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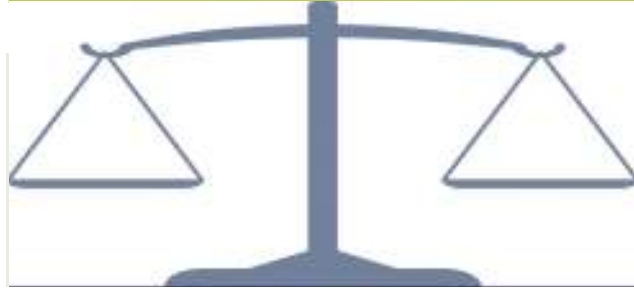
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Promoting horticultural sector



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Start the Week with Cynthia Stacey



Largest tanzanite ever declared for display at Hong Kong global fair

The stone is worth US\$ 105,000 which is equivalent to 240m/- . It will make scene at the Hong-Kong fair which is marking its 32th anniversary from the 20th to the 23rd of June. The fair is reputed as one of Asia's top three fine jewellery events, as it usually attracts thousands of visitors from around the world

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

ARTISANAL miners from Arusha have made history in unearthing, cutting, polishing and declaring the largest tanzanite gemstone, which will be among the specimens on display at the Hong Kong Jewellery and Gem Fair (June Fair) this week.

Tanzania Mineral Dealers Association (TAMIDA) president, Sammy Mollel explained here that, though there have been a series of large gemstones being excavated in the past, almost all of those rare minerals were never declared, smuggled clandestinely out of the country.

"This newly discovered gem weighed over 500

grams, essentially half-a-kilo when it was mined out in Mirerani. Then after initial cutting and polishing, the Tanzanite stone weighed 347 grams, making history of being the largest gemstone to be mined by small-scale miners and declared publicly," said Mollel.

"This is a great achievement first in reinforcing the fact that artisan miners are capable of accomplishing major things in mineral excavation, cutting and polishing locally plus declaring their findings. This is in contrast to the past when large firms used to hide large gemstones and only declare minor ones," he asserted.

The stone is worth US\$ 105,000 which is

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Yokobety Malisa, Deputy Administrative Secretary (Planning and Coordination) at the Dar es Salaam regional commissioner's office, is attracted to a message on one of several placards students in the city carried in marking International Day of the African Child celebrations yesterday. On June 16, 1976, some ten thousand black students from Soweto, South Africa, marched to protest the poor quality of their education. Hundreds of were shot by security forces and in the two weeks of peaceful demonstrations that followed, dubbed the Soweto Uprising, over a hundred were killed and thousands wounded. Since 1991, June 16 has been marked across the globe to honour those killed and to recognize the courage of all the students who marched for their right to an education. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika



UN condemns Somalia, Kenya bomb attacks after 21 deaths

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations mission in Somalia yesterday condemned bombing attacks in Mogadishu and in northeastern Kenya that killed at least 21 people and injured more than 20 others on Saturday.

No political agenda can be served by acts of terrorism, the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia said after the attacks, both claimed by the Al-Shabab terror group.

Nine people died in two car bomb blasts in Somalia, and 12 Kenyan policemen were killed when a vehicle they were traveling in ran over an improvised explosive device (IED) in Wajir County, along the

Kenya-Somalia border.

"UN Somalia strongly condemns yesterday's attacks in Mogadishu and northeastern Kenya by al-Shabab," it said in a tweet on Sunday.

Somali police commander Bashir Abdi Mohamed said on Saturday that nine people were killed and 25 others injured in the first car bomb attack at Sayidka junction.

The second car bomb exploded near KM4 junction and resulted in the death of the bomber, Mohamed said, noting that security forces arrested an accomplice, who was injured.

In the northeastern Kenya IED attack, one police officer sustained serious injuries.

The police officers were on patrol between Khorof-harar and Konton in Wajir County when their vehicle ran over the IED, Police Inspector General Hilary Mutyambai said.

Both Mogadishu and Wajir attacks were claimed by al-Shabab, who on Thursday abducted three Kenyan police reservists from the same area in Wajir region.

Child protection desks in the offing in all schools

By Songwa wa Songwa, Geita

THE government is to set up child safety and protection desks in all primary and secondary schools in a move to enhance the welfare of minors.

Speaking here yesterday during the regional commemoration of the Day of the African Child, the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu said the new programme will come with training of teachers to man the desks as patrons and matrons.

But the government is yet to allocate resources for this programme, prompting the minister to appeal for help from development partners.

"I appeal for development partners to support the government in realising this important initiative," said Mwalimu.



But the government is yet to allocate resources for this programme, prompting the minister to appeal for help from development partners.

This adds to special desk and a day and night toll free number for the public to report cases of gender based violence and child abuse introduced by the government last month.

While the helpline, 116, is meant enable victims as well as witnesses of gender based violence and child abuse to report the cases to the government without delay for authorities to take appropriate measures, the new initiative will allow children to communicate incidents of abuse to teachers with whom they spend most of their time.

"Teachers spend most of their time in school and they are better placed to know what effect the pupils," the minister said.

These initiatives come after a recent human rights report launched in April by the Legal and

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Minister receives 6.7bn/- in CRDB Bank dividends

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has appreciated the CRDB Bank for payment of 6.78billion/- in dividends to the government out of the 9.9 billion/- issued to its shareholders among them institutions, councils and cooperatives countrywide.

Speaking while receiving the dividends, the Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Philip Mpango (pictured), urged other organizations to follow suit, saying it is through such financing that the government gets money.

The government owns a 21.5-per cent stake in the bank. Dividends are corporate earnings that

companies pass on to their shareholders. They can be in form of cash payments, stock shares or any other property.

During the event, Dr Mpango spoke of the hassles he had been going through, when negotiating for loans to finance development projects in the country. "It is always not easy to access finances from other institutions in terms of loans but it is quite encouraging to see what our own institutions contribute to government coffers," he said.

He called upon all institutions in which the government owns shares to pay out dividends to the government on time. He assured the CRDB

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Largest tanzanite ever mined for display at Hong Kong fair

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equivalent to 240m/. It will make scene at the Hong-Kong fair which is marking its 32th anniversary from the 20th to the 23rd of June. The fair is reputed as one of Asia's top three fine jewellery events, as it usually attracts thousands of visitors from around the world.

This announcement comes shortly after the Minister of Minerals, Dotto Biteko inaugurated the Arusha Mineral Trading Center, where all transactions related to tanzanite gemstones and other minerals will be conducted.

Biteko stated that gemstone mining activities have not only increased and recorded higher yield after the review of mining laws and regulations, but also the government is earning more revenues than in the past.

"Take tanzanite minerals for instance. In the past the country used to record an average of 147.7 kilograms per year, but from this year even within the first six months of 2019 we have listed nearly 950 kilograms," he specified.

Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo said the government is creating a better and more conducive environment for miners, mineral dealers and exporters.

"This newly opened mineral market center is a one stop grading and permit issuing center which means that people will no longer have to travel to Dodoma to seek documentations and permits," said the RC.

Overall the country's total earnings from minerals have jumped from 196 billion/- in the past to over 310 billion/- at present, he added.

'Sustainability of national public-private dialogue initiatives quite crucial'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

Stakeholders have been called upon to sustain initiatives for effective engagement in public-private dialogue and advocacy as the tenure for Business Environment Strengthening Tanzania (BEST-Dialogue) had ended.

BEST-Dialogue, is a programme that focused on empowering the private sector by addressing factors that make doing businesses difficult.

It has operated in the country for 15 years from 2004 aiming at building the capacity of private sector organizations so that they are well informed to engage effectively in public-private dialogue.

Speaking at a winding up meeting with Members of Parliament, deputy team leader for Best-Dialogue, Ali Mjella said the programme has left a legacy where a number of issues had been addressed including enabling the private sector to engage the government professionally as well as changing various policies which were not friendly to business. "The project was typical donor funded, there is no option to extend it that's why we are calling upon the beneficiaries to sustain the advocacy spirit," he said.

According to him, the programme was designed to trigger funds to support doing business in Tanzania and during the period a total of \$12 million has been used.

He said the programme has had a great impact whereby dialogue is now at central and local government levels.

He said the country has reached a good stage on business dialogue saying sustaining the trend was not an option but a must especially for organizations that have benefited from it.

In his remarks, the MP for Rufiji, Mohammed Mchengelwa said the government had shown the way on how dialogue was important on improving businesses environment.

"There was time when we were not using platforms, but Best-Dialogue had given us the roadmap on how things should be done in terms of improving businesses environment in the country. Sustaining it should be a task to both government and private sector," he said.

Since its establishment in 2004, BEST-Dialogue has supported over 34 private sector organizations, or business associations by conducting advocacy work.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa consoles Sport Pesa Tanzania operations director Tarimba Abbas at the latter's residence in Dar es Salaam yesterday following the deaths of his sons Maisam and Alliazgar Tarimba Abbas. Photo: PMO

By Guardian Reporter

ABOUT 150 employees who worked for the now closed down, Grain Milling factory operated by Monaban company limited had appealed to President John Magufuli for intervention.

Formerly owned by the state-run, National Milling Corporation (NMC), the milling establishment with its giant, sky-scraping silos, was placed under Monaban Trading and Farming entity, which among other things, bought grain from local farmers, milled and packaged maize, wheat and millet flour, selling the products around East Africa.

Last week, Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa announced that the state was taking back all facilities that belonged to the defunct National Milling Corporation (NMC), including the Monaban operated factory located

Monaban milling factory workers call for President Magufuli's intervention

in Unga-Limited area of Arusha, which has thus ceased to operate following the new development.

"We have families with children attending to schools, there is also house rent to pay, we appeal to President Magufuli to help our factory resume operations," said Nelson Edward the operations manager at the now stalled mill.

Apparently, the NMC facility is now placed under the National Cereal Board pending further decision by the government, regarding how it will operate in future. The Arusha factory is being guarded by the Police around the clock.

Nearly 30 semi-trailer trucks, that had ferried farm produce from the districts, have stuck at the gates, now knowing where to offload their perishable produce. Francis Gerson is a lorry driver who said that they had brought maize, millet, sorghum and other produce from as far as Mbulu, Galapo and Endasak in Manyara as well as Singida.

"We did not anticipate this and rather taken by surprise," said Gerson who also asked the government to see the possibility of reopening the facility soon; "because farmers in the districts will also suffer, they were used to have trucks follow them in the field and buy

crops right there," he added.

Neema Kisinga, another Monaban firm employee said they were not prepared for what happened therefore were at lost on what to do. Her human resource manager, Boniface Kichonge said nearly 150 workers, including 40 casual ones had been laid off and need rescue.

The director of Monaban Limited, Philemon Mollel said he was hopeful that soon the government will let his company operate the facility again. "I am confident that whatever the government does is right and target to make things better for Tanzanians," he said.



An International Medical Relief surgeon examines residents of Sasi village in Arumeru District at the weekend. The US-based NGO provides mobile medical clinics and sustainable health education to underserved communities in more than 50 countries around the world. It offers short-term assignments for volunteer medical and dental professionals, students and non-medical volunteers to conduct medical and dental clinics that provide free, expert care and health education in areas where it is limited or difficult to obtain. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

Child protection desks in the offing in all schools

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Human Rights Centre indicated that sexual violence against children almost tripled in the country last year, making it the most violated human right for the period.

Speaking at the event, the deputy

country director for Plan International, Dr Benatus Sambili whose organisation co-organised the event said their programme in Geita region covers a wide spectrum of child protection and development ranging from tackling truancy and school dropping out to fighting child abuse.

"We have offered tailoring training to 100 girls from underprivileged families and issued health insurance to 6,216 children," he said.

Dr Sambili said the organisation's programme has also kept girl children in school by providing thousands of sanitary pads apart from sponsoring

4,000 primary school pupils from underprivileged families in 91 schools by providing them with uniforms and learning materials.

"We also donate learning and teaching materials to 30 primary schools that benefit all pupils in those institutions," he added.

Minister receives 6.7bn/- in CRDB Bank dividends

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Bank that the money would be directed towards development projects.

Dr Mpango used the occasion to advise Tanzanians to develop a culture of buying shares in capital markets and the stock exchange, saying it was a good investment. He insisted on the bank to strive for better services as it was key to maintaining and widening their market share. Of late the minister was receiving complaints from customers that some banks were debiting their money without their consent, he stated.

He said he had directed the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to look into the complaints and take proper measures, "but I am happy that CRDB Bank is not among the banks being complained of."

He also called upon district and municipal councils, which are not CRDB Bank shareholders to learn from their peers, who received dividends for their investments.

Dr Mpango said it was high time for banks to go for customers instead of waiting for them to follow them as there were a lot of untapped opportunities.

In 2017 the government received 19.5bn/- from CRDB Bank as part of the state's investment in the country's largest local lender.

In 1996 CRDB Bank was operating as the Cooperative and Rural Development Bank - then wholly owned by the government. It went into a crisis that almost led to its bankruptcy as money flowed out into newly founded private commercial banks, and its salary bill was too high, etc.

To improve its situation, the government entered into an agreement with Denmark and in the process, they agreed to establish DIF.

However, throughout the fund's existence the government never took its dividends because it continued supporting the bank to grow.

The government will continue receiving its dividends until 2021 before coming to a decision in 2022 on whether to withdraw all its shares and invest in other income generating activities or keep them in CRDB.

Initially, the government had 30 per cent of the shares, but when the bank was listed at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) some of the shares were offloaded to members of the public.

Earlier, CRDB Bank Board Chairman Ally Laay called for a special awareness programme to members of the public to develop a culture of buying shares listed in stock exchange markets.

He said only a few Tanzanians had such a culture, and as a result the majority of shares floated were taken up by foreigners. Laay noted that statistics show that Tanzanians who own shares at DSE are less than 500,000 while opportunities were many.

The bank chief executive officer, Abdulmajid Nsekela, said they were well-planned to ensure they keep serving their customers and remained on top in the banking industry.

Meanwhile, the NMB Bank is expected to issue 33bn/- in dividends to its shareholders including the government, after the bank's annual general meeting endorsed the amount in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Last year the bank's shareholders approved 32bn/- dividends and this year's increase came after an increase in payments per share.

