actions aimed at creating greater efficiency throughout the institution and equipping it with more innovative and responsive operational and financial instruments.

As part of its new strategy, OFID will renew its focus on partnerships. OFID works closely with organisations such as the World Bank, regional development banks and the bilateral and multilateral agencies of OFID member-countries as well as specialised agencies of the United Nations.

In addition to strengthening existing partnerships, OFID is determined to form new relation-

ships to revitalise the global partnership in support of sustainable development.

In keeping with previous years, a highlight of the Ministerial Council's public session was the presentation of the OFID Annual Award for Development.

The 2019 Award was bestowed on Vida Duti, Country Director of the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre in Ghana, in recognition of her work and engagement in ensuring sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for the population of Ghana.

OFID has affirmed its readiness to continue supporting global efforts to overcome development challenges, as it has done since 1976, by extending concessionary financial assistance, participating

in the financing of private sector

activities in developing countries, and contributing to the resources of other development institutions.

The organisation has over the years improved its capabilities and operational reach to support South-South development and social and economic growth in partner countries around the world.

It says public sector lending, including to low-income countries, will continue to represent the largest portion of its loan portfolio, going forward.

Meanwhile, US\$100,000 award winner Vida Duti attended a presentation ceremony at the OFID headquarters (Vienna) during the 40th Annual Session of the organisation's Ministerial Council.

Duti leads a 12-strong 'coalition' in Ghana, the thrust of their

endeavours being on advocating greater financial and political support for WASH, while also supporting national government policies, standards and guidelines.

The team's priority in its partner district, Asutifi North, is to support the roll out of a WASH 'master plan'. This plan seeks to provide universal WASH services for the entire population of the Asutifi district by 2030. Currently, only around half of the district's 62,816 people have access to adequate water facilities and just 15 per cent to decent sanitation.

Duti said at the presentation ceremony that the award would motivate and strengthen her resolve to work harder to improve the quality of life of people in the developing world.

"I dedicate this award to the people of Ghana and the Asutifi

North district for whose quest I gained this recognition. I assure you of my resolve to work harder towards improving the quality of life for people in the developing world, especially Ghana," said Duti.

OFID chief Dr Alkhalifa said: "OFID recognises the important role women play in the WASH sector, advancing solutions and encouraging behavioral change. Vida Duti's engagement in this sector is exemplary and is helping to deliver access to safe, reliable and affordable water services to numerous people in Ghana."

"OFID hopes that bestowing this year's Annual Award for Development to Mrs Duti will help accelerate action in sub-Saharan Africa, encourage the many women working in development, and highlight the important issues of

safe water and hygiene," he added.

The OFID Annual Award for Development was introduced in 2006 to highlight the achievements of organisations and individuals in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Past winners include Bangladesh-based BRAC for its support of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the Foundation for Integral Development in Guatemala, Syrian refugee Doaa Al Zamel, the Children's Cancer Hospital in Egypt, and Kenya's Kakenya Centre for Excellence.

The others are Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan, renowned ENT surgeon and philanthropist Dr Mazen Al-Hajri, Prof Muhammad Yunus, and Bartolina Sisa National Confederation of Peasant Indigenous Native Women of Bolivia.



A Dar es Salaam resident moves plastic pipes by cart along the Kamata stretch of the city's busy Nyerere Road yesterday, with the load hindering from seeing or even sensing what is behind him - which is clearly risky. Photo: John Badi

'Team spirit vital in implementing development projects in Tunduru'

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

THE newly appointed Tunduru District Commissioner, Julius Mtatiro has appealed for support from fellow leaders to accomplish the various development strategies.

Mtatiro said it through team work that he can be able to find solutions to the challenges facing the residents.

He made the statement shortly after he was sworn-in as DC by the Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Christina Mndeme yesterday, at an event that took place at the RC office.

"My position as DC requires collaboration with other leaders to achieve the target of solving people's challenges", he noted thanking President John Magufuli for appointing him to fill the vacuum left by Juma Homera, who became Katavi Regional Commissioner.

"I am thankful to President Magufuli for knowing my working ability, and believing that I can assist him through execution of my responsibilities as the District Commissioner", Mtatiro said promising to work tirelessly to ensure development to the people of Tunduru.

Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Christina Mndeme urged the new DC to work for wananchi as per the President's directives. she challenged him to adhere to public servant's code of ethics when working for the people.

On Sunday last week, Early this week, President Magufuli appointed Julius Mtatiro who was former opposition CUF leader to become Tunduru District Commissioner.

According to a State House press statement, Julius Mtatiro's appointment started on July 14th 2019.

Zuma withdraws from SA's Anticorruption Commission

JOHANNESBURG

FORMER South African President, Jacob Zuma, who left office last year under a cloud of suspicion about his conduct, withdrew yesterday from a high-level inquiry into government corruption, ending a prolonged standoff in which he sought to discredit the lawyers examining him.

"We are here to tell you that we will take no further part in these proceedings," said Zuma's lawyer, Muzi Sikhakhane.

The hearings in Johannesburg had been postponed since Wednesday, when Zuma's legal team complained that he had been "brought in under false pretenses."

The commission, chaired by Judge Raymond Zondo, was established to explore allegations of corruption at the highest levels of government, known as state capture.

Zuma's lawyers argued that the commission had overstepped its mandate in posing detailed ques-

tions to the former president.

The line of questioning included the allegations that Zuma had allowed the Guptas, an Indian business family, to dictate government policy, to the extent that they were allowed to select cabinet ministers sympathetic to their interests.

"Zuma cannot afford to have on record detailed statements which might turn out in a criminal case to be false," said Pierre de Vos, a constitutional law expert at the University of Cape Town. Instead, De Vos said, the former president was "trying to discredit the commission."

The commission was established after an investigation by a former public protector, Thuli Madonsela, that found evidence to suggest corruption in Zuma's administration. It does not have prosecutorial powers, and any charges would need to be pursued by the police and the national prosecuting authority.



National Insurance Corporation managing director Sam Kamanga (3rd-R) symbolically presents 300 corrugated iron roofing sheets worth 8.1m/- to Arusha district commissioner Gabriel Daqarro in Arusha city yesterday. It was NIC's contribution in support of the construction of classrooms, offices and latrines for primary and secondary schools in the district. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shiza

China-Africa rice cooperation project: Joining hands to eliminate hunger

By Special Correspondent

CHINA and Africa are strengthening agricultural exchanges and cooperation to jointly achieve 'zero hunger', which is one of the 17 global goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The latest effort was an initiative launched at the end of last month, which recognizes the potential of China-Africa cooperation in the rice value chain. It also offers proposals for promoting cooperation by leveraging the comparative advantages

of the different parties.

Rice is either a staple or an alternative food crop in much of Africa, but many African countries face serious gaps between rice production and consumption and rely heavily on imports.

These were the findings of the initiative, which was released at the first China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo on June 27 in Changsha, the capital city of central China's Hunan province.

With a large amount of suitable land for rice cultivation, these countries have the resources to expand rice produc-

tion.

However, according to the initiative, they need to introduce high-yield varieties, improve production and processing technologies, and boost investment in their own rice industries including their related supply chains.

For instance, Mozambique in Southeast Africa has about 36 million hectares of arable land and a long history of rice cultivation, but faces challenges in various areas, including technology, financing, infrastructure and market access,

according to Dr. Pedro Dzucula, Director of the Country's National Directorate of Agriculture and Silviculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.

Speaking at a seminar held in Beijing on Wednesday, Dr. Dzucula said Mozambique needs to enhance the genetic diversity of its rice, increase the quality of agricultural services, and invest in the operationalization and rational use of irrigation schemes based on public-private partnerships.

Over the past decades, China

has made remarkable progress in its rice industry, and accrued valuable experience in terms of improved seed varieties, technology and machinery, demonstration and promotion, as well as industrial investment and marketing, the initiative noted.

It proposed solving key bottlenecks in Africa's rice industry to promote value chain upgrading and agricultural transformation by combining China's experience and the local demands of African countries.

This initiative aims to develop broader and deeper South-

South and triangular cooperation arrangements in the rice value chain.

It was signed by seven organizations, namely the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE), China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center, African Union, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, United Nations for Food Program, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

Zhang Ning, director of the

South-South Fund Program at the CICETE under the Ministry of Commerce, said the initiative, which has wide participation, has charted the overall course and introduced specific mechanisms for China-Africa cooperation to improve the rice value chain.

"In particular, we need to make good use of China-aided agricultural technology demonstration centers in Africa to facilitate technology transfers and broader agricultural cooperation among different parties," Zhang said.



Ruvuma regional commissioner Christina Mndeme has a word with Occupational Safety and Health Authority officials at the agency's Kinondoni offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Vodacom poised to widen M-Pesa availability

By Guardian Reporter, Kigali

VODACOM Group has unveiled plans to open its mobile money platform to customers of other operators in a number of African markets, as part of a strategy to expand the service.

Speaking in Kigali, Rwanda at the just-ended Mobile 360 Africa conference, M-Pesa managing executive officer, Vodacom Group, Chris Williamson said the company had already launched the ser-

vice outside of its own base, in Mozambique, and was working on replicating this across several other countries.

"We think it's time to level the playing field and so it doesn't matter how big your GSM base is, customers should be able to access our service," he added. "We very much see M-Pesa becoming like an Over the top (OTT) service," he said, when commenting during a session on partnerships.

Williamson added: "Full interoperability with other service providers was 'not a question of whether, it's who, when and how.'"

MTN Group head of financial services Serigne Dioum also threw his support behind interoperability highlighting its venture with Orange and an aim to provide smooth in-market fund transfer between providers.

Acting Chief Officer for Mobile Fi-

nance Services at Tigo Tanzania, Angelica Pasha said that the experience of interoperability in the country provided a blueprint and it was "high time" it was taken elsewhere.

In the enterprise space, Ngozi Megwa, Mastercard Senior Vice President Digital Partnerships, Middle East and Africa, said cooperation between providers was vital to attract merchants, citing African proverb: "If you want to go fast

Siha communities seek from intervention to intensify FGM awareness among locals

By Guardian Correspondent, Siha

RESIDENTS in Siha District, Kilimanjaro Region have appealed to the government to help change the mindset of some villagers still holding some outdated traditional customs including female genital mutilation.

They are concerned that FGM has been leading into deaths of a number of women especially during birth due to excessive bleeding.

Speaking to this paper at different times, some of the interviewed women claimed that there are still some few people harnessing the awful traditional customs including FGM to young adolescent girls.

Evaline Moleli from Karansi ward threw the blame to some dishonest nurses who are bribed by parents to conduct FGM to girls below three years.

"We have witnessed many women dying during delivery due to excessive bleeding that is mostly caused by FGM. We want the government and stakeholders to help change the mindset of people and educate them on the negative impacts of female genital mutilation", she said.

Another resident, Safina Mohamed said that apart from FGM, the villagers also experience problems of early marriage where girls are forced to be married only for the parents to get wealth.

Msele Emanuel said: "If well educated on the impacts of FGM, the residents will stop practicing such cruelty acts".

Coordinator of an organisation that deals with ending FGM, Nafgem Tanza-

nia, France Selasin said the problem is much bigger in Naibili, Karansi, Lekrumuni, Orkolili, Ngarinari and Donyomoro wards.

"The problem is still big in Siha district, collaborative efforts are required to end FGM here," he said.

The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (2015/2016) indicates that an estimated 7.9 million women and girls have undergone FGM across the country.

In 2015, 10 percent of women aged 15-49 were circumcised, a decline from 18 percent in 1996. Mara Region has a female genital prevalence rate of 39.9 percent, while among the Kurya tribe alone; it is estimated at 75 percent.

The government through local authorities works with community-based organisations in campaigns that reflect the dehumanizing nature and associated health risks of female genital mutilation.

The African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) in 2018 implemented the Tokomeza Ukeketaji project against the harmful practice aiming to intensify awareness among women and girls.

In 2016, a total of 932 girls fled their homes and sought protection in the safe house. AMREF, working with some local authorities managed to reconcile 889 girls with their families, leaving 43 who are still staying in the safe house.

The organization is collaborating with the police and the Legal Human Rights Centre to mobilise local communities in Mara region to end FGM and instead invest in the education of their girls.



In 2015, 10 percent of women aged 15-49 were circumcised, a decline from 18 percent in 1996. Mara Region has a female genital prevalence rate of 39.9 percent, while among the Kurya tribe alone; it is estimated at 75 percent.

Isles govt expresses satisfaction with 2019's Form Six examination results

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR Ministry of Education and Vocational Training have expressed satisfaction with performance of students in the recently announced Form Six examination results for 2019 where the pass rate increased to 88.96 percent.

Deputy Minister, Simai Mohamed Said told journalists yesterday that the government is impressed with the national examination results.

According to Said, a total of 1,837 students who sat for the exams between May 6th and 23rd 2019 under the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA) scored between Division One and Three.

According to him, the increased academic performance in schools was largely due to improved learning environment in the schools. He said the government in Zanzibar has improved the availability of teaching laboratory equipments for teaching of science subjects.

"The pass rate has increased compared to other years. 88.96 of all the students excelled in the Form Six national examination results. We are working to ensure that more students pass the exams next year", said the Deputy Minister.

In July 11st 2019, NECTA released Form Six national examination results for 2019 indicating an increase in the pass rate to 98.32

percent from 97.58 percent in 2018.

NECTA Executive Secretary, Dr Charles Msonde said the pass rate has gone up by 0.74 percent.

He said a total of 91,298 candidates were registered for the exams.

Of the number, 37,948 were female (41.56 percent) and 53,350 males equivalent to 58.44 percent.

Among the registered candidates, Dr Msonde said, school candidates were 80,216 and 11,082 were independent candidates.

Elaborating, he said 90,001 candidates equivalent to 98.58 per cent who were registered for the exam, did the exam.

"A total of 1,297 candidates equivalent to

1.42 percent did not sit for the exams due to various reasons including absenteeism and illness," he noted.

Dr Msonde stated that 80,216 school candidates registered, but 79,770 candidates, (99, 44 percent) sat for the exams, among them, 33,883 female and 45,887 boys. He said some 446 candidates; equivalent to 0.56 percent did not sit for the exams.

The Executive Secretary mentioned the top 10 schools nationwide with 30 candidates and above include, Kisimiri (60 candidates) from Arusha, Feza Boys (87 candidates) from Dar es Salaam, AHMES (112 candidates) from Coast Region, Mwandet (77 candidates) from Arusha, Tabora Boys with 105 candidates, Kibaha secondary

school and Feza girls from Dar es Salaam.

St Mary's Mazinde Juu with 216 students took the eight position and Canossa with 83 candidates from Dar es Salaam posted the ninth slot. Kemebos from Kagera region with 33 candidates completed the list.

Dr Msonde named 10 worst performing schools in the country whereby four of the schools are from Mjini Magharibi in the Isles.

The schools are Nyamunga from Mara, Haille Sellase and Tumekuja both from Mjini Magharib, Bumanga and Buturi from Mara, Mpendae from Mjini Magharibi, Ekerforde from Tanga, Nsimbo from Katavi, Mondo from Dodoma and Kiemebe Samaki 'A' Islamic from Mjini Magharibi.



CELEBRATION: Alphonse Francis, Deputy Head Teacher (Academic) for Baobab Secondary School in Bagamoyo District, in jovial mood with Form Six students in the school's compound earlier this week. The school emerged with excellent results in the recently announced national Form Six examinations: 58 students with Division One, 196 with Division Two and 156 with Division Three. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Fresh Malawi vote protests turn ugly

BLANTYRE

THE fresh protests organised by civil society organisations (CSOs) under the banner of Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) on Friday turned ugly as violence spoiled the peaceful assemblies.

In Blantyre where the City Council stopped the demonstrations, ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) youth cadets armed with knives roughed up people who gathered at Chichiri Upper Stadium to march.

In full view of police officers who were watching helplessly, the DPP cadets roughed up some girls and even left them have some of their private parts exposed.

The Chichiri Shopping Mall was closed with more police officers standing in strategic places.

In the capital city Lilongwe, business was proceeding as normal in most parts as shops remained open as scores of protesters were taking part in anti-Jane Ansa demonstrations.

HRDC leaders including Gift Trapence and MacDonald Sembereka who were recently arrested on fraud allegations were in attendance.

But in the outskirts of the city, a mob of youths suspected to belong to opposition Malawi Congress Party (MCP) were blocking roads with stones.

The youth gangsters were demanding money as a requirement for motorists to pass through.

Police in areas along the MI Road from Lilongwe to Blantyre such as Nathenje have been involved in running battles with locals.

Protesters in Chitipa laid siege to a Chipiku store at the boma, but the police dispersed them by spraying teargas.

Ghana hopes to benefit from hosting Africa's free trade area secretariat

BY GUARDIAN CORRESPONDENT

GHANA has been chosen by the African Union (AU) to host the secretariat of the African Continental Free Trade Area after beating other competing countries including Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Senegal.

As a free trade area, member

countries have come together and agreed not to impose tariffs, quotas and other trade barriers on goods and services.

The agreement is expected to enlarge markets and diversify exports, particularly manufactured goods.

According to US-based think tank the Brookings Institute, intra-African trade stands at about

14 percent, while the share of manufactured goods to the rest of the world stands at 18 percent.

Trade among Asian countries is much higher - at 59 percent - and even higher among European countries at 69 percent.

The hope is that the African free trade area will boost trade across the continent by 52 percent by 2022.

The core mandate of the secretariat will be to implement the free trade agreement, which has been ratified by 25 out of 54 countries. Once all have ratified the deal, it will create the world's largest free trade area since the formation of the World Trade Organisation in 1995.

Africa's free trade area will cover a market of 1.2 billion

people with a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$ 2.5 trillion.

The secretariat's job will be to recruit personnel, train them, and develop organisational capability.

The secretariat will also have to implement policies handed down by the governing body, keep the media informed, or-

ganise conferences and identify potential funding sources. It will also monitor and evaluate the progress of policies and programmes.

This is a first for Ghana which has not hosted a continental secretariat.

The hope is that it can emulate the success of other African capitals that have benefitted from

hosting the AU and the United Nations. Addis Ababa is home to the AU headquarters while Nairobi hosts two of the UN's biggest bodies. For its part, South Africa hosts the Pan-African Parliament.

The presence of the AU in Addis Ababa has been credited with an increase in property valuations as well as job creation.

CMSA launches awareness programme to boost financial literacy among students in universities

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) has launched the 2019 University challenge awareness programme to inculcate financial and capital markets literacy amongst students in universities and other higher learning institutions, through quiz and essay competition.

Speaking at the launching ceremony in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, CMSA Executive Director Nicodemus Mukama said the primary objective of the challenge was to increase financial inclusion and literacy for students in higher learning institutions by testing their knowledge and understanding on issues related to capital Markets.

He said the 2019 challenge was part of strategies for national financial inclusion framework 2018-2022 for capital markets development in Tanzania.

He said further that CMSA conducts Capital Markets Universities and higher learning institutions challenge (CMUHLIC), a competition that was open to

students in university and other learning institutions in the country.

Mukama explained that this year challenge also tests their ability to apply their knowledge of capital markets to real life situations adding that the initiative targeted the youths as an important group.

Commenting on the success, he said the 2019 challenge has been gaining popularity since it was launched in 2014/15 whereas in 2016/17 the number increased to more than 7,000 students and in 2017/18 has increased to 15,004 students.

The experience from the past year's participation has registered increased interest and awareness of capital markets to the students of higher learning institutions.

Furthermore, the notable top winners of the competition have demonstrated notable competence in aspects of capital market, self-confidence and exposure.

According to Mukama, this enabled them to secure employment opportunities in different

institutions including top consulting and advisory firms who are also active stakeholders in the capital markets industry.

"The challenge has raised a big interest from scholars to participate in the coming years adding that this year more than 16,000 students are expected to participate," he said.

He added that public awareness and education campaigns have been identified as one of the key avenues of attaining the promotional and developmental goals of CMSA.

"CMSA plans to introduce awareness programme in secondary schools and to women groups as a way of preparing future leaders and investors on the opportunities and benefits of participating in the capital markets," he said.

