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AGRICULTURE



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Rwanda refutes DRC boundary closure reports

KIGALI

RWANDAN health minister Diane Gashumba yesterday dismissed reports that Rwanda had closed its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) over fears of Ebola outbreak.

"Rwanda has not closed its border with the DRC. What you are reading in media is not true, but people simply misunderstood the situation at the border this morning," Gashumba told Xinhua in a telephone interview. People were delayed at the border in the morning as they were being sensitized on signs and dangers of Ebola virus and measures to prevent themselves from being infected, she said.

Olivier Nduhungirehe, minister of state in charge of the East African Community in the Rwanda foreign ministry, on a twitter post also refuted reports saying Rwanda had closed its border with the DRC over fears



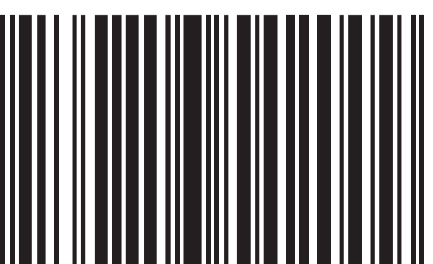
Rwanda has not closed its border with the DRC. What you are reading in media is not true, but people simply misunderstood the situation at the border this morning

of Ebola spreading. "The border was not closed. This was a misunderstanding," said the minister, who had been quoted by some media as the state official who confirmed the closure.

The DRC presidency said in a statement earlier on Thursday that Rwanda has closed its border with the DRC after a man died of Ebola in the eastern DRC city of Goma which borders Rwanda to the east. The man, in his 40s, has tested positive for the deadly virus and died on Wednesday in the populated city of Goma. He was the second confirmed Ebola case in the city.

The DRC health authorities announced late Wednesday night the confirmation of a third case in the city of Goma. The Rwandan health ministry on July 15 warned Rwandans against unnecessary travel to Goma, which shares the border with western Rwanda's Rubavu district with daily border crossings between the two countries estimated at about 100,000

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JPM warns of red tape and bribe soliciting killing off investments



President Dr. John Magufuli briefly relives his 2015 General Election campaign days by joining Tanzania One Theatre artists in an impromptu push-up session shortly before inaugurating the newly completed state-of-the-art Terminal III of Dar es Salaam's Julius Nyerere International Airport yesterday. Photo: State House

"Let's change our mindsets and do away with the business-as-usual bureaucratic ways we were used to"

By Guardian Reporters

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday assured investors of full government support, warning officials who hinder investments through bureaucracy and corruption to change tact or face sacking.

To that end, the president directed the minister for Industry and Trade, Innocent Bashungwa to monitor the conduct of government officials in charge of investment with a view to ensuring that those who stand in the way of progress are kicked out of government functions.

Speaking during the opening of the new 105bn/- worth 21st Century Food and Packaging Limited owned by the Mohammed Enterprises (T) Ltd in Dar es Salaam, the president asserted that the government is committed to supporting both local and foreign investors.

"There are some government officials who encumber investors with unnecessary red tape while others solicit bribes. Minister, work on this matter," he emphasized.



We have decided as a country to depend on ourselves. This project is a manifestation of such a thatmspirit and many countries are admiring us. Our country is rich we can do a lot if we firmly decide

"Let's change our mindsets and do away with business-as-usual bureaucratic ways we were used to."

He reiterated the position that the government will support investors who are serious, because the fifth phase government champions investors and the private sector.

Dr Magufuli alerted investors to make good use of available opportunities in view of government policy, because if they let the chances slip away, they may never find them again. "Let me tell investors this is the time, invest in building industries," he pointedly affirmed.

He also asked Mohamed Enterprises Ltd to invest in wheat farming in order to reduce the cost of importing the grain.

The factory has the capacity to process 300 tonnes of local maize and 500 tonnes of imported wheat per day.

Dr Magufuli congratulated the company on the huge investment which has created a lot of employment opportunities, noting that he agreed to flag off the new industry so as to make them envoys for promoting Tanzania as an excellent place to direct investments.

Erier in his remarks, Mohamed Dewji, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Mohamed Enterprises Ltd, told the president that they have employed more than 30,000 in their enterprise, while the launched factory employs 380 people.

"We are pleased with the leadership and reforms your government is making," he said.

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Seed regulator, TTCL to control counterfeiting via mobile app

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) and the Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL) have partnered and launched a new quality control system using a mobile application aimed at curbing the counterfeiting of seeds.

The initiative was launched on Tuesday in



The agreement we have signed will help to assure farmers better seeds for farming

Dar es Salaam, with the TTCL chief executive officer and TOSCI general manager signing the agreement.

Speaking to reporters, TOSCI GM Patrick Ngwediagi said there has been massive counterfeiting of seeds certified by TOSCI.

"We have therefore opted to shift to electronic means in order to ensure that we

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Boma Raballa (2nd-R), CRDB Bank Plc's SMEs banking director, briefs Agriculture deputy minister Hussein Bashe (R) at the bank's pavilion at Simiyu Region's Nyakabindi grounds yesterday shortly after Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan opened this year's edition of the week-long Nane Nane (Farmers Day) exhibition. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Kizimbani Agriculture Training Institute student Faki Ali Faki (L) briefs Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein and Second Vice President Seif Ali Iddi shortly after Dr Shein opened an agriculture exhibition at Kizimbani grounds in West A Unguja District yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

Seed regulator, TTCL to control counterfeiting via mobile app

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provide protection of seeds too," he said.

"We have established that the labels that we produced were too weak and easy to forge by anyone," he stated.

The manager said they decided to come up with an innovative way of addressing the problem by introducing a system for quantifying the seeds by using mobile technology.

TOSCI experts took up a presidential directive to public institutions to make use of the telecom company (TTCL) in order to contribute to its growth.

"The agreement we have signed will help to assure farmers better seeds for farming," he asserted.

TTCL CEO Waziri Kindaba said the telecom firm joined the project to help farmers obtain better seeds to accelerate production and boost

the country's economy through modernized agriculture.

Through the system farmer g checks if seeds are certified by sending the code number to a receiver number with the certification body, identified as 15035 and receive the answer whether the sample is genuine or fake.

Kindaba noted that the system will be showcased during the agricultural exposition named Nanenane where a

wide section of farmers will hear about the new application.

"Any farmer with the mobile of any network can access the service," the GM noted.

TTCL is the founder of the idea and he is the one that operates the system. "The inspector will work closely with farmers to get to know those who sells fake seeds," the TOSCI chief executive said.

JPM warns of red tape and bribe soliciting killing off investments

FROM PAGE 1

promising more investments.

Dewji stated that the investment community was pleased with the huge investment in railways that will considerably reduce transportation costs.

The president also launched Terminal Three of the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA), a facility capable of handling six million passengers annually.

During the ceremony, Dr Magufuli announced that the government has purchased three more aircrafts for Air Tanzania, raising its fleet from eight to eleven.

He said the newly launched facility will raise the number of tourists and was also a national symbol, adding to the scenic beauty of Dar es Salaam city.

"We have decided as a country to depend on ourselves. This project is a manifestation of such a thatmspirit and many countries are admiring us. Our country is rich we can do a lot if we firmly decide," the resident declared.

On the three purchased planes, the president did not go into details on when they will arrive in the country, the type of plane and where they were purchased.

The facility together with other two terminals makes the entire JNIA have the capacity to handle more than eight million passengers, raising it to one of the top 10 airports in Africa on the basis of 2018 travel data.

He directed the Ministry of Works, Transport and Communication to ensure that business space at the new premises is offered to Tanzanians.

Building the new facility cost the government about 705bn/- with 15percent of the costs paid in cash, and the rest being loans from various sources.

Dr Magufuli said Terminal Three has been built using taxpayers' money and thus there was need for Tanzanians to feel good that their money had brought about.

The launching of the facility was a milestone in local aviation sector development, creating greater potential for tourism sector development.

The president noted that the government has set aside 1.8trn/- for renovation and construction of airports, with all the funding being taxpayers' money.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads) Chief Executive Officer Patrick Mfugale said that the contractor and consultant were paid 687.4bn/- and 13.1billion/- respectively.

Terminal One and Two have a combined capacity for two million passengers per year, shared out as 500,000 and 1.5 million travelers for the first and second terminals respectively.

Earlier, the Speaker of National Assembly Job Ndogai assured the president that the National Assembly that he leads was with him in his endeavors to transform Tanzania.

Rwanda refutes DRC border closure reports

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people.

The World Health Organization last week commended Rwanda on its ongoing Ebola preparedness efforts and confirmed that no cases of Ebola

have been reported in the central African country. This week marked one year since the start of the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the DRC that has already killed more than 1,700 people, making it the second worst Ebola outbreak in history.

Shock as China's laptops gift to Kenyan parliament disappears

NAIROBI

THE Chinese government has expressed shock after a consignment of laptops and projectors donated to Kenya's Parliament, reached its recipient empty.

Chinese Embassy officials in Nairobi said yesterday that the gift of "friendship" had been part of a pledge by Cao Jianming, the Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, who had visited Kenya nearly four months ago.

Cao, who became the third senior Chinese parliamentary official to visit Kenya in five years, had asked the Chinese Embassy to facilitate the delivery of the goods.

"We were shocked to be notified by the National Assembly that when the container (containing the laptops and projectors) arrived in Parliament on Tuesday, July 30, and was opened by Assembly officials, it was empty," said the Chinese Embassy in a statement.

Michael Sialai, the Clerk of the National Assembly on Thursday said the container tagged 'diplomatic goods' had been opened in the presence of senior officials but had nothing inside.

"Upon opening of the container seals, it was confirmed to have been empty," Mr Sialai said in a statement. Mr Sialai said he asked the detectives from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) attached to the Parliament Road Police Station to look into the incident.

According to the embassy, the consignment was duly dispatched and was expected to be delivered to Parliament in July this year.

It is not yet clear whether the equipment was removed from the container before the shipment arrived in Kenya, or after it had landed in the country.

Normally, under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, goods tagged 'diplomatic' cannot be opened even by Customs officials at the ports of entry, except if the sending or recipient diplomatic mission agrees to it.

By yesterday morning, the agent tasked with delivering the goods, Ballore Africa Transport and Logistics

Ltd, had not responded to the inquiries.

China National Enterprises Ltd had been assigned by Beijing to send the goods.

The Embassy said it was shocked by the development and was working with security forces to investigate the incident.

"We believe that with professionalism of DCI, this matter will be resolved and the equipment recovered with their intervention."

Whether the container was loaded empty by mistake, goods stolen in transit or emptied by rogue officials on the Kenyan side is yet to be determined. But it could raise key security questions for Parliament.

Tasked with watching over key policies including those that protect Kenya's national interest, questions have now been raised on why Parliament would accept a donation of computers from China.

Barely a year ago, the Chinese fought back claims of bugging at the African Union headquarters they helped built in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

French newspaper Le Monde had reported that Chinese officials had placed wire taps inside the USD200 million building, listening in to conversations on key decisions of the continental body. Both China and AU dismissed the report. The Chinese installed the computer system in use in the building.

In Kenya, the Chinese argue the computer donation was as "a gesture of friendship."

Back in April, Cao who had also met with President Uhuru Kenyatta, met with his Kenyan equivalents, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Moses Cheboi, and his Senate Counterpart Prof Kithure Kindiki "where they held separate bilateral talks touching on parliamentary cooperation between the two countries."

"Over the years, the Chinese government has made friendly donations to our Kenyan brothers and sisters, including food aid, medical and office equipment. Among them was office equipment donated to Parliament in 2018. All have been delivered safe and sound," the Embassy said. Sialai said he hoped DCI would help resolve the matter.



Kisimani Secondary School student Vicent Laizer (R) pictured yesterday briefing Education, Science, Technology and Vocational Training minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako (L) at this year's edition of the Young Scientists Exhibition now in progress in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Egypt plans to build solar power plants in seven African countries

By Guardian Reporter

EGYPT has announced plans to construct solar plant across seven African countries as part of their commitment to help the continent in its development process and improve the renewable energy performances of those countries.

The Arab Organization for Industrialization (AOI), one of the largest industrial organisations in Egypt, will launch solar power plants

in Uganda, Congo, Tanzania, Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan, with capacities ranging from 2 to 4 megawatts.

Egypt, which is already building one of the world's largest and most ambitious solar energy projects, carried out the implementation and supply activities in cooperation with its Military Production Ministry while the seven countries identified the priority areas for the implementation of these stations.

The solar energy stations will be

used in lighting and desalination through an Egyptian grant worth US \$12m, Mohamed El Khayat, the renewable energy authority head said. The company hopes to be completed by 2020.

Mohamed El Khayat, the renewable energy authority head said that Egypt also decided to locate and design each station and carry out installation, construction and operation works. The African continent has been facing tough times with shortage of power.

The frequent cuts in power supply have been having a toll on businesses and domestic consumers.

According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), the energy poverty in Africa is estimated to cost the continent 2-4 % GDP annually. It is estimated that in the Sahel region - Senegal, Nigeria, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Sudan, and Eritrea, about 64% of the population lives without electricity, hindering economic and social development.



A member of the Vodacom staff (L) guides former Prime Minister Edward Lowassa in biometric SIM-card registration at the latter's office in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Aboubakary Liongo

24 Maasai youth undergo training in masonry, carpentry

By Guardian Correspondent, Manyara

THE first batch of 24 Maasai students undergoing vocational trainings kicked off yesterday in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, thanks to the numerous support from non-governmental organization-ECLAT Development Foundation.

The local NGO constructed the training center in collaboration with the Germany based Upendo Foundation. The center will be managed by the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA).

VETA Coordinator in Central Zone, Abdulkadiri Yussuf said they have resolved to start with masonry courses due to high demand of

the service in the Simanjiro and neighboring districts including Kiteto. "There is high demand of builders in Simanjiro district as many people are now constructing houses. We have been witnessing a number of carpenters hired from Arusha city working on various projects in our district", Yussuf noted.

Yussuf informed that in the second phase, the center will offer carpentry, electrician and embroidery courses. He said that in future the students will be trained on how to make various agricultural tools.

He said the target is to enroll 250 students from the Maasai community whereas they will also be educated on modern animal keeping to enable

the young people generate income through selling of goats, cows and sheep.

He said the management has in this financial year allocated 81m/- for construction of another dormitory with the capacity to accommodate 24 students. He said the centre covers an area measuring 100 acres.

Chairman of ECLAT Development Foundation, Peter Toima said the NGO spent 531m/- in the first phase implementation of the project which included construction of classes, dormitory, kitchen, toilets, installation of electrical and water systems.

"We are supporting the government towards its endeavor to create skilled labour force to work in the established

industries. We have also considered the requirement of Simnjiro residents who were in need of builders and carpenters.

Chairman of Upendo Foundation, Dr Fred Heimbach urged the students to concentrate on their studies for their future benefits. He insisted that performing well in the courses will enable them secure jobs at different companies.

Emboret Ward Councilor, Christopher Kuya said: "The center will help many young people who have completed their primary and ordinary secondary education".

Kuya said the demand for builders and carpenters in the district is high due to ongoing construction projects.

WFP tells agripreneurs to eye sorghum farming

By Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

THE World Food Programme (WFP), the biggest buyer of relief food in Tanzania for use in its operations in the East African region, has urged agripreneurs to step up production of sorghum as there is waiting market.

The WFP Country Representative Michael Dunford said here on Tuesday that there huge opportunity for farmers and agri-businesses in the country to mint money by selling his organization sorghum.

He spoke after a wagon ferry, Mv Umoja departed Mwanza South port carrying 19 rail wagons full of humanitarian food assistance for WFP operations in South Sudan.

That shipment marked the re-opening of the rail-lake rail corridor on Lake Victoria which had closed over 10 years. Since its re-opening, WFP has transported almost 36,000 metric food across Lake Victoria by using the rail wagon ferry, 40 percent of that coming from local purchases. That has helped to boost the economy and supporting smallholder farmers, he said.

In 2018, WFP purchased 4,800 metric tonnes of sorghum from Tanzania that is an opportunity for the crop's farmers in the country, the Representative of WFP in the country, Michael Dunford has said.

Dunford made the remarks in Mwanza on Tuesday during the flagging off ceremony of Mv. Umoja that plies between Mwanza South port and Port bell, Kampala Uganda where WFP is a key stakeholder of the vessel's operations.

According to Dunford, WFP supports the climate smart sorghum project for smallholder farmers with focus on the crop's value chain in central part of the country, mainly Dodoma.

The aim is to improve smallholders' market access and resilience to climate change through the adoption of good agricultural practices, a revolving fund to access improved seeds and organization

of farmers into marketing groups, he said.

He noted that to date 6,000 farmers in Dodoma have been reached under the climate smart sorghum project that helps farmers to diversify crops and provide another opportunity for export for humanitarian operations.

Tanzania is one the piloting countries of the Farm to Market Alliance (FtMA) that is a consortium of eight global public and private sector partners that include Bayer, Grow Africa, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Rabobank, Syngenta, Yara International, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and WFP, he noted.

He stated that in 2018, FtMA supported 26,000 smallholder farmers, 40 percent women by providing access to affordable input and output finance, access to improved farming practices as well as improved post-harvest handling, storage and crop aggregation and access to share markets.

WFP leads the agricultural component of the Kigoma Joint Programme (KJP) that is a joint United Nations (UN) initiative designed to support refugees and communities in Kigoma region.

It was involved in the formulation of the second phase of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) that was launched in September last year. The project is still in its initial development and will be piloted in Mwanza, he noted.

He stated that with the beyond cotton project, WFP through south-south cooperation, aims to help small scale cotton farmers and public institutions in the country to commercialize cotton by products such as oil and cotton seed meal and other products from crops combined to cotton production such as corn, sorghum and beans.

According to him, aim of the initiative is to contribute to increasing the income of smallholder farmers and improving their food nutrition security.



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (R) has a word with Zanzibar residents waiting to register for electronic passports, as found at the Zanzibar Immigration Department headquarters yesterday. Next to him is Zanzibar's Commissioner for Immigration, Johari Suluhu. Photo: Home Affairs ministry

Zanzibar gets 135bn/- loan for its irrigation schemes

By Guardian Reporter

THE Zanzibar government has secured a \$ 59 million (over 135bn/-) loan from Exim Bank of Korea for construction of irrigation schemes in Unguja and Pemba.

President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein revealed this yesterday when speaking at the opening of the farmer's exhibition-'Name Nane' held at Langoni grounds in Western 'A' district in Urban West region.

The event was attended by political parties' leaders, government officials and Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Ambassador Seif Ali Idd.

The schemes measuring 1,524 hectares will be built at Makwararani and Mlemele in Pemba and in Unguja at Cheju, Kibokwa, Chaani, Kinyasini and Bumbwisudi.

He said the contractor, KOLON Company Limited has started to implement the projects at Chaani and Kinyasini basins.

He said the main purpose is to increase rice production to save monies that are currently spent to import rice. He directed the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries to establish more rice shops in both, Pemba and Unguja Islands.

He said the government in Zanzibar has set aside 20m/- for youth empowerment whereby 10m/- is sourced locally and another 10m/- is from the 'Khalifa Fund' from United Arab Emirates (UAE). He said the program will be implemented in five years from 2019 to 2024.

"We aim at empowering young people to grab and utilize opportunities in the agriculture sector. We are also targeting to increase food production and boost the country's economy", he noted.

According to Dr Shein, the Isle's agricultural budget has increased by 29 percent to 88.17bn/- in 2019/2020 from 62.62bn/- in 2018/2019. He said the improvements are in line with CCM election manifesto 2015-2020 and the Zanzibar

strategy for growth and reduction of poverty (ZSGRP III).

He said plans are underway for the purchase of two modern fishing boats worth 2.2bn/- with the capacity to carry 43 tonnes of fish. He said to ensure effective deep sea fishing, the government is reviving the Zanzibar Fisheries Company (ZAFICO) as well as construction of fish processing factory worth 6bn/-.

Earlier, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Mariam Abdallah Sdalla said that since the government started to celebrate the farmer's day in 2017, there have been a number of achievements including the increase in participants from 83 to 172.

She said that a total of 106m/- have been spent in preparation of the exhibition whereas 86m/- was from central government and the remaining from private sector.

JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
KATIKA BARAZA LA ARDHI NA NYUMBA WILAYA YA
ILALA
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MAKUBU MOHAMED amekasidhi shauri mbele ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba (W) Ilaa Mlipo (Mwajibu House Ghorofa ya 6) Maombi hayo yamepangwa kutajwa tarehe 28/08/2019 saa 3:00 asubuhi. Hiyo basi unatakiwa wewe mwenyewe au wakili wako kutata utafiti 'Written Statement of Defense' ndani ya siku 21 kutarajiwa tarehe ya tangazo hii kutokana. Hukuma ya kwanza inayopitishwa shauri hii inatopitishwa kutika Mawajibu ya wazi ya Baraza la Ardhi na Nyumba (W) Ilaa. Endapo hatahukuma haya, maombi hayo yatahukuma upande mmoja na umuzi/wazi kutokana.
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Tanzania Cigarette Public Limited Company (TCC Plc) wishes to inform its esteemed Shareholders that the payment in respect of the 2018 interim dividend in October 2018 will stop after 30 days from the first appearance of this notice.

TCC Plc requests all Shareholders who have not yet collected their dividends to do so through their selected Post Offices.

Please do not hesitate to contact our agent, CAD Securities Limited through the below address, should you require clarification on the collection of the above payment or to arrange for:

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P O Box 11488
Dar es Salaam
Tanzania
Tel: +255 779 303030
Email: info@cadsecurities.com

Call to Tanzania citizens to attend SADC industrial displays in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIANS have been called upon to participate in the coming Southern African Development Community (SADC) industrialisation week exhibition to be held in the country's commercial capital—Dar es Salaam from August 5 to 8.

This was said yesterday by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Prof Joseph Buchweishaija when briefing journalists on the industrialisation week which will bring together participants from 16 countries. The exhibition will take place at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC) and Gymkana grounds.

The theme for the 2019 SADC industrialisation week is "Competitive Business Environment for Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development."

Prof Buchweishaija added that during the exhibition, Tanzanians are likely to forge links with fellow manufacturers as well as get raw materials used to produce various industrial goods. He said Tanzanian industrialists will share experience and exchange knowledge with their counterparts from 16 African countries, and broaden their market base within and outside the country.

"Registration is open until August 2, 2019, those who are not registered will get an opportunity to visit the historic trade fair which will again be held in Tanzania after 15 years", he said.

The Ministry's Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ludovick Nduhiye insisted on Tanzanians to participate in the exhibition to benefit with many business and investment opportunities within the SADC region. He said

participants will share the investment and business opportunities available in their specific countries.

Meanwhile, Director in the Trade and Integration department in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ally Gugu said interested Tanzanians should register online through a link available in the ministry's website—www.mit.go.tz.

Gugu who is the Chairman of the industrialisation week organising committee, said that participants includes small and medium scale entrepreneurs.

The main objective of the industrialisation week is to popularise the SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap and identify industrialisation projects that can be implemented jointly by the public and private sector within SADC member states.

The SADC Industrialisation Strategy and Roadmap was adopted by the SADC Extraordinary Summit in 2015 in Harare, Zimbabwe to accelerate the momentum towards strengthening comparative and competitive advantages of economies in the region.