The dividend per share rose by three per cent, whereby the bank this year pays 66/- per share up from 64/- per share paid last year.



Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) director general Dr Amos Nungu (L) congratulates entrepreneur Ahazi Eliah (R), winner of a recent Tanzania Digital Youth Empowerment competition. This was at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent MirajimSala

Finance ministry directs district councils to heed call on statistics quality

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE deputy minister for Finance and Planning, Ashatu Kijaji, has directed all the district councils to heed the call to employ statisticians in efforts to obtain the right statistics.

She said it is the government target to have right statistics from the local government authorities to the national level so as to help make the right decisions for the current and future development programmes.

The deputy minister made the statement while officiating at the opening of the second meeting of the fifth National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) workers council where she praised the management and workers of the institution for well job done.

"The government acknowledges the great work done by the NBS, but this should trickle down to at all levels, and hence the directive to have statisticians at the district councils too," said Kijaji.

According to the deputy minister, ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, whose docket the district councils belong had instructed the LGAs to engage statisticians.

She argued that NBS is one of the government

institutions that are diligently working to help realize the expected results, saying, "I am impressed by the success realized through the implementation of the Tanzania Statistical Master Plan (TSMP) that ended in July, 2018.

The deputy minister on the same note urged NBS to focus on the 2020 population and housing census with the same spirit and help rectify some of the shortfalls realized in the 2012 census.

NBS director general, Albina Chuwa in her welcome remarks said the meeting aimed at receiving and discussing NBS's 2017/18 work implementation report as well as the 2019/20 budget. "We are here to discuss the success and challenges realized in the 2017/18, among others" she said, thanking the staff and council members for their good work.

She noted that the biggest task ahead for NBS is the preparation for the 2020 census, adding that preparations for it are done in collaboration with the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA).

The director also noted that despite success noted, her institution is facing serious shortage of staff in comparison to the tasks under it.

She argued that the demand for staff in 2018/19 is 245 while the existing is 188, equivalent to 76 per cent.

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

Arusha launches clean energy training centre for youth

NETHERLANDS senior experts, in collaboration with the Arusha Technical College have hatched a special training centre to cater for clean and renewable energy to cater for the youth.

The facility, which was inaugurated in Arusha over the weekend, targets to play major role in the country's efforts in offsetting effects of global warming and climate change, while creating youth's employment in the process.

The facility built at, and set to

operate under the state-owned Arusha Technical College the ATC-Solar Training Centre will cater for training, consultancy and installation of renewable energy equipment, but especially Solar.

The ATC solar training centre manager, Majuto Mtiliko, said the fully equipped facility is ready and the intake of trainees will commence early July 2019 starting with around 30

students.

"The trainees will be young people that have graduated from Primary and Secondary Schools. These youngsters are going to be trained in the two-week sessions," explained Mtiliko.

Late last year, the Arusha Technical College (ATC) and the Tanzania Renewable Energy Association (TAREA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to

improve practical skills for artisans and technicians working in the solar industry and as demanded.

The project is being assisted by the Netherlands senior experts (PUM), and according to Wim Bredewold the centre will produce future experts in solar energy who will be in position to serve Tanzania in issues of renewable energy.

"We intend to give Tanzanians the

right skills that will empower young people for self-employment," said the PUM expert. The Netherlands have been assisting ATC in various fields of training for several years.

The initiative comes as one of the solutions to curb environmental degradation in Tanzania through mass depletion of forests. It is estimated that around 400,000 hectares of forests disappear annually as people chop

down trees to burn charcoal for fuel.

But in a country which receives 12 hours of sunlight daily, the energy from the sun is billed as the best alternative to power up homes in the country, without affecting the environment. Solar is also said to be cheaper when installed per individual requirements.

The Chairperson of Tanzania Renewable Energy Association Prof Amini Kweka, said TAREA will help to link the trainees with organizations and firms during their filed placement but also create the possibility of students to get jobs in the companies.



IPANGEA MINERALS LIMITED

REQUESTS THE SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FROM QUALIFIED PARTIES WANTING TO PARTICIPATE IN TENDERING FOR THE PROVISION OF LINE BORING AND MACHINING SHOP TO BUZWAGI GOLD MINE

Pangea Minerals Limited (PML), also known as Buzwagi Mine, is located in the Lake Victoria Goldfields of Northern Tanzania in the District of Kahama in the Region of Shinyanga. PML is a fully owned subsidiary of Acacia Mining Plc. PML is in need of the Line boring and machining workshop. PML invites "Expressions of Interest" from reputable, experienced and certified Engineering companies interested in **pre-qualifying for inclusion in the tender process for the provision of Line boring and machining shop to Buzwagi Gold Mine.**

The contract is intended to be awarded through a competitive tender process in which a restricted number of suitable qualified and experienced contractors will be invited to receive tender documents. If your company would like to be considered for **pre-qualification to receive the invitation to tender**, please submit an "Expression of Interest" on your company's letterhead together with the following additional information and/or documentation:

- Company profile(s);
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, etc.;
- Summary of Court proceedings (pending and completed), Court Judgements and/or insolvency / bankruptcy proceedings, if any, during the last 3 years.
- Job and client reference for similar services rendered;
- With regard to the engineering support services, submission of documentation showing registration as a Tanzanian Contractor Specialized at least Category 6;
- Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OSHA) compliance certificate;
- Must be registered with the Tanzanian Worker's Compensation Fund (Send Certificate of Registration)
- Must be registered with NSSF as an Employer (Send Certificate of Registration)
- With regard to aforementioned Line boring and machining works, submission of documentation to show:
 - An exemplary Safety record working in similar process plant environment;
 - An established pool of key licensed and competent personnel registered with Engineers Registration Board
 - An Accredited personnel training and mentorship capability.
 - An extensive track record with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility Programme and an evidence of utilising and developing skills of the local community surrounding your previous projects.

Kindly send your response by email to buztenders@acaciaming.com by latest close of business on the 30th June 2019. Any responses received after this date shall not be considered. Please quote reference number **"CO-BUZ-2019-0004"** in the subject line of your email.

Pre-qualification of any company submitting an "Expression of Interest" shall be at the sole discretion of **Pangea Minerals Limited**.

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

WMA conducts inspection and tests of weighing scales

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency (WMA) has started verifying scales that are used to measure cotton before the buying the season starts in the Lake zone regions.

Speaking during a tour to inspect cotton weighing scales in the lake zone, WMA Manager of Communications and Public Relations, Irene John said that the move is part of the agency to ensure that farmers benefit from their right to profits from their agricultural produce.

"This is also part of our move to ensure that weighing scales that are used in primary cooperative unions are accurate," she said, adding: "The ongoing inspection is to ensure that no one is being cheated between the buyer and the seller."

She said every year WMA conduct inspection exercise for scales that are used to measure cotton, sesame, coffee, tobacco and other crops, "but this time around we've started with cotton, because the season is very close."

"Our aim is to ensure that farmers get what he/she deserve, so that when he/she bring in 100kgs of cotton should be the same quantity and not otherwise," Irene said.

During the ongoing inspection, according to Irene, no scale was found with measurement problems, the move that show that players in the sectors are working in line with laws governing the sector.

The official said that the law governing MWA operation is tough to the extent that if someone found guilty, the suspects will be required to pay a fine of between 300,000/- and 50m/- or serve two years in jail or both, in accordance with section 340 of the Weights and Measures Act, 2002 which was revised in 2016.

She also urged farmers to double check the weighing machines before measuring their crops, noting that WMA

certified weighing scales have been stamped with a special government sticker and special number codes.

Regions where their scales have been inspected include Tabora (158), Kagera (26), Mara (332), Shinyanga (589), Simiyu (832), Mwanza (360), Geita (523) and Katavi (50).

WMA is an Executive Agency, responsible for fair trade transactions through certification of weights and measures. It is the sole agency in Tanzania for enforcing the Weights and Measures Act No.20 of 1982. Since 1999 and in pursuance to the Executive Agencies Act Number 30 of 1997, the WMA replaced the former Directorate of Weights and Measures under the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The move was part of the Civil Service Reform Programme (CSR) to increase efficiency and effectiveness of public service delivery.



Diamond Mawani (R), events coordinator at Tanzania Breweries Limited's Mwanza plant, presents Grand Malt drink to Mwanza residents who had just donated blood on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day celebration held there at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Irrigation schemes in Simanjiro district increase rice production

By Guardian Reporter, Simanjiro

IMPROVEMENT of irrigation schemes in Simanjiro district has increased rice yields to nine tonnes from the previous two and a half tonnes per hectare.

Apart from increased yields, the district's revenue has also been amplified, according to Simanjiro district executive director, Yefred Myenzi.

Addressing journalists, Myenzi said the government invested some 2bn/- for improvement of irrigation infrastructures which included training of paddy farmers on how to use and care for the infrastructures.

He noted that improved yields have contributed into changing the livelihood of Simanjiro farmers since they can meet their daily requirement and build better houses.

"Our district collects between 100m/- and 200m/- annually from various levies paid by farmers who are engaged in irrigation farming", he noted adding

farmers cultivate crops two times a year.

Myenzi said the district is no longer facing food shortage as farmers harvest enough for both, food and business.

He however highlighted some of the challenges facing farmers in his district as lack of reliable market as well as high cost of transport since most of the schemes are allocated far from the town. He mentioned another challenge as lack of processing factories.

The director called upon the private sector and agricultural stakeholders to grab the many opportunities in irrigation farming insisting the district has some 10,000 hectares suitable for irrigation farming.

He said that out of the 10,000 hectares, only 3000 hectares have been improved and that so far farmers have utilized 1000 hectares only. He said the utilized schemes are Lemkuna, Ngage, Kambiya, Chokaa, Ruvu and Remiki.

Earlier, central zone irrigation

Engineer, Lucy Lema said that her zone consists of 138,419 hectares of irrigation schemes scattered in Dodoma, Manyara AND singida regions.

According to Lema, some 62,300 hectares are irrigated during rainy season while farmers cultivate another 13,100 hectares during draught. He said that in Dodoma region irrigation farming is practiced depending on harvested rain water and streams.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam at the Budget Breakfast 2019 Evaluation Forum that brought together investors, traders and agro-sector stakeholders, economist analysts suggested the need for the government to heavily invest in rainwater harvesting technology to make farmers improve crop production through irrigation.

They insisted on the need for the government to venture more on rainwater harvesting technology by providing tax incentives for people who are interested in importing the technology.

Govt pledges to influence various groups to climb Mt Kilimanjaro

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

MINISTER for Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla has pledged to influence various groups including prominent leaders and artists to climb Mount Kilimanjaro so as to raise funds for the Kili Challenge against HIV and AIDS.

Kigwangalla made a statement yesterday in Kilimanjaro when flagging off this year's 'Geita Gold Mining Kilimanjaro Challenge 2019' campaign whereby more than 80 people from various countries will be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The Kilimanjaro Challenge aims to raise awareness on the HIV & AIDS pandemic, provide financial support to HIV & AIDS initiatives and build national team spirit in this noble fight as well as giving local climbers opportunity to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The campaign by the Geita Gold Mine (GGM) in collaboration with the Tanzanian Commission for Aids

(TACAIDS) is also aimed at raising funds for the AIDS Trust Fund (ATF).

He said the ministry of natural resources and tourism will develop a system of mobilizing groups of people including artists and world-renowned people to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in order to combat the fight against HIV/AIDS as the fight for the HIV is for all people and not for government alone.

"New infection statistics especially in the group of young people are threatening and we are required to deliberate efforts to control this calamity.

"The new prevalence of HIV is a threat to us. Our youth should be at the front line to combat this situation, for this year I have planned to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro with celebrities including politicians and artists to fund raise for controlling this disease.

"But I am also happy to see that among the beneficiaries of this campaign are about 150 porters who have been trained to protect themselves from HIV and various issues about HIV control. The group has also been offered entrepreneurial training with the aim of helping them to have sustainable income," he said.

In addition, the Director of TACAIDS, Dr. Leonard Maboko, said every day more than 200 people are infected with HIV, of which 80 percent are young from 15-24.

For his part, the GGM managing director, Richard Jordinson said the campaign has facilitated the collection of more than 13 billion shillings since it was established 17 years ago.

He said this year a total of 80 people have participated in which 32 of them are climbers and 28 cyclists. A total of 17 individuals who are coming from different countries around the world will also be participating this year.

"The expedition will take a total of 7 days and we will meet our heroes, both groups at Mweka gate on the morning of 22nd of June. I would like to wish everyone of the team a safe return and see you on Saturday," he said

He said since the launch of the campaign 17 years ago, through Kili Challenge they have managed to raise over Tsh13 Billions. And the funds were donated to more than 40 local NGO's and several Government Institutions whereby millions of Tanzanians have directly and indirectly benefited from this initiative.

"Kili Challenge is a lasting feature in our Tanzania operations, and in such we open our arms for more partnership with all companies and we thank our current sponsors for supporting this noble cause" he said.

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Tanzania Director, Dar es Salaam

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Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango (R) exchanges greetings with DCB Bank managing director Godfrey Ndalalwa at Parliament grounds in Dodoma on Wednesday – shortly after the minister had tabled the Government's Budget estimates for financial year 2019/2020. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Investors from across the globe to promote horticultural sector

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

OVER 600 people including investors from across the globe are expected to take part at the symposium aimed at promoting horticulture farming in the southern highlands regions. The two-day event which starts today in the 'green' city of Mbeya has been organised by Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in collaboration with the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and the Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA). Briefing journalists on the forthcoming first and unique event, the southern highlands' zonal manager for TIC, Pendo Gondwe said: "This is the first event to be held in this zone and will involve different

agricultural stakeholders." She said so far seven investors from Italy, India, South Africa, Belgium and Malawi have confirmed to take part at the symposium, which is aimed at unlocking potentials embedded in the horticultural sector. "Most of these investors have proved to invest on vegetable and fruits farming," she said, urging: "This is the prime time for Tanzanians to chip in and learn new agronomic practices, which have proved to be effective in scaling up the farming sector in the country." Gondwe said that the idea is to ensure that the southern highlands regions venture into horticulture farming, which is yet to be tapped in the area despite the fact that condition is fit for that farming. According to her, sales of

exported horticultural products have increased to US\$764million (1.761 trillion/-) in 2017 from US\$64million (147.5bn/-) in 2015. The TIC official further said that the idea of the government is to increase investment in the agricultural sector so that to increase more income to ordinary farmers. Manager of SAGCOT, Mbarali Cluster, Tulleh Mloge urged people in south-western Tanzania to take part at the symposium, which is expected to be an eye-opener to many of them. Among the key players at the forum include those who are engaging in avocado, potatoes, tomatoes and sunflower farming in the area. "It is high time for youth to explore the opportunities embedded in the horticulture sector," said Mloge.