In addition, participation in crowd pulling targeting general public and organisation of various seminars, workshop and office to office talks targeting specific users group will remain among priority activities to enable CMSA attain the set target.



It's vegetables in abundance at a makeshift roadside market at the Utete Street/Uhuru Street intersection in Dar es Salaam's Ilala municipality, as found on Thursday. Photo: John Badi

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Mandela Day: Timely plea for action to mark power to transform the world

NELSON Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations in November 2009, with the first UN Mandela Day held on 18 July 2010. However, other groups began celebrating Mandela Day on 18 July 2009.

On 27 April 2009, the 46664 concerts and the Nelson Mandela Foundation invited the global community to join them in support of an official Mandela Day. Mandela Day is not meant as a public holiday, but as a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's former President, and his values, through volunteering and community service.

Mandela Day is a global call to action that celebrates the idea that each individual has the power to transform the world, the ability to make an impact.

The Mandela Day campaign message is: "Nelson Mandela has fought for social justice for 67 years. We're asking you to start with 67 minutes."

"We would be honoured if such a day can serve to bring together people around the world to fight poverty and promote peace, reconciliation and cultural diversity," according to a statement issued on Mandela's behalf.

To mark the first global celebration of Mandela Day on 18 July 2009, Mandela's 91st birthday, a series of educational, art exhibit, fund-raising and volunteer events leading up to a concert at Radio City Music Hall on 18 July were organised by the 46664 concerts and the Nelson Mandela Foundation. In November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formally declared 18 July to be Nelson Mandela International Day.

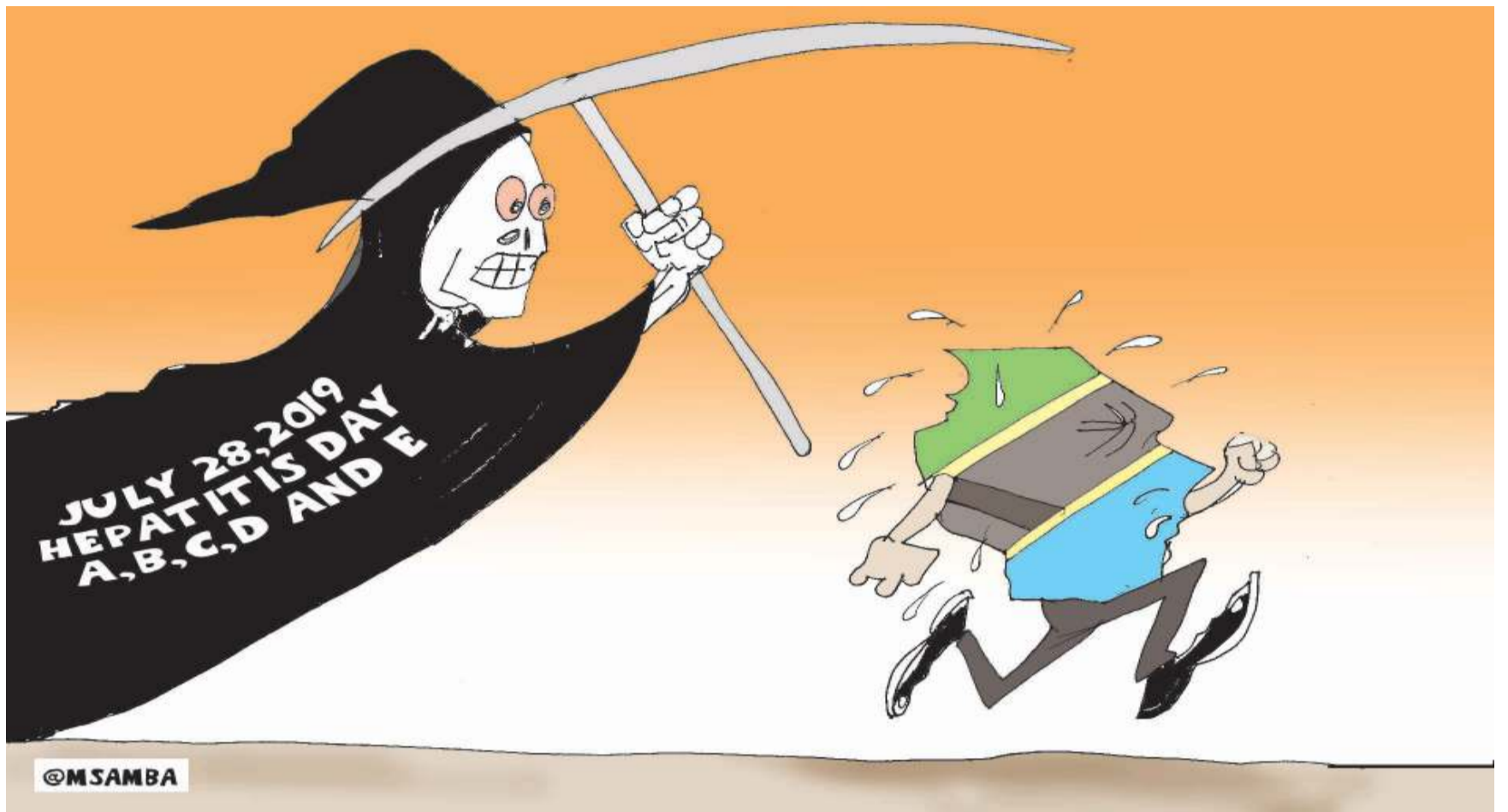
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative demo-

cratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalised racism and fostering racial reconciliation. Ideologically an African nationalist and socialist, he served as President of the African National Congress (ANC) party from 1991 to 1997.

A Xhosa, Mandela was born to the Thembu royal family in Mvezo, British South Africa. He studied law at the University of Fort Hare and the University of Witwatersrand before working as a lawyer in Johannesburg. There he became involved in anti-colonial and African nationalist politics, joining the ANC in 1943 and co-founding its Youth League in 1944. After the National Party's white-only government established apartheid, a system of racial segregation that privileged whites, he and the ANC committed themselves to its overthrow. Mandela was appointed President of the ANC's Transvaal branch, rising to prominence for his involvement in the 1952 Defiance Campaign and the 1955 Congress of the People. He was repeatedly arrested for seditious activities and was unsuccessfully prosecuted in the 1956 Treason Trial. Influenced by Marxism, he secretly joined the banned South African Communist Party (SACP). Although initially committed to non-violent protest, in association with the SACP he co-founded the militant Umkhonto we Sizwe in 1961 and led a sabotage campaign against the government.

He was arrested and imprisoned in 1962, and subsequently sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the state following the Rivonia Trial.

Mandela served 27 years in prison, split between Robben Island, Pollsmoor Prison, and Victor Verster Prison. Amid growing domestic and international pressure, and with fears of a racial civil war, President F. W. de Klerk released him in 1990. Mandela and de Klerk led efforts to negotiate an end to apartheid, which resulted in the 1994 multiracial general election in which Mandela led the ANC to victory and became president.



Suicide and the rising agony of Nigerians

By Nduseso Eno

MENTAL illness is quietly chipping away the lives of many Nigerians unnoticed. There are several types of this health challenge - from common disorders that affect tens of millions of people such as depression and acute anxiety to addiction, total insanity, among others.

Yes, when summed up, the number of deaths directly or indirectly linked to mental disorder could double those being recorded from either the most dreaded HIV-AIDS or Tuberculosis, and even malaria that has remained an untamed tormentor-in-chief of many households across Nigeria.

Apart from the suicide bombers regularly unleashed on hapless individuals by Boko Haram insurgents, such mental health-related deaths include avoidable road accidents that continue to claim many lives as a result of the poor psychological condition of individuals behind the wheels.

The recent surge in cases of suicide, which is one of the mental disorders, with not less than 10 incidents reported in the media in May 2019 alone, and the number of psychiatric patients that now roam the streets across Nigeria, only appears to be a mere tip of the iceberg on the challenges associated with mental health which the country is yet to come to terms with.

It is no longer news that many young Nigerians are fast developing a passion for substance abuse. There is growing poverty and frustration in many families amid overwhelming challenges, rising unemployment rate (at about 20 per cent), societal pressure,

among others. These result in depressive disorder, a major detonator of full-blown madness, incoherent behaviour or suicide.

The scores of suicides recorded recently, according to reports, were made possible by a popular brand of pesticide, sniper. Some victims also hanged themselves, others jumped into rivers while drug overdose was not ruled out in a few cases.

Hardly a week passes now without a person attempting or committing suicide in Nigeria with most of such incidents recorded from either the most dreaded HIV-AIDS or Tuberculosis, and even malaria that has remained an untamed tormentor-in-chief of many households across Nigeria.

But despite such mentality, many reported suicide cases like the University of Ibadan lecturer, who took his life on April 6, 2019, after an unfulfilled dream of completing his PhD programme; the one committed by a worker in Kogi State over alleged nonpayment of salary, and the over six reported cases of undergraduate suicides in April 2019 only succeeded in eliciting momentary frenzy across the country.

Some other widely reported suicide cases include that of a 100-level student of Kogi State University, Ayingba, who was jilted by her boyfriend and decided to end her life by taking a pesticide, and another year one student of Chemical Engineering at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, who also decided to say bye to the world by drinking two bottles of the deadly pesticide.

The list also includes an 18-year-old found dead in her room in Aluu, a community in Rivers State; a 26-year-old hairdresser in Lagos who ended



her life after her boyfriend quit the relationship; and a 17-year-old boy in Jos, reported to have sipped pesticide over failure in a university entrance examination. There have also been two reported (separate) cases of pastors in Abuja and Lagos who got depressed over personal challenges and decided to end their lives.

The issue of suicide is not peculiar to Nigeria. In fact, no country can successfully claim to have discovered the magic to totally uproot such deaths from its shores. According to the World Health Organisation, about 800,000 people die every year through suicide. Nigeria ranked 67th in the world based on the number of suicides.

But while many nations have discovered the importance of mental health by setting up functional systems to at least mitigate the number of inci-

dents through proactive actions, Nigeria which is ranked number one in West Africa in suicide rate has no clear cut programmes or law to address the increasing scourge.

Nigeria, which still relies on a colonial framework (Lunacy Act of 1958) as the only law that has anything connected to mentally unstable persons, with only a few psychologists and an intangible number of qualified psychiatric specialists, is still folding its hands while an increasing number of its citizens are fast killing themselves through suicide act.

Just recently, the federal government said it had expended N500 billion on its social investment programme. The irony of it all is that not even a dime in such momentous intervention was dedicated to any issue related to mental health.

The only few psychiatric hospitals in the country are in shambles even as one can hardly find any rehab centres or qualified psychologists to channel the problem of mental health challenge.

International Development Partners and donors have not also done enough on the issue of addressing mental related illness, which is currently affecting both the rich and poor, the young and old, through suicide and other means.

Nigeria must not wait for more of its citizens to take their own lives before coming up with a workable mechanism to stem the tide. Suicide is gaining more ground, it is spreading like a bushfire and threatening to 'embrace' more people.

One year after peace deal, little has changed in Eritrea

By Special Correspondent

TUESDAY 9th this year marked one year since the historic peace agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which ended 20 years of intermittent conflict between the two countries. Eritrea's leaders had long used the "no war, no peace" situation with Ethiopia to justify some of their most repressive policies, and many had hoped that the peace deal would usher in a new era of respect for human rights. Yet one year on, little has changed.

Among the most egregious problems is indefinite national service, in

which all young Eritreans - men and women - starting in their last year of high school must serve indefinitely in the military or civil service for low pay, with no say in their profession or work location, and often under abusive conditions.

While the threat from Ethiopia was previously used as a justification for this policy, there are no signs this has eased since the peace deal was signed.

National service remains the primary driver behind the mass exodus of thousands of young Eritreans each month who brave dangerous foreign journeys and callous governments to

reach safety abroad.

Eritrea's leaders and their vocal supporters have claimed, with some justification, that the international community sided with Ethiopia during the dispute, and cite the range of United Nations sanctions and increased UN scrutiny on Eritrea's human rights record as evidence of this. But international oversight should spur improvements in rights protections, not new excuses for violating them.

Eritrea's government should recognize that its dire rights record and the mass migration that it fuels is the biggest threat facing the country.

The UN Human Rights Council in Geneva should continue monitoring Eritrea, including by renewing the mandate of the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Eritrea later this week.

Eritrea's international partners who want to see the country's human rights record improve should continue exploring how they can support the government to demobilize indefinite conscripts.

And the government should finally set a detailed timetable on demobilization and ensure that national service no longer lasts indefinitely.

How skills can change lives of world's youth

UNITED NATIONS

To say Zimbabwe is in a mess would be a severe understatement. Think corruption, pothole-ridden roads, and a flailing economy that has pushed millions of people to live and work elsewhere.

When the United Nations commemorated World Youth Skills Day, there was one stark reality that emerged out of the event: the world's youth account for over a third of the global population of more than 7.7 billion people, and they also account for over a third of those unemployed across the globe.

"Over the next decade, we will need to create at least 14 million jobs per year to keep pace with the growing population" María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, President of the UN General Assembly told the panelists.

The panel discussion, which took place on July 15, was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the UN, along with the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the UN, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

"Young people can and must lead," said Ana María Menéndez, Representative of the UN Secretary General.

"They must be able to participate in the decisions that affect their lives, and create an enabling environment, where they are seen not as subjects, but as citizens with equal rights," she added.

The theme of this year's World Youth



Skills Day was Learning to Learn, which emphasizes that learning should and must not end in the classroom.

The panelists also revealed that right now, 2 out of 3 children in primary school will be in jobs that do not currently exist. With this, it is evident widespread support systems for youths will

Students training in MIANI centre in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka. They are acquiring skills to pursue a career in the tourism industry. Photo: UNESCO

continue to be fostered, especially within the education system.

The history of World Youth Skills Day goes back to 18 December 2014 when the UN General Assembly adopted by consensus, resolution, A/RES/69/145, titled 'World Youth Skills Day' spear-

headed by Sri Lanka, declaring 15th July as the World Youth Skills Day.

Since then, this has been an annual event celebrated at the UN.

"Learning is learning to be curious," Erol Kirespi, President of the Institute of Engineering told IPS.

"Learning to learn can mean a lot of things- I think that learning is about curiosity, and curiosity comes from a passion for something, or having a spark of an interest in something," Amelia Addis, Champions Trust Regional Representative for Oceania and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and member of World Skills, told IPS.

However, as she noted, too often a young person develops a passion for something, only to get shamed for said passion by outside forces.

"And so often, they might have passion for something and are told not to follow their passion because it's 'not the right career. But learning to learn comes naturally when you are passionate about it, so we need to encourage young people to follow up and to have that curiosity to keep learning," she added.

Ultimately, though it is up to the young people and those around them to help nurture and strengthen their skillsets so that they can have an effective and sustainable role in the workforce. But, as aforementioned, there is a stigma around unorthodox skills and passions.

"I think the biggest challenge with the sort of negative reception to skills is around perception of skills themselves. I think universally skills are thought of as entry level jobs, and those of us involved in the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) community know that this isn't true".

"Vocational careers like any

other career have opportunities for growth and development on both personal and professional levels. Parents and teachers have a responsibility to expose youth to different career and educational pathways and trust that youth will find their passion. Once they have found their passion they will be on the road to success." Addis noted.

"My advice for youth who may feel disheartened by the prospect of pursuing skills careers is to trust themselves when they have found something that gives them that spark. If they are looking for more practical help to know what a profession might be like they can find someone who is equally passionate about the skill they are looking to pursue."

"Traditionally the mentor and apprentice relationship has been the core of so many vocational backgrounds and this is still an integral way youth can gain knowledge about their passions. We must realize however that not every young person will have access to a one on one, in person mentor dynamic, she declared.

"This is where we can look to online communities of peers and professionals to be our mentors. I personally do this in my own work all the time, gaining inspiration from others who work not only in my field but those who have like-minded skills."

All in all, learning to learn is the door to the success of our world, and the young generation is the key to unlocking that very door.

IPS

UN report shows mixed results in meeting SDGs

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations launched its 2019 report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showing inadequate progress in the fourth year into the sustainable development agenda and highlighting the need for imminent global action.

Released on the first day of the SDG High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the report evaluates progress made towards the 2030 target. Despite achievements in a number of areas, including poverty reduction and global health, the world needs "deeper, faster and more ambitious response" to meet the goal, said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

"We are moving too slowly in our efforts to end human suffering and create opportunity for all," Guterres said. "We must diligently ensure that policy choices leave no one behind, and that national efforts are supported by effective international cooperation."

The report identifies climate change and inequality as two of the most urgent issues. Climate-induced disaster disproportionately affects low-income countries and worsen poverty, hunger and disease for the world's poorest and most vulnerable.

Climate Change and the Environment

Although more financial resources have been directed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and developing risk-reduction strategies, the world is not on track to meet the target of curbing global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Mitigating the effects of climate change still requires "unprecedented changes" in all aspects of society, according to the report.

The 1.5°C target was set to reduce the possibility of extreme weather events such as droughts, heavy precipitation and tropical cyclones that can cause human suffering, according to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Guterres called climate change an "existential threat" in a speech on climate action delivered last September.

Liu Zhenmin, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social



Affairs echoed Guterres' message by calling climate change "the main obstacle to our shared prosperity" at the press conference where he introduced the report.

"If we do not cut record-high greenhouse gas emissions now," Liu said, "the compound effects will be catastrophic and irreversible... rendering many parts of the world uninhabitable, putting food production at risk, leading to widespread food shortages and hunger, and potentially displacing up to 140 million people by 2050."

However, even if the terms of the Paris Agreement are implemented, global temperature is likely to rise above 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, according to Dr. Virginia Burkett, Chief Scientist

for Land Resources at United States Geological Survey (USGS) and Acting Chair of US Global Change Research Program.

"With significant reductions in emissions, the increase in annual average global temperature could possibly be limited to 2°C," Dr. Burkett told IPS. "But this would require a rapid transition towards the decarbonization of the global economy and new technologies for removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere."

Although the UN's climate research coordination effort has been effective, Dr. Burkett said lack of internationally coordinated policy solution is likely to

affect the pace of progress.

Imminent policy response is also needed to preserve and improve the environment, including key resources such as water.

"Two billion people live in countries experiencing high water stress, and about 4 billion people experience severe water scarcity at least one month a year," the report identified.

Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene have been a "major contributors" to illness and health, causing diseases such as diarrhea. Efforts to improve life on land and below water "must accelerate" to meet the 2030 agenda, according to the report.

Wealth and Gender Inequality

The report painted a grim picture towards achieving greater wealth and gender equality.

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), nearly half of the world's workers - close to 1.6 billion people - make only \$200 a month, and the bottom 10 percent would need to work 28 years to earn the same as the top 10 percent.

Economic disparity also affects gender equality, with men's median hourly pay 12 percent higher than that of women.

This gap is even greater for managerial occupations due to

"rigid social norms and cultural expectations about women's role in society," the report said.

Women worldwide also experience persistently high level of sexual violence and often find legal frameworks failing to protect their rights.

"Women and girls around the world continue to experience violence and cruel practices that strip them of their dignity and erode their well-being," the report noted. "Women and girls perform a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic work [and] continue to face barriers with respect to their sexual and reproductive health and rights."

Sexual violence is especially common in Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia.

Poverty, Hunger and Global Health

Despite extended progress in the past decade, hunger is again on the rise largely due to adverse weather conditions and armed conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa, reflecting a "worrying" trend.

Malnutrition, another effect of inadequate food supply, is still a prevalent condition affecting 49 million children under 5 years of age despite notably decrease since 2000.

"Intensified efforts are needed to implement and scale up interventions to improve access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all," the report said.

The UN introduced the Multidimensional Poverty Index to indicate poverty not only in income but also poor housing, health and quality of work. By this standard, a startling 1.3 billion people - nearly one fifth of the world's population - remain multidimensionally poor.

As a result, the world is not on track to end poverty by 2030.

"One out of five children live in extreme poverty, and the negative effects of poverty and deprivation in the early years have ramifications that can last a lifetime," the report said

IPS

African continent leapfrogging into digital agriculture

By Muhammadou M.O. Kah

AFRICA'S demand for food is growing. Between 2010 and 2030, the total worth of the continent's food industry is projected to hit the \$1 trillion mark.

While existing technologies like improved seeds and fertilisers will be critical to meeting this demand, Africa's farmers will need additional new tools to improve yields and get their goods to market. Digitalisation can deliver these tools.

Across the continent, we know farmers are already applying these digital technologies to learn new skills, receive and deliver services, and connect themselves across widely dispersed geographic areas. There is great hope that this can drive Africa's agricultural transformation and do so at a lower cost and sooner.

One area that has recorded unprecedented growth is mobile telephony. In 2017, the number of mobile phone connections on the continent was around 747 million, representing a 75 per cent penetration rate, compared to 102 per cent in Asia-Pacific and 104 per cent in Latin America.

Efforts to improve digital access are already having an effect, with the price for mobile internet in Africa dropping by 30 per cent since 2015.

Encouragingly, even smallholder farmers in rural areas across the continent are getting connected. This can only be welcome news as it has been shown that each 10 per cent rise in internet penetration can lead to a 1.35 per cent rise in GDP growth in developing countries.

For instance, improving access to mobile phones could have huge effects in terms of empowering women farmers. In 2017, sub-Saharan Africa's women were 14 per cent less likely to own a mobile phone than men and 25 per cent less likely to have internet access. It is

estimated that levelling this gap could improve agricultural production by up to 4 per cent, decreasing the number of Africa's hungry people by up to 17 per cent.

The benefits of agricultural digitalisation will demand that governments help drive private sector investment in areas as diverse as production, post-harvest handling, market access, finance and supply chain management.

To do this, three things will be required. First, African governments must create a fair, transparent and smart regulatory environment that both consumers and service providers can have confidence in.

Second, they must adopt national digital agriculture strategies, coupled with public investment plans. Finally, they must prioritise high-quality, skilled-based digital education, especially amongst young people.

The benefits of doing so can be profound. Countries that have adopted such strategies are already seeing the benefits. Take Rwanda as an example. Rwanda's government has since 2000 embraced an ambitious digital agenda to achieve a full digital economy by 2020.

With agriculture accounting for around four-fifths of the country's employment and one-third of its GDP, agricultural digitalisation promises to bring nothing short of a total transformation in the national economy.

The Global Innovation Index has praised Rwanda's work to improve digital penetration of the economy, heralding it as an innovation achiever.

Rwanda already has helped 93 per cent of its population gain access to a 3G network. It is one of the fastest-growing African economies and is also one of the most popular countries for tech investors in sub-Saharan Africa, receiving \$36.7 million in start-up investments in 2017.

Rwanda is just one example of how



Africa is preparing itself to leapfrog into modern agricultural practices, by ensuring that the right enabling environment is in place.

African e-entrepreneurs are already well on their way towards transforming the continent's agricultural sector through digitalisation, as outlined in a new report by the Malabo Montpellier Panel, on which I sit.

Digital services are becoming commonplace - offered by many start-ups that have emerged across Africa. For example, e-Soko is a Ghanaian start-up that provides overall farm management support, helping farmers monitor and analyse their farming records via its data collection tool.

Accessed via a smartphone app or e-Soko's website, the tool links farmers to advisory services, markets, market prices and secure payments.

Elsewhere, Nigeria-based FarmCrowd is an online platform offers farmers extension advice and enables them to

access credit directly from an investor, who in return earns a share of the post-harvest profit.

The digital era offers many new innovations and breakthroughs - seemingly every year - that will allow the African continent to get ahead of the curve, and more efficiently and sustainably unlock the full potential of its smallholder farmers and agribusiness sector.

This is not simply a case of 'out with the old, in with the new', although newer technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, remote sensing, robotics and big data make the future much more exciting. Progress will be greatest for those who learn to bring the two together.

An Africa Renewal feature. Muhammadou M.O. Kah is a Member of the Malabo Montpellier Panel and Professor of Information Technology and Computing at The American University of Nigeria.



Local school children eat their meals at the Ban Bor Primary School in Xay District, Lao People's Democratic Republic. Photo: FAO

Food security and nutrition report maps out the road to zero hunger

UNITED NATIONS

OVER 820 million people across the globe are currently undernourished, according to a new report released here.

After nearly a decade of progress, the number of people who suffer from hunger has slowly increased over the past three years, with about one in every nine people globally suffering from hunger today, said the new annual report titled State of Food Security and Nutrition 2019 released July 15.

"It is an abomination that more than 820 million people are undernourished and nearly two billion people do not have regular access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food," Gilbert Houngbo, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), told IPS.

Speaking during the launch of the new report, he said: "There is a direct connection between food insecurity and how food is grown and how food is distributed. Most food insecure people live in rural areas; many of them are farmers themselves. Farmers who are not earning enough to buy what they cannot grow," he declared.

In an effort to combat and investigate the global food crisis, the joint report was released by five UN agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IFAD, the UN Children's agency UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The report is part of an ongoing process towards the Sustainable Development Goal to achieve Zero Hunger, which strives to end hunger, promote food security, and end all forms of malnutrition by 2030. This year's report keyed in on the roles of economic slowdowns and downturns in food security and nutrition.

According to the report, hunger is increasing in many countries where economic growth is lagging, particularly in middle-income countries and those that rely heavily on international primary commodity trade.

The annual UN report also found that income inequality is rising in many of the countries where hunger is on the rise, making it even more difficult for the poor, vulnerable or marginalized to cope with economic slowdowns and downturns.

Asked about potential solutions, and what role IFAD will play going forward, Houngbo said: "These farmers need to be better integrated into markets, and throughout the different value chains".

Then, they can improve their own food security through higher incomes and contribute even more to the food security and economic growth of their own nations.

He said there is a need to focus on those who are suffering the most - especially women and indigenous peoples. In every region of the

world, women are more likely to be food insecure than men. "This is the work of the investment of IFAD."

Thus, the solution to the problem starts at the root-farmers and those who are in most immediate need.

"We need a radical transformation of our food systems" Amina Mohammed, Deputy-Secretary General to the United Nations said at Monday's launch.

She went on to highlight the cruciality of working towards a "sustainable, nutritious, inclusive and efficient" plan that also would "protect the planet, protect nutrition, and ensure diversified food."

Since hunger wears many different faces, the Report aptly called for tailored action that would address the specific constraints within each country.

"Our actions to tackle these troubling trends will have to be bolder, not only in scale but also in terms of multisectoral collaboration," the report said.

The scale is certainly bolder, as David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) pointed out that an average of \$115 billion would be required on a yearly basis to truly reach that desired zero hunger.

But with 1.3 billion people across the globe currently suffering from malnourishment, (as the Report evidenced), the study firmly upholds that innovative and efficacious approaches must be taken.

However, the world food crisis is not just an issue of food scarcity, but also reveals the significance of a human relationship with food.

"We are all born with the ability to eat intuitively, but as we become scheduled in our eating patterns and begin to diet, we lose this skill," Chevese Turner, Chief Policy and Strategy Officer at the National Eating Disorders Association (NEDA) told IPS.

"Eating intuitively is the practice of listening to hunger/fullness cues and responding accordingly," he added.

"It is a skill that requires plenty of practice and like anything, it is not perfect."

In terms of what exactly is sparking this food-fearing craze, Turner said: "Our current fear of food is rising as a result of the barrage of complex health information that is distilled into 'sound bites' via the media, the fear of higher weight bodies (fatphobia), and the increasing reliance on strict external rules many now utilize in their approach to eating. Together, this creates a 'diet culture' in which people develop negative relationships with food and for some, an actual fear of food."

This is evidenced in the report which also focused on the statistics of obesity worldwide. The report cited an estimated 672 million adults who are obese, and 338 million children are overweight across the globe.

IPS

Africa Check trains newsrooms in Nigeria on fact-checking



By Patrick Egwu

LOCAL newsrooms across Nigeria are joining together to tackle fake news in the country. Africa Check - Africa's first independent fact-checking organisation - is training journalists and providing them with skills, exposure, tools and resources to debunk false claims and statements made by public officials.

Beginning in March 2019, with support from the US Embassy in Nigeria, the organisation has held training workshops across the six geo-political zones in the country. The training was aimed at engaging more than 200 journalists from different newsrooms on fact-checking methodologies, preparing them to be the next generation of fact-checking champions in the country.

"Part of our goal at Africa Check is to foster fact-checking skills among the public, particularly young people, and to foster a community of non-partisan fact-checkers across the continent,"

David Ajikobi, Nigerian editor of Africa Check, says. He adds: "The outcomes we look forward to include ensuring that media organisations in the country have in-house skills to fact-check claims for themselves, and ensuring that citizens can easily identify false claims and access accurate information."

The training is helping journalists in local newsrooms and offering tools and inspiration for them to start fact-checking desks and initiate a culture of verification in their newsrooms.

"I have spoken to my editor about organising a step-down training for my colleagues on fact-checking. This will help them to know what fact-checking is all about, and the process it takes," Anambra Broadcasting Service reporter Daniel Ezeigwe notes.

Participants were trained to use tools like Google's reverse image search and a similar tool called TinEye, as well as using specific fact-checking methodologies. The idea is enable them to verify the authenticity of videos, pictures and

texts that are in the public domain.

Trainees were also taught to use Foller, another fact-checking tool that can be used to verify Twitter accounts and profiles.

Ajikobi was satisfied with the number of journalists from different newsrooms that were trained during the programme, and was happy that some of them even returned to their newsrooms to train their colleagues.

"Just recently, we did one-day training sponsored by Google Nigeria for 190 journalists at a go in Lagos. Almost all of them did not know how to do a reverse image search on their phones," he says.

"Based on the feedback we've gotten so far, we can say that the training helps journalists do their work better in an era where disinformation is targeted at everyone - even the journalists," he added.

Africa Check is extending the training to journalism students across Nigerian universities, including the University of Lagos and Elizade University. Every week, through fact-checking radio programmes,

the organisation also reaches citizens with fact-checks and debunks of circulating stories. They also include tips for verifying information and media literacy.

Through the training, Ajikobi says, journalists have been given the tools and capacity to implement the practice of fact-checking in their own newsrooms. But he adds that many people have the wrong perception of fact-checking and the organisations championing it.

"Many wrongly view fact-checking as an attack on people or organisations," he says, elaborating: "We do non-partisan fact-checking with the aim of promoting accuracy in public debate and the media. Fact-checkers focus on fact and accuracy and not on personality, politics, ethnicity or religion."

"We believe that local newsrooms can implement fact-checking as an essential part of the news production process. We hope to see the fact-checking practice institutionalized in newsrooms," he adds, remaining hopeful about the future of fact-checking in the country.

World leaders to back tech revolution for women across Africa

• Leaders to back Gates Foundation call to help rural poor and women access mobile banking

By Special Correspondent

WORLD leaders are to pledge to shape the technological revolution sweeping through Africa by acting to lift the threat of 400 million predominantly rural women being excluded from digital financial services.

G7 finance ministers meeting in France are to endorse a paper from the Gates Foundation saying there is a serious risk that digital technology and mobile banking will bypass millions of women in Africa, leaving them disempowered for a generation.

The initiative, requiring \$255m (£205m) in initial funding and regulatory action across Africa, is designed to prevent "the inequalities of the past being insinuated into the future" as cultural and market barriers lead to women being excluded from mobile banking, e-commerce and smart phone technology.

A mobile money revolution in sub-Saharan Africa is under way in which the number of people with an account doubled to 21 percent in 2017.

Yet in sub-Saharan Africa women are 13 percent less likely to own a mobile phone and

41 percent less likely to use mobile internet than men.

Speaking on Thursday before addressing finance ministers on Thursday, Melinda Gates, co-founder of the world's largest private charitable organisation, argued that the G7 should not see digital inclusion as a small step but comparable with its past efforts to address malaria or debt.

"Digital financial services are not a lever we had 15 years ago. We have it now. Yet the mobile phone operators are going to pick off the low-hanging fruit, the middle class. They are not going to go the extra mile to help the poor or women. We are already seeing these gaps that are going to set back women's empowerment", she said.

She said: "We know from good research that when a woman has her own digital financial bank account, she often moves from the informal farming sector to the formal entrepreneurial sector. When they have assets in their hands, women often invest differently from their husbands. They invest in health and their kids' education. When women are empowered, economies are lifted out of poverty".

"Yet too many women are stuck in the era of the money-lender and the forced chicken sale", Gates said

The Gates Foundation argues that as the technology revolution is only just taking root in Africa, the opportunity still exists to shape a modern financial system from its foundations to include and empower everyone.

"The old financial system was built to exclude. It excluded the poor, whose transactions were too small to matter. It excluded the rural, who lived too far away from bank branches. It excluded women, whose husbands were supposed to make the decisions," Gates wrote in the paper to the G7.

It is very hard to retrofit an exclusive system to be inclusive, she said.

Barriers that need addressing include the extent of mobile phone coverage, the inter-operability of technology, proof of identity, regulation and laws that exclude women.

Bruno Le Maire, the French finance minister and host of the G7, said all these reforms needed backing. "Giving women access to a bank account is key to faster growth in the poorest countries.



A motorbike rider transports charcoal with little regard for road traffic regulations, as caught at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Our theme at the G7 is addressing inequalities, and this helps," he said.

Although by the end of 2018 nearly 250 million Africans subscribe to the mobile internet, more than three-quarters - 750 million - were still offline, including more than 400 million people for whom there is no mobile broadband. The differences across Africa, revealed in the report, are striking. In Kenya, 80 percent of women have their own bank account. In Senegal, the number has increased sevenfold between 2011 and 2017, but still only 40 percent of women have access to an account.

The total cost of mobile ownership is on average 10 percent of monthly income, much higher than in the developed economies and prohibitive for the rural poor.

One of the key historic barriers to financial inclusion identified in the report is the relatively primitive type of mobile banking system that only allows money to be transferred between users of the same mobile service.

As a result, the majority of digital transac-

tions are still peer-to-peer money transfers within the same network.

The report says, "a healthcare worker who receives her wages in a closed-loop mobile money account is likely to withdraw funds in cash - often travelling long distances and incurring fees - to buy food for her family, pay her bills, and send money to her son who lives in a neighbouring country".

The report also suggests difficulties need to be overcome to ensure secure proof of identification, an issue the UK chancellor, Philip Hammond, will highlight at the G7 by offering £15m to help fund a World Bank initiative on secure ID systems.

Nearly 45 percent of women in low-income countries, not just in Africa, lack a formal ID. The World Bank puts the figure for Africa at 500 million people. India's controversial efforts to introduce a national ID system, subject to court challenge over privacy, demonstrate the challenges ahead.

Cultural or religious resistance to women's

financial independence is a further barrier, the report says. In Cameroon, Chad, Gabon and Niger formal regulations exist that prevent women from opening a bank account in the same way as men.

"All countries have reasons culturally or historically to hold women back," Gates said. "It takes forward-thinking people at the top and at the grassroots to lead change."

The Gates team believes the digital revolution is not so advanced in Africa that the emerging inequalities are irreversible. Nearly half of people in sub-Saharan Africa who are paid a salary receive their wages in cash, and less than a third pay utility bills through an account.

The potential future scale of the transformation is startling. The consultants McKinsey estimate that by 2025 digital financial services could allow 1.6 billion people worldwide to enter the formal economy and could add \$3.7tn to the annual GDP of emerging markets.

President Agius presents his first progress report to UN Security Council

By Guardian Reporter

THE President of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, Judge Carmel Agius, has presented his first progress report to the United Nations Security Council since taking up office on 19 January 2019.

In his address, President Agius highlighted the most notable aspects of the Mechanism's work during the past six months.

Regarding the Mechanism's

residual judicial workload, President Agius noted that the Appeal Judgement in the Karadžić case was delivered on 20 March 2019 at the Mechanism's Hague branch, stressing the timely conclusion of this significant case.

President Agius updated the Council on the Mladić appeal case, which is expected to conclude by the end of 2020, and the solid progress made in the Stanišić and Simatović re-trial, in which the Defence case commenced on 18 June

2019. With regard to proceedings at the Arusha branch, the President informed the Council that the review hearing in the Ngarabatware case is anticipated to be held in September 2019.

He noted the trial in the Turinabo et al. case against five persons accused of contempt of court is expected to start in October 2019.

President Agius made a number of observations regarding the Mechanism's responsibilities in

the area of enforcement of sentences, emphasizing that 'justice does not end with the delivery of a judgment' and that 'in order to have an enduring impact on international peace and justice, we must all remain committed not only to having trials and appeals and active judicial processes, but also to what comes afterwards'.

The President called upon Member States to assist in relation to nine persons who were acquitted or released by the International

Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), and who currently remain in Arusha under the Mechanism's responsibility as no State has yet been willing to accept them.

President Agius highlighted that "these persons should be free to start a new life, having served their sentences or never been convicted in the first place".

President Agius was pleased to note that his address before the Council coincided with the Day of International Criminal Justice.

He emphasized the important work undertaken by international courts and tribunals saying "international criminal justice is not the responsibility of courts alone" and that "all those who are committed to the rule of law have a vital part to play in the fight against impunity".

The President reiterated the need to stand firm against those who deny the legitimacy of the findings of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former

Yugoslavia (ICTY), the ICTR and the Mechanism, particularly given the recent resurgence in genocide denial and revisionism.

"International criminal justice concerns us all, because justice is in the service of peace, and peace must be maintained on a daily basis", he noted.

President Agius expressed determination to maximize the Mechanism's ability to deliver meaningful justice and to fulfill all aspects of its mandate in an effective



Work in progress on a trench at a section of a road being built to link Dar es Salaam's Mwananyamala and Tandale suburbs, as found yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Artificial limbs soon to be manufactured in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE sole manufacturer of the prosthetic leg, Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) to set up a Jaipur Foot rehabilitation centre in the country's commercial capital, Dar es Salaam.

The MoU was signed by MOI Executive Director, Dr Respiious Boniface and the founder and chief patron of the BMVSS, Dr Satish Mehta, according to a press release by BMVSS.

Mehta stated in the release that the BMVSS, at a 42-day camp in Dar es Salaam, provided 550 amputees with Jaipur Foot.

He said that the camp was organized in association with the India Ministry of External Affairs as part of the "India for Humanity" programme to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary

of Mahatma Gandhi.

Dr Boniface said this on Monday that the camp was also supported by MOI, Indian High Commissioner in Tanzania and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

"We appreciate the support from Indian specialists for their tireless work. They have volunteered to assist Tanzanians in need of artificial limbs", said the Executive Director commending MOI specialists for making the exercise a successful.

Dr Boniface noted that most people lost their legs in road accidents and diabetes. He said currently there is a growing demand for artificial limbs in Tanzania.

He called upon Tanzania drivers to adhere to traffic regulations to reduce the number of road crashes. He also insisted Tanzanians to do body exercises to avoid non-communicable diseases including diabetes.

Forestry Commission announces ban on hunting, capturing of wild animals

ACCRA

THE Forestry Commission of Ghana has announced a ban on hunting and capturing of wild animals.

This was announced in a statement signed by the Deputy Chief Executive of Forestry Commission, John Allotey.

The ban will take effect from August 1 to December 1, 2019 - a period the Commission describes as a 'Close Season'.

The ban is being spearheaded by the Wildlife Division of the Commission as a measure to help curb the decline of wildlife resources in the country.

The "Close Season" is expected to give some respite to animals and to also regulate their utilisation.

Allotey said it would be illegal to capture, hunt or destroy any wildlife species during this period.

The statement said the only animal which could be hunt-

ed during the Closed Season was grass cutter.

Even with that, the statement said, one would need a valid license issued by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to hunt the grass cutters.

The Commission further urged the public to obtain a license before hunting within the open season which was set to start from December 2 to July 31, 2020.



"We appreciate the support from Indian specialists for their tireless work. They have volunteered to assist Tanzanians in need of artificial limbs"

Mtanzamsona village as key stakeholder in community-based forest management

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

MTANZAMSONA villagers in Rufiji district, Coast region have raised more than 42.5m/- shillings from community based forest management (CBFM).

The village chairman Adiona Ali Milandu said that the community based forest management (CBFM) has played a key role in terms of rural livelihoods and development while recognizing local communities as key forest stakeholders.

Citing an example, he said that under the CBFM, the villagers sold and auctioned logs and other forest products and so far they had bought a new tractor at 31.5 m/-, which the villagers said will help in the village development activities particularly agriculture.

"The local communities were capacitated in different aspects ranging from forest conservation to good governance. The capacity building session also encouraged involvement of the local communities in decision-making and how to ensure the forest generates positive outcomes for livelihoods," he said.

However, commenting on the challenges, the village chairman said that the village land and natural resource committee has been impounding hundreds of logs harvested illegally.

He said some harvesters do not follow laws and procedures of harvesting plans and others tend to abuse the harvesting permits. "Through CBFM, we have long-term conservation plan of the village land forest reserve including its biodiversity," he said, describing critical ecological functions that need to be maintained. "But illegal harvesting will discourage these efforts," he stated.

Explaining further, he said that some permits are being issued to traders to harvest in the woodlands outside the



village land forest reserves without proper supervision and monitoring mechanisms. As a result, some unfaithful traders tend to take that loophole of lack of proper supervision to come to in the village land forest reserve and cut down trees.

"If you go to the village land forest reserve, you will see for yourself. These log harvesters are no longer harvesting according to the permits. They are cutting down trees randomly in the village land forest reserve using chainsaws.

Villagers from a local forest conservation network show how Mtanzamsona village land forest reserve is destroyed by log and timber traders abusing their harvesting permits. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

This shows that these people have decided to discourage and thwart villagers efforts to conserve their own forests and the environment," he said.

Giving an example, he said that since the beginning of this year more than 400 logs have been impounded and the trend continues.

Shabani Mahanyu from a local forest conservation network for Mwasesi and Kipugila wards

said that the network has been sensitizing and educating local communities to understand their rights. Before the network, deforestation was rampant in some villages and local communities did not even benefit from their own resources, but after the network, deforestation has decreased and the people are willing to cooperate and conserve their own forests. "One of the challenges facing forest conservation is ille-

gal harvesting of timber and logs because when harvesters obtain the harvesting permits, they are left to harvest whatever tree they want without proper monitoring mechanisms," he said.

When harvesting the trees in open areas, some unfaithful traders tend to abuse their permits and enter the village land forest reserves to cut down trees," he said.

He said that the government should make sure that there is close supervision and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that the timber and logs harvesters adhere to harvesting rules and laws.

The village land and natural resource committee Salum Amir Mnuhi called for the government to make sure that they support the committee and equip them with working tools to conduct fruitful patrols and conserve the forests.

"We call for the government and other relevant authorities to ensure take legal action against unfaithful log traders and find solution to this problem," he said.

He said that the government should continue supporting efforts being made by WWF, Tanzania Community Forest Conservation Network (Mjumita), Mpingo Conservation Development Initiative (MCDD).

The organizations are promoting full participation of the local communities and awareness of the values of forests, woodlands and other important conservation aspects.

"For a short period of time, we have registered many achievements through leading the change, civil society rights and environment campaign that aims at improving forest governance in

the village.

The Acting District Executive Director, Brighton Kilimba promised that his office in collaboration with the district forest office and the Tanzania Forest Service Agency (TFS) will work on the problem and find solutions.

"I thank you very much for this information because it will help us make follow up. I understand that Mtanzamsona villagers are committed to conserve the forests and other natural resources. We will not entertain anyone who lets down efforts of local communities," he said.

Contacted for comment, Rufiji district commissioner Juma Njuwayo said that the district is taking action against illegal log harvesters. He said that the TFS manager in collaboration with district forest officer visits the area regularly and takes action.

"Two weeks ago, I received information that there are some logs that were harvested illegally by the traders. I directed the TFS manager to go there and reported back that the logs had no problem. They had permits and only 666 logs that they had were shifted from the forest to the village where they are kept for safety," he said.

He urged the villagers to cooperate with the district government and continue disclosing illegal logs and timber harvesters so that legal action can be taken.

In recent years, Rufiji district council in collaboration with conservation NGOs and local communities have stepped up conservation efforts in the district following increased pressures from log and timber traders, and wider national efforts at conservation of key forest reserves.

Principle or brotherhood? Making elections more credible in SADC

BY RINGISAI CHIKOHOMERO

THE Southern African Development Community's (SADC) election season is in full swing. Between January 2018 and December 2019, 11 of the 15 SADC member states would have gone to the polls. However elections in some of these countries, as in the rest of Africa, continue to be a source of political conflict and instability rather than good governance and prosperity.

Could those SADC countries that have had peaceful polls help lead the rest to better success when it comes to holding elections? And what is it that makes them successful, as opposed to those whose elections end in strife?

Accusations of electoral fraud, malfeasance and political violence are commonplace. In some cases, such as Zimbabwe, they lead to sustained periods of political fragility and standoff, undermining national and regional stability.

Of the 10 Southern African countries that have so far held elections, four have been marred in controversy and three of these four have been contested in courts of law. The most turbulent have been those of Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi and the Comoros.

Recurrent disputes and lack of public confidence in electoral processes are casting a shadow over not only the elections, but the whole democratisation process in the region. Among the many reasons behind these contestations is SADC's failure to enforce the letter and spirit of its own principles and guidelines.

Instead, member states opt for accommodation and fraternal solidarity as an unsaid modus operandi, resulting in a failure to sanction delinquent states. Supporters of this passive stance argue that because few member states' electoral processes would pass the credibility test, strict enforcement of SADC's principles and guidelines would mean sanctioning more than half of them. The bloc prefers a gradual approach that relies more on persua-



sion than punishment to maintain stability.

In the midst of perennial electoral conflict though, there are a few examples of SADC countries that have held polls with relative credibility. South Africa, Namibia and Botswana stand out as states that have become regional outliers. In the search for increased democratisation in the region, they can potentially lead SADC towards a more value-oriented approach to elections and democracy.

South Africa appears to be a straightforward case of a natural SADC champion or anchor state. Not only is it the largest economy in the region, but its constitution is the most progres-

Although SADC hasn't improved the region's elections record, a coalition of progressive member states could lead change. File photo

sive and its institutions stronger than those of its counterparts. South Africa's electoral processes, though not without glitches, have been exemplary since the dawn of its democracy.

These qualities alone wouldn't qualify it as an anchor state in the SADC context, however. In fact, any attempt by South Africa to take the moral high ground would be counterproductive as this would be seen as being intrusive. In 2013 former Zambian vice president Guy Scott accused South Africa of looking down its proverbial nose at the rest of Africa - sentiments echoed by a few

other politicians in the region.

While these views have not been the official position of any country, South Africa is cautious of playing this role. It remains to be seen how its foreign policy will take shape under President Cyril Ramaphosa, but early indications are that the country intends to take its fair share of responsibility on the continent. The question is just how to do this when it comes to electoral processes and democratisation of the region.

One possible approach is for South Africa to rally like-minded countries such as Botswana and Namibia. Together they could

push a value-based approach to achieving SADC's explicit aim of entrenching democracy and democratic institutions in the region.

By highlighting the regional goal rather than an individual country's shortcomings, one can create a scope for action that is not perceived as targeted. In the process, this could strengthen SADC's internal mechanisms to deal with errant states. Instead of acting as a lone ranger, South Africa could facilitate collaborative processes built around a coalition of countries pushing a regionally agreed agenda.

Regional blocs like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the European Union, along with other international communities, have adopted similar approaches. ECOWAS has recently played a decisive and effective role in polls in West Africa. Nigeria has taken up the leadership mantle, rallying the whole region around ECOWAS's principles.

The ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance upholds the sanctity of constitutionalism and doesn't allow the manipulation of constitutions that favour the incumbent. It also contains numerous progressive provisions that foster free and fair elections.

The Gambia is a case in point. In the country's 2016 elections the incumbent refused to transfer power. With Nigeria leading the pack, heads of state from the region descended on The Gambia and agreed to sanction the errant Gambian leader. The intervention averted a crisis. Former president Yahya Jammeh gave in to regional pressure and President Adama Barrow was inaugurated as per the election result, setting a precedent in the region.

SADC needs to break the vicious cycle that repeats itself with every election season. Principles and guidelines alone are not sufficient to instil good behaviour on the part of member states. Action is required.

Clearly the delinquent countries won't take the first step. The task requires leadership by a coalition of progressive member states in support of SADC's founding values. South Africa is well positioned to guide the coalition of 'progressives' and collaborate with other countries to emphasise the founding principles and shared goals of the bloc.

Ringisai Chikohomero, Researcher, Peace Operations and Peacebuilding, ISS Pretoria

BUSINESS

TOURISM

Another side to Zanzibar - more than just white, sandy beaches

ZANZIBAR

If Zanzibar is not on your travel bucket list, it should be! With its year-round warm, tropical climate, plenty to see and do, affordability and an array of resorts to stay at, you would be remiss to miss out on this beautiful destination. General Manager Sunny Haroon, from Hotel Verde Zanzibar - Azam Luxury Resort & Spa, Zanzibar's greenest hotel, shares his favourite things to do in the area, adding, "Zanzibar is more than just a beach holiday destination; it is also green and verdant and full of nature's wonders."

One such experience he suggests is not to be missed is a tour through Jozani Forest - best done in the morning when nature is at its most lively. Located in the centre of the Jozani-Chwaka Bay National Park, a short trip from Stone Town, this ancient, hardwood forest is home to many indigenous varieties of fauna, flora and mangrove swamps, a turtle sanctuary and the delightful Zanzibari Red Colobus Monkey. You might also catch a glimpse of other animals like bush

pigs, elephant shrews, chameleons and the many birds and butterflies. Says Haroon, "In Zanzibar, there's a natural affinity with nature - there is just that special something that tugs at you."

Another favourite of Sunny's is the Zanzibar Butterfly Centre - the friendly guides will take you on a tour of the interactive exhibit housed beneath a netted tropical garden flapping with hundreds of brilliantly-coloured butterflies (or Flutterbies as Haroon's daughter calls them) whilst they feed and fly closely above you. The background of the project and the butterfly life-cycle and ecology will be explained as you walk around taking in the elegant manoeuvres of this fragile species. Adds Sunny, "Did you know that some butterflies only live for one day?"

Close to Sunny's heart is the Masingini Forest whose sustainability efforts, like the hotel's, do much for the community and the environment - the forest was established in 1950s for the purpose of conservation of water sources and soil. "Masingini"



Zanzibar's Red Colobus Monkey.

means 'gullies' and indeed the forest has more than 35 gorges which form an essential water supply for Zanzibar town. What's different about Masingini Forest is that it has deep soil, rich in nutrients that create an ideal living environment for over 179 endemic and rare plant and animal species. The herbs and shrubs that grow there too are used in traditional medicine - you'll want to get your hands on some Mimosa that can be used to boost memory or Mabola Palm that treats a fever.

The ocean too holds many of the world's natural wonders and a particular favourite of Haroon's are the dolphins. Swimming with dolphins is a must - a bit of a drive but well worth the two to three hours

you will get to frolic and play with these gentle, elegant creatures.

Haroon says that as you jump in over the side of the boat, your heart beats a little faster but as your eyes adjust behind your mask so does your heart as schools of Bottle-nose and Humpback dolphins flick flack around you. "And if you are lucky you can actually hear the dolphins as they swim past you - the younger ones swim beneath the older, bigger dolphins who keep an eye on things - it's truly amazing to experience," he exclaims.

The attraction of Zanzibar for divers is its extensive coral reefs - these coral gardens are alive with colour and tropical fish - you might even catch a

glance of a barracuda, turtles or a whale. One can also experience wreck dives and night dives. Adds Haroon, "And the water is so warm so you can dive right in, and stay in!"

Last but not least, the best time of the day is as the sun goes down behind the horizon. This is the time to really become one with nature and there are no sunsets in the world quite like in Zanzibar. Says Sunny, "Find a quiet spot on the beach, perhaps with your toes in the surf, take a few deep breaths and take some time to reflect on a day well spent, life itself, those closest to you or make a wish as you watch the colours unfold and fade away - nature at its best!"

PARTNERSHIP

Airtel and MTN join GSMA 'We Care Initiative'

KIGALI

As part of the effort to drive mobile internet adoption and boost digital literacy in Rwanda, local operators Airtel and MTN have joined the GSMA 'We Care' initiative. The initiative is a collaborative project between the operators, Rwanda's Ministry of ICT and Innovation, as well as the Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA).

"I am glad to see the mobile operators, Airtel and MTN, coming together to work towards a common goal that will be beneficial to society," said H.E Paula Ingabire, Minister of ICT & Innovation of Rwanda.

The Minister added, "Smartphones are important ICT tools that can be used to access key digital services: education and information, healthcare, financial services, amongst others. Increasing digital inclusion in Rwanda will, therefore, go a long way in empowering our citizens and we are looking forward to a sustainable collaboration."

Commenting on the initiative, Akinwale Goodluck, Head of GSMA Sub-Saharan Africa said, "Today's agreement marks an unprecedented collaborative action by Rwanda's mobile industry to harness the power of the mobile internet to empower citizens and deliver on the promise of a 'Digital Rwanda'. Digital skills are a prerequisite for people to get online and enhance their lives through digital services. Through We Care, Airtel and MTN are taking significant steps to accelerate digital inclusion across the country."

As part of the initiative, both mobile operators will use the GSMA's Mobile Internet Skills Training Toolkit (MISTT) to train sales agents and teach customers to access mobile internet services. The MISTT has an easy-to-follow curriculum that enables trainers to demonstrate the use and value of internet on internet-enabled mobile phones. The curriculum includes several modules on Wikipedia, Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, and Google.

The operators will teach 10,000 sales agents about techniques to educate their customers on the functional digital skills. On the other hands, the MISTT modules can be adapted and implemented based on local needs.



Akinwale Goodluck, Head of GSMA Sub-Saharan Africa.

CENSURE

Vodafone CEO takes £1.3m bonus cut after share slide

LONDON

Vodafone said it will cut long-term bonuses for its top two executives by a fifth after an investor advisory group took issue with the UK phone company's remuneration plan.

Chief executive officer Nick Read and chief financial officer Margherita Della Valle voluntarily requested the reduction of their 2020 long-term share awards, the carrier said in a statement on Wednesday. They asked for the cut to reflect the change in Vodafone's share price, which has fallen about 14% this year after tumbling by around a third in 2018.

Read is giving up about £1.3m in stock, reducing his share bonus to about £5.1m, according to Bloomberg calculations based on current market prices.

The move heads off a potential showdown with investors at the company's annual shareholder meeting on July 23. Institutional Shareholder Services, one of the most influential proxy advisers, had recommended that Vodafone shareholders reject the company's remuneration report.

'Insane' compensation package

Vodafone's decision reflects growing scrutiny over high executive pay. The CEO of UK builder MJ Gleeson, Jolyon Harrison, stepped down last month after a

dispute over remuneration. Abigail Disney, whose grandfather and great-uncle founded Walt Disney, earlier this year called CEO Bob Iger's \$65.6m compensation package "insane."

The Institutional Voting Information Service, a UK researcher that represents investors managing over £7.7trn for their clients, updated its rating of Vodafone, from an amber to an improved blue, following the company's announcement. ISS is working on an alert in the light of the new information from Vodafone, a spokesperson said, declining to be more specific.

The threshold level of vesting is more than Read's base salary of about £1m. ISS said in a report published July 8. Rival shareholder advisory group Glass Lewis also expressed reservations at the remuneration plans, though advised investors that the proposal was "supportable". A number of companies including Ocado and Standard Chartered are included in the Investment Association's "Public Register", which lists firms that report shareholder revolts of more than 20% on any of their resolutions.

"We have seen a dramatic improvement in companies acknowledging shareholder dissent and committing to respond to it," Andrew Ninian, a spokesman for the Investment Association, wrote in an email.



Vodafone's Chief executive officer Nick Read.

INVESTMENT

A garden that feeds Kenya's hotel guests

NAIROBI
Hotels have long had ornamental gardens but few own vegetable farms to feed travellers seeking to eat healthily while on vacation.

At Olare Mara Kempinski in Maasai Mara for instance, they have an organic garden that feeds its guests and the manure used can be anything from dung from buffaloes or elephants roaming in the vast savannah or cows from neighbouring homesteads.

The garden which has celery, parsley, coriander, beetroots, carrots, spinach, leeks, eggplants, lemon and mint for making mojitos, salads and soups for their guests, saves the costs of bringing the food from Nairobi and ensures all vegetables are inevitably fresh and taste better.

"We even encourage our guests to pick their own vegetables from the garden, be it a handful of ripe tomatoes or mint for their favourite cocktails," said Geoffrey Ouma, a camp manager at Olare Mara Kempinski.

During bumper harvests, Robert Okero, a full-time gardener at the Olare Mara Kempinski garden, says he also gives out the surplus to locals who are mainly pastoralists, in exchange for cow dung manure.

On the eight of an acre, Robert has created a nursery and transplants the seedlings to a bigger patch which has a drip irrigation system connected to a tank with harvested rain water. He waters the vegetables twice a day. The seedlings in the nursery take about two weeks to sprout and he then replenishes them to ensure the garden keeps giving.

"Spinach love more water than all the other veggies. For them to be as healthy as they look, they receive adequate water. So I open the drip twice a day which allows the water to slowly reach the roots. The drip irrigation saves on water because I rely on rain water," he said.

Robert started the garden about seven years ago. From a small patch,



A garden in Olare Mara Kempinski in Maasai Mara.

he expanded to grow vegetables such as beetroots, which the chefs use to make salads.

Chasing birds
Being in the wilderness with over 500 species of birds and wild animals roaming freely, Robert was forced to fence off the garden, although the hotel is un-

fenced, and put an old wish mesh that acts as a roof and tie a tape from the old-school cassettes across the improvised roof. He remembers one time, after using buffalo dung and the animal invaded the garden and destroyed the plants.

"Birds are destructive; they can dig up seeds or feed on seedlings and ma-

ture crops. The tape scares off the pests. When the wind blows the tape shimmers and scares away oncoming birds," he said. "Besides that, locals who are basically livestock keepers come here to learn about farming which can be an alternative source of income or supplement the meat," he said.

ACQUISITION

Food giant PepsiCo plans to spend R16.7 billion to buy the SA maker of Liqui-Fruit

JOHANNESBURG
Global food giant PepsiCo plans to spend around R16.7 billion to buy South African group Pioneer Foods, the two companies announced on Friday morning.

Besides its namesake drink, PepsiCo owns the Lay's, Fritos, and Doritos chip brands, and food brands such as Quaker Oats that have no presence in South Africa, but are a part of everyday American life. Pioneer Foods brands include Bokomo, Maizena, Marmite, and Bovril.

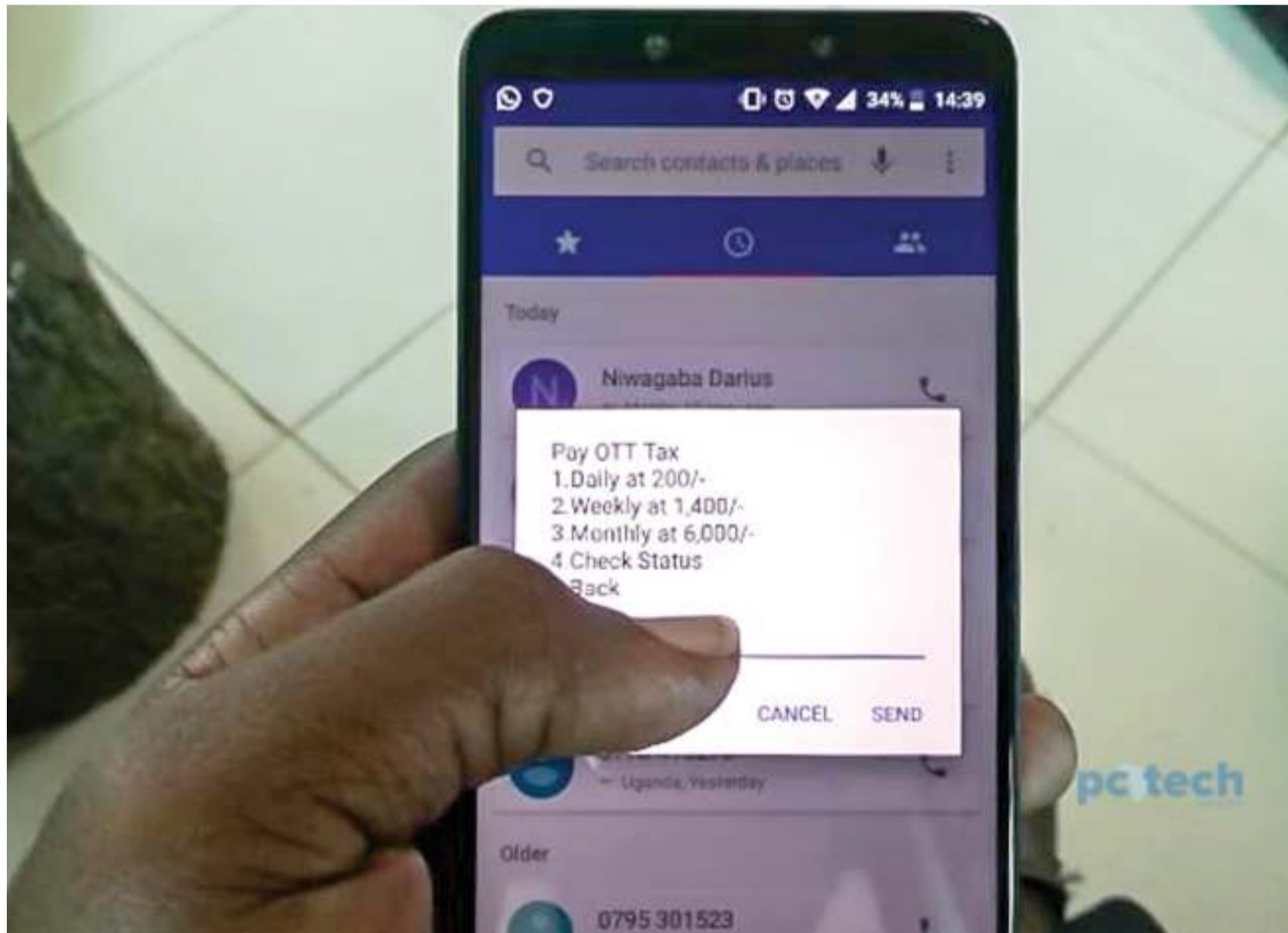


The deal "will help PepsiCo gain a solid beachhead for expansion into Sub-Saharan Africa by boosting the company's manufacturing and go-to-market capabilities, enabling scale..."

While Pioneer exports to a host of countries, most of its operations are in South Africa. PepsiCo, on the other hand, calculates that its products are used every day in 200 countries around the world. The companies said PepsiCo had made a firm intention to offer a cash price of R110 per share to current Pioneer shareholders, a premium of 56% of the share price measured over the last month.

The deal "will help PepsiCo gain a solid beachhead for expansion into Sub-Saharan Africa by boosting the company's manufacturing and go-to-market capabilities, enabling scale and distribution," the US company said in a press statement.

Pioneer told its shareholders that the deal will be "one of PepsiCo's largest acquisitions outside of the United States, which is a demonstration of PepsiCo's belief in South Africa's potential and its long-term commitment to the country." The transaction has already been approved by the boards of both companies.



A user is pictured paying the OTT Tax to be able in position of asking all the social media platforms.

TAXATION

URA registers UGX234.5bn short on OTT levy

KAMPALA
The Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) has collected UGX49.5 billion out of the projected UGX284 billion of OTT levy in the 2018/2019 financial year. URA further reports only 17.4% of internet subscribers were able to pay the levy.

URA Commissioner General Ms. Doris Akol attributes the shortfall is because of use of Virtual Private Networks (VPN) and wireless (Wi-Fi) connections. "The story of OTT is very very different. It was targeted at UGX284 billion but we only collected UGX49.5 billion and it performed 17.4% against what was targeted. So OTT did not perform well at all," she said.

"We think it was affected by use of Wi-Fi as well as the continued use of VPNs to avoid paying the tax," she adds. To recall, the levy

on social media was inaugurated in the 2018/2019 financial year – passed by the Parliament of Uganda with effective of July 1st, 2018.

The Excise Duty (Amendment) Act 2018 imposed a UGX200 charge on Over-the-Top services per day of access. However, consumers can choose to pay UGX1,400 weekly, UGX6,000 monthly, UGX18,000 Quarterly or UGX73,000 Annually. Therefore, to access any social media site; WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, LinkedIn, Twitter, among others, consumers have to pay the levy.

Consumers have resorted to use VPN mostly to access OTT services than paying the tax. The numbers dropping could be explained by high usage of VPNs. In Jan. this year, the government regulatory body of the communications sec-

tor; Uganda Communication Commission (UCC) reported that OTT taxpayers and revenue figures had dropped tremendously since the levy was imposed.

The report shows the number of consumers who paid the levy dropped from 8.04 million in July 2018 to 6.84 million people in Sep. 2018. Simultaneously, the amount of revenue collected reduced from UGX5.6 billion in July to UGX3.9 billion at the end of Sep. 2018.

Observer reports that Ms. Akol says there's a need to study OTT to see if more taxes can be realized. "Interestingly, the people who can afford to pay OTT are the ones avoiding paying the tax," she said – citing government extravagancy, corruption and wastage.

Government had proposed earlier this year it would exempt its

member of parliament (MPs) from paying OTT levy, which caused a public outcry. The public claimed that the MPs are already paid enough in salary and should be in position to pay the levy.

The public is still asking the government to remove the tax. According to a report that was released by technology consulting and development firm, Pollicy showed – 86% of internet users want the tax completely removed, 7.2% felt the tax should remain, while 6.3% remained neutral.

However, President Museveni said the levy on OTT is quoting him .. "here to remain." Museveni proposed tax back in March 2018 in a letter he wrote to Finance Minister Hon. Kasaija Matia insisting that the revenue collected would help the country cope with consequences of gossipping.

DECELERATION

'Year 2019 to deliver worst performance for cellphone shipments'

LONDON
Gartner predicts the global mobile phone market will record its worst performance, declining by 3.8%, in 2019. The decline, according to Gartner, is the result of the trend of lengthening the lifespans of mobile devices, which began in 2018 and will continue through 2019.

The research firm forecasts high-end phone lifespans will increase from 2.6 years to nearly 2.9 years through 2023. In addition, sales of smartphones are expected to decline by 2.5% in 2019, which would be the worst decline to date.

"The current mobile phone market of 1.7 billion shipments is around 10% below the 1.9 billion shipments reached in 2015," says Ranjit Atwal, research director at Gartner. "If mobile phones don't provide significant new utility, efficiency or experiences, users won't upgrade them, and will consequently increase these devices' lifespans."

According to the research firm, overall worldwide shipments of devices (mobile phones, tablets and PCs), will total 2.2 billion units in 2019, a decline of 3.3% year-over-year. Meanwhile, Gartner expects 5G phones will represent 51% of total phone sales in 2023.

This comes as mobile operators have this year ramped up efforts to launch 5G services in parts of the US, South Korea, Switzerland, Finland and the UK.

It estimates that by 2020, 7% of global communications service providers will have a commercially viable wireless 5G service, marking significant progress from 5G proof of concept and commercial network construction work in 2018.

In the first half of 2019, several phone manufacturers released 5G-enabled smartphones. To improve slowing smartphone sales, mobile manufacturers are looking to introduce more affordable 5G-enabled phones in 2020, according to Gartner.

"In 2020, 5G-capable phones will represent 6% of total sales of phones. As 5G service coverage increases, user experience will improve and prices will decrease. The leap will occur in 2023, when we expect 5G phones to account for 51% of phone sales," notes Atwal.



The current mobile phone market of 1.7 billion shipments is around 10% below the 1.9 billion shipments reached in 2015," says Ranjit Atwal, research director at Gartner. "If mobile phones don't provide significant new utility..."



Ranjit Atwal, research director at Gartner.

INNOVATION

From Omega to Tag Heuer: Here's why and how astronauts choose their watches

BERN

There's no denying it: despite a "cosmic microwave background" temperature of minus 232°C, space is hot right now. Since the Twitter phenomenon that is commander Chris Hadfield crooned along to David Bowie's Space Oddity in 2015 while floating around the International Space Station (ISS), kids have been opening their eyes to an inspiring era of Russian/western collaboration, bolstered back in Britain by Tim Peake's Union Flag-adorned exploits.

Even adults who were tired of the Space Shuttle programme during the 1980s are excited again, if not by the extraordinary footage beamed back by the Mars rover, then that of the Rosetta probe, which the European Space Agency managed to land on a four-kilometre-wide asteroid travelling at 135,000kph. Elon Musk's SpaceX is being subcontracted by NASA to bring manned missions back to American soil, and his tech-billionaire contemporary, Jeff Bezos, will soon be stealing a march on Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic tourist shuttle with his cheaper Blue Origin programme.

Space is hot all right, and this year's 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing is fanning the flames. But putting the Cold War politics of the space race aside, what this dose of cosmic nostalgia brings is not only much-needed global perspective in these times of international unrest and climate crisis, but also a startling reminder of how rudimentary the technology was back in the 1960s. What once looked

like the future now looks like the first Star Wars: innocent, scuffed-up and a long, long time ago.

And that's before you remember Apollo 11 possessed as much computing power as a Casio calculator. It's even more difficult to believe, then, that things were even more primitive when it came to keeping Neil, Buzz, et al on time. The NASA-certified piece of equipment strapped around every astronaut's suit was powered in 1970, to time Apollo 13's critical 14-second fuel burn, perfectly realigning the stricken lunar module for re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

What's more, Omega's Speedmaster - still mechanical, still hand-wound, still based on centuries-old horological principles - remains standard-issue kit for NASA's finest to this day. It's difficult to imagine a more ringing brand endorsement.

"With the exception of the Velcro straps used to fit around the outside of our spacesuits," writes last-man-on-the-Moon Gene Cernan in the foreword of Moonwatch Only, "[the astronauts' Speedmasters] were not modified by NASA - they were the same watches bought and cherished by Omega fans around the world.

"Secondly," notes the Apollo 17 astronaut, even more poignantly, "the Speedmaster Professional chronographs remained virtually unchanged throughout the entire Apollo programme - no other piece of mission-qualified equipment

can make that claim."

It's a claim that Omega has obviously capitalised on, ever since the Apollo programme's boffins bombarded four market-leading stopwatch "chronographs" with punishing tests in 1964. It awarded "Flight-Qualified by NASA for all Manned Space Missions" status to the Speedmaster - the only watch still ticking by the end.

Under pressure from domestic watch brands, citing the importance of "buy American", NASA's quartermasters have been forced back into the lab on a number of occasions, only to emerge every time with the same conclusion: Switzerland's beloved "Speedie" really is the most precise, reliable, rugged and readable chronograph going. And, yes, it does have to be mechanical - LCD screens, quartz crystals and lithium batteries don't mix with the sub-sub-zero conditions of outer space.

Before mankind knew whether the Earth was flat, let alone toyed with taking "one small step", timekeepers were looking to the heavens. The sky was our original clock face, and continues to be: despite



Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin in the Apollo 11 Lunar Module on July 20, 1969, wearing an Omega Speedmaster.

breaking from celestially observed GMT, our astronomers still adjust our global network of 200-plus atomic clocks every few years, according to Earth's occasional wobble in relation to the stars - adjustments known as leap seconds. The Sun, the phases of the Moon and the stars were the only timekeepers that mattered for centuries, so it was only inevitable that watches from the mid-16th century began to feature astronomical indications, including phases of the Moon, sidereal time according to the stars, and the difference or equation of civic time in relation to our erratic orbit of the Sun.

These three "complications" are purely romantic horological features today, of course, but they still exert a visceral hold, however fit for manned space missions their vessels may be. Take Dr George Daniel's Space Traveller pocket watch of 1982, auctioned by Sotheby's London for £3.6 million on July 2, and smashing its upper estimate of £1m in the process. It displays

all three in exquisitely handcrafted fashion and, by virtue of that alone, the 20th century's greatest watchmaker declared his creation, "the kind of watch you would need on your package tour to Mars." It displays all three in exquisitely hand-crafted fashion and, by virtue of that alone, the 20th century's greatest watchmaker declared his creation, "the kind of watch you would need on your package tour to Mars."

Being elite-grade pilots, NASA and the former USSR's Roscosmos spacemen have always known what they really need. A precision timepiece is essential kit for any airborne professional and flight-qualified or not, it remains a largely personal choice. Talismanic, even. "[The astronauts] got very attached to a particular serial number," revealed ex-NASA project engineer James H Ragan to The New York Times in June. "After every flight, I'd take their watches away for maintenance, and they'd get pretty upset about it. They always flew with the same serial numbers. It was a lucky charm."



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

TECHNOLOGY

How smartwatches could save lives by 'revolutionising' health public care

DUBAI

Their popularity is booming across the world. But devices such as the Apple Watch could become much more than just the latest trendy gadget. Within a few years, experts claim, smartwatches may have revolutionised healthcare.

The ability to monitor your own health has proven a major selling point, contributing to global smartwatch sales doubling in 2018. And they are now far more than just a pedometer. Watches routinely monitor vital signs such as heart rate and blood pressure, while a top-of-the-range device comes with its own built-in electrocardiogram.

But what if that data, as well as information on everything from your diet and sleep patterns to how often you brush your teeth, was uploaded instantaneously to cloud-based servers where it was analysed by algorithms? A doctor would no longer have to take your word for it if you told them you were exercising more or had quit smoking. Data from a smartwatch would tell them before you stepped foot in the GP surgery.

Smartwatches could even prevent falls and other medical episodes before they happen, according to Asad Khattak, a mobile computing and health informatics expert at Zayed University, who believes the widespread use of the devices for remote patient monitoring is just around the corner.

He has worked on developing systems to identify the warning signs of a fall - such as a change in blood pressure or blood sugar levels - in

stroke patients, with a view to warning nurses before they crash to the floor.

"The smartwatch has become a fashion icon, an accessory," he said. "It's something everybody is using. We now have the Apple Watch 4, for example, with so many different sensors. "It has even an ECG in there. We have sensors that can give us information on oxygen levels in the bloodstream. This technology can give us so many advantages."

Mr Khattak, 37, has worked on developing medical monitoring devices for the last decade and has just published a research paper, alongside academics from Canada and Russia, about building models that could analyse huge amounts of patient data sent from their wrists. Obvious uses for smartwatches in healthcare include monitoring elderly patients in their own homes, allowing them to remain independent for longer and saving health services money, he said.

But he believes that eventually, everyone will have the option of having their health data automatically monitored and analysed in real time. It would mean young people would grow up with a lifetime of their own health data electronically stored, and at their - and their doctor's - fingertips.

"We are consumers of this data at an individual level," Dr Khattak said. "But at a community or society level, it requires a change in culture to share this health information. But I believe in three to five years, these services will be a prevailing technology for healthcare services.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE WK 30 2019			
SATURDAY 20 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	11:55	Habari za saa
6:00	HABARI	12:00	Al Jazeera
6:40	Kumekucha	12:30	Jungu kuu rpt
7:00	Habari	12:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Mjue Zaidi
9:00	Watoto wetu	13:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Mashindano ya kimataifa ya karate- live	14:00	Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
17:00	Shamsham za Pwani	14:55	Habari za saa
18:00	Jiji Letu	15:00	Meza Huru
18:15	Mapishi	16:30	Watoto Wetu
18:30	Igizo: Ahadi	17:00	The Base
19:00	Sanaa na wasanii	18:00	Jiji Letu
19:30	Jungu Kuu	18:10	Aibu yako rpt
20:00	Habari	18:15	Mapishi rpt
21:00	Igizo: Kimya Milele	18:30	Kesho Leo
21:30	Kesho Leo	19:00	Afya ya Jamii
22:00	Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja	19:30	Isidingo
22:15	Hawavumi lakini wamo	20:00	Habari
23:00	Isidingo rpt	21:05	Dakika 45
01:30	CNN International	22:00	Insta Bet
SUNDAY 21 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	22:15	Series: Iris
6:00	HABARI	23:00	Habari
6:40	Kumekucha	23:30	The Base
7:00	Habari	00:30	Al Jazeera
8:00	Al Jazeera	02:00	CNN International
09:00	Watoto Wetu	TUESDAY 23 July	
10:00	Mashindano ya kimataifa ya karate- live	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	6:00	Habari
18:00	Jiji Letu	6:40	Kumekucha
18:15	Mapishi	7:30	HABARI
18:30	Mizengwe rpt	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
18:45	Matukio ya wiki	8:55	Habari za saa
19:30	Igizo: Mtego	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
20:00	Habari	9:30	Isidingo
21:05	Biko	9:55	Habari za saa
21:10	Mizengwe	10:00	Watoto wetu
21:30	Mjue Zaidi	10:30	Shamsham za pwani
22:15	Bongo Movie: Tanzanite	10:55	Habari za saa
23:30	Series rpt: Iris	11:00	Shamsham za pwani
MONDAY 22 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	11:25	Igizo: Mtego
6:00	Habari	11:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	12:00	Al Jazeera
7:30	HABARI	12:30	Afya ya jamii rpt
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	12:55	Habari za saa
8:55	Habari za saa	13:00	Uchumi na biashara
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	13:30	Shamba lulu rpt
9:30	Isidingo	13:55	Habari za saa
9:55	Habari za saa	14:00	Series rpt: Iris
10:00	Watoto wetu	14:55	Habari za saa
10:30	Igizo: Ahadi	15:00	Meza Huru
10:55	Habari za saa	16:30	Watoto wetu
11:00	Kimya Milele	17:00	The Base
TUESDAY 24 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:00	Jiji Letu
6:00	HABARI	18:15	Yu wapi?
6:40	Kumekucha	18:30	Kipindi Maalum: Ewura
7:30	HABARI	19:00	Jarida la wanawake
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	19:30	Isidingo
8:55	Habari za saa	20:00	Habari
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	21:00	Tanzania yetu
9:30	Isidingo	WEDNESDAY 24 July	
9:55	Habari za saa	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
10:00	Watoto wetu	6:00	HABARI
10:30	Korean: The Great queen Seonduk	6:40	Kumekucha
10:55	Habari za saa	7:30	HABARI
11:00	Korean: The Great queen-Seonduk	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
11:15	Jagina	9:30	Isidingo
12:00	Al Jazeera	9:55	Habari za saa
12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt	10:00	Watoto wetu
13:00	Dakika 45	10:30	Korean: The Great queen Seonduk
14:00	Series rpt	10:55	Habari za saa
15:00	Meza huru	11:00	Korean: The Great queen-Seonduk
16:30	Watoto Wetu	11:15	Jagina
17:00	The Base	12:00	Al Jazeera
18:00	Jiji Letu	12:30	Jarida la wanawake rpt
18:15	Mizengwe rpt	13:00	Dakika 45
18:30	Igizo rpt: Ahadi	14:00	Series rpt
19:00	Ijue Sheria	15:00	Meza huru
19:30	Isidingo	16:30	Watoto Wetu
20:00	Habari	17:00	The Base
21:00	Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?	18:00	Jiji Letu
21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	18:15	Mizengwe rpt
21:40	Ripoti Maaum	18:30	Igizo rpt: Ahadi
22:15	Series: Iris	19:00	Ijue Sheria
23:00	Habari	19:30	Isidingo
23:30	The Base	20:00	Habari
00:30	Al Jazeera	21:00	Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
2:00	CNN International	21:10	Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
THURSDAY 25 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	21:40	Ripoti Maaum
6:00	HABARI	22:15	Series: Iris
6:40	Kumekucha	23:00	Habari
7:30	HABARI	23:30	The Base
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	00:30	Al Jazeera
8:55	Habari za saa	2:00	CNN International
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	FRIDAY 26 July	
9:30	Isidingo	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
9:55	Habari za saa	6:00	HABARI
10:00	Watoto wetu	6:40	Kumekucha
10:30	Igizo: Kivuko	7:30	HABARI
10:55	Habari za saa	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo
11:00	Igizo: Kivuko	8:55	Habari za saa
11:15	Kipindi maalum: Ewura	9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo
11:55	Habari za saa	9:30	Isidingo
12:00	Al Jazeera	9:55	Habari za saa
FRIDAY 26 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00	Watoto wetu
6:00	HABARI	10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo
6:40	Kumekucha	10:55	Habari za saa
7:30	HABARI	11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	11:30	Usafiri wako
8:55	Habari za saa	11:55	Habari za saa
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	12:00	Al Jazeera
9:30	Isidingo	12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
9:55	Habari za saa	12:55	Habari za saa
10:00	Watoto wetu	13:00	Jagina rpt
10:30	Hawavumi lakini wamo	13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
10:55	Habari za saa	13:55	Habari za saa
11:00	Hawavumi lakini wamo	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30	Usafiri wako	14:15	Series rpt: Iris
11:55	Habari za saa	14:55	Habari za saa
12:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Meza huru
12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	16:30	Watoto wetu
12:55	Habari za saa	17:00	The Base
13:00	Jagina rpt	17:30	Ibada ya kiislamu
13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt	18:00	Jiji Letu
13:55	Habari za saa	18:15	Mapishi
14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt	18:30	Mizengwe rpt
14:15	Series rpt: Iris	18:45	Matukio ya wiki
14:55	Habari za saa	19:30	Igizo: Mtego
15:00	Meza huru	20:00	Habari
16:30	Watoto wetu	21:05	Biko
17:00	The Base	21:10	Mizengwe
17:30	Ibada ya kiislamu	21:30	Mjue Zaidi
18:00	Jiji Letu	22:15	Bongo Movie: What is it?
18:15	Mapishi	00:30	Series rpt: Iris
18:30	Mizengwe rpt	SATURDAY 27 July	
18:45	Matukio ya wiki	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi
19:30	Igizo: Mtego	6:00	HABARI
20:00	Habari	6:40	Kumekucha
21:05	Biko	7:00	Habari
21:10	Mizengwe	8:00	Al Jazeera
21:30	Mjue Zaidi	9:00	Watoto wetu
22:15	Bongo Movie: What is it?	10:00	Mjue Zaidi rpt
00:30	Series rpt: Iris	11:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
SUNDAY 28 July			
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	11:30	Usafiri wako
6:00	HABARI	11:55	Habari za saa
6:40	Kumekucha	12:00	Al Jazeera
7:00	Habari	12:30	Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
8:00	Al Jazeera	12:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Al Jazeera	13:00	Jagina rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	13:30	Chetu ni chetu rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	13:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Al Jazeera	14:00	Chetu ni chetu rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	14:15	Series rpt: Iris
8:00	Al Jazeera	14:55	Habari za saa
8:00	Al Jazeera	15:00	Meza huru
8:00	Al Jazeera	16:30	Watoto wetu
8:00	Al Jazeera	17:00	The Base
8:00	Al Jazeera	17:30	Ibada ya kiislamu
8:00	Al Jazeera	18:00	Jiji Letu
8:00	Al Jazeera	18:15	Mapishi
8:00	Al Jazeera	18:30	Mizengwe rpt
8:00	Al Jazeera	18:45	Matukio ya wiki
8:00	Al Jazeera	19:30	Igizo: Mtego
8:00	Al Jazeera	20:00	Habari
8:00	Al Jazeera	21:05	Biko
8:00	Al Jazeera	21:10	Mizengwe
8:00	Al Jazeera	21:30	Mjue Zaidi
8:00	Al Jazeera	22:15	Bongo Movie: What is it?
8:00	Al Jazeera	00:30	Series rpt: Iris

Trump says US downed Iran drone, Tehran denies losing one

IN remarks at the White House, Trump blamed Iran for a "provocative and hostile" action and said the US responded in self-defense.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi denied that Iran had lost a drone in the Strait of Hormuz.

"We have not lost any drone in the Strait of Hormuz nor anywhere else. I am worried that USS Boxer has shot down their own UAS [Unmanned Aerial System] by mistake," Araqchi said on Twitter.

The clash in one of the busiest waterways for international oil traffic highlighted the risk of war between two countries at odds over a wide range of issues.

After Trump pulled the United States out of the Iran nuclear deal last year and imposed additional economic sanctions, the Iranians have pushed back on the military front, allegedly sabotaging Saudi and other oil tankers in the Gulf, shooting down a US drone on June 20 and stepping up support for Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Adding to the economic pressure on Tehran, the Treasury Department said Thursday it was imposing sanctions on what it called a network of front companies and agents involved

in helping Iran buy sensitive materials for its nuclear program.

Trump said the Navy's USS Boxer, an amphibious assault ship, took defensive action after the Iranian aircraft closed to within 1,000 yards of the ship and ignored multiple calls to stand down.

"The United States reserves the right to defend our personnel, facilities and interests and calls upon all nations to condemn Iran's attempts to disrupt freedom of navigation and global commerce," Trump said.

The Pentagon said the incident happened at 10 am local time Thursday in international waters while the Boxer was transiting the waterway to enter the Persian Gulf. The Boxer is among several US Navy ships in the area, including the USS Abraham Lincoln, an aircraft carrier that has been operating in the nearby North Arabian Sea for weeks.

"A fixed-wing unmanned aerial system approached Boxer and closed within a threatening range," chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said in a written statement. "The ship took defensive action against the UAS to ensure the safety of the ship and its crew."



This US Navy file photo taken on March 7, 2016 shows the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer as it transits the East Sea during Exercise Ssang Yong 2016.

Neither Trump nor the Pentagon spelled out how the Boxer destroyed the drone. CNN reported that the ship used electronic jamming to bring it down rather than hitting it with a missile.

The Iranians and Americans have had close encounters in the Strait of Hormuz in the past, and it's not unprecedented for Iran to fly a drone near a US warship.

In December, about 30 Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels trailed the USS John C. Stennis aircraft carrier and its strike group through the strait as Associated Press journalists on board watched. One small vessel launched what appeared to be a commercial-grade drone to film the US ships.

Thursday's incident was the latest in a series of events that raised US-Iran tensions since early May when Washington accused Tehran of threatening US forces and interests in Iraq and in the Gulf.

In response, the US accelerated the deployment of the Lincoln and its strike group to the Arabian Sea and deployed four B-52 long-range bombers to the Gulf state of Qatar. It has since deployed additional Patriot air defense missile batteries in the Gulf region.

Shortly after Iran shot down a US Navy drone aircraft on June 20, Trump ordered a retaliatory military strike but called it off at the last moment, saying the risk of casualties was disproportionate to the downing by Iran, which did not cost any US lives.

Zarif said Thursday that Iran and the US were only "a few minutes away from a war" after Iran downed the American drone. He spoke to US-based media on the sidelines of a visit to the United Nations.

At the meeting, Zarif also said Iran would be willing to move up an Iranian parliament ratification of an agreement Tehran made with the International Atomic Energy Association – one that outlined access to Iranian nuclear sites and other information.

A spokesman for Zarif explained that Iran is already abiding by the agreement under the 2015 nuclear deal, but it doesn't have the force of law because it's not supposed to be ratified by the Iranian parliament until 2023. Zarif told reporters that the ratification could come earlier if the US eased sanctions.

A senior administration official responded that Trump has repeatedly said he is willing to have a conversation with Iranian leaders. The official said that if Iran wants to make a "serious gesture," it should immediately stop enriching uranium and negotiate an agreement that includes a permanent end to Iran's nuclear ambitions, including development of nuclear-capable missiles. The official was not authorized to publicly discuss the issue and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Zarif blamed Washington for the escalation of tensions.

Agencies

Chinese company commended for excellent performance in Moscow metro construction

CHINA Railway Construction Corporation Limited (CRCC) has greatly advanced the metro construction in Moscow as they conquered challenges one after another and made constant progress, said a Russian scholar at a recent forum commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia.

The Russian scholar Isaev Alexander Sergeevich, a senior research fellow of the Institute of Far Eastern Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences (IFES RAS), noted that Moscow has a grand planning for metro construction but suffered insufficient capabilities, and the new technologies and equipment brought by the Chinese experts and technicians have well met the urgent demand of the Russian side.

It is a tangible measure that explains why China-Russia relations have won wide supports, Sergeevich said.

The tunnel between Vernadskyi Prospekt and Michurinskyi Prospekt stations of a Moscow metro line undertaken by CRCC was recently holed through. "This is the first time for a Chinese company to build a metro line in Moscow," said Mayor of Moscow Sergei Sobyamin when inspecting the construction site.

"The metro line will effectively ease the traffic pressure of the capital and bring more convenience to the people upon completion," the mayor said. Commenced from last June, the tunnel project features complicated procedures, and the soil strata are different from those in China. Besides, it crosses through

a large number of buildings, with severe challenges posed by underground stations, rivers, as well as the record-setting heavy snowfalls in Moscow.

Completing the task in such an environment, the Chinese construction team showcased the high performance of the Chinese equipment and their outstanding skills and management.

Moscow metro is one of the world's busiest metro systems, transporting more than eight million passengers each day.

The bid to build a 4.6-km section of the "Large Circle Line" in Moscow was won by the CRCC two years ago. It marked the first time for Russia to introduce a Chinese company for a metro line project, and also the first project ever in Europe undertaken by a Chinese

construction team with Chinese technology and equipment.

"The Chinese company brought advanced technology and experiences to us," said Deputy Mayor of Moscow Marat Khusnullin. He also praised Chinese constructors for their excellent performance in constructing several complicated sections of the metro line.

The CRCC has more than 1,000 managing staff and workers at the project site, and about half of them are Russians. "Many Chinese students studied subway construction in Soviet Union in early 1950s and Soviet experts helped design the first metro line in Beijing. We are now working at the home of our 'teachers'," said Xue Liqiang, the manager of the CRCC subway project in Moscow.

China and Russia expanded their

cooperation as the project progressed. The CRCC Russia led and completed the design of three metro stations last February, and the design plan was approved by Russia's national accreditation commission, the country's top design management agency.

In the plan, the Michurinskyi station, which is hailed as "the most beautiful underground palace", is designed in Chinese style featuring plum blossoms, cloud patterns and Chinese red color.

The design and managing team of the CRCC studied Moscow's metro design codes, and made the sketched constructions with Chinese characteristics under the cooperation with the Beijing Urban Engineering Design & Research Institute Co., Ltd.

People's Daily

Chinese city seeks win-win collaboration with London

LONDON

THE promotion of Yangzhou, a city in east China's Jiangsu Province, was held Thursday in London to enhance the financial connection and economic cooperation between the two cities.

According to Xia Xinmin, mayor of Yangzhou, all kinds of financial capital is welcome to support the development of the city's industry.

"In recent years, Yangzhou has continuously deepened strategic cooperation with domestic and foreign investors, vigorously promoted the in-depth integration of financial resources and industrial development, and coordinated financial services and real economy to support the high-quality development of the city," said the Chinese mayor.

Ma Hui, minister of the Chinese embassy in the UK, said in his speech that the two sides may continue to deepen exchanges and cooperation in scientific and technological innovation, and expand new platforms for cooperation based on their respective development needs and advantages.

Lise Bertelsen, Executive Director of China-Britain Business Council, also noted the positive development of the bilateral ties between Britain and China, saying "The UK-China relationship has continued to be positive. We just concluded an extremely successful economic and financial dialogue."

She admits the uncertainties facing her country as the UK is going through "a significant change", but believes there is "a lot of potential".

"We think there are opportunities for the UK towards China, and vice versa...the government message is about a Global Britain, and we are all looking outward," she continued.

Xinhua

Japanese minister admonishes ROK's envoy as dispute escalates

TOKYO/SEOUL



JAPAN'S foreign minister publicly admonished the Republic of Korea (ROK)'s ambassador yesterday in a worsening dispute over compensation for Korean forced laborers that has spilled over into their trade in high-tech materials used to make memory chips and screens.

The dispute between the key US allies took a deadly turn when a ROK man set himself on fire in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul in an apparent protest. He died later.

ROK accused Japan of violating international law with its curbs this month on the export of high-tech materials to ROK's chipmaking giants, which could disrupt global supply chains.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono summoned ROK's ambassador, Nam Gwan-pyo, a day after the expiry of Japan's deadline for ROK to accept third-country arbitration of the forced labor dispute.

Ties between the neighbors have been thorny for decades because of ROK's resentment of Japan's occupation of the Korean peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

The forced labor issue was thrust to centerstage last year when a ROK court ordered two Japanese firms to pay compensation to Koreans forced to work for them.

Japan says the whole compensation issue was settled under a 1965 treaty.

Kono (pictured) said ROK had to take swift measures to correct what Japan calls an improper ruling by its Supreme Court ordering compensation.

"What the South Korean government is doing now is equivalent to subverting the post-World War II international order," Kono said at the beginning of a meeting with Nam.

Nam responded by saying ROK was working every day to create an environment in which the lawsuits could be dealt with in a manner acceptable to both sides and not harm ties.

Nam said ROK had already proposed a plan to resolve the issue, but that drew a blunt interjection from Kono.

"Hold on," Kono said.

"We've already told the South Korean side the South Korean proposal was totally unacceptable, and that is not something that would redress the situation where international law is violated. It is extremely impertinent to propose it again by pretending to not know that."

Neither official specified what that plan was, but last month Japan rejected a ROK's proposal to form a joint fund to compensate ROK's plaintiffs.

Later, ROK's foreign ministry rejected Japan's arbitration call as arbitrary and said Japan must remember its wrongs committed during colonial rule and try to heal the wound.

An official of ROK's foreign ministry told Reuters it had expressed regret over Kono's "rude" attitude. **Agencies**

S. Africans commemorate 10th anniversary of Nelson Mandela Day

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africans celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Nelson Mandela Day on Thursday.

People were encouraged to give 67 minutes of their time to do something for the less fortunate to highlight Mandela's 67 years of selfless dedication to fighting for peace, reconciliation and democracy by doing good for others.

From president, charity organizations to school pupils, many people are doing good to help the needy.

President Cyril Ramaphosa vis-

ited Red Cross Children's hospital in Cape Town as part of Mandela Day activities. The hospital is the only dedicated child health institution in the country.

He was interviewed on RX Radio, which was hosted by the hospital's own little patients.

"In the radio interview they asked me lots of difficult questions. They are very articulate. They are very direct, but what impressed me most was that they are so full of hope despite the many challenges and difficulties that they are afflicted with and the real health challenges that



they face," said Ramaphosa.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF) with other stakeholders donated houses, sanitary pads and blankets to uplift the lives of the needy.

NMF CEO Sello Hatang said, "Just like Mandela, today we are showing compassion to those who feel left behind and solidarity with the poor.

Let us hold hands with the world to build the country of our dreams. We have to break inter-generational poverty and encourage active citizenry."

Hatang said they are working throughout the year in building early childhood centers, toilets and houses for the needy. In line with Mandela's passion, they will focus on education and literacy, food and nutrition, shelter, sanitation and active citizenship in the next 10 years.

For the ordinary South Africans to commemorate Mandela

Day, some made donations, some cleaned hospitals, some painted schools and some cooked for the orphans. In Redhill School in Johannesburg, pupils made sandwiches and donated the food to children who lives in Alexandra township.

Nelson Mandela's widow Graça Machel called on the people to make Mandela's life their "lifestyle". She called for active citizenry to bring change to the lives of the people. She encouraged people to emulate Mandela's life who cared for those less fortunate. **Xinhua**

US economy potentially threatened by regional divergence

THE economic fortunes of rich and poor regions of the US have diverged dramatically over the last 40 years, said a recent study by Harvard social policy scholar Robert Manduca which triggered huge attention from US media.

According to the study, in 1980, around 12% of the US population lived in metropolitan areas whose mean family incomes were at least 20% larger or smaller than the national average, while the share had climbed above 30% by 2013.

As a matter of fact, regional divergence has become an issue of the US and drawn significant attention from the research community who releases relevant reports every now and then.

Another study by US public policy organization Economic Innovation Group (EIG) pointed out that most of the benefits of the US economic recovery in the post-recession era were gained by only a small percentage of regions.

The study, having a probe into the economic vitality, resident income, employment, housing and education of US zip codes from 2007 to 2016, found that the top 20 percent of zip codes have added 3.6 million jobs, more than those of the bottom 80 percent of zip codes combined.

Rural zip codes were by far the most likely to be downwardly mobile compared with their urban and suburban counterparts, according to the study,

with 30 percent dropping into a lower prosperity.

Massive population of the US has moved to regions that are more economically energetic since the recession, said John Lettieri, President and CEO of EIG.

From 2010 to 2016, said an earlier research by Brookings Institution, 53 metropolitan areas in the US with a population of over 1 million accounted for 2/3 of the national economic output and 3/4 of employment growth, while 93 percent of the US population growth came from these areas in the same period.

It indicated a synergy between population mobility and economic opportunities which resulted in a situa-

tion of regional divergence in which a small part of regions experienced obvious economic improvement, while small towns and rural areas suffered.

Since the last year, plenty of small towns in inland states such as Ohio and Nebraska have launched subsidies for student loans and housing, and even offered free-land for housing to attract talents. It offers another perspective on the regional divergence of the US economy.

Analysts attributed the enlarging regional divergence to the ongoing changes of the US economic structure.

For instance, the rise of high-tech industry is considered an important reason. The sector has been the most dynamic part of US economy since the

end of the recession, and created massive high-income jobs.

The industry is highly clustered in distribution. The household income median of San Francisco went up by 13.2 percent in the past decade, ranking the first among 100 US metropolitan areas, and that of San Jose, which is on the second place of the list, stood at 12.7 percent.

The two cities located at the Bay Area are both hubs of high-tech industry. They witnessed rapid population increase in the recent years, which is reflected in their surging property price and frequent traffic jam.

Economists believe regional divergence to be a potential risk of the US economy. The Associated Press noted

in an article that as the regional divergence of the US kept expanding, the country's macro economy, through showing a sign of picking up, failed to generate prosperity that could be widely shared. It created more diversified opinions on the US economy.

Indeed, regional divergence is not only happening in US economy, but politics.

The rising of populism in the US political world in the recent years is widely considered to be relevant with the loss of vitality of inland towns. Obvious political differences are showing between east and west coasts and the inland areas, and between urban and rural areas.

People's Daily

China's economic development is making huge contribution to world

THE combined forces of Chinese manufacturing, Chinese innovation, and Chinese construction are continuing to change the face of the country, and the resilient and expanding Chinese economy is also making huge contribution to the world.

According to WTO statistics, China accounted for 12.8 percent and 10.8 percent of global export and import respectively in 2018, serving as a stabilizer of global trade. It indicated a simple fact that China, independent from the rest of the world, cannot achieve its development and vice versa.

The 125th session of China Import and Export Fair which was concluded not long ago and generated a total export turnover of 199.5 billion yuan (\$29.6 billion) was a proof to China's growing momentum and dynamics of foreign trade. The event was attended by buyers from over 200 countries and regions who showed great interest in high-tech, high-quality and high-added value exhibits.

Managing Director and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde once noted that the world needs China, and global economic growth cannot be achieved without China's sustained development. To observe Chinese development and understand Chinese economy, one should focus on China's achievement and contribution to the world as well.

The country's development since the reform and opening up was hailed as the most inspiring thing of this era by some foreign observers.

What China has contributed to the world is its driving force for global economic growth, and its efforts made to promote sustainable development of the world economy.

Chinese economy has maintained stable and rapid growth since the re-



Chinese construction firms deserve better press in Africa, study suggests

form and opening up, with its share of the global economy increasing year by year, creating a shining miracle.

China's growth has contributed more than 30 percent annually to world growth since the outbreak of the financial crisis. Last year, China's GDP secured a 6.6-percent growth and hit the \$90 trillion yuan mark for the first time.

Thanks to the sound performance in the first four months of this year, the country got off to a great start and maintained strong momentum for growth. Major economic indicators of the country exceeded expectation, which has boosted global confidence in economic recovery.

It's a globally recognized fact that Chinese economy has become a stabilizing factor for world economic development. China is contributing to the world by opening its market and enabling the people from global countries to board the express train of its development.

China's efforts to expand its openness in recent years are obvious. At the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, the country once again announced five pledges to deepen reform and opening up, and signed cooperation deals worth \$64 billion with global business and industry leaders, expanding the cake of win-win cooperation.

China is the world's second largest economy, the largest trader of goods and the largest holder of foreign exchange reserves. It has the world's largest group of middle income earners and enjoys huge potential in consumption market.

The country is both a world factory that produces full variety of commodities, and a super large world market. Its imported goods and services are estimated to exceed \$30 trillion and \$10 trillion, respectively, in the next 15 years. China, comprehensively open to the world, is releasing infinite development dividend. It is creating huge opportunities while making substantial contribution to the world.

China's contribution to the world also lies in its promotion of economic globalization and efforts to improve global economic governance.

When economic globalization is facing severe challenges, China, upholding the value of peace and harmony, is always advocating win-win cooperation and common development. It has injected ceaseless energy and dynamics to the integration of world economy.

The Belt and Road Initiative proposed by the country conforms to the historical trend of economic globalization and meets the demand to reform the global governance system. It has created new space for global economic growth, established a new platform for international trade and investment, and made new practices to improve global economic governance.

The synergetic development between China and other countries is making global economy more balanced. China firmly supports the multilateral trading system and promotes trade liberalization and investment facilitation. The country is committed to becoming a constructor of the global economic governance system, and will work to offer Chinese wisdom and power to resolve the deficits in global governance, trust, peace and development.

China is a major developing country with a population of nearly 1.4 billion. The country can make contribution to the world as long as it handles well its own affairs.

China's economy has the resilience to maintain stable growth and is able to withstand any test. It is destined to inject new impetus to the stability and health of world economy, and sustainable development as well.

People's Daily

Most Russians consider relations with Ukraine to be important, says poll

MOSCOW

MOST Russians believe that it is important for the country to have friendly relations with Ukraine, a poll conducted by the All-Russia Public Opinion Research Center indicates.

According to the survey's outcome, 35% of Russians say that friendly relations with Ukraine are "very important" for Russia, while another 55% consider ties as "fairly important." At the same time, 11% of those polled disagree: seven percent said relations were "not very important" and four percent believe they are "not important at all."

Most respondents (61%) pointed out that relations between the two countries hadn't changed much in the previous year, while 25% said that tensions between Moscow and Kiev continued to escalate. Another eight percent noted that relations were slowly improving.

As many as 44% percent of the poll's participants blame the current state of Russian-Ukrainian relations on Kiev, but 39% think that both parties are equally to blame. Nearly half of Russians (42%) are confident that bilateral relations will improve but building an alliance between the two countries is impossible.

A total of 78% of Russians said the two countries needed to improve relations, though four percent don't share this opinion and another 13% are indifferent to the matter.

The nationwide telephone poll involving 1,600 respondents over 18 years of age was conducted on July 20. The margin of error does not exceed 2.5% at the 95% confidence level.

Agencies

FBI record point to Trump role in hush money for porn star Daniels

NEW YORK

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) documents unsealed on Thursday suggest that US President Donald Trump was actively involved in engineering a hush-money payment shortly before the 2016 election to a porn actress who said she had a sexual encounter with him, as his personal lawyer Michael Cohen, campaign team and others scrambled to head off a scandal.

The documents, released on the orders of US District Judge William Pauley in Manhattan, were used by law enforcement officials to obtain a 2018 search warrant that led to FBI raids on Cohen's home and office.

The documents provided the most extensive account to date of what appears to be then-candidate Trump's personal involvement in the scheme to pay US\$130,000 to porn star Stormy Daniels to avert a controversy for a campaign already reeling from the release of 2005 audio from the TV program "Access Hollywood" in which Trump bragged about grabbing women by the genitals.

The documents detailed repeated communications between Trump and Cohen and Hope Hicks, Trump's presidential campaign press secretary who later became a senior White House official. The White House and a lawyer for Hicks did not respond to a request for comment on the documents.

Cohen, 52, pleaded guilty in August 2018 to violating campaign finance law by directing the payment to Daniels as well as an-



This combination of file photo shows, from left, US President Donald Trump, attorney Michael Cohen and porn star Stormy Daniels. (AP)

other payment of US\$150,000 to Playboy model Karen McDougal shortly before the election.

Both women have said they had sexual encounters with Trump more than a decade ago and that the money was meant to buy their silence. Trump has denied the encounters and in 2018 told reporters he knew nothing about a payment to Daniels.

The newly unredacted material includes a 19-page section of the FBI's search warrant application with the heading: "The Illegal Campaign Contribution Scheme." It shows Cohen having multiple interactions with Trump and Trump's campaign staff as Cohen was negotiating the payoff with Daniels' lawyer and executives of American Media Inc (AMI), publisher of the National Enquirer tabloid newspaper. A lawyer for AMI did not respond to a request for comment on the documents.

The National Enquirer's publisher had offered to help Trump by buying rights to unflattering stories and never publishing

them. Before the payoff negotiations began, Cohen spoke on the phone with Trump approximately once a month and rarely had phone contact with Trump's presidential campaign staff, the search warrant application said. The FBI documents do not provide the content of the calls.

Beginning on Oct 8, there was a sharp uptick in calls with Trump and his campaign staff. That evening - a month before the election and in the immediate aftermath of the "Access Hollywood" tape that caused a political firestorm and prompted a rare apology from Trump - Hicks, Cohen and Trump held a three-way phone call lasting more than four minutes, the FBI document said.

Over the course of the evening, Cohen had several calls with Hicks, AMI President David Pecker, a friend of Trump, and Dylan Howard, AMI's chief content officer, before calling Trump back for eight minutes. The FBI documents do not provide the content of the calls.

Later that evening, Howard then sent Cohen a text message: "Keith will do it," the message said, in an apparent reference to Keith Davidson, a lawyer for Daniels who would end up receiving the US\$130,000 payment for Daniels from Cohen later that month. "Let's reconvene tomorrow."

The next day, Howard connected Cohen and Davidson in a text message to begin the payoff negotiations, the document stated.

Hicks testified before the US House of Representatives Judiciary Committee earlier this year that she was never present for any discussion during the campaign between Trump and Cohen about Daniels.

The chairman of the House judiciary panel, Jerrold Nadler, in a letter to Hicks released publicly on Thursday, demanded that she return to Capitol Hill before Aug 15 to explain the inconsistencies in her testimony.

'Inescapable conclusion'
Adam Schiff, the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that the documents demonstrate Trump was "intimately involved in devising and executing a corrupt scheme" to keep the Daniels matter secret.

"The inescapable conclusion from all of the public materials available now," Schiff added, "is that there was ample evidence to charge Donald Trump with the same criminal election law violations for which Michael Cohen pled guilty and is now serving time in prison."

Agencies

Asian countries should 'trust each other'

ASIAN countries should solve their differences with sincerity, and they will find proper solutions to issues by treating each other frankly and conducting friendly consultations, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in Beijing on Thursday.

Also, Asian countries should promote cooperation through perseverance, and such cooperation should be sustainable and have a long-term perspective, Wang (pictured) said. "We should stick to pushing ahead our mutually beneficial cooperation, whatever difficulties and setbacks we face," he said at a gathering of Asian diplomats.

Countries are equal regardless of their size, and Asian countries are always neighbors no matter what differences they have, Wang said. "Our relations will be firmly secured as long as we treat each other with heartfelt sincerity and trust each other," he said.

Looking back on the 70 years since the founding of the People's Republic of China, Wang said the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence that China initiated together with India and Myanmar in the 1950s served as norms for the complex relations among Asian countries in the aftermath of World War II.

The principles are mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal



affairs, equality, mutual benefit and peaceful co-existence.

Since reform and opening-up, China has greatly developed friendly cooperation with neighboring countries through its neighborhood diplomacy policies, including fostering an amicable, secure and prosperous neighborhood, Wang said.

Also, the idea of developing neighborhood diplomacy featuring amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness that President Xi Jinping put forth captures the fine traditions and valuable experiences China has gained in engaging with neighboring countries, and provides fundamental guid-

ance to deepening friendly cooperation between China and its Asian neighbors, Wang added.

This idea, together with Xi's proposal of jointly building an Asian community with a shared future, is a response to the common aspiration of Asian countries and in line with their common interests, Wang said, adding that China hopes to develop closer ties with other Asian countries.

China's sound development serves the interests of Asia and vice versa, as interests of different Asian countries are becoming interwoven, Wang said.

Xinhua

Lawmakers impede next UK leader's path to a no-deal Brexit

LONDON

WITH Britain set to get a new pro-Brexit leader within days, lawmakers on Thursday erected a roadblock in the path of any attempt by the incoming prime minister to take the country out of the European Union without a divorce deal.

The move came as the UK's official economic watchdog said a no-deal Brexit would trigger a recession, with the pound plummeting in value and the economy shrinking by 2% in a year.

The Office for Budget Respon-

sibility made its assessment as chances of a disruptive exit from the 28-nation bloc appear to be rising.

Britain is due to leave the EU on Oct 31, but Parliament has repeatedly rejected the divorce deal struck between Prime Minister Theresa May and the bloc. Both men vying to take over from her as Britain's prime minister, Boris Johnson and Jeremy Hunt, say they will leave without an agreement if the EU won't renegotiate.

Most lawmakers, however, oppose a no-deal Brexit, and want to try to stop it happen-

ing. Johnson, who is the strong favorite to win the Conservative leadership race next week, has not ruled out suspending Parliament if it tries to block his plan to leave the EU at Halloween.

That got harder on Thursday, after the House of Commons approved a measure that effectively stops the government from sending lawmakers home in the weeks before the planned Oct 31 departure.

The 315-274 Commons vote saw several government ministers - including Treasury chief Philip Hammond - abstain rather than support the govern-

ment's call to keep suspending Parliament as an option.

"We're putting down a marker," said Conservative lawmaker Alistair Burt, who co-sponsored the move. "Parliament can't be bypassed."

Digital Minister Margot James resigned so she could vote against the government, saying it was "time for me to make a stand."

Three years after British voters narrowly chose to leave the 28-nation EU, the nation remains deeply divided and stuck in limbo. May announced her resignation last month after fail-

ing to win Parliament's approval for her Brexit deal.

Her successor is being chosen by about 160,000 members of the Conservative Party, most of whom are strongly in favor of Brexit and prepared to accept the risks of leaving without a deal. Johnson is the runaway favorite to win the contest when the result is announced on Tuesday.

He claims that Britain can flourish outside the EU if it has enough optimism and "mojo," and says a no-deal Brexit will be "vanishingly inexpensive" if the country prepares properly.

But most economists predict the economic shock would be severe, as tariffs and border checks were imposed overnight on trade between Britain and the EU.

The Office for Budget Responsibility, which provides the UK government with independent economic forecasts, said a no-deal Brexit would see "heightened uncertainty and declining confidence deter investment, while higher trade barriers with the EU weigh on exports."

It predicted GDP would fall by 2% by the end of 2020 in a no-deal scenario, and borrow-

ing would be around 30 billion pounds (US\$37 billion) a year higher from 2020-21 than it forecast in March.

Treasury chief Hammond, who has warned about the perils of a no-deal Brexit - and is likely to be fired by the next prime minister - said "I greatly fear the impact on our economy and our public finances" of a no-deal Brexit.

He said the OBR forecast was based on the "most benign version" of a no-deal Brexit, and in all likelihood "the hit would be much greater, the impact would be much harder." Agencies



Songea Girls Secondary School's student Cecilia Mlaponi (R) receives a T-shirt from CRDB Bank representative, Hadinary Mbundumwike, after the former had won Best Presenter prize in the Majimaji Selebuka Festival's debate, which took place in Songea on Thursday. The event, which brought together secondary schools from in and outside Ruvuma, is coordinated by festival organizers. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Songea Girls School shines in Majimaji Festival debate

BY CORRESPONDENT RENATHA MSUNGU

SONGEA Girls Secondary School has excelled in this year's Majimaji Selebuka Festival's debate, which took place in Ruvuma mid this week.

The debate, which involved secondary schools from in and outside the region, was coordinated by a non-governmental organization, Songea-Mississippi (So-Mi), which organizes the festival.

The festival, held for a week, has been held for a fifth year in a row, with the debate contest impressing many people, given it has stiff competition with different schools emerging as winners.

Each of the schools was represented by two students that discussed this year's debate motion, namely Is money the basis for better health? One student supported the motion and the other opposed it.

Songea Girls ultimately won the debate after collecting 874 points out of four schools which made it to the final of the debate that saw 16 schools participate in.

Msamala Secondary School came second with 802 points, whilst Dar es Salaam's Daora School that was guest participant took the third position with 779 points.

The top three school got trophies, cash prize and medals according to their respective positions.

Londoni Secondary School that emerged as champion of the last year's event, Ruhuwiko and Songea Boys that finished second and third respectively, missed out on the top positions in this year's debate.

Songea Girls also excelled in the debate's Best Presenters' category, given they produced two students, Agnes Kabissa and Cecilia Mlaponi, out of three that impressed in it. Msamala Secondary School student Elizabeth Joram took the third position.

Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup starts in Dar today

BY GUARDIAN ON SATURDAY REPORTER

THE world's largest amateur golf tournament, 'World Golf Cup', tees-off in Dar es Salaam today thanks to Turkish Airlines sponsorship.

The Turkish Airlines World Golf Cup (TAWGC), the world's largest corporate golf tournament, is taking place in Dar es Salaam for the fourth time.

Business and golf are a natural fit and no-one combines the two as well as Turkish Airlines, with their backing of the European Tour tournament Turkish Airlines Open and the Challenge Tour's Turkish Airlines Challenge, the company said in a statement.

"We are thrilled to be back in Dar es Salaam with the TAWGC and a new group of golfers as our event has become a highlight on the region's calendar over the past four years," Ahmet Sahin, who is Turkish Airlines General Manager in Dar es Salaam, noted.

"We are proud that this competition has grown in parallel with the world class Turkish Airlines brand."

Sahin wished the participating players good

luck and invited the winner to represent Dar es Salaam in the grand finals in Turkey later this year.

"Flying to more countries than any other airline in the world, Turkish Airlines supports some of the world's most successful sports people and organisations bridging together cultures and continents," Sahin added.

Golf is so entrenched in the Turkish Airlines philosophy that customers' clubs even fly for free and players can look forward to another unforgettable world golf cup, which is now in its seventh year, sponsored by National Car Rental & SOCAR.

Last year's tournaments broke records once again with 100 qualifying events taking place around the world.

The courses hosting the tournament include the past Open Championship venue, Royal Birkdale, and Ryder Cup destinations Gleneagles and the K Club in Dublin, the statement noted.

Winners reach the grand finals in Turkey and the champions secure places in the Turkish Airlines Open Pro-Am, where previous winners have played alongside Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy.



Struggling Tiger says 'Father Time' catching up with him

PORTRUSH, NORTHERN IRELAND

IF Tiger Woods fans were hoping his Masters win in April marked a return to the days when he was a consistent threat at every major championship, then Thursday's opening round of the British Open was a reality check.

The 15-times major champion never looked comfortable as he shot a seven-over 78 at Royal Portrush and he admitted he was feeling sore.

"I'm just not moving as well as I'd like. And unfortunately, you've got to be able to move, and especially under these conditions, shape the golf ball. And I didn't do it. I didn't shape the golf ball at all. Everything was left-to-right. And wasn't hitting very solidly," Woods told reporters.

The 43-year-old American, who has battled a number of injuries in recent years, made no attempt to hide his fear that age was catching up with him.

"Just the way it is. Just Father Time and some procedures I've had over the time. Just the way it's going to be," he said.

"As I said, one of the reasons why I'm playing less tournaments this year is that I can hopefully prolong my career, and be out here for a little bit longer," he added.

Woods has played only 10 competitive rounds since winning the Masters in April and his last tournament start was at the U.S. Open.

He has gone 32 days without competitive golf and he took two weeks off after the U.S. Open to go on a family holiday in Thailand.

Woods said he deals regularly with pain but that the standards expected on a links course at a major give him little room for error.

"If I am at home and have school pick-up and soccer practices, I'm a lot more sore than I am now. But playing at this elite level is a completely different deal. You've got to

be spot on. These guys are too good, there are too many guys that are playing well and I'm just not one of them," he said.

The three-times British Open winner was once known for his relentless approach to practice and physical fitness but he said those days are long gone.

"It's going to be a lot more difficult. I'm not 24 anymore. Life changes, life moves on. And I can't devote, as I've told you this many times, I can't devote the hours to practice like I used to. Standing on the range, hitting balls for four or five hours, go play 36, come back, run four or five miles and then go to the gym. Those days are gone, okay?"

"I have to be realistic about my expectations and, hopefully, peaking at the right time. I peaked at Augusta well. And, hopefully, I can peak a few more times this year," he said.

REUTERS

ICC suspends Zimbabwe Cricket over government interference

LONDON

ZIMBABWE were suspended from the International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday, with the world governing body saying the country's cricket administration was not free from government interference.

The ICC Board unanimously decided to freeze funding to national governing body Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) and ban the southern African country's teams from international events.

"We do not take the decision to suspend a Member lightly, but we must keep our sport free from political interference," ICC chairman Shashank Manohar said in a statement.

"What has happened in Zimbabwe is a serious breach of the ICC Constitution and we cannot allow it to continue unchecked."

Zimbabwe's Sports and Recreation Commission (SRC) suspended ZC last month, putting the national cricket board on a collision course with the ICC.

Zimbabwe failed to qualify for the recent 50-overs World Cup, having struggled to schedule matches against the major teams in international cricket as their financial position worsened.

The country first became a full ICC member in 1992 and enjoyed an impressive run at the

1999 World Cup, narrowly missing out on a semi-final spot.

Meanwhile, men's and women's teams across all formats of international and first class cricket will be allowed to replace concussed players during matches following a two-year trial in the domestic game, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has said.

The rule has been included in the governing body's playing conditions and will be effective starting Aug. 1 when the Ashes series between England and Australia begins at Edgbaston.

Decisions on concussion will be made by the team's medical representative while the incoming player, who will be allowed to bat and bowl, must be deemed a "like for like" replacement approved by the match referee.

"Following a two-year trial... in domestic cricket, the ICC approved concussion player

replacements in all formats of men's and women's international cricket and for first class cricket worldwide," the ICC said in a statement following their annual conference in London.

Concussion substitutes have been on trial in Australia's domestic game since the 2016-17 season while the England and Wales Cricket Board adopted the regulations for its four professional domestic competitions in 2018. Cricket Australia (CA) and the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) welcomed the ICC's move to expand the rule to cover international cricket.

"Creating an environment where players feel comfortable in dealing with concussion... and are able to be appropriately accessed, is vital for their long-term health and wellbeing," ACA chief executive Alistair Nicholson said.

Discussions on concussion

and player safety intensified after former Australia test batsman Phillip Hughes died in 2014, having been fatally hit on the head by a bouncer in a first class match.

Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi ignored medical advice and continued batting after being hit on the head by a bouncer in a World Cup clash with England last month, prompting demands that players should not take those calls.

CA sports science manager Alex Kountouris said the new rule would allow players to declare symptoms of concussion that could occur well after the incident, knowing their team would not be disadvantaged.

Concussion is a major concern in other sports as well, with rugby's world body considering rule changes to reduce the risk of head injuries.

REUTERS



International Cricket Council



Infantino rejects Blatter's criticism of African cleanup

CAIRO

FIFA president Gianni Infantino promised unwavering support for the scandal-ridden and dysfunctional African soccer confederation on Thursday as he deflected criticism by Sepp Blatter and others that FIFA was exceeding its authority by overseeing a cleanup operation to stem the embarrassment.

Speaking to African soccer officials at their meeting in Cairo, Infantino said he had "to laugh" in the face of Blatter's criticism that FIFA was engaging in modern-day "colonialism" by sending secretary general Fatma Samoura to oversee a six-month forensic audit and administrative reform of the Confederation of African Football.

"I have heard about colonialization, that FIFA is colonizing Africa again," Infantino said, a clear reference to the statement released by former FIFA boss Blatter to the BBC this week. "What does it mean, colonialization? I don't know. It's not part of my vocabulary. But I know what it means to work, to team up. ... We all suffer when we see what is going on here (at CAF)."

Samoura, Infantino pointed out, is from Senegal, so African herself.

Blatter said FIFA's involvement also flouted its own rules. National associations are members of FIFA but continental bodies like CAF are not. FIFA also managed to work past opposition to the move by some within CAF's executive committee to agree on a roadmap for reform.

Infantino was "puzzled" by the criticism, he said.

Instead, Infantino framed the issue - hugely embarrassing for soccer's largest continental confederation and the FIFA vice president who leads it - as just another challenge for the world soccer family to overcome.

He said CAF's current predicament wasn't as bad as the FIFA corruption scandal of 2015, which led to the downfall of some of the most powerful men in world soccer, including Blatter, and brought Infantino to power.

"We turned the boat (around)," Infantino said. "We intend to do the same for Africa and for CAF."

That belies the reality that it's another stark failure by soccer leadership and a leader whom Infantino backed.

Ahmad, the president of CAF and a FIFA VP, is at the center of the crisis and the subject of allegations of corruption and other misconduct. He has denied wrongdoing but was taken in for questioning by French authorities while attending a FIFA meeting in Paris last month. He is also the subject of a FIFA ethics committee

investigation.

Among other things, Ahmad is accused of improper business deals, misusing CAF money on expensive cars, sexual harassment of staff, and cheating on his expenses.

He sat next to Infantino at the congress at a luxury hotel on the banks of the Nile and called for African officials to stand and applaud for the FIFA head.

A former politician in Madagascar, Ahmad was surprisingly elected to lead African soccer in 2017 when he beat longtime CAF president Issa Hayatou in an election. Ahmad promised to stamp out corruption and modernize CAF, making it transparent and efficient. He was held aloft by jubilant supporters in the minutes after winning that election and hailed as a liberator of African soccer.

Two years later, it's in crisis and Ahmad, who hadn't held any senior roles at CAF before he was elected president, is accused of driving the organization into the ground. The bottom line was delivered on the congress floor on Thursday when CAF announced a \$17 million loss for the financial year ending June 30.

"We are lagging behind all (other) confederations in all aspects," Ahmad said before that financial blow was delivered.

Under Ahmad, the executive board running African soccer has been undermined by infighting. CAF announced after its meeting that senior vice president Amaju Pinnick of Nigeria had been removed from his role as one of three VPs under Ahmad. The Nigeria Football Federation said there were "fundamental differences in focus and direction" between Pinnick and Ahmad.

This was CAF's first major meeting since the announcement last month that FIFA would take the unprecedented step of overseeing the complete reorganization of one of its confederations. CAF, with 56 countries affiliated to it, is the largest of FIFA's six continental bodies.

FIFA secretary general Samoura, who formerly worked for the United Nations, will move to Egypt as FIFA general delegate for Africa to lead the cleanup for six months from Aug. 1. The work will start with a financial audit to detect "potential wrongdoings," according to a roadmap agreed by FIFA and CAF. Samoura's term can be extended and she will be aided by a group of outside experts.

The deal has been portrayed by both parties, publicly at least, as a partnership, with Ahmad seeking out FIFA's help and FIFA responding.

AP

CAF President Ahmad sacks deputy as purge continues

CAIRO

CONFEDERATION of African Football (CAF) President Ahmad Ahmad fired his deputy Amaju Pinnick on Thursday just as global governing body FIFA was releasing details of a road map to put the crisis-hit organisation back on its feet.

Ahmad, who is being investigated by FIFA's ethics committee for alleged corruption, sacked Pinnick, the president of the Nigerian Football Federation, at a hastily-assembled meeting of the CAF executive committee.

"I've changed my cabinet," Ahmad told a news conference.

Pinnick released a statement saying his term was up and he agreed with the CAF president not to renew it.

But senior CAF sources told Reuters: "Pinnick was standing up to Ahmad and taking him on in many issues and Ahmad felt it right to get rid of him."

Ahmad appointed Constant Omari of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Pinnick's place as first vice president, which means that if Ahmad is removed as CAF president once FIFA has completed its probe, one of his supporters will step up to replace him at the helm of African football.

Morocco's Fouzi Lekjaa will be the second vice president and Danny Jordaan of South Africa the third vice

president.

The appointment of the vice presidents is the prerogative of the CAF president. They are not elected posts.

Ahmad has in the space of three months fired his general secretary, who reported him to FIFA, his finance director and now senior deputy.

FIFA will next month take over the running of CAF in what is seen as a compromise agreement with Gianni Infantino, the president of world soccer's ruling body, for Ahmad to stay in power.

Ahmad was detained by French police in June and questioned over a sportswear deal between CAF and a French company in which the African body is said to have paid exorbitant prices for equipment it could have got much cheaper directly from the manufacturers.

FIFA is sending its Senegalese secretary general Fatma Samoura on a nine-month secondment from August to overhaul CAF in accordance with an 11-point plan that includes possible changes to the format of competitions, a review of refereeing and a task force to improve stadium security. He will also oversee a review of CAF's judicial bodies, full transparency of money flows and implementation of good governance principles.

The highs and lows of fans watching the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt

CAIRO

"IF football was a president we would have a peaceful and exciting country," - the words of a young South Africa fan speaking to Reuters while watching his team play in the Africa Cup of Nations perfectly capture the unifying force of the world's most popular sport.

It is the game that allows fans to forget their troubles and domestic differences and come together for a few hours, where their hopes and dreams, joy and despair, are shared as one.

This happens in every corner of the globe, but across vast swathes of Africa, where daily life can be so hard for hundreds of millions of people and where their international footprint in politics, economics and other sports is often limited, it can seem more amplified, more visceral, even more meaningful.

The Cup of Nations has long been the touchstone for all this emotion and now, expanded to 24 teams and moved to a new mid-year slot in the calendar, it is touching ever more people.

Unlike the World Cup, which has been dominated by a small group and won by only eight countries, there have been 14 different Cup of Nations winners, and another six countries who have reached the final.

That means that players and fans from all over the continent approach it with high expectations - whatever their pedigree.

Five years ago Madagascar trailed 187th out of 211 in the FIFA rankings and had virtually no domestic soccer infrastructure. Yet not only did they qualify for this year's tournament, they advanced through the group phase, stunning Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo to reach the quarter-finals where they lost to Tunisia.

"When we came here nobody took us seriously but we believed in ourselves," midfielder Anicet Abel told Reuters.

"Madagascar is not famous in football, I think Madagascar is only famous for the movie."

It is also worth remembering that Madagascar, "tiny" in football terms, has a population of more than 25 million, who were united as one in watching their team's incredible Egyptian



Ibrahim Diakite (C) celebrates with others after Ivory Coast's Wilfried Zaha scored a goal against Mali at the Africa Cup of Nations 2019 (African), while watching the game on screen in Abidjan, Ivory Coast July 8, 2019. Ibrahim said: "Football is my favorite game because I myself dream of playing for my country one day. The victory of the Ivory Coast will prove our style of play vis-a-vis the whole world. The football in our country always brings us together, our Style of play."

adventure.

Mauritania and Burundi also played in the tournament for the first time, causing huge excitement as fans gathered together to huddle around TVs on the streets and in bars and mirroring the experience enjoyed in dozens of other African nations over the decades.

Reuters photographers have spent the last month capturing those unforgettable community moments when a goal goes in, the outpouring of joy for the scorers in one country and the concomitant agony, perhaps thousands of miles away, for those conceding. The images tell their own story of that moment in time, but the supporters have also been keen to explain to Reuters why the goals and the game itself means so much to them.

Sarah, 20, Algeria fan.

"Football is part of us - Algeria is a football nation. There is not a single day where we don't watch a football game at home; national or international ones.

"In fact, winning a cup can have a positive impact and propel a whole country to the international sports and economic scenes, because other nations will be interested in knowing the geography, economy and culture of the winning country and also the victory will be inscribed in the history of

humanity.

"Football unites and brings communities together in a way that politics can't do. The proof is here, we are all gathered regardless social classes, to support our national team."

Hanan, 22, Tunisia fan.

"When our national team play, I support them all the way with all my strength. When we win we start singing and kissing. That's definitely proof that football bring our community together."

Abdul Latif, 23, Ghana fan.

"I love football - Ghana and Barcelona. It unites this community and brings close to 40 people to my TV shop to watch the games on weekends."

Sello Modime, South Africa fan (and nurse).

"I feel that football has its own therapeutic healing, it brings people together, even people you never thought will be together.

"If football was a president we would have a very peaceful and very exciting country. To me football is a lifestyle and I've made friends in the name of football.

"Look at Nigeria (who South Africa were playing). There is a stigma where people have views about crime and legal dealings and view them for only the wrong things but if they go all the

way to the final (they lost in the semis) that can change the way the world views them.

Rokaia (82), Algeria fan.

"I like football, I like to watch its funny moments. I am also the proof of how it brings the community together. I'm 82 years old and I'm here with a melting (pot) generation of people."

Dior Seck, Senegal fan.

"I'm only interested in football when Senegal play but when they do I have such a feeling that I can't even explain. A victory boosts the whole country, we feel people around the world have a better view of us."

Malick Sa, Senegal fan.

It's a passion and for Senegal, having never won the cup and being in the final - we have such hope. I say thanks to the Afcon for giving us the opportunity to come together because it's very rare to see such a mobilization here.

Morris Nwozu, Nigeria fan.

"Football affects my community in so many ways, it is like a binding factor, not only in my community but in Nigeria as a whole. We all came here from different tribes but we all come together watch the game together. We celebrated together and if we would have lost today we would have mourned together."

REUTERS

Nigeria's Odion Ighalo, John Obi Mikel retire from international football

ABUJA

NIGERIA stars Odion Ighalo and John Obi Mikel are retiring from international football.

Sources told ESPN FC that Ighalo, whose goal helped Nigeria to beat Tunisia 1-0 in the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations Bronze Final on Wednesday night, informed coach Gernot Rohr of his decision before the match and then left to join his club in China immediately after the game.

"After the game, [Ighalo] gave his jersey as a souvenir to the coach, said his goodbyes and left," a source said.

Ighalo was the subject of abuse following a less than stellar performance at the World Cup in 2018, which went as far as death threats to the player and his family.

He recovered to lead Nigeria, and the rest of the continent, in scoring during the qualifiers for this year's tournament and is on the verge of being potentially winning the top scorer's award.

But a poor game against Madagascar, where the Super Eagles lost 2-0 reopened those old wounds and Ighalo took further flak on social media.

"He had discussed his decision with the coach before the third-place match, saying that the constant abuse was taking a toll on his young family, but he was advised to keep it under wraps for the moment," the sources told ESPN.

Prior to the game, the 30-year-old posted a message on his WhatsApp status update that simply said "Final Game".

"He has been very strong for us," Rohr told ESPN. "And it is sad that he wants not to continue.

"But the door always is open for him any time."

Ighalo, something of a late bloomer, made his senior debut for Nigeria in 2015 as the Super Eagles lost 1-0 to Uganda in a



John Obi Mikel of Nigeria (C) and Odion Ighalo of Nigeria argue with Referee Cuneț Căkir during the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia group D match between Nigeria and Argentina at Saint Petersburg Stadium on June 26, 2018 in Saint Petersburg, Russia. (Photo: Agencies)

friendly.

He made 35 appearances for Nigeria, scoring 16 goals.

He was also top scorer through the 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers, with four goals, and he could also finish the tournament as top scorer having scored

four in Egypt.

Nigeria captain Mikel, 32, meanwhile, announced his international retirement on his Instagram page, ending his senior international career in the same country where he made his senior debut in the 2006 Africa Cup of Nations.

"Egypt is a country where I've started and have finished my National career," Mikel posted on Instagram.

"In 2006 I played my first official championship for my Country. 2019 African Cup of Nations marks my last championship for National Team with Super Eagles.

"My national career started in 2003 under 17 World Cup and I'm grateful for the national team for placing me on the world arena and giving me an opportunity to show my skill and have an incredible National and International career.

"At the age of 32 it's time for me to retire from the National team and let the youth take over, who've done an amazing job securing a bronze medal at AFCON 2019.

"Thank you to all my Nigerian supporters and to my Country for all the trust, support and love you've shown me over the past 15 years.

"Mikel am out!"

Nigeria also won bronze at that 2006 tournament, with Mikel notching one goal and one assist.

Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr praised the midfielder for his service, saying the midfielder had enjoyed a "big career" with the Super Eagles. (Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Tanzanians urged to support 2019 National Volleyball Club Championship

SPORT

The highs and lows of fans watching the Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Filbert Bayi Schools to offer scholarship to Umisseta games best performers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

COAST Region's Filbert Bayi Schools are set to offer five scholarships to students who performed well at this year's inter-secondary schools (Umisseta) games, which took place in Mtwara.

Filbert Bayi (pictured), the schools' board of directors' chairman, issued the pledge at a function for awarding athletes from the schools who excelled at the just ended tournament.

He said the five are from Tabora, Mara and Mwanza but stopped short of mentioning the students' names as his schools' discussions with the students' parents and guardians are in progress.

Filbert Bayi Schools' students were in the Coast Region's team which excelled in athletics in the games.

Bayi said the scholarships are aimed at giving deserving students the opportunity to continue pursuing both sports and studies.

"We are truly committed to promoting sports in the country, we started with a netball team which won many tournaments both local and international, but due to problems beyond our control, the netball project was abandoned and we turned our attention to athletics," he added.

"We are happy that we have produced athletes who have performed well at local and international games because we want to have many athletes next academic year we will offer the scholarships to five students who will start Form One at our schools," he said.

Filbert Bayi Schools' athletes won 19 medals at the Umisseta competition and due to this achievement, the athletes will represent the country at this year's East Africa Secondary Schools (Feassa) games slated for August in Arusha.

The athletes from the schools, who performed well in the competition, are Esther Martin, Amos Charles, Pili Mipawa, Helen Ngonda Nkulerey, Benedicto Mathias, Gaundensia Maneno and Regina Mpingachai.

Moses Chacha, who is a student at another school but was in the Filbert Bayi Schools' athletics team, also excelled in the tournament and was awarded.

Anna Bayi, who is one of the schools' directors, thanked Coastal Region authorities for backing the team.

She also said the schools are happy that they are contributing to sports development in the country.

"Filbert Bayi Schools are happy that in the years of their existence, they have contributed a lot in sports development in the country and they promise to continue doing so," she said.

She, however, lamented that despite the athletes' best performance at the Umisseta games, there was no government representative at the event.

"These young athletes performed well at the Umisseta games, they were top in athletics but, to our surprise, there was no any government representative to honour them, much as we sent them invitation," she said.

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Regional Volleyball Association (Moreva) has appealed to sports enthusiasts from in and outside the region to support domestic volleyball clubs that are battling it out in this year's National Club Championship, which has been slated to start on Tuesday next week in the region.

Abdulatif Edmund, Moreva's spokesman, disclosed the participating outfits need support in a bid to bolster competitiveness in the tournament, which will take place at JKT Bwalo court.

He associated financial constraints the tournament's organizers, Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA), lately face with the less satisfactory host-

ing of the last year's event, which took place in Dodoma.

Most of clubs which competed in the tournament, Edmund noted, put dismal showing in the showdown because they were strapped for cash.

He disclosed the clubs' players were forced to spend their own cash to meet participation costs.

"We need material and moral support, it will be shame for Morogoro clubs to exit the tournament in the early stage, much as the region has hosted the tournament, Morogoro sports lovers should support us," he noted.

Edmund said Morogoro's three outfits, which will compete in the showdown, are made up of 30 players.

According to him, 10 players are turning out for the women's team, 10 players play for the men's squad and the rest are turning out for a junior side, namely Morogoro Stars.

Six technical bench's officials are overseeing the squads, he added.

Outfits which are taking part in the men's category of the event are Jeshi Stars, JKT, Chui, Shinyanga, Pentagon Club, Best Six, Njombe Club, Magu Club, Mwanza Transit Camp, Bank of Tanzania Club, Dodoma Combine and Mara Club.

Jeshi Stars, JKT, Star Girls, Moro Stars and Kigamboni Volleyball Club are taking part in women's category.

Morogoro Regional Sports Officer Grace Njau revealed that companies can use the championship to promote their products.

She said the companies can put their weight behind the championship and make the most of the opportunity to exhibit their prod-



Morogoro Regional Volleyball Association (Moreva)'s spokesman, Abdulatif Edmund. PHOTO: MICHAEL SIKAPUNDWA

ucts in the showpiece.

"Companies have to stop investing much in soccer and neglect other sports disciplines, it's a time the firms support youth that are playing other sports," Grace noted.

Morogoro's sports analyst Songoro Amukwa advised Moreva to promote the sport in schools with a view to produce competent performers.

The association, he added, should as well conduct seminars to insist on the importance of youths' participation in volley-

ball.

Volleyball, according to him, can offer youths employment and the youths can moreover embrace healthy lifestyle through participating in the game.

"Let us learn from Zanzibar given the Isles have made great strides in promoting sports," Amukwa disclosed.

He noted Zanzibar has overseen construction of over 300 standard pitches mainly available in Urban West District... availability of sports facilities has encouraged players to showcase their

talents.

He disclosed Morogoro volleyball teams have great chance to hold sway in this year's national club championship and, ultimately, win an opportunity to represent the country in Africa Club Championship.

He insisted TAVA leadership should join forces with Moreva to improve volleyball in Morogoro.

The national volleyball governing body, he noted, should as well see to it the championship's winners shape up well for the Africa Club Championship.

Kutchi Leva eye Annadil Burhani scalp in GP Gymkhana Shield 2019

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM cricket followers will, this weekend, have yet another opportunity to watch exciting action given this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's matches will be played in the city.

Kutchi Leva, the last year's showdown semi-finalists, will confront Annadil Burhani in the first of this weekend's matches to be played at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) oval today.

Kutchi Leva, led by their inspirational skipper Nilesch Varasani, will be looking for a win in their second outing to keep their hopes of qualifying for the knockout stages alive. The Group C game is set to start at 2:30pm.

Sunday will see Jaat Blasters take on Tarangini in a Group B match at 8am. Blasters, buoyant thanks to their thrilling win over Union Sports Club in the opening game, will be looking forward to winning their second game.

Blasters' Ankit Baghel, who is currently in scintillating form is expected to offer some explosive hits once again to help his outfit grab victory. The second game, slated to start at 11am, will see Dar es Salaam Cricket Club take on Karnataka



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) Cricket Section ground staff (L-R) Mawazo Hamisi, Hussein and Norbert Sanga, pose for picture after one of this year's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's matches at the club's oval. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Kings who will be playing their second game.

The last game of the weekend will see Sandy Super Strikes come up against Surat Stars in Group D.

Both teams will be looking to register their first win of the tournament and the match, for that matter, promises to be good clash of two well-balanced teams.

Ashish Nagewadia, DGC Cricket Section Captain, said cricket followers have until now seen high scoring games and some outstanding performances.

He said it is a testament to the hard work the section's ground staff have put in seeing to it the venue is in great shape.

He disclosed he would like to appreciate the staff namely Norbert Sanga, Hamisi Mawazo and Hussein for the work they have put in.

This year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition has General Petroleum (GP) and Premium Refinishes Ltd as main sponsors.

Mgen Insurance, ASAR Limited, Sayona, SBC Tanzania through Pepsi brand, Jaykey Trading, Afro Turk and I&M Bank are the competition's co-sponsors.

All of the tournament's games take place at the DGC oval, with the competition which started on July 6 set to climax on September 29.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