The strategy and roadmap is anchored on three pillars – industrialisation, competitiveness and regional integration. Strategic interventions for each of these pillars are proposed in the action plan.

These include an improved policy environment for industrial development, increased volume and efficiency of public and private sector investments in the SADC economy, creation of regional value chains and participation in related global processes, as well as increased value addition for agricultural and non-agricultural products and services.



Opposition ACT-Wazalendo cadre Clayton Revocatus alias Father Revo (L), councillor for Mwanga North ward in Kigoma Region, under police escort shortly after Mwandiga Primary Court sentenced him to five months in jail for assaulting a traffic police officer. Photo: Correspondent Joctan Ngelly

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has signed contract with the Chinese contractor—China Henang Company Limited (CHICO) for construction of the long awaited 50 kilometres road section from Tanga to Pangani.

Signing ceremony for the project worth, 66.8m/- was held in Pangani district at Bomani grounds. The government was represented by Chief Executive Officer of the Tanzania National Roads Agency (Tanroads), Eng Patrick Mfugale and Wang Xiang Gang for CHICO. The event was witnessed by Works, Transport and Communication Minister, Eng Isaac Kamwele and Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella.

The list include, members of the Parliamentary Committee for

Govt signs contract with Chinese firm for construction of Tanga-Pangani road

Infrastructure, Water Deputy Minister, Jumaa Aweso, Muheza Member of parliament, Ambassador Adadi Rajabu, District Commissioners from Pangani, Muheza, Handeni and Tanga.

Earlier, Eng Mfugale said the 50 kilometres section of the Tanga - Pangani road is part of the section of the East Africa road connecting with the one from Malindi - Mombasa - Lungalunga in Kenya with length of 214 kilometres and the Horohoro- Tanga-Pangani- Makurunge (Bagamoyo) with length of 240 kilometres.

Eng Mfugale noted that Tanroad will ensure the project is completed within

the set deadline, and that it meets the required standards. He insisted that the project is being fully funded by the government.

Minister for Works, Communication and Construction, Eng Isaac Kamwele said the government has also received 350bn/- from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for construction of a bridge crossing the Pangani River with length of 525 meters.

He said the funds will also be used to construct the 120 kilometre road from Pangani to Makunge. He said the government is soliciting funds to construct the remaining 73 kilometres

of the road. He however assured residents at the area that the Tanzania Telecommunication Company Limited (TTCL) will install 4G boosters to ensure reliable communication and internet services.

Eng Kamwele assured the residents whose structures and houses will be demolished that they will be paid before the contractor starts implementing the project.

Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigella said that construction of the road will open-up economic opportunities to residents of Tanga and Zanzibar archipelago.



It's surely a case of 'no sweat, no sweet' for these Dar es Salaam residents as they push an overloaded tricycle along the Ilala Shariff Shamba stretch of the traditionally busy and congested Uhuru Street, as caught yesterday. Photo: John Badi

EAC bank governors meet to review EAMU protocol's operationalisation

By Guardian Reporter

CENTRAL bank governors from East African Community (EAC) member-countries met in Kigali, Rwanda, early this week. Among other things, they reviewed the region's economic growth and status implementation of previously agreed actions towards the operationalisation of the East Africa Monetary Union (EAMU) protocol.

The governors who form the EAC Monetary Affairs Committee (MAC) highlighted that the economic outlook for the region remains strong, supported by continued investment in infrastructure and accommodative monetary policy.

The meeting was chaired by John Rwangombwa, Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda, and current chairperson of MAC.

Review of implementation status of EAMU protocol was to reflect the progress in attaining the convergence criteria and highlight the areas that are lagging behind as per decisions of the 22nd Ordinary MAC meeting held in Kampala, Uganda, in August 2018.

The governors noted that partner states' central banks have made significant strides in the harmonization of monetary policy frameworks, exchange rate policies, rules and practices governing bank supervision, financial accounting principles, as well as payment systems.

They said that a number of national laws are being harmonized and making significant progress towards the establishment of EAMU institutions as required by the protocol.

They however noted that there have been delays in realising targets set out in the EAMU roadmap

and that there are several challenges that could further impede the timely implementation of EAMU protocol.

Therefore, the Governors pledged to collaborate with stakeholders in the EAC integration process to fast-track pending activities of the EAMU roadmap.

The meeting observed that there are prospects for stronger growth in South Sudan, given the signing of the revitalised peace agreement, increased oil production and investment in infrastructure including power supply. However, downward risks to regional growth prospects remain partly associated with the ongoing trade and geopolitical tensions.

The governors reiterated the need to remain vigilant in fighting the risks arising from recent financial sector innovations especially to ensure that central banks in the region can effectively deal with anti-money laundering and counter financing of terrorism.

The Governors also noted the need to continue building resilience to shocks in the financial sectors of the EAC partner states. They underscored their commitment to enhance coordination of activities that will support resilience of the financial sector and to follow-up on the progress towards the realization of EAMU.

Members of the EAC Monetary Affairs Committee includes, Dr Patrick Njoroge, Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya, Prof Florens Luoga, Governor of the Bank of Tanzania, Dier Tong Ngor, Governor of the Bank of South Sudan, Prof Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, Governor of the Bank of Uganda and Eng Steven Mlote, Deputy Secretary General, EAC Secretariat.

ATE annual conference to deliberate on women's challenges and opportunities at work places

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) in partnership with the Confederation of Norwegian Enterprises (NHO) and the UN Global Compact Network Tanzania (UNGCTN) expects to hold the 'ATE 2nd Annual leadership conference 2019' to develop new and innovative approaches for mainstreaming gender at the workplace.

The conference scheduled to take place on September this year, in

Dar es Salaam, will bring together private sector, development partners, institutions of higher learning, the government and global leaders.

Speaking to media at the press conference ATE Executive Director Dr Agrey Mlimuka among the objectives of the conference is to deliberate on women leaders' challenges and opportunities in relation to the future of work for women.

He said that the conference is also meant to enhance private sector representatives' understanding of

the relevance and benefits of gender equality in business; engage men at workplace in the promotion of women's economic empowerment.

Also to add visibility to women entrepreneurs and employees and portray them as authentic drivers of economic development and showcase achievements witnessed as a result of the Female Future Programme in Tanzania.

Dr Mlimuka explained that the conference themed "The Future of Work for Women: Are the Workplace

Policies Ready?" will come up with strategies on how to enhance the inclusion of women in leadership positions in the corporate world, putting in place a knowledge base for best practices, and how to increase participation in women leadership in Tanzania. "We do hope that this shall spur commitment and action for the inclusion of women in top leadership positions and on boards," Dr Mlimuka told journalists.

He added that, by hosting the Annual Leadership Conference they are

presented with a huge opportunity to enable companies and businesses to grow by strengthening women's participation in the private sector by creating conducive environment that unlocks gender participation at work place.

During the conference, there will be the awarding Ceremony of the 3rd Cohort graduates of the Female Future Programme.

The Female Future Programme, an initiative by ATE in partnership with NHO which was launched by the

Vice President in 2016 is still the most relevant and successful programme which has been shaping women from different industries within middle management to be able to take up top positions as well as take their seats on various boards.

Speaking at the press conference, the Coordinator for UN Global Compact Network Tanzania Emmanuel Nnko, said this year's conference focus on internalisation of the UN Women Empowerment in line with sustainable development goals.



Tigo corporate social responsibility officer Halima Okash (L-standing) takes students of Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Girls Secondary School through computer-aided learning after the mobile phone service provider presented ten computers to the school yesterday. Looking on (R-standing) is the school's headmistress, Sylvia Lyimo. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania, Zimbabwe sign five agreements

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA and Zimbabwe have signed five Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen diplomatic and economic ties.

The MoUs were signed at the end of the three-day Eighth Session of the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation meeting held in Harare.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi and Zimbabwe's Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister, Dr Sibusiso Moyo signed three MoUs on diplomatic and political consultation, cooperation on economic, industry and trade relations and tourism development.

The other two on promotion of small and medium enterprises development and cooperation towards the promotion and empowerment of women, gender equality and community development were signed between Minister Kabudi and Women's Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Minister, Sithembiso Nyoni.

In his remarks after the signing ceremony, Minister Kabudi said the MoUs would form the basis of the two countries' cooperation.

"The MoUs we have signed today are now the framework of cooperation in the agreed areas between our two countries. The successful implementation of the areas of cooperation will definitely contribute to the socio-economic development of our two countries. It is therefore important to commit ourselves to the implementation of these areas," said Minister Kabudi.

In his remarks Minister Moyo commended the two countries for convening the Eighth Session of the JPCC that had been dormant for 21

years.

"I want to complement our conveners for working tirelessly to make the Eighth Session of the Zimbabwe-Tanzania JPCC a success. It has been a very productive session which has been long overdue hopefully it will kick start the convening of regular sessions of the JPCC," Minister Moyo said.

He urged the officials to work towards completing other MoUs.

"We note that there are a number of agreements and outstanding MoUs that await finalisation. I would like to urge the concerned ministries from both sides to expeditiously negotiate these important agreements as they provide the requisite legal basis for our cooperation," he said.

"As we move towards the implementation of these agreements, I am convinced of the need to convene a mid-term review by our senior officials to set our monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. We don't want to be told in the next JPCC that such agreement has not been signed or one is still being considered."

Minister Moyo also emphasised the importance of economic relations between two countries.

"Our economic sphere is the most important sphere of our relations. It is what is tangible to our people so that they understand that there is Zimbabwe and there is Tanzania on the other side in which I am providing and facilitating investment, trade and tourism," Minister Moyo said.

“We note that there are a number of agreements and outstanding MoUs that await finalisation”

Fertiliser distributor wins enjoyment draw, to tour Harare

By Guardian Reporter

MAKAMBAKO Agro-Chemicals, a small company distributing fertilisers and other inputs from Yara Tanzania, was yesterday declared, in Dar es Salaam, the winner of an enjoyment draw that will enable two people to fly to Harare for a two-day holiday paid for by the former. The incentive is known as Yara Lucky Draw. Six companies, deemed as best performers, participated in the draw.

Yara, a giant Norwegian fertilizer-making company has a local branch known as Yara Tanzania. Yara organizes enjoyment draws as a motivation to small best performing companies in distributing Yara products to farmers in Tanzania.

The draw was staged after an annual Stakeholders Consultative Meeting between Yara Tanzania and other companies and the Makambako agent, Bernadetha Sanga, emerged the winner. The company was also

among the top ten distributors of Yara products to farmers countrywide.

Yara's Southern Highlands Marketing Manager, John Meshack, said Sanga will be accompanied by her husband on their holiday in Harare. "All holiday costs will be met by Yara. We value the work by resourceful agents," he said.

At the end of the meeting, Yara also signed agreements with 20 companies to that will distribute its products countrywide. The Yara Tanzania Director, Whinstone Odhiambo, said

the consultative meeting gives Yara feedback from farmers. "We value farmers. When fertilizers and other inputs reach farmers well before the planting season it is a big pleasure to us. It is a sign that the country will get good harvests," he said.

He also said the meeting resolved that agents must continue cherishing farmers' education and emphasize on soil health and make tests before planting and use of fertilizers and other inputs.

Initiative sparks improvements in education in Tandahimba District

By Beatrice Philemon, Mtwara

PRIMARY school pupils in Mihambwe ward, Tandahimba district have their academic performance improved as they can now raise voice to demand for their rights, thanks to an initiative by ActionAid Tanzania for establishment of the student parliament.

Through the programme, he said that parents have been educated on the importance of educating girls whereas the number of girls registered at the school has increased compared to previous years.

"The student parliament provides chances to pupils to raise their various concerns. Their voices can now be heard", said Dadi Lulanje, a teacher at Mnyahi primary school adding the presence of the parliament has resulted into development of the education sector in the district.

He said that with the student parliament, pupils can now demand for their rights at school, home as well as village and district level through workshops and meetings.

"We have almost similar number of girls and boys registered at our school", said Lulanje.

According to him the programmes

conducted by Action Aid Tanzania have also reduced school drop-out since child and early marriages have been controlled. He said both, village leaders and parents were educated on children rights, including the rights to education.

Before ActionAid Tanzania started to undertake advocacy dialogue for raising awareness on children's education rights and enhance children's assertiveness, the situation was bad because access to education for girls was limited due to a number of reasons including early pregnancies.

He said: "Girls were left to stay at home and work while boys were sent to schools", he noted adding that pupils are now confident to speak in front of teachers, parents and local leaders.

ActionAid Local Rights Programmes

(LRP) Coordinator in Tandahimba district, Dino Kamonalelo added that since the establishment of the programme in the district in 2004 there have been various changes in the education sector.

He said the project was focusing on four areas that include education development, good governance, women rights, HIV/Aids, agriculture and land.

The programme according to Kamonalelo is implemented in 15 villages within Tandahimba district. He said that student parliaments have also been established at Nemedi, Mnyahi, Ruvuma and Mihambwe primary school all in Tandahimba district.

He said the organisation has constructed 24 pit latrines at Chiwhindi and Pachoto Primary schools thus reducing pupils' frequent movements to their homes as the toilets are available at school. The two schools have a total of approximately 2000 pupils.

Kamonalelo noted that early pregnancy has continued to be a problem in the district whereby in the 2016/2017 financial year, 90 percent of secondary students dropped out of school due to pregnancy.

“We have almost similar number of girls and boys registered at our school”

NOTICE OF THE MEETING
IAMGOLD TANZANIA LIMITED
R. N 20255

EXTRA-ORDINARY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given that an Extra-Ordinary Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of IAMGOLD TANZANIA LIMITED will be held on the 30th day of August, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. Canadian time, at the offices of IAMGOLD Corporation, 401 Bay Street Suite 3200, Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2Y4 Canada under conference call with the Resident Director at the offices of IAMGOLD TANZANIA LIMITED AOS Building Ground Floor Dar es Salaam.

The agenda for the meeting will be:

Formalities- Approval of arrangement of meeting

- To receive and adopt the liquidation Final Statement of Wind-up of the Company.
- To consider the Final Settlement of Accounts.
- To consider the final disposal of documents and other corporate materials.

By order of the Chairman of the Board of Directors
Jeffery A. Snow

PUBLIC NOTICE
IAMGOLD TANZANIA LIMITED
R.N 20255

**Members Voluntary Wind-up
NOTICE TO CREDITORS -REGULATION 365**

TAKE NOTICE THAT, on 23rd April, 2018, IAMGOLD TANZANIA LIMITED passed a Resolution of a voluntarily winding up the company and all its operations.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT, this Notice is a call to all the Company's creditors to bring forward all their claims for settlement and payments on or before 30th August 2018, the last date of creditors final settlement of Accounts.

Liquidator
Paul C. Mushi
Of
Paul Clem & Associates

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA HIGH COMMISSION IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

INVITATION TO SALE OF PROPERTY
REFERENCE NO. KHCD/OT/001/02/2019-2020

The Kenya High Commission invites interested buyers on a Property whose details are given below. The bids are required to be addressed and submitted on working days to: The High Commissioner, Kenya High Commission, Dar Es Salaam located at Kaunda Drive/Bongoyo Road Junction, Oysterbay area. The sealed envelope should clearly be marked "Purchase of Property"

S/N	PROPERTY TO BID	OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION	PHYSICAL LOCATION OF PROPERTY	DEADLINE SUBMISSION
1.	Single Story Residential Building	Located on Plot No. 689, with Plot size of 1,000 Square Meters.	Mikocheni Medium Density Phase II area, Mawenzi Street Kinondoni.	Friday 16 th August 2019 at 16.00 Hours.

Requirements to Bid.

- Interested bidders may inspect the property after this newspaper advertisement by fixing an appointment between 10.00 am and 2.00 Pm at their own cost.
- The bidders are to register at Kenya High Commission offices described above and fill required forms and information.
- The Property Will be sold on the as is where is basis.
- Bids submitted after the set deadline will not be considered in the bidding process.

For:
**Kenya High Commission
DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA**

215352901

TPC draws up strategic plan set to improve postal services

By Guardian Reporter

FOR the past three years, when the fifth-phase government came into power, the Tanzania Postal Corporation (TPC) has made a number of changes in its operations including providing cost-effective services to customers.

TPC Postmaster General, Hassan Mwang'ombe said in an interview recently that apart from mail, parcel logistics, courier and express, services, the state-run agency also offers financial and agency, ICT application services, as well as design, install and rent private mail delivery boxes and bags.

Mwang'ombe said that the corporation also offers payment services such as paying shares' dividend, pensions for pensioners and salaries for different companies and institutions.

He says: "Despite the fact that we're in the market for long time, but we're working hard to improve service delivery so as to remain in this competitive market," he says, revealing that TPC is determined to improve EMS services despite stiff competitions, as right now there are more than 50 companies offering the similar services in the country.

He however explained that TPC owns 60 percent of the local market share.

Mwang'ombe further unveiled that the state-owned agency works closely with ministries, departments, mobile phone companies, banks and NGOs in an effort to effectively contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

In this, he said: "We are working with them to easy transport of letters, documents, mails, and parcels. And we're doing in this."

According to him, for the past four years, TPC has improved the area of information and communication technology (ICT), the situation that made the corporation to improve EMS service delivery.

He cited some of the ICT systems that are being deployed as Netsmart and International Postal System (IPS), which are used in tracking and tracing letters, documents, mails, and parcels, when transported through EMS in and outside the country.

"Through these systems it easier for customers to track and trace their goods without visiting EMS centres," he said, adding that the corporation has been improving customer care services, an area which is key in addressing customers' complaints.

The TPC official also described the introduction of physical addressing and postcode system as key in improving the corporation activities, as through the system it easy for EMS services.

He also revealed that for the last four years, TPC established forex shops in all its offices located in different parts of the country, particularly in areas which are busy with business and tourism activities to capitalize on the opportunity following closure of non-compliant money shops.

Mwang'ombe said that in March this year the corporation introduced foreign exchange services in 19 regions where TPC has its offices.

"TPC has higher financial capability to offer foreign exchange services in the country adhering to government's set rules and regulations to ensure that customers get valuable services," he said.

In Dar es Salaam has ten forex shops including those located in Kariakoo, Libya Street, Oysterbay, Kijitonyama, City Drive, New Post Office and other parts of the country's commercial capital.

TPC also offers forex services in Tanga, Arusha, and Zanzibar. The corporation also intends to introduce new forex shops in Mbeya, Karatu, Namanga, Meru, Mwanza, Dodoma, and Moshi and at Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) and Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport.

Mwang'ombe also said that the service which is monitored by the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) will be made available to both Tanzanians and foreign nationals.

The TPC boss also revealed that his corporation intends to open two Posta Philatelic Shops that provide room for customers to buy stamps through online.

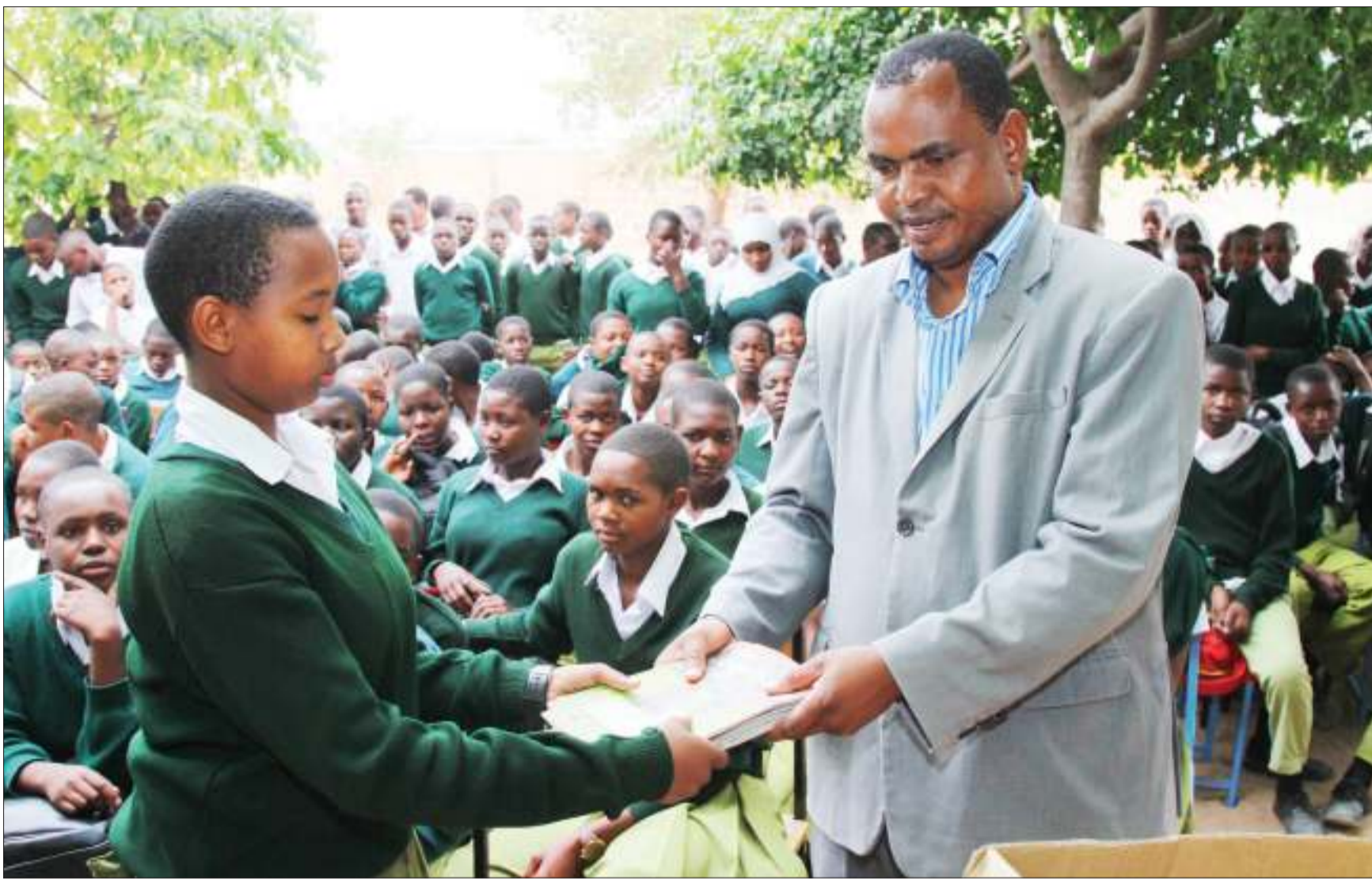
He also said that the corporation introduced 'E-Shop' that allow customers to import goods through online system. "This also allows customers to buy goods online."

"We're also working to introduce this system in all TPC branches across the country."

He also said that TPC has introduced Post Cargo that allows customers to transport their goods to every corner of the country.

"We have also started providing transport services to passengers through 'Post Bus'. We've started transporting passengers in the Makambako-Songea and Masasi-Mtwara roads. We're also working in Virtual Box services whereby a customer settles their payments through control number."

TPC is a national designated Public Postal operator established by Act of Parliament No. 19 of 1993 and became operational on 1st January, 1994. The Corporation is wholly owned by the Government of Tanzania and is dedicated in improving people's lives.



University of Dar es Salaam don Dr Abdallah Seni hands over education equipment to Ntyuka Secondary School student Shikila Kisuda in Dodoma yesterday, saying that was a gesture of his support for the government's efforts to provide free education. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

M-Pesa digital payments offering relief to air travellers

By Guardian Reporter

VODACOM Tanzania Plc in collaboration with the Turkish Airlines has announced a 15 percent discount to any of their customers who will purchase Turkish Airline Ticket through M-Pesa service from August 1st to December 1, this year.

The reveal was made during a press event at the Turkish Embassy in Dar es Salaam that was graced by Turkish Ambassador to Tanzania, Ali Davutoglu and the Vodacom Tanzania Director of M-Commerce Epimack Mbeteni.

Speaking during the launch ceremony, Director of Enterprise Business Unit Vodacom Tanzania, Arjun

Dhillon said that the new partnership is aimed at pushing digital payments by allowing customers to make fast, seamless payments for their Turkish airline tickets to any destination in the world from Tanzania.

"We have a duty to create financial products and services that meet the needs of individuals and businesses, like Turkish Airline. Pay by M-Pesa is the easiest and most convenient way of payment to businesses. Turkish airline customers have been enjoying the advantage of paying and booking their tickets anywhere and anytime through M-Pesa and now they get a reward for it," said Arjun.

Speaking on the offer, the Turkish

Airlines Director, Ahmet Sahin, applauded Vodacom for using their mobile technology infrastructure to drive digitalization in Tanzania.

In his remarks, Sahin stated that the service is a key unique opportunity for business people in Tanzania to book flights to Turkey and other parts of the world and engage in mutually beneficial bilateral trade as they gain exposure to different parts of the world.

"Customers who purchase tickets from Turkish Airlines Dar es Salaam Office to any of 312 destinations of Turkish Airlines between now and December 1st not only get a 15% discount on trips originating in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Kilimanjaro

but also get to enjoy 24/7 support to customers across all channels of purchase. We encourage businesses, tourists and those using Turkish airlines to any destination in the world to take advantage of this offer" said Ahmet Sahin Turkish Airlines goes to 312 destinations in 126 countries all over the world and this offer applies to all trips originating from Tanzania to these destinations.

Vodacom Tanzania Plc remains committed to ensure that Tanzanians benefit from the best creative mobile services in East Africa as well as opening up digital opportunities to Tanzanians as we journey towards a middle-income economy by 2025.

TADB, Stanbic Bank agree to help workers doing farming

By Guardian Reporter

ELIGIBLE Tanzanian workers in public and private sectors who are engaged in farming will get loans to buy vehicles, machines and farming equipment to advance their farming projects following a strategic agreement signed between the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and Stanbic Bank.

The agreement was signed yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the TADB Managing Director, Japhet Justine, and Stanbic Bank Personal and Business Banking, Fredrick Max.

Justine said the two companies have chosen to cooperate strategically to help farming workers because, he said, Stanbic Bank has enormous experience in providing loans to workers. Further, he explained, the two banks believe that success in agriculture and livestock sectors will also make the nation succeed in its goal to make Tanzania a middle-income industrial country by 2025.

"With this agreement farming workers will access loans for tools and equipment because our friends in the Stanbic Bank have vast experience in this field and have branches in many parts of the country. For example, they have branches in Mwanza, Mbeya, Arusha and Dodoma, something that will help us serve comfortably workers in the private and public sectors," Justine explained.

He also praised other banks for supporting farmers countrywide and enabling them to produce quality crops and uplift their livelihoods.

Max said their bank has prepared itself well to implement the agreement because, he said, the two banks cooperated well in March in implementing a crop value chain programme. He said: "It is a pleasure to us to cooperate with the TADB to make Tanzania an industrial country. Giving tools and equipment to people is advantageous to individuals who get the loans and it also profitable to the nation."



Fruit, mainly mangoes, on sale at the junction of Uhuru Road and Sikukuu Street in Dar es Salaam's sprawling Kariakoo market zone yesterday - but with the state of hygiene in the area leaving much to be desired. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR) will undertake sensitisation visits to the Union of Comoros 7-8 August 2019 and the Republic of Zimbabwe 14-15 August 2019 with a view to promoting the Pan African Judicial Organ.

"These visits will help to raise awareness of the Court's existence and encourage African States to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and make the Declaration to allow individuals and others to access the Court directly," stressed President of the Court, Hon Justice Sylvain Oré.

The Comoros ratified the Protocol on 23 December 2013 but is yet to make the Declaration, whereas Zimbabwe is yet to ratify the Protocol and make the

African Court to conduct sensitisation workshops in Comoros and Zimbabwe

Declaration.

During the Mission, the delegation of the Court led by its President Justice Oré and which includes Justice Ben Achour and senior Registry officials, will pay courtesy calls on key officials, including the President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Justice and the Speaker of Parliament, among others.

"For the Court to discharge its mandate effectively and further strengthen the African human rights system, a greater number of countries must ratify the Protocol and make

the Declaration under Article 34(6)," underlined President Oré.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights was established by virtue of Article 1 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, to complement the protective mandate of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, with a view to enhancing the protection of human rights on the continent.

Since the adoption of the Protocol in June 1998, 30 of 55 AU Member States

have ratified it and only nine State Parties to the Protocol have made the declaration under Article 34(6). These are Burkina Faso, Benin, Ghana, The Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania and Tunisia.

As at July 2019, the Court received 220 applications of which 62 have been finalised. The Court is composed of 11 Judges, nationals of Member States of the African Union elected in their individual capacity.

The Court meets four times a year in Ordinary Sessions and may hold an Extra-Ordinary Sessions.

Water, water just about all around us, but to what use?

At the best of times, even while generally blessed with an abundant supply of fresh water and allied marine resources, Tanzania puts to useful purpose only a fraction - amid numerous cases of overexploitation or other misuse.

In fact, even in the event of getting generous rains and generally clement weather, it often helplessly looks on as water drains into an ocean that doesn't really need such feeding while massive tracts of rich cropland are swept away by floods only to get unbearably dry when adverse weather sets in.

In part following recommendations informed by findings of expert studies, the government has long contemplated constructing dams and other forms of reservoirs into which rainwater would be diverted for later profitable harvesting. That way, the water would not go into filling rivers that in turn pour into the sea or hydroelectricity supply dams whose floodgates have to be conveniently opened as and when deemed appropriate or necessary.

Splendid, only that we are yet to see any dam specially built for the purpose of arresting and con serving rainwater that would otherwise have gone to waste or even resulted in disaster.

It can scarcely be said for sure that the government, or more specifically the Water ministry, is planning to do at least to show that it means business about implementing initiatives such as Kilimo Kwanza whose fate will hang in the balance until sustainable supply of water is guaranteed.

Without doubt, it would be absolutely wrong to slight the headway made - against massive odds - in tapping Lake Victoria waters for use in places such as semi-arid Shinyanga Region.

All the same, had appropriate measures been taken much earlier, we would be talking of truly large-scale irrigation working agricultural and other miracles just as is the case in Brazil, China, Egypt, India, etc.

These countries demonstrate varying degrees of dependence on rainwater for use in providing drinking water, water

for livestock, water for agriculture, and so on. The water harvesting systems in use range from simple ones relying on inexpensive locally available materials to sophisticated industrial ones employed in feeding underground dams.

But even without thinking very big by planning to construct huge surface dams where rainwater could end, we could still do an immense lot in ensuring that not too much of such water is lost or wasted.

There is what is commonly known as rainwater harvesting which, strictly speaking, refers to the technology used for collecting, storing and (maybe) treating rainwater from rooftops, the land surface or rock catchments.

Documentary evidence shows that the techniques usually found in Asia and Africa arise from practices employed by ancient civilisations within those particular regions and still serve as a major source of drinking water supply in rural areas.

These could be improved - and some improvisation would not have to consider copyright laws - to ensure stepped-up efficiency without necessarily proving needlessly expensive. Resources allowing, plans about building dams for large-scale irrigation could then follow.

Tanzanians have abundant experience with serious social, economic, environmental and other problems associated with scarcity of quality freshwater vis-à-vis escalating demand.

While the development of new surface dams will likely attract ferocious opposition from environmentalists, demand for clean and safe water could by far overshadow most other considerations.

As a nation, we need to devise and implement ways of doing more to meaningfully exploit rainwater relative to alternative means of ensuring enough supply of water for our various needs. In this, there is no option to moving as fast as we can in making prudent decisions and implementing them accordingly.

Reforms in conduct of doing business should be encouraged - and sustained

An evaluation meeting of the Tanzania Business Council has expressed satisfaction with the pace and breadth of reforms in the conduct of doing business as currently implemented in the country.

A keynote presentation highlighted the redefinition of functions of the control of standards in general and that of medical and medical devices specifically, thus shifting foods and cosmetics to the Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

Participants expressed delight in enhancement of efficiency in pursuit of licences or permits, while the government has also noticed enhanced compliance, etc.

The wider parameter of the reforms has been set out in what is officiously being described as the Blueprint, a codeword for recommendations and approved methods and actions to be taken to make life easier for investors and business persons in general.

The document was adopted last year and has gradually been making its way in the higher levels of policy administration to become more or less a common reference point, instead of touching disparately either on the way the physical environment is managed, or taxation is conducted, etc.

The blueprint exudes an air of complementary character of the various measures it envisages, thus get predictable outcomes.

Ordinarily, when there is little explicit divergence between the private sector or the business community and the thrust of government action, at least in relation to day to day issues that affect

the conduct of business rather than the main axes of policy, all is likely to be well.

When it comes to the pillars of economic policy, major economic actors tend to adapt to the situation, but they will find it difficult to adapt to disturbances of a day to day basis in the manner in which economic policy is implemented or business conduct is regulated. That is, thus, the mainstay of the Blueprint - to ensure that investors and business generally are comfortable.

Although there is no formula on how the private sector evaluates policy or regulation as a whole, with its precepts or current prerogatives affecting those concerned differently, the critical dimension is how far regulatory action facilitates competition.

That is where public sector sentiments and the business community quite often diverge, as the former wishes for padded enclosures for its regulatory and even active economic entities, which means that they dictate the terms in which they operate, instead of being subjected to the same constraints as others.

It is this sort of attitude shift that is now being assiduously cultivated among regulatory agencies and the public sector generally.

Adjustments in the way we conduct our various activities, whether in the public service or in the private or informal sector, are only to be expected and we all ought to take them in our stride. Positive or otherwise, they will often provide important lessons, which would likely inform the way we move ahead.

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Conservationist Jane Goodall: The biggest problem is greed

By Sam Baker

A tireless advocate for conservation and one of the world's most prominent primatologists, Jane Goodall travels 300 days a year, explaining why it's important to protect our environment and wildlife.

In 1960, at the age of 26, Jane Goodall ventured to Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania to study chimpanzees. Her discoveries were groundbreaking and her approach to fieldwork was revolutionary. She immersed herself in the chimps' daily lives and gave them names.

Since then, Goodall has become a tireless advocate for conservation, in addition to being one of the world's best-known primatologists. In 1977, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute, which works around the world to protect wildlife and the environment, but also improves the lives of people in order to further conservation efforts.

Deutsche Welle once caught up with her, asking: Why do you think it is that some people lack hope or aren't moved to take action to protect the environment?

Her reply: The biggest problem is greed. People want more and more and more - more than they need. Companies want to grow bigger and bigger and gobble up the competition. And the gap between the haves and the have-nots is getting bigger all the time, causing resentment and anger, rightly so.

DW: Speaking of that, a lot of your environmental work focuses on lifting people out of poverty. What led you to connect this social justice work with more traditional conservation efforts?

JG: It was back in 1986, when I realised that chimpanzees' numbers in Africa were decreasing and habitat was being destroyed. I decided I should go to a different range of countries and learn more about it, which I managed to do. But at the same time, I was learning about the plight of so many people living in and around chimpanzee habitat: the crippling poverty, the lack of good health and education, the destruction of the environment.

Because when you're very poor, you cut down the last trees to try and desperately grow some more food or make charcoal. It was when I flew over that tiny Gombe National Park and saw what had been part of a great equatorial forest belt stretching from East to West Africa (and that was in



1960). By 1990 when I flew over, it was just a tiny island forest surrounded by completely bare hills and people were struggling to survive.

That was when I realised that if we don't help the people to find ways of living other than destroying the environment, then we can't even try to help the chimps.

And so we began our Jane Goodall Institute TACARE programme (take care, T-A-C-A-R-E) and there were a few NGOs at the time sort of handing out bits and pieces to local communities, but we did it rather differently. We selected a small group of local Tanzanians - seven of them - and they went into the villages and asked the people 'What can JGI do to help?' - and that's where we began.

DW: A lot of your work and the programme Roots & Shoots focus on children and young people. Can you give us some examples of projects that students have done throughout the years that give you hope for the future?

JG: First let me say that that programme, which began with 12 high school students, now has a presence in about 60 countries with about 150,000 active groups. We've got members in kindergarten and university and everything in between.

The students themselves choose three projects: one to help people, one to help animals, one to help the environment. Because we try and bring them together as much as possible, even if usually it's just virtually, they come to understand that we may have different coloured skin, come from different cultures and different

religions, but actually underneath we're all human beings. We're all one family.

So, some projects? Well, all around the globe, they're planting trees, which they decide to do. Many of them are working very hard to eliminate plastic and to teach about recycling - huge projects on those things going on in China. They sometimes raise money in very imaginative ways and that can be to help a shelter for stray dogs or it can be to help refugees in another country or the same country and it can be for earthquake victims.

It's just as varied as the young people themselves. They choose different projects depending on what country they're in. Sometimes it has to be politically sensitive, what they do. It depends if they're rich or poor, and it depends on their age.

DW: What do you wish more people knew about animals?

JG: That animals like us have feelings, that they have personalities, that they can feel happy or sad, that they can feel pain and fear and despair. And that they're so much more intelligent than we used to think.

Rats are trained to detect landmines. These are the giant forest rats and they've been credited with helping to make Mozambique landmine-free. I met so many people from Mozambique who had lost a leg or a foot from treading on the landmine after the Civil War. Rats are so intelligent.

Octopuses can make houses for themselves out of empty clam shells. They take them to where they want to go hunting if there are no rocks because they need rocks to hide in. So

they take two empty clam shells with them and then get into one half and pull the other over their head.

Birds can make tools. You know, all these things we're finding out - it's a very exciting time.

DW: How do you think we as humans can regain our connection to the natural world and better understand our place in it?

JG: That's what we hope to do through Root and Shoots - give children an opportunity to be out in nature. Once they get out in nature, they love it, especially the little ones. We need the natural world for our good psychological health. We actually need green and to be out in nature.

DW: What do you think is the single most important thing people can do to preserve our planet?

JG: I think that each day people must understand that their life is making a difference and they should start thinking about the consequences of the little choices they make.

Like, what do you buy? Where does it come from? Did it harm the environment? Did it result in animal cruelty, like the factory farms? Is it cheap because of child slave labour? You start making ethical choices - let's not use plastic, let's recycle, let's reuse, let's not throw away, let's not waste food.

Yes, the big corporations and governments can make huge differences, but at least in democracies the people are responsible for who is elected into power. And if you don't like the way a business works, the consumer has a huge responsibility because if you don't like the way it's made, don't buy it.

That's another reason for eliminating poverty because if you're really poor, you can't choose. You just have to buy the cheapest.

So the most important message is: what do you do each day, and how do you make the most use, and can you go to sleep thinking, 'I made the world a little bit better today...' And people do that in different ways.

I should just finally say that if you flew over Gombe today, you wouldn't see bare hills because the people have understood that preserving the environment is for their own future as well as wildlife. The trees have come back.

It's nice to see those hopeful situations. That's the only reason I keep going. I meet amazing people and I see incredible projects everywhere.

Hopes on the TAZARA railway - past and present

By Anil Kija

AN enduring symbol of the diplomatic and economic cooperation in Southern Africa is the Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA), through this abbreviation is also used for its management body or supervising authority. The railway line that was completed in 1975 in a way it illustrates the hopes of the diplomatic efforts in the period of the liberation process and limitations of its realization subsequently. And then it also is a beacon of hope as the older economic environment pales into history and new opportunities, needs and capacities are formed.

A salutary example of strategic expectations built into the TAZARA railway was an essay in 1970, when the project had just been inked between the governments of Tanzania and Zambia with the People's Republic of China, was an essay by now retired Professor Issa Shivji, then a tutorial assistant at the Faculty of Law. The essay, 'The Silent Class Struggle' was looking at positive and negative forces in the pursuit of a socialist strategy, where TAZARA appeared to offer hope of internally oriented industrialization once it was completed. It was an impression tied to the presence of iron and coal fields in the vicinity of the route, ready to be developed.

Were it that this was the reason for the railway line to have been built in the first place, there is no doubt that this purpose would have been realized, but in contrast, the iron and coal fields are now starting to feature in strategic designs of China-Tanzania cooperation, far less at that time. At the moment it is a matter of fitting the Belt and Road concept to see how power generation along with an iron and steel complex come up in the pursuit of credible foreign investments, both by China and other foreign investors. Even the United States has a power plan for



Africa, but it is not likely to include an element of coal generation but clean energy - and China is also sensitive.

That shows the degree to which liberation era diplomacy succeeded to do great things at the level of economic potential and infrastructure, but this did not cover the gap of unavailable capital to sink into coal and iron. The basic reason for this lacuna was that the three governments were basically socialist in orientation, in which case both in official inclination and in the Shivji essay it was state agencies expected to develop the power and industrial potential. It did not take time to realize that the state, especially the National Development Corporation (NDC) has too much on its hands, as state-run industries

President John Magufuli and his Zambian counterpart, Edgar Lungu, at State House, Dar es Salaam. File photo

depended on crop exports funds to get subsidies for inputs.

The building of the railway has at times baffled foreign policy analysts especially in academics, where it is at times taken up as an example of projects related to the wish for diplomatic influence rather than real economic considerations.

The World Bank rejected the proposal to finance by soft loan conditions when Tanzania and Zambia made the request, treating the facility as a potential white elephant, without economic potential to back its use and return the loan. China was of a different persuasion, but not the Belt and Road strategies it follows at present.

China had good reasons to assist

Tanzania and Zambia build the railway, and to be certain, built the railway for them rather than simply assisting them, as even the labor was procured from China to ensure that the costs do not spiral, given the less inclination of local laborers to be hired away from families, etc. There are hence historical or graphic resemblances of the way TAZARA was built and the earlier period, when Germans and finally the British finished the construction of the central line, and the Tanga-Arusha line. Laborers were in this case imported from India, the largest entity in the British Empire, as their social status permitted such a shift.

That these laborers were to later grow to a merchant class in Tanzania, and the same was done in Kenya where the Kenya-Uganda railway was also built chiefly from Indian indentured labour as they were technically described, says something migration in history. Currently there are new imports not of indentured labour but properly paid labour especially from China in building various infrastructure projects, who often settle in the country as entrepreneurs, some already purchasing city individual houses to build better structures. Even high rise buildings are put up.

The Chinese financed the railway because Tanzania was pivotal to an international campaign and especially within the corridors of the UN General Assembly and at certain moments, the Security Council, to restore China to its proper place in the organization.

Tanzania's then UN permanent representative Salim Ahmed Salim worked as much as anyone else to get Taiwan removed from taking the seat of China at the UN and instead the Mainland government take its proper place.

It was to this role as well as repaying the loan by taking up plenty of Chinese goods, a mixture of quality goods and substandard varieties as China embarked on industrialization that clinched it.



Maasai men, members of one of the indigenous tribes in sub-Saharan Africa, perform a dance involving the high vertical jump, useful for seeing approaching wild game when herding their cattle. File photo

Indigenous people, languages in SADC region: Do they have much in common?

By Miki Tasseni

ONE problem about the history of African ethnography, the study of ethnic groups and languages, is that they were profoundly affected by a European bias that has to do with a key Biblical narrative about origins, on Ham, Shem and Japheth. Studies on African civilization starting from the period prior to colonialism, or reality in preparation of the same through the penetration of the continent by explorers and then missionaries, focused on a paradigm that had developed in Europe. It united European civilization and a portion of Africa, via the Ham legacy.

Various characterizations have been given on this aspect, where ancient Egypt is held to have had the same proto-racial type as Caucasians, marked by a straight face and long or sharp nose. This race was held to have founded not just Egyptian civilization but also Greece and Rome, and by extension it accounts for European civilization as a whole - as well as the part of Africa that was civilized, in the sense of having organized society, institutions like kingship, palace courts, laws, etc. It means other population groups had no such institutions, learned from the Hamites.

The method that classical ethnologists used to make studies on the basis of this paradigm was simply to try and locate where proto-Hamitic people live and then make an effort of tracing or otherwise attributing whatever political set up or organization there is in that area to their influence. It is hard to say that counter studies were conducted, for instance to trace how Bantu peoples civilized and developed cohesive institutions like metallurgy and chiefdoms, hierarchy and power like army rankings, etc. What is apparent is that independence era ethnologists did not focus on the Hamitic groups but on African peoples generally, characterizing entities, not races.

One disturbing element in the Hamitic myth - that of civilization coming from Hamitic groups and sub-groups) is the classification of indigenous peoples in terms of Ham, Shem and Japheth. Which group among the three failed to develop institutions or capacities like metal working which finally leads to moving from barter trade to the use of coins is at issue; Hamitic and proto-Hamitic groups were not always in the lead of progress, hence civilization. While ethnology was saying it was Hamites who brought nearly everything of value, evidence exists that capacities like metal working were developing in the aftermath of the Noah Flood, and were inherited.

Those who trace civilisation or progress in Africa from Hamitic migration often don't make an effort to show where the other groups came

from, or how they developed and dispersed, for instance the Bantu. They are the largest single racial or properly speaking language typology in the sub-Saharan Africa region, and even more so in the SADC zone, with South Africa more or less characterizing itself as a Bantu nation, with its Ubuntu philosophy. Its promoters prefer to see the notion as humanism in general, which at any rate means Ham-ness, as the real father of humanity, but Ubuntu means Bantu-ness, where humanity is seen from the Bantu vantage point.

Major groups of indigenous peoples in the southern Africa region have some distinguishing characteristics, that they are overwhelmingly Cushitic in character. In the European and American context, indigenous peoples are basically Hamitic. In South Asia and Australasia they would respond to mixed criteria of facial image and skin color, as basically Canaanite, another branch of Ham peoples like Cush, but which had the distinctive dark colour that some ancient Scripture says it arose first among the sons of Canaan, of the Promised Land. Abraham says in a manuscript (chapter) in the Book of Mormon that the dark color was the work of divinity, for a specific purpose. In the past century, overmuch colour has been a major test of all humanism...

What can be a little complicated is to set out variations and characteristics of being indigenous, where two or three typical groups can be set out, each with a distinctive dynamic of being culturally indigenous. The more accepted definition of being indigenous is a resistance element in a culture, that the communities are indigenous more or less by faith rather than isolation, in which case they remain indigenous even when exposed to other communities and major external influences. The Maasai have shown remarkable capacity to remain indigenous even in prolonged exposure for instance living in urban areas, while other relatively backward groups dissolve in such circumstances, taking their place in a changing economy like specializing in a crop or trade.

Within the SADC region, Namibia has a greater presence of indigenous peoples along with Botswana largely because they have relatively small populations, where the characteristics of a resilient indigenous group are quite strong.

They continually shifted until reaching marginal semi-desert land, where their indigenous autarky enabled them to eke out a living in broad space, taming the wilderness with astonishing abilities compared with those who progressed. Visits by Namibian cultural groups and watching documentaries on how they tame big cats like leopards, similar to central Europe indigenous people who put animals to a dance circle; it is astonishing.

The 'miracle' JPM worked to make Great North Road dream come true

By Ani Jozeni

FOR once, without expecting it, the shift to Dodoma and the frenetic work going on to make it a proper capital and not a harum scarum legislative seat of the state, has revitalized the sense of direction of the way northwards from South Africa, that is, from the Cape. It has ended the Dar es Salaam diversion and little sense of proceeding north, as the next point was Nairobi and in between there was little economic activity. As a matter of fact even the stretch from Lusaka to Dar had little noticeable activity related to foreign investment, until the current opening up drive.

It isn't just the capital shift but changing economic needs and considerable revitalization of the physical space between any two capitals, hence the stretch from Dodoma to Nairobi via Arusha and Namanga isn't a sleepy, dusty and barren place of the Tanzania-Kenya jokes of the 1970s. Once during that period MPs in Nairobi were discussing the Nairobi red eye disease, to which the then attorney general, archconservative Charles Njonjo (reportedly of Kabeteshire) did not find it amusing that Nairobi was hosting the eye disease. He corrected them, intoning that it was actually the Dodoma red eye disease - because the dust was in Dodoma, surely not in Nairobi....

Integrating African peoples all the way from the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa up to the Egyptian metropolis of Cairo has been a dream of Pan-African activists for a century, as the dawn of colonialism awakened African people to know one another and start thinking about the African condition in general. To be sure, African dreamers did not quite create the project but took it from colonial trail blazers in Britain, who had taken hold of the entire chunk of territory linking the two points, especially after World War II. But by the time the UK was finished with the war, its colonial appetite was being sapped, incapable of standing a revolt in British India.



India was thus the earliest of the colonies to become free after the war, but only to be followed by a catastrophe whose effects are still lingering, 70 years later. Africa took another 10 years for a country to attain independence, namely Ghana which blazed the way by freeing itself of the British suzerainty in 1957 where upon African unity and the need to cement it by a road from Cape to Cairo took root in the continent. It was by and large a dream, as building linkages has taken the better part of 60 years to come into the picture, since most states became independent.

The dream was partly a result of British technique in grabbing colonial possessions, as it was more effectively present in most coastal outposts since the 1600s while the French were just beginning, and the Germans were scarcely implanted anywhere. Hence Britain took choice territories where major rivers pour into oceans, especially for the Nile and the Niger, as well as the Gambia and the strategic Cape of Good Hope. They also controlled the trade route to the East via controlling

The Kondoa intersection of the 251-km Dodoma-Babati road

Egypt, and in tandem with Egyptian post-Ottoman authorities, controlled Sudan to ensure the safety of the Nile. They hence sought to control Uganda, and Kenya an inlet to it.

Tanzania Mainland came to British control in addition to Zanzibar that was already part of the empire as an aspect of controlling strategic outposts, and in between other powers took over. Portugal which battled for presence in the three centuries to the colonial division took over Mozambique and Angola, while the French took most of equatorial Africa and the mainly desert north, something that writers in Britain, constantly on the lookout for something hilarious about the French, made it a butt of jokes until the colonial period was eclipsed. African militants on the other hand were not amused who controlled the best territory but sought to unite to attain might.

How far the Great North Road remains a part of African dreams is hard to say, as the rise of independent nations brought most Africans to greater levels of realism, mainly stopping to

think in continental terms and trying to find out what was achievable at the national level. There is a sense in which this dream remains valid but only in joining pieces that start from one point to another but constantly reach another set of pieces needing to be joined together. Thus the traditional domination of South Africa in regional economies up to Zambia is a starting point.

By the time one reaches Lusaka by road from Johannesburg and by implication from Cape Town itself, there is already a felt need for rapid transport to the north, especially to Dar es Salaam that is linked by rail at the moment. Already there is a luxury Rovos train that plies the route from Johannesburg to Dar es Salaam and is acknowledged as one of the most luxurious safari train packages around the world, itself a plus for the growth of tourism in the region. Still, with the capital shifting to Dodoma and it gradually emerges as an industrial hub, reaching Nairobi by road will be a daily necessity, which leads to Juba, Khartoum and finally Cairo. Same old dream.

SPECIAL REPORT

Young migrants, refugees dying to be heard start a newspaper

By Fahrinisa Campana

MAHDIA Hosseini (28) and Fatima Sedaghat (16) sit elbow-to-elbow at the corner of a long, wooden table, their heads nearly touching. They're editing an article about the importance of setting goals for oneself, which Sedaghat has penned for the next issue of *Migratory Birds*, a refugee-run newspaper in Athens, Greece.

The two young women are working at the Network for Children's Rights youth centre in downtown Athens, which serves young refugees, migrants and low-income Greeks. It's open from morning until night, but is busiest just after school lets out around 3 p.m.

Migratory Birds, which boasts a bimonthly circulation of 13,000, is one of the only refugee-led initiatives in Greece left still standing. Like so many of the humanitarian aid programmes across the country, however, recent funding cuts have meant an uncertain future for a newspaper that has given voice to dozens of aspiring journalists from the migrant and refugee communities in Greece since it began publishing in 2017.

Still, those behind it are optimistic that the newspaper, albeit with a smaller team, will continue to empower young people arriving in Athens.

Says Hosseini: "I'm thinking a lot about that old Mahdia and if she'll ever return. But I think I don't want that. I like the flavour of fighting and trying for my goals. I like this more, and I believe more in this Mahdia. This Mahdia is independent. I realise that the path that I have come on is the right one."

On this afternoon, Sedaghat scrawls in Farsi in the margins of her notebook while Hosseini, editor-in-chief of *Migratory Birds*, offers suggestions. The next step will be to transcribe the rough draft onto an iPad where it will be translated into Greek and English.

Then, round two of editing. This is when one of the staff members of the Young Journalists programme, co-funded by the UNHCR, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and UNICEF, and offered through the Network for Children's Rights, takes over.

"Our goal is for the final article to be as good as possible," explained Sotiris Sideris, a Greek journalist who is one of seven staff members for Network for Children's Rights. Until last month, Sideris was the coordinator for the Young Journalists programme and an editor for *Migratory Birds*.

"There are teenagers who write perfect articles with no help from us, but on the other hand, we have instances of people who need some help with the syntax, or some articles are missing conclusions or a strong introduction to keep the reader reading," said Sideris, adding: "We just polish the pieces - the final outcome is all theirs. We are not going to write their articles for them; we are just here to help them."

Later, the articles are sent to Efimerida ton Sintakton, a large Greek newspaper, for a final look. Then, a separate eight-page section for *Migratory Birds* is printed and slipped inside the daily newspaper.

Each issue of *Migratory Birds* contains reported articles, personal essays about life as a refugee, poems about love during the refugee crisis, recipes for traditional Afghan or Syrian food, and advice about where to find Athens' best falafel.

[Falafel (or felafel) is a deep-fried ball, or a flat or doughnut-shaped patty, made from ground chickpeas, fava beans, or both. Herbs, spices, and onion relatives are commonly added to the dough. It is an Egyptian dish as well as a very famous Middle Eastern dish that most likely originated in Egypt. The fritters are now found around the world as part of vegetarian cuisine, and as a form of street food.]

The newspaper is published in five languages that represent the tongues of its contributors: Greek, English, Arabic, Farsi and Urdu.



Stacks of *Migratory Birds* sit against a wall at the Network for Children's Rights youth center waiting to be delivered to organisations working with refugees. Photo: Fahrinisa Campana/The World

Between its local distribution route, refugee camps and humanitarian organisations across Greece, 13,000 copies are distributed every two months. Not a small feat for a newspaper that was started by 15 Afghan girls in a refugee camp.

A rough beginning

Hosseini and Sedaghat, both from Afghanistan, met in the Schisto camp. In 2016, tired of the way refugees and migrants were represented in mainstream media, they and 13 other Afghan girls founded *Migratory Birds*, so named "because we thought we could fly through this newspaper", Hosseini commented.

Their mission: to tell the realities of life for refugees in Schisto - their fears and frustrations and hopes and dreams. They were also desperate for an expressive outlet.

According to the Albanian Greek journalist and supervisor to the magazine, Denisa Bajraktari, it sprang from a need "that these Afghan girls had, a need to be heard".

"When we started to write our newspaper, we were sitting on the ground on just a piece of plastic," Bajraktari noted, adding: "My father was always telling me, 'If you want to improve, if you want to rise up and grow up, you have to start from the ground like a seed that you plant in the ground and starts growing.'"

The girls worked tirelessly, confronting not only technical obstacles but also cultural barriers. "Many men in the camp didn't agree - they thought they were still living in Afghanistan where women do nothing," said Hosseini, adding: "They said that women could not do this newspaper, but what they didn't know was that each comment made us better."

Some of the camp's residents mocked the young women. Worst of all, some of the families stopped their girls from joining the newspaper.

After eight months of hard work and perseverance, *Migratory Birds* published its first issue in April 2017. "We had a celebration in the camp, and the men of the camp came to our container and said, 'We don't have words to say to you,' and they just clapped loudly," Hosseini said, smiling and with tears in her eyes.

"After the men in our camp came to our container, our determination was so strong because we [saw] we were able to change the mind of Afghan men towards Afghan women. This was the biggest achievement," Hosseini added.

An outlet for the voiceless

Migratory Birds is run from a cozy, three-floor youth centre in the Kolonos neighbourhood of Athens. The kitchen is well-stocked with fresh fruit, juices, hot drinks and Greek

they can do it without fear."

Youth centre staff say that living without fear of persecution for expressing themselves is an important right for the young journalists.

"Our aim is to work towards those rights and to let people who are participating in our programme know their rights," said Sideris, adding: "Because we are talking about a journalism project here, it has to do with the right of expression - of writing and of expressing their ideas."

Some of the girls who participate in the newspaper never went to school back in Afghanistan. Yet, not only are they now writing for the newspaper but they also attend local public Greek schools, Sideris says.

An unstable future

Migratory Birds recently ran into another obstacle: funding. At the end of June, owing to budget cuts and loss of funding, only three of the original seven full-time staff members and one part-time cultural mediator remain. Production will continue as usual, but there will be far fewer people lending a hand.

"Funding is, of course, a big challenge - projects like the *Migratory Birds* are depending on funds," said Maria Oshana, director of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation office in Greece.

During 2015, she explains, there was an abundance of international organisations spearheading programmes in Greece that supported various civil society initiatives and non-governmental organisations in their work with asylum seekers and migrants.

Today, however, a number of these organisations or their funders have withdrawn, which leaves many programmes without the financial backing that makes their work possible. "At the same time, state institutions are far away from being able to step in, partly owing to the ongoing economic crisis, partly because of a lack of structures," she said.

Still, this isn't the biggest challenge facing the newspaper. "The biggest obstacle is that the participants are leaving and moving on. They are people in transit... People travel a lot within Europe, with official documents or not," Oshana explains.

This is particularly destabilising, he says, because they are working with teenagers who are usually in Greece with their families, and the decision to leave is not always their own.

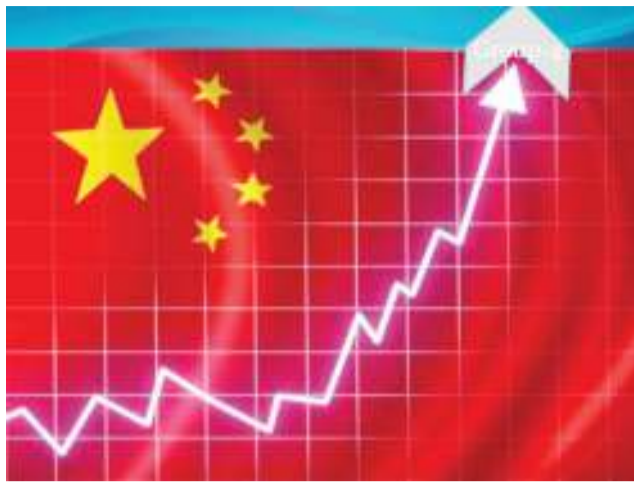
She elaborates: "Teenagers come here and find a new reality and a new norm that they can adapt to very easily compared to their parents because teenagers go to school, teenagers go to other activities like the newspaper, like music classes, English classes, theater, etc., but their parents come here with the will to move on as fast as they can."

But it's not only that so much time and effort are sunk into cultivating these young people who may end up not staying for more than a year or two. "It has to do with personal relationships, as well," Sideris said.

"Even if this is our job, and we should look at it as a job and not something else, you're working with people every day so you are getting to know them well and you are creating a special relationship. We become friends after a while, it's inevitable, and when they leave, sometimes it hurts," added Sideris.

All the same, the newspaper has achieved a lot in a short period of time. "I think the fact that all these children from such different cultures can work together in a room as equals and can see each other as equals and never pay attention to where they are from, shows that if there is will and power from within, anything can be done," Bajraktari said.

Meanwhile, asked about the obstacles the newspaper has faced, Hosseini said: "I think the ability and patience to face our problems, standing up after falling, the hope of better days and the presence of lightness after darkness, all of those beliefs give us the power to continue."



What backs China's economic growth?

By Qin Shuo

THE China-US trade frictions have lasted for months. Influenced by the unilateral and protectionist policy of the US, the relations between the two countries could enter a new era featuring co-existence of co-operation and competition and continuous emergence of new problems and contradictions.

Far-sighted people has pointed out that unlike the US which acts willfully, China feels shame to take tit-for-tat retaliatory measures against the US. Instead, it focuses on making the most of itself in order to getting through the difficulty.

According to the 2018 Business Climate Survey Report released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China, 73 percent surveyed American companies reported profits in China in 2017, another 74 percent planned to increase investment in China in 2018. Almost all the surveyed companies believed China had made steady and enhanced efforts on intellectual property protection and enforcement in recent years.

In addition, 62 percent US enterprises expressed that the procedure of policymaking and communication had become more and more transparent in China over the past five years. Without the stable business environment, these American companies wouldn't have actively invested in China and gained rich profits.

The fundamental force for China's economic development is the endeavor of all Chinese. In the past 40 years, the number of China's market entities have grown from 490,000 to over 100 million, and 18,100 new enterprises are established every day.

This achievement is hard-earned, but undeniably it is the biggest of market economy with the largest number of participants in human history. The enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of the Chinese people are released through reform and opening-up, as well as market economy. It is an epic of entrepreneurship, and of the struggle and the creation of hundreds of millions of Chinese workers.

China's development is not an overturn of economic theories. Instead, it shows the world the importance of respecting the principle of market economy and the law of value.

China has become a world factory through reform and opening-up, industrialization, urbanization and market internationalization. The refined, large-scale and professional labor division supported by the huge market serves as the basis for the strong manufacturing capability of today's China.

The mature and complete labor division and supporting system enable Chinese enterprises to efficiently manufacture most of the products in the world with

good quality and in a cost-effective way.

China's manufacturing ecosystem enables efficiency-driven innovation, according to a 2015 report by McKinsey & Company. China had the world's most extensive manufacturing ecosystem, with more than five times the supplier base of Japan, 150 million manufacturing workers, and modern infrastructure, the report said.

The chain advantages from this ecosystem and the large scale gave Chinese hardware manufacturers a cost advantage of about 15 to 20 percent over foreign peers, the report pointed out. Thanks to China's market and manufacturing advantages, the country managed to rapidly move its internet application sector forward to the forefront of the world.

China's competitive power is a comprehensive one that acts with complex and rich division of labor and workforce skills. It will not be replaced or taken away.

In August, the International Trade Commission of the US held a 6-day hearing to decide for the Office of the US Trade Representative on whether to impose additional tariffs on 200 billion worth of Chinese goods.

At the first meeting, the proposal was endorsed by only 3 representatives out of 61 from luggage manufacturing, clothing, food processing, semi-conductor, bicycle and chemical industries.

A bicycle manufacturer pointed out that the US bought 18 million finished bicycles overseas, 94 percent of which were from China. In addition, out of the 300 million imported bicycle parts, 60 percent came from China. Since it was impossible to look for other suppliers out of China, the additional tariffs would place strong pressure on American consumers and factories.

China has benefited a lot from opening-up. The huge inflow of foreign capital has created strong spillover effects in technology, management, talent cultivation and supply chain in China, enabling the country to learn fast, digest and then improve and innovate according to its own characteristics.

Chinese companies have become the major force of technological innovation in the manufacturing of refrigerators, air conditioners and washing machines, as most developed countries have withdrawn from the manufacturing process and focus mainly on brand-building.

In addition, some powerful mobile applications, such as Alipay and WeChat, are all created based on the local environment in China. A lot of emerging market economies are "copying" Chinese products. Tokopedia is said to be the Indonesian version of Chinese marketplace Taobao and Snapdeal, the Indian version of Alibaba.

Teenagers from US-based Colorado high schools give several laptops for children at Ormelili in Arusha

By Guardian Correspondent

AFTER graduating from Colorado high schools, teenagers around the Front Range chose to donate their school-issued laptops to children in Africa including Tanzania.

Friends of Tanzanian Angel Mollel (18) teenager, donated their computers to a nonprofit organization—'iLove' which helps to improve the lives of children from her native village of Ormelili in Arusha, Tanzania.

"Most people (in my birth village) don't know how to use a laptop. The technology advancement in my village is so far behind. Like, I took an iPad (with me when I visited) and they thought it was a

battery", said Mollel.

Mollel (pictured) was adopted several years ago and attended Brighton high school.

Her adoptive father assisted her in creating iLove to help those back in her village. Since the nonprofit started, Mollel has sent goods and money back to her village to help educate children.

Her friends at Brighton high school quickly started backing her mission and getting involved. One friend, Rachel, thought of asking seniors to donate their school-issued laptops to those in Tanzania.

"It was all over social media. One by one, they just started coming in with their Chrome books", Mollel said.



One of her classmates, Sami DeMers said she intended to sell some of the laptops to fund the nonprofit, while sending the rest to kids in Africa for their education.

She said her brother and sister would be able to prepare for their dream jobs of being accountants with the laptops.

"I know a lot of kids over there don't have the technology and resources we have. Because, Angel has described what it is like back at her home," DeMers said.

Mollel said she would continue to accept donations, including laptops, in hope of making sure those in her village in Tanzania would be

prepared for jobs in larger cities if they desired to move on.

She said teenagers in Colorado were coming together to make sure students in Africa were also succeeding in life.

"It is just incredible to have that kind of support. I am truly thankful for them," she said.

Bank identifies untapped opportunities in soft drinks market in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

STANDARD Bank has launched an in-depth study looking at unpacking trends across part of the growing consumer sector in East Africa.

The report, which provides an analysis on the soft drinks industry is also looking to enhance debate around the opportunities for future investment in the soft beverages industry.

The Soft Drinks in East Africa report provides a comprehensive overview of the macro-economic and regulatory environment affecting the industry in the East African region.

It outlines the value chain of soft drinks, trends influencing the market and the competitive landscape as well as opportunities and risks as identified by Standard Bank's consumer team.

Africa's large and youthful population, upward urban growth trajectory, socially-connected mobile users, untapped physical resources and the deepening of the financial sector have been identified as key trends propelling the African economy into the future.

"Multinationals and companies operating in saturated markets, which are seeking new revenue sources, are considering expansion into Africa as a real option

and increasingly the non-commodity focused sectors, such as that of FMCG (fast moving consumer goods) are set to play an integral role in driving this growth," said Brendan Grundlingh, Executive, Consumer Sector for Standard Bank.

According to recent research by Fitch Solutions, the global soft drinks industry is worth USD 295bn and is expected to grow to USD 377bn by 2023. Africa only accounts for 3% of this total value, despite representing 16% of the global population, which is expected to rise to 25% by 2050.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, multi-national, regional and local

soft drink companies are looking to enhance their exposure to this potential growth, and countries like Kenya are already seeing some of the fastest growth, recording 11% CAGR USD growth between 2008 and 2018.

The East African market only makes up 10% of soft drink sales across Africa; however, the contribution of categories such as bottled water, carbonates, concentrates, and juice is very similar to developed soft drink markets such as South Africa and the United States of America.

This presents a significant opportunity to increase consumption per capita through a total

beverage strategy.

Growing competition across the soft-drinks industry is presented in the form of innovation in flavours, new low sugar and sugar-free formulations, and pioneering pack sizes, which combined with route to market excellence is where the challenge to market domination in Africa lies.

"We have undertaken to highlight and unpack some of the trends in this burgeoning sector, specifically looking at East African markets - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda," said Grundlingh.

He added: "One trend for example, is that of the decline in market share by traditional players in fa-

vour niche and more innovative drinks players. This is particularly evident with players who have looked at change in a risk adverse manner, preferring to continue with traditional methods".

"We are living through an age of disruption in the global consumer sector the likes of which we have never witnessed before," said Grundlingh.

According to Grundlingh, relevance is something companies now need to rediscover, as their products, brands and packaging look to enhance consumer intimacy.

"At Standard Bank we work with our clients to understand the opportunities, risks and realities

of investing in Africa. Our clients are corporate, but they also include all stakeholders in the process of analysis.

The aim of this report is to stimulate a debate and further analysis around the allocation of capital and required returns as they are weighed up against growth," Grundlingh said.

He said that Standard Bank recognizes and supports the huge consumer opportunity that is currently unfolding across Africa.

"Certain sectors continue to present good return opportunities for all stakeholders, but they do require measured and mindful investment," said Grundlingh.



Turkey's Ambassador to Tanzania, Ali Davutoglu (C), and Turkish Airlines director Ahmet Sahin (R) present a model of an aeroplane to Vodacom Tanzania business unit director Arjun Dhillon in Dar es Salaam yesterday to signal the launch of a new M-Pesa-based air ticket payment system which the carrier will use. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Why convention on mutual assistance on tax important

By Guardian Correspondent

ALTHOUGH investments in mining and oil and gas in Tanzania has the potential for economic transformation and poverty alleviation, more needs to be done to increase the sectors' contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Observers have noted that the government has recently shown an open backing of the efforts that seek to strengthen policy frameworks as a way to make the most out of the extractive sector but caution that the contribution should be much higher.

Presenting his paper findings over the weekend in Dar es Salaam during Policy Forum's monthly breakfast debate on 'the extractives revenue management in Tanzania: Where are we with transparency and accountability?', Dr. Genuine Martin from the University of Dar es Salaam said that Tanzania holds reserves of around 45 million ounces of gold and 55 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and has produced over 19 million carats (3,800 kg) of diamond since 1940 (Grid95, 2017).

Citing the National bureau of statistics (NBS), he said in 2017, extractive sector contributed to only 4.8 per cent below 10 per cent target by 2025.

The same year the extractive sector growth rate reached 17.5 per cent respectively.

He further noted that in 2015/16, government collected TZS 465.2 billion of revenue (0.74 per cent) from 55 companies (8th TEFTI Report).

Biggest contributions were from royalty in minerals, which was 36.4 per cent, corporate tax was 29.4 per cent, additional gas revenue was 6.8 per cent and Skills and Development Levy (SDL) 5.4 per cent. Informal extractive sector contributed 1.4 per cent of GDP.

According to Dr Martin, the mining sub-sector contribution to GDP was around 3.5 per cent! And the mining sector growth in 2017 was 8.5 per cent. Mineral exports contributed more than half of foreign exchange (especially gold

exports).

He further revealed that according to TRA and World Bank indicators of 2019, government tax revenue collections from the extractive sector from 2015-2018 have been dropping and increasing.

Dr Martin said, for example in 2018, mining revenue was Tsh 867 billion, compared to Tsh1281 billion collected in 2016.

Similarly, he said that extractive industry revenue in 2018 was Tsh1,020 billion, compared to Tsh1,507 billion collected in 2016.

For his part, the discussant at that breakfast debate Zitto Kabwe (MP) said that export and income revenue from gold has dropped to over Tsh470 billion.

He suggested the reason to address that problem was for the government to sign the 'Convention on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters'.

Literature indicated the benefits of the Convention as: To provide a single umbrella for multi-party cooperation, cover all taxes including indirect taxes, cover assistance in recovery, information exchanged may be used for non tax purposes under certain conditions.

It is a flexible instrument: it allows for reservations which can be withdrawn later.

It is used to combat VAT evasion and avoidance, VAT fraud and avoidance schemes tend to become increasingly global and DTCs.

The Convention can be used for the VAT audit of electronic services, to combat international VAT evasion and avoidance (ex: VAT Carousel fraud often involves more than two countries), to share strategic information, for assistance in VAT recovery.

It can serve as an umbrella for multilateral exchange of information: It can be used and has been used for multilateral simultaneous tax examinations concerning transfer pricing cases.

It can as well serve as an umbrella for multilateral exchange of information on Aggressive Tax Planning Schemes.

European safety engineering giant opens office in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

IT is a vote of confidence for Tanzania's as one of the most experienced and dynamic European engineering companies has decided to open an office in Dar es Salaam, as the gateway to its entrance to the East African market.

Speaking recently via video link during the launching of the firm's subsidiary in Tanzania, Automatic Systems Engineering (ASE GROUP), Dariusz Jachowicz expressed optimism with the future of Tanzania.

The event was held over the weekend in the commercial city, Dar es Salaam, bringing together various stakeholders from government institutions and the private sector.

He said he was impressed by the country's industrialization drive and the people, that ASE GROUP has taken a deliberate step to open the new operation in the rapidly growing East African nation.

"We deeply believe in the development of Tanzania," noted the CEO of the company with headquarters in Gdansk, Poland, that has been operating across Europe for almost 30 years.

He expressed confidence that ASE East Africa would bring a lot of engineering knowledge, new technologies, (and) new design standards to Tanzania.

John Sullah and Stephano Sambali, who have been tasked to manage the

firm's operations in Tanzania and the larger East Africa, noted that ASE mission was to provide safe technologies and solutions for industry and infrastructure.

According to John Sullah, the company brings in technical know-how and solutions to industries.

"We support Tanzania and East Africa's industrialization drive. Our aim is to ensure in this drive the industries' safety is of the highest order, to the European standards" said Sullah.

The company will provide international standard industrial safety services which include professional technical services on electrical equipment as

well as industrial automation systems for hazardous areas and service; training in the field of safety and security as well as services for the chemical, petrochemical, energy and other industries.

The new firm expects to work with both the public and private sector in its operations, that will involve representing over seven companies in ASE group family, to bring development to Tanzania.

Consul Grzegorz Kacprzyński from the Embassy of Poland in Tanzania called for more cooperation between the two countries and commended Tanzanians who have studied in Poland over the years for working hard to connect Polish companies to Tanzania.

Dear finalist, here are 5 career lessons lectures never taught you

YOU would think you would know all there is to know when you interacted with your professor in college or campus. If for instance you didn't undergo a career class in high school and you are your college didn't provide that, then sit back and have a glimpse of these career lessons that no professor took their time to enlighten you about.

The name of your learning institution does not matter

When looking for a job, the institution where you obtained your degree or diploma doesn't count but rather your GPA distinction does. This is because our learning curriculum is outdated and has outlived its usefulness. Obtaining a degree from The University of Dare salaam doesn't guarantee that you will be a hot cake when you get into the job market nor does it mean that other small colleges are not considered either way.

The most important skills in the market are the SOFT skills

These include good communication skills, the ability to work as part of a team and the ability to learn. Beyond that, the skills required will depend on the particular job. Having a first class honor without all that is as bad as having



ing a pass. Pursue skills more than anything else. Learn a computer skills, dig deep into interpersonal skills and so much more. Be anxious and ready to learn we don't learn everything in class, keep that in mind!

A first class honor degree WITHOUT the soft skills is as useless as

college. There is a result of cheating, sexually transmitted grades, forged transcripts, outlived curriculum name it.

Roughly 400,000 young graduates in Tanzania join the job market each year, but only about 30,000 succeed in securing a formal employment just after graduation.

This has to click in your mind that not only obtaining a degree will land you a job. The job market isn't as challenging as it looks like, it just a matter of possessing skills and capabilities different from what everyone else has to offer. Think of what you can offer the company not what they have to offer you. Dare to bring in something different.

Most of the courses offered in private and public universities are not tailored to the job market needs

This mismatch of skills is to be blamed for graduates failing to secure a job or adapt to their jobs. As said earlier a mere degree isn't a guarantee for success but having the will and eagerness to learn something new each day is.

Eventually University students



College Comfort Zone

With

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in Tanzania should wake up from the slumber and realize that the higher the number of learned people in the society, the fewer the employment opportunities in the country. We are no longer living in the 19th century where all fresh graduates were guaranteed of securing a formal job.

Comrades should get out of their comfort zones and make use of their different skills and talents to start their own business enterprises.

For students who wish to seek for employment someday, the hiring process is not about how much you have an unbeatable transcript or the institutions where you graduated from.

Many employers not only

match candidate soft and technical skills and experience with a job opening's stated requirements, but also carefully consider those elusive qualities such as personality, temperament, career progression and a host of other legitimate elements.

It is therefore important for students to work on their personal development to avoid future disappointments as a job seeker or entrepreneur!

This covers activities that improve awareness and identity, develop talents and potential, build human capital and facilitate employability, enhance quality of life and contribute to the realization of dreams and aspirations. There you go!

Q-&-A on running of newsrooms friendly to mobile journalism

By Corinne Podger

USING smartphones for journalism is increasingly common, but few newsrooms have taken a leap into relying solely on mobile journalism (mojo). One newsroom that's well on the way is News5 in the Philippines. News5 managing editor Ana Puod gave a masterclass on mobile-first newsrooms at the Mobile Journalism Conference Asia held in Bangkok last month. She later spoke to IJNet about content creation, workflow, Facebook and more. Excerpts from the interview:

IJNet: How is your newsroom using mobile phones for content creation?

Puod: We carry out 50 per cent of our news gathering and editing on traditional cameras, and the other 50 per cent using mobile phones to shoot, edit, publish and broadcast video content. Mobile content is made up partly of organic mojo stories gathered by our reporters for our television channels and digital platforms. We also have a new social-first division called N5X, which focuses on stories shot and produced entirely on mobile phones.

We have also created a mojo-only workflow for reporters to research and write text pieces on their phones and have them sub-edited by a digital editor in a chat-app group. This means that they can work remotely and still break stories at the same pace as television or newspaper newsrooms.

We also receive reactions and suggestions in response to a particular story in real time from the audience because they are also online and on their phones.

What does that workflow look like - from going out on a story to submitting a finished piece?

Our reporters go out with a mojo kit consisting of a company-issued phone with data plan, a small tripod and microphones. They accompany a traditional camera crew. This team can go live at any time - on the phone via Facebook or the AviWest smartphone app, or via the TV camera using portable satellite equipment.

Reporters can also submit video and audio reports using Facebook, Skype or Viber and use their phones to edit packages to send to the office via email or upload straight to social media.

Emailed footage is received by our desk editors who input this into our Avid iNews system, where it can be ac-

cessed by our digital producers for conversion and publication to social and online platforms.

The desk editors also check any facts in the story, and alert the reporter about a story by one of our competitors that they need to cover - all via messaging apps.

Have there been any challenges in integrating smartphone video into TV output?

The biggest challenge has been managing the quality of the video and audio files, especially as raw video and audio are sometimes shared several times between email and social apps before they go to air, and they can be compressed along the way.

To mitigate this, we use a video compressor, or ask the reporter to do the editing in the field. If it's a breaking story, we use whatever is available.

At a time when many newsrooms are rethinking video on Facebook, you're uploading a lot of video content. Why?

The Digital 2019: Global Digital Overview report reinforced what we already knew: Filipinos are the heaviest internet users in the world, and recent research suggests that one in every five Filipinos uses Facebook everyday to access news.

We also have evidence that our news consumers prefer watching content to reading or listening to a story, so while quote cards, infographics and text can give us engagement, videos are what are making money for us.

Our 1 billion views on Facebook and another 1 billion views on YouTube last year alone are testimony to how much our community appreciates our video content.

Which platforms are delivering positive monetisation for News5?

We were aggressive at first on Facebook but it took a while before we made money there. Right now, we are particularly interested in YouTube as we find its monetisation schemes more attractive than Facebook or Instagram.

The types of stories that make the most money for us are public service stories, political reports and feel-good or positive features

In May, the Facebook algorithm was changed to favour videos over 3 minutes. How have you responded?

getting a FAIL

Employers are no longer excited by the number of As in your transcript since the QUALITY of education in Tanzania is beyond remedy. We all know of how grades, course works and finally GPAs are found at some point in



Ana Puod speaks at the Mobile Journalism Conference in Asia. Photo courtesy of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Media Programme Asia

We have maintained the amount and duration of our posts. This has not caused any noticeable drop in views, but since the implementation of the 3-minute rule, we have also made it a point to produce specialised content that complies with this monetisation requirement.

This content can consist of cut-up segments from a raw interview, or a series of related videos - raw footage or voice packages - lumped together before we up-

load it to our online pages.

I'm interested in your policy of encouraging staff to do Facebook's training courses to get better value from the platform.

Our head of News5 Digital, Bing Mallari Maano, has encouraged everyone to take these courses. Most staff just do basic courses, but we have additional course requirements for division managers who are in charge of monetisation, ethics and media law implementation, analytics, technical

operations and so on.

Initially, it was framed as "if you want to do this", but now staff need to complete the course and obtain a certificate as proof of completion.

Since we do not have money to pay for expensive courses, we are always on the lookout for free courses, webinars and white papers. So we have also taken many of the Google News Initiative courses, and some of us have undertaken MOOCs at Poynter

Online, Coursera, Edex and the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas.

We have used lessons from these courses to craft our stylebook and news protocols, and this is kept constantly updated as new lessons come along.

• A dispatch by International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.

MINISTER SALUTES CRDB FOR BACKING AGRO-REVOLUTION, INDUSTRIALISATION

By Property Watch Reporter, Bariadi

CRDB Bank Plc has been commended for investing heavily in agriculture through small scale farmers while also lending to private developers to establish industries in line with the government's development blue-print.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Security, Hussein Bashe said here this week when he visited CRDB's pavilion at the ongoing agriculture trade fair also known as 'Nane Nane' that the bank has over the years come up with tailor made products and services to support smallholder farmers modernise.

"The government appreciates the important role which banks such as CRDB play in supporting the agriculture sector through various products and services such as agro-input credit," Bashe said pointing out that the government will always prepare a conducive environment for the private sector to flourish.

He gave an example of CRDB and ETC Agro's collaboration to provide modern agro-inputs and equipment to farmers through soft loans targeting mainly smallholder farmers. "I am particularly impressed by your slogan this year which shows how the bank's management and staff are committed to support this important sector growth towards industrialization and middle income status," the newly appointed Deputy Agriculture Minister added. CRDB's latest slogan goes, 'Our farming, our industries, our economy.'

Briefing the Deputy Agriculture Minister, CRDB's Director of Retail and Wholesale banking, Boma Raballa said the bank invests heavily in agriculture because it is the backbone of the economy which will also support industrialization with raw materials.

Raballa said CRDB strongly support the government's efforts to modernise agriculture which is dominated by smallholder farmers with little access to mechanisation and hybrid seeds needed to produce commercially.

In a general, CRDB bank has issued 40 percent of the total credit disbursed to the agriculture sector in the country of which, during the 2018/19 season, over 650bn/- has been issued," Raballa stated while noting that out of the 650bn/-, 150bn/- or about 23 percent has been dedicated to cash crops, raw materials, agro-input manufacture, agro-processing and distribution.

He said working in partnership with several institutions such as Bank of Tanzania, Tanzania Agriculture Development



CRDB's pavilion at a past Nane Nane fair. File photo

Bank, Private Agriculture Support Services, International Finance Corporation and African Development Bank among others, has also been issuing equipment loans, sensitization on

modern farming and trade fair participation.

"In partnership with Mahindra and others, CRDB has continued to sensitise smallholder farmers on agribusiness

and commodity marketing," the CRDB Retail and Wholesale Director, added while stressing that small and medium size farmers are a major target of the bank's credit facility in agriculture.

JNIA's Terminal III finally opened with over 700bn/- spent

By Francis Kajubi

THE country's newest airport opened its doors to the public yesterday after a colossal 705bn/- expenditure taking more than five years.

Julius Nyerere International Airport's Terminal III will handle six million passengers per annum bringing the total that the whole airport can handle to eight million of which Terminal I contributes 500,000 and Terminal II, 1.5 million.

"Terminal II needs rehabilitation and expansion so that it can double its 1.5 million capacity per annum," said Minister of Communication, Works and Transport, Isack Kamwewe. He told President John Magufuli who opened the ultra-modern airport that with an annual increase of passengers transiting through JNIA at between 2.5 and 3 percent, expansion of the facility is imminent.

"We urgently need to start considering to expand and modernize the old terminal because it is important to accommodate growth of the aviation industry," Engineer Kwamwewe added.

Giving details of the new terminal, Tanzania Roads Agency's CEO, Patrick Mfugale said the facility's was erected by BAM International of the Netherlands while consultant of the project was Arab Consulting Engineer (ACE). Engineer Mfugale said construction work was accomplished last May. "The contractor was paid 687.4bn/- while the consulting engineer got over 13bn/-," Mfugale noted.

He recalled that way back in 1956, the colonial government constructed Terminal I with capacity of handling 500 passengers a year but the Union government invested 1.2bn/- in construction of Terminal II with capacity of handling 1.5 million. He said in between 2004 and 2011, the two terminals were rehabilitated with more passengers which necessitated construction of Terminal III.

The government secured that 254million euros (over 560bn/- through a loan from HSBC of Hong Kong to construct the new terminal.

"The bank provided 133 million euros as the first installment while 121million euros was provided later," he said.

Tanzania Airports Authority's Director General, Engineer Julius Ndyamukama said the new terminal has already started operations with 18 of the 23 planes which land at Terminal II daily to Terminal III.

"Trials were conducted mid last July by using a national carrier's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner. So far, international airlines are satisfied with standards of the terminal," he saying the 18 airlines have also relocated their offices to the new terminal.



GXN envisions mobile 3D printing robots as future of construction

COPENHAGEN

GXN Innovation, the independent research company of renowned Danish architecture firm 3XN, has envisioned mobile 3D printing robots, exploring how 3D printers can be made to move autonomously by creating physical and virtual hacks of existing printers in order to meet these global challenges.

Named Break the Grid, the project is developed in collaboration with the Danish AM Hub, Denmark's platform for digital and additive manufacturing, and Copenhagen-based Map Architects.

Buildings, infrastructure and cities across the globe are straining under the combined pressures of explosive population growth and a warming climate. In this regard, this new research initiative

aims to explore faster, cheaper and more efficient methods of responding to urban, social and environmental change through a series of mechanical and virtual hacks of existing 3D printers.

The project team identified three distinct scenarios for autonomous additive manufacturing, a crucial element of an imagined near future in which advances in robotics and machine learn-

ing have mobilised 3D printers to roam our natural and man-made environments, while solving pressing global challenges.

The team used existing printing and sensing technology to create mobile mechanical prototypes of 3D printers. Based on these prototypes, the team explored virtual hacks for mobile printing on land, under water, and in the air.

"Freeing 3D printers to meet

these challenges could be a revolution in the making," explained Kasper Jensen, founder of GXN. "By enabling 3D printing robots to crawl, swim, and fly, we can address pressing environmental threats around the world at lower cost and with greater efficiency."

One global challenge that the proposal addresses is the current state of deterioration in our global infrastructure.

NMB's 25bn/- fixed bond oversubscribed by 333pc

By Property Watch Reporter

A three year Medium Note Programme worth 25bn/- which was floated by NMB Bank Plc has been oversubscribed by 333 percent as investors' confidence in the bank reached fever high.

"This is a big day for us because it shows that investors are very confident in our bank's future hence the overwhelming support," said the bank's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna during the official announcement result of the instrument which traded in the market between June 10 and July 8 this year.

With an annual rate of 10 percent interest, the 25bn/- coupon raised over 83.3bn/- which Zaipuna said will have to be refunded to prospective investors after allocation is done. She further noted that NMB issued the third tranche the MTN at a fixed coupon rate of 10% per annum as approved by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority.

"NMB has successfully raised 83,349,190,000/- which is higher than the expected amount of 25,000,000,000bn/-, representing a subscription

level of 333 percent," the acting Managing Director added.

The bank had successfully issued the first and second tranches worth 41.9bn/- issued in June 2016 which was oversubscribed by 207 percent and 23.3bn/- issued in December 2017 which was also oversubscribed by 116.5 percent.

The CMSA has approved the bondholders' register reflecting the results, ready for crediting the allotted bonds in the respective bondholders' Central Securities Depository (CSD) accounts.

The three-year tranche bond will be listed and commence trading on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) today, August 2, 2019 under the Code NMB-2019/22.

"The management of NMB acknowledges the efforts made by all parties involved in making the issuance a reality and successful," said Chief of Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi.

He named the bank's board and management of CMSA; Stanbic Bank Tanzania limited, the lead arranger and Treasury Registrar and Orbit Securities Limited who were the sponsoring broker.



NMB's acting Managing Director, Ruth Zaipuna announcing to journalist results of the 25bn/- bond which was floated in June and ended in July with an impressive outcome of oversubscription by 333 percent. Left is Chief Retail Banking, Filbert Mponzi and Head, Global Markets Treasury Department, Gladness Deogratus. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

MINISTER FOLLOWING UP ISSUE OF IMTU'S UNPAID BILLIONS IN RENTAL FEES TO NDC

By Property Watch Reporter

LANDS Housing and Human Settlements Development Minister, Dr Angelina Mabula is following up progress being made by National Development Corporation to claim over 3bn/- in rental fees owed by International Medical and Technological University in Dar es Salaam.

IMTU which is incorporated a hospital that treats people at a fee has stayed at NDC's Mbezi Beach premises since 2012 without paying a single rent penny through engaging in a prolonged legal battle seeking to own the premises by default because the original landlord, Saruji Corporation Limited is liquidated.

"I will follow this up," said Dr Mabula in a text message when asked about IMTU's failure since 2012 to pay land rent which the Deputy Minister has championed its collection in recent years. NDC Corporate Affairs Manager, Abel Ngapembwa said they are simply awaiting the Indian investors' appeal lodged with High Court Land Division last year.

"It's frustrating but we have nothing to do other than wait for the court's final verdict," said Ngapembwa who acknowledged that IMTU's prolonged court case is a deliberate action to delay payment of the over 3bn/- rent.



IMTU rented premises in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

IN February last year, High Court's Land Division Judge, Moses Mzuna ordered IMTU and Registered Trustees of Vignan Educational Foundation Bangalore to pay over 2.6bn/- as rental fees of the NDC premises from where they are currently operating.

Justice Mzuna said in his ruling, "We appreciate, much as IMTU had conferred degrees to many Tanzania's doctors who graduated from the university. However, upon being fully fledged, the plaintiff must pay rent so that even the government can benefit from collected tuition fees." Justice Mzuna ruled in his judgment dated February 27, 2018.

IMTU argued that they did not recognise NDC as their landlord after Saruji's collapse although the then Parastatal Sector Reforms Commission transferred Saruji's property to NDC. Vignan also argued that it signed a memorandum of understanding with the government to be given free premises to operate from during the initial stage of the investment in late 1990s.

TMRC says Dar's mortgage market ratio to GDP lowest in EAC

By Property Watch Reporter

THE country's mortgage market grew slightly from 0.33 to 0.34 percent of gross domestic product between 2017 and last year, representing the lowest in East Africa Community as per the latest Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited.

In its latest annual report, TMRC said the mortgage finance market increased by 22.04 percent while the number of mortgages increased by 18.76 percent.

"During the year, mortgage market grew by 76bn/-. The total mortgage portfolio balances amongst banks stood at 421.1bn/- as at the end of the year 2018 representing 4,996 properties compared to 344.84bn/- outstanding balance for financing 4,174 properties that was reported for the previous year," the TMRC report stated.

The report further said that in 2018, there was a decline in profitability arising from various reasons related to the business environment which saw the company registering a profit before tax of 1.09bn/- compared to 1.27bn/- made in



TMRC headquarters at Golden Jubilee Towers in Dar es Salaam. File photo.

2017, representing a decrease of 13.7 percent

"The decrease was mainly attributed to slowdown in lending due to decline in borrowing appetite by Primary Mortgage Lenders," the TMRC stated while pointing out that interest income increased from 11bn/- in the prior year to 14.69bn/- which was an increase of 32.9 percent.

However, the interest expenses also increased from 6.9bn/- in the prior year to 10.1bn/-, an increase of 46.4 percent attributing the huge increase in interest expenses to additional borrowings from World Bank and the floating of the TMRC Corporate Bond issued during the year as another source of funding.

"Operating expenses increased by 13.7 percent from 3.4bn/- in 2017 to 3.8bn/- in 2018 mainly as a result of the increase in the number of staff to support TMRC strategy," stated the report.

During the year TMRC balance sheet size grew from 102.8bn/- recorded in 2017 to 136.3bn/-, an increase of 33 percent while total loans recorded an increase of 25.5 percent to 103bn/- from 82.1bn/-.

Western Cape prioritises green, tech sectors

CAPE TOWN

THE green and technology sectors are among the key industries in which the Western Cape Government (WCG) plans to intensify its support for accelerated economic growth and job creation.

This was the word from premier Alan Winde during his State of the Province Address marking the official opening ceremony of the sixth Parliament of the Western Cape.

Winde, who has replaced Helen Zille as leader of the Western Cape, indicated that top on the list of priorities for the WCG is creating more jobs and more economic opportunities for citizens. He says his government will aim to create the enabling environment for a job in every household and work toward the 2.5% growth rate needed to achieve this.

"We are already the fastest growing economy in South Africa, and we have a proven track record in creating jobs," he pointed out. "Cape Town has been named the top financial centre in Sub-Saharan Africa, and the city-region has become firmly established as Africa's technology hub. "Since being elected as premier 57 days ago, I have established an economic war room that has already set to work on some of the burning issues holding back our economic progress.

"The war room, in its pilot phase, is being funded by Harvard University and is made up of teams from the province, city and private sector, who are focused on unblocking growth inhibitors in the construction and property industry, informal light manufacturing sector, the Atlantis manufacturing hub, and in tech and BPO [business process outsourcing]."

Winde's assertions come as some of the Western Cape's cities, like Cape Town and Stellenbosch, are increasingly becoming key hubs in the tech entre-



An aerial view of Cape Town

preneur community. A report from last year determined that the greater Cape Town area, including Stellenbosch, is the most productive technology sector in Africa.

The report found the greater Cape Town area employs significantly more people than respective tech sectors in Lagos and Nairobi. In addition to the vibrancy of the city's tech entrepreneur community, the research said entrepreneurs prefer Cape Town as the ideal destination to kick-start business.

According to the report, there are five reasons for starting a tech company in Cape Town. These are: Cape Town is an inspiring place for entrepreneurs to network, is perceived as a tech hub, is seen as a vibrant local tech business community for start-up support, provides a globally competitive lifestyle that promotes innovation, and has strong universities and major companies that help bring talent to the

city.

In February, research conducted by job search engine Adzuna, which charts vacancies advertised on its platform, found the ICT industry to be the top hiring sector in SA. Although Johannesburg had the highest number of IT jobs advertised compared to Cape Town, the Western Cape capital city recorded a significant increase in IT jobs. The IT jobs in Cape Town have increased by 15%, the research showed.

Other sectors the provincial government is looking to for accelerated economic growth and job creation include business process outsourcing, construction, finance, manufacturing, energy and utilities.

Moving to STEAMAC

Turning his attention to education, Winde said the provincial government will work to-

wards developing the new skills required for today and tomorrow. He explained: "We have all heard of the focus on STEM: science, technology, engineering and maths. We will future-proof our education system by moving from STEM to STEAMAC, and pilot projects in this respect are already in the pipeline.

"The first additional A is for the arts. The second A is for agriculture. Agriculture is a vital part of our economy, and we need to see agricultural education start to play a bigger role in our offer to learners. And I'm not talking about how to milk a cow; I'm talking about how to programme a robot.

"The C in STEAMAC is for coding and cloud computing. These are not skills for some point far off in the future; they are skills we need right now to offer young people with talent access to amazing opportunities in the workplace. "We need these skills if we are to stay competitive on the global stage," the premier concluded.

Off-grid renewable energy is helping tackle two of Africa's biggest problems

LAGOS

THE rise of decentralized renewable energy as a solution to electrification rates across Africa—the slowest growing globally—is also bringing with it a solution to high unemployment.

As startups in the space continue to prove the viability of their services as alternatives to traditional power grids, they're starting to create direct jobs at a scale that's already comparable to local utilities.

A "job census" report of the renewable energy sector shows the sector's workforce—in terms of direct, formal jobs—is already comparable to traditional power grids and utilities in Nigeria and Kenya (the report's analysis also included India and reflected similar impact). The report by Power for All, a non-governmental organization focused on promoting renewable energy, categorizes pico-solar appliances, solar home systems and mini-grids as well as standalone and grid-tied commercial and industrial systems as part of the renewable energy sector in its analysis.

In Nigeria and Kenya the impact of renewable energy jobs is also significant and still growing. Renewable energy companies in Kenya account for 10,000 jobs—only 1,000 fewer than the national utility, while in Nigeria the sector employs 4,000 in formal jobs compared to 10,000 employed across the country's traditional energy sectors.

Much of the sector's growth has been fuelled by a growing crop of companies looking to resolve unreliable power supply through renewable energy led by solar power PayGo products, which allow consumers to pay with mobile money.

TECHNOLOGY

£1 HOUSES A BOON FOR SOME UK BUYERS BUT IT'S NO EASY RIDE



Houses for sell in Webster Road, Liverpool, UK.

LONDON

GRADUATE student Victoria Brennan knew she was taking a risk when she bought a home in a run-down neighbourhood in the northern English city of Liverpool for less than the price of a cup of coffee.

But the move has paid off, getting her on to the property ladder - something that would otherwise have been impossible. "It seems mad ... It sounded too good to be true," said the 31-year-old, who got the keys to her dilapidated two-bedroom house in 2016.

"It's hard work, but actually if you're prepared to put that hard work in ... it's going to be an amazing place to live," she said. The £1 homes programme run by Liverpool City Council - the subject of a new TV documentary - is one of a handful of schemes by cities across Britain and Europe searching for innovative ways to solve housing crises.

Selling homes for token sums has become a popular, last-ditch strategy for towns, cities and villages fighting depopulation and decay. The schemes allow local authorities to fill empty homes and pass much of the costs of renovation to the buyer. But there is a catch.

The properties, as with Ms Brennan's in Liverpool, are commonly in areas that face challenges from crime to anti-social behaviour, economic deprivation and under-population. Ms Brennan said she had experienced theft, fireworks outside her home and her car windscreen being smashed on her largely abandoned street, after the houses on it were earmarked for demolition.

Inspired by Liverpool, authorities in the northern French town of Roubaix - which like the British city has been hit by industrial decline - have launched a £1 housing scheme to encourage economic regeneration.

And in Italy, southern towns are auctioning homes with a starting price of £1 to fight depopulation. In May, bargain hunters from Argentina to China snapped up abandoned homes in the dying hilltop town of Sambuca. Authorities in Sambuca di Sicilia put up empty houses for sale at 1 euro.

"Whether it is in Liverpool or Italy there are lots of examples of councils selling homes for a pound or a euro," said Henry Pryor, a property expert. "It's a great way to try and invigorate an area and to draw people back to parts of a town or city that have been abandoned."

About 75 homes are occupied so far under the Liverpool scheme, with a further 33 under work and 13 more in negotiations, according to the council. More than 2,500 people applied to join the scheme, which is no longer taking applications due to over-subscription, according to the Thompson Reuters Foundation.

Ibby Alasaly, her husband and two children live in a cramped home with her mother, who alerted her to the novel Liverpool scheme. She signed up with few expectations, got the keys to her new home in June 2018, and hopes to move in later this year after lengthy renovations and delays due to legal restrictions.

"It's definitely not as easy as it looks," said Ms Alasaly, who filled skips with fallen walls, broken plaster and debris.

"It's literally [building] everything from scratch. Things that I've never had to deal with before, like where do you want your plug sockets? Where's your gas meter going?"

Liverpool devised the scheme after the national government pulled funding for renewal and refurbishment of public housing, leaving it with empty homes it could not afford to demolish, restore or replace, said Mayor Joe Anderson.

"What we have seen is something quite remarkable in terms of a community being rebuilt from scratch and residents investing a great deal of blood, sweat and tears into their

new homes," said Mr Anderson. He credited the scheme with helping to breathe new life into areas previously "haemorrhaging residents." Not everyone is as impressed, however.

Polly Neate, chief executive of housing charity Shelter, said the answer to the country's homelessness crisis lay in creating more social housing - not taking houses out of council hands. "While we applaud councils who give any run-down empty homes a new lease of life, they must ensure this is best meeting the needs of local people, and that it's not done at the expense of delivering more social housing," she said.

Shelter has said England needs a "historic renewal of social housing" and at least 3.1 million new social homes over the next 20 years if it is to plug the supply gap. In the 1980s, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher allowed council tenants to buy their homes at rock-bottom prices and heavily restricted more council building, depleting the stock of cheaply available homes.

Since then, Britain has experienced years of chronic under-building, rising rents and cuts to benefits that have exacerbated housing shortages, say property experts. Last year, Britain's government said it would invest £2 billion to address an affordable housing shortage.

Claire Masters, executive producer of the television series on the Liverpool scheme - The £1 Houses: Britain's Cheapest Street - called it a "brave experiment" viewed by local governments in Britain and elsewhere as a possible blueprint.

"I don't think it's a gimmick at all," said Ms Masters, who has filmed participants since 2015 and has watched the council and residents adapt, butt heads, resolve conflicts and finally move in. "It is something that is ambitious. It's a small price tag with some big risks."

Elsewhere in the UK the traditional housing market appears to have taken a break from Brexit worries. Uncertainty about the UK leaving the European Union had weighed on

house prices, especially in London and south-eastern England, since voters decided in June 2016 to leave the European Union.

But there have been signs of a stabilisation coinciding with the decision to extend the original March 29 deadline for Britain's EU departure until the end of October, and the closely watched RICS poll of surveyors has recovered in recent months. The Bank of England said the number of mortgages approved for house purchase rose to 66,440 in June from 65,647 in May.

That was the highest since January and above the average forecast from economists in a Reuters poll. Net mortgage lending, which typically lags behind approvals, also rose more than expected, up by £3.7bn in June.

"June's mortgage data ties in with the view that housing market activity has got some help from the avoidance of a disruptive Brexit at the end of March," said Howard Archer, economist at EY ITEM Club. Faster wage growth and a jobs boom are also supporting house prices but Mr Archer said he expected them to rise by no more than 1.5 per cent this year, about their current growth rate.

If Britain leaves the EU without a deal on October 31 - something Prime Minister Boris Johnson says his government is actively preparing for - then house prices could quickly fall by around 5 per cent, Mr Archer added.



Dubai's new customer-centric Mollak system targets co-owned properties in the emirate.

DLD rolls out electronic system service payments on properties in Dubai

DUBAI

DUBAI Land Department unveiled an electronic system to regulate the payment of service fees between property owners and developers to ensure transparency and fairness in the sector.

The DLD, through its regulatory arm Real Estate Regulatory Authority, established "Mollak" (the Arabic word for owners), a system to monitor the payment of service charges in co-owned property projects - where owners are part of a wider development such as an apartment block or villa community - it said yesterday.

Owners will now pay community service fees directly to the Mollak system, rather than to the developer. The system operates within the databases of the real estate unit owners and of property units registered and approved by DLD.

"Through the system, Rera seeks to increase the role of governance, regulation and supervision as well as the participation of private sector specialists to increase real estate transparency and maintain the balance between real estate developers, management companies and homeowners," said Marwan bin Ghalita, chief executive of Rera.

The regulator started a pilot phase with management companies, auditors and financial institutions for the programme before officially rolling it out in the second quarter of the year, according to Mr Ghalita.

Through the Mollak system, 468 bank accounts were opened for project service charges while 88 management companies and 1,212 real estate projects were registered and approved by Rera. This is in addition to 200,000 real estate units

listed, comprising residential apartments, villas, offices and commercial shops. Rera agreed with seven banks to act as account trustees for co-owned properties and registered eight financial auditors to audit the application fees submitted for accreditation.

Rera additionally issues electronic approvals for service charges to real estate unit owners who also receive unified bills for service charges across the system. It compels management companies to explicitly submit bills through the system to provide protection for service-fee claims made by real estate owners.

The system works within the database of DLD, Rera, financial institutions and certified auditors registered with Rera, as well as co-owned property management companies registered with the authority.

It enforces comprehensive regulatory governance on a co-owned property management company licensed and registered with Rera, requiring it to upload financial statements and copies of maintenance, service and other supplier contracts for common real estate services, Rera said.

The financial auditor then verifies these statements and contracts according to the criteria adopted by the authority, which then reviews the completion of the transaction audit. Real estate unit owners are notified electronically of a unit's service fees with the publication of fee approval data in the service and maintenance fees index on DLD's website. The management company then requests owners to pay the services fees through the Mollak system, and sends the service-fee invoices in accordance with the amounts approved by Rera.

30 Chinese companies enter bids for Vietnam's North-South Expressway

HANOI

CHINESE companies have dominated the bidding for the first half of Vietnam's North-South Expressway, a public-private project that will run for 1,941km from Hanoi to Can Tho in the Mekong Delta.

Sixty companies entered bids before the 10 July deadline. Of these, 30 are Chinese, 15 are from Korea, France and the Philippines and 15 are Vietnamese. At stake are the first eight sections of the 16 section scheme.

The eight sections run for 530km between Son La Province in the north and Binh Thuan Province near Ho Chi Minh City. Their total cost is expected to be between \$4.3bn and \$5.1bn, of around \$2bn will come from the government.

The VN Express newspaper reports that the most prominent Chinese investor is China Railway Construction Group and its subsidiaries, such as China Railway Construction Investment Group and China Railway 21st Bureau Group. They have partnered with Vietnamese enterprises and have submitted bids for seven out of the eight

sections.

Other Chinese outfits to enter the race include China Port Mechanical Company, China Bridge and Road Corporation and Yunnan Investment and Construction Group. A number of Japanese and European companies had expressed interest in the project, but in the event only the French have decided to press ahead.

A source in the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport told the VN Express newspaper that the Chinese bidders were capable of raising capital at interest rates of less than 2%, which made them less dependent on government guarantees on minimum toll revenue.

Preconstruction work on the project has been under way since February. The evaluation and negotiation process is expected to begin in August, with contracts signed in April 2020.

It is estimated that Vietnam needs to spend about \$480bn in the next year to prevent lack of infrastructure restricting the country's vigorous economic growth, but it is thought that the state budget can only meet one third of that cost.

Canada to bring undocumented construction workers in from the cold

OTTAWA

THE Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) has launched an initiative to help 500 undocumented construction workers find a route to permanent residence status.

The CLC will work with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, the government agency that handles immigration, and will focus on workers and their families in the Greater Toronto Area. The initiative responds

to a recent parliamentary report on labour shortages in the construction industry in Toronto, and draws on a number of studies about the vulnerability of "out-of-status" workers. The report recommended

that the federal government find ways to regularise the status of construction workers with precarious or no immigration status.

The government said in a press release: "These construction workers have come

to Canada and made contributions to its economy and currently have limited means to regularise their status. "Over many years, even decades, some workers who have come to Canada with valid temporary resident

status, and who have filled labour shortages in the construction industry, have fallen out of status."

The application process will begin on 3 September, and will require workers to contact the CLC to determine

their eligibility.

The first 500 to qualify will be referred to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

Spouses and children may be included in the application.

Trump's spat with lawmakers continues ahead of 2020 election

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump continues to spar with a group of minority lawmakers in the lead-up to the 2020 elections. While Trump extols how his administration has helped minorities, Democrats accuse the president of racism.

Trump has in recent weeks been embroiled in a tit-for-tat war of words with a group of minority lawmakers, which has grabbed headlines.

Elijah Cummings, an African American Congressman, has questioned sanitation and other humanitarian conditions in US border facilities that house migrants caught illegally entering the United States, highlighting a hot-button political issue between the two parties.

In response, Trump lambasted Cummings on the conditions in the city of Baltimore – just an hour from the nation's capital – part of which lies in Cummings' district. Trump tweeted over the weekend that the city was a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested

mess. If he spent more time in Baltimore, maybe he could help clean up this very dangerous and filthy place."

Meanwhile, Trump's spat with "the Squad" – four freshmen Congresswomen of color – continues, amid Democrats' and media accusations that Trump is racist, criticizing women of color. Trump has blasted Democratic Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York, Ilhan Omar of Minnesota, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, and Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, telling them to "go back" to their home countries, even though Omar is the only one of the four born abroad.

Some experts believe Trump wants to constantly dominate the media spotlight by engaging in these fights. Initially, "the Squad" had a beef with Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, not the president. But Trump inserted himself into the squabble in a bid to keep the media's focus on him.

Other analysts said his criticism of Cummings and "the Squad" is a nod to white voters. Still others argued that Trump aims to grab more of the



US Representatives Ayanna Pressley (front) speaks as, Ilhan Abdullahi Omar (left), Rashida Tlaib (second right), and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez hold a press conference, to address remarks made by US President Donald Trump earlier in the day, at the US Capitol in Washington, DC. (File photo)

African American vote by highlighting the deep problems in Cummings' district and charging that Democrats are not helping African Americans.

"These four members of Congress are high-profile Democrats who are both vocal Trump critics and are more liberal than the average member of the Democratic caucus. So to an extent, Trump is trying to make these four members the face of the House Democrats, which could be detrimental to other Democrats from more moderate districts," said Christopher Galdiery, assistant professor at Saint Anselm College.

"Throughout his campaign and administration, Trump has repeatedly lionized white, working class men in his rhetoric. His criticisms of Omar etc. – particularly the ugly 'send her home' and 'go back where they came from' language – is at least in part about defining politics as a space dominated by white men," Galdiery said.

"Finally, it gives him antagonists. Trump is often at sea when he has nobody to contrast himself with, and 'the squad' makes for ready-made opponents in his tweets," Galdiery said.

Republican strategist Ford O'Connell told Xinhua that Democrats are going to "double down on (accusations of) racism and Trump is going to show them how ridiculous their claims are."

Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua that Trump is "criticizing minority legislators in order to get more white votes. He sees race as a fundamental dividing point in American society, and he wants a big white turnout in order to win."

"What he doesn't realize is how his rhetoric also mobilizes minority voters for Democrats. They are upset with his divisive comments and are likely to turn out in big numbers in 2020," West said.

Xinhua

US Senate confirms Craft as ambassador to United Nations

WASHINGTON

THE US Senate on Wednesday confirmed Kelly Craft, a Republican donor who is currently ambassador to Canada, as ambassador to the United Nations, despite opposition from Democrats who criticized President Donald Trump's nominee as too inexperienced for the post.

The Senate backed Craft by a vote of 56 to 34, largely along party lines, moving to end seven months without a permanent US envoy to the world body.

UN ambassador is one of several high-level positions in the Trump administration held for months

by temporary appointees as the White House struggles to deal with a chronic, high turnover of top administration officials.

The Senate last week confirmed Army Secretary Mark Esper, a former lobbyist, as secretary of defense, ending a record seven-month period in which the Pentagon lacked a permanent top official.

This week, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats announced his resignation.

Trump nominated Craft, 57, for the UN post after a recommendation from Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who represents her home state of



Kentucky.

She had faced fierce opposition from some Democrats.

Senator Bob Menendez, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, accused Craft of lacking the "seriousness and professionalism" for the post at the world

body.

Craft, the wife of a billionaire coal industry executive, generated controversy shortly after assuming her post in Ottawa by telling Canadian Broadcasting she believed "both sides" of the climate change debate.

However, she acknowledged during her confirmation hearing that climate change is a global threat and pledged to recuse herself from any UN talks on the issue involving coal because of her husband's position.

Menendez on Wednesday released a report that said Craft spent the majority of her time as ambassador to Canada outside of

the country.

Craft's backers called her a tough negotiator on a trade deal with Canada and Mexico who had established decent working relationships with both Republicans and Democrats.

Craft will have the difficult job of defending Trump's "America First" foreign policy and navigating his criticism of the United Nations while getting global diplomats to back US policies.

Trump's first UN ambassador, former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley, announced her resignation in October and left the position at the end of last year.

Agencies

Iran's Zarif rebuffs US sanctions on him, Rouhani says 'childish'

TEHRAN/WASHINGTON/DUBAI

IRAN'S Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif yesterday dismissed the US' decision to put sanctions on him.

"It has no effect on me or my family, as I have no property or interests outside of Iran," Zarif tweeted. "Thank you for considering me such a huge threat to your agenda."

"The US reason for designating me is that I am Iran's 'primary spokesperson around the world.' Is the truth really that painful?" Zarif (pictured) noted.

Later in the day, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called the US' move "childish behaviour", reports Reuters.

"They (Americans) are resorting

to childish behaviour... They were claiming every day 'We want to talk, with no preconditions' ...and then they sanction the foreign minister," Rouhani said in remarks carried live on state television. "This means they have lost the power of rational thought."

Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards condemned the move as "ridiculous, illegal and unwise", the semi-official news agency Fars reported.

The Trump administration on Wednesday announced that it has sanctioned Zarif, amid high tension between the two sides.

The US Treasury Department alleged that Zarif "acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of



Iran," who was placed under sanctions in June.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement, "Iran's Foreign Ministry is not merely the diplomatic arm of the Islamic Republic but also a means of advanc-

ing many of the Supreme Leader's destabilizing policies."

According to a US Treasury Department statement, all property and interests of Zarif in the United States or in the possession or control of US persons must be blocked and reported to the US government.

In addition, any foreign financial institution that knowingly conducts or facilitates a significant transaction for or on behalf of Zarif would also face punishment by the US government.

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi yesterday said that "the Americans are seriously scared by the logic of Zarif and his art of negotiations."

Ties between the United States and Iran have deteriorated signifi-

cantly after Washington walked away from the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal in May 2018 and reimposed energy and financial sanctions, which had been removed under the deal, on Iran.

Iran has suspended parts of its commitments subject to the nuclear deal and have threatened to go further.

The US government on June 24 imposed "hard-hitting" sanctions on Iran, partially targeting Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

US President Donald Trump said the move came after "a series of aggressive behaviors by the Iranian regime in recent weeks" including shooting down a US drone.

Xinhua

China's achievements of opening up in statistics

OVER The past 40 years, China has pursued the fundamental policy of opening up, starting a great journey in which it achieved common progress with the world.

To better embrace the future, China will further open up its market, expand import, and make the China International Import Expo (CIIE), the world's first import-themed national exhibition into a success.

Statistics 1: China's annual import value rose an yearly average of 18.1 percent from 18.7 billion yuan (\$ 2.7 billion) to 12.5 trillion yuan during the 40 years of reform and opening up.

The first CIIE will be participated by over 3,600 enterprises, including more than 200 Fortune 500 companies and many industry leaders. More than 100 new products and technologies will debut at the event.

To expand import is a long-term policy that China adheres to. Especially after the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the policy has been made more explicit and helped China achieved remarkable results.

From 1978 to 2017, China's annual import value rose an yearly average of 18.1 percent from 18.7 billion yuan to 12.5 trillion yuan. From 1982 to 2017, China's import of services expanded 230 times with an average annual growth of 16.8 percent.

China imported a total of \$1.84 trillion worth of goods in 2017, 6.2 times of those in 2002, the first year after its accession to the WTO. Its services import and deficits were respectively \$467.6 billion and \$239.5 billion, 10.1 and 798.3 times of those in 2002.

So far, China has grown into the world's second largest importer of commodities and second largest importer of services, with its import of commodities and services accounting for around 10 percent of the global total.

Bai Ming, deputy director of the Ministry of Commerce's International Market Research Institute believes that well-structured import in a moderate scale will place positive effects on the improvement of China's domestic production factors supply.

The expansion of import is a proactive move to meet people's aspiration toward a better life, said Zhao Ping, director of the international trade research department under the Academy of China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

She introduced that the overseas consumption of Chinese people was growing at a double-digit pace annually in the last decade.

To expand consumption of high-quality products and service import will enrich consumption choices, promote the backlog of overseas consumption, optimize consumption structure, accelerate consumption upgrading, and satisfy people's personalized, diversified and differentiated consumption demands, Zhao remarked.

Statistics 2: China's growth of imports was 5.3 percentage points higher than the global average, which offered broad market and valuable opportunities of cooperation for global enterprises.

An employee of the Australian health supplements company Blackmores told People's Daily that the CIIE is of profound significance for the company, calling the event a powerful move of China to support free trade and expand opening up.

The CIIE would serve as a valuable platform for Blackmores to promote its brand and products in the Chinese market, the employee added. The sales volume of the company hit 143 million Australian dollars in the last fiscal year, up 22 percent from a year ago.

China was the fastest-growing import market among major importers of the world in 2017. Its growth of import was respectively 8.9, 5.5 and 5.4 percentage points higher than that of the US, Germany, and Japan, and also 5.3 percentage points higher than the world average. The country offered broad market and valuable opportunities of cooperation for global enterprises.

Wang Bingnan, Vice Minister of China's Ministry of Commerce noted that the CIIE is a platform where every country can negotiate major issues of economy and trade and seek for common development, so as to make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial to all.

Statistics 3: China's overall tariff level has been lowered to 7.5 percent after rounds of adjustment.

Since November 1, China further lowered tariff rates on 1,585 taxable items including stones, ceramics and machinery. The country's overall tariff level has been lowered to 7.5 percent after rounds of adjustment.

Through a series of pragmatic measures, China showcased its firm conviction to take the initiative to expand import and further open up.

Thanks to the improvement of business environment of the ports and the facilitation of cross-border trade, the overall customs clearance time for cargo will be further reduced by 1/3, from 97.39 hours in 2017 to 65 hours before the end of this year.

Furthermore, the time will be reduced to 48 hours by the end of 2021, almost half of that in 2017. In addition, departments such as China's General Administration of Customs have also tailored many measures of facilitation for the CIIE.

People's Daily

Britain to spend an extra US\$2.6bn on no-deal Brexit planning

LONDON

BRITAIN said it is ramping up preparations for a no-deal Brexit by spending an extra 2.1 billion pounds (US\$2.6 billion) to stockpile medicines, hire more border officials and fund one of the biggest peacetime advertising campaigns.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who took power last week, has pledged to leave the trading bloc without an agreement in three months unless the EU agrees to renegotiate the deal agreed by his predecessor Theresa May.

In his first major policy announcement, new finance minister Sajid Javid said the outlay will allow the govern-

ment to increase training for customs officials, hire more staff to deal with an expected increase in passport applications, and improve infrastructure around ports.

"With 92 days until the UK leaves the European Union it's vital that we intensify our planning to ensure we are ready," Javid said. "We want to get a good deal that abolishes the anti-democratic backstop. But if we can't get a good deal, we'll have to leave without one."

Wrenching the United Kingdom out of the EU without a deal means there would be no formal transition arrangement to cover everything from post-Brexit pet passports to customs arrangements on the Northern Irish

border.

Many investors say a no-deal Brexit would send shock waves through the world economy, tip Britain into a recession, roil financial markets and weaken London's position as the pre-eminent international financial center.

Supporters of Brexit say that while there would be some short-term difficulties, the disruption of a no-deal Brexit has been overplayed and that in the long-term, the United Kingdom would thrive if it left the European Union.

The finance ministry, which said the new money will "turbo-charge" no-deal preparations, will provide an immediate cash boost of 1.1 billion pounds and make a further 1 billion

pounds available for government departments and the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This means the government has in total allocated 6.3 billion pounds to prepare for a no-deal exit, including 4.2 billion pounds of funding for this financial year.

The finance ministry said, among other initiatives, 434 million pounds will be spent to ensure vital supplies of medicines and medical products can be brought into the country, including hiring additional freight capacity, warehousing and stockpiling.

To get people and businesses ready for a no-deal Brexit, 138 million pounds will be spent on one of the big-

gest peacetime advertising campaigns and provide extra consular support for citizens living overseas.

A total of 344 million pounds will be spent on new border and customs operations, including hiring an extra 500 border force officers and doubling the support for customs agents to help companies fill in customs declarations.

Javid's predecessor Philip Hammond, who opposed leaving the EU without a divorce deal, was accused by Brexit supporters of failing to spend enough money to get Britain ready for a no-deal Brexit, undermining its negotiating position with Brussels.

The main opposition Labour party branded the spending an "appalling

waste of taxpayers' cash" because the majority of lawmakers in parliament had made clear their intention to block an exit without a withdrawal agreement.

"This government could have ruled out no deal, and spent these billions on our schools, hospitals, and people," said John McDonnell, the party's finance chief.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Rishi Sunak rejected those claims.

"It is my job to make sure that we spend taxpayers' money wisely, the good news here is a lot of this money and a lot of this investment is things we need to do in all cases because we are leaving the European Union," he said.

Agencies

Bill Gates expects to 'share the future' with Chinese partners

BILL Gates said he was glad to be part of the China International Import Expo during a recent exclusive interview with People's Daily.

Gates praised China's new achievements on poverty reduction and innovation when addressing the first Hongqiao International Economic and Trade Forum, which was held on the sidelines of the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai on Nov 5, the opening day of CIIE.

He also hailed Chinese President Xi Jinping's remarks in the latter's speech at the opening ceremony of the CIIE that China will open still wider.

"I am a big believer in the win-win nature of free trade," Gates told People's Daily, adding that all the leaders at the CIIE were very strong on this point.

He took breakthroughs in medicine as an example, saying that the US wants Chinese breakthroughs and China wants US breakthroughs. He believes that there is much to do to avoid zero-sum mentality.

"New Era, Shared Future" is the theme of the CIIE. Gates holds that "Shared Future" means China connecting to the entire world, and to help the countries that are further behind China is an important part of that.

With the FOCAC and the Belt and Road Initiative, China is doing even more to share the lessons that it has learned, including the very ambitious goal of getting rid of extreme poverty completely by 2020, Gates noted.

He remarked that the "Shared Future" is very much an intersection with the basic priority of the Gates Foundation, expressing his hope to establish partnerships with China on aid projects.

On poverty reduction, disease control, and agricultural technologies, the



Bill Gates

Gates Foundation, together with its Chinese partners, have actively started exploration and research, as well as expanded third-party cooperation in Africa, so as to make contribution to Africa's sustainable development and the joint construction of the Belt and Road.

During the interview, Gates introduced his cooperation on the "rein-

vented toilet". He said that China has achieved huge progress in health improvement for its hundreds of millions of people over the last few decades, and the recent "toilet revolution" campaign also reflected the country's resolution to improve toilet sanitation and safety.

"Our goal is to eventually have the price be so low that even in an Afri-

can city, that fairly poor people can afford to have this breakthrough toilet in their home," Gates said.

During his trip to China, Gates attended the opening ceremony of the Global Health Drug Discovery Institute (GHDDI). He noted he is optimistic about China's capability of research and innovation, saying China is investing in the basic re-

search budget and it's growing very quickly.

"We've had collaborations with groups like CNBG (China National Biotec Group) that has made special vaccines here with literally hundreds of millions of units of those vaccines going out to poor countries. As we've done particular projects, we are building on the success of those. We are actually doing more now," Gates told People's Daily.

Innovation is an important factor to achieve the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, and China has become a key part in advancing global progress and innovation, he said.

2018 marks the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up. In this regard, Gates noted that what China has done was just incredible.

"The 70% poverty reduction in the world came because these 40 years, those policies have utterly changed the income level and what you expect in terms of health and infrastructure," Gates told People's Daily.

According to Gates, when he first came to China 25 years ago, it was hard for him to see that China would not only get rid of poverty, but also in so many issues move to the forefront, with great scientists and world-leading companies.

The Informal Senior Officials Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is about to kick off in Papua New Guinea. Gates told People's Daily that each party wanted to have more infrastructure so that trade can work easily.

He believes that it requires a lot of communication to make sure that cooperation projects are mutually beneficial. China is actively engaged in global forums such as the APEC and played an important role, Gates added.

People's Daily

Russia, Iran, Turkey to hold trilateral summit on Syria, date undetermined as yet – source

NUR-SULTAN

THE three guarantors of the Astana process on Syria – Russia, Iran and Turkey – plan to hold a trilateral summit on Syrian regulation, a source close to the negotiations' organizers told TASS yesterday.

The date of the summit has not been determined yet, a source at the Turkish Foreign Ministry informed TASS yesterday.

"The date is undetermined yet, we are working on this," the source informed.

Earlier yesterday, a source in the Kazakhstan's capital close to the organization of the talks on Syria between Russia, Turkey and Iran informed TASS that the summit is planned for September 11.

On July 4, Turkish Presidential Spokesman Ibrahim Kalin stated that the Syria summit would take place in August.

The establishment of the Syrian Constitutional Committee will be announced at the upcoming Russia-Iran-Turkey summit, the source informed TASS.

"Work on forming the Constitutional Committee is in progress," the source added. "It is planned to announce its creation at the upcoming Astana Process Summit."

According to the source, participants in the meeting on Syria that takes place in the Kazakh capital of Nur-Sultan on August 1-2 have reached understanding on the last candidates for the constitutional committee.

Democratic presidential hopefuls clash over health care in Detroit debates

WASHINGTON

TEN more Democratic presidential hopefuls clashed over health care on Wednesday, with heated exchanges on other topics during the second night of the party's second round of primary debates in Detroit, Michigan.

Senator Kamala Harris, responding to former Vice President Joe Biden's criticism of her recently-released health care plan, said Biden probably didn't read it.

She released a "Medicare for All" plan on Monday after months of inconsistency on the issue, clarifying that she does not support the total elimination of private insurance plans, a step back from her previous stance akin to that of Senator Bernie Sanders.

Biden's campaign later responded that Harris refused "to be straight with the American middle class" on the hefty tax burden brought by her plan.

Harris explained on the debate stage that her plan is responsive to American's needs, considering that private "insurance companies have been jacking up the prices for far too long."

Biden doubled down, telling potential voters to be cautious of a 10-year phase-in period proposed by Harris' plan.

"Anytime someone tells you – you're going to get something good in ten years, you should wonder why it takes ten years."



Senator Kamala Harris

The two polling frontrunners shared the stage with seven other contenders, including Senator Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, who challenged the two by saying they were "at risk of losing the forest for the trees," when the Republicans are chipping away at the Affordable Care Act enacted by former President Barack Obama.

The Wednesday night debate lasted over two and a half hours, during which candidates also battled around topics including education, law enforcement, race, climate change, trade, national security, the Russia investigation,

and their individual electability.

Many condemned the current administration's immigration policy. "There's not a single person on this stage if were president would ever separate a child from their parents at the border," Senator Michael Bennet of Colorado said.

"That is what his administration has done in the American people's name, they have turned our border into a symbol of hostility."

Senator Cory Booker of New Jersey also weighed in on the administration's treatment of undocumented immigrants, citing

his visit to detention facilities. "Seeing children sleeping on pavement, people being put in cages, nursing mothers, small children, this is not necessary," he said.

President Donald Trump, who recently launched his 2020 re-election campaign, tweeted after the Wednesday debate that "the people on the stage tonight, and last, were not those that will either Make America Great Again or Keep America Great!"

"Ten other Democratic hopefuls, including Sanders and Senator Elizabeth

Warren of Massachusetts, held a face-off a day earlier. According to a Quinnipiac University Poll released ahead of the Detroit debates, Biden was favored by 34 percent of Democrats and independent voters nationwide, leading the next three frontrunners, namely Warren, Harris and Sanders, by a large margin.

The next debates are scheduled to open September in Houston, Texas. As the Democratic National Committee is raising the bar to qualify, a less crowded lineup is expected.

Xinhua

US envoy slams Germany after reluctance on Hormuz mission

BERLIN

THE US ambassador to Germany launched a scathing attack on Chancellor Angela Merkel's government yesterday for its reluctance to join a naval mission in the Strait of Hormuz, saying Europe's biggest economy must assume more global responsibility.

Relations between the United States and Germany have soured since US President Donald Trump took office, due to disagreements on a range of issues from defense spending to trade tariffs, the NordStream 2 gas pipeline and Iran.

On Wednesday, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas ruled out German participation in a planned US-led naval mission to the Strait of Hormuz, close to Iran, after the US said it had made a formal request. He said Germany wanted to ease tensions with Iran and everything should be done to avoid an escalation.

Expressing frustration about



that decision, Ambassador Richard Grenell (pictured) said Germany had a duty to fulfil and told the Augsburg Allgemeine newspaper: "Germany is the biggest economic power in Europe. This success brings global responsibilities."

He said the United States had been trying to get support from Germany for weeks for the military mission in the Strait of Hormuz, and that while one minister spoke of looking at the requests, the foreign minister had rejected it.

Defense Minister Annegret

Kramp-Karrenbauer had said in Brussels that Germany was "reviewing" the request, striking a softer tone than Maas.

On the front line of the Cold War, West Germany was one of the United States' closest allies, embraced as a bulwark against Communism after the World War Two defeat of Nazi rule.

"America has sacrificed a lot to help Germany remain part of the West," Grenell told the newspaper, adding Americans were paying huge sums for 34,000 soldiers to be stationed in Germany.

Grenell has courted controversy since arriving in Berlin last year with his outspoken views and criticism of Germany.

On another issue that has caused friction, a US Senate committee on Wednesday passed a bill to slap sanctions on companies, including several German firms, and individuals involved in building the NordStream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany.

Participation of Lebanon, Iraq in Astana talks to help resolve Syria issue, says diplomat

MOSCOW

THE participation of Lebanon and Iraq in the Astana process on Syria will make it possible to resolve a number of pressing issues, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told a briefing on Thursday.

"Today, Lebanese and Iraqi observers have for the first

time joined the Astana talks. We believe that it will improve the engagement of Syria's neighboring countries, making it possible to discuss pressing issues such as the return of Syrian refugees, the restoration of trade and economic ties and relations between Damascus and its Arab partners in more detail," she said.

The 13th international high-

level meeting on Syria takes place in the Kazakh capital of Nur-Sultan on August 1-2. The event involves representatives of the guarantor countries (Russia, Iran and Turkey), the Syrian government and the armed opposition. High-ranking officials from the United Nations and Jordan are present at the meeting as observers.

Agencies

AU expresses deep concern over persistence of sexual violence in armed conflicts in Africa

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) yesterday expressed its deep concern over the persistence of sexual violence incidents during armed conflicts across the African continent.

The 55-member pan African bloc expressed its "deep concern" concerning the persistence of sexual violence in armed conflicts in Africa following the African Peace and Security Council's latest meeting, which was held under the theme of "Sexual Violence in

Armed Conflicts in Africa."

"The Council noted with deep concern the persistence of conflict-related sexual violence in Africa, in spite of the commitments made by the AU member countries to end this scourge," the AU said in a statement on Thursday.

The AU, noting that majority of the perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence in Africa are non-state actors, further underscored the vital importance for all AU member countries "to sign, ratify and fully domesticate all AU and international

instruments relating to sexual violence."

It also emphasized the significance of respecting the AU's Policy on Conduct and Discipline for AU Peace Support Operations (PSOs) as well as the AU Policy on Prevention and Responses to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse for PSOs, as important instruments in tackling conflict-related sexual violence incidents.

The AU emphasized the importance of ensuring the inclusion of women in the national defense and security forces and their deployment in PSOs, as

well as their effective participation in peace processes.

Council underscored the importance of regular capacity building training on prevention of conflict-related sexual violence, particularly for national justice and security sector actors.

Noting the urgent need to foster regional cooperation and sharing of experiences and best practice in preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence in Africa, the Council also "encouraged all AU member countries to adopt broad, pro-

gressive legal frameworks that reflect a broad understanding of sexual violence."

According to the AU, the proposed legal frameworks should embrace the broader understanding of sexual violence against men and boys, as well as the rights of children conceived through wartime rape.

The AU's Peace and Security Council also commended African countries that have already adopted their national action plans for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, a global framework

that provides for the participation of women in peace processes. It also urged its member countries, which have not yet adopted national plans of action to the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution, "to do the same without further delays."

Noting the importance of "harnessing and further strengthening women's national platforms and regional networks on peace and security," the Council further encouraged all AU member countries to endorse the AU's principles on the protection of

civilians.

The AU also commended its continental and international partners for their "continued support to the continental efforts aimed at preventing and fighting sexual violence in Africa."

It also emphasized the contribution of civil society organizations "in building the capacity of AU member countries to prevent and respond to cases of sexual as well as gender-based violence, with particular emphasis to their support to victims and survivors of this scourge." Xinhua



FILE - This Aug. 14, 2009 file photo shows a van decorated with "Woodstock or Bust" at the original Woodstock Festival site in Bethel, N.Y. Woodstock 50 is officially cancelled. Organizers announced Wednesday, July 31, 2019 that the troubled festival that hit a series of setbacks in the last four months won't take place next month. The three-day festival was originally scheduled for Aug. 16-18, but holdups included permit denials and the loss of a financial partner and a production company. (AP Photo)

Organizers finally cancel troubled Woodstock 50 festival

NEW YORK

WOODSTOCK 50 is officially canceled.

Organizers announced Wednesday that the troubled festival that hit a series of setbacks in the last four months won't take place next month.

The three-day festival was originally scheduled for Aug. 16-18, but holdups included permit denials and the loss of a financial partner and a production company.

Last week Jay-Z, Dead & Company and John Fogerty announced that they wouldn't perform at the event after organizers said it was moving to Maryland from New York.

"We are saddened that a series of unforeseen setbacks has made it impossible to put on the festival we imagined with the great lineup we had booked and the social engagement we were anticipating," festival co-founder Michael Lang said in a statement Wednesday. "We released all the talent so any involvement on their part would be voluntary. Due to conflicting radius issues in the DC area many acts were unable to participate and others passed for their own reasons."

Organizers said they were planning to make Woodstock 50 a free benefit concert at the Merriweather Post Pavilion in Columbia, Maryland, before announcing they had canceled the festival altogether. Lang announced the 50th anniversary event in March alongside Fogerty and rapper Common, two acts that were slated to perform. Other artists who were booked for the festival included the Killers, Miley Cyrus, Imagine Dragons, Chance the Rapper, Robert Plant and The Sensational Space Shifters,

IAAF hails Semenya decision as victory for 'parity'

LONDON

THE governing body of world athletics has hailed the Swiss court decision that ruled Caster Semenya out of their world championships as a victory for "parity and clarity".

Olympic 800 metres champion Semenya (pictured) is fighting an International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) regulation that middle distance female runners with a high natural level of testosterone must take medication to reduce it.

On Tuesday, the Swiss Federal Tribunal (SFT) reversed a ruling that temporarily lifted the IAAF's testosterone regulations imposed on her, effectively ruling her out of the Sept. 28-Oct. 6 world championships in Doha.

"This decision creates much needed parity and clarity for all athletes as they prepare for the world championships in Doha this September," the IAAF said in a statement.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled the IAAF's regulations were necessary for athletes with differences in sexual development (DSDs) to ensure fair competition.

CAS is based in Lausanne and comes under the jurisdiction of Switzerland's highest court. Semenya, who is appealing the CAS ruling at the SFT, has said she does not wish to take medication to change who she is and how she was born, and wants to compete naturally.

The IAAF said during the remainder of the

David Crosby, Janelle Monae, Brandi Carlile and Halsey.

Woodstock 50 was originally supposed to take place across three main stages at Watkins Glen International racetrack in Watkins Glen, New York, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northwest of the original site, but the venue pulled out. Tickets were supposed to go on sale on April 22, which was Earth Day, but that was postponed.

Woodstock will still celebrate its anniversary: Ringo Starr, Santana and Fogerty will perform at Woodstock's original site in Bethel, New York, in a smaller anniversary event at the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts not connected to Woodstock 50.

The original Woodstock, a festival pushing the message of peace, love and music, was a seminal, groundbreaking event in 1969 that featured performances by Jimi Hendrix, the Grateful Dead, Joan Baez, the Who and other iconic acts.

Lang is asking Woodstock 50 artists who were already paid to donate 10% of their earnings to HeadCount, a nonprofit group that registers voters at music events, or to another organization.

"Woodstock remains committed to social change and will continue to be active in support of HeadCount's critical mission to get out the vote before the next election," Lang said in his statement. "We thank the artists, fans and partners who stood by us even in the face of adversity."

My thoughts turn to Bethel and its celebration of our 50th Anniversary to reinforce the values of compassion, human dignity, and the beauty of our differences embraced by Woodstock."



SFT hearing it would "maintain its position that there are some contexts, sport being one of them, where biology has to trump gender identity".

"The IAAF believes... that the DSD Regulations are a necessary, reasonable and proportionate means of protecting fair and meaningful competition in elite female athletics."

Semenya ran the quickest ever 800 metres on United States soil at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League meeting on June 30 in a time of 1:55.70.

REUTERS

R. Kelly lawyer calls alleged victims 'disgruntled groupies': Court filing

NEW YORK

A LAWYER for singer R. Kelly, who is accused of running a years-long scheme sexually preying on women and girls, said on Wednesday that the charges against the R&B artist stemmed from disgruntled groupies.

Lawyer Douglas Anton made the claim in a filing in Brooklyn federal court, ahead of Kelly's scheduled Friday court appearance. Kelly has pleaded not guilty.

New York prosecutors have charged Kelly with running a criminal racketeering enterprise in which he sexually trafficked and exploited minors. An indictment against Kelly refers to five alleged victims of the scheme, who are not named.

Anton said in Wednesday's filing that the charge was "an absurdity," and that the women with whom Kelly had sex were "dying to be with him."

"If this was the 'pattern' or 'enterprise' the government seeks to make it out to be, (it) is five disgruntled groupies, not all of which are alleged to be under age, who now show groupie remorse so many years later," he wrote.

Prosecutors have said Kelly set strict rules for his sexual partners, requiring them to get his permission to eat or go to the bathroom. Anton said these rules were intended for their protection, to ensure "the safest, most enjoyable fan experience."

Anton asked that Kelly be granted bail on the New York charges at Friday's hearing, though he acknowledged that Kelly will remain jailed no matter what since he was denied bail on Chicago federal charges.



In this June 6, 2019, file photo, singer R. Kelly pleaded not guilty to 11 additional sex-related felonies during a court hearing before Judge Lawrence Flood at Leighton Criminal Court Building in Chicago. (AP)

Gloria Allred, a lawyer representing three of the alleged victims in the New York case, called Anton's filing "unusual."

"Whether he intended to or not, he's now given the prosecution a preview of what his defense may be," she said. "If that's all he's got, I think he's going to have major challenges in this case."

Kelly, 52, is charged in Brooklyn with racketeering and violation of a federal

human trafficking law. The Brooklyn prosecutors say Kelly and his entourage would invite women and girls backstage after concerts, isolate them from friends and family, and make them dependent on him for their financial well-being.

Kelly also faces 13 federal criminal counts in Chicago, including child pornography and obstruction of justice. The Chicago prosecutors charged in their 13-count indictment that Kelly

had sexual contact with five minors, recorded videos of some of them and paid them off to buy their silence.

In a third case, pending in Cook County, Illinois, state court, he is accused of abusing a girl between the ages of 13 and 16, between May 2009 and January 2010. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges as well.

REUTERS

...Judge orders lawyers not to talk about new evidence

CHICAGO

A FEDERAL judge in Chicago Wednesday barred attorneys from divulging new evidence in R. Kelly's child pornography case, saying he wants to ensure the celebrity case is tried in court, not in the media.

The R&B singer's attorneys objected to Judge Harry Leinenweber's protective order, complaining it would unfairly muzzle them as Kelly's accusers appeared on TV shows and documentaries characterizing the

evidence.

"They are all giving their version of the facts. ... We should be able to respond," said one of Kelly's lawyers, Michael Leonard. "They are putting (evidence) in the public domain and tainting the jury pool."

Prosecutor Angel Krull disputed the portrayal of witnesses speaking widely in public, saying only one of five accusers spoke in the Lifetime documentary, "Surviving R. Kelly," that earlier this year helped renew interest in allegations levelled at Kelly for decades.

More generally, she said that "the vast majority of our evidence has never seen the light of day" and should be held from public scrutiny until trial.

Kelly, 52, is jailed in the case on charges that also include coercing minors to engage in sex. Marshals are transporting him to New York for a Friday arraignment on related charges, and he faces similar Illinois charges brought by Cook County prosecutors. Kelly, who didn't attend Wednesday's hearing in Chicago, has denied any wrongdoing.

Leinenweber's order isn't a gag on all public comments by lawyers. For now, they simply can't speak about evidence not yet released publicly. He told defense lawyers Wednesday that they can always come back to court and ask him for permission to speak publicly on new evidence if Kelly's accusers or their spokesmen comment on it first.

The judge also said he'd like to aim for an April 2020 trial. He said he'd fix a date during the next status hearing on Sept. 4.

AP

The ball factory arming swing king Anderson with his weapon of choice

LONDON

IT is easy to imagine England's record-breaking bowler James Anderson walking around Dilip Jajodia's cricket ball factory in London's East End wearing the expression of a child in a toy shop.

The sight of a box load of freshly polished cherry-red Dukes balls would surely quicken the pulse of the 37-year-old paceman, who has made the leather spheres his weapon of a choice over a distinguished test career.

Jajodia, managing director of British Cricket Balls Ltd, has been busy overseeing the production and delivery of the 60 Dukes balls that will be used in the five-test Ashes series between England and Australia, starting at Edgbaston on Thursday.

The reason Anderson's eyes light up when he is thrown a new Dukes is that 368 of his 575 test wickets have come on home soil, where the ball has been the default during his long career.

Chuck him an Australia-manufactured Kookaburra, the brand used outside England and West Indies, and his bowling has been not nearly as effective.

The reason, Jajodia explains, is the pronounced hand-stitched seam that allows the Dukes ball to retain its "rudder" and aerodynamic qualities longer than machine-stitched balls.

Put simply, when delivered correctly, it swings more and for longer.

"A machine-stitched ball has two rows of stitches, with hand stitching there are six rows which hold the ball together and that means it retains its shape even after 60 overs," he told Reuters as three employees lovingly prepared the next batch.

"The fascination of cricket is that the ball changes its characteristics to suit different style of bowling. The Dukes ball is crafted to deteriorate slowly over 80 overs.

"Whereas the seam on a machine-stitched ball tends to go flat after being whacked around for 60 overs, the seam



A Dukes ball in the final stage of production at the British Cricket Balls Ltd in Walthamstow, London, Britain on Wednesday. REUTERS

on our balls remains pronounced even when it's old."

Jajodia bought the 259-year-old business in 1987 when the entire production process was carried out in Kent, to the south of the British capital.

PERFECT SPHERE

Since the mid-1990s, however, the raw material, premium-grade cow hide, has been sourced in Britain, cut into strips, then sent to the sub-continent to be stitched over the inner ball of rubber and cork by skilled craftsmen.

Four strips make up one ball with the highest-quality leather coming from close to the spine of the hide.

"Mix leather from the back with the stomach in one ball and it all goes pear-shaped," Jajodia said.

Once stitched, the balls are shipped back to his Walthamstow premises for finishing.

That involves embossing the distinctive coat of arms, checking the size (maximum 9

inches) and weight (156-163g), then milling – a process where the ball is inserted into a vice-like round mould and gently squeezed to create a perfect sphere.

After that a wax is carefully melted into the leather before a final layer of polish is applied.

"The wax is heated when players rub the ball on their trousers and comes to the surface to renew the shine and help it swing," Jajodi says.

Added to his global customers next year will be Australia's Sheffield Shield state championship – a move that in the long term is sure to reduce the fear Australian batsmen sometimes experience when facing the unfamiliar Dukes.

Jajodia, though, dismisses any suggestion he was asked to produce a ball with an even more pronounced seam for the Ashes series.

"Actually, for the English county season the ECB asked us to slightly flatten the seam to give the batsmen more of a chance,"

he said. "But with the Ashes looming the powers that be said can we go back to the 2018 specification, the one the produced one of the best series ever against India."

"The modern game has become batter-friendly and I see the Dukes as evening it up a bit. But people think anyone can make a Dukes ball move in the air. It's still an incredible skill."

"I watched the test at Lord's last week (when England were bowled out for 85 and Ireland for 38) and it was amazing to watch. There was not much movement, but just enough."

Anderson did not play in that match but he will be back at Edgbaston, Dukes ball in hand. Australia beware.

REUTERS

African Champions League final remains in limbo after CAS decision

LAUSANNE

THE decision to order a replay of the African Champions League final was thrown out by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Wednesday, who told the Confederation of African Football (CAF) to refer the case to its proper disciplinary structures for a decision.

The Swiss-based court's ruling leaves the final in limbo. The original fixture was abandoned and the match awarded to Esperance after opponents Wydad Casablanca left the pitch following a disputed decision.

After a delay of almost two hours, home side Esperance were handed the trophy and winners' medals, but were told to return them days later after the CAF executive committee ordered a replay on neutral territory, citing "unsafe conditions".

After appeals by both clubs, CAS ruled that CAF's executive committee "did not have jurisdiction" to order that the final be replayed and annulled that decision.

In a statement on Wednesday, CAS said it had referred the matter back to the African soccer body for the "competent CAF authorities to review the incidents" and decide whether the match should be replayed or not.

The two teams had drawn 1-1 in the first leg of the final in Casablanca and Esperance were 1-0 up in the return match on May 31 when Wydad netted what they thought was a 59th-minute equaliser.

Yet the referee ruled it out for offside and turned down animated

appeals from the Wydad players to consult the VAR because the system was not working.

Wydad refused to continue and the argument continued on the pitch between the teams and officials for some two hours before the game was called off and Esperance were awarded the trophy.

Five days later, CAF's executive committee said the second leg must be replayed on neutral territory, a decision made after a meeting in Paris just before the FIFA Congress.

Esperance appealed to CAS to be reinstated as champions after Wydad's walk off, while the Moroccans argued they should be declared winners or, alternatively, both legs of the final be annulled and a single replay ordered.

CAS said it rejected Wydad's appeal, but the question of whether the match would be replayed and the associated disciplinary procedure, would need to be considered by the appropriate CAF body.

CAS' decision will be seen as another slap in the face for CAF's beleaguered president Ahmad Ahmad, whose committee ordered the replay amid accusations by his critics that he was pandering to the Moroccans.

Ahmad is facing a FIFA ethics investigation into alleged corruption and sexual harassment while CAF's administration is being taken over on Thursday by FIFA general secretary Fatma Samoura, who is leading an overhaul of the African organisation.

REUTERS

Juve reject K League complaints after Ronaldo sits out Seoul friendly

TURIN, Italy

JUVENTUS chairman Andrea Agnelli on Wednesday rejected allegations that the Italian champions acted irresponsibly after Cristiano Ronaldo did not feature in a pre-season friendly against the K League All Stars in Seoul last week.

Ronaldo was contracted to play at least 45 minutes according to event organisers but sat out the game due to 'muscle fatigue', leading irate fans to pursue legal action to seek compensation for the cost of tickets and "mental anguish".

The K League said on Tuesday that it had sent a letter of protest to Juve for violating the contract but Agnelli has clarified his club's position on the matter to K League President Kwon Oh-gap in a letter sent by Reuters.

"Every single player present in Korea... played the match, except one: Cristiano Ronaldo, who was obliged, according to our medical staff's advice, to rest due to muscle fatigue after the Nanjing game (against Inter Milan) which was only 48 hours before the one in Seoul," Agnelli wrote.

REUTERS

Bale's round of golf not a concern for Zidane

MADRID

REAL Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says Gareth Bale's personal life is his own business and not something he would get involved in as long as the Welsh forward was training.

Bale, who has been strongly linked with a move away from the Spanish club, missed the trip to Munich for the Audi Cup pre-season tournament because he was not fit and had stayed in Madrid to train, Zidane said on Tuesday.

Media reports in Spain said the Welsh winger had been on the golf course on Tuesday while his team mates were losing 1-0 to Tottenham Hotspur, but Zidane was not about to start making any judgements.

"I am here, I'm here with my players, so I can't really say much. I hope that he has trained there," the Frenchman told reporters after Real beat Fenerbahce 5-3 to finish third in the tournament on Wednesday.

"I'm not going to stop anyone from doing something, you know? Everyone has their own responsibilities and we will see what he's been up to in Madrid."

"I'm not getting involved with his personal life. He stayed back to train. I think he has trained. And we will see about everything else."

The Bale saga has dominated the closed season at the Madrid club, with multiple media outlets suggesting he was on his way to China to join Jiangsu Suning only to then report that the move had been blocked by club president Florentino Perez.

On Wednesday, the Real players that did travel to Munich ensured the 13-times European champions had enough firepower up front against the Turkish side but Zidane did concede there was a problem with the number of goals they conceded.

"Yes, we're going to resolve that, we're going to work hard and I am one with my players," he added.

"I know we are going to push on and we're going to have a really good season. And that's it."

"Nobody likes to concede three goals. But the important thing for us is the victory. We won with five goals, and we could have scored more, but that's it."

REUTERS

Liverpool trio, US World Cup winners head FIFA award shortlists

LONDON

LIVERPOOL's Champions League winning trio of Mohamed Salah, Virgil van Dijk and Sadio Mane joined regulars Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi on the shortlist for The Best FIFA Men's player award, world soccer's governing body announced on Wednesday.

Salah and Mane shared the Premier League Golden Boot – with Arsenal's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang – for the league's top scorer with 22 goals each while Messi was the leading scorer in both La Liga (36 goals) and the Champions League (12 goals) last season.

Centre back Van Dijk was voted both the Premier League Player of the Season and the Players' Player of the Year, and was instrumental in the Merseyside club's sixth European Cup triumph.

Ronaldo won Italy's Serie A title in his debut season with Juventus and was also voted the league's most valuable player. He also led Portugal to the inaugural UEFA Nations League title last month.

US World Cup winners Megan Rapinoe, who won the top scorer's Golden Boot and Golden Ball for the best player at the tournament, Alex Morgan and Julie Ertz were nominated for the best women's player award along with last year's Ballon d'Or winner Ada Hegerberg.

Hegerberg's treble-winning Olympique Lyonnais team mates Lucy Bronze, Amandine Henry and Wendie Renard also made the cut.

Liverpool coach Jurgen Klopp and domestic treble winner Pep Guardiola of Manchester City head the nominees for the men's coach of the year award.

Other nominees include Portugal coach Fernando Santos, Brazil coach Tite, who led his side to the Copa America title, and Africa Cup of Nations winner Djamel Belmadi of Algeria.

US women's national team coach Jill Ellis, who led her side to their fourth World Cup title earlier this month, heads the list of nominees for the best women's team coach.

She is joined by Lyon's treble-winning coach Rey-



FILE PHOTO: Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk celebrates scoring their first goal with Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and team mates during their Premier League match against Newcastle United at St James' Park in Newcastle, Britain on May 4, 2019. (Agencies)

nald Pedros, Sarina Wiegman, who led the Netherlands to their first ever World Cup final, and Joe Montemurro who led Arsenal to the FA Women's Super League title.

The three finalists for each award will be revealed at a later date, with the winners to be announced in a ceremony in Milan on Sept. 23.

Full list of nominees:

The Best FIFA Men's Player:

Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal/Juventus), Frenkie De Jong and Matthijs de Ligt (both Netherlands/Ajax Amsterdam), Eden Hazard (Belgium/Chelsea), Harry Kane (England/Tottenham Hotspur), Sadio Mane (Senegal/Liverpool), Kylian Mbappe (France/Paris St Germain), Lionel Messi (Argentina/Barcelona), Mohamed Salah (Egypt/Liverpool), Virgil van Dijk (Nether-

lands/Liverpool).

The Best FIFA Women's Player:

Lucy Bronze (England/Olympique Lyon), Ada Hegerberg (Norway/Olympique Lyon), Julie Ertz (U.S./Chicago Red Stars), Sam Kerr (Australia/Perth Glory and Chicago Red Stars), Rose Lavelle (U.S./Washington Spirit), Caroline Hansen (Norway/Barcelona), Amandine Henry (France/Olympique Lyon), Alex Morgan (U.S./Orlando Pride), Megan Rapinoe (U.S./Reign FC), Wendie Renard (France/Olympique Lyon), Ellen White (England/Manchester City).

The Best FIFA Men's Coach:

Djamel Belmadi (Algeria/Algerian national team), Didier Deschamps (France, French national team), Marcelo Gallardo (Argentina/River Plate), Ricardo Gareca (Argentina/Peru), Pep Guardiola (Spain/Manchester City), Jurgen Klopp (Germany/Liverpool), Mauricio Pochettino (Argentina/Tottenham Hotspur), Fernando Santos (Portugal/Portuguese national team), Erik ten Hag (Netherlands/Ajax Amsterdam), Tite (Brazil/Brazilian national team).

The Best FIFA Women's Coach:

Milena Bertolini (Italy/Italian national team), Jill Ellis (U.S./U.S. national team), Peter Gerhardtsson (Sweden/Swedish national team), Futoshi Ikedo (Japan/Japan Under-20 women's team), Antonia Is (Spain/Spanish Under-17 team), Joe Montemurro (Australia/Arsenal women), Phil Neville (England/England), Reynald Pedros (France/Olympique Lyon), Paul Riley (England/North Carolina Courage), Sarina Wiegman (Netherlands/Dutch national team).

REUTERS

Nigeria is distinctly absent from Europe's top shop windows

By Colin Udoh, Special to ESPN

WITH Nigeria finishing third in the recent Africa Cup of Nations, not a bad result though also not what Super Eagles fans were after, the lack of transfer interest in their players is glaring.

Europe's big leagues appear to have little interest in African football's biggest team, and with the transfer window slowly closing, there's little sign that will change.

Leicester midfielder Wilfred Ndidi was a rare player to garner attention from a big club, as reports suggested Manchester United could be looking to swoop. So far, that has not happened and the longer the off-season goes on, the less likely that will be to happen.

It certainly seems like aeons ago that Austin Okocha became Africa's most expensive player when he moved from Fenerbahce to Paris Saint Germain for \$15 million in 1998.

That was a big deal, literally, and capped a remarkable year for the Nigerian maestro, who had displayed the full repertoire of his magical skills at the World Cup earlier that summer.

These days, that transfer does not even register in the top 10 African transfers of all time. Even worse, no Nigerian player has managed to crack into the current top 10.

John Obi Mikel's protracted transfer and final settlement of £12 million from Lyn to Manchester United (who he never turned out for) to Chelsea in 2005 came close, but no cigar.

And so, while this could shape up to be one of the busiest summers for European clubs as they hunt fortifications for their squads ahead of a new season, Nigeria players' prospects are looking bleak.

Every Africa Cup of Nations cycle offers a chance for players to position themselves in the shop window for prospective buyers. This year's tournament was even more significant, as it was the first time the competition was played without the distraction of the European season.

There were no clubs and coaches belly-aching about the loss of their African stars, or scouts not being distracted by the din. Although many clubs make decisions on players after months, even years of scouting, a tournament such as Afcon offers an opportunity for a close up view in highly competitive situations.

For Nigeria, recently retired captain and midfield free agent Mikel was first to go, signing a contract with Trabzonspor in Turkey. Fellow midfielder Semi Ajayi was not far behind, leaving Rotherham for West Bromwich Albion for an undisclosed fee.

Galatasaray loanee Henry Onyekuru - having failed to secure a work permit after two years that would let him play for Everton - is reported to be heading for Monaco.

These Nigeria transfers appear to be following the same financial pattern: free or next to nothing. Well, all except for Victor Osimhen, who is on the verge of competing a €12 million move to Monaco.

This, in the same season when Senegal's Idrissa Gueye is leaving Everton for PSG for handy £30 million.



Wilfred Ndidi

It's been a huge and humiliating climbdown for Nigerian players, despite the country being in the top 10 countries exporting footballers annually.

But why? It's not difficult to figure out, really.

It comes down to a consistent failure to develop players from the grassroots, which means that the country continues to export quantity rather than quality. Players are content to sign for any fee and any club, all in a bid to get to Europe.

Sometimes, they even sign for multiple agents, and then wait to see all the offers, mediocre or not. This, naturally, leads to their stock crashing, and their reputations going with it. It's tough to be taken seriously when you say yes to the first suitor.

What's needed is a complete overhaul of existing structures, including regulating academies, setting minimum standards of training, and creating viable pathways to the national teams and then to Europe.

It is a tough ask and will not be easy. But it needs to be done if Nigerian players are once again to become the most wanted commodities from the continent.

Recently, Super Falcons captain Desire Oparanozie added her voice to calls that the senior women's national team deserved to be paid the same as the men.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Liverpool trio, US World Cup winners
head FIFA award shortlists

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam golfer, Hassan Dilunga from Lugalo Club, in action during July Monthly Mug competition which was held at Mufindi Golf Club course in Iringa. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Mufindi Golf Club targets to organize more competitions

By Guardian Reporter

IRINGA's Mufindi Golf Club has promised to play host to more competitions after overseeing successful hosting of July Monthly Mug event at the club's course.

The competition's coordinator, Alfred Mdemu, noted he was satisfied by the presence of participating golfers from different clubs across the country.

Mdemu disclosed Mufindi Club has opted to organize the tournament on regular basis with a view to gauge strengths and weaknesses of the outfit's golfers that have missed out on tournament held outside the region.

Golfers Agustino Ndembe, Ilifasi Mbilinyi, Mussa Ndazi and Rose Nyenza put scintillating showing in the Monthly Mug competition.

Mdemu disclosed that the competition went on well and winners had to overcome stiff challenges to win titles in their respective categories.

The 18-hole Monthly Mug tournament brought together over 40 golfers from the club and a few invited players from other local clubs.

He said that in Division A, Ndembe carded a par level 72 nett to win the mug by two shots over the second-placed Michael Mtweve who netted 74 strokes.

Mbilinyi, who carded marvelous 69 nett, won the Division B title, beating the second-placed David Ngongolo who posed big threat to the winner with 70 nett.

Division C title went to Ndazi with 72 nett beating Mufindi's vice-captain Dotto Kitinusa who carded 79 nett and second placed.

Rose Nyenza continue to dominate ladies category winning it with 73 nett.

"I am happy with my performance today (Sunday). It was tough finishing at the top because the event featured a host of elite players," Nyenza said.

"My victory is a clear statement to other golfers as we prepare for forthcoming domestic and international competitions. I am optimistic that I will improve my game and win more titles."

She added: "I am used to playing on this course and I wish all other tournaments were hosted here. Its greens are perfect and holding well besides being fast, which is good for me."

Winners were awarded mugs and different prizes at a brief ceremony held after the tournament.

Mdemu complemented all winners for the job well done and thanked players especially those who travelled from Dar es Salaam to colour the tournament.

He also extended his thanks to tournament sponsors including Kiwango Security, New Popex Hotel of Dar es Salaam, Times General Supplies, China Tanzania Security co. Ltd, Mo'oud Pamba and Nevada International Barber Shop of Dar es Salaam for making it possible.

Mdemu who is also a Nevada International Barber Shop director, pleaded continued support of the tournament and the club at large.

Kenya slash ticket prices in drive to win CHAN qualifier

NAIROBI

KENYA have slashed ticket prices up to 80 percent in the hope that a huge crowd will turn up and cheer them to victory over Tanzania this weekend in an African Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifier.

Admittance to all sections of the 60 000-capacity Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi for the much anticipated east African derby has been reduced to 100 Kenyan shillings (\$0.96, 0.86 euros).

Ordinarily, some tickets would cost 500 shillings for an international fixture in a country where there is a minimum 50 shillings charge for domestic matches.

Kenya and Tanzania drew 0-0 last weekend in Dar es Salaam, tilting the second round tie toward the Harambee Stars ahead of the second leg.

"We dropped the ticket price in the belief that supporters will come in large numbers and back the national team," Kenyan football boss Nick Mwenda told reporters.

"Our team has a very good chance of reaching the final qualifying round and a huge crowd will be a major motivating factor."

"The boys played well in Tanzania and we must give them our full support as they seek to finish the job at home."

Midfielder Kenneth Muguna believes Kenya can triumph and move closer to a first appearance at the finals of a competition restricted to footballers playing in their country of birth.

"We dare not take anything for granted just because we held Tanzania away, but if everyone does his job effectively there is nothing to worry about."

Tanzania defender Erasto Nyoni says the Taifa Stars must act like "soldiers defending the honour of the country."

"Tanzanians love the national football team and this must motivate us to do even better than in the first leg."

FAILED FOUR TIMES
While Kenya have failed four times to qualify, Tanzania made it to the first Nations Championship tournament 10 years ago in the Ivory Coast.

Whoever wins the clash of neighbours will face Sudan, who received a bye after coming third behind hosts and champions Morocco and runners-up Nigeria in the 2018 edition.

South Africa have called up forward Thabang Sibanyoni and winger Keletso Makgalwa from champions Mamelodi Sundowns as they seek to overturn a shock 3-2 away loss to Lesotho.

"We will attack, attack, attack," promised coach David Notoane ahead of the return match in Soweto.

A youthful, experimental South African side equalised twice in Maseru before Lehlohonolo Fothoane snatched the winning goal for Lesotho one minute from time.

"Your concentration levels and mental toughness must improve dramatically," Notoane told his squad as South Africa try to avoid an embarrassing early exit.



Athletes take part in a recent national cross-country race that was held in Arusha.

Hydom Half Marathon set for next week

By Correspondent Renatha Msungu

LUTHERAN Church owned Hydom Hospital (HLH) has hosted a special half marathon for raising funds for construction of wards for the institution located in Manyara.

The race themed 'Run for Life' is expected to take place in Hydom on August 10 and will involve people from various groups.

Emanuel Nuwass, the hospital's Managing Director, noted developing countries are experiencing a high rate of infants' deaths.

Nuwass pointed out that Manyara and

neighbouring regions are also facing the crisis because of a variety of reasons that include lack of better infrastructure for tackling the crisis.

"I would therefore like to invite friends, stakeholders, individuals, corporates and institutions to support the project that aims at improving infants' lives by construction of modern wards and procurement of medical devices," he noted.

Hydom Half Marathon will have three events, namely the 21km, 10km and 2km Fun Run.

Organizers noted entry fees for the race

have been set at 20,000/- for 21km race, 10,000/- for 10km race and 5,000/- for 2km race. The VIP persons, organizers noted, can contribute 10,000/- each kilometer in the race.

Nuwass appealed to people who wishes to take part in the Hydom Half Marathon to register prior to the deadline for the exercise.

He disclosed additional details on the race are in fliers which have been uploaded on various social websites which include the ones owned by HLH and Athletics Tanzania (AT).

Flexibles by David Chikoko



My victory is a clear statement to other golfers as we prepare for forthcoming domestic and international competitions. I am optimistic that I will improve my game and win more titles.

EATV
TONIGHT @ 21:00

FRIDAY
10:59 Jikoni Na Jane
11:00 DADAZ (live)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Radio:PlanetBongo Live
15:00 FUNGIKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Friday Night Live

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE (FNL)
is where EATV and East Africa Radio combine to bring you an explosion of Friday Night entertainment. The base gets louder, the fun gets addictive and the guest list is exclusive! It's a party on TV.

eastafrica RADIO
05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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