We thank you all on plastic bags ban, NEMC declares

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) declared yesterday that it was thankful to Tanzanians, public and private institutions for rejecting voluntarily plastic bags in order to protect environment and living organisms found in Tanzania.

NEMC Director General, Dr Samuel Gwamaka, told journalists in Dar es Salaam that the council was duty-bound to state in very clear terms it thanks to members of the public and institutions for taking seriously the ban imposed on plastic carriers in order to protect environment for the present and coming generations.

"We thank all institutions. However, and in particular, we thank the workers of the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government -- from ward to national levels. They unfailingly shouldered the responsibility inherent in the ban, educated the people and supervised elimination of the carriers," he said.

Dr Gwamaka said a few challenges remain, but would, too, be cleared with the cooperation of the public. He named on challenge as production of illicit bags that are already in circulation and do not carry the TBS label. He appealed for public cooperation so that makers of the illicit carriers could be arrested and prosecuted.

The council started search for the makers of illegal bags in Dar es Salaam on Thursday and NEMC warned that culprits were risking heavy penalties. After Dar es Salaam the search would the cover other regions.

Dar firms in cleaning drive to free Indian Ocean beaches from plastics

By Guardian Reporter

REPRESENTATIVES of Dar es Salaam-based companies over the weekend took part in cleaning the Indian Ocean beaches in an effort mark the World Oceans Day, themed: "The Scourge of Plastic Pollution".

The day is held every year on June 8th to raise awareness of the vital importance of our oceans and the role they play in sustaining a healthy planet.

Addressing journalists during the event which were held at the Dar es Salaam's Coco Beach, one of the organizers, Hafsa Mambosasa from Verge of Africa said that apart from making the ocean clean, "we're also complementing government's efforts to make the country is free from plastic bags."

Mambosasa named companies which were involved in the exercise as Pepsi, Red Bull, Slipway Hotel, GI Security Limited, AfyaPal(Muhimbili) and Nipe Fagio.

She said: "This event is also meant to support global efforts to make the oceans as well as encouraging other people along the oceans to play their part in ensuring the environment is clean."

The purpose of the day, according to the United Nations, is to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and mobilize and unite the world's population on a project for the sustainable management of the world's oceans.

The UN stresses that oceans are the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe. They are a major source of food and medicines and a critical part of the biosphere.

This year's theme of the World Oceans Day 2019 is Gender and the Ocean.

According to the UN, the theme has been chosen as an effort to build greater ocean and gender literacy, and to discover possible ways to promote gender equality in ocean-related activities such as marine scientific research, fisheries, labour at sea, migration by sea and human trafficking, as well as policy-making and management.

"The importance of gender equality – in particular for the effective conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources – is increasingly recognized. However, there is very little data and research on these issues, and a concerted action towards gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is still needed in all ocean-related sectors to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5," the UN says on its website.

This year, the UN launched 'Play It Out', a global campaign against plastic pollution, noting that decades of overuse and a surge in single-use plastics has led to a global environmental catastrophe.

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WFP presents to district billboards worth 22 million/- to arrest stunting

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE World Food Programme (WFP) has handed over 54 billboards to Chamwino district council to be distributed to health facilities in the district.

The equipment worth 22m/ will help the district capture stunting information which is specific to the community and use this data for making decisions and allocate resources as needed.

Speaking during the handover at the district councils offices over the weekend, WFP's Nutrition Manager, Juliana Muiruri noted that lack of statistics on stunting made her organization choose the district among others where the programme is implemented in the region.

She noted that the support is under the Boresha Lishe nutrition projected currently implemented in Ikungi, Singida Rural, Bahi and Chamwino districts whereby height boards have been distributed in 65 health centres.

"We have realized that there is a problem of stunting and malnutrition in the district, thus the need for rightful statistic in Chamwino district and to achieve this we must have right equipment" she noted.

The availability of tools will ensure that the World Health Organization (WHO) growth standards, training, completed last month for health facility staff in the district will be put in practice.

The WFP representative noted that some four newly built health centres that have not received the tools will be

provided with the same by the district council authority.

For her part Chamwino District Medical Officer, Astaria Mpoti while appreciating the support from WFP noted that though the tools, the council will be able establish the rate of stunting in the district and provide the relevant information and education to the public.

She added that they will now closely monitor, bearing in mind that some children are hidden at home as their parents do not want their situation exposed.

District nutrition officer, Bernadeta Peter noted that earlier WFP handed over 11 height boards for pilot project in 11 health centres in the district and have now given 54 more in effort to help curb stunting.

"WFP has helped tackle issues of stunting among under-five years children in the district by about 95 percent" she noted.

One of the residents who attended the meeting, Sekelela Chilongani, urged fellow parents to take their children to clinics where problems like stunting can be identified.



WFP has helped tackle issues of stunting among under-five years children in the district by about 95 percent



Christine Manyenye (2nd-R), KCB Bank's Head of Marketing and Corporate Affairs, addresses a news conference at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of the second phase of the bank's Zijajiri social investment initiative. Others are KCB Head of Corporate Banking Barry Chale (L), KCB Head of Operations and IT Rojas Mdoe (2nd-L), and Bhoke Mukoji Mhini, Managing Director of Kibaha-based East Africa Secondary School - one of the beneficiaries of the Zijajiri drive. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

FRUITS and vegetable growers in Lushoto District have reason to smile after getting reliable market of their produce from a Dar es Salaam-based company.

MacLeans BeneCIBO, which opened its branch in the district has assured farmers of buying crops as well as giving them loans for farm inputs, seeds and capital. The loans will be of soft conditions.

The firm launched the branch in the hilly and mountainous district area to serve horticultural farmers.

Speaking at the launch of the branch at Mnadani village in Malindi ward, managing director of MacLeans BeneCIBO, Nnala Mwakanyamale said the idea is geared towards ensuring that farmers benefit from their sweat "and

Dar firm empowers veggie, fruit stakeholders in Lushoto District

this reduces post-harvests, a problem that has been making farmers remain in the vicious cycle of poverty. This idea also solves all logistical problems as well as removing middlemen in the farming value chain."

According to Mwakanyamale, the firm has been providing guarantees for farmers who are operating in groups so that they get loans from the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) whereby the bank has issued 119m/- to farmers.

MacLeans BeneCIBO, has been also working with financial institutions to

ensure that they provide loans to farmers so that they get farm inputs, and seeds on time.

"As company, we source fresh produce directly from farmers. We maintain cold chain throughout the entire process of sourcing up until to the end consumers. He said: "MacLeans BeneCIBO takes care of your healthy eating."

Acting director of Lushoto District Council, Emmanuel Vuli commended MacLeans BeneCIBO for coming up with the new initiative aimed at empowering horticultural growers in the district, which in turn relieves them

from poverty trap.

Vuli encouraged farmers to use the opportunity and ensure that they adopt the modern agronomic practices.

Lushoto District Council Chairman, Lucas Shemdolwa described the move as a redeemer taking into accounts that many farmers were discouraged by the challenges that were facing the sector such as lack of markets for their produce.

He pledged to provide all the supported needed by the company so that the move to improve farmers' income is realized.

Church offers medical services to 2000 residents of Arumeru

By Guardian Reporter

MORE than 2000 residents from five wards in Arumeru district have benefited from free medical services financed by FPCT church in collaboration with international non-governmental organisations - Mission and Friend and the International Medical Relief (IMR).

Director of the church's health department, Dr Yohana Masonde told journalists yesterday that the church has been implementing the programme since 2016 whereas patients with different health complications were attended to for free of charge.

Dr Masonde said the programme targets people from

low income earning families who cannot afford to pay for medical bills.

He mentioned some of the diseases that patients were screened and treated are sight problems, diabetes, heart complications, high blood pressures, sexual transmitted diseases (STIs), sores, skin diseases and dental problems.

"It came to our knowledge that most of the people in rural areas cannot afford to pay medical bills hence the need to support them", he said adding the beneficiaries are from Lengijave, Oljoro, Sokon II and Bangata wards in Arumeru district, Arusha region.

He said the service is offered through free medical camps that are conducted once annually. He said that talks are ongoing to start offering the services twice a year as the demand is high. He said this year the camp lasted for five days.

One of the beneficiaries, Frolence Gigion said: "There are some many people in the villages in need of the services. The church should consider reaching more villages at least twice a year".

Head of delegation from the International Medical Relief, Ellison Fellers said they are services targets to provide free medical services to Tanzanians in rural areas. He said the organization has also been providing counseling to the villagers on how to protect themselves from a number of diseases.

Fellers noted that the cost for free medical camps this year was US \$ 2 million.

Earlier, Arusha district council director, Dr Wilson Mahera said the government is making various interventions to improve provision of health services including construction of dispensaries and health centers.

He said the moves are aimed to ensure quality health services to Tanzanians.

Dr Mahera said the government in Arusha has completed construction of three health centers namely, Nduruma, Oljoro and Manyire.



Embassy of the United States of America

U.S. MISSION DAR ES SALAAM VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The U.S. Mission in Dar es Salaam is seeking eligible and qualified applicants for the position below.

Position Title: Regional English Language Office (RELO) Assistant

Vacancy Number: TANZ-2019-021

A copy of the complete position description listing all duties, responsibilities and qualifications required is available at:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>

HOW TO APPLY:

Applicants MUST follow instructions in the notice on the website:

Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application.

Previous applicants do not need to reapply.

Only Shortlisted candidates will be contacted only via email.

CLOSING DATE: June 24, 2019

CHALLENGING SALES POSITIONS IN LAKE OIL GROUP



VACANCY: ZONAL MANAGERS ACROSS TANZANIA

Job Title: Zonal Manager

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Lake Group is looking for experienced Retail Sales personnel for their Fuel Division to be positioned across Tanzania.

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Your role will involve the ability to effectively monitor stocks & Sales at Retail Outlets, and ensure that orders are generated sufficiently early to ensure no Stock-Out of Fuel at Stations.

You will be also responsible for ensuring high quality Customer Service at all Stations in addition to ensuring correct quality, quantity and various other facilities required by all types of motorists.

To develop and build customer base in his/her Zone including expanding the Retail Network and maintaining good relationships.

You will also be responsible for all Company Assets placed at all Fuel Stations in your Zone and also propose with justification for additional facilities like Storage Tanks, Dispensing Units etc for equipping the station so as to enable to achieve the Sales Targets.

Remuneration

Remuneration will be based on experience & market related.

Key Responsible Areas

Sales:

1. Monitor Sales at Retail Stations and support by

canvassing for new customers and maintaining the existing ones.

2. Ensure no Stock outs in any Fuel Stations by indenting in time and following up with S & D for deliveries to the stations.
3. Ensure proper working of all equipment's and confirm all stations work as per TRA and other Statutory norms.
4. Ability to meet Monthly Station wise Targets consistently.

Customer Service excellence

1. Ensure motorists coming to our Fuel Stations are treated to excellent service and good quality & quantity Fuel.
2. Minimization & speedy resolution of any complaints

Competencies

Applicant should be literate/minimum computer knowledge and should have Sales Experience in Fuel or Fuel related or FMCG Products and have Field experience and ready to do extensive travelling:

1. A Graduate from any recognized University.
2. Minimum Experience of 5 years in any Retail FMCG Industry or 3 years in Fuel & Fuel related Industry.
3. Knowledge of English would be an advantage.

Competencies

Interested Candidates may make an Application in their own handwriting together with their CV and send it to hr@lakeoilgroup.com

Application can send to below Addressed

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Vijibweni Industrial Area, Kigamboni
Dar Es Salaam -Tanzania

TPSIS, police come up with database to help in the detection of crime

By Correspondent Mashaka Mgeta

THE Tanzania Private Security Integration Services (TPSIS) in collaboration with police have introduced a database for the registration of private security guards, Managing Director Dr David Rwegoshora has said.

Dr Rwegoshora was addressing the editors and senior reporters in Dar es Salaam at the weekend, adding that the registration has started and had been carried out throughout the country.

He said the registration was aimed to develop and maintain the database for private security guards in the country, coordinate and train them on how to detect crime before happening.

Dr Rwegoshora said the registration will be done through the website www.tpsis.co.tz and require the applicants to fill key information in accordance with police procedures.

"Both TPSIS and police will coordinate the database and accessed by the offices of Regional Police Commanders (RPC) and Officer Commanding District (OCD) in their respective areas.

"The database will help to increase the trust to our private security guards and assurance to their employers as well," he noted.

He disclosed that although there was no statistics based on recent scientific research focusing the private security guards who work out of the formal private companies, their number was large and not coordinated.

"We are targeting the private security guards commonly known as 'watchmen' because they do best to protect housing, business areas and even social institutions like schools, churches and mosques, now they need

to be coordinated and helped," he explained.

"In this regards, the registered security guards will be well known to the database accessed by our police... this is a very big achievement to both security guards and their employers or those who hire them," he noted.

Dr Rwegoshora exposed that identifying crime before happening has positive results which among other things, it avoiding the use of high cost for the police force to patrol and control crime, promoting peace and stability in the country.

"When crime acts were not recognized and controlled, our police find themselves using cars and weapons to patrol or search for perpetrators, but the private security guards will be trained to help them (police) to reduce such incidence," he said.

According to Dr Rwegoshora, the training will also include the use of alternative methods to defeat the offenders without using force or firearms.

Moreover, Dr Rwegoshora said TPSIS has no mandate to employ any security guard, but to keep their records and somehow, to link them to the labor market.

He said the assessment made by TPSIS found an increasing number of private security guards in the country, which was attributed to various factors, including the high cost charged to acquire those in the formal sector.

"The database will help to increase the trust to our private security guards and assurance to their employers as well"



Stanley Kafu (R), Exim Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications, receives a trophy from Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children minister Umyy Mwalimu in Mwanza city on Friday. It was a token of the government's World Blood Donor Day (June 14) appreciation of the bank's contribution to the success of blood donation drives in the country. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Bank wins govt accolades for successful blood donation drives

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

AS Tanzania joined the rest of the world in celebrating World Blood Donor Day, Exim Bank Tanzania has been acknowledged and honoured by government in recognition of its contribution for the successful blood donation initiatives in the country.

The bank received a trophy shield of recognition for its milestone donations to the National Blood Programme during this year's commemorations held nationally at Furahisha grounds located in Mwanza City over the weekend. The theme of this year's campaign was "Safe blood for all".

Applauding the dedication of the bank towards blood donation drives, Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and

Children, Umyy Mwalimu urged the bank to continue being the country's blood ambassador and to inspire many more institutions and individuals to join the lifesaving mission. "The government has allocated 5bn/- in the fiscal year 2019/20 which will be used to build five small blood donation camps in 12 regions in across the country."

She said while using the same occasion to launch brand new 'full automation' blood testing machines installed in six zonal camps including Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Tabora, Kilimanjaro, Mtwara and Mbeya

"I want to call upon all people who fall under the age bracket of blood donors and are in good health to heed to the call and see that we deal with blood shortages and save lives of vulnerable people who require blood transfusions.

We are able and can meet the country blood targets, we just have to work hard and improve public perceptions and attitude towards donating blood," she added.

Commenting on the recognition, Stanley Kafu, Exim Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications department noted: "The blood donation drive is part of Exim Bank Tanzania's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program called Exim Cares. We are honored to receive the recognition by the government through the Ministry of Health. The appreciation will motivate us to organize more blood donation drives.

According to Mr Kafu, this year, the bank's blood drive kicked off 3rd June, 2019 in partnership with the Tanzania's National Blood Transfusion Service

(NBTS) where Exim Bank facilitated the execution of 8 blood donation camps in a number of regions including Dar es Salaam, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mbeya, Tanga, Mtwara and Zanzibar.

"We are one of the institutions that have a footprint in a number of regions across the country or whose business affects a wider population. We are passionate about the communities we serve and believe a healthy community is critical for the fulfillment of our goals. That is why we are committing resources and our office spaces as donation collection points" said Kafu.

Aligned with the bank's mantra, 'Exim at work, today for tomorrow', Kafu said they will continue to implement meaningful campaigns that convene members of the community and give back to the community.

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 MINISTRY OF WORKS, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION
TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
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PUBLIC NOTICE

IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCLUSIVE MANDATE IN SHIP TALLYING SERVICES

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC) is established under Section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act No. 14 of 2017 as a maritime administration to regulate Ports, Shipping services, Maritime environment, Safety and Security. The Corporation is also mandated to conduct Shipping business in the areas of Cargo Clearing and Forwarding, Ship Tallying services, Document control and Shipping Agency.

Section 7 (1)(c) of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act of 2017 gives exclusive mandate to TASAC to carry out Ship Tallying services.

TASAC would like to inform all stakeholders and the General public that, with effect from 1st July, 2019 TASAC shall commence implementing this exclusive mandate.

The General public is requested to take note of this notice and accord the necessary cooperation in facilitating the implementation of this function.

Director General

TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

PROCUREMENT TITLE: SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE EAC MEDICINE REGULATION HARMONIZATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

REFERENCE NUMBER: PRQ20180948

The East African Community is implementing the East African Community Medicines Regulation Harmonization (EAC-MRH) program that aims to improve access to priority medicines through harmonization of medicines registration requirements and standards. TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) has been working with EAC National Medicines Regulatory Authorities (NMRAs) at a national level to develop and implement the Information Management System for regulation of medicines. TMEA intends to support the ICT infrastructure for hosting the EAC MRH IMS and will be contracting a firm to supply and setup the hardware and software infrastructure as per the specifications provided.

Terms of reference for this procurement and the Invitation For bid (IFB) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com. The closing date for submission of this tender is on **11 JULY 2019**.

Interested and qualified firms/consortiums must submit their bids through TMEA's mail box using the email address, procurement@trademarkea.com, clearly indicating the tender number and description. All attachments must be **5 MBs or less**.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline

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Taking A New Look
At The News
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Holding SADC revolving chairmanship is opportunity to shape regional agenda

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation is gearing up for its event of the year, namely, hosting a summit of member countries of the Southern Africa Development Cooperation (SADC) in two months' time. President John Magufuli will be taking up the chair of the SADC revolving chairmanship, and duly visited a number of SADC member states and hosted some of them as well, creating convivial atmosphere ahead of the handover, from President Hage Geingob of Namibia. It is a coordinating position among Heads of State but also involves taking decisions, when at least three Heads of State back the decision, the troika system.

The Foreign Ministry is in a particularly good position in relation to briefing the team charged with preparing for the meeting as the current SADC Executive Secretary is a Tanzanian diplomat and veteran high ranking government official, Dr. Stergomena Tax Bamwenda. She also oversaw preparations of last year's summit where South African President Cyril Ramaphosa handed the baton to President Dr Geingob. That situation adds a plus in communications but in no way predetermines the summit's agenda, let alone predetermining outcomes, and that is where the difficulty arises. Hard work and painstaking consultations are the rules of the game.

Looking at the situation in the face, it is evident that Tanzania will have to do plenty of convincing to influence the meeting's agenda significantly, as it otherwise just needs to work with the SADC Secretariat and let member states set the agenda. The reason is that current data presumably validated

by the World Bank shows that total production value in the SADC zone hovers at around \$1.575 billion and per capita income stands at \$5,260 by 2018 estimates. Our current GDP per capita is put at around \$2,916.42 purchasing power parity dollars. The figure is said to be around 15 per cent of the global average, of rich and poor countries combined.

The record shows that Ethiopia has a lower PPP dollars per capita earnings compared to Tanzania, put at around 1,890 international dollars (PPP, which is different from gross national income measurements that comes to roughly half of PPP dollars). Yet the country is a major player in regional strategic issues and especially security, and that means Tanzania is well positioned to do much more work in that area. We are already doing plenty in the DRC and Sudan, and gladly defused tensions with neighbouring Malawi, a laudable summit input, this.

One key area where advances are likely to be realized at the August SADC summit in Dar es Salaam is advancing the regional trade integration agenda, that has now received formal backing from the creation of the Continental African Free Trade Area (CAFTA). It is an area what is being watched with great interest by diplomats from the European Union in Dar es Salaam, as Tanzania has usually complied with SADC measures on trade like customs, markets, etc. It has been less forthcoming in initiatives within the more profoundly anchored East African Community (EAC), the real basis for its negotiations to sign an economic partnership agreement with the European Union. Chairing SADC influences the regional agenda but it will be tough.

Arts and entertainment growth laudable, but has policy lessons

SURPRISE was written on the faces of a range of observers when the Minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Philip Mpango, outlined main areas of the fiscal budget for the next financial year, and summary of economic outlook over the past year. One surprising detail was that the arts and entertainment sector was the fastest in growth, at 12.7 per cent, followed by construction at 12.0 per cent, and finally transport and logistics at 11.8 per cent. It means they were closely chasing one another and by any comparison they are the best sectors that the country's economy could afford - a neat shift from previous years where telecommunications led, then, finance and credit.

In that context it is worthwhile to spend a minute or two wondering if this is a good indicator of the country's economic growth or it is worrisome. Arts and entertainment form part of what radical economists call 'speculative capital,' moralists call it 'get rich quick' mentality, and quickly raises the ire of preachers, etc. This is precisely what happened, and it is unlikely that the arts and entertainment sector shall do sufficiently well next year as betting shops have started to close in non-strategic areas as controls are mounted. Telecommunications is unlikely to recover.

There was some good news that the agro-sector net value rose by around five per cent, while no direct mention was made of industry among the top three, or even four depending on what areas one examines. One lesson is that no policy thrust ever took place to encourage sports and entertainment but investors channel their savings or deposits in that direction, as it has a better promise of profit yield. Still the

old issues haunt them, that preachers took time to caution the president that 'gambling' like sports betting is ruining youths, who ought to be doing productive work, and indeed measures were taken in that direction. It is hard to see what sector will benefit.

The policy lesson that may be of some help in these circumstances is that what the public and responsible authorities wish for at the level of policy isn't what investors or those with usable deposits seek after. The public authorities are keen about everyone doing productive work, but economists aren't saying that there is likely to be increasing demand anytime soon, but rather emphasize on the presence of raw materials and the creation of jobs, the first being merely an enabling facility and the second a result of this feasibility of investment. It can't be the goal as such, that an investor puts money in order to create jobs, without assurance of market, profit.

This leads to the second aspect of lessons of which sectors lead in economic growth, that having a relaxed policy environment is important so that investors direct their cash where they want, not where the government wants them to direct their money. Secondly, economists in a Post-Budget Breakfast Talk did not focus on the creation of demand and what preliminaries the creation of demand requires. In short, the amount that the government pays to service the public debt is too high for lowering taxes sufficiently, or raising public sector orders from producers by creating more social and economic facilities. All this is an area that needs to be discussed, not just add novel concepts like harvesting rainwater for irrigation, even when this point is laudable, valid.



By Yvette Raphael

WE'VE proven Depo Provera doesn't make it easier to contract HIV. But African women are still left with too few contraceptive choices.

For as long as I have been living with HIV - I was diagnosed 19 years ago at the age of 25 - I have been following the science related to HIV and the three-month contraceptive injection, DMPA, also known as Depo Provera.

You'll hear a lot of people say Depo is Africa's most popular family planning method. But that's not actually true. "Popular" implies people choose Depo over other contraceptive options because they like it more.

And, while DMPA is the most widely used long-acting method in many countries, including South Africa, the reality is women are, every day, dependent on clinics where it is the only contraceptive choice on offer. Because women then use Depo, the people who pay for contraception argue that users want it.

But that's far from the truth. Instead, the situation exposes another problem: the limited contraceptive choices that are offered to women in Africa.

There are reasons why choice matter. One is equity: For years, questions have been asked about why DMPA is given to predominantly black and brown women and why other modern methods - whether long-acting and discrete, or short-acting and effective - are not available to everyone who needs them.

But an even more pressing question - whether Depo Provera increases a woman's risk of contracting HIV - have been asked for more than two decades.

We now finally have an answer. The Evidence for Contraceptive Options and HIV Outcomes (Echo) study results, which were released on Thursday

After echo: 'Why the study results scare me'

afternoon, found no substantial difference in HIV risk among women using the three different contraceptive methods - DMPA, the Jadelle Implant and the Copper IUD - that were evaluated.

The trial was conducted in South Africa, Swaziland, Kenya and Zambia over three years.

But the research results scare me - and I worked on the study as an external civil society advisor. I also, independently, and as part of a group of African women leading activism and advocacy on this issue, have spent the past years traveling around South Africa talking to women and girls about contraception and HIV.

My greatest fear is that the results are taken as a sign that nothing needs to change for the women and girls that I spoke and worked with while I was on the road. The Echo results don't mean that Africa's limited contraceptive choices are okay, just because the most widely used method doesn't make it easier to contract HIV.

The rate of new infections among trial participants averaged at close to 4%. The World Health Organisation (WHO) considers a 3% incidence - the rate of new infections per year - as "substantial". An even higher rate - in this case 3.8% - is therefore an indication of just how vulnerable women of childbearing age are to HIV in the countries where the study took place.

I have always known that Echo needed to prompt action, no matter the results. That's why I got involved with

the trial. When there was a question about whether the study should be done - because some women, some of my comrades, thought we already knew the answer - I stood up for it. I told them we as women deserve high quality evidence so that we can make the best choices for ourselves. That's why I took to the road to hold dialogues with young women about what their contraceptive needs and HIV prevention concerns looked like.

In one of my road meetings, a young girl spoke about being raped at eight and having her family hide that fact. A young woman talked about how the nurses turned her away when she asked for contraception. You apparently don't get to have the shot until you've had a baby.

In rural areas, young women talked about showing up at clinics and being told that they were getting the shot - meaning Depo Provera - no matter what method they'd come for, or wanted. There were also women who turned up at the clinics and found no contraception at all because of stock outs that derived from government corruption and mismanagement.

We of course didn't need a trial to expose this dire situation and to tell us that new HIV diagnoses in young women are unacceptably high.

But, what study results can do - and this I've learned from my work as an advocate and activist - is to spur action in powerful ways. The Echo results should be used to mobilise action that directly, systematically and generously addresses the issues that women face

every day: programmes that don't offer choice, but instead reinforce shame; shelves that are empty when they should be stocked with options, with some of the stock outs tied back to corruption and mismanagement of funds at the highest levels; clinics that treat one part of a woman but not her whole self - so that contraception is offered but not HIV prevention, or treatment, or vice versa.

Every east and southern African country should design and implement a plan, with milestones, for expanding contraceptive method mix and uptake and integrating HIV prevention into contraceptive service points.

The upcoming WHO meeting in Zambia prompted by the Echo results should generate a declaration of commitment to this, along with a commitment from funders to put money into this work and revisit the key milestones across the regions and in countries in one year's time.

But this work must be validated by "ground forces" - women who live and work and love in the places I have visited over the last year. There is nothing for us without us, nothing that can call itself a "woman-centered approach" with a straight face if it does not have women, especially young women, in the lead.

The world has been waiting for the Echo study's results. Now that they're out, the women are waiting for a wider range of contraceptive options, and the integration of HIV and sexual and reproductive health programmes for Africa's women also needs to end.



Start the week with Cynthia Stacey

Beaches...again - anyone interested?

JAMBO for the coming week, and thanks for the feedback I received from readers on the last column.

It seems there are some people here who would rather have miles of white sandy untouched beaches, as opposed to over developed 'waterside resorts', where the visitor pays to enter.

...and doesn't this sound strange, how can a nations coastline become a 'consumer product' requiring an entrance fee, as opposed to a public area freely used by the citizens, like Oyster Bay.

...but every time I leave TZ...and return, I expect to see ticket booths erected there, with lines of people waiting to pay to access this part of their nations natural heritage...the coastline.

...and as I wrote last week, this has long been under seige.

...and a good example was in 2010, and after leaving the Sea Cliff Hotel, that my visitors loved, they spotted some land that had been cleared nearby, and asked is it for another hotel? I didn't know the answer, but jokingly told them that, that allocations in such prime coastal areas, were often the result of 'dubious doings'.

A week after their departure, this 'clearance project' was decried in the media, and was as dubious as it appeared, exposing as it did, the malpractices from Kinondoni Municipal Land officers.

Though eventually revoked, surprisingly at the time, Lands Minister John Chiligati said that "this area had lain idle, as the council lacked resources to develop it...adding that Cocoa Beach would also be 'developed' by either the private sector or the council". This sounded like the gamekeeper turned poacher.

Though earlier, in July 2008, MP Mgana Msindai in the bunge, wanted to know what the government was doing to stop people constructing along the sea shore, and protect the beaches for future generations. To which Minister Chiligati then said, "we will take legal action against anyone building houses or hotels within the prohibited 60 metres area from the shore, and 30 metres from Lake shores."

...if I remember correctly, the Sea Cliff hotel, was lacking legality, by not being within the regulation standard, and were told to rectify it, but I don't

know how they reconciled the issue. The legislation further said "...to protect land use, and environmental and coastal areas, the government has circulated public notice no 76 of 1992... reminding people to keep away from sea and lake shores at a specific distance."

"...reminding people to keep away", but if they didn't, what enforcement if any would ensue?

However, since the annexation of the coastline had been going on for decades, with entire beaches privatised, would the legal action the Minister referred to at the time, be retrospective...of course not!

Let's go even further back, to 1998, when this came up in the Bunge, when the then Minister of State Ngombale Mwiru said, "...the protection of the coast line should not be left to the government alone, and people should be educated on, and assist its conservation".

This was around the time that the government was doing a little light 'load shedding' of responsibility, and exhorting people to "...build your own classrooms...clinics...police posts, start your own security groups etc." and amazingly, even "form your own water authority". So perhaps safeguarding the nations coastline could have been done in any spare time they had leftover!

In fact, it was often the people who'd been trying to involve the government, and get THEM to listen if shorelines were invaded, and sold off to those with the right connections, large bank accounts, or more likely both. There were letters in the press saying save our beaches, and similar cries of public concern, which all fell on deaf official ears.

We learnt at one time, that the government had 'revealed' the problem'. Incorrect of course, as it had been openly visible for years.

In the early nineties, Gerhard Wendler, the then Director of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, which has given such long and sustained assistance to Tanzania, was trying to stop the privatisation of the beach near his home, at Jangwani. Sadly, by the time he left the country, he had failed. And in view of the support this excellent organisation had given here, and still does, it was a sad end to his lengthy term of office.

His successor Jorg Bergstermann took up the fight, and wrote to the

Director of Urban Development in November 1995, sending copies to the Commissioner for Lands and the City Planner.

He wrote... **Dear Sir, this is to inform you that a building project has started at Jangwani beach and the plot which I occupy. No building permit was issued, and the title deeds for these plots have been revoked. I therefore kindly ask you to issue a stop order, or a demolition order, as the wall is almost complete**".

He received no reply, and two weeks later wrote to say the project was nearing completion. Repeatedly, he wasn't ever granted the courtesy of a reply, and his term of office over, also left Tanzania.

Within almost a decade, much of the shoreline where both directors lived, was walled off, built up, and out of bounds to fishermen and beachcombers alike, as they predicted...so shame on local officialdom, for their shabby treatment towards these conscientious gentlemen.

Discussing this issue in 2006, Dar's Regional Commissioner Abbas Kandoro said "it is improper to ignore the public outcry and continue to allow indiscriminate invasion of the nations coastline".

Echoes of a similar expression of intent to that Bunge session of 1998, and Minister Chiligati's words ten years later. Maybe that's all it was, an echo of intent, that yearly became fainter.

And where are we today in 2019... rather gloomy I think, when it comes to the environment, coastal or otherwise, with shocking ideas mooted for the nation over the coming years, that could well come to fruition. We've had a suggested soda ash plant near a unique lake and habitat, hotels in game reserves... cable cars up the Killi mountain, and a scenario that could see large beach resorts endlessly constructed, along with ugly high rise buildings, however inappropriate for the area.

...and let's not forget, a former Mayor of dubious disposition, a decade and a half ago who said "Kivukoni beach could be improved by erecting shopping malls along the shore". Shocking...but god forbid it could still happen...the tarmac over of Tanzania...run for shares in the cement industries quickly, you readers!!



A beautiful and unspoiled beach on Kigamboni, with no buildings, bars with loud music, or anything to detract from its natural beauty...but fast forward to progress, and there's now a large beach resort, fenced off, and possibly off limits to locals unless they can pay the entrance fee. It's called 'development', and it's unstoppable. In Zanzibar, locals have to pay to access what used to be one of their islands, but was leased to investors, and is now a tourist destination. (File photo)

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QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, or related field with Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).
2. Must be Registered with National Board of Accountants and Auditors (NBAA).
3. Should have at least five years working experience of working in Finance Dept preferably in a Bank or Financial Institution.
4. Proven computer skills using spreadsheets and accounting software packages.
5. Good communication Skills, Written and Oral, Strong analytical skills and ability to influence and mobilize customers
6. Good knowledge and experience of accounting and banking practice, knowledge of taxation, IFRS and the regulatory frameworks within the region.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) To Report to the Managing Director/General Manager
- 2) Responsible for Planning & setting of Business Budgets of Bank.
- 3) To submit All MIS to BOT, Parent Bank, MD, BOD and other statutory bodies.
- 4) To prepare and be responsible for submission of various reports/Financial statements/Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss accounts as per the Regulations to various regulatory Authorities and to Managing Director, Internal & External Auditor, BOI- HO or any other agency.
- 5) Publishing of periodical statements in the newspaper.
- 6) Printing and updating of daily GLB/Multicurrency and consolidated report for both branches for submission of the same to Head Office and Branches.
- 7) Remittance of TRA dues like Withholding Taxes, VAT, Excise duty, stamp duty and reconciliation of TRA Accounts and submission of the relevant returns to the authorities within the time frame.
- 8) Deduction and Remittance of dues to NSSF/PSSSF and preparation and submission of NSSF/PSSSF returns on monthly basis.
- 9) To ensure timely payment of Salaries for all staff, deduction of government taxes and statutory obligations like PAYE, SDL and submission of the relevant taxes to the authorities within the time framework.
- 10) Keep the Managing Director well informed about all Financial and Accounting matters.
- 11) To liaise/coordinating with Statutory Auditors, Tax auditors (Internal and External), BOT officials, tax consultancy and Government Authorities on the issue of regulatory matters.
- 12) Canvassing business for the Bank.
- 13) To perform Administrative and other duties as may be assigned from time to time.

2. MANAGER (TREASURY)

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- 1) A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, Banking, Finance, Treasury Management, International Trade, Forex Operations, Business Management etc.
- 2) Should have at least three years working experience in Treasury Dept /Forex preferably in a Bank or Financial Institution.
- 3) Good computer application skills.
- 4) Good analytical skills or experience in preparation of various treasury reports for the Board and various Committees of the Board.
- 5) Good communication Skills, Written and Oral, Strong analytical skills and ability to influence and mobilize customers.
- 6) Good knowledge and experience of banking practice, knowledge of International trade regulations and statutory policies.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITY

- 1) Reporting to Head of Treasury/General Manager.
- 2) Daily Forex dealing and updating of daily exchange rates in FINACLE, Treasury Bances and our Website.
- 3) Verification of All SWIFT outward/inward messages and its proper disposal to the relevant departments.
- 4) Proper funding and optimum utilization of our various NOSTRO and BOT clearing accounts. Proper Management of cash at both the branches.
- 5) Balancing and reconciliation of our all NOSTRO and BOT CLG account on daily basis.
- 6) Investment in Treasury Bills & Bonds and Placements in Interbank Money Markets. Monitoring of its P & L accounts on regular basis.
- 7) Daily monitoring our liquidity position and accordingly arrange lending/borrowing in the Interbank Money market, sending its confirmation and Fund transfer messages.
- 8) Marketing of our various banking products and bringing New Customers to the bank.
- 9) Daily and fortnightly reporting to the management, providing information to the Finance department for the reports related to the treasury department.
- 10) Submission of data for the ALCO and Investment Committee meetings
- 11) Any other supervisory work assigned by the management from time to time.

Interested and qualified candidates may apply for abovementioned vacancy so as to reach us on or before **30.06.2019**. Candidates are required to submit their detailed and updated CV including information regarding date of birth, educational qualification & work experience, name and addresses of three referees and attached certified copies of their academic and professional certificates, copy of Last Salary Slip and expected gross salary.

Only Shortlisted candidates will be called for personal Interview/Discussion.

Please note importantly that; canvassing in any form will lead to disqualification/rejection.

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By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Plastic bags ban aims at cleaning up environment

UNDER new measures, anyone using plastic bags in Tanzania can be slapped with a fine, and those caught manufacturing the items can get jail sentence. Environmentalists are celebrating the move.

A ban on plastic bags came into force in Tanzania this month as part of an effort to tackle pollution in the East African country.

It follows similar steps by others in the region, including Kenya and Rwanda, to phase out non-biodegradable plastics.

The ban applies to the production, importation, sale and use of all single-use plastic bags. The government has also warned tourists to "surrender" any plastic bags before entering the country, which is home to popular attractions such as Mount Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti.

When this year's Environment Day (WED) was celebrated in every corner of the country, the enthusiastic audience who had gathered to rejoice the day had to abandon their long time old culture of carrying and wrapping food and drinks with plastic bags to heed the government directive.

This time around, and for the first time, the audience had to dance to the new and different tune of the government that required them voluntarily to use non plastic bags after banning the plastic bags from the first of June this Year.

The historic environment conservation move of using non plastic bags was announced earlier this year by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania Kassim Majaliwa Kassim to banned production, importation, use and selling of the environmental polluter bags.

Instead, the government directed all Tanzanians and the manufacturers to manufacture and use alternative means of carriers, particularly non plastic bags.

The government directive said under the new measures, the manufacturers of different items of plastic bags and people who will ignore the instruction and found using the plastic bags will be subjected to a jail and fine.



It is now a tradition that the World Environment Day is celebrated every year on 05th June. This day is convened to advocate for environment protection and conservation.

The theme for the WED agreed by United Nations this year is Air Pollution. However, different countries formulate their own theme for the event based on the burning environment issues within their own localities. That is why in Tanzania this year, the World Environment Day was themed: Use non-plastic bags for the improvement of health welfare, environment and economic development.

Ilala District Commissioner Sophia Mjema (centre with weaved basket) displays non plastic bags as she celebrates with Ilala residents and other environmental stakeholders at the launching week of the World Environment Day. File Photo

Some of the environmental conservationists joined the government and the World to celebrate the day. One of them was the FORUMCC. The organization joined other major corporations, NGO's, communities and the government to celebrates the World Environment Day right from the preparations to encourage, raise awareness and act for the protection of the environment.

For example, the FORUMCC in collaboration with Ilala Municipal Council (IMC) and other

stakeholders prepared a series of events that spanned from 30th May to 8th June 2019.

Some activities include flash mob, beach cleanup, tree planting and education provision.

Over 600 people participated from cleaning companies, education institutions, women groups. Prior to the festive day, more than 50 trees were planted at Kampala International University (KIU) to provide fruits, shade and enhance carbon sink

and production of oxygen and green the environment.

At Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park, the environmental day attracted hundreds of youth who participated in different activities such as football, cinema, circus and exhibitions that were used to advocate for environment conservation. Over 150 people participated ranging from secondary school students to companies.

In Ilala, the District Commissioner Sophia Mjema called for Ilala residents and the region at large to make sure they protect the environmental from pollution by putting in place plans and strategies that would make the city clean.

He urged all residents to ensure they comply with the government's new initiative of banning the use of plastic bags in their respective areas. The non plastic bags will protect the environment and the surrounding endowed natural resources.

In Ilala Municipal, the launching day was organized jointly by Ilala district, FORUMCC, the African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) under the Deepening Civil Society Engagement in International Post-Paris Climate Change Dialogue and Response.

The District Commissioner Mjema said that Tanzanians and leaders in particular have the role to play. They need to be creative and double their efforts on environmental cleanliness. Citing an example, she said that the vehicles tasked to collect the wastes, transport and dump

them in the dumping sites have to do it on time to make the city clean.

"Environment conservation is very important for human health. It helps to protect people from diseases. The environment day is here to remind our key roles and responsibility of conserving the environment to make this planet a better place to live," she said.

Earlier on, welcoming the District Commissioner during the celebration, Acting mayor for Ilala Omar Kumbilam commended efforts being taken by Civil Society Organizations such as the Forum CC and other development partners for continued support on the environmental conservation in the district, the region and the country at large.

"We held a meeting recently that was convened by FORUMCC in collaboration with Ilala district. Some of the key issues that came out of the meeting were the waste management particularly waste collection contactors. We have decided to push this and we are discussing with them to address this challenge," he said.

Environmental conservationists and other stakeholders play a crucial role to put the city clean. FORUMCC Executive Director Rebecca Muna commended the government efforts in the environmental conservation saying the organization and its partners will continue supporting the efforts to ensure the city becomes clean.

"For us environmental conservation and climate change are key issues that need adequate and timely intervention. Forum CC will support these efforts including the government ban on plastic bags. We are going to work very closely with Ilala Municipality and the Regional government to ensure actions is taken to restore our environment," she said.

Today, Tanzania has joined other thirteen nations in Africa that have so far banned the plastic bags to conserve and manage the environment from pollution.

Turning 18, SCO seeks model organisation of international relations

BISHKEK

FOR a person, turning 18 means the coming of a new stage in life and more responsibilities.

After 18 years of growth, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has also come to a new stage of development. At the 19th SCO summit here on Friday, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed building it into a model organization of international relations against changing international situations.

After 18 years of development, the SCO has evolved into one of the major mechanisms promoting stability and prosperity in this very important patch of land.

Covering over 60 percent of the Eurasian landmass, the SCO is well-known for close cooperation among its member states, and the key to its high effectiveness lies in the Shanghai Spirit, a core value and philosophy shared by those countries.

Addressing leaders from across Eurasia and representatives of international organizations at the summit, Xi highlighted the Shanghai Spirit in building the SCO into a paradigm of unity and mutual trust among countries.

He urged the SCO members to have a keen appreciation of the trend toward world multi-polarization and economic globalization, search for wisdom in the Shanghai Spirit, which features mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect for cultural diversity, and pursuit of common development, and draw strength from unity and cooperation so as to build a closer community with a shared future for the organization.

Kubanychbek Taabaldiev, director of Kyrgyzstan's Kabar News Agency, said the Shanghai Spirit is the ideological unity of the member countries when "everyone is interested in equal relations."

Within the SCO, the Shanghai Spirit has been effective in bridging the gap among countries with various and even conflicting interests, according to Taabaldiev.

Against the increasing tendency to-

ward unilateralism, many structures and intergovernmental institutions are losing their former effectiveness, observed Sergei Sanakoyev, president of the Russian-Chinese Analytical Center.

Yet, "the SCO demonstrates a different type of international relations that is very attractive for many countries," Sanakoyev said.

Relations within the SCO are built upon the basis of mutual respect, while problems are solved on a compromise basis of working out suitable solutions for all, he said, adding that the very existence of the SCO has "serious influence on the development of world processes."

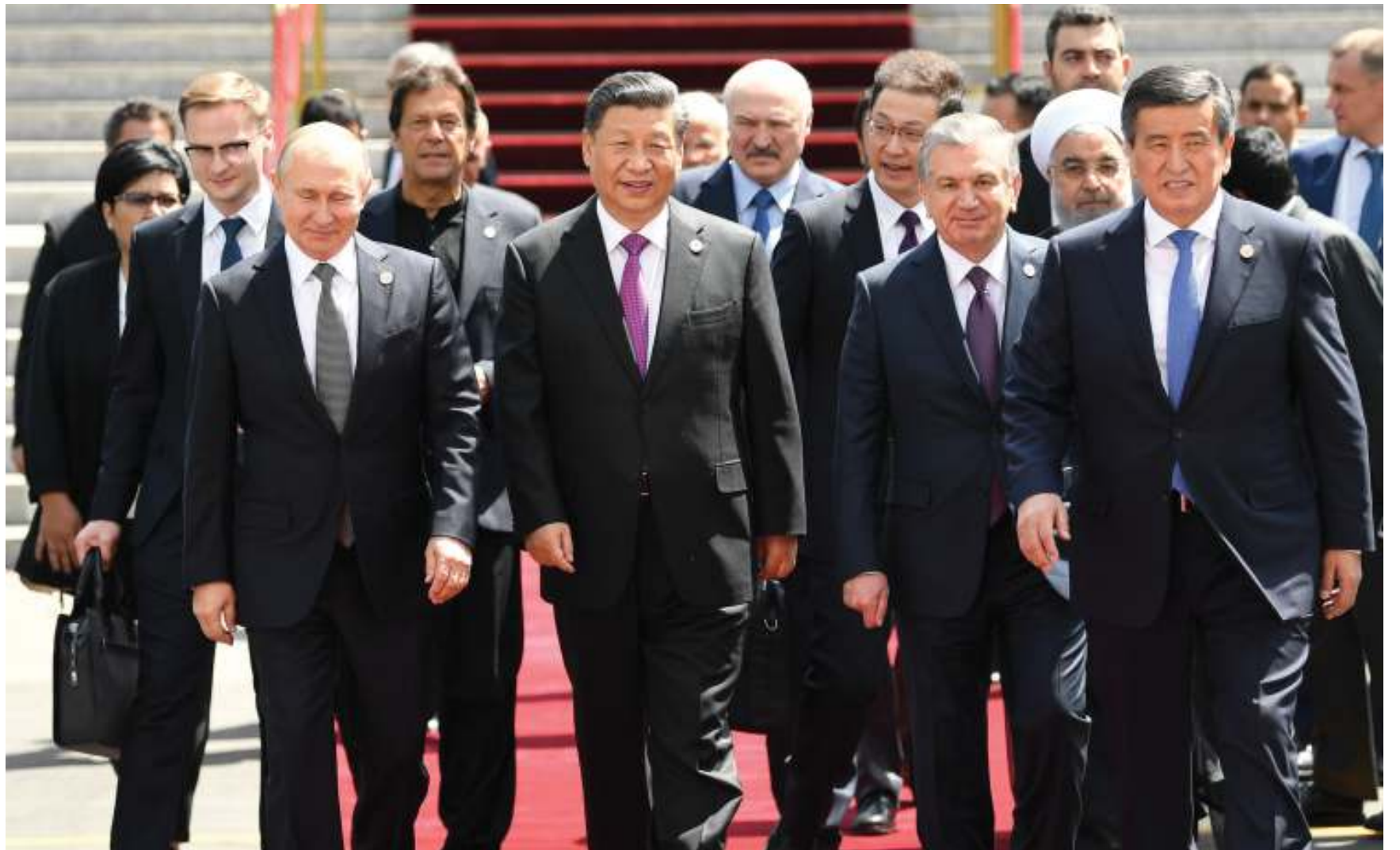
To build the SCO into a model organization that stresses mutual benefit and win-win results, Xi called on member states to advocate multilateral trading system, build an open world economy, and put forward more institutional arrangements in trade and investment liberalization and facilitation.

To this end, he also called for implementing the agreements reached at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, further synergizing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the development strategies of other members, as well as such regional cooperation initiatives as the Eurasian Economic Union, so as to promote an all-dimensional inter-connectivity.

Many leaders present at the summit spoke highly of the progress made in the joint construction of the Belt and Road and reiterated support for docking the BRI with development strategies of their countries. Since more than two millennia ago, the Central Asian region has been at the crossroads of the ancient trade routes connecting the East to the West.

This piece of inland area, where most SCO founding members are located, is one of the birthplaces of the BRI -- a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa.

It was in Kazakhstan Xi first brought forward the initiative of the Silk Road Economic Belt, part of the BRI. Central Asian countries are considering connecting their own development plans with the BRI, because it gives them a



Chinese President Xi Jinping (2nd L, front) and other leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member countries and observer states, as well as representatives of regional and international bodies, head for group photos during the 19th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Friday. (Xinhua)

chance to become major transportation hubs, SCO Secretary-General Vladimir Norov said, adding that the Belt and Road cooperation allows them to build ports and provides an opportunity for mutual development.

As the world is witnessing the negative impact of unilateral and protectionist measures on world economic growth, said Norov, the member states are in favor of deepening interaction to meet the challenges of jointly creating an open global economy.

Maintaining security and stability

has always been the main task since the inception of the SCO. Speaking at the summit on Friday, Xi proposed turning the SCO into a model group that underscores the sharing of wealth and woe.

Xi called on member countries to hold fast to the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, take multiple measures to combat the "three forces" of terrorism, separatism and extremism, and enhance de-extremization cooperation.

In his speech, Xi also mentioned the situation in Afghanistan, an ob-

server state of the SCO, saying he sympathizes with the sufferings of the Afghan people.

It is believed by China and all other SCO members that one of the key factors of preserving and enhancing security and stability in the SCO region is a prompt settlement of the Afghan issue.

Therefore, Xi said, the group needs to play a constructive role in promoting peace, reconciliation, stability and development in Afghanistan. Sergei Sanakoyev, the analyst, said now the problem of ensuring peace and stability in the region has be-

come even more urgent in connection with the practical actions to form new transport arteries within the framework of the BRI.

The development of global trade is impossible without reliable safety of transport routes, Sanakoyev said, adding that the responsibility of the SCO in this regard is hard to be over-estimated.

"One benefit from the SCO membership is indisputable," said Taabaldiev, the news agency director. "Almost all members feel greater security against the still active international terrorism." **Xinhua**

Clients laud JPM on proposal for TADB to establish regional branches countrywide

By Guardian Reporter

CLIENTS of the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) have lauded the call of President John Magufuli on the bank to establish regional branches in order to be close to the farmers, the prospective borrowers.

The president made the call when he met members of the business community at the State House in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Commenting on client's views, the TADB managing director, Japhet Jus-

time, said the bank was seriously working on the president's call because, he said, Kigoma, Mwanza and Dodoma offices are already operational.

"We appreciate and welcome the views of your interviewees. We are working on the call by the president because our ambition has always been to be understood by our clients and offer them best services and products," he said.

Justine explained that Mwanza office, that serves Mwanza, Mara, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Geita and Kagera Regions, was opened by Prime Minister

Kassim Majaliwa on March 19, 2019. Dodoma office has been operational since last year and Kigoma office has been operational for the nine months.

He said another office will be opened in Mbeya city to serve Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa and Ruvuma regions.

"The call strengthens our resolve and double efforts opening cluster offices to serve our clients," he said.

In an interview, the clients said having TADB regional offices countrywide will cut down costs on the part of applicants, there will be person-

to-person consultations, the bank's products will be known to many people and conditions for getting loans will be known to many people. The interviewees also praised the bank's performance, saying it has proved its worth in less than one year.

Anangisy Mwakalindile, a Rungwe District avocado farmer, said during the meeting at the State House it became evident that the president had faith in TADB's performance, hence his call to ensure it opens branches at regional level. "The president wants action from both sides. When he tour-

ing Mbeya Region recently he urged farmers to apply for TADB loans in order to increase both production and productivity. Now he wants the bank to be close to farmers," he said.

Samson Maduhu, a Kwimba District cotton grower, said timely delivery of bank loans would increase agricultural production in regions.

"I am in a good position to explain the effectiveness of the TADB loans because we the cotton growers have benefited from the bank's service in the last farming season. Because of the bank's intervention we go inputs

in time," he said.

Evodius Barongo, Ngara District coffee trader, said farmers and traders in Kagera Region appreciated the usefulness of the TADB because it supported cooperatives with loans to buy coffee from growers. "If the bank had not given loans to cooperatives coffee marketing would have been highly problematic," he testified. TADB has offered over 32 billion/- to Kagera Region cooperatives.

Tanzania wants to become a middle-income industrial country by 2025.



Vodacom Tanzania central zone go-to-market manager Baraka Siwa (L) presents a dummy cheque for 500,000/- in Dodoma at the weekend to a winner of the firm's Tuzo Points promotion, Singida resident Markfason Haule. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Indian specialists due in Dar this week for spine screening and surgeries

By Guardian Reporter

A TEAM of Indian spinal surgery experts are this week expected in the country to conduct screening camp for patients with spine related problems like neck pain, spine pain and sciatica problems.

According to a statement issued by the Dar es Salaam-based Regency Medical Centre, the team is led by Dr. Viral Shah, Dr. Ritesh Patel from Spine Clinic India.

Organized by Regency Medical Centre in collaboration with Lions Cub of Dar es Salaam, the two-day camp will be held on June 21 and 22, and the specialists also will screen various spinal cord problems requiring Surgical intervention.

"The two-day camp is done in the Spirit of Public Private Partnership of the Government and to reduce medical referrals abroad to save the forex of the country," the statement reads in part.

Experts, according to the statement, will do consultation on neck pain, back pain spinal surgical procedures, spinal cord problems and during this Camp, experts will select patients for major and minor Spinal; Surgical procedures which will be carried out at Regency Medical Centre.

"This Spinal Screening and Spinal Surgical procedure camp will take place on 21th and 22 June at Regency hospital This is a golden opportunity for fellow Tanzanians to avail this opportunity of getting treatment including Surgical procedures at door steps of Regency Medical Centre in Dar es Salaam," the statement said.



Yetu Microfinance Bank PLC
"Creating Wealth Together, Pamoja Tunaweza"

YETU MICROFINANCE BANK PLC

PUBLICATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.2018

REPORT OF CONDITION OF BANK PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 32(3) OF THE BANKING AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 2006.

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 ST December 2018.

Amount in Tzs.' (000)	Current Year 31-Dec-18 TZS	Previous Year 31-Dec-17 TZS
A. ASSETS		
1 Cash	273,805	365,395
2 Balances with Bank of Tanzania	0.00	0.00
3 Investment in Government securities	0.00	0.00
4 Balances with other banks	750,768	1,908,880
5 Cheques and items for clearing	0.00	0
6 Inter branch float items	0.00	0.00
7 Bills negotiated	0.00	0.00
8 Customers' liabilities for acceptances	0.00	0.00
9 Interbank Loans Receivables	0.00	0.00
10 Investments in other securities	0.00	0.00
11 Loans, advances and overdrafts (net of allowances for probable losses)	12,613,928	12,551,116
12 Other assets	873,260	271,162
13 Equity Investments	0.00	0.00
14 Underwriting accounts	0.00	0.00
15 Property, plant and equipment (net)	440,883	504,465
TOTAL ASSETS	14,952,644	15,601,018
B. LIABILITIES		
17 Deposits from other banks		
18 Customer Deposits	1,198,826	922,323
19 Cash letters of credit	0.00	0.00
20 Special deposits	1,034,089	2,427,458
21 Payment orders/transfers payable	0.00	0.00
22 Bankers' cheques and draft issued	0.00	0.00
23 Accrued taxes and expenses payable	58,155	152,171
24 Acceptances outstanding	0.00	0.00
25 Interbranch float items	0.00	0.00
26 Unearned income and other deferred charges		
27 Other liabilities	893,371	196,491
28 Borrowings	4,000,000	3,650,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	7,184,441	7,348,443
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	7,768,203	8,252,575
C. CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
31 Paid up share capital	6,056,497	6,056,497
32 Regulatory Reserves	130,555	66,617
33 Statutory Reserves	-	124,847
34 Retained earnings	803,429	547,466.0
35 Profit/(Loss) account	708,029	1,299,984
36 Other capital account	69,693	157,165
TOTAL SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	7,768,203	8,252,575
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	14,952,644	15,601,018
38 Contingent liabilities		
39 Non Performing Loans & Advances	872,734	726,128
40 Allowances for probable losses	1,326,281	1,056,304
41 Other non performing assets	0.00	0.00
D. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	%	%
i Shareholders funds to total assets	51.95%	52.90%
ii Non performing loans to total gross loans	6%	5%
iii Gross loans and advances to total deposits	624%	406%
iv Loans and advances to total assets	84%	80%
v Earning Assets to Total Assets	84%	80%
vi Deposits Growth	0%	0%
vii Assets growth	-4%	9%

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST December 2018.

Amount in Tzs.' (000)	Current Year 31-Dec-18 TZS	Previous Year 31-Dec-17 TZS
1 Interest Income	5,027,399	4,842,509
2 Interest Expense	404,573	312,785
3 Net Interest Income (1 minus 2)	4,622,826	4,529,724
4 Bad debts written off	-	-
5 Impairment losses on Loans and Advances	-79,869	19,995
6 Non Interest Income	834,012	870,156
6.1 Foreign Currency Dealings and Translation Gains/(Loss)	-	-
6.2 Commissions and fees	617,919	600,925
6.3 Dividend Income	0.00	0.00
6.4 Other Operating Income	216,093	269,231
7 Non Interest Expense	4,408,800	3,607,920
7.1 Salaries and Benefits	1,934,470	1,689,827
7.2 Fees and Commission	0.00	0.00
7.3 Other Operating expenses	2,474,330	1,918,093
8 Operating Profit/(Loss) before Income Tax	968,169	1,811,955
9 Income Tax Provision	260,140	511,971
10 Net Income/(Loss) after Income Tax	708,029	1,299,984
11 Other Comprehensive Income	0.00	0.00
12 Total comprehensive income/(Loss) for the period	708,029	1,299,984
13 Number of Employees	125	83
14 Basic Earnings Per Share	58.45	107.31
15 Number of Branches	3	3
SELECTED PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		
(i) Return on average total assets	31%	29%
(ii) Return on average shareholders funds	60%	55%
(iii) Non Interest Expense to Gross Income	95%	80%
(iv) Net Interest Income to Average Earning Assets	37%	36%

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN EQUITY, Tax' (000)	Tax' (000) Share Capital	Tax' (000) Share Application Money	Tax' (000) General Reserve	Tax' (000) Statutory Reserve	Tax' (000) Capital Grants	Tax' (000) Retained Earnings	Tax' (000) Total
Opening Balance 01/01/2017	6,056,497	-	-	-	292,395	1,245,448	7,594,330
Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adoption/(Deletion) during the period	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to retained income	-	-	-	-	(135,820)	-	(135,820)
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	124,847	-	-	(124,847)	-
Transfer to regulatory reserve	-	-	-	66,617	-	(66,617)	-
Total Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	506,519	1,299,984	1,806,503
Dividend paid	-	-	-	-	-	(506,519)	(506,519)
Balance as 31.12.2018	6,056,497	-	124,847	66,617	157,165	1,847,448	8,252,575
Change in accounting policy - Adoption of IFRS 9							
Opening Balance as 01/01/2018	6,056,497	-	-	-	157,165	1,522,511	7,736,163
Adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adopt. Addition/(Deletion) during the year	-	-	-	-	(50,368)	(50,368)	(50,368)
Less: Transfer to retained income	-	-	-	-	(27,104)	(27,104)	(27,104)
Transfer to general reserve	-	-	5,708	-	-	(5,708)	-
Transfer to Statutory reserve	-	-	-	66,617	-	(66,617)	-
Total Comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	708,029	1,299,984	2,006,013
Less: Dividends paid	-	-	-	-	(779,590)	(779,590)	(779,590)
Balance as 31.12.2019	6,056,497	-	130,555	-	68,865	1,512,263	7,768,115

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the faithful representation of the above statements. We declare that the statements have been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief, have been prepared in conformance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Banking and Financial Institutions Act, 2006. The financial statements were audited by Balakrishna Sreekumar & Co and present a true and fair view.

Signed by:

Ernest K. Ndimbo Board Chairman 13.06.2019

Altemius Millinga Director 13.06.2019

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 ST December 2018

Amount in Tzs.' (000)	Current Year 31-Dec-18 TZS	Previous Year 31-Dec-17 TZS
I Cash Flow from Operating Activities :		
Net (loss)/Income	969,266	1,811,955
Adjustments for non cash items :		
IFRS9 Implementation	(324,938)	0.00
-Depreciation of property and equipment	128,299	128,222
-Amortization of Refurbishment	0.00	0.00
-Amortization of Capital Grant	-	-
-Amortization of Intangible assets	0	0
772,627	1,940,177	
- Change in Statutory minimum reserve (SMR)	-	-
-Net change in loans and advances	(63,911)	(2,298,188)
-Net change in other assets	-602,098	(28,957)
-Net change in deposits	(1,116,866)	(124,161)
-Net change in placement with other bank	-	-
-Net change in other liabilities	714,896	(31,723)
(295,352)	(542,852)	
-Tax paid	(372,171)	(368,122)
Net cash flows/(used) from operating activities	(667,523)	(910,974)
II Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Dividend Received	0.00	0.00
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	(64,717)	(143,033)
Proceeds from disposal of property and equipment	0.00	0.00
Purchase of intangible assets	-	-
Purchases of Non Dealing securities	-	0.00
Proceeds from sale of Non-Dealing Securities	-	0.00
Net cash provided (used) by investing activities	(64,717)	(143,033)
III Cash Flow from Financing Activities		
Repayment of Long term Debt	500,000	1,800,000
Proceeds from issuance of long term debts	(150,000)	(691,667)
Others (specify)	-	-
Proceeds from issuance of paid up capital	0	0
Payment of Cash Dividends	(779,990)	(373,118)
Others (utilization)	(87,472)	(135,820)
Net cash provided (used) by financing activities	(517,462)	599,395
IV Cash and Cash equivalents		
Net increase (decrease) in cash & cash equivalents	(1,249,702)	(454,612)
Cash & equivalents, beginning of year	2,274,275	2,728,887
Cash & equivalents, end of quarter	1,024,573	2,274,275

MINIMUM DISCLOSURES OF BANK CHARGES AND FEES

FEES & CHARGES AS AT 31 December 2018		2. LOAN	
PRODUCT TYPE			
1. SAVINGS ACCOUNTS			
Required minimum opening balance	5000/=	Business loans	3% pm
Monthly service fee	FREE	Home Improving Loan	1.4% pm
Account statement	FREE	Loan Processing Fees	0.01
Balance enquiry	FREE	Insurance Fee	0.015
Account closure	5000/=	Fines and Penalties	2.5% per inst./Arrears
Required minimum operation balance	5000/=	Agricultural Loan	2.1% - 2.3% pm
Cash deposit charge	FREE	Alya Loans	2.3% pm
Account maintenance charge	FREE		

Do we need more or better universities?

By Special Correspondent

It is curious and even provocative that the authorities and the people of Nigeria have not been considering groundswell of informed commentaries that Nigeria needs better, not more universities at this time that disruptive technologies daily shape economic development through innovation - triggered by research.

And so, the National Universities Commission's (NUC) recent revelation that it was processing 303 fresh applications from individuals, corporate bodies and faith-based organisations for the establishment of more universities in the country should be of huge concern to all. The NUC's Executive Secretary, Professor Abubakar Rasheed who said the requests were in various stages of verification, noted that 208 of them were in the first verification process, 63 in the sixth stage, 30 in stage eight while two were in stage 10.

The pertinent questions are: Who are those applying for these universities? What are the sources of funds? Should universities be so commonly established as hotels? What is the relevance of the proposed programmes to national development?

Anyway, as the debate on the proliferation of universities rages, a school of thought argues that Nigeria needs more private institutions to complement its population growth. While another argues that rather than issuing more licences, NUC should endeavour to provide a blueprint on the number and type of private universities needed in the country and where they should be situated.

Currently, there are 170 universities in Nigeria - 43 owned by the Federal Government; 48, state government; and 79, privately owned out of which 38 are faith-based (32 owned by church groups and two owned by Islamic organisations).

Although, the National Policy on Education, promotes the provision of equal access to educational opportunities for all citizens of the country at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels both inside and outside the formal school system; it states that for the philosophy of education to work harmoniously for Nigeria's goals, education in Nigeria has to be tailored towards self-realisation, right human relations, individual and national efficiency, effective citizenship, national consciousness, national unity as well as towards social, cultural, economic,

political, scientific and technological progress.

To this end, the Nigerian education system must be value-laden and tailored for the betterment of the citizens in order that they may live a better life and contribute to the advancement of society. For instance, shouldn't Nigeria be thinking about specialised universities in line with the agenda for the nation's growth and development?

For instance, in the aviation sector today, aircraft are serviced abroad in Africa's most populous nation. So, can't policy makers and NUC encourage proposals for specialised universities that can take care of this priority need in aviation industry, instead of just licensing universities and replicating courses that are already available in existing 'mega' universities? Why do we get our children to be applying and registering for almost the same poorly funded courses, which do not trigger employability skills all over the country?

The ordinariness of our curricula of studies has been worsening the employability index of Nigerian university graduates. Yet no one is thinking out of the box, in this regard.

It will be recalled that The Guardian declared a state of emergency on the education sector in 2014 and till date it remains in place as many editorials have been written to draw attention to the parlous state of education in the country.

Today the situation is worse. And that is why any report about proliferation of universities without concomitant improvement in funding infrastructure can be quite provocative. The country indeed needs better and not more universities.

So at this juncture, NUC should pause and ask: What is university education doing for Nigeria? Is university education addressing the manpower deficits of Nigeria? Again, do we want a knowledgeable populace or a certificate society?

Again, while it is important to improve access to tertiary education, the issue of quality should be of concern to all. While there are good private universities, there are concerns that some of them have fallen short of expectation as their quality and standard of education have been markedly compromised.

Some of the allegations levelled against the private universities include over inflation of unhealthy parallel grades to attract 'customers'; inability to fulfil admission quotas allocated to them per session; inadequate funding;



ownership interference, paucity of qualified teachers, among others.

Furthermore, it is important for NUC to take stock of the available manpower before approving more universities. There are reports that the number of lecturers available perhaps will only be adequate for about 40% of the existing universities in the country today.

The implication of this is that even the resource verification carried out before approval of programmes, to a large extent, is merely 'fulfilling righteousness' because the name of one lecturer most often than not, appears on the list of lecturers for many private universities as an adjunct lecturer, some of which are in states that are very far from where the lecturer is working on full time. This raises questions about the frequency and quality of teaching that such an adjunct lecturer offers. Furthermore, if lecturers spend all their time teaching, when will they write grant proposals, carry out researches, participate in professional activities and do commu-

nity service? As a matter of fact, it will be in public interest for NUC to do some introspection before licensing more universities.

Therefore, for a nation that is serious about its own sustenance and improvement, it should constantly look in the direction of the quality of its tertiary education, not just more institutions of higher learning.

This situation calls for urgent action, because the situation is even more terrifying with obvious misplacement of priorities and celebration of mediocrity pushing the country's education to the edge of a precipice. Something must be done now or else in the future, pundits will be trying to understand how Nigeria became, to use the words of our only Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka, "at best, yet another failed state, (and) at worst, an overcrowded necropolis where the hope of the future lies interred in unmarked graves."

Therefore, NUC should halt the processing of more universities and rather standardise and specialise the existing ones. It should push for universities that are

adept in research, industry and innovation; aimed at developing manpower in line with the needs of the country; instead of 'credentialism.' Besides, the authorities in Abuja and the 36 capitals should be thinking about Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) to encourage the collaboration of the arts, science, technology, engineering and maths - for national development.

This will drive innovation and research to create business solutions that will fuel long-term economic growth.

More important, our leaders should brace up and establish more technical colleges/vocational schools; not just universities. 'Rushing' for more universities is just to have armada of universities that may not be relevant to the priority areas of national development. As such, our emphasis as a nation should be on competence, not 'credentialism'; skill acquisition, not certificate. The nation can only survive on people with knowledge and skills, which can add value that innovative technologies trigger

at the moment.

Therefore, instead of approving applications for more universities, NUC should 'push' the Research and Innovation (R&I) offices in Nigerian universities to encourage students to develop innovative ideas and creative products in a collaborative setting. While the R&I offices and entrepreneurial centres should encourage students and businesses to incubate new ideas, and prototype new creative products and services. Students in cognate disciplines should be encouraged to fabricate machines and equipment; and experiment with digital, wood, metal and print production.

We must be a focused society in consonance with the realities of our environment and the modern world. This way, the NUC and Nigerian universities will be celebrated even in global context because our tertiary education will be relevant to the needs of individuals and the society. What we need, in the main, are better universities with clarity of purpose on national development, not more!

Buhari, Palestine and Nigeria: There is no morality in global politics

By Fredrick Nwabuo

WHAT is Nigeria's interest in supporting Palestine? asked Fredrick Nwabuo. There is no morality in global politics. It is eat or be eaten. The nucleus of international relations, beyond the niceties of diplomacy, is interest. Substantially, foreign relations is a trade of interests. Nothing is given for nothing. Every country seeks its own even in the extension of charity to another country.

But Nigeria's approach to foreign relations has always been ludicrous. No head or tail, just some whimsical pursuits without accruing benefits to the country or to its citizens abroad.

A few weeks ago, the government made a donation of \$500,000 to Guinea Bissau for its elections. At the time, I wrote: "When the purpose of giving is to 'maintain an appearance', then there is a self-esteem problem. Over the years, Nigeria has had Africa as the "centrepiece" of its foreign policy. The country has played supportive and stabilising role in the affairs of most countries on the continent.

It took the throttle in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa; it funded the ANC, and provided academic and corporeal sanctuary to the blacks of the country. Today, Nigerians are, perhaps, the most hated people in that country, routinely harassed, abused and intimidated. It is not out of place to play the 'big-brother', but it is unwise to keep playing the role when effort is unrequited and when there is a blistering image problem."

Last week, President Buhari at the summit of the Organisation of Islamic

Cooperation (OIC) in Saudi Arabia said Nigeria was in support of an independent state for Palestine. In February 2016, he had made a sterner declaration.

At the summit he said: "We support the actions of the OIC in seeking an early resolution to the lingering Palestinian question and the rights of the Palestinian people to an independent homeland."

My reaction to this statement is, is "the support" in the interest of Nigeria? How does it benefit the country in relation to its neighbours, region and partners? Is it in conflict with the interest of the allies of the country in the West and in the region? Is this decision acceptable to at least 70 per cent of Nigerians? Who are the "we" the president mentioned? How was opinion sampled in arriving at the decision that "Nigerians" are in support of the Palestinian cause?

The US and some other countries aligning with Israel in this regard are propelled by strategic, security, economic and political interest just like some countries in the Arab world are for the Palestinian cause. Even during apartheid, Nigeria's support for the ANC and the blacks in South Africa was for strategic and political reasons being the lodestar of Africa at the time. But what is our interest in the Israeli-Palestinian struggle in the Middle East?

Is the support for the cause in our national interest or is it driven by some native stimuli? What informed President Buhari's decision? I desperately need to understand this.

I remember in December 2017, Nigeria voted against the US by supporting



a UN resolution asking the country to withdraw its recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This is while some countries abstained from voting, which I consider the rational and sagacious diplomatic card to play.

As I said earlier, global politics is capitalised in interest. What does Nigeria stand to gain by its open support for

the Palestinian cause? In March 2016, President Buhari also pledged support for the independence of Western Sahara, which I consider hypocritical. But what is our interest in all of these?

This brings me to the question: what is really our national interest? Do we have a national interest? Or are there disparate interests? In essence, Hausa

interest, Igbo interest, Yoruba interest and Christian/Muslim interest?

Perhaps, our national interest or foreign policy direction is dependent on the religious or ethnic background of the leadership of the day. Whichever way it swings is predicated on the absurd primordial.

As a matter of fact, Nigeria lacks direction on the global scene just as it appears to lack a compass on the national front.

BUSINESS

OUTSTANDING

Number of NMB Banks's customers increases by about one million, while profit rises by 3pc

By Guardian Reporter

THE local market's largest commercial bank by branch network, profit and customers managed to increase its client base by almost a million new accounts.

In its latest annual report for 2018, NMB Bank Plc said its customer numbers increased from 2.2 million in 2017 to 3.1 million while its pre-tax profits also surged by 3 percent to 142bn/- thanks to heavy investment in innovation and thousands of agents.

The bank's Board Chairman, Professor Joseph Semboja said in Dar es Salaam during the weekend at a shareholders annual general meeting which approved payment of 33bn/- as dividend to shareholders.

"NMB has over the years maintained a healthy capital position and we intend to continue doing so. To achieve this, it is crucial that we make the right decisions especially with the regulatory changes in capital requirements," Prof Semboja said.

He said NMB which is rated as stable B1 by crediting rating agency, Moody's is viewed by many international investors as strong and healthy. The bank is well capitalized with a Tier 1 Capital Ratio of 16.5 percent and is highly liquid.

"NMB is committed to continue to support the development of the Tanzanian economy and foresee an upward trend in the current economic trend as the planned economic stimulus and infrastructure developments are being implemented in the country," said interim Managing Director, Albert Jonkerougou.

"We will continue to be the leader in providing the best service to our customers and play an active role in the community," added Jonkerougou.

He said the bank is investing heavily in agriculture and has upgraded the team of experts that will be focusing on the sector to support the entire value chain in terms of agribusiness solutions supported by the NMB Foundation.



NMB Interim Managing Director Albert Jonkerougou addresses the 19th Annual General Meeting in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. The shareholders have approved a 33bn/- dividend payout this year. Photo courtesy of NMB.

"We are the best bank in Tanzania. Our best in class governance, IT and support systems makes NMB the safest bank in the country and we ensure

that your deposits and savings are secure with us," noted the interim MD.

The bank's shareholders approved payment of

66/- per share as dividend which was an increase of 3 percent compared to 64/- paid last year with a total allocated amount of 33bn/-.

CONCERN

In race to digitise, skills gap a drag on SA's big banks

JOHANNESBURG

A SEVERE shortage of computer skills in South Africa has left its major banks fighting over a limited pool of people with the skills they need to upgrade technology platforms and keep pace with changing customer demands and competition from new rivals.

The country's four biggest lenders - Absa, Standard Bank, Nedbank and FirstRand - told Reuters it was hard to access the skills they need to rapidly digitise - a response to growing demand for online and mobile banking and the arrival of a host of digital-only banks trying to steal their customers with slick apps and cut-price fees.

All four said they had taken a number of measures to address the shortage, including changing their hiring strategies, implementing for example 'speed dating' style events where large num-

bers of candidates undergo short interviews in one go, and developing training programmes.

But in some cases lenders said it still took months to hire and they were paying ever-rising salaries to win talent. The problem is particularly acute for positions that did not exist just a few years ago, such as cloud engineers, said Standard Bank Group Chief Information Officer Alpheus Mangale.

In September last year, he said the bank wanted to hire 12 such engineers to make sure its cloud systems were up and running and look after their day-to-day upkeep. "We are probably at about 40% of that, because the skills just don't exist ... in the market," he said. Banks can expect to pay a 20-30% premium when they do find such skills, he added.

Specialist recruitment agency Acuity Consultants said salaries for software developers had also leapt by up to 30% over the past year. Than-



Standard Bank Group chief information officer Alpheus Mangale.

do Lukhele, a divisional executive in Nedbank's group technology division, also said it could take months to fill roles and the bank paid extra for new hirings. Absa and FirstRand's retail unit cited similar problems.

The banks' issues highlight how the skills shortage is complicating some of South Africa's

largest companies' ability to compete, making adapting to technological and market changes more time-consuming and costly. Such skills are in short supply globally, and McKinsey has estimated demand for technological skills will rise by 55% by 2030 based on analysis focusing on the United States and Western Europe.

But Yossi Hasson, a co-founder at non-profit technology school WeThinkCode, said the issue was magnified in South Africa by problems in public education, limited access to the internet and computers and the fact that those with skills are often taken overseas by global companies.

The banks, many of which sponsor WeThinkCode, alongside companies ranging from news organisations to Nandos, have tried a range of other steps to attract or develop talent.

Standard Bank's Mangale said it had created training programmes with Amazon and Microsoft, as well as internal programmes and partnerships with universities or technical schools and initiatives to retrain existing staff. The bank, he said, had decided it should not rely on other institutions to create skills whose presence was increasingly becoming make or break for companies of all sectors.

IMPRESSIVE

Dr Mpango sings CRDB praise songs as proud privatisation success story

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CRDB Bank Plc is one of the country's outstanding privatization examples that stands as testimony that local managers can turn around a failing parastatal bank into one of the most modern and largest commercial banks in the market today.

Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango said in Dodoma during the weekend that CRDB which was privatised in 1995, remain to be one of Treasury's most rewarding venture as it has maintained dividend payment for decades.

"Today, you have made me feel very happy and proud of you because the dividend that you have paid today will go a long way in financing the government key strategic development projects during the next fiscal year," Dr Mpango said after receiving a dummy cheque for 9.9bn/- dividend.

He said as one of the majority shareholders with 21 percent of the shares, Treasury is very confident that CRDB will remain a very profitable investment for all shareholders who include ordinary Tanzanians.

"Let me thank the bank's management and staff backed by the board for continu-

ing to make us proud as shareholders because of the good performance of this truly Tanzanian bank as 80 percent of its stake is owned by locals including pension funds and individuals," Dr Mpango added.

He said the Dar es Salaam based bank which made over 60bn/- in pre-tax profits last year has been contributing massively to development by paying taxes, creating employment and investing in social services as part of its corporate social responsibility.

Dr Mpango also praised the bank's management because so far this year performance is pointing towards another year of success with a pre-tax profit of 30.7bn/- in the first quarter of this year compared to 9.7bn/- made during a corresponding period last year.

Briefing the Finance Minister before presenting him with the cheque, CRDB's Board of Directors Chairman, Ally Laay said last year, the bank's pre-tax profit grew by 77 percent from 36.2bn/- in 2017.

"This year dividend is increased because of the good performance last year when profit increased to 64.1bn/- from 36.2bn/- in 2017," Laay said while thanking the government for improving the banking sector's



CRDB Board Chairman, Ally Laay speaks at a past event. File photo.

business environment with several regulatory reforms.

He said during the year under review, CRDB management and board also took

several measures to ensure that the country Tier 1 bank returns to super profiting making after a lull in 2017 due to a competitive market.

CENSURE

PwC's \$5.8m fine gives fresh ammunition to audit critics

LONDON

PricewaterhouseCoopers was fined 4.55 million pounds (\$5.8 million) by the UK's accounting watchdog over failings in its handling of technology firm Redcentric, giving fresh ammunition to critics calling for a breakup of the so-called Big Four auditing firms.

The penalty was reduced from 6.5 million pounds after the company admitted its wrongdoing ahead of a final decision by the Financial Reporting Council. Two PwC partners, Jaskamal Sarai and Arif Ahmad, were each fined a reduced 140 000 pounds after admitting breaches in the standards of their work, and were also given a "severe reprimand."

The breaches were "numerous and in certain cases were of a basic and/or fundamental nature, evidencing a serious lack of competence in conducting the statutory audit work," according to an FRC statement on Thursday.

This latest transgression adds to the scrutiny of PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, EY and KPMG, which together control more than 90% of UK audits for large companies. The Competition and Markets Authority has urged a split of their operations amid allegations of conflicts of interest and a failure to spot a series of high-profile corporate failures including the wake of building contractor Carillion.

The FRC's sanctions follow an investigation that began more than two years ago into PwC's handling of Redcentric's financial statements for 2015 and 2016 after an initial review showed that Redcentric had overstated its net assets and profits after tax by 20.8 million pounds.

Tigo Pesa Wakala in 160m/- windfall earnings

By Guardian Reporter

THOUSANDS of Tigo Pesa Wakalas shared a handsome 160m/- in cash prizes during a month long promotion dubbed, 'Wakala cash in promotion' which was held in May.

In a statement, Tigo Tanzania Limited said over 2,000 of its mobile money agents countrywide shared the fortune last month as the company targeted to encourage them to boost sales and revenue.

The Tigo Pesa Wakalas who performed well by increasing their transactions got a chance to win cash prizes of up to 3.5m/-.

Speaking during a grand prize giving ceremony in Dar es Salaam during the week, Tigo's acting Chief Officer for Financial Services, Angelica Pesha said the company appreciates the role being played by its agents hence the decision to come up with the promotion in order to reward them.

"This promotion not only reveals our continuous ambition to invest in the business but also demonstrate our determination in sharing the revenue with our partners," Pesha said.

"Wakala cash in promotion is another chance to reward our Tigo Pesa Wakala's with cash prizes and bonuses that we believe will motivate them to do even better in promoting the financial inclusion agenda in the country," she added.



Tigo's acting Chief Officer for Financial Services, Angelica Pesha speaks at a past event. File photo.

According to Pesha, there were also two top winners from each of the four zones in the country; Suleiman Hussein and Vicky Ibrahim from the Coast Zone, Peter Myovela and Stivin Katoto from the South Zone, Anton Masawe and Athuman Mbwana from the North Zone and Harry Lwila and Joseph Kabeba from Lake Zone.

"On top of the 2,000 Wakalas who won different cash prizes for their dedicated efforts, we have selected two of the top performers from each zone making a total of eight top performing Wakalas in the country who pocketed an extra 12m/- for their extra efforts," the Tigo Chief of Officer noted.

Speaking after receiving his 3.5m/-, Suleiman Hussein expressed his appreciation for the recognition saying it will only encourage him to work even harder. "The promotion has really shown us how important we are as Tigo Pesa ecosystem players. Indeed, the harder you work, the bigger the benefits," said Hussein.

On her part, Vicky Ibrahim who bagged 2.5m/- also expressed his happiness to get Tigo's cash prize which indicates that the mobile phone services company appreciates her role. "Being a Tigo Pesa Wakala has given us women the opportunity to be self-employed and have good livelihoods. I would therefore like to welcome other women, who want to make a living or earn an extra income to become Tigo Pesa Wakalas," Ibrahim said.



Salah Goss, Vice President and the Head of Lab for Financial Inclusion at Mastercard

PROGRESS

Mastercard's Nairobi Lab targeting rural financial inclusion

NAIROBI

THE Nairobi Lab, established by Mastercard in 2015, plans to use SMS and USSD technologies to address the challenge posed by the lack of critical data which continues to hamper financial inclusion in Africa.

This is according to Salah Goss, Vice President and the Head of Lab for Financial Inclusion at Mastercard who said that the availability of historical information only is dissuading lenders from offering credit to prospective partners.

Goss explained that basic economic activities are not fully digitised in most rural economies and this fuels the lack of credible data. This, in turn, puts financial players off from extending credit, which perpetuates the financial exclusion issue.

"What we are doing is facilitating the normal relationship between someone who is taking credit - a merchant and a bank. So we are putting those entities together so that relationship is governed with the same rules that

would govern someone and their bank."

The Lab is piloting three products: Mastercard Farmer Network (MFN), an education payment enabler Kupaa and Kionnect, which helps small traders secure access to credit. MFN provides farmers with a digital identity when transacting and thereby develop a trading history. The solution is believed to have reached over 50,000 farmers in Uganda, Tanzania and India.

Kupaa has enrolled 350 schools and over 160,000 students mostly in Uganda, while Kionnect has connected 18,000 Unilever Kenya retailers to Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) for credit advancement.

Tough regulations for Credit Bureaus

Meanwhile, the government has published draft regulations on how credit bureaus handle customer data.

Under the draft regulations, the Central Bank of Kenya will have ownership of data collected by bureaus. "The information held by the Bureau shall remain the property of the Central Bank and where a Bureau winds up, the information shall revert to the Central Bank," it said.

EXPANSION

Zimbabwe's ailing currency pushes up international call rates

HARARE

ZIMBABWE mobile operator Econet has significantly increased its international call tariffs as companies continue to deal with impact of a decline of the country's RTGS\$ currency, introduced in February this year.

Econet last adjusted the regional and international call tariffs in February when it fixed the cheapest regional call tariff at RTGS\$1.10 per

minute. It justified the increase saying it had "certain services that require direct settlement in foreign currency" which includes roaming fees, international outbound calling and SMