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## Why Tanzania declined to host SADC from start

By Songwa wa Songwa, Morogoro

TANZANIA chose not to host and lead the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) despite her leading role in its founding as a matter of modesty, it has been said.

As founder and host of the frontline states during the struggle for the liberation of Southern African countries under the claws of colonialism and white minority rule from the 1960s through 70, 80s and early 90s before the founding of SADC, Tanzania led the way and therefore could easily host and lead the organisation, but it declined.

“Although Tanzania opted for a low key approach in the organisation, the country was very loud in her dislike of oppression and is reputed all over the world for always standing by oppressed people and condemning oppressors the former SADC

“Our country under the leadership of founding President Julius Nyerere chose a modest approach,” said Col. Wilbert Ibuge, former head of defence affairs and planning at the SADC secretariat.

Ibuge who is currently a senior officer in charge of operations and training with an army brigade based in Tabora made the remarks during the ongoing second batch of three-day capacity building training for journalists ahead of the SADC Heads of State and Government summit set for Dar es Salaam next month.

“Although Tanzania opted for a low key approach in the organisation, the country was very loud in her dislike of oppression and is reputed all over the world for always standing by oppressed people and condemning oppressors,” the former SADC official underlined.

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# Govt boosts cooperatives to buy coffee at higher prices



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and visiting Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung toast at a luncheon the PM hosted for the guest in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo courtesy of PMO

Dr Magufuli said that the government has taken a number of measures to protect coffee farmers which include financial boost to cooperative unions as well as allowing private buyers from within and outside the country.

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT John Magufuli has assured coffee farmers of a reliable market as the government has injected money to capacitate cooperative unions to buy the beans at a competitive price.

The president wants buyers to offer a competitive price of 1,600/- to 2,000/- per kilogram instead of the current 1,100/- per kg.

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said President Magufuli made the remarks when addressing a rally for residents of Kyaka, Rwamishenye, Kemondo, Muleba, Nyakabango and Kyamyorwa villages in Kagera region.

“We have opened doors for local and foreign private coffee buyers. They only need to observe the country laws

Farmers in Kagera region grow Robusta coffee while Arabica is grown in Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Matengo Highlands, Mbanga, Usambara Mountains, Iringa, Morogoro, Kigoma and Ngora regions.

Dr Magufuli said that the government has taken a number of measures to protect coffee farmers which include financial boost to cooperative unions as well as allowing private buyers from within and outside the country.

“We have opened doors for local and foreign private coffee buyers. They only need

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## MoH rolls out improved emergency services for accident-prone highway

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has launched new guidelines for Emergency Medicine Services (EMS) to be improved to save the lives of scores of people lost due to poor care during accidents and similar catastrophes.

Prepared by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), the guidelines will see improved infrastructure such as equipping ambulances with modern facilities and innovation of key health centers in accident hotspots along the central corridor.

“The guidelines will govern the way emergency care is offered but in the long run we will save a big number of lives

Dr Zainab Chaula, the Permanent Secretary the Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, said at the launching ceremony yesterday that this was a new chapter in the provision of emergency care services in the country.

“The guidelines will govern the way emergency care is offered but in the long run we will save a big number of lives,” Dr Chaula said.

The 1bn/- project funded by the World Bank under the Southern Africa Transport Network came after a study conducted years

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## BoT fines Diamond Trust 1bn/- over data centre

By Guardian Reporter

THE Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has imposed a penalty of 1bn/- on Diamond Trust Bank (T) Ltd (DTB) over failure to implement directives to establish a data centre in Tanzania.

A statement issued by the central bank yesterday stated that DTB did not implement the directive, despite confirming to BoT that it had set up a secondary data centre.

The central bank through its circular letters FA.56/293/043/VOL.III/28 and FB/44/475/01/35 dated March 3rd 2014 and February 29th 2016 respectively, directed



all banks and financial institutions operating in the country to establish either primary or secondary data centres in Tanzania with a view to ensure data and service availability at all times. In addition to the punishment of 1bn/-, DTB will be subjected to an additional charge of 10 percent of the penalty amount at each month if the noncompliance continues.

BoT similarly directed banks and financial institutions to revisit their data centre arrangements and re-confirm their compliance status to BoT within seven days from July 12th 2019.

It reminded all such institutions to

ensure compliance with all the laws, regulations and directives it has issued in that connection so far, a BoT statement emphasized.

DTB (T) is a member of the Diamond Trust Bank Group providing financial services in East Africa with operations in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. It is among large financial services providers in Tanzania with total assets valued at 984bn/- as of December 2016.

The bank was founded in 1945, as Diamond Jubilee Investment Trust (DJIT) with its head offices in Dar es Salaam and branches in Mombasa and Kampala.



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## MoH rolls out improved emergency services for accident prone highway

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earlier, which analyzed how poor emergency care was causing loss of lives.

Other improvements include medical call center dispatch which will analyze the nature of the accident and then send a nearby ambulance with trained care experts to handle that emergency.

Already a total of 519 emergency care providers graduated yesterday under the project, a number of them being call center operators, critical care operators and others specialising in field activity, who will be operating the centers.

The Director for Emergency Care Services at MoH, Dr Elias Kwesi said the aim of the project is to see health centres improved from Dar es Salaam, Kibaha, Tumbi, Chalinze, Mikese and the Morogoro Regional Hospital.

He said the project will go a long way to Kasumulu border post with Malawi, at the door of the SADC zone.

"The call center will have experts who will analyze the kind of care to be sent to the scene, but also the level of ambulance need and command specific nearby ambulances to go," he explained.

The project is implemented following the fact that currently when an accident happens, ambulances are taken from a health centres to pick victims only.

In this approach, there will be standby equipped ambulances in innovated health centers to be dispatched by the medical call center stationed at the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

Emergency Medicine (EM) is a new, rapidly developing specialty in Tanzania.

Currently at most hospitals, emergency patients are cared for in Emergency Centres (ECs) staffed with rotating personnel who are not specially trained or equipped to provide complete resuscitative care. Dedicated emergency care training projects are emerging, the director added



Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (R) holds talks in London yesterday with Harriett Baldwin, the British Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Minister of State at the Department for International Development. Photo courtesy of Foreign Affairs ministry. Story on page 3.

## Govt boosts cooperatives to buy coffee at higher prices

FROM PAGE 1

to observe the country laws," he stated, noting that the funds for cooperative unions have been channeled through the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB).

He said prior to government intervention, the price of coffee dropped to 300/- per kilogram.

The biggest buyers of Tanzanian coffee are Japan (22 percent),

Italy (19 percent) and USA (12 percent).

Coffee production in Tanzania has stagnated over the years, despite the fact that new farms are being established, especially in some rural areas where farmers have opportunities for selling or changing land use.

The current total number of coffee farmers is put at 225, 947 households with 149,318,404 coffee trees within 123,295 hectares.

Data from the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB) indicates that coffee production for the year 2018/2019 stood at 60,000 tonnes, up from 41,679 tonnes in 2017/2018.

Total production for the year 2016/2017 stood at 43,272 tonnes of clean coffee, a decline from 59,648 tonnes from the 2015/16 season. Production level for the 2014/15 marketing year was 41,486 tonnes.

Meanwhile, President Magu-

fuli has directed the Minister for Water, Prof Makame Mbarawa to work on water woes facing residents in Kagera region especially those in Kyaka ward.

Dr Magufuli tasked the minister to make sure the residents have reliable clean and safe water services before December 25th. He directed him to implement an existing water supply project from Kagera River.

Responding, Prof Mbarawa

said water woes in the area will be dealt with using monies from the National Water Fund.

Through the fund, the government has been able to provide clean water services to Muleba district where 400m/- has been set aside for laying of water distribution infrastructures. Another 600m/- has been allocated for implementation of a water project at Nyakabango ward, the minister added.



Works, Transport and Communications ministry deputy permanent secretary (communications) Dr Maria Sasabo (R, foreground) shares a light moment with Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority central zone head Antonio Manyanda (C) shortly after the opening of one-day training for ICT experts from the government and public institutions in Dodoma yesterday. Left is the ministry's director of administration, Kitolina Kippa. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

## Why Tanzania declined to host, lead SADC from start

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking earlier in a presentation, a veteran diplomat and retired permanent secretary in the Ministry of Works, Ambassador Hebert Mrango said a request was made for Tanzania to host the community in Arusha but the government did not accede to the request.

"We didn't want to appear to be taking advantage of our massive contribution in the liberation struggle in the formation of

SADC," said Mrango.

That's how the headquarters of SADC were moved to Gaborone, capital of Botswana, and the only Tanzanian to head its secretariat so far is the current Executive Secretary Dr Stergomena Tax Bamwenda.

This, according to Ihuge and Mrango, is an extraordinary exercise of modesty for a country that played a lead role at the signing of the Southern Africa

Development Coordination Conference (SADCC) in 1980 and the current SADC treaty on August 17, 1992.

Tanzania is credited for hosting and leading both diplomatic and armed struggle which led to the liberation of Mozambique, Angola (from Portugal), Namibia (from South African apartheid rulers), Zimbabwe and Zambia (from Britain, and then settler rule in Zimbabwe) and South Africa (from white minority

rule).

President John Magufuli is scheduled to take up SADC chairmanship during a two day summit next month, on August 17th and 18th, preceded by a SADC council of ministers and permanent secretaries meeting from August 9th to 16th.

The theme for the summit is Competitive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development, secretariat officials said.

## AfCFTA can transform Africa's power sector, says Sahara Power Group chief

ABUJA

THE largest privately owned vertically integrated power company in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Sahara Power Group, has said the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) has the potential to transform the continent's power sector.

According to the conglomerate's Managing Director, Kola Adesina, this would be realised through the alignment of policies, tariffs, cross-border collaboration in human resources and fresh injection of capital.

AfCFTA received a significant boost recently after Nigeria's President Muhammad Buhari signed the continent's largest economy onto AfCFTA, the world's largest free trade zone covering a market of more than 1.2 billion people with a combined gross domestic product of \$3.4 trillion.

Signed in March 2018, AfCFTA is a free trade area agreement now in its operational phase among 54 of the 55 African Union nations. It is estimated that implementing AfCFTA will yield a 60 per cent increase in intra-African trade by 2022.

Commending President Buhari for signing the deal, SPG's Adesina said AfCFTA has the potential to inspire a new wave of intra-African trade, investment and cooperation that will "propel governments and the private sector to take strategic steps towards repositioning the power industry across the continent".

"The energy sector has several components along the value chain that require interconnectivity involving all stakeholders to make uninterrupted power available," he said.

He elaborated: "With AfCFTA, Africa now has a platform to critically reconsider harmonised major infrastructure developments as well as the aggregate contribution and enabling legislation, policies and tariffs required to shore up power supply across the continent."

However, Adesina highlighted the need for the continent's political leadership to approach the implementation of AfCFTA "with one voice and a vision that is not driven by nationalistic considerations", adding that civil society needs to play a "balancing role" to ensure that the agreement serves the interest of all Africans.

Noting that challenges relating to the inter-linkage of infrastructure continue to stifle economic growth in Africa, Adesina said it was crucial for the new trade deal to pursue avenues for harnessing the strengths of all parties while maintaining the principle of equity and justice.

"Nigeria has an abundance of gas deposits," he remarked, adding: "With a power plant located in Nigeria we can develop transmission infrastructure that covers West Africa and achieve electrification of the entire region with the gas fired plants from Nigeria."

He described these as "some of the conversations and partnerships that I believe AfCFTA will trigger across the continent".

Adesina said Sahara Power was already implementing and exploring several projects meant to boost power supply in the continent's emerging and key markets.





Garbage slowly but surely piling up close to Dar es Salaam's multipurpose Tandale market is a clear health hazard - not to mention the fact it is an inconvenience to road users. We caught the scene yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## UK assures Tanzania of continued support for development projects

By Guardian Reporter

THE United Kingdom has assured Tanzania of continued support for various joint development projects as well as convincing investors from UK to invest in the country.

The assurance was given by Harriett Baldwin, UK's Minister of State for Africa at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office during her meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi in London yesterday.

The meeting, among other things was meant to discuss a number of development and relationship matters between Tanzania and UK. Baldwin said the decision to bring more UK investors to Tanzania is geared at supporting President John Magufuli's industrialization drive 2025.

Harriett expressed satisfaction with the way the government is supervising development projects that are supported by UK government. Some of the projects are in education, health, water, agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

She said the UK government is supporting improvement of Tanzania's rural roads, financial systems, public service and local government operations.

Minister Harriett commended the fifth phase government's efforts in fighting corruption, good governance and enhancing provision of services in the public sector. She said what

President Magufuli is doing will foster development and improve the welfare of Tanzanians.

According to Harriet, the UK government is closely monitoring the various reforms implemented by President Magufuli especially improvement of business and investment environment as well as promoting democracy and good governance.

"Tanzania should expect more tourists from UK in near future", said the UK Minister.

Meanwhile, Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi commended the UK government for being among the major supporter of various development projects in the country.

Prof Kabudi noted that UK is also among the foreign countries leading in with a good number of registered projects and established businesses. He said Tanzania receives a good number of tourists from UK every year.

He assured the UK Minister that the government is determined to implement a number of reforms that aims at transforming Tanzania into a middle income nation.

Prof Kabudi mentioned some of the reforms as improving business and investment climate, proper supervision of public services especially in offering of social services in the sectors that are directly linked with people at the grass roots level.

## NBAA bans two companies from practising accounting and auditing activities

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA) has banned two auditing firms from practicing accounting and auditing activities in the country for violating laws and profession's ethical conduct.

The companies which are TEG Consultancy and MATSAB & Co are allegedly accused of producing two different financial statements at per thus helping their customers evade tax.

The move comes few days after President John Magufuli claimed that there were some auditing and accounting firms in the country that are evading paying taxes by producing false financial statements.

Addressing reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam, NBAA chairman Prof Isaya Jairo said that after the president's statement, NBAA and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) conducted an investigation and found the two companies to have allegedly committed the crimes.

He also said the board has also suspended another auditing firm (Y.H Malundo & Co) from conducting auditing and accounting activities for two years for violating auditing laws and regulations (professional misconduct).

"The companies have been producing and signing financial statements of M/S Mek One General and Mek One Industries LTD and every one coming with its own

records thus helping their customers to evade tax...So after intense investigation NBAA ethical committee ruled that they should be banned from the board's register thus they are not allowed to conduct auditing or accounting activities," he said.

According to him, the companies have been facilitating fraud by producing false financial statements of the named company thus denying the government its revenues.

Prof Jairo said that the companies has been using the two different financial statement by to secure loans in banks and other services.

"The investigation found that the three audit firms involved themselves in prepa-

ration of parallel sets of certified financial statements for M/s Mek One General Trade Ltd and M/s Mek One Industries Ltd. One set for submission to TRA which were different in both material and facts to the other set presented to their client's bankers for each year of 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016."

He further said the board has revoked profession licences of three workers of the firms and they will not be allowed to conduct the profession's activities anywhere inside and outside the country.

They are Mathew Marapachi and Mathew Kumalija from M/s MATSAB and Co and the managing partner of of TEG Consultancy.

The board's chair further said that they are now working to drag to court the two

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## SMEs in Arusha assured of reforms to improve business environment

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government has assured small and medium scale entrepreneurs (SMEs) in Arusha region of guaranteed friendly business environment after scrapping of 49 nuisance levies.

Industry and Trade Deputy Minister, Ebneg Stella Myanyanya made the statement when addressing the business community and entrepreneurs from Arusha region who had benefited from business training conducted by the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

Eng Manyanya noted that the government arrived at the decision of scrapping the levies after its meeting with local business community at the State House in Dar es Salaam recently. She said the removal of the taxes was meant to ensure conducive business environment for both local and foreign investors.

"You only need to improve the quality of your products to compete internally and ex-

ternally. You should also pay government taxes as per the country laws since we have scrapped the nuisance ones", said the deputy minister.

She asserted that the government is currently working towards industrialization saying various interventions are being made to make sure more industries are constructed.

Eng Manyanya said during her recent meeting with Netherlands ambassador to Tanzania they discussed on how to build the capacity of entrepreneurs as well as improving their products.

She said that SIDO has improved technologies to ensure it offers the best trainings to entrepreneurs. She called upon SMEs to be more innovative by producing quality goods that can also be marketed online.

She challenged them to use Kiswahili in branding their products meant for local market and English for exported products. She said the use of proper languages will help

consumers understand the types of products and their benefits.

According to Eng Manyanya the government has embarked on a strategy to meet and train SMEs in seven zones across the country, and that they have started with Arusha and Manyara regions.

SIDO manager in Arusha, Nina Nchimbi said they have started to educate SMEs on copyright matters to be able to protect their products. She said most of the entrepreneurs in Tanzania lack knowledge on copyright issues.

Nchimbi added that the organization has been working with several institutions including the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) in educating entrepreneurs.

Some of the participants who did not want their names published complained over bureaucracy at the office of the Chief Government Chemist.



Civil Social Protection Foundation director Nemence Iriya (2nd-R) briefs journalists in Manyara on Thursday on strategies to combat female genital mutilation in the region. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

# Mbeya hospital produces medical drips

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH) has introduced a factory to manufacture the intravenous therapy (IV) commonly known as medical drips to save monies which were spent to import the products from Uganda.

The move is in line with the

government's 2025 industrialization agenda.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu had announced during her tour to inspect the provision of health services at the zonal referral hospital. She commended the hospital for starting to produce the

medical drips, a move she said would help the government to save almost 4bn/- that was used to import the drips.

"I am impressed with the progress made the hospital to start producing the intravenous therapy to improve services and save money", she said calling upon other hospitals to establish similar investments.

Mwalimu said President John Magufuli would be happy of the news that is geared at making Tanzania an industrialized country. She said apart from improving services, establishment of the factory has created jobs to a number of young people.

"You must strive to manufacture more medical drips to

boost the hospital's incomes through exports", Mwalimu noted urging pharmacists across the country to help in establishment of similar factories at other referral hospitals.

Mbeya zonal referral hospital pharmacist, Mkimbili Chalo said establishment of the factory will reduce the hospital's operation costs.

The hospitals' executive director, Goodlove Mwanji thanked the government for continued support towards improvement of health services in the country.

He said the hospital supports the government industrialization drive and that it will continue making other investments to improve services

provision.

He added: "The medical drips produced here are of required standards. We plan to manufacture more for exports".

According to Mwanji plans are underway for the hospital to start producing eye drops that will help improve sight challenges to many Tanzanians.



Construction of a tarmac road linking Mwananyamala kwa Manjunju and Tandale kwa Mtogole suburbs in Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipality in progress, as found yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## Uganda takes stock ahead of global summit on population

KAMPALA

UGANDA yesterday took stock of its 25 year commitment to integrating population issues into development, ahead of World Population Day on Thursday and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) scheduled for later this year in Nairobi, Kenya.

Global leaders, policy makers and experts will meet in Nairobi Nov. 12-14 to renew the commitments they made when they last met at the ICPD in 1994 in Cairo, Egypt.

The leaders then adopted a

Program of Action where they set out to foster inclusive growth, empower vulnerable communities and make strategic investment in young people.

Alain Sibener, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) representative in Uganda, told people gathered here in the northern Ugandan district of Adjumani to commemorate World Population Day that Uganda has made remarkable progress towards commitments it made at the 1994 ICPD.

"Clearly the situation of women and girls is getting better in the last 25 years. Preventable mater-

nal deaths have declined by 24 percent over the last five years," Sibener said.

"The number of women that are using modern form of contraception in Uganda has increased to almost 40 percent," he added.

Sibener noted that Universal Primary Education is accessible to most children in the country.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, in a speech read for him by Vice President Edward Ssekandi, said the country hopes to benefit from the potential of young people to reap the demographic dividend.

Museveni said government is

making key investments in energy and transport infrastructure, creating industrial parks and attracting investors.

He said all these are geared towards creating jobs for the youth so that they are not a burden.

Uganda has one of the youngest and most rapidly growing populations in the world. Figures by the National Population Council (NPC), a state agency that advises the government on population issues, show that the country has a population growth rate of 3.3 percent per annum, making it the third fastest growing population in the world.

The country's population is projected to reach 75 million by 2040 from the current 40 million people.

Fred Wabwire, chairperson of the NPC, said that although Uganda has made progress towards commitments it made during the 1994 ICPD summit, there are challenges that it is still grappling with.

UNFPA figures show that in Uganda 14 mothers die every day while giving birth.

Over the last decade, one out of every four teenage girls between the age of 15-19 years has already given birth or is pregnant with their first child.

## Tanzania is likely to face serious water problems by 2055, says US

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

TANZANIA is likely to face serious water problems due to population growth where it is estimated the country will have more than one million people by 2055.

US embassy Chargé d' Affaires in Tanzania Dr Inmi Patterson said when speaking on Wednesday during her one day visit in Iringa region to inspect a water project - Water Resources Integration Development Initiative (WARIDI) funded by the US government through USAID at Mgama willage.

Dr Patterson said that although Tanzania has a lot of water sources, there are many people facing problems to access the precious liquid.

She said the US government has for many years worked with Tanzanians to increase access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene services for rural communities through a number of activities.

She said the WARIDI promotes improved water resources management, improved service access, climate change adaptation, and biodiversity conservation in Tanzania.

Dr Patterson said that the US and Tanzania governments are working tirelessly to improve the livelihoods of people in rural areas, especially women and girls who are mostly affected when there is water crisis.

"Water is one of the most important substances on earth, which all plants and animals must have to survive. Without water there would be no life and definitely no agricultural activities because agriculture uses 85 percent of water resource", she noted.

The US government through WARIDI has injected 50 million dollars in Iringa region towards improving water services.

She also expressed satisfaction towards the implementation of development projects especially in the water projects in the Iringa region.

She added that more than \$ 260 million have been provided to support construction and rehabilitation of Mgama water project that will benefit 5,943 people.

The Mgama Gravity Water Supply Scheme has been completed through the facilitation from USAID in collaboration with Mgama community and Iringa district council, through the implementing partner - WARIDI.

Project Management Specialist (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) at USAID Tanzania Eng Francis Mtitu, said the Mgama Gravity Water Supply Scheme was implemented for seven months from December 2017 to July 2018 with total cost of \$ 260.4 million.

Eng Mtitu said that WARIDI installed new water supply infrastructures, repaired and repaired the old ones.

He said that Mgama water scheme has more than doubled water supply by benefitting more than 5,943 people.

Mgama project secretary, Angelika Kitine said before the water project at the village people were getting difficulties to access clean water.





Zanzibar Second Vice President Seif Ali Idd presents a certificate to TIB Development Bank marketing manager Saidi Mkabakuri (R) on Thursday after the bank emerged second runner-up in the Financial Institutions category at the just-ended Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Museveni arrives in Tanzania for private visit today

By Guardian Reporter

UGANDAN President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is expected to arrive in the country today for a one day private visit, State House said yesterday.

A statement released by the Directorate of Presidential Communications said President Museveni will be hosted by President John Magufuli at Mlimani village in Chato district, Geita region.

"President Magufuli will hold talks with his guest (President Museveni) during the visit", the statement reads in part.

President Museveni (pictured) visited Tanzania in August last year during a one-day private visit. During their meeting, President Museveni and his counterpart, President John Magufuli agreed to fast-track the construction of power lines in Kagera.

The two leaders said progress is being made on the construction of Kikagati/Murongo 10MW hydro power project.

The power-sharing and sale agreement between Tanzanian Electricity Company- TANESCO and Ugandan Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) was signed on September 18, 2017.

A Memorandum of Understanding on Nangoma Cross-Border Electrification Project was signed in July 2017 in Bukoba and a contractor has been selected.

President Museveni lauded the progress saying it will spur development between the two countries.

Museveni said the construction of a railway line from Moshi to Mwanza and the introduction of a wagon ferry from Mwanza to Uganda will reduce transport costs and facilitate trade.



## Four suspected bandits shot dead in fire exchange with police

By Guardian Reporter

POLICE in Coast region yesterday killed four suspected bandits in a fire exchange at Kwala area in Mlandizi after a failed raid to steal from the contractor implementing the Kwala dry port project.

Coast Region Police Commander, Wankyo Nyigesa told journalists that the incident occurred during a fire exchange with the police on Thursday afternoon.

He said the suspected bandits had planned to invade and rob monies that

were to be paid to the contractor implementing the Kwala dry port project in the region.

"Construction of the Kwala dry port is going on at Kwala area in Mlandizi. We managed to intercept the robbers' plan to invade and steal from the contractor", he noted adding that police had earlier set a trap to arrest them before they accomplished their mission.

"The suspected bandits decided to attack us with fire arms after the attempt to steal the monies failed, we entered into a fierce fire exchange with them

which led into four of them being killed by our officers", said the RPC.

RPC Wankyo added that the force is still searching for other two suspects who disappeared to unknown destinations with one of their vehicles.

He said police also recovered two guns made 'pump action', a radio call, spraying sleep drugs, ropes, driving licenses, sticking plasters and different identity cards including medical insurance and clinical cards.

The RPC said that their bodies have been preserved at Tumbi referral hospital, Coast region.

In May this year, Police in Dar es Salaam gunned down three suspected bandits including a woman after a failed attempt to raid and rob money from one of the houses at Seremala Street in Kigogo-Fresh, Kinondoni district.

Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commander, Lazaro Mambosasa said the killed suspects had planned to raid a house of a treasurer of a women group dubbed 'Umoja Group'.

He said police also recovered two pistols and three bullets.

## eSwatini bans 'witchcraft and magic' competition

MBABANE

A COMPETITION pitting witchdoctors against each other in a battle of skills this weekend in eSwatini - formerly known as Swaziland - has been banned, according to a government statement.

Organisers had planned to hold the competition in Manzini, the second city of eSwatini, a land-locked country in southern Africa ruled by King Mswati III (pictured), one of the world's last absolute monarchs.

"The proposed competition of witchcraft and magic spells was unheard of in the country and it was regarded as an anomaly in the lives of the people of eSwatini," government spokesman Percy Simelane said in a statement.

"Government will not sanction any competition of that nature. Anyone who will persist with any activity related to witchcraft will face the



full might of the law."

The statement, released on Tuesday, said the Witchcraft Act of 1889 defines witchcraft, sorcery or the practice of voodoo as a punishable offence.

"Government cannot sit back and watch while the lives of the citizens

of this country are exposed to illegal and weird practices that have the potential to poison the minds of (Swazi people), especially children," Simelane added.

"Government will not allow the voodoo competition - period!"

eSwatini has a population of 1.3 million people, with many following Christianity and indigenous beliefs.

The Times of Swaziland on Wednesday quoted "Africa Gama", the organiser of the event, as saying the competition would have pitted witchdoctors against traditional healers as under the previous king Sobhuza II, who died in 1982.

"The King was concerned about unnecessary competition among healers so he called them to one place so that they could demonstrate their powers," he said.

"I was competing with traditional healers, doctors, and prophets from across the world."

## China-Africa meet on vocational education opens in Uganda

KAMPALA

EDUCATION experts from China, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia and host Uganda are meeting in here to discuss how vocational education can fast track Africa's development.

The event, China-Africa Vocational Education Academic Exchange Seminar 2019, was opened on Thursday by John Chrysestom Musingo, Uganda's minister of state for higher education.

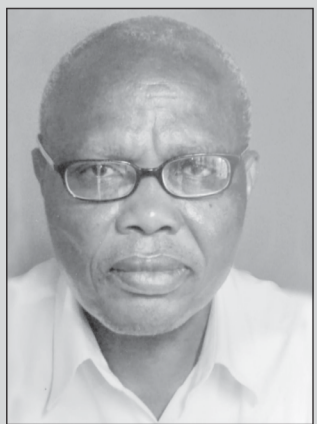
Musingo said Uganda is now prioritizing skills training and education to create employment for the youths who compose two-thirds of the country's population.

"It is this desire to equip our people with skills that has climaxed in today's occasion," Musingo told the meeting held under the theme, "Build a community of shared future for mankind and build a bright future for China-Africa vocational education."

Musingo said the government is upgrading six institutes across the country into Centers of Excellence, equipped with modern training tools and human resource.

Ma Bo, the principal of Sunmaker Oil and Gas Institute, a Chinese skills training school in Uganda, said there is an urged need for skilled personnel in the labor market in Africa.

### DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT




Dr. Peter Matthew Kiangi

Mrs. Helen Kiangi, together with her children Aida, Kiangi and Teresa, regrets to announce the death of their beloved husband and father Dr. Peter Matthew Kiangi that occurred at Bombo Hospital in Tanga on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.


Respects can be paid to the family at the family house in Raskazone, behind the Popopital Secondary School sports field.

A requiem mass will be held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July at the house at 2 pm, to be followed by burial at Bombo Cemetery.

Forever in Our Hearts, Minds and Memories



**UNHCR**  
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés



**RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (REDESOS)**

**TENDER NO: ITB/RDS/KB/UNHCR/02/2019**

For

**SUPPLY OF 137.7 METRIC TONS OF BIOMASS CHARCOAL BRIQUETTE AT NDUTA REFUGEE CAMP IN KIBONDO DISTRICT, KIGOMA REGION**

**Invitation for Tenders**

Date: 12/07/2019

- Relief to Development Society (REDESOS) is a National Non - Governmental Organization (NGO) with registration number S.O. 9459 with its Headquarters in Dar-es Salaam and field offices in Kibondo District located in Kigoma region and Kishapu District in Shinyanga Region. REDESOS in partnership with UNHCR is implementing the project titled "Tanzania Alternative Cooking Fuels and Training Programme" 2019 in Nduta Refugee Camp Kibondo District. Part of the funds allocated to this project is intended to be spent in procurement of Biomass Charcoal Briquette for Persons of Concern (PoC) in Nduta Refugee Camp.
- Procurement will be conducted through the Competitive Tendering procedures specified in REDESOS's Procurement Manual, 2019, Chapter 2.2 this is open to all potential Tenderers.
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from the Tender documents upon submission of written application letter and bank pay in slip for the cost of tender document purchase at **REDESOS Headquarters in Dar es Salaam, P.O. Box 2621. The Office is located at Kinondoni B, Urambo Street, Plot No. 40, House Number KIN/KNM/96 near Open University of Tanzania** also tender documents will be available at the **Project Coordinator- REDESOS Kibondo Offices (P.O. Box 142 Kibondo near DRC Offices)**. Submissions should be made from 09.30 a.m. to 4.30pm Monday to Friday except for Public Holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 3 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS.100,000/= (One Hundred Thousand Shillings Only). Payment should be made through **NMB Bank A/cNo.51503500128 (REDESOS EDUCATION ACCOUNT) NMB KIBONDO**.
- All tenders in one original plus two copies for each envelope of Financial and Technical offer (two envelope system), properly filled in, and enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the address **REDESOS Kibondo Field Offices, P. O. Box 142 Kibondo near DRC Offices not later than 16: 00 pm of 12th of August, 2019**. Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at REDESOS Kibondo Field Offices.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
- The bids submitted through Post office **MUST** be registered at REDESOS Kibondo Office before the deadline.
- Queries may be directed to Project Coordinator, REDESOS Kibondo & Kakonko Field Office, Mobile No. +255 757 209 441 or at [kibondo@redeso.or.tz](mailto:kibondo@redeso.or.tz) alternatively, email through [redeso-hq@redeso.or.tz](mailto:redeso-hq@redeso.or.tz)

**IMPORTANT:** All bids must be addressed to the following address below and must state the tender number clearly on the outer cover and envelope. Technical offer and Financial Offer must be submitted in two separate envelopes as expressed in the ITB document.

**Bid Opening Committee  
REDESOS KIBONDO  
P.O. BOX 142, KIBONDO**



## Kenya sets out to prioritise domestic savings to fund development projects

NAIROBI

KENYA plans to prioritize use of domestic savings to fund development projects, a government official said on Thursday.

Nelson Gaichuhie, chief administrative officer at the National Treasury and Planning, told journalists in Nairobi that use of local resources is a cheaper source of finance as compared to local and foreign loans.

"The government will enhance fiscal incentives to encourage the expansion of the national savings rate," Gaichuhie said during the launch of NEXT Derivatives trading at the Nairobi Security Exchange.

He said that a high investment rate will be dependent on the ability of the country to mobilize domestic savings.

According to government data, the country's saving rate stands at approximately 12 percent against a target of 30 percent.

Gaichuhie added that the

government is exploring a number of reforms that will accelerate the savings rate in the country.

In 2017, the east African nation launched a mobile based government bond to raise local funds to finance infrastructure projects.

Gaichuhie observed that the capital markets offers a viable alternative to raise both short and long term funds.

"The capital markets also provide an avenue to promote domestic savings by offering high returns on investments," he added.

The Kenyan official revealed that the NSE has one of the most advanced infrastructure and vibrant markets in Africa.

"If well utilized the capital markets can be a key driver economic growth and development," he said.

Gaichuhie said that Kenya's capital market faces a number of challenges that affect other emerging market such as limited listing and a narrow investor base.



Lunguza Tree Farm manager Elyneema Mwasalanga (L) presents timber to Muheza legislator Adadi Rajabu in Muheza District on Thursday in support of a drive meant to boost the number of desks in schools in the district. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## 800 hydrocele patients to undergo free surgery in Lindi, Coast regions

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Kilwa

THE Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children ministry has said it is currently carrying out free surgeries for hydrocele patients in

Lindi and Coast regions.

Director of Preventive Services from the ministry, Dr Leonard Subi said that the campaign involves specialists from Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH).

He said the team of 11 specialists expected to surgery 600 pa-

tients in Lindi, 250 from Kilwa district, 50 from Nachingwea, 200 from Ruangwa and 200 from Kisarawe District.

The exercise, was launched on Wednesday this week in Kilwa and since then 380 patients were undergone surgeries.

For her part, Nachingwea District Commissioner, Rukia Akhibu cited myth as a challenge that scales up the disease as some people are linking the disease with witchcraft beliefs.

She encouraged people with that problem in the area of the

campaign to come out as the surgery is offered free of charge.

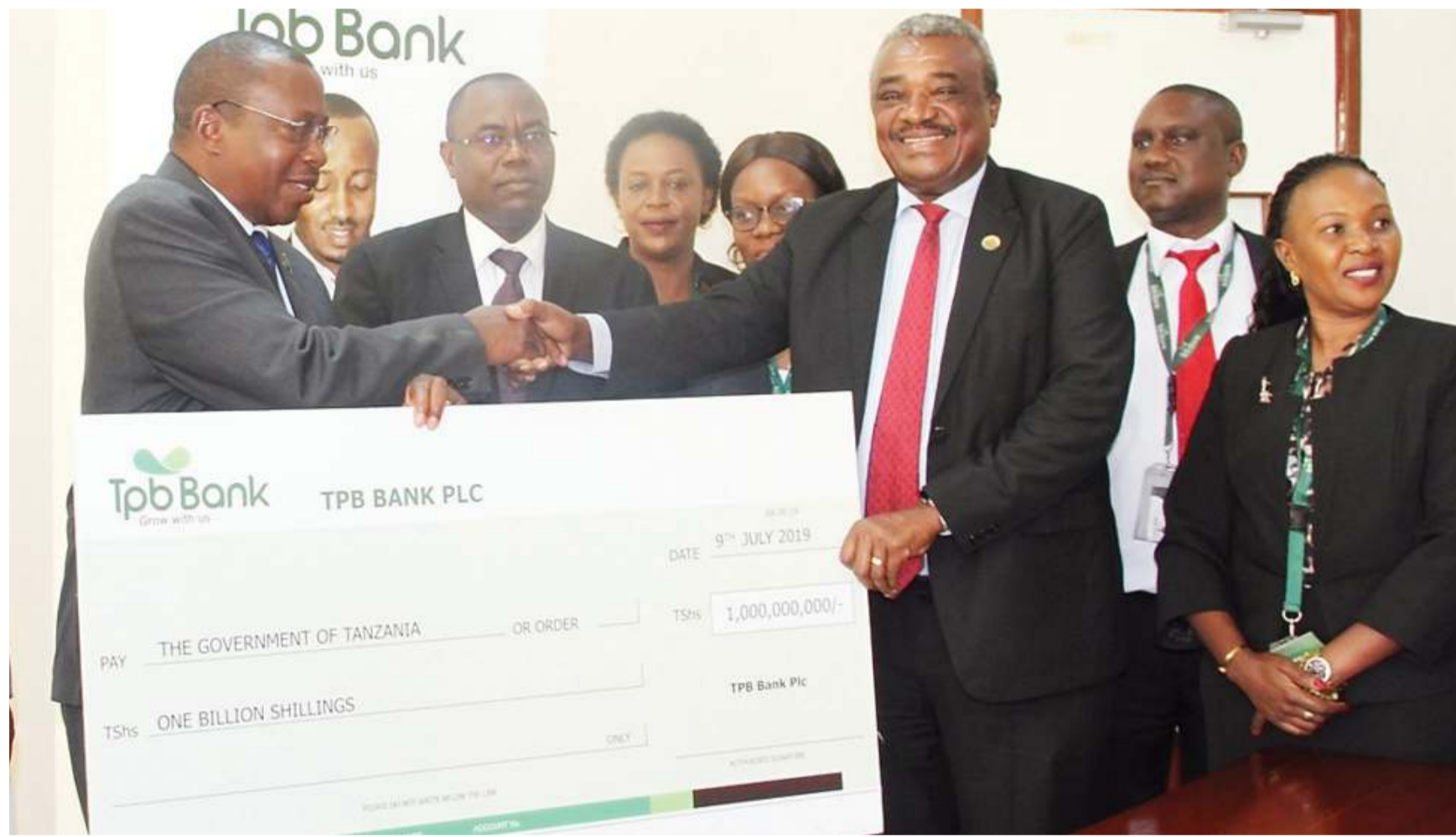
She also called on people to visit public health facilities countrywide to access drugs for prevention.

It is estimated that 93 districts countrywide have managed to

eliminate neglected tropical diseases, hydrocele and lymphatic filariasis. According to the 2012 Tanzania National Census, Tanzania was divided into 169 districts, which means about 55 percent of districts in the country have this positive achieved.

Hydrocele is a type of swelling in the scrotum that occurs when fluid collects in the thin sheath surrounding a testicle. Hydrocele is common in newborns and usually disappears without treatment by age.

Older boys and adult men can



Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (L) receives from TPB Bank board chairman Dr Edmund Mndolwa a dummy cheque for 1bn/- as a dividend to the government. This was at an event held in Dodoma on Wednesday. Others are TPB Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi and his assistants. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Tanzanian environmentalists turning plastic into paving

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IT is a typically hot and humid afternoon in Gongo la Mboto on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam and Abdullah Nyambi is busy shoving plastic waste into a giant metal kiln with an iron rod ready to make pavement slabs.

With a shiny yellow breathing mask perched on his nose, Nyambi briskly mixes the melting plastic while methodically sprinkling sand on it to make it stiff. "We use any type of plastic to make the slabs," says Nyambi, with trails of sweat soaking his yellow T-shirt. A plume of black smoke rises into the sky as fierce fire obliterates the plastic material and turns it into a thick liquid.

"We use a certain ratio when adding sand into melting plastic to make the slabs strong and water resistant," says Nyambi, adding that the technique, which is very cheap and environmentally friendly, can help reduce the menace of plastic in the city.

The 26-year-old entrepreneur is co-owner of a start-up made up of young people who are anxious to address

the city's plastic waste management problem. The company, known as Plastic Recycling and Youth Organisation (PREYO), which was formed last year [2018], has already recycled more than 800,000 kilograms of plastic waste into lumber which is being used for building activities.

These environmental activists in Tanzania's smoke-belching commercial city turn piles of recycled plastic wastes into building items in a move aimed at curbing rapid deforestation in the East African country by replacing wood with plastic materials.

PREYO's other founder, twenty-four-year-old Liberatha Kawamala, who left her logistics profession to follow her passion in environmental protection, is picking up mounts of discarded plastic waste that litter the natural environment in the bustling city and turning them into pavement slabs, plastic flowers and other building materials.

"I always wanted to do something that would protect the environment and at the same time generate income," says Kawamala.

Driven by her enthusiasm, Kawamala is striving to clean up piles of plastic waste littering the bustling city, creating jobs and saving trees.

As one of the fastest growing cities in Africa with the population of 4.4 million people, according to government statistics, Dar es Salaam is rapidly urbanising, straining its infrastructures and pushing 70 percent of its inhabitants into informal settlements that lack basic amenities and sanitation.

A huge influx of people migrating from rural areas every day has exerted enormous pressure on the city's dilapidated infrastructures, causing a number of problems such as poor handling of the plastic waste which litters landscapes, clog waterways, poisons marine life and threatens the very survival of many people.

According to Kawamala, the plastic-infused slabs, flowers and retaining blocks that her company makes is helping change the community's mindset on plastic waste as people in the densely populated neighbourhood have already started using the recycled products for

building purposes.

"I'm very impressed with the community's response to our work. It motivates us to work even harder," she told IDN

Tanzania has implemented a total ban on plastic bags, with the government declaring legal action against anyone who fails to comply, as part of a broader policy to curb environmental pollution.

According to the country's National Environmental Statistics Report of 2017, Dar es salaam generates more than 4,600 tonnes of waste per day and estimated that the volume is likely to rise to 12,000 tonnes by 2025.

While collecting discarded plastic bottles is increasingly becoming a lucrative business, observers say that, by and large, city authorities lack a coherent strategy and mechanism for proper waste disposal.

"We cannot rely on small firms to manage the waste produced daily, the government must allocate enough resources to handle this problem," said Emrod Elisante, Professor of Environmental Engineering at the University of Dar Es Salaam.

## Africa aims to get more girls to embrace STEM

KIGALI

EDUCATION officials from selected Anglophone countries in Africa are meeting in the Rwandan capital Kigali to explore ways to get more girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The forum, which ended yesterday, was organized by the UN's education agency UNESCO under the theme "Cracking the code: Quality, Gender-Responsive STEM Education."

It has attracted participants from eight countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

The education officials are looking at factors that influence girls' participation, learning outcomes, and retention in STEM studies.

The forum's attendees are also considering the current situation in participating countries, good practices, and actions to be taken to ensure gender-responsive quality STEM education.

Silas Lwakabamba, a former minister of education for Rwanda and a member of the Atlantis Group of former education ministers around the world, told Anadolu Agency it is important to encourage girls to take STEM subjects while they are still in primary school in order to increase their numbers at both school and university levels.

According to UN Women, the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women, while more girls are enrolled in school than before, girls are significantly under-represented in STEM subjects in many settings and seem to lose interest in STEM subjects as they approach adolescence.

"We need to encourage young girls through role models, to get them interested. There are a number of women who have done very well in mathematics, engineering and pure sciences who can show young girls that this can be done," Lwakabamba said in an interview Wednesday.

The workshop was expected to come up with strategies to intensify efforts to engage girls in STEM and develop a framework for monitoring and evaluating progress on STEM and gender.

Lwakabamba said cultural beliefs are another barrier to girls' careers in sciences that needs to be addressed.

There is a need to get people who can encourage parents to talk to their daughters to debunk the myth that STEM is a preserve of men and that do-

ing engineering is about climbing ladders, he said.

Speaking at the workshop earlier, Rwanda's Minister of State in Charge of Primary and Secondary Education, Isaac Munyakazi, called for deliberate actions to create gender-responsive STEM educational environments that engage, empower and inspire girls.

Specialists needed

Workshop host Rwanda started STEM-gender mentorship and inspiring camps in collaboration with UNESCO and FAWE Rwanda, with the next camp planned to take place in December.

The promotion of STEM in Rwanda has already brought many improvements in various aspects of life, such as health, ICT infrastructure, sustainable and renewable energy production and intensive and modern agriculture, Munyakazi said.

The workshop is also seeking to strengthen the capacity of education officials to undertake intentional and deliberate actions to create gender-responsive STEM educational environments that engage, empower and inspire girls.

According to Lwakabamba, there is also a need for more investment in teacher training in order to get specialized teachers who can teach STEM subjects at all levels, from primary to university.

"I think we should get people who are specialists. If we can get a teacher specializing for example in physics, chemistry or mathematics alone, that will help. The question of somebody teaching across the board -- one hour teaching mathematics, another hour teaching chemistry and so on -- that doesn't help," he said.

The education officials aim to develop a cohort of professional trainers to effectively deliver curriculum for gender-responsive STEM education.

There is hope to strengthen the capacity of the education system to provide gender-responsive STEM education, thereby increasing girls' participation in these fields, an official said.

Munyakazi added that Rwanda is focusing on the promotion of science, technology and research in line with its National Strategy for Transformation.

The jobs of the future will be driven by technology and innovation, and if the gender divide in STEM is not bridged soon, the overall gender gap will likely widen, according to UN Women.



# World Bank report illustrates benefits of resilient infrastructure

By Catherine Benson Wahlén

THE World Bank released a report that highlights the net benefits of investing in resilient infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) could be USD 4.2 trillion over the lifetime of new infrastructure.

The report calls for infrastructure investors, the private sector, development banks and governments to focus infrastructure investments on resilient infrastructure, arguing that such investments can enable healthcare, education, jobs and prosperity, and transport and contribute to achieving the SDGs.

The report titled, 'Lifelines: The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity,' presents a framework for understanding infrastructure resilience, or the ability of infrastructure systems "to function and meet users' needs during and after a natural hazard."

The report focuses on four infrastructure systems: power; transport; telecommunications; and water and sanitation. The report illustrates how making these systems more

resilient can not only avoid expensive repairs but also minimize the consequences of natural disasters for livelihoods and human well-being.

As an illustration, disruptions or outages of power, transport or communications affect productivity of companies and the jobs and income they provide, resulting in an impact on people's quality of life.

Similarly, water outages can result in households being unable to prepare meals and can contribute to the spread of water-borne diseases.

In LMICs, such disruptions cost firms and households approximately USD 390 billion annually.

In Tanzania, for example, the report finds that firms incur losses of USD 669 million per year, an amount equivalent to 1.8 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), from power and water outages and transport disruptions, with flood-related transport disruptions costing Tanzania over USD 100 million annually.

Resilient infrastructure is not just about bridges, power plants and roads but about unlocking economic opportunities for people.

The report argues that investments in resilient infrastructure provide a pathway for countries to achieve better health, education and livelihoods.

World Bank Group President, David Malpass, elaborated that resilient infrastructure is not just about bridges, power plants and roads but "about unlocking economic opportunities for people" and for countries "to follow a safer, more secure, inclusive and prosperous future for all."

The World Bank's Senior Director, Climate Change, John Roome, stressed that investing in resilient infrastructure "is not about spending more, but about spending better."

The report shares case studies and analyses that demonstrate the benefits of investing in resilient infrastructure. In Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, reliable access

to electricity has more positive effects on income and social outcomes than access to electricity alone; reliable access to electricity increases study time for girls, increases women's participation in the labor force and boosts per capita income. In India, for example, women's employment increases by 12 percent with access to electricity and grows by 31 percent with reliable access to electricity.

The report makes five recommendations to promote resilient infrastructure systems. First, it urges a focus on "getting the basics right," underscoring the importance of tackling poor governance and management of infrastructure systems.

Second, the report recommends building institutions for resilience, including by addressing wider political economy challenges and identifying critical infrastructure assets and systems.

Third, the report suggests using regulations and financial incentives to account for the full social cost of infrastructure disruptions and encourage service providers to go beyond

mandatory standards.

Fourth, the report calls for improved decision making, and argues that access to better data, tools and skills can be "a gamechanger in building resilience."

As an example, it notes that digital elevation models for urban areas are not expensive and can play a critical role in informing infrastructure investments. Finally, the report stresses the importance of the "right kind of financing at the right time."

At the early stages of infrastructure design, small amounts of resources can support regulators while in the aftermath of a disaster, billions of dollars of investments may be needed for repair and recovery.

The report concludes that business-as-usual would cost USD 1 trillion more, whereas the net benefit of building more resilient infrastructure in LMICs would be USD 4 in benefit for every USD 1 invested.

Catherine is a thematic expert for Human Development, Human Settlements and Sustainable Development (US)



Forms Five and Six students of Dar es Salaam's St Anne Marie Academy in jovial mood alongside their headmaster, Gladius Ndyetabura (in blue), in the school's compound on Thursday shortly after the National Examinations Council of Tanzania released the results of this year's national Form Six exams. A total of 19 students from the school emerged with Division One, 47 with Division Two and 21 with Division Three. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Harrow volunteer's help transforms the education of children in Tanzania

By Joseph Reaidi

CHILDREN in Tanzania had their education life transformed with the help from a young London volunteer.

The Increasing Children's Learning and Participation project improved the quality of education and established learning clubs for over 4,000 primary school children in Tanzania, with the aid a young Harrow resident.

Priya Solanki, aged 22, travelled to Tanzania with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), an international development charity where she worked alongside young volunteers from Tanzania and the UK.

The volunteering was part of the International Citizen Service, funded by the UK government, with other volunteers aged 18 to 25 working on long-term projects that seek to end poverty in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Solanki said: "Although there is free education in Tanzania, the quality of teaching isn't the best as they don't have the resources to provide a high standard of education as we are used to."

"The work we did, changed the lives of so many people in and around the community and seeing this change over the three months was amazing."

The team worked together on creating 161 different teaching aid resources for teachers to improve their quality of teaching and encouraging parents to become more involved with their children's learning.

Community action days which reached over 808 community members were also held to educate people about any issues the team noticed.

# Drought, disease and war hit global agriculture, says UN

UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations has warned of drought, disease and war preventing farmers from producing enough food for millions of people across Africa and other regions, leading to the need for major aid operations.

A report called the Crop Prospects and Food Situation by

the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says that shortages of grain and other foodstuffs have left people in 41 countries – 31 of them in Africa – in need of handouts.

"Ongoing conflicts and dry weather conditions remain the primary causes of high levels of severe food insecurity, hampering food availability and access for millions of people," U.N. spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters on Tuesday.

Southern Africa has experienced both dry spells and rainfall damage from Cyclone Idai, which made landfall in Mozambique on Mar. 14. The storm caused "agricultural production shortfalls" and big "increases in cereal import needs," added

Haq. Farmers in Zimbabwe and Zambia have seen harvests decline this year. Some three million people faced shortages at the start of 2019, but food price spikes there will likely push that number upwards in the coming months, researchers say.

In eastern Africa, crop yields have dropped in Somalia, Kenya and Sudan due to "severe dryness", added Haq.

According to the FAO, life for rural herders in Kassala State, in eastern Sudan, has been upended by a drought that has forced them to move livestock away from traditional grazing routes in pursuit of greener pastures.

"Life would be so hard if our livestock died. We wouldn't have food or milk for the children," Khaldia Mohammed Ibrahim, a farmer near Aroma, in Kassala State, told FAO. "When it is dry, I am afraid the animals will starve – and then we will too." Droughts are getting worse, says the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). By 2025, some 1.8 billion people will experience serious

water shortages, and two thirds of the world will be "water-stressed".

In Asia, low yields of wheat and barley outputs are raising concerns in North Korea, where dry spells, heatwaves and flooding have led to what has been called the worst harvests the hermit dictatorship has seen in a decade, the report said.

## Scientists: Giraffes in Kenya, Tanzania endangered species

WASHINGTON

HIGHLIGHTING the need for global action to fight giraffes' silent extinction, a body of scientific experts had declared giraffes in Kenya and Tanzania – called Maasai giraffes – endangered.

Maasai giraffes, one of nine giraffe subspecies, had long been considered a key population for the species. But today's assessment by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature finds that these majestic animals are profoundly threatened by illegal hunting and land-use changes.

The subspecies' population has fallen by an estimated 49 percent to 51 percent in the past 30 years.

"Maasai giraffes have long had a robust wild population. An endangered assessment is an eye opener that signals the critical need for giraffe protections," said Adam Peyman, wildlife programs and operations manager for Humane So-

ciety International.

Africa's overall giraffe population has declined by up to 40 percent over the past 30 years. The species was assessed as "vulnerable" to extinction by the IUCN in 2016. That assessment was confirmed in 2018, and Maasai giraffe now join reticulated giraffes as endangered; two other giraffe subspecies are critically endangered.

A proposal by several African nations to regulate giraffe trade will be discussed at a meeting of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, next month in Geneva. The proposal has been put forward by the Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya, Mali, Niger and Senegal, and is supported by the 32 African nation members of the African Elephant Coalition.

"This shocking news about Maasai giraffes is a call to action from prominent scientists," said Tanya Sanerib, international legal director at the

Centre for Biological Diversity. "The international community needs to give giraffes the protection from exploitation that they so desperately need. We have to regulate the international giraffe trade or risk losing one of our planet's most remarkable animals."

While giraffe populations continue to wane, the species has become common in the wildlife trade.

A Humane Society International report shows that the United States imported nearly 40,000 giraffe specimens between 2006 and 2015, in the form of hunting trophies, decoration items and knife handles, in addition to large shipments of live animals.

The European Union is also a key consumer of giraffe products; online research detailed in the proposal records over 300 giraffe products for sale by sellers based in seven EU countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom.



Farhat Mbarouk (L), Director of Environment in the Office of Zanzibar's Second Vice President, exchanges ideas with Alex Benkenstein (R), Head of Governance at the African Resources Programme of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), earlier this week. This was at a national capacity building workshop on marine and coastal ecosystem-based adaptation for enhanced resilience in Tanzania organised by SAIIA in partnership with the University of Dar es Salaam's Institute of Marine Sciences in Dar es Salaam. Photo: John Badi



## Africa should come up with collective measures to address outbreaks of diseases

**E**PIDEMIC and pandemic-prone diseases threaten public health security. These include diseases such as cholera, meningitis, avian influenza, and viral haemorrhagic fevers for which the region reports considerably high incidence and mortality rates. They can be responsible for high levels of disease and death and have a devastating impact on the economies of the region.

An epidemic is the rapid spread of infectious disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time, usually two weeks or less. For example, in meningococcal infections, an attack rate in excess of 15 cases per 100,000 people for two consecutive weeks is considered an epidemic.

Epidemics of infectious disease are generally caused by several factors including a change in the ecology of the host population (e.g. increased stress or increase in the density of a vector species), a genetic change in the pathogen reservoir or the introduction of an emerging pathogen to a host population (by movement of pathogen or host). Generally, an epidemic occurs when host immunity to either an established pathogen or newly emerging novel pathogen is suddenly reduced below that found in the endemic equilibrium and the transmission threshold is exceeded.

An epidemic may be restricted to one location; however, if it spreads to other countries or continents and affects a substantial number of people, it may be termed a pandemic. The declaration of an epidemic usually requires a good understanding of a baseline rate of incidence; epidemics for certain diseases, such as influenza, are defined as reaching some defined increase in incidence above this baseline. A few cases of a very rare disease may be classified as an epidemic, while many cases of a common disease (such as the common cold) would not.

## Wanted: Enough research into cotton high-yield seed varieties

**C**OTTON is one of Tanzania's key crops. Around 2 million of the country's 55 population depend on it for their livelihood. It provides around 13 per cent of the country's foreign exchange - second only to coffee in agricultural exports. Yet the 400,000 smallholder farmers have seen little improvement in their lives.

We have to confront this reality that grassroots people engaged in cotton growing have not been able to reduce poverty levels. While the crop has made a significant contribution to the economy since independence, poverty levels among farmers are still at 42 per cent.

The farmers hope had always been that this is the crop to bail out households from poverty. But, like many other programmes, the challenge is how to achieve this.

The deficiencies of the cotton industry are bound up with the poverty of the farmers. With no savings, and paltry and uncertain returns, they cannot afford pesticides and fertilizer to improve the quality of their cotton. The result is that Tanzanian cotton trades at a discount on the international market due to its lower quality. And since the liberalisation of the cotton industry in the 1990s, productivity has fallen sharply, with yields of around 550kg per hectare - just over a quarter of the world average.

One of the reasons productivity has not improved is that there has not been enough research into high-yield seed varieties, says Colin Poulton, a research fellow at the Centre for Development, Environment and Policy at the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas) in London.

In addition, there has been no system to provide credit to farmers for fertiliser. Without credit, farmers can't afford fertiliser, adds Poulton. In a

A pandemic is an epidemic occurring on a scale which crosses international boundaries, usually affecting a large number of people. Pandemics can also occur in important agricultural organisms livestock, crop plants, fish, tree species or in other organisms.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has a six-stage classification that describes the process by which a novel influenza virus moves from the first few infections in humans through to a pandemic. This starts with the virus mostly infecting animals, with a few cases where animals infect people, then moves through the stage where the virus begins to spread directly between people, and ends with a pandemic when infections from the new virus have spread worldwide and it will be out of control until we stop it.

A disease or condition is not a pandemic merely because it is widespread or kills many people; it must also be infectious. For instance, cancer is responsible for many deaths but is not considered a pandemic because the disease is not infectious or contagious.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu has called on the east African nations to come up with collective measures to address outbreaks of diseases, which are cross-border in nature.

"It is important to involve these sectors in prevention, response and mitigation through this multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral disease management approach," Mwalimu said when speaking at the official opening of a large scale cross border field simulation exercise (FSX).

The exercise, which kicked off at Namanga border between Tanzania and Kenya is aimed at assessing coordination mechanisms, command and control systems and information sharing channels between multiple sectors and countries.

survey in 2002, they found that 50 per cent of farmers weren't even spraying their crop once. Low productivity and falling global cotton prices over the past 15 years have actually made farmers poorer.

Tanzania's cotton board has announced that from December this year, when farmers start to plant their cotton again, a new type of contract farming will be rolled out. Contract farming, introduced by the UK-based charity the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, establishes direct contracts between farmers and ginners, removing the agent from the process. Farmers' business groups will replace the agents.

Around the villages in Tanzania's western cotton growing area, where 99 per cent of the country's cotton is grown, the term 'agent' has become a byword for cheating. Cheating comes in various forms - at the weighing scales, half payments, delays in payments, price manipulations.

When farmers come to sell their cotton at village centres, the agents weigh their cotton and, after weighing, when the cotton is packed on the truck, they tell them they have run out of cash and their payments will have to be postponed.

As part of the contract, the ginners provide the farmers with inputs - such as fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, and tractors to plough the fields - to improve the amount and quality of cotton grown.

The challenge is in the implementation. Farmers need to be organised to deal with ginners - and assisting 300,000-plus farmers to coalesce into functioning groups is a huge task, Poulton explains. The process of 'allocating' ginners to zones ... has to be transparent and seen to be fair, so that ginners will have confidence in the new system.

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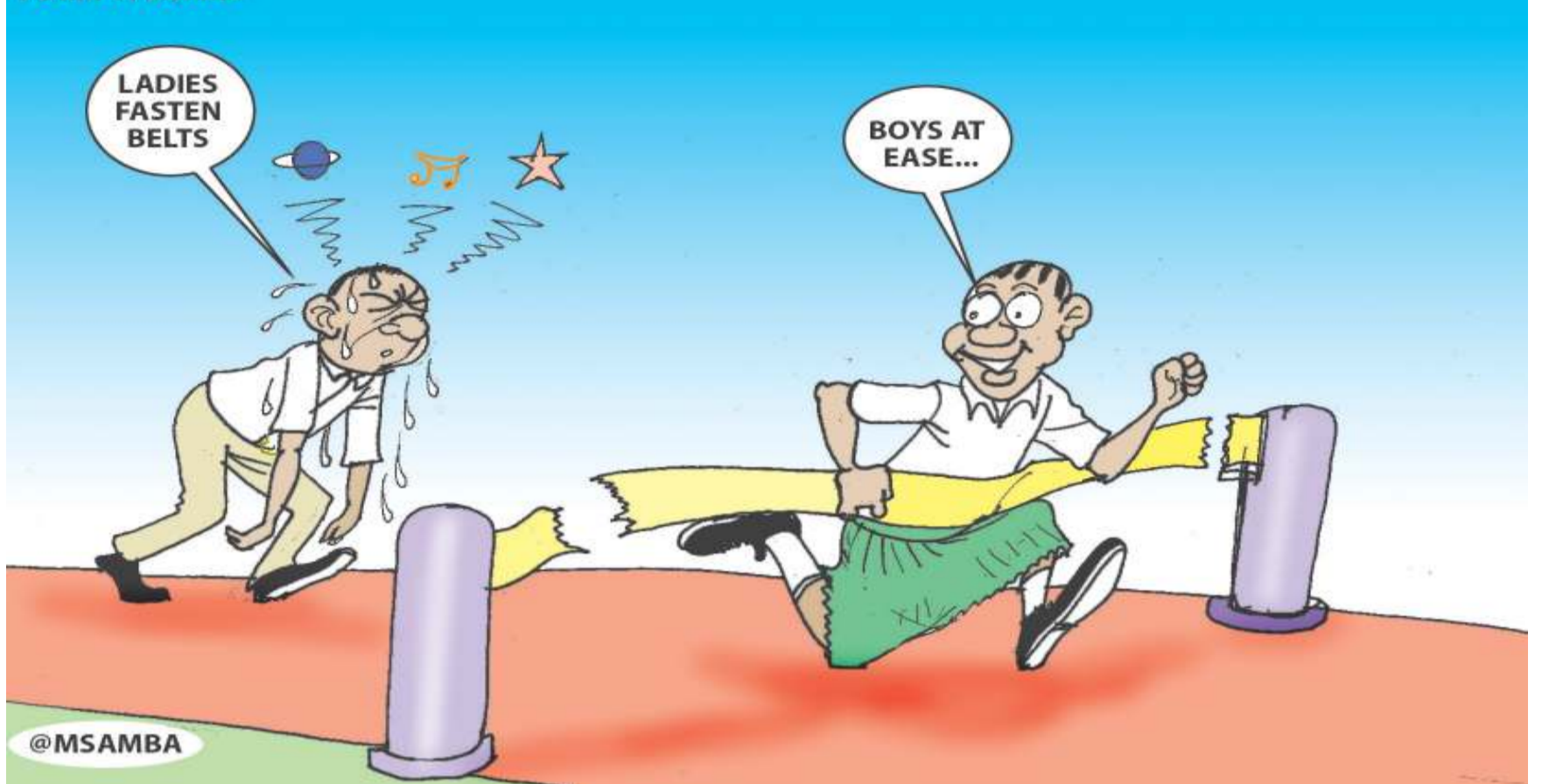
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### FORM VI EXAMS



# African continental free trade agreement just must work!

By Special Correspondent

**A**FRICA'S quest to increase trade and investment by creating a world class trading bloc was given a further boost at the 12th AU Extraordinary Summit in Niamey, capital of Niger, as Ghana was given the mantle to host the secretariat.

The core mandate of the secretariat is to implement the AfCFTA which is designed to deepen integration of the African continent by creating a single continental market with free movement of businesses, people and investment.

The avowed objective of this landmark world class trading bloc is to create the 'Africa We Want' as espoused in the Agenda 2063 that seeks to reintegrate Africa, uplift the people of the continent from poverty and empower the continent to be a key player in global affairs.

Ghana is much privileged to be given the opportunity to

host the secretariat as reflected in the acceptance speech of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, "It is a privilege that for the first time in our nation's history, we have the responsibility of hosting an important pan-African institution."

Ghanaian Times commends Ghanaians and other Africa countries for supporting the government to get the green light to lead Africa in the implementation of the AfCFTA that is expected to impact positively on the lives of the people of Africa in terms of flourishing of businesses, engendering competitiveness in Africa intra-trade, job creation, value for money and reduction of poverty, among other benefits.

There are some who may express some misgivings about the agreement. We are convinced that the benefits certainly outweigh any demerit. It is certainly a defining moment for micro, small scale businesses on the continent.



President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

We urge Africa to continue to support Ghana to prepare and execute the host country agreement for the actualisation of the implementation processes.

Touted as 'economic game changer', the implementation of the African Union projects

(AfCFTA) will result in 60 per cent increase in the volume of trade among African countries by 2022, whose intra-trade currently is estimated at about 16 per cent.

All things being equal, the AfCFTA will 'rival' the World Trade Organisation, and is expected to cover a market of 1.2 billion people with a combined Gross Domestic Product of \$2.5 trillion across 54 member countries that have signed up to the agreement.

Ghanaian Times is urging Africa not to let this golden opportunity of business to slip. We express this concern because of past experiences of other sub-regional agreements that have not worked to expectations, due to implementation challenges, lack of goodwill and commitments.

Public awareness of the AfCFTA is key to the implementation process and success of the agreement.

We, therefore, call for reflection on the foreword written by Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director, International Trade Centre in the "Business Guide to the African Continental Trade Area Agreement".

He notes, "To ensure that private sector can benefit from the African Free Trade Area, it is important that businesses understand what the AfCFTA and future negotiations will cover. Business should ensure its voice is heard as governments craft and operationalise the agreement. In order to do that, they need to be fully aware of the issues, potential benefits, and opportunities and most importantly the role they can play."

Mr Gonzalez further observes "The knowledge will enable businesses to engage effectively in advocacy and public-private dialogue to support the negotiations and subsequent implementations of the AfCFTA."

AfCFTA must work for Africans!

# Embracing the future of work in urban Africa

By Antonio Inguane

**A**LTHOUGH the gig economy might not be well-defined in African labour policies, its principles are integrated within many business environments in Africa. Street business are one of the most common sights in the urban centres of Sub-Saharan Africa.

These businesses are mainly run by street vendors and can be found on the corners of any commercial business district. Regardless of whether they sell food or non-food items, people who engage in street sales are small parts of a very complex business ecosystem.

In many African countries, street vendors represent a significant portion of the informal economy. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), informal economies represent some 66 per cent of the total employment throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Recently, I visited Maputo city in Mozambique, and to my surprise, the city's street businesses had evolved.

The traditional buying and selling of food and non-food commodities from tables or racks is no longer an exclusive characteristic. Street businesses have evolved to gain new categories: mobile car washers, real-estate intermediaries, car guards, parking attendants, and many other services. So, what makes these new

categories special? Perhaps it is the fact that tools and technologies are used to run operations and make financial transactions.

For example, real-estate intermediaries use social-media platforms such as WhatsApp and Facebook to advertise their businesses and gather clients. Meanwhile, the majority of street-vendor workers use the mobile-phone application M-Pesa to make financial transactions.

Street business is not a new activity in Mozambique. However, the general factors that drive the informal economy have become much more complex than they used to be, and modern street enterprises in urban Mozambique are the result of decreasing education levels as well as increasing unemployment and migration.

The transition from informal to formal economy has proven to be cumbersome and complex.

It requires in-depth structural, economic, and legal arrangements across all areas-including society as a whole. As the urban economy's structure shifts toward services and retail, changing the narrative around informal economies and exploring innovative and alternative solutions to problems are necessary endeavours.

Today, the international business community is discussing the gig economy, the sharing economy, the future

of work, digital economy, artificial intelligence and more. Mozambique might not be prepared to embrace all of these themes at once, however, a few of them can be related to the current economic and social dynamics.

While I was watching the TV special report on "Unknown Women" that aired during Mozambique's Women's Day this year, something caught my attention. Anastácia Nhamumbo runs a business that is branded as an early-morning door-to-door bread-delivery operation. Ms. Nhamumbo works multiple gigs to be able to sustain her household's livelihood. Using a very modest business strategy, Ms. Nhamumbo uses a mobile phone to connect with her potential clients.

Ms. Nhamumbo's story is just one reminder that gig work is already driving economic growth in Mozambique. However, the general concept of the gig economy is now associated with the use of technology to enable so-called temporary jobs.

Although the gig economy might not be well-defined in African labour policies, its principles are effectively integrated within the current economic and business environments of many African nations, including Mozambique.

In the last five years, Mozambique has experienced a rapid expansion of digital infrastructure; this expansion has resulted in improvements to con-

nectivity and network coverage in the major metro areas.

In 2017, the Global Economy estimated that 71 out of 100 people had mobile phone subscriptions; that translated to 11.8 million subscribers throughout the entire country. Additionally, fast-moving technology- and business-incubator initiatives support start-ups in various industries.

There is no magic solution for the transformation of informality in the digital age. However, the existing structure and knowledge in the street-business ecosystem can help speed up and scale up urban entrepreneurship in Mozambique.

Enormous challenges remain, but the transition must start from somewhere.

First, promote and incentivize entrepreneurship that looks at contextualized opportunities; support and empower initiatives such as Standard-Bank Incubator, Comprá, BISCATE, D-Fruit, BINDZU, and E-MOB that are enabling both skilled and unskilled people to find opportunities to buy, sell, and offer services demanded by the market.

Secondly, reform labour laws and policies to support innovation. This would require an aggressive move to improve the current Doing Business environment that is deemed too heavy for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-up initiatives.



# The significance of 'Belt and Road' for African integration

By Wondimu Tekle Sigo

It was a good chance to visit the great nation-China. I visited China in 2011 and 2013 respectively for about ten days each, which is a very short time to explore such a big nation.

However, in addition to Beijing I had an opportunity to visit Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Hangzhou. Due to my professional background, I visited also the "Three Gorges Dam" which is the world largest hydroelectric power station with 34 generators each with a capacity of 700 MW and in total 22,500 MW.

In 2013 "Three Gorges Dam" visit was special for me because Ethiopia in 2011 has started to construct the 7th largest dam in the world called "Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)".

The visit was aimed to get skill and knowledge to utilize for the construction management and operation of GERD. GERD have 16 generators and each planned to generate a capacity of 375 MW and in total 6000MW which is about one fourth of "Three Gorges" hydroelectric plant.

The cost of GERD is estimated \$4.5 billion. The project has been planned to construct completely by financial contribution and bond purchasing of the citizens and the government budget allocation. There is no any external body that is financing this huge project.

As "Renaissance" denotes that to "reviving again", and the country chooses this name because Ethiopia was among one of the great ancient civilized nations similar to China before many years ago.

Now the country is registering a rapid economic growth indicating that renaissance would be realized, which can be seen as symbol for other developing nations especially for African nations.

This shows how things could be improved and achieved when government determine to intervene selectively in the market failure whenever required as China did in past several years.

Here, as usual and everywhere anyone can understand how the People Republic of China allows the developing nations to share its experience similar to visiting the Three Gorges hydroelectric dam construction management and operation.

The impacts of the Three Gorges hydropower electricity supply and other forms of energy infrastructure development are the results of China's determination to wards growth and development.

Currently and fortunately, I have also got another chance to explore this great nation-China for third time due to long term study. From the previous observation and current opportunity it might be possible to explain the reality of China's remarkable economic growth and development as well as it's significant to African nations in general and to Ethiopia in particular.

Infrastructures development helps as an engine for the development of the advanced economic nations. Even if China is still on a transition and emerging economy its infrastructural development contributes a lot for industrialization progress.

As to my understanding and of course others are also shearing me that within only four decades China has transformed itself from a poor centrally planned economy to a middle-income and emerging market economy.

This growth and development can be observed wherever anybody visits in the country except some very remote rural areas of China. China is also currently involving on global cooperation on infrastructure development through the Belt and Road Initiative(BRI), which aims to connect the world for development and prosperity.

The BRI likely to advance infrastructure construction plans and technical standard systems, pave for advancing the construction of global corridors, and form an infrastructure network phase bay phase linking all sub-regions in Asia, Africa and Europe. This initiative is more important for the African nations including Ethiopia for their vision of economic development and integration.

African-Union envisages a long-term



transport vision in its agenda 2063, which is in line with the objective of the BRI.

To mention some of the objective as reducing transport logistic costs for all modes of transport; improve and extend the connectivity of regions; promote transport infrastructure and services that are sustainable and friendly to the environment and communities.

Hence, the BRI has significance on AU's 2063 agenda and development strategy of African nations.

As per China vision and action plan for the BRI it goes beyond infrastructure construction including: countries along the Belt and Road to fully coordinate their economic development; endeavor to expand investment and trade facilitation, and eliminate investment and trade obstacles for the formation of a sound business environment within the region and in all related nations; promote cultural and academic exchanges, people to people exchanges and cooperation.

Africa has good potential of natural and human resources that needs to exploit and train to utilize as economic resources.

During low stage of development it is obvious that most of the resource potential couldn't be utilized.

Therefore, first building infrastructure to increase existing resource utilization has an impact for economic development.

Second, when development bounces to the upper stage it necessities new economic growth drivers, advanced infrastructure investments are required to prime the appearance of new industries and sectors that will further increase an economy.

Even though most African nations now exist at low stage of development there are some nations that are indicating the possibility of economic development including Ethiopia. If they could strictly follow proper utilization of their potential economic resources with their economic strategies and policies they can achieve economic development.

In 2002, the industrial development strategy of Ethiopia was approved and its principle has been mainly emphasis on expansion of labor intensive industries, export led development, and promotion of agricultural-led industrialization.

As per the government goal this industrial strategy refers to those which are primarily involved in the production of manufacturing goods. Even if the industrial strategy was put in place in the country it was very challenging to start the implementation phases.

Off course, similar to other African nations Ethiopia has also some natural and human potential economic resources but there has been shortage of physical capital such as infrastructures.

As it was seen from China experience at the first stages of economic zone establishment the country assessed foreign direct investment around the globe and utilized for its infrastructure development.

Before ten years ago Ethiopia was also searching investors around the

**New terminal at Addis Ababa's Bole international airport**

globe to utilize the opportunities of private sectors participation on the industrial process.

Due to long term relation the Chinese government through the Ministry of Commerce and Trade of China, "Eastern Industry Zone (EIZ)" was successfully established in 2007.

The EIZ became a positive symbol of Chinese Government support to Ethiopia's Industrial Development. Inside the industrial zone there are many manufactures from China such as Huajian shoes and Lifan motors. In addition to its revenue contribution, it creates a lot of job opportunities for the local people.

Ethiopia's EIZ is can be taken as the prime mover of country's ambition to establish additional new industrial parks. Hence Bole-Lemi, Kilinto, Hawassa, Mekele, Compolcha, Adama, and Jimma industrial parks are established and start operation. Other industrial and agro-processing parks are also under-constructions.

Several investors from China, India, and South Korea etc. are involving in sectors such as textile, garment and shoe production. As per the agreement between the government and the investors, almost 95 percent of the products are supplied to foreign market, and thereby enhance the nation's currency earning capacity.

Moreover, the firms use local raw materials such as animal skin as an input for their products. Therefore, from China's foreign direct investment and technology transfer by establishing the first in its kind Easter Industrial Zone, Ethiopia benefited a lot.

In addition to that from China and

other Asian countries experience industrialization to be realized, it needs to create enabling environment by providing infrastructure for the investors such as telecommunication, road, electricity, air transport, water supply service, and railway to facilitate their logistics management during importation and exportation as well as production process.

Even if the current infrastructures are not sufficient and efficient, most of the industrial parks are located along key economic corridors but needs additional infrastructures especially for export facilities.

Through "the Belt and Road Initiative" China's Government has been also playing a major role for the development of Ethiopia's infrastructure which have a direct influence for industrial development. Because of this intension China Government supports for the construction of Ethio-Djibouti Railway about 750km which connect to the sea port of Djibouti.

Moreover, Bole international Airport Expansion which recently inaugurated, Addis Ababa-Adama Express High Way, Addis Ababa light Rail Ways, Adama I & II wind farm with total electric power generation capacity of 204MW and many other infrastructures development has been supported by China's government.

China supports infrastructure development of Ethiopia through financial loan provision and involving on construction as well as management contract for operation on some of the infrastructures due to local skill limitation such as railway operation management until the locals could handle.

This could be seen as technology spillover to Ethiopia and the supports are not only aims for Ethiopia's local infrastructure development but also for regional integration. Therefore, these show that China has been supporting Ethiopia before and after the BRI in the industrialization process and infrastructure development of the country.

In Africa in general and in East Africa in particular there are also many infrastructure projects implemented by Chinese government through the BRI.

For example, the 470km Nairobi-Mombasa railway line which supposed to ultimately link the land-locked Ethiopia, Rwanda, South Sudan and Burundi to the Indian Ocean.

In summary, the BRI could help nations to jointly contribute and share benefits for promoting economic globalization and building human prosperity.

Each nation should work hand in hand through belt and road initiative for better connectivity between regions and nations to capture opportunities that each location's comparative advantage can offer.

As China is taking a more active role on the global stage, it is an ideal position to partner with China for the developing nations to get lessons for their development. Infrastructure is always an essential part to increase nation's growth potential.

As the aim of "the Belt and Road" is believed to create markets, facilitate the flows of products, resources, and ideas active collaboration between each regions, nations and different stakeholders are should be considered as critical path.

Sometimes the BRI has been seen as a treat and criticized by some developed nations. As we can see by our naked eyes in most developing nations including Ethiopia, the inadequacy of basic infrastructure such as electricity, water supply, roads, and ITC etc. are huge and this market failure should be fulfilled by different mechanisms.

One option is to utilize the global initiative such as "the Belt and Road" which could facilitate financial resources as success solution for all parties participating in the intervention.

Whatever or by whomever said the reality of "the Belt and Road" and other intervention of China in Africa is a goodwill and it is generating important economic development for the continent.

To judge effect it is better to see the industrial zones and the infrastructure development supported by China in Africa in general and in Ethiopia in particular, which would speak more about the positive sign of the BRI.

Therefore, the African countries engagement with China through "the Belt and Road" is about productivity, economic growth and development which are also in line with the AU's vision in its agenda 2063 to integrate its nations.



**President Uhuru Kenyatta has opened the 472 km Standard Gauge Railway between Mombasa and Nairobi.**



# African banks should follow world trends

By Tinashe Kaduwo

**B**ANKING is changing on a daily basis and the latest product on board is trade finance which African banks should follow. Trade finance as an asset class is not new but it is becoming a more interesting proposition for corporate investors.

Trade finance as a short-term asset class is not traditional territory for most bankers and corporate investors. However, it is becoming more interesting as an investment opportunity as the nature of trade and the finance that supports it changes.

In April this year, 14 leading global financial institutions came together to create the Trade Finance Distribution Initiative in an effort to establish the US\$25 trillion trade finance industry as a more appealing asset class for institutional investors. Recently, they have been joined by other five leading banks to make them 19. The key to success here is the Trade Finance Distribution's initial focus on creating common data standards and definitions. This will enhance operational efficiency and improve risk management.

The new additions include ABN Amro, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Crown Agents Bank, London Forfaiting Company and Natixis. They join some of the world's largest trade finance banks, including ANZ, Crédit Agricole, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, ING, Lloyds Bank, Rabobank, Standard Bank, Standard Chartered and SMBC, as well as four other banks that have not been named, who have been part of the project since it was formed.

Its goal is based on the understanding that trade is the lifeblood of the world's economies. It recognises that even with current market protectionism as well as economic slowdowns in geographies such as China and the Eurozone, there are openings for participants the world over and that trade as an asset class has great potential.

In Africa, the move by the leaders to create a continental free trade area augurs well with the trade finance asset class. Leading pan-African banks such as Ecobank and Standard Bank are well positioned to take advantage of the development and emulate global banks to create standards meant for Africa.

The world over, investors are leveraging on the power of the internet. The internet is democratising trade, giving very small businesses the same level of access to global markets as multinationals. As digitisation and automation are making trade cheaper, safer and faster, data flows are likely to increase at a much faster rate.

E-commerce merchants are being financed against inventory stocked and receivables due from online sales. More intangible goods are being financed, such as software downloads and media content purchases. There is also increasing monetisation of offerings such as annual maintenance contracts and cloud services, products that are yet to reach Africa.

Investors in trade assets are typically banks and the 'alternative' investor grouping that includes fund and wealth managers. However, apart from banks, the Trade Finance Distribution target insurance and pension companies and, potentially, large corporate investors. Although institutional investors in particular have become very interested in this asset class, many banks have in recent years become less active in trade finance as most banks are increasingly paying more attention to their capital efficiency.

However, there have been some major changes in the trade distribution space in the last couple of years. HSBC as "the world's largest trade finance bank" (US\$740 billion trade facilitated annually), has shifted its stance from a "book and hold" operator of trade finance assets to one of "originate and distribute", and its distribution volumes have expanded from US\$2 billion to US\$20 billion in just 36 months.

The bank is now highlighting its commitment to trade by rolling out the final piece of its global trade asset distribution network, highlighting the potential of this asset class which African banks should emulate.

Africa is the world's second largest and second most-populous continent, being behind Asia in both categories. At about 30.3 million km<sup>2</sup> (11.7 million square miles) including adjacent islands, it covers 6 per cent of Earth's total surface area and 20 per cent of its land area. With 1.2 billion people as of 2016, it accounts for about 16 per cent



of the world's human population. The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. The continent includes Madagascar and various archipelagos. It contains 54 fully recognised sovereign states (countries), nine territories and two de facto independent states with limited or no recognition. The majority of the continent and its countries are in the Northern Hemisphere, with a substantial portion and number of countries in the Southern Hemisphere.

Africa's average population is the youngest amongst all the continents; the median age in 2012 was 19.7, when the worldwide median age was 30.4. Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is its largest by population. Africa, particularly central Eastern Africa, is widely accepted as the place of origin of humans and the Hominidae clade (great apes), as evidenced by the discovery of the earliest hominids and their ancestors as well as later ones that have been dated to around 7 million years ago, including *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, *Australopithecus africanus*, *A. afarensis*, *Homo erectus*, *H. habilis* and *H. ergaster*—the earliest *Homo sapiens* (modern human), found in Ethiopia, date to circa 200,000 years ago.[8] Africa straddles the equator and encompasses numerous climate areas; it is the only continent to stretch from the northern temperate to southern temperate zones.

Africa hosts a large diversity of ethnicities, cultures and languages. In the late 19th century, European countries colonised almost all of Africa; most present states in Africa originated from a process of decolonisation in the 20th century. African nations cooperate through the establishment of the African Union, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa.

## Etymology

Afri was a Latin name used to refer to the inhabitants of then-known northern Africa to the west of the Nile river, and in its widest sense referred to all lands south of the Mediterranean (Ancient Libya). This name seems to have originally referred to a native Libyan tribe, an ancestor of modern Berbers; see Terence for discussion. The name had usually been connected with the Phoenician word *afar* meaning "dust", but a 1981 hypothesis[13] has asserted that it stems from the Berber word *ifri* (plural *ifran*) meaning "cave", in reference to cave dwellers. The same word may be found in the name of the Banu Ifran from Algeria and Tripolitania, a Berber tribe originally from Yafran (also known as Ifrane) in northwestern Libya.

Under Roman rule, Carthage became the capital of the province it then named Africa Proconsularis, following its defeat of the Carthaginians in the Third Punic War in 146 BC, which also included the coastal part of modern Libya. The Latin suffix *-ica* can sometimes be used to denote a land (e.g., in *Celtica* from *Celtae*, as used by Julius Caesar). The later Muslim region of Ifriqiya, following its conquest of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire's *Exarchatus Africae*, also preserved a form of the name.

According to the Romans, Africa lay to

the west of Egypt, while "Asia" was used to refer to Anatolia and lands to the east. A definite line was drawn between the two continents by the geographer Ptolemy (85–165 AD), indicating Alexandria along the Prime Meridian and making the isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea the boundary between Asia and Africa. As Europeans came to understand the real extent of the continent, the idea of "Africa" expanded with their knowledge.

Other etymological hypotheses have been postulated for the ancient name "Africa":

- The 1st-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (Ant. 1.15) asserted that it was named for Epher, grandson of Abraham according to Gen. 25:4, whose descendants, he claimed, had invaded Libya.

- Isidore of Seville in his 7th-century *Etymologiae* XIV.5.2. suggests "Africa comes from the Latin *aprica*, meaning "sunny".

- Massey, in 1881, stated that Africa is derived from the Egyptian *af-ru-ka*, meaning "to turn toward the opening of the Ka." The Ka is the energetic double of every person and the "opening of the Ka" refers to a womb or birthplace. Africa would be, for the Egyptians, "the birthplace." [17]

- Michèle Fruyt in 1976 proposed[18] linking the Latin word with *africus* "south wind", which would be of Umbrian origin and mean originally "rainy wind".

- Robert R. Stieglitz of Rutgers University in 1984 proposed: "The name Africa, derived from the Latin *Aphir-ica*, is cognate to Hebrew *Ophir*." [19]

- Ibn Khallikan and some other historians claim that the name of Africa came from a Himyarite king called Afrikin ibn Kais ibn Saifi also called "Afrikin son of Abrahah" who subdued Ifriqiya.

## History

Africa is considered by most paleo-anthropologists to be the oldest inhabited territory on Earth, with the human species originating from the continent. [23][24] During the mid-20th century, anthropologists discovered many fossils and evidence of human occupation perhaps as early as 7 million years ago (BP=before present).

Fossil remains of several species of early apelike humans thought to have evolved into modern man, such as *Australopithecus afarensis* (radiometrically dated to approximately 3.9–3.0 million years BP)[25] *Paranthropus boisei* (c. 2.3–1.4 million years BP)[26] and *Homo ergaster* (c. 1.9 million–600,000 years BP) have been discovered.[3]

After the evolution of *Homo sapiens* approximately 150,000 to 100,000 years BP in Africa, the continent was mainly populated by groups of hunter-gatherers. These first modern humans left Africa and populated the rest of the globe during the Out of Africa II migration dated to approximately 50,000 years BP, exiting the continent either across Bab-el-Mandeb over the Red Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar in Morocco, or the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt.

Other migrations of modern humans within the African continent have been dated to that time, with evidence of early human settlement found in Southern Africa, Southeast Africa, North Africa, and the Sahara.

The size of the Sahara has historically been extremely variable, with its area rapidly fluctuating and at times disappearing depending on global climatic conditions. At the end of the Ice ages, estimated to have been around 10,500 BC, the Sahara had again become a green fertile valley, and its African populations returned from the interior and coastal highlands in Sub-Saharan Africa, with rock art paintings depicting a fertile Sahara and large populations discovered in Tassili n'Ajjer dating back perhaps 10 millennia.

However, the warming and drying climate meant that by 5000 BC, the Sahara region was becoming increasingly dry and hostile. Around 3500 BC, due to a tilt in the earth's orbit, the Sahara experienced a period of rapid desertification.

The population trekked out of the Sahara region towards the Nile Valley below the Second Cataract where they made permanent or semi-permanent settlements.

A major climatic recession occurred, lessening the heavy and persistent rains in Central and Eastern Africa. Since this time, dry conditions have prevailed in Eastern Africa and, increasingly during the last 200 years, in Ethiopia.

The domestication of cattle in Africa preceded agriculture and seems to have existed alongside hunter-gatherer cultures. It is speculated that by 6000 BC, cattle were domesticated in North Africa. In the Sahara-Nile complex, people domesticated many animals, including the donkey and a small screw-horned goat which was common from Algeria to Nubia.

Around 4000 BC, the Saharan climate started to become drier at an exceedingly fast pace. This climate change caused lakes and rivers to shrink significantly and caused increasing desertification. This, in turn, decreased the amount of land conducive to settlements and helped to cause migrations of farming communities to the more tropical climate of West Africa.

By the first millennium BC, ironworking had been introduced in Northern Africa and quickly spread across the Sahara into the northern parts of sub-Saharan Africa, and by 500 BC, metalworking began to become commonplace in West Africa. Ironworking was fully established by roughly 500 BC in many areas of East and West Africa, although other regions didn't begin ironworking until the early centuries AD. Copper objects from Egypt, North Africa, Nubia, and Ethiopia dating from around 500 BC have been excavated in West Africa, suggesting that Trans-Saharan trade networks had been established by this date.

## Early civilizations

At about 3300 BC, the historical record opens in Northern Africa with the rise of literacy in the Pharaonic civilization of Ancient Egypt. One of the world's earliest and longest-lasting civilizations, the Egyptian state continued, with varying levels of influence over other areas, until 343 BC. Egyptian influence reached deep into modern-day Libya and Nubia, and, according to Martin Bernal, as far north as Crete.

An independent centre of civilization with trading links to Phoenicia was established by Phoenicians from

Tyre on the north-west African coast at Carthage.

European exploration of Africa began with Ancient Greeks and Romans. In 332 BC, Alexander the Great was welcomed as a liberator in Persian-occupied Egypt. He founded Alexandria in Egypt, which would become the prosperous capital of the Ptolemaic dynasty after his death.

Following the conquest of North Africa's Mediterranean coastline by the Roman Empire, the area was integrated economically and culturally into the Roman system. Roman settlement occurred in modern Tunisia and elsewhere along the coast. The first Roman emperor native to North Africa was Septimius Severus, born in Leptis Magna in present-day Libya—his mother was Italian Roman and his father was Punic.

Christianity spread across these areas at an early date, from Judaea via Egypt and beyond the borders of the Roman world into Nubia;[50] by AD 340 at the latest, it had become the state religion of the Aksumite Empire. Syro-Greek missionaries, who arrived by way of the Red Sea, were responsible for this theological development.

In the early 7th century, the newly formed Arabian Islamic Caliphate expanded into Egypt, and then into North Africa. In a short while, the local Berber elite had been integrated into Muslim Arab tribes. When the Umayyad capital Damascus fell in the 8th century, the Islamic centre of the Mediterranean shifted from Syria to Qayrawan in North Africa. Islamic North Africa had become diverse, and a hub for mystics, scholars, jurists, and philosophers. During the above-mentioned period, Islam spread to sub-Saharan Africa, mainly through trade routes and migration.

## Ninth to eighteenth centuries

Pre-colonial Africa possessed perhaps as many as 10,000 different states and polities[54] characterized by many different sorts of political organization and rule. These included small family groups of hunter-gatherers such as the San people of southern Africa; larger, more structured groups such as the family clan groupings of the Bantu-speaking peoples of central, southern, and eastern Africa; heavily structured clan groups in the Horn of Africa; the large Sahelian kingdoms; and autonomous city-states and kingdoms such as those of the Akan; Edo, Yoruba, and Igbo people in West Africa; and the Swahili coastal trading towns of Southeast Africa.

By the ninth century AD, a string of dynastic states, including the earliest Hausa states, stretched across the sub-Saharan savannah from the western regions to central Sudan.

The most powerful of these states were Ghana, Gao, and the Kanem-Bornu Empire. Ghana declined in the eleventh century, but was succeeded by the Mali Empire which consolidated much of western Sudan in the thirteenth century. Kanem accepted Islam in the eleventh century.

In the forested regions of the West African coast, independent kingdoms grew with little influence from the Muslim north. The Kingdom of Nri was established around the ninth century and was one of the first. It is also one of the oldest kingdoms in present-day Nigeria and was ruled by the Eze Nri. The Nri kingdom is famous for its elaborate bronzes, found at the town of Igbo-Ukwu. The bronzes have been dated from as far back as the ninth century.[55]

The Kingdom of Ife, historically the first of these Yoruba city-states or kingdoms, established government under a priestly oba ('king' or 'ruler' in the Yoruba language), called the Ooni of Ife. Ife was noted as a major religious and cultural centre in West Africa, and for its unique naturalistic tradition of bronze sculpture.

The Ife model of government was adapted at the Oyo Empire, where its obas or kings, called the Alaafins of Oyo, once controlled a large number of other Yoruba and non-Yoruba city-states and kingdoms; the Fon Kingdom of Dahomey was one of the non-Yoruba domains under Oyo control.

The Almoravids were a Berber dynasty from the Sahara that spread over a wide area of northwestern Africa and the Iberian peninsula during the eleventh century.

The Banu Hilal and Banu Ma'qil were a collection of Arab Bedouin tribes from the Arabian Peninsula who migrated westwards via Egypt between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries.

Their migration resulted in the fusion of the Arabs and Berbers, where the locals were Arabized.[57] and Arab culture absorbed elements of the local culture, under the unifying framework of Islam.



# Study: Vast swaths of lost tropical forests could still be brought back to life

By Hans Nicholas Jong, Jakarta

THE loss of tropical rainforests the world over is a major contributor to the global climate crisis. But that loss isn't irreversible, according to a new study that has identified deforested areas spanning more than twice the size of California that can be brought back to life.

The paper, published July 3 in the journal *Science Advances*, estimates there are more than a million square kilometers (386,000 square miles) of lost tropical rainforest across the Americas, Africa and Southeast Asia with high potential for restoration.

"Restoring tropical forests is fundamental to the planet's health, now and for generations to come," said lead author Pedro Brancalion, from the University of São Paulo. "For the first time, our study helps governments, investors and others seeking to restore global tropical moist forests to determine precise locations where restoring forests is most viable, enduring and beneficial. Restoring forests is a must do – and it's doable."

Reforestation these "restoration hotspots" would have the least cost and risk and at the same time bring the most benefits, such as carbon storage and biodiversity conservation, according to the researchers.

"We were surprised at the large area of hotspots found across global rainforests, a total of 101 million hectares," study co-author Robin Chazdon, from the University of Connecticut, told Mongabay. "This area is larger than the combined area of Sweden and Spain. And these areas are found in all continents and across dozens of countries."

The researchers used high-resolution satellite imagery and the latest peer-reviewed studies on four forest benefits – biodiversity, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and water security – and three aspects of restoration effort – cost, investment risk, and the likelihood of re-

stored forests surviving into the future – to assess and "score" all tropical lands worldwide in 1-square-kilometer (0.4-square-mile) blocks that retained less than 90 percent of their forest cover.

The researchers found that the top six countries with the highest mean score were all in Africa: Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Togo, South Sudan and Madagascar. That gives these countries the highest potential for feasibly achieving multiple restoration benefits.

Chazdon said they scored highly because while most of them had lost tropical moist forests, they had high potential to recover biodiversity, carbon, and water resources through forest restoration efforts.

"We were surprised to find such a concentration of highly ranked countries in a single continent," she said. "The study really highlights the high potential for successful rainforest restoration outcomes in these African countries."

The five countries with the largest restoration hotspot by area are Brazil, Indonesia, India, Madagascar and Colombia.

Another encouraging finding is that the majority of the restoration hotspots – 73 percent – were identified in countries that had committed to restore their rainforests by participating in the Bonn Challenge, a global initiative launched in 2011 that calls for 1.5 million square kilometers (579,000 square miles) of the world's deforested and degraded land to be restored by 2020, and 3.5 million square kilometers (1.35 million square miles) by 2030.

To date, 59 national governments, private associations and companies have made Bonn Challenge commitments to restore 1.7 million square kilometers (658,000 square miles) of forest.

"It's encouraging that so many hotspots are located in countries where restoring forests and landscapes is already a priority," Brancalion said.

Chazdon said these hotspot countries should act quickly to restore their rainforests,

given that more than half of the world's tropical forests have already been lost or seriously damaged, and much of the remaining forest cover is under threat.

"We need forests to protect watersheds, to mitigate climate change, and to conserve biodiversity," she said. "As a result of forest loss and damage we are losing species that need forests, diminishing our water supplies, losing soil and productive land, reducing rainfall, and emitting carbon dioxide to the atmosphere."

Despite various commitments to halt deforestation made by governments and businesses, forest loss remains a widespread problem in tropical countries. The tropics lost around 120,000 square kilometers (46,300 square miles) of tree cover last year, an area the size of Belgium, according to data from the University of Maryland.

While this number is down from the previous two years, it's still well above the 18-year average since data collection began in 2001. The tropics lost around 170,000 square kilometers (65,600 square miles) of forest cover in 2016, and 160,000 square kilometers (61,800 square miles) in 2017.

Last year, deforestation in Earth's biggest rainforest, the Brazilian Amazon, reached the highest level in a decade, spanning an area 134 times the size of Manhattan's land mass.

Things are only expected to get worse under the country's new president, President Jair Bolsonaro. Since taking office at the start of 2019, the Bolsonaro administration has dismantled environmental protections and institutions by firing or not replacing top environment officials, loosening controls on economic exploitation of the Amazon, and halting the demarcation of indigenous lands.

Environmentalists have expressed concern that Bolsonaro's policies will clear the path for unchecked deforestation, with the rising deforestation rate primed to mark 2019 as one of the worst years for forest loss in recent memory.

Environmentalists have expressed concern that Bolsonaro's policies will clear the path for unchecked deforestation, with the rising deforestation rate primed to mark 2019 as one of the worst years for forest loss in recent memory.



Thousands of animals call the Congo Basin home, including the critically endangered mountain gorilla, which lives only in high-altitude rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda.

Monoculture plantations vs. natural forests "If we don't act now it will be too late, as climate change is already affecting forest functions and the opportunities for restoring and protecting forests will decrease dramatically," Chazdon said.

However, she added that restoration "involves far more than simply planting trees."

"One challenge is to define what reforestation can and should achieve, as it is not always focused on restoring ecosystems, enhancing rural livelihoods, or providing a broad range of ecosystem services," she said.

A broader approach of landscape-scale restoration has multiple benefits, such as reducing species extinctions, mitigating climate change effects, and promoting sustainable livelihoods.

On the other hand, reforestation efforts that rely on establishing monoculture tree plantations – one species of tree planted across a wide area – have been shown to provide only limited benefits, and don't last long enough to make a significant impact.

China, for instance, managed to increase its tree cover by 32 percent by 2015 through its ambitious reforestation policies aimed to mitigate floods. But most of these reforestation efforts relied on simply planting one tree species. Critics say this approach doesn't qualify as restoration, since monoculture plantations are often poor replacements for natural habitat and provide fewer ecological benefits.

According to a 2010 study, agroforestry and tree plantations support 35 percent fewer species than primary forests, with many

wildlife species only found in mature tropical forests.

And even though monoculture tree plantations can be grown quickly, they tend not to survive for long. The longevity of timber plantations, for instance, is heavily dependent on shifting market demand for wood. These plantations can be abandoned if they're seen as a bad investment and replaced with crops with higher economic value once they're harvested. "Carbon is being stored in these systems, but many of these trees will not live for very long," Chazdon said.

And even if they do survive for a long time, their climate benefits are still paltry compared to natural forests, which studies have found to be 40 times more effective than plantations for storing carbon.

Charlotte Wheeler, a forest researcher at the University of Edinburgh, said monoculture tree plantations couldn't replace natural forests in mitigating climate change. She called natural forests "the only option that can realistically help mitigate climate change."

One of the major reasons plantations aren't ideal for carbon storage is that regular harvest and clearing tends to release carbon dioxide every 10 to 20 years. However, natural forests, when left undisturbed, will continue to store the carbon in perpetuity.

That said, monoculture tree plantations still have a role to play in reforestation efforts, according to Chazdon. In some places, establishing monoculture tree plantations may be the best option, such as in areas with poor conditions for natural regeneration, she

said.

"One of the feasibility layers in our study is a measure of the variability associated with biodiversity recovery through natural regeneration," Chazdon said. "In areas with high variability (high uncertainty), plantations are a better investment and in areas where uncertainty is low, natural regeneration is a lower-cost approach."

Monoculture plantations, like timber plantations, can also contribute to forest conservation by sparing remaining natural forests from being logged or cleared for farming.

"To maximize long-term success in reforestation, a variety of approaches are needed and it is important to consider the impact on rural people and involve them in the process," Chazdon said. "There is a place for monoculture plantations, but they should not replace native ecosystems or be grown in areas that have a high potential for natural regeneration."

Brancalion said the new study could help inform policymakers and advanced forest restoration agendas, from setting targets on the size of restored areas to prioritizing where and how to restore.

"With the tools we have developed, countries, companies and other actors who have pledged to restore forests have the precise information they need to roll up their sleeves and dive into the difficult work of bringing our forests back," he said.

"There are no shortcuts when it comes to forest restoration, but there is low-hanging fruit that we need to seize now, before it's too late."

## New project in Rwanda expected to help youth create wealth from sweet potato value chain

KIGALI

RWANDAN youth can finally exploit opportunities in orange-fleshed sweet potato value addition and breeding, following the launch of BioInnovate Africa, a three-year project that aims at turning the potato into a cash crop.

Tawanda Muzhingi, the Regional Food Scientist at the International Potato Centre (CIP), said on Friday that they have been promoting orange-fleshed sweet potatoes because they are rich in

pro-vitamin A content. He was speaking at the launch of the \$750,000 project in Kigali.

He said that East African countries, Rwanda included, import most of the wheat, yet, if they made bread from sweet potato puree, they could substitute 50% of the wheat.

He added that this could be a huge saving.

One of the best ways to ensure that there is a sustainable adoption of the orange-fleshed sweet potato is to do some value addition so that when farmers grow this nutri-

tious crop, they can continue growing it, but there has to be some money attached with, Muzhingi said.

The project will work with the government, breeders from the Rwanda Agricultural Board (RAB), and the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) to make sure that the products being made comply with the law to protect consumers and help them get the nutrition they are supposed to get from sweet potato.

The project intends to work with the private food compa-

nies, so that they can start to see orange-fleshed sweet potato as an ingredient in their manufacturing processes to provide new products that use orange-fleshed sweet potato that are safe, nutritious and income-generating.

Value addition will create job opportunities for the youth and women as well as farmers. This project is going to demonstrate that when people are going to grow orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, they can eat them for their nutrition or sell them and get money.

Shira Mukiibi, the Business Development Manager for BioInnovate Africa Program, said that the project supports scientists and innovators as well as entrepreneurs and policy makers to translate their research into value added products so as to reach differing countries within Eastern Africa.

"This project is one of the projects that have been supported through Bio-Innovate Africa, as part of our mandate to support innovation in the region. We are going to

upscale the orange-fleshed sweet potato puree for bakery applications in East Africa," she said. This project is actually going to add value in that area in terms of adding beta-carotene into the food system especially for agro-processing, but also in terms of completing the potato value chain.

"We have had challenges with farmers saying that they don't have demand for their sweet potatoes. This is an opportunity for them to be able to have markets for their sweet potato foods. In terms of com-

pleting the value chain, this is now an opportunity on the commercial side for the farmers but also on the processing part," she noted.

Within Eastern Africa, all the countries are focusing on moving towards middle-income countries and one of the ways it can be done is through manufacturing and agro-processing.

Currently, BioInnovate Africa is operating in 6 countries namely: Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Uganda.

## Drought leads to SADC grain shortage of 5 million tonnes affecting 41 million people

WINDHOEK

A REGIONAL food security assessment indicates that southern Africa has a cereal deficit of more than 5.4 million tonnes this year following a subdued 2018/19 farming season.

This is according to a Synthesis Report on the State of Food and Nutrition Security and Vulnerability in Southern Africa approved by the SADC Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (RVAA) Programme Steering Committee that met on 05 July in Windhoek.

Based on the 11 SADC member states that provided cereal balance sheets for the 2018/19 harvest year, the region produced about 37.5 million tonnes of cereals compared to 42.9 million tonnes in 2017/18.

The countries that provided cereal balance sheets for the 2018/19 season are Angola, Botswana, the DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The report revealed that cereal production in South Africa, which usually accounts for the largest

proportion of regional output, decreased by 19% from 18.7 million tonnes during the 2017/18 season to 15.1 million tonnes this year.

Zambia, which has during the past few years significantly contributed to regional cereal output, suffered a 14.7% decline in production from 2.6 million tonnes in 2017/18 to 2.2 million tonnes in 2018/19.

The largest drop in output is in Botswana where cereal production is estimated to have declined by 92% during the 2018/19 season, while Namibia and Lesotho experienced

53% and 50% decreases, respectively. The least affected countries are Angola and Tanzania, which recorded decreases of only 1% and 4% respectively.

Maize accounts for 80% cereal production in southern Africa. Other important cereals are wheat, sorghum, millets and rice.

According to the regional food security assessment report, the decline in cereal production indicates that "an estimated 41.2 million people in 13 SADC Member States are food-insecure this year."





# Giving sign language legal backing would come in handy

By Raissa Sambou

THE Ghana National Association of the Deaf (GNAD) has called on the government to enact into law, the Ghanaian Sign language (GSL) as an official language of the hearing-impaired.

The group also appealed to the Ghana Education Service (GES) to ensure the GSL is used as medium of instruction in all basic schools across the country.

The president of GNAD, Mr Matthew Kubachua, made the call in Accra on Friday during a consultative forum on the recognition of GSL as a natural language of the hearing-impaired in the country.

The forum, organised by GNAD with support from the Danish Embassy in Ghana, brought together representatives from the Ministry of Education, GES, GNAD and the Ghana Federation of Persons with Disability.

According to Mr Kubachua, though GSL was accepted in schools for the deaf and during official functions, it had no legal backing like other languages, adding that its adaption had been left to the discretion of individuals and institutions.

He said in countries where Sign Languages (SLs) were recognised and accepted, standards had been set and recognitions made to "control who does what, how, when and to what extent".

"Our aim is to go beyond the mere acceptance of GSL as a language of the deaf, but also have legal binding rules and a standard regulatory framework," he said.

Touching on Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seeks to achieve quality education and social inclusion for all, Mr Kubachua indicated that it was high time Ghana focused more on recognising GSL, where duty bearers and service providers would be bound by law to provide SL services.

Professor George Akankig-Pare of the Department of Linguistics of the University of Ghana, in his presentation mentioned that the general well-being of people with hearing impairment in the country was not the best, citing progression in education which results in failure to secure good jobs as an example.

He stated that if the government did not recognise the GSL, it could not be used in education in Ghana, adding



Matthew Kubachua (fourth from right) with the participants at the GNAD forum

that it was imperative for it to be enacted into the country's laws.

Prof. Akankig-Pare said, "Success rate of deaf students during external examinations and skill acquisition is poor because sign language is not used at every level of education in the country."

He added that meaningful education could only be attained when the medium of instruction, especially at the basic level was understood.

Mr Akankig-Pare assured that he would continue to join forces with GNAD to demand legislation for the GSL.

With the bottleneck in sign language education policy fixed, people with hearing impairment would be able to attain good education and also acquire employable skills.

Ghana officially the Republic of Ghana, is a country located along the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean, in the subregion of West Africa. Spanning a land mass of 238,535 km<sup>2</sup> (92,099 sq mi), Ghana is bordered by the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, Togo in the east and the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean in the south. Ghana means "Warrior King" in the Soninke language.

The first permanent state in the territory of present-day Ghana dates back to the 11th century. Numerous kingdoms and empires emerged over the centuries, of which the most powerful was the Kingdom of Ashanti. Beginning in the 15th century, numerous Euro-

pean powers contested the area for trading rights, with the British ultimately establishing control of the coast by the late 19th century. Following over a century of native resistance, Ghana's current borders were established by the 1900s as the British Gold Coast. It became independent of the United Kingdom on 6 March 1957.

Ghana's population of approximately 28 million spans a variety of ethnic, linguistic and religious groups.

According to the 2010 census, 71.2 per cent of the population was Christian, 17.6 per cent was Muslim, and 5.2 per cent practiced traditional faiths. Its diverse geography and ecology ranges from coastal savannahs to tropical rain forests.

Ghana is a unitary constitutional democracy led by a president who is both head of state and head of the government. Ghana's growing economic prosperity and democratic political system have made it a regional power in West Africa. It is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Group of 24 (G24) and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Ghana was already recognized as one of the great kingdoms in Bilad el-Sudan by the ninth cen-

tury.[21]

Ghana was inhabited in the Middle Ages and the Age of Discovery by a number of ancient predominantly Akan kingdoms in the Southern and Central territories. This included the Ashanti Empire, the Akwamu, the Bonoman, the Denkyira, and the Mankessim Kingdom.

Although the area of present-day Ghana in West Africa has experienced many population movements, the Akans were firmly settled by the 5th century BC. By the early 11th century, the Akans were firmly established in the Akan state called Bonoman, for which the Brong-Ahafo Region is named.

From the 13th century, Akans emerged from what is believed to have been the Bonoman area, to create several Akan states of Ghana, mainly based on gold trading. These states included Bonoman (Brong-Ahafo Region), Ashanti (Ashanti Region), Denkyira (Central region), Mankessim Kingdom (Western region), and Akwamu Eastern region. By the 19th century, the territory of the southern part of Ghana was included in the Kingdom of Ashanti, one of the most influential states in sub-Saharan Africa prior to the onset of colonialism.

The Kingdom of Ashanti gov-

ernment operated first as a loose network, and eventually as a centralised kingdom with an advanced, highly specialised bureaucracy centred in the capital city of Kumasi. Prior to Akan contact with Europeans, the Akan Ashanti people created an advanced economy based on principally gold and gold bar commodities then traded with the states of Africa.

The earliest known kingdoms to emerge in modern Ghana were the Mole-Dagbani states. The Mole-Dagomba came on horseback from present-day Burkina Faso under a single leader, Naa Gbewaa. With their advanced weapons and based on a central authority, they easily invaded and occupied the lands of the local people ruled by the Tendamba (land god priests), established themselves as the rulers over the locals, and made Gambaga their capital. The death of Naa Gbewaa caused civil war among his children, some of whom broke off and founded separate states including Dagbon, Mamprugu, Mossi, Nanumba and Wala.

**European contact (15th century)**

18th Century Ashanti kudu. Gold dust and nuggets were kept in kudu, as were other items of personal value and significance. As receptacles for their owners' kra, or life force, kudu were prominent features of ceremonies designed to honor and protect that individual.

Akan trade with European states began after contact with Portuguese in the 15th century. Early European contact by the Portuguese people, who came to the Gold Coast region in the 15th century to trade and then established the Portuguese Gold Coast (Costa do Ouro), focused on the extensive availability of gold. [33] The Portuguese built a trading lodge at a coastal settlement called Anomansah (the perpetual drink) which they renamed Elmina.

In 1481, King John II of Portugal commissioned Diogo d'Azambuja to build Elmina Castle, which was completed in three years. By 1598, the Dutch had joined the Portu-

guese in the gold trade, establishing the Dutch Gold Coast (Nederlandse Bezittingen ter Kuste van Guinea) and building forts at Fort Komenda and Kormantsi. [34] In 1617, the Dutch captured the Portuguese, the Olini Castle from the Portuguese, and Axim in 1642 (Fort St Anthony).

Other European traders had joined in gold trading by the mid-17th century, most notably the Swedes, establishing the Swedish Gold Coast (Svenska Guldkusten), and Denmark-Norway, establishing the Danish Gold Coast (Danske Guldkyst or Dansk Guinea). Portuguese merchants, impressed with the gold resources in the area, named it Costa do Ouro or Gold Coast.

More than thirty forts and castles were built by the Portuguese, Swedish, Dano-Norwegians, Dutch and German merchants; the latter Germans establishing the German Gold Coast (Brandenburger Gold Coast or Groß Friedrichsburg). In 1874 Great Britain established control over some parts of the country, assigning these areas the status of British Gold Coast. Many military engagements occurred between the British colonial powers and the various Akan nation-states. The Akan Kingdom of Ashanti defeated the British a few times in the 100-year-long Anglo-Ashanti wars but eventually lost with the War of the Golden Stool in the early 1900s.

In 1947, the newly formed United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) by The Big Six called for "self-government within the shortest possible time" following the Gold Coast legislative election, 1946. [35][4] Kwame Nkrumah was the first Prime Minister of Ghana and President of Ghana and formed the Convention People's Party (CPP) with the motto "self-government now".

Nkrumah won a majority in the Gold Coast legislative election, 1951 for the Gold Coast Legislative Assembly in 1952. Nkrumah was appointed leader of the Gold Coast's government business. The Gold Coast region declared independence from the United Kingdom on 6 March 1957 and established the nation of Ghana.

# From Syria to Sudan, women rights defenders need more than likes

By Lubna Alkanawati

ALAA, like many women before and alongside her, was front and centre of the country's revolution. As a Syrian activist, seeing that photo of Ala' reminded me of the brave girls and women who also called for change - in streets, in parks, and on top of cars, too - at the beginning of the Syrian revolution (and war) in 2011. Despite the miles and years that separate our movements, I felt more connected than ever to my sisters in Sudan.

Then in the weeks after the photo went viral, protests in Sudan continued but were largely out of the news. I was disappointed but unsurprised: after all, it wasn't long ago that the world was reading about Syrian women advocates before we too disappeared from international headlines.

'We fight every day for the space to raise our voices'

Today, Sudan's powerful women revolutionaries are back in the news. The country's Transitional Military Council has buckled to the pressure of a mass movement and agreed to a power-sharing government.

But we can't forget that girls and women were also systematically attacked, raped, and tortured in the military's crackdown on protesters on 3 June before the TMC finally agreed to a political deal. These horrific atrocities are unacceptable realities for women human rights defenders around the world and must urgently be addressed.

As a women's rights activist and native of Syria's Eastern Ghouta, I have an especially deep insight into its five-year siege by government forces, and how the peaceful protests were met with awful violence. Civilian activists, many of us women, were trying to push for a



positive change in our community and our country.

To truly stand in solidarity with our sisters in Sudan, Syria, and beyond, we need the international community to do much more than share a photo or join a trending social media campaign. We need global leaders to really walk the talk when it comes to supporting girls and women in humanitarian settings.

And that includes those structural inequalities that force women in Sudan to be on the front line of the country's expanding food crisis, or in Syria condemn women-headed households to vulnerability and the threat of exploitation.

We are more than photographs  
Real change begins by hearing the voices of women human rights defenders in the ever-changing news cycles. We are more than photographs frozen in time - we fight every day for the space to raise our voices.

In the besieged areas of Eastern Ghouta, before they were re-captured by the Syrian government last year, women lived underground enduring huge personal risk to share information about their safety and health needs to trusted organisations. And on the streets of Khartoum, Sudan, women yell it out loud in microphones

that can be snatched away by intimidating soldiers.

It shouldn't be the case that we also face roadblocks to advocating at global meetings held in places like New York and Geneva - but it is. Between 1990 and 2017, women made up only 2 percent of mediators, 8 percent of negotiators and 5 percent of witnesses and signatories to global peace processes, according to UN Women. Meanwhile, in Syria, women still aren't sufficiently included in post-conflict constitutional deliberations.

This needs to change - after all, when women are included, peace

negotiations are 35 percent more likely to succeed.

There must be a more intentional effort to ensure women have seats at these important decision-making tables, especially considering the instrumental roles we play in revolutionary movements. When nationality and refugee status impedes our participation, international organisations can use their power and leverage to get us there.

All of this requires a longer-term support for local women-focused civil society organisations (CSOs) in humanitarian settings, which help keep advocates safe and gives them a platform to be heard, even when our work fades from international view.

As the country director for Women Now for Development - a women-led CSO that works to empower girls and women in Syria and Lebanon - I've seen how grassroots organisations can provide safe spaces, build advocacy skills, and deliver humanitarian assistance where it's most needed. I know this is also the case in Sudan, because our team stays in touch with Sudanese women activists to share experiences and encourage each other to continue.

Yet continuing with our work is difficult in a situation where our organisations rely on scarce resources to meet the tremendous needs of the communities we serve. For example, while Syrian-led CSOs deliver an estimated 75 percent of humanitarian aid in my country, they receive less than 1 percent of direct funding - with even less to those focused on

women.

And globally, less than 3 percent of international humanitarian aid goes to local and national first responders. To power progress, we need the international community to use their pocketbooks more than their Facebooks to support women change-makers in these contexts.

That the work of women human rights defenders persists despite the great challenges we face every day is revolutionary in itself. What it will take to help advocates continue this vital work, however, is not revolutionary at all: more money, influence, and decision-making power. We've said it all before - on top of cars, in streets, and on global stages. Now it's time to be heard.

Sudan or the Sudan officially the Republic of the Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It is bordered by Egypt to the north, the Red Sea to the northeast, Eritrea to the east, Ethiopia to the southeast, South Sudan to the south, the Central African Republic to the southwest, Chad to the west, and Libya to the northwest. It has a population of 39 million people (2016 estimate) and occupies a total area of 1,886,068 square kilometres (728,215 square miles), making it the third-largest country in Africa. Sudan's predominant religion is Islam, and its official languages are Arabic and English. The capital is Khartoum, located at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile. Since 2011, Sudan is the scene of ongoing military conflict in its regions South Kordofan and Blue Nile.



## BUSINESS

WARNING

# Minerals minister vows to repossess all idle claim titles

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

ALL idle mining claim titles will be repossessed by Ministry of Minerals and given to artisanal miners so that youth can be self employed while government get its fair share of revenue.

Deputy Minerals Minister, Staslaus Nyongo said in Geita mid this week when closing an NMB Bank Plc's business forum which discussed about development and capital access that his ministry has already started repossessing such mining permits while reallocating the mining areas to small scale miners.

"As a ministry responsible for the mining industry, we will not sit back and watch some people hoard mining areas which are not developed for a long period of time," Nyongo said noting that individuals or companies which have been allocated mining areas and have not developed them, should do so immediately or risk losing them.

He said the government wants to see idle mining areas taken over by artisanal miners who should strive to graduate and establish compa-

nies that will pay taxes and royalty to Treasury. "Some investors have been given huge tracts of mineral land which they have kept underdeveloped while claiming that they are actually doing exploration which is unacceptable," he charged.

Nyongo paid tribute to NMB Bank for continuing to support government development efforts through financing artisanal miners including sponsoring the three days forum which imparted skills and knowledge to small business owners.

Speaking at the same event, Geita Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel said his region is facing shortage of surveyed mining blocks to allocate to artisanal miners hence requested Ministry of Minerals to do the survey as a matter of urgency.

"We need more surveyed mining areas so that our young men and women can engage in mining and other related activities," Gabriel said stressing that Geita is a mineral rich area which without surveyed areas may turn to chaos as miners invade unplanned areas.



NMB's Head of Business Wholesale, Filbert Mponzi (L), confers with Minerals deputy minister Staslaus Nyongo during the closing session of Geita business forum mid this week. Photo: courtesy of NMB

In a vote of thanks, NMB's Head of Business Wholesale, Filbert Mponzi said the bank understands the importance of micro small and medium size businesses in the development of the country hence supports them through various means including training on financial skills.

"Our hope is that they will utilise the expertise that they get from our officials here and as a bank we are ready to give them loans to develop their businesses," Mponzi said pointing out that if artisanal miners adhere to the financial skills doled to them, then lending them will be possible.

"We have been unable to lend widely among artisanal miners because of the nature of their activities which resembles nomadic movements hence without a proper address," he underscored while promising better times for Geita's mining sector if the basic financials skills learnt are put to use.



Graca Machel Trust founder Graca Machel (C) poses for a photo with other leading businesswomen at Serena Hotel in Nairobi on July 11, 2019 during the launch of Inves2Impact a business competition that provides access to funding to help develop women-led initiatives in East Africa.

OPPORTUNITY

# 100 women businesses in race for funding from G7 countries

NAIROBI

One hundred women-owned businesses in the East African Community stand a chance to secure additional capital to expand their operations and profitability through a new funding challenge launched by Graca Machel, the children and women rights advocate and founder of the Graca Machel Trust, which is partnering with the competition's funders.

Dubbed Invest2Impact, the competition and the eventual winners, will be funded by leading development finance Institutions (DFIs) from the G7 countries. Among the financiers are FinDevCanada, the Commonwealth Development Corporation Group (CDC) of the United Kingdom, Proparco of France and the Overseas Private Investment

Corporation (OPIC) of the United States and the MasterCard Foundation.

They will provide funding to the tune of up to \$85,000 to help support women-owned businesses in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Ethiopia. It is expected that each of the participating countries will produce 20 winners. "Research shows that increasing women's involvement leads to improved financial management and more sustainable, thriving communities," said Ms Machel during yesterday's launch of the competition in Nairobi.

The finance gap in women entrepreneurship is estimated at \$300 billion - about \$30 trillion - globally. That means that seven out of ten women SME entrepreneurs lack the financing they need to operate and grow their

businesses.

Businesses whose focus are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which seek to reduce poverty, increase access to health and education services, reduce hunger and increase food security, promote gender equity, create decent working conditions for their employees and spur economic growth, have a greater chance of being considered for the funding. The challenge set to start on July 11 and end on November 13 will also provide women with business development services, mentorship programmes, new networks and business visibility through partnerships.

To qualify, a business must be a woman or women owning at least half of the shareholding and have assets or revenues in excess

of \$50,000 (\$5 million). They should also have been in operation for at least three years and a minimum of five employees.

The successful businesses will be divided into four categories determined by their annual revenues, whether or not they are social enterprises or innovative businesses with a high potential to attract public support as well as those seeking to improve their marketing efforts.

"The competition is not for start-ups but established businesses," said Stephanie Emond, the Director of Impact at FinDev Canada. The 2XInvest2Impact competition which will be on an online application portal will open to the public on Monday. It will remain open to applicants for two months.

MEAN

# Waitress's R20 000 tip 'reduced to R100' after patron's wife asks for refund

EAST LONDON

A waitress at a Paarl pub was, on Saturday, given a tip of almost R20 000 - until the tipper's wife asked for a refund the next morning.

On Wednesday, Network24 reported that the patron at Breezy Hill had paid his bill of R379 - for several drinks, including brandy, whiskey and Jägermeister - and had included a tip of R19 621 to be charged to his credit card. This after the man initially wanted to pay her

R1m, the waitress told the publication.

The customer had not been drunk, she maintained, and she had checked that he was fully aware of how much money he was paying. She reportedly said the man had been speaking of how many people he helped and had claimed that he owned a number of farms.

The next day, the man's wife approached the establishment's owner, Andy Parr, and asked for the money to be returned. As the

money had not yet reached his account, Parr was able to reimburse her. The woman then tipped the waitress R100.

In 2016, News24 reported on Obz Cafe waitress Ashleigh Schultz, who received donations totalling tens of thousands of rands after student activist Ntokozo Qwabe and his party left a note on their bill reading: "We will give tip when you return the land."

Earlier this year, a Spur waiter also received

thousands after he was left a R4 tip from teenage customers who wrote on the slip that the money was "for hungry Africans," News24 previously reported.

Xolani Mbalo, who works at the Las Vegas Spur Steak Ranch in Hemingways Mall in East London, laid a crimen injuria charge against the three who had taunted him and offered him their leftover chips as he "looked hungry."

GLOOMY

# Pot investors bracing for writedowns, not profits, in second half

OTTAWA

Although pot stocks have enjoyed a heady start in 2019 due to global marijuana legalisation efforts and the burgeoning use of CBD as a wellness product, backers are starting to judge their investments by profitability instead of hype, and patience is wearing thin.

Of the five largest Canadian pot companies, only Cronos Group is expected to report adjusted net income by the final quarter of the year, according to Bloomberg data.

Instead of profit, writedowns related to unfinished inventory may be in the offing for some Canadian companies. That has some investors voting with their feet, moving out of Canada and into the US, where the marijuana companies are generally performing better despite a patchwork of state-by-state regulations.

"It's symbolic that the Canadian guys have really not been able to deliver on some of their expectations and the American companies have," said Greg Taylor, chief investment officer at Purpose Investments and manager of the Purpose Marijuana Opportunities Fund.

Until recently cannabis companies could get away with losing large sums of money as long as they said the right things about their future growth prospects. But the abrupt firing last week of Bruce Linton, co-chief executive officer of Canopy Growth, indicates that things have changed.

Canopy chief

Linton's departure came after the company lost C\$323 million in the quarter ended March 31, prompting frustration at alcohol giant Constellation Brands, which owns about 36% of Canopy and holds a majority of its board seats. Constellation CEO Bill Newlands said publicly he was "not pleased" with the results.

"Now investors are starting to judge the companies a little differently," said Charles Taerk, CEO of Faircourt Asset Management, which runs the cannabis-focused Ninepoint Alternative Health Fund. "They're starting to say, 'Wait a second, how are they profitable and you're so far from profitable?'"

A few standouts like Organigram have proven that it's possible to achieve positive earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation as the one-year anniversary of legal recreational use in Canada approaches. Aurora Cannabis also recently reaffirmed its expectation of positive Ebitda in the second quarter of calendar 2019.

Still, those that have achieved positive Ebitda aren't being rewarded yet. Organigram trades at a price-to-sales ratio of 25, well below Canopy at 65 and Cronos at 197. Overall, cannabis stocks have outperformed so far this year, with the ETFMG Alternative Harvest ETF adding 24%, and its Canadian counterpart, the Horizons Marijuana Life Sciences Index ETF, rising 23%.

Writedown worries

There's also the fear of writedowns related to inventory not ready for sale, which could be of low quality and ultimately not usable for either the dried flower or extraction market, said BMO analyst Tamy Chen.

Some companies - including Canopy, Aurora and Aphria - also carry high levels of goodwill due to their "aggressive pace of acquisitions at prices above book value," increasing the likelihood of a writedown, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Kenneth Shea.



## BUSINESS

WARNING

# Minerals Minister vows to repossess all idle claim titles

By Guardian on Saturday Reporter

ALL idle mining claim titles will be repossessed by Ministry of Minerals and given to artisanal miners so that youth can be self employed while government get its fair share of revenue.

Deputy Minerals Minister, Staslaus Nyongo said in Geita mid this week when closing an NMB Bank Plc's business forum which discussed about development and capital access that his ministry has already started repossessing such mining permits while reallocating the mining areas to small scale miners.

"As a ministry responsible for the mining industry, we will not sit back and watch some people hoard mining areas which are not developed for a long period of time," Nyongo said noting that individuals or companies which have been allocated mining areas and have not developed them, should do so immediately or risk losing them.

He said the government wants to see idle mining areas taken over by artisanal miners who should strive to graduate and establish compa-

nies that will pay taxes and royalty to Treasury. "Some investors have been given huge tracts of mineral land which they have kept underdeveloped while claiming that they are actually doing exploration which is unacceptable," he charged.

Nyongo paid tribute to NMB Bank for continuing to support government development efforts through financing artisanal miners including sponsoring the three days forum which imparted skills and knowledge to small business owners.

Speaking at the same event, Geita Regional Commissioner, Robert Gabriel said his region is facing shortage of surveyed mining blocks to allocate to artisanal miners hence requested Ministry of Minerals to do the survey as a matter of urgency.

"We need more surveyed mining areas so that our young men and women can engage in mining and other related activities," Gabriel said stressing that Geita is a mineral rich area which without surveyed areas may turn to chaos as miners invade unplanned areas.



NMB's Head of Business Wholesale, Filbert Mponzi (L) conferring with Deputy Minerals Minister, Staslaus Nyongo during the closing session of Geita business forum mid this week. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

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## EXCELLENCE

# 100 mid-sized companies contest to focus on good corporate governance

By Aisia Rweyemamu  
GOOD corporate governance and regulatory compliance are among key themes to be focused on in this year's edition of Top 100 Mid-sized companies' awards, organisers have declared.

The annual event which is initiated by KPMG and Mwananchi Communication Limited (MCL) has since 2011 recognized 100 Top Mid-sized companies that are growing faster in the market.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the launch this week, KPMG Partner Ketan Shah said the project has managed to provide recognition and support to participating companies as well as provide business benchmarks and discussion forums.

"To be successful and remain in business, both profitability and long term sustainable growth

are important and necessary in order to remain attractive to investor," Shah said.

Companies that qualify for the survey are those with a turnover range of between 1 to 20bn/-, have audited financial records for the last three years, not listed on a stock exchange market and must not be a bank or insurance company, law firm or auditing firm. Shah explained that this year's winners of the competition will be announced next October.

Speaking at the launch, the MCL Managing Director, Francis Nanai said the survey has grown from strength to strength over the years and will continue to showcase Tanzania's leading mid sized firms this year and in the future.

Nanai added that, the coming aboard of CRDB Bank Plc as new sponsor



KPMG Partner, Ketan Shah (2nd L), CRDB Bank CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela (3rd L) and MCL CEO Francis Nanai (3rd R) hold hands with other officials during the launch of Top 100 Mid-size firms competition in Dar es Salaam mid this week. Photo: Correspondent.

for the ninth edition, confirms the growing realization and appreciation by key economic stakeholders in the market. He said that the project plays a critical role in supporting the objectives of the government as it fully embraces the tenets of a strong and competitive economy.

On his remark, the CRDB CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela said the bank acknowledge the vital contribution of SMEs in the economic development of the country.

"Being a local bank with the best interest of supporting the government agenda of building a semi industrialized income

economy, we take pride in supporting the surveys," Nsekela explained. He noted that the Top 100 Mid-sized survey provides a competitive platform for recognizing entrepreneurs effort and help them create a more comprehensive network and expose them to new markets.



New York, U.S. based inDriver launches its hailing services in Kampala, Uganda.

## NEW ENTRANT

## New ride-hailing service launches in Kampala

KAMPALA

inDriver, an international online ride-hailing service with its headquarters in New York has today launched its services in Kampala.

Unlike other ride-hailing firms, inDriver has a way different model. While these ride-hailing firms estimate fares for a trip, inDriver, independently set(s) the price for their trip. inDriver allows passengers to set their own fare for their chosen route. Nearby drivers who receive notice of ride requests have three choices – accept the fare offered, ignore the offer, or bargain for a higher price.

"Until today, taxi services in Uganda did not leave any choice for locals when it came to the cost of the trip. Users were only offered to agree to the price specified in the app," said Egor Fedorov, Chief Marketing Officer, inDriver.



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Fedorov says inDriver is changing this situation and giving the riders/passengers the power to set their fares. Upon which if the driver agrees, the trip can then start. "We want customers and drivers to independently and directly determine the fair and favorable price of each trip. Already today, residents of Kampala, using inDriver, will be able to make sure that the cost of travel can be significantly lower than the usual prices," he said.

PC Tech Magazine has been told that inDriver on the other hand doesn't assign drivers automatically to the riders/passengers. Once the counter offers are in, passengers select their most suitable driver basing on their – fare, driver rating(s), estimated time of arrival or vehicle model.

Kampala becomes the first city in Uganda and in Africa where inDriver is operating. They are to expand their operations to Kenya, South Africa and Tanzania. However, a timeline of the expansion hasn't been confirmed to us.

inDriver claims to have already connected more than 1,000 drivers in Kampala, and dozens of new drivers are being registered daily. At the initial stage after the start, inDriver will not charge drivers any commission. The app is available for download for Android and iOS users.

## CRISIS

## SAA has R1.1bn stuck in cash-strapped Zimbabwe

HARARE

South African Airways has approximately \$85m (R1.1bn) locked in Zimbabwe that it cannot currently access due to the country's liquidity crisis. According to SAA Regional Manager, Winnie Muchanyuka, the funds are in Zimbabwean banks.

Zimbabwe is facing severe foreign currency shortages. Foreign currency is needed to transfer the proceeds of local ticket sales to airlines outside the country. The forex shortage has seen the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe issue an exchange control directive to banks to move funds to its coffers, in a development that is likely to further delay the payment.

The RBZ guaranteed that the funds will be paid to the beneficiaries in US dollars, a move that is meant to preserve value after the country introduced a local currency as the sole legal tender, abandoning its former multi-currency system.

SAA said it will comply with the directive to move the funds to the central bank. "SAA will comply with exchange control regulations of the land and as such the debt will be moved to Reserve Bank as per statute, we await instructions from the bank as to how the process will flow," said Muchanyuka.

Another South African-owned company, Nampak Zimbabwe, has since agreed with the RBZ terms for its \$57m (R793m) trapped in Zimbabwe. The Reserve Bank will pay Nampak International the amount owed by the Nampak Zimbabwe in quarterly installments over three years.

"An agreement was reached between Nampak Zimbabwe, Nampak International and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe," said Keith Nicholson, company secretary for Nampak Zimbabwe, is reported to have said.



A busy street with presence of Rwandan cafes in Beijing.

## COMPETITIVENESS

## Are Rwandan entrepreneurs ready for the Chinese market?

KIGALI

THE most popular Rwandan products in the Chinese market include various brands of Coffee and Tea as well as handcrafts. Other common products include: pepper, soft drinks, such as Urwibutso Enterprise products, as well as honey.

This is as result of trade cooperation between China-Africa, which has enabled Rwandan products under the Made in Rwanda initiative to enter the global market. Rwanda has been involved in a number of partnership initiatives with China such as Belt and Road Initiative, and China-Africa Cooperation among others.

In June, China hosted different events in Beijing and Hunan province as part of China-Africa cooperation to accelerate partnership and win-win scenario for a shared future especially in economy and trade. Conferences, seminars, forums and exhibitions on various

sectors including Agriculture, trade, investment and infrastructure construction were held to enable stakeholders share views on closer bilateral exchanges.

As part of the implementation and follow up of the 2018 Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held last year in Beijing, China this year held the first China Africa Economic and Trade Expo.

Based in Hunan Province, Changsha, the exhibition was launched under the theme, "Win-Win Cooperation for closer China-Africa Economic and Trade Partnership." The three day event attracted more than 10,000 guests and exhibitors, including those from 53 African countries.

Rwandan entrepreneurs turned up to create connections with their counterparts from China as well as showcasing their products. It also allowed China's state-owned and private enterprises and their African partners to sign various cooperation agreements

worth \$20.8 billion to explore new paths of cooperation and further the partnership.

Also, Hunan African Commodities Exhibition and Trade Hall was opened to act as an exhibition and trade platform for fine African products entering into Chinese market. The launch of China-Africa Economic and Trade Expo followed an ongoing six months Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition, under which nine Rwandan companies are showcasing their products.

Geraldine Ndayizeye, from Umucyo Handicrafts, has participated in both China Africa Economic and Trade Expo and 2019 Beijing International Horticulture Exhibition. The entrepreneur said that from the interactions at the exhibition, she established that the opportunities in the Chinese market should encourage her fellow entrepreneurs to boost their production and quality.

"We, Rwandan entrepreneurs, should explore Chinese market.

We should work hard to produce more with quality," she said. According to a young innovator, Gilbert Nkurunziza, who showcased leather shoes at the China-Africa Economic and Trade expo, opportunities in Chinese market will inspire more business operators to introduce their products to Chinese community as well as pursue links them with more partners to boost their production. Until now, Chinese community have showed love for Rwandan coffee which is also promoted to them through the Electronic World Trade Platform project.

Support for private sector Again, the meetings have resulted in fresh commitment by a leading Chinese lender, Export-Import Bank of China to extend financial support to Rwanda's private sector, a move which was welcomed by beneficiaries and the Minister for Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana who represented Rwanda during the meeting.

For Ndagijimana, the development is likely to help Rwanda's private sector in boosting their export volumes. The support to be provided through the bank will enable private sector operators to access long-term loans at a low internet rate.

Rwanda's envoy to China, Amb. Charles Kayonga, said that he believes that the trade opportunities will cement bilateral cooperation and that the progress is an opportunity for Rwandan firms to market their products in the Chinese market.

He also expects that the exhibition events will bring China-Africa economic cooperation to a higher level. Chinese government reiterated that the bilateral trade and economic cooperation should be practical and concrete toward the sustainable development of the participants, adding that China will keep funding projects as well as encouraging Chinese leading companies to invest in Africa.

By the end of 2018, more than 3,700 Chinese companies had been set up in Africa, with a combined direct investment exceeding \$46B. China has been the largest trading partner of Africa for ten consecutive years. In 2018, trade volume between China and Africa amounted to \$204.2B, up to 20 per cent on year according to statistics.

Last year, China's import from Africa went up 32 per cent year on year, with the imports of agricultural products up 22 per cent.



## WORLD

## Iran threatens to seize UK ship in retaliation for tanker seizure

LONDON/DUBAI

AN Iranian Revolutionary Guards commander threatened yesterday to seize a British ship in retaliation for the capture of an Iranian supertanker in Gibraltar by Royal Marines.

"If Britain does not release the Iranian oil tanker, it is the authorities duty to seize a British oil tanker," Mohsen Rezaei said on Twitter.

The Gibraltar government said the crew on board the supertanker Grace 1 were being interviewed as witnesses, not criminal suspects, in an effort to establish the nature of the cargo and its ultimate destination.

British Royal Marines abseiled onto the ship off the coast of the British territory on Thursday and seized it. They landed a helicopter on the moving vessel in pitch darkness.

The move escalates a confrontation between Iran and the West just weeks after the United States called off air strikes minutes before impact, and draws Washington's close ally into a crisis in which European powers had striven to appear neutral.

Tehran summoned the British ambassador on Thursday to voice "its very strong objection to the illegal and unacceptable seizure" of its ship, a move that also eliminated doubt about the ownership of the vessel.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said the crude oil cargo was from Iran. The ship's paperwork had said the oil was from neighbouring Iraq, but tracking data reviewed by Reuters suggested it had loaded at an Iranian port.

European countries have walked a careful line since last year when the United States ignored their pleas and pulled out of a pact between Iran and world powers that gave Tehran access to global trade in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Over the past two months, Washington has sharply tightened sanctions against Tehran with the aim of halting its oil exports altogether. The moves have largely driven Iran from mainstream markets and forced it to find unconventional ways to sell crude.

The confrontation took on a military dimension in recent weeks, with



A British Royal Navy ship (left) patrols near supertanker Grace 1 suspected of carrying crude oil to Syria in violation of EU sanctions after it was detained off the coast of Gibraltar on July 4, 2019. (AFP)

Washington accusing Iran of attacking ships in the Gulf and Iran shooting down a US drone. US President Donald Trump ordered, then cancelled, retaliatory strikes.

With nuclear diplomacy at the heart of the crisis, Iran announced this week it had amassed more fissile material than allowed under its deal, and said it would purify uranium to a higher degree than permitted from July 7.

## CREW ON BOARD

The Grace 1 was impounded in the British territory on the southern tip of Spain after sailing the long way around Africa from the Middle East to the mouth of the Mediterranean, a route that demonstrates the unusual steps Iran appears to be taking to try to keep some exports flowing.

The Gibraltar spokesman said the 28-member crew, who have remained on board the supertanker, were mainly Indians with some Pakistanis and Ukrainians. Police and customs

officials remained on board the vessel to carry out their investigation, but the Royal Marines were no longer present.

While the European Union has not followed the United States in imposing broad sanctions against Iran, it has had measures in place since 2011 that prohibit sales of oil to Syria.

Gibraltar said on Thursday it had reasonable grounds to believe the Grace 1 was carrying crude oil to the Baniyas refinery in Syria. It made no mention of the ownership of the vessel or the origin of its cargo.

Shipping experts say it may have been avoiding the more direct route through the Suez Canal, where a big tanker would typically be required to unload part of its cargo into a pipeline to cross, potentially exposing it to seizure.

If officials in Gibraltar have not fully established the nature of the cargo or the final destination, they could in the coming days ask a court for permission to hold the vessel for longer.

Agencies

## Russian S-400 defense systems arrive in Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey

THE first shipment of a Russian missile defense system has arrived in Turkey, the Turkish Defense Ministry said yesterday, moving the country closer to possible US sanctions and a new standoff with Washington.

A Defense Ministry statement said "the first group of equipment" of the S-400 air defense systems has reached the Murted Air Base near the capital, Ankara.

The delivery of parts of the system will continue in the coming days and authorities will decide "how it will be used" once the system is made operational, Turkey's defense industry authority said in a statement.

The Russian Federal Service for

Military Cooperation, which handles arms exports, confirmed to the state-owned RIA Novosti news agency that the first shipment to Turkey was dispatched on Friday. The S-400 will be delivered "in the agreed timeframe," the service said.

The US has strongly urged NATO member Turkey to pull back from the deal – reportedly costing more than US\$2 billion – warning the country that it will face economic sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act if it goes ahead with the purchase. It has also said Turkey won't be allowed to participate in the program to produce high-tech F-35 fighter jets.

Although US President Don-

ald Trump expressed sympathy toward Turkey's decision to purchase the Russian system during a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of a G-20 meeting in Japan, Washington has repeatedly said that the Russian system is incompatible with NATO systems and is a threat to the F-35.

Sanctions would mark a new low in the already-tense relations between Turkey and the US. Last year, the United States imposed sanctions on Turkey over its detention of an American pastor, triggering a Turkish currency crisis.

The deal with Russia – the first such deal between Russia and a NATO member – has also raised concerns that Turkey is drifting

closer to Moscow's sphere of influence.

Turkey has refused to bow to US pressure, insisting that choosing which defense equipment to purchase is a matter of national sovereignty.

"We've always said regarding the S400s that it's an agreement that has been finalized and the process continues to progress," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters. "There's no problem and the process will continue in a healthy way going forward."

Turkey has said it was forced to buy the S-400s because Washington refused to supply the American-made Patriot systems to Turkey.

US officials have since encour-

aged Turkey to buy the Patriot missile defense system instead of the S-400s. But Turkey says the offer does not meet its requirements, including possible future joint production.

The US has already stopped training Turkish pilots on the F-35, and given Ankara until the end of July to get its personnel out of the US.

Turkey maintains that it has fulfilled all of its financial obligations concerning the F-35 program and cannot be excluded from the project.

Turkey has refused to say where it intends to deploy the S-400. Turkish media reports have said it could take until October for the system to be fully operational.

Agencies

## UK lawmakers back diplomats after envoy to US quits

LONDON

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said British diplomats should keep speaking "without fear" after Britain's Ambassador to Washington Kim Darroch resigned over leaked messages that criticized US President Donald Trump.

In messages intended to be kept top secret, Britain's Ambassador to Washington Kim Darroch, who announced his resignation Wednesday, had described Trump's administration as "inept" and "clumsy." The US president said the White House would no longer engage with Darroch (pictured), calling the ambassador "wacky" and "very stupid."

Many British politicians voiced their support for Darroch as a major investigation is under way to track down the leak.

"Please keep speaking up without fear or favor, remembering that the UK government alone will determine appointments based on our national interest alone," Hunt was quoted by local media as saying in a message to the foreign office staff on Thursday.

"I want you to know that you will always get all the support you need to carry out your vital work," the foreign secretary added.

"I will stand up for our fantastic diplomats across the world," Boris Johnson, Hunt's rival to succeed Theresa May as prime minister, was quoted as saying on Thursday



after being criticized for refusing to support Darroch in a televised debate on Tuesday.

As analysts believe that the diplomatic row has undermined the relationship between Britain and the United States, Johnson reiter-

ated the importance of their relations but said he had criticized Trump before and would do so again if need be.

Darroch said in his resignation letter that "the current situation is making it impossible for me to

carry out my role as I would like. I believe in the current circumstances the responsible course is to allow the appointment of a new ambassador."

May said in the House of Commons that Darroch had been told that he had her cabinet's full confidence as Britain's man in Washington.

She said the resignation was a matter of great regret. "We owe him a debt of gratitude."

During his 42-year diplomatic career, Darroch has specialized in national security issues and European Union policy. He became ambassador to the United States in January 2016, a year before Trump's presidential inauguration.

Xinhua

## Kenya yet to achieve WHO recommended tobacco taxation rate - study

NAIROBI

KENYA'S tobacco taxation rate is still below the recommendation set by the World Health Organization (WHO), a study released on Thursday has revealed.

The study that was conducted by National Taxpayers Association (NTA) indicated that Kenya is yet to adopt a taxation regime that could help reduce consumption of tobacco.

"The government should introduce a uniform tax rate to gradu-

ally achieve the 70 percent share of tax in the total retail price of cigarettes," Boaz Munga, a lead researcher of the study.

He said that uniform taxation performs better on account of increasing cigarette prices, increasing cigarette excise revenue and the total tax share in cigarette prices.

"Uniform tax would result in a larger reduction in the number of smokers and larger reduction in the consumption of cigarettes," said Munga.

He urged the government to avoid

frequent amendments in the tax structure to create a simple system that deters tax evasion.

Munga called on all stakeholders to be involved in reorienting tobacco control policy to protect consumers rather than tobacco firms.

"The reorientation should be in line with international conventions and protocols for which Kenya is a signatory," said Munga.

Munga urged the government and stakeholders to engage in education and awareness campaigns to enable the country achieve its adopted vol-

untary target to reduce tobacco use by 30 percent by 2025.

Irene Otieno, national coordinator of NTA said that Kenya is obliged to protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke.

She said that even though Kenya has increased tobacco taxes, the prevailing rates which account for about 52 percent of the retail price, still fall below the recommended WHO minimum of 70 per-

cent.

"Our taxation should reach the WHO recommended standard so that the increasing Non communicable Diseases (NCDs) can be managed by health professionals," said Otieno.

The study found that tobacco is likely to impact on Kenya's national development agenda negatively given that it kills more than 6,000 individuals annually, worsens poverty, and impacts negatively on productivity.

According to the ministry of

health, it is also estimated that 5 percent of all deaths from noncommunicable diseases in Kenya result from tobacco use, while 55 per cent of all deaths from cancers of the trachea, bronchitis, and the lung are attributable to tobacco use.

The study was examining cigarette taxation in Kenya and how it affects cigarette consumption. It analyzed the probable effects of recent cigarette tax policy changes on both tax revenue and cigarette consumption.

Xinhua

## Decade on, Chinese yuan wins worldwide recognition

BEIJING

FROM a currency that barely registered in the international market to one with worldwide recognition, Chinese yuan's rise on the global stage over the past decade is a testament to China's growing economic clout and unwavering opening up.

Since July 2009 when the yuan's global journey started with a pilot scheme allowing for yuan settlements in cross-border trade, the redback's overseas footprint has been expanding rapidly, being widely used in international trade, finance as well as serving as a reserve currency.

According to a report released at the 2019 International Monetary Forum at Renmin University, the RMB Internationalization Index (RII) came in at 2.95 percent as of the end of 2018, tracking the yuan's share in global use.

Though still dwarfed by the dominance of the U.S. dollar, the reading marked a big leap from the 0.02-percent share seen a decade ago.

Another report by international financial transaction agency SWIFT showed the yuan's share in global payments rose to 1.95 percent in May, retaining its position as the fifth most active currency for domestic and international payments, behind the U.S. dollar, the euro, the pound and the Japanese yen.

Within a decade, the yuan has assumed an increasingly important role in the global trade and monetary system, and should China stay on the path of high-quality development, the currency's influence is set to rise, analysts said.

## SOUND ECONOMIC FUNDAMENTALS

The strength of a currency is backed by the country's economic performance.

Wang Fang, deputy director of the International Monetary Institute of Renmin University, attributed the yuan's wider use mainly to China's sound economic fundamentals and its status as the world's largest trader of goods.

From 2010 to 2018, China's economy expanded at an average rate of 7.8 percent annually, according to the report at the 2019 International Monetary Forum. It has for years contributed to more than 30 percent of world growth.

Even with the trade tensions with the United States since last year, China has stood firm in its pursuit of stability and progress, and continued to open up its financial market, solidifying its role as a key engine driving global growth.

While the IMF downgraded its 2019 global growth forecast by 0.2 percentage points to 3.3 percent in April, it revised its projection for China to 6.3 percent, up 0.1 percentage points from its previous estimation in January.

The stable growth has offered solid support for the yuan's strength, making the currency more attractive for global traders.

In terms of trade of goods, China's strong real economy, especially the manufacturing sector, has fueled export growth, while the country's billion-plus population has meant huge demands for imports.

In 2018, China's foreign trade in merchandise hit a historic high of 30.51 trillion yuan (about 4.5 trillion U.S. dollars), up 9.7 percent year on year, becoming a major push behind the yuan's international use.

## CEASELESS REFORMS AND OPENING UP

Committed to making the yuan a true global currency, Chinese authorities have over the years taken steady measures to reform and open up the nation's financial market.

From the current account to the capital account, a series of reforms such as improving its foreign exchange rate formation system and opening up its interbank bond and forex markets had been taken to make the yuan more freely usable.

In an acknowledgement of this progress, the IMF included the yuan in its Special Drawing Rights (SDR) basket in 2016 as a fifth currency, along with the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen and the British pound.

The SDR is an international reserve asset supplementing members' official reserves. It can be exchanged among governments for freely usable currencies in times of need, and the yuan's entry marked a milestone in its globalization march.

Since then, China has quickened its pace to push for the yuan's wider use, with increasing investment quotas for foreign institutional investors and the introduction of connect programs between stock exchanges such as the Shanghai-Hong Kong, Shenzhen-Hong Kong and Shanghai-London stock links. Whether the Chinese currency can match the country's economic and trade clout depends on the scope of non-resident use, which requires further reforms in the foreign exchange market, according to Wang.

China needs to make more efforts in developing foreign exchange derivatives to offer more products for non-residents to manage risks and win their trust, Wang noted.

Xinhua





## Green investment prioritised in Belt and Road cooperation

CHINA is reinforcing cooperation on environment-friendly investment and green financing with financial institutions from multiple countries and regions, in an effort to curb carbon emission generated from infrastructure construction, and secure low-carbon and sustainable growth of countries along the Belt and Road.

The Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH) predicted that by 2040, most of the investment demands on infrastructure would come from developing countries, especially the Belt and Road countries.

Under such circumstances, China and its partners are now devoting to establishing a network for green investors under the Belt and Road framework, and offer more support for green industries.

Last November, a set of green finance guidelines for the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was jointly issued by China's Green Finance Committee (GFC) and the City of London Corporation, and has been greeted by a number of global financial institutes since then.

By mid-March this year, nearly 20 commercial banks, stock exchanges and industrial associations from the UK, France, Singapore and Pakistan have signed up to the principles. Many multilateral development banks, consulting firms and accounting firms also voiced their support.

The principles incorporate low-carbon and sustainable development into the BRI, with an aim to enhance environmental and social risk management and encourage green investment under the Belt and Road framework.

The Green Investment Principles include seven fundamental philosophies in corporate governance, strategy-making, project management, communication with stakeholders, and the application of green financial instruments, covering three different



A Silk Road-themed rally for natural gas vehicles (NGVs) commenced in Rudong, east China's Jiangsu province on September 4, 2018. It was an event jointly organized by the largest energy companies in China, Russia and Kazakhstan as an active response to the Belt and Road Initiative. It aimed to strengthen cooperation of natural gas terminal utilization among the three countries. All the vehicles participating in the event were powered by liquefied natural gas, setting an example of clean energy consumption for the road transportation along the Silk Road Economic Belt. During the event, the capability of NGVs to cross the Eurasia transport corridor was also assessed. (File photo)

levels from strategy to operation and innovation.

Global financial organizations and enterprises participating in the Belt and Road construction and investment are welcomed to adopt and implement these proposals on voluntary basis.

"Green, low-carbon and sustainable development is an inherent nature of the BRI, and to achieve this goal needs greener investments," said an official from the GFC.

The construction and operation of infrastructure and buildings release massive greenhouse gases, the official noted, adding that the global pressure of climate change will be effectively alleviated if environment and sustainability are given more weight in this process.

The GIH estimates that the world will need \$94 trillion on infrastructure in 2040, most of which will come from developing countries, especially BRI participants.

In addition, many Belt and Road countries and regions are still relying on extensive economic growth and suffering from severe air and water pollution, posing serious challenges for their sustainable development.

"To reverse the situation, we need not only effective measures of environmental treatment, but also green financing instruments that change the incentive mechanism of resource allocation from the start of financing and investment, and make invest-

ment decision and implementation environment-oriented," said the GFC official.

Green finance will guarantee more capital flow into the green industries, as well as strict control of high-pollution and high-carbon investment, he added.

To be specific, projects' possible impacts on local ecosystem, environment and climate must be taken into full consideration before investment decisions are made. Effective measures must be taken to reduce pollution, control greenhouse gas emission and protect biodiversity.

In addition, environmental risk analysis and green finance tools, such as green credit and loan, green bonds and insurance, should be given full play to facilitate green development, prevent the potential risks of environmental and climate factors, and improve return on investment.

China will stay open and give full play to its role as an international finance center, and attract more international capital to join the Belt and Road construction in a green and sustainable manner.

The initiators of the Green Investment Principles will establish a secretariat that offers services for the signatories, including a base for green projects under the Belt and Road framework, a carbon emission calculator for development and investment projects, and a knowledge sharing platform.

Ma Jun, director of the GFC said that more financial institutes and enterprises are welcomed to support and sign the principles.

A network for green investors will be set up by the secretariat to bolster their communication, improve risk control capability of member organizations, and create cooperation opportunities of green investment for member institutions. Ma vowed.

People's Daily

Kenya urges AU to adopt new mechanisms to boost anti-graft efforts

NAIROBI

KENYA'S anti-graft officials on Wednesday challenged the African Union to adopt alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and forge joint laws to embolden campaigns against corruption in the continent.

Eliud Wabukala, chairman of the Ethics and Anti-corruption commission (EACC), said the presence of a strong mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) among African countries will boost gathering and exchange of information regarding graft which will further enforce public and criminal laws in Africa.

"AU must step up the fight against graft by forming a legislation which can steer anti-corruption efforts and create requisite synergies and enhance joint efforts to combat corruption at the African level," said Wabukala during commemoration of the third African Anti-corruption Day held in Nairobi.

He said the aim of the anti-graft body is to "prioritize high impact" cases, asset recovery, prevention of corruption and promotion of ethics and standards.

Wabukala said it had become a challenge to fight corruption as a continent due to different stumbling blocks in different countries.

He called for review of the legal framework guiding public asset recovery to ensure that wealth declaration becomes a mandatory requirement for all state officers to enhance public confidence in public administration.

"Declaration of income, assets and liabilities (DIALS) is a potent weapon against corruption and a useful tool for promotion of transparency, accountability and integrity," he added.

Xinhua

## As US debt, deficits mount, presidential candidates sweep them under the rug

WASHINGTON

IN four hours of debate among Democratic contenders for the U.S. presidency, the word "deficit" was never uttered and the government's debt was mentioned only once.

The reality is that Democrats are reluctant to make a campaign issue out of one of America's most vexing problems – the ballooning annual budget deficits and overall debt under President Donald Trump.

That's because some of their most popular policies going into the 2020 election would present significant budget challenges of their own, including expanding Medicare health coverage and offering government help to cut college costs and reduce student debt.

While Democrats insist they have workable plans that will cover the costs of these proposals, Republicans counter that their tax-rich solutions are not realistic.

On their side of the political divide, Republicans are equally interested in keeping mum on the subject, having happily backed Trump's massive tax cuts and a surge in military spending – two key drivers of the deficit blow-out after championing fiscal conservatism for years.

By supporting Trump, many Republican lawmakers have essen-



Democratic U.S. 2020 election presidential candidates Senator Bernie Sanders and Senator Kamala Harris raise their hands to indicate that they would eliminate private health care as fellow candidates author Marianne Williamson, former Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper, entrepreneur Andrew Yang, South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, former Vice President Joe Biden, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Senator Michael Bennet and Rep. Eric Swalwell listen during the second night of the first Democratic presidential candidates debate in Miami, Florida June 27, 2019. FILE PHOTO:

tially abandoned an already fading commitment to balanced budgets and cutting the national debt.

"I don't think in this election cycle there seems to be much of an interest in addressing the issue," lamented Senator Rob Portman, a former White House budget director.

Portman, a Republican, is seen as a hawk on government spending, although he was also a strong defender of the 2017 tax-cut law that will drive up the national debt by at least \$1 trillion over 10 years.

TERMITES UNDER THE PORCH

Many economists worry rising debt will bring higher interest costs, increasing the pressure on future governments to make deep spending cuts or even causing the United States to default on its debt payments, which could wreak havoc on a global scale.

It's like having termites underneath the porch, said Bill Hoagland, a senior vice president at the Bipartisan Policy Center, a Washington think tank focused on fiscal policy: "You step on the porch and everything's fine... Then one day, you fall through."

When he was running for president, Trump told The Washington Post he would pay off the national debt in about eight years. Instead, it has increased by \$245 trillion since he took office in January 2017.

The total debt outstanding, amassed over many years of deficits, is now \$22.4 trillion, its highest level ever, equal to about \$68,000 of debt for every American.

The deficit has jumped from \$666 billion in fiscal 2017, the final year President Barack Obama's administration had an impact on budgets, to an expected \$900 billion this year, and is projected to exceed \$1 trillion a year by 2022.

"The prospect of such high and rising debt poses substantial risks for the nation," the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said last month in its latest long-term outlook.

With the U.S. economy expanding, inflation and unemployment low and the stock market near record levels, the government could be expected to take advantage of the strong fundamentals to reduce deficits. But the opposite is happening.

Asked about rising deficits last month, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow last month downplayed concerns: "It doesn't bother me right now." Agencies

## Kremlin describes Putin's phone call with Ukrainian president as pragmatic

MOSCOW

THE first telephone conversation between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Vladimir Zelensky lasted about 20 minutes on Thursday, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, adding that the conversation had been pragmatic.

"As for the atmosphere of the phone call, it was the first introductory conversation between the two presidents, it was the first time they held a phone call as they hadn't contacted each other before," Peskov said. According to him, "the conversation was rather pragmatic." Peskov (pictured) added that the phone call had lasted "about 20 minutes."

The first conversation between Putin and Zelensky is important in itself, according to the Kremlin spokesman.

"It is hardly necessary to discuss tones and emotions, this is not what the conversation was for," he said when asked if Putin was satisfied with his phone call with Zelensky. "The first conversation between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents is very important in itself," Peskov pointed out.

When asked if there were plans to arrange another telephone conversation between the two presidents, Peskov



said that "there is no clear understanding at the moment."

When asked if Putin and Zelensky had discussed the possibility of releasing Ukrainian sailors arrested in Russia and Russian journalist Kirill Vyshinsky charged with high treason and arms trafficking in Ukraine, the Kremlin spokesman said the two presidents had agreed that "the work will continue at the expert level."

Peskov added that Putin and Zelensky had touched upon "the future of the Normandy talks."

The Russian and Ukrainian presidents held their first telephone conversation on Thursday. The call was initiated by Kiev. According to Zelensky's team, the phone call marks "the first step towards resuming the Normandy talks."

Agencies

## AIIB boosts common development of Asia, world

THE China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved \$7.5 billion in loans to support infrastructure projects in 13 countries of six regions, including East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia, West Asia and Africa, driving almost \$40 billion of capital into infrastructure projects over the past three years since its opening on Jan. 16, 2016.

To date, the new-type multilateral development bank, with a mission to promote infrastructure connectivity, has expanded

its membership from 57 founders to 93 approved members.

In the past three years, the AIIB demonstrated internationalism, normative operation and high standards in its governance structure, policy standards and operation mode, winning wide recognition in the international society.

It received the top-level rating by three major credit rating agencies in the world, and assigned a zero-risk weighting by the Basle Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS), a body that serves as an influential arbiter

for the best standards in financial regulation worldwide.

As an important platform that promotes the building of a community of shared future for mankind, the AIIB will continue to inject new vitality to regional and common development of the world.

In December 2018, the AIIB approved a loan of \$400 million for a water supply program in Andhra Pradesh, India, aiming to provide safe drinking water through piped water supply to 3.3 million people in the region, where severe water pollution

and poor water purifying equipment affected people's health.

The AIIB has approved nine loan projects in India including the water supply program, totaling over \$2 billion. Most of these loans were used to improve the transportation, electricity supply, water supply and other infrastructure-related areas, according to the AIIB.

India is the largest borrower of the AIIB, and the loans have improved the infrastructure in the country, said Jagannath Panda, a researcher from India's Institute for Defence Studies

and Analyses (IDSA).

He told People's Daily that the Mumbai metro line 4, a project that received AIIB funding, will reduce 35-percent amount of traffic in downtown, thus greatly improving the city's traffic.

Bangladesh is another country that suffers from outdated infrastructure, especially power shortages.

The first loan granted by the AIIB to Bangladesh was aimed to improve power supply for the country - a \$60-million capital that went to a green-field 220-megawatt combined

cycle power plant in Bhola island in the Barisal district of Bangladesh. Upon completion, the project will increase power generation by around 1,300 megawatt hours annually.

The AIIB-funded power upgrade project will increase power supply and improve local industrial development and people's livelihood in Bangladesh, where the severe power shortage is curbing the economic growth and the progress of poverty reduction, said Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur, Executive Director of the Policy Research

Institute of Bangladesh (PRI).

Among the AIIB-financed projects in Indonesia, the National Slum Upgrading Project had the most remarkable achievements, improving the livelihood for tens of millions of impoverished residents.

The project was officially launched by the Indonesian government in April 2016, aiming to improve the living conditions in targeted slums via upgrading urban infrastructure such as water supply, power supply and roads.

People's Daily





England's Joe Root and Australia's Alex Carey in action during their ICC Cricket World Cup semi final at Edgbaston in Birmingham, Britain on Thursday. (Agencies)

## Simply perfect England end 27-year final wait

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND

CRICKET can be a game of some complexity and nuance but as England showed in their dismantling of Australia in Thursday's World Cup semi-final, it can also be a remarkably straightforward sport.

Put simply, if your frontline pace bowlers are bang on the money and your opening batsmen are absolutely on fire, you aren't going to lose many games in the one-day format.

Such simplicity is a little ironic given how much England have agonised over their World Cup record – they have not reached the final since 1992 and indeed had not won a knockout round match in the intervening 27 years.

In contrast, Australia have won four of the last five tournaments but there was no sign at all of those sharply contrasting pedigrees once play began at Edgbaston.

From the outset, England's pace attack of Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer delivered exactly what their captain Eoin Morgan would have wanted from them – removing skipper Aaron Finch, David Warner and Peter Handscomb to reduce the Australians to 14-3 inside 37 balls.

They were quick and accurate and extracted the maximum possible movement out of the morning surface and although Steve Smith and Alex Carey were able to rebuild, Australia never truly recovered from that opening blitz.

"Today was close to a perfect performance, right from the two bowlers up front," Morgan said.

"Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer bowled a hell of a spell. They put pressure on with early wickets and allowed us to stay on the front foot."

### SENSIBLE START

Then, chasing a lower than expected target of 224 to win, England's opening batsmen Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow did exactly what was needed in such a situation – they batted aggressively but sensibly to reach 50 without loss at the 10-over mark.

By the time Australia broke through, with Bairstow trapped lbw by Mitchell Starc, England were over half-way to their target with nearly 32 overs remaining.

"The first three or four overs were very intel-

ligent batting. They absorbed a bit of pressure, saw that swing was going to be a little bit of a threat and the way they waited until the bowlers came into their areas to hurt them was very smart," said Joe Root, who saw England through to victory with a brisk unbeaten 49 from 46 balls.

"Once we got off to a start we were able to put more pressure on them and then felt always ahead in the game," he said.

Roy's sublime strokeplay for his 85 and Woakes's 3-20 were the two outstanding individual contributions but Adil Rashid's leg spin delivered three wickets, including the stubborn Carey to break a 103-run partnership with Steve Smith.

To a man, England delivered when it mattered and the transformation of this team, after the debacle of four years ago has been astonishing.

England didn't get out of the group in Australia and New Zealand – they won only two of their six games and were beaten by Bangladesh.

"It's been a process for the last four years. In 2015 we were way off the mark, we struggled against the top teams, and the teams that sat below that," said Morgan.

"So there was quite a drastic change in the way we played and the way we looked at playing our 50-over cricket."

Not half.

Now comes the chance to be the first England team to win the World Cup and as the chants of "Cricket's coming home" rang out, there was little doubt the public believe Morgan's team can deliver.

Morgan, though, is keeping his feet on the ground, aware that New Zealand showed their quality with the impressive semi-final win over India at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"I think New Zealand throughout the whole tournament has been probably the hardest side to beat and the best side in the group stages," said Morgan.

"I think their performance in the semi-final was probably their best. They will be a difficult side to beat on Sunday, so we are looking forward to it."

REUTERS

## Cricket: Australia back to drawing board with next World Cup on radar

AUSTRALIA'S eight-wicket mauling by England in the Cricket World Cup semi-final could see an overhaul of the squad, tactics and selection policy for the five-times champions as they plan for the 2023 tournament in India.

The comprehensive loss to a rampant England side was the first time Australia had made the last four of the competition and not advanced to the final.

England now face New Zealand in the final at Lord's on Sunday.

Despite a mixed buildup after they won just three of 18 matches in last 14 months until March this year, Aaron Finch's team entered the tournament as one of the favourites having beaten India and Pakistan in away series.

They stretched their winning streak to 10 matches until their 36-run loss to India at The Oval in the pool phase of the tournament.

Finch's men then won another five in succession before they lost to South Africa at Old Trafford in their last game before the semi-final.

Much of their success at the tournament was built on a patient approach from their opening batsmen with the pair of David Warner and Finch both assessing conditions expertly to score over 500 runs in the tournament.

It was a far cry from the tactics favoured until earlier this year when they tried to emulate England's all-out attacking approach by selecting power-hitting Twenty20 players like D'Arcy Short and Chris Lynn at the top.

Short and Lynn, however, were victims of a rotational selection policy with numerous changes to the team personnel over the last four years, ostensibly to rest senior players for test matches.

Of the 27 players given ODI debuts since the last World Cup in 2015, just five made the initial 15-man squad for the tournament with only wicketkeeper Alex Carey making a significant contribution in England.

It is also debatable how much of the current squad will be around in four years' time, with most, likely to be approaching, or in their mid-30s in 2023.

REUTERS



In this June 26, 2019, file photo, R&B singer R. Kelly, center, arrives at the Leighton Criminal Court building for an arraignment on sex-related felonies in Chicago. R. Kelly, already facing sexual abuse charges brought by Illinois prosecutors, was arrested in Chicago Thursday, July 11, 2019 on a federal grand jury indictment listing 13 counts including sex crimes and obstruction of justice. (AP Photo)

## R. Kelly now arrested again in Chicago on federal sex charges

CHICAGO

SINGER R. Kelly, already facing sexual abuse charges brought by Illinois prosecutors, was arrested in Chicago Thursday on a federal grand jury indictment listing 13 counts including sex crimes and obstruction of justice.

U.S. Attorney's Office spokesman Joseph Fitzpatrick said the R&B singer was taken into custody about 7 p.m. local time and was being held by federal authorities. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons website, Kelly is being held at the Metropolitan Correctional Center, Chicago.

He was arrested after the indictment was handed down earlier Thursday in federal court for the Northern District of Illinois.

"The counts include child porn, enticement of a minor and obstruction of justice," Fitzpatrick said, adding that further

details would be released Friday.

The arrest was the second time this year that Kelly has been taken into custody in Chicago on sex charges. The 52-year-old Grammy winner, whose real name is Robert Kelly, was arrested in February on 10 counts in Illinois involving four women, three of whom were minors when the alleged abuse occurred. He pleaded not guilty to those charges and was released on bail.

Then on May 30, Cook County prosecutors added 11 more sex-related counts involving one of the women who accused him of sexually abusing her when she was underage.

His attorneys could not immediately be reached for comment on the federal charges. Fitzpatrick said Kelly's arraignment date and time had not yet been set.

Kelly has faced mounting legal troubles

this year after Lifetime aired a documentary "Surviving R. Kelly," which revisited allegations of sexual abuse of girls. The series followed the BBC's "R. Kelly: Sex, Girls & Videotapes," released in 2018, that alleged the singer was holding women against their will and running a "sex cult."

Soon after the release of the Lifetime documentary, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx said her office had been inundated with calls about the allegations in the documentary. Her office's investigation led to the charges in February and additional counts added in May.

Kelly avoided prison after similar allegations were made more than a decade ago. A jury in 2008 acquitted him of child pornography charges that stemmed from a videotape, obtained by the Chicago Sun-Times, allegedly showing Kelly having sex with a minor. (Agencies)

## Serena keeps calm and carries on in pursuit of number 24

LONDON

THERE were no intimidating roars of "c'mon", few fist pumps and the volume was turned down on the grunting that often accompanies her matches as Serena Williams marched into her 11th Wimbledon singles final on Thursday.

Perhaps the imperious American did not need to amp it up against out-matched Czech Barbora Strycova in a 6-1 6-2 trouncing on a sunny Centre Court. It was that easy.

Maybe she is saving the growl for the final against tenacious Romanian former world number one Simona Halep when, for the third time, she will stand one win away from matching Margaret Court's 24 Grand Slams singles titles.

But then again, perhaps not.

The 37-year-old has appeared relaxed and stress-free throughout the fortnight in which she has elevated her status as the queen of Wimbledon to greater heights amongst British fans by partnering home hero Andy Murray in the mixed doubles.

There have been a few anxious moments along the way, a couple of dropped sets, but for the most part it has been a smooth ride for Williams who has settled into the groove that has earned her seven Wimbledon singles titles.

The serve is functioning like clockwork, the booming fore-



Serena Williams (USA) in action during her match against Barbora Strycova (CZE) on day 10 of the All England Lawn and Croquet Club in London, United Kingdom on Thursday. (Agencies)

hand looks potent and her movement is as good as fluid as at any time since she returned to the Tour last March having given birth to daughter Olympia in 2017.

The pressure will ramp up in the next 24 hours, especially after falling short in her last two Grand Slam finals – here last year against Angelique Kerber and then, infamously in New York where Serena lost her cool in defeat by Naomi Osaka.

But Williams, who will become the oldest woman in the professional era to contest a Grand Slam final on Saturday, is taking it all in her stride.

"Looking back, to even be in those two finals last year was unbelievable," the 37-year-old told reporters. "Now I'm in a different place. Like I just am more calm."

"Instead of having nothing to lose, I feel like I have things to lose, but I also have nothing to

lose.

"It's like I'm in the middle. I'm in a different place because I wasn't really playing a month ago, at all. So it's all kind of coming together."

"I'm not getting over-pumped, but at the same time not getting under-wound. I have to be in that right space."

### MEDIA OBSESSION

Williams also said the number 24 is becoming an obsession for the media who talk of little else.

"I actually didn't think about it since it's really not about 24 or 23 or 25. It's really just about going out there and giving my best effort no matter what," she said.

"No matter what I do, I will always have a great career."

Williams has served 45 aces on her way to the final and won three quarters of points on her first serve.

Ominously for Halep, who has lost nine of her 10 previous matches against Williams, the American 11th seed says there is more to come from her weapon of choice.

"I don't know if I've had my best serves this tournament. I've had some big ones," said Williams, whose fastest delivery so far stands at 122mph. "Two weeks ago in the tournament, I was like, 'oh, my God, I forgot about my serve'."

"It was kind of back. It felt good."

REUTERS





## Tough to do better next time - Madagascar boss

CAIRO

MADAGASCAR coach Nicolas Dupuis conceded it would be difficult for the Africa Cup of Nations debutants to eclipse their run to this year's quarter-finals in future tournaments.

The Indian Ocean islanders saw their dream run finally halted by Thursday's 3-0 loss to Tunisia, a country ranked 83 places above them in the world.

"I'm very proud of what the players have done since the start of the tournament. I tip my hat to them," said Dupuis, whose contract was set to expire at the end of the competition in Egypt.

"Today the step was too high. As for my future, it doesn't matter much. I'm someone loyal and my priority is

Madagascar."

Dupuis took over as coach of Madagascar in 2017 and has transformed a nation once ranked as low as 190th, and which had to come through a preliminary round just to take part in qualifying for this tournament, into the surprise package at this year's finals.

"I don't know if Madagascar's priority is to keep me," continued Dupuis. It's going to be difficult to do better next time. There's a lot of work to be done in Madagascar. We have to use what we did to show that work pays off.

"We need to keep working otherwise it could just be a fleeting thing. We need to get back to work."

"I have no regrets," he added. "We were up against a very good side."

AFP

## South Africa need to put plans into action, says coach Baxter

CAIRO

SOUTH Africa have impressive plans for the development of soccer in the country but need to be better at putting them into practice, according to national team coach Stuart Baxter.

After seeing his side knocked out of the Africa Cup of Nations (Afc) in a 2-1 defeat by Nigeria on Wednesday, the Englishman began addressing the "big question" of the team's future.

"It's not only talking about Bafana Bafana as a team, you are talking about individual players, their experiences playing abroad, you are talking about the youth development of the country, you are talking about talent identification, coach education," he said.

"So we have some very good plans in South Africa but the word implementation needs to be stronger."

Baxter added: "I think if we can continue the development programme, the Bafana Bafana will gain from that - but it needs supporting. Any strategies we have to develop football needs to be supported by everybody."

Although Baxter did not mention the South Africa Football Association (SAFA) directly, his remarks appeared aimed at them.

He has never been afraid to hide his irritation with the governing body, telling them last year to "get their house in order" after they dallied over setting up friendly internationals.

South Africa, who won Afcon at the first attempt in 1996 but have not been able to replicate that success, made it out of the group phase for

REUTERS

## FIFA now introduces harsher punishment for racist behaviour

FIFA is doubling its minimum ban for racist incidents to 10 games and will allow players to make victim statements and participate in the proceedings, world soccer's governing body said on Thursday.

Stricter punishments against racism and other discriminatory behaviour was a key part of FIFA's updated disciplinary code which takes effect from Monday.

"FIFA's Disciplinary Committee may permit the victim to make a statement, allowing the latter to participate in the proceedings. FIFA will not let down victims of racist abuse," the body said in a statement.

The changes follow on from several high profile incidents last season in domestic and international football.

Inter Milan were ordered to play two home games behind closed doors after their supporters racially insulted Napoli defender Kalidou Koulibaly.

Koulibaly, who received a red card for showing dissent, was banned for two matches, sparking criticism that the victim was being punished.

Montenegro were also ordered by European governing body UEFA to play a home game behind closed doors as part of sanctions handed out for the racist behaviour of their supporters during a match against England.

The updated FIFA code expands the scope of what is considered

discriminatory behaviour to anything related to "race, skin colour, ethnic, national or social origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, religion, political opinion, wealth, birth or any other status or any other reason".

A match will be forfeited by the team if their supporters are found to be guilty of racist and other discriminatory behaviour.

"For a first offence, playing a match with a limited number of spectators and a fine of at least 20,000 Swiss Francs (\$20,220) shall be imposed on the association or club concerned," FIFA said.

"Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if a match is abandoned by the referee because of racist and/or discriminatory conduct, the match shall be declared forfeited." The match can be forfeited after the referee has applied a "three-step procedure" for such incidents, which includes requesting a public announcement to call for such behaviour to cease, suspending the match until it stops, and in critical scenarios, abandoning the match altogether.

The updated code also includes the option of imposing transfer bans on clubs which default on debts in cases processed by FIFA and the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

REUTERS

# Madagascar's dream over, Tunisia and Algeria into semis

CAIRO

MADAGASCAR's fairy tale came to an end at the African Cup of Nations as the underdog was beaten 3-0 by Tunisia in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

Tunisia scored twice in eight minutes after halftime, and again in injury time. The North Africans controlled the game completely.

That set up a semifinal for Tunisia against Senegal and finally sent Madagascar, which was playing in its first major tournament, home.

Ferjani Sassi claimed the opener in the 52nd minute, helped by a big deflection off the backside of Madagascar defender Thomas Fontaine. Tunisia captain Youssef Msakni pounced on a rebound to make it 2-0.

Naim Sliti scored a third on a Tunisian breakaway deep in injury time as the Madagascans piled forward in search of something to give them hope.

Tunisia now faces Sadio Mane and the tournament favorite in the last four. Algeria and Nigeria play in the other semi. Both matches are on Sunday.

The Algerians blew a 1-0 lead and a penalty in regulation time before scraping past Ivory Coast in a dramatic shootout in their quarterfinal.

Tunisia deserved its win at Al Salam Stadium on the outskirts of Cairo, where Madagascar was hoping to continue a dream debut by making the last four.

It didn't happen, but the African Cup first-timer lit up the early parts of the tournament by stunning three-time champion Nigeria 2-0 in the group stage and getting past Congo, another former champion, in the last 16.

It was a surprise that Madagascar - ranked 108th by FIFA, just behind



Tunisian players celebrate after a goal during the African Cup of Nations quarterfinal soccer match between Madagascar and Tunisia in Al Salam stadium in Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, July 11, 2019. (AP Photo)

the Faroe Islands - even qualified for the tournament in Egypt. It ended up topping its group above Nigeria and making the last eight, and it also brought the Barea celebration to the world.

The team takes its nickname from a breed of cattle found in Madagascar, and the players celebrated each of their goals at the African Cup by putting their hands on either side of their heads and pointing their fingers up in the air like horns.

They had their country's president and the African soccer body president, who is also from Madagascar, at Al Salam Stadium to cheer them on.

In Suez, the tense shootout between Algeria and Ivory Coast, which Algeria won 4-3, capped a pulsating quarterfinal that went end to end.

Wilfried Bony had his penalty saved in the shootout by Rais Mbolhi to give Algeria the advantage. But Youcef Belaili hit the post with a spot kick that would have won it for the Algerians.

Straight after, Ivory Coast captain Serey Die had to score to send the shootout to sudden death, and he cannoned his penalty off the same post to finally seal victory for the Algerians.

Die fell back flat on his back and put his hands over his face after his miss as the Algerians sprinted to the end of the field to celebrate with Mbolhi.

Algeria led in regulation after Sofiane Feghouli's goal in the 20th minute. Striker Baghdad Bounedjah missed a penalty for Algeria soon after halftime, and Jonathan Kodjia equalized for Ivory Coast.

Bounedjah won the penalty himself when he was taken out by Ivory Coast goalkeeper Sylvain Gbohouo. With the chance to give Algeria a 2-0 lead, he hit his penalty high down the middle, and it clipped the crossbar and went over.

Ivory Coast took advantage. Wilfried Zaha made a surging run and found Kodjia on the right. He cut in and put his shot in the bottom corner.

Bounedjah was substituted in the second half and spent the rest of the game in tears on the bench, fearing his miss had cost Algeria a place in the last four.

It didn't, and Algeria still has the chance to win its second African title and first since 1990.

AP

## Transfer saga awaits Zaha after Ivory Coast AFCON exit

SUEZ, EGYPT

A SINGLE kick can make the difference between a summer of glory and one of doubt. When Serey Die stepped up to take Ivory Coast's fifth penalty, knowing he had to score after Youcef Belaili's miss had given Les Elephants a reprieve, the watching Wilfried Zaha might have felt particularly inclined to say a prayer.

Zaha's work had long since been done here; he had set up a second-half equaliser for Jonathan Kodjia with a blistering run before being sacrificed for Maxwell Cornet's fresher legs early in extra time. But when Die struck exactly the same post as Belaili, turning the Suez Stadium pitch into a swarm of delirious Algerians, reality bit. The next eight days will not be a white-knuckle ride towards the Africa Cup of Nations final. Instead Zaha must return to London and face up to the swirling speculation about his club future that has stalked him around Egypt throughout the past three weeks.

- It could be a long few weeks for anyone wondering whether Crystal Palace's talisman will eventually switch to Arsenal - a move he is reported to want but about which he has kept his counsel. If any of Unai Emery's spies were looking to see how he shouldered the responsibility of carrying an African superpower's hopes during this tournament, they may return to North London with mixed feelings.

Zaha sprang to life after starting the tournament on the bench, his two goals including a round-of-16 winner against Mali, but his overall form was mixed and the moment came here when his - and the Elephants' - luck ran out.

At Palace, where most of his teammates boast only a fraction of his ingenuity, Zaha has become regarded as one of the Premier League's great soloists - which can be both high praise and a criticism in equal measure. There is sometimes a sense he tries to take on too much for his country, too.

Here, he spent an hour running into blind alleys, failing to release the ball in promising positions and overcooking his first touches. Nothing was really coming off but then, with a dart that sliced through midfield, he opened up the pitch and found the perfectly weighted pass from which Kodjia, jinking inside, finished superbly.

Moments later Zaha conceded possession in a similar area and was lucky to see Baghdad Bounedjah, who had earlier clipped the bar with a spot kick,



miss a one-on-one as Algeria broke. Zaha is a risk taker and, had Die kept his cool later on, Ivory Coast might have profited handsomely. Instead they fell the wrong side of the margins; just like every game Zaha plays, this one contested on the edge. For Algeria, who had marginally more

of the play over 120 minutes but failed to build on Sofiane Feghouli's well-taken opener, the manner of this win underlined their status as tournament favourites but posed a few questions too.

Riyad Mahrez, their own Premier League star, has played more of a

supporting role to Bounedjah and the brilliant Belaili at this AFCON and did not quite hit the high notes here, slipping one first-half opportunity wide and seeing Mamadou Bagayoko brilliantly clear another shot off the line after the break.

If he steps up half a gear then, given the smoothness of their all-round performances, Algeria should have the X-factor that carries them beyond Nigeria in Sunday's semifinal. His off-pitch influence remains profound, however.

"Mahrez was the one talking a lot as usual," said his coach, Djamel Belmadi, fondly when recalling how the Manchester City player had offered pep talks before the shootout. He had been substituted by then, but was intent on retaining some level of impact.

Belmadi clung to Youcef Atal, the Algeria right-back who departed early with a shoulder injury, beside the dugout as the penalties were taken. "He [was] crying because he sees the match is difficult... it wouldn't be human if I didn't react," Belmadi said, before admitting that he cried "maybe a little" himself. It was that kind of night: the best match of this year's AFCON so far and one that tested both of these heavyweights to their very limits.

In the end, though, it was Zaha and Ivory Coast who felt genuine sorrow. There is sometimes the concern that players carry international disappointments into their club form during the early stages of a season. The transfer saga he looks likely to feature in upon his return to England may serve to clear his head in short order.

(Agencies)

Gwiji by David Chikoko





# SPORT

Madagascar's dream over,  
Tunisia and Algeria into semis

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## National volleyball club championship attracts 18 teams

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

EIGHTEEN teams have confirmed to compete at this season's national volleyball club championship slated for the end of this month in Morogoro.

Tanzania Volleyball Association (TAVA), through one of members of the tournament organizing committee, Dismas Dick, said the championship, which will involve both men and women, will be held at Police Officers Mess grounds in Morogoro from July 23-27.

He said the clubs, which will emerge as winners, will represent the country at Africa Volleyball Club Championship slated for next year at a country and date to be announced later.

Dick named the men's teams, which have confirmed to take part, as Jeshi Stars, JKT, Chui, Shinyanga, Moro Stars, Moro Stars Youth, Pentagon VC, Best Six, Njombe, Magu, MTC, BoT and Dodoma Combine.

Women's teams are Jeshi Stars, JKT, Star Girls, Moro Stars and Kigamboni Volleyball Club.

The championship is organized by TAVA in collaboration with Morogoro regional volleyball association (Moreva).

"All is set for the coming championship, this time around many teams have confirmed to compete and teams which will emerge as champions will represent the country at the African Club Championship next year, currently we are still looking for the sponsors for the champions," he said.

Last year the championship was held in Dodoma and Dar es Salaam's Faru Club won the men's category of the event.

## CBA Chairman's Trophy golf tournament scheduled for next week

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

THE CBA Chairman's Trophy golf competition has been slated for July 20 at Lugalo Golf Club in Dar es Salaam.

The club's members and invited golfers will battle it out in the tournament, which has been sponsored by CBA Bank Tanzania.

Michael Luwongo, the club's chairman, told the press yesterday they have as well sent invitation to golfers from Malawi's army to put their skills to show in the competition.

"We thank CBA Bank a lot for cooperating with us to facilitate the hosting of the competition," Luwongo noted.

"We were invited by Malawi to compete in the tournament held in the country in 2016 and we have this year opted to send invitation to them to battle it out in this year's event. Top army officers from Malawi will participate in the event."

Luwongo noted Lugalo Club's active members that include amateurs and professionals will have opportunity to compete in the event.

The CBA Bank, the tournament's main sponsors, noted they have decided to back efforts by the club to develop golf.

The bank's Marketing Manager, Solomon Frank, noted the institution has sent invitation to Kenya golfers to participate in the 18-hole tournament.

"We have sent invitation to Kenya golfers to take part in the event, some of them are CBA Bank employees and others are golfers who are currently excelling in the country," he noted.

The tournament which is an annual feature has got greenlight from the Chief of Defense Forces, Venance Mabeyo, the outfit's patron.

# Tanzania set to field one swimmer in World Para Swimming Championship

Sokolo, according to Dandi, was in particular in scintillating form when he represented the country at the last year's Kenya Para Swimming Championship, where he performed well in 100m Breaststroke and Freestyle events.

Dandi, said the swimmer who is studying at Pugu Secondary School will be accompanied by coach, Ramadhan Namkomveka.

The duo has been sponsored by the Agitos Foundation while TPC will pay for their visas only.

"We are very happy that our athlete will compete at the world para swimming championship in London," the TPC official said.

"He is a good swimmer and I'm confident that he can perform well...we are happy that after many years of sending our athletes to international events on wild card this time around we are sending an athlete who has qualified."

Namkomveka said he is confident that Sokolo will perform well at the championship, noting his confidence is coming from the fact that the athlete is hardworking and is determined to do well. He said at the London championship Sokolo will compete in 50m and 100m freestyle events.

"Sokolo is a hardworking and a very determined athlete, I'm very happy with his attitude and as his coach I can say here that he will perform well at the London championship," he said.



Swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkomveka (L), trains one of Dar es Salaam Paralympic swimmers at Nordic School in the city recently. PHOTO: JOSEPH MCHEKADONA

Meanwhile, Dandi asked companies, organizations and individuals to help his association with funds and materials so as they can send athletes to next year's Africa Paralympic Games which will be held in Morocco.

He said TPC plans to send weight lifters and goalball players to the Morocco games which will

also be used as qualification for the next year's Olympics.

"We are asking all sports stakeholders in the country and beyond to help us with finances and materials for the next year's Africa Paralympic Games which will be held in Morocco," Dandi disclosed. "We have good athletes who can bring to the coun-

try medals, but the problem is that we do not have the resources to send them to the games."

"It will be very painful to miss the next year event as you know due to financial constraints we have also failed to send our athletes to the coming All Africa Games which will be held in the same country," he said.

## Ismaili Community cricketers face Sandy Super Strikers' acid test in GP Gymkhana Shield 2019

Guardian Reporter

ISMAILI Community cricketers have an opportunity to get off to an impressive start in the GP Gymkhana Shield tournament, as they are set to come up against Sandy Super Strikers in Dar es Salaam today.

The tournament, organized by Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club DGC Cricket Section, involves sides from across the city which lock horns in T20 matches.

Ismaili Community team, made up of a host of experienced performers that include gifted skipper, Arshaan Jessani, will certainly be looking for a resounding win over Sandy Super Strikers that are the competition's debutants.

Aahil Jessani of Ismaili Community squad was among the tournament's previous edition's best performers with the ball and the promising bowler will this season be keen on maintaining his scintillating performance.

Three duels have been slated for the following day. The first will pit Union Sports Club against Tarangani.

Sameer Mussa, Union Sports Club skipper, noted he is confident that they can turn their fortunes around and grind out a win in their second game.

The side started this year's competition on a wrong foot, conceding a loss to Jaat Blasters at the same venue last Saturday.



Surat Stars' player Hitesh Bhatt poses with a trophy, which will be presented to this year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition's winners, during the tournament's launch in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Tomorrow's second game will see Punjabi Kings look for their second win from as many games, given they will play Karnataka Kings.

In the third and final game of the day, the tournament's defending champions Caravans will confront Surat Stars in the afternoon.

Caravans, made up of a solid team of highly experienced players will be confident of getting three points against Surat Stars.

This weekend is set to see some exciting games at the oval, as noted by DGC Cricket Section Captain Ashish Nagewadia.

With such teams like Ismaili Community, Punjabi Kings and Caravans playing one is always likely to see high scoring games, he noted.

"All three teams are endowed with exception talent in their respective squads," he noted.

The Gymkhana Shield 2019 red by General Petroleum (GP) and Premium Refinishes Ltd are this year's GP Gymkhana Shield sponsors.

Mgen Tanzania, ASAR Limited, Sayona, Pepsi, Jaykey Trading, Afro Turk and I&M Bank are the competition's co-sponsors.

All matches are taking place at Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's cricket venue during weekends.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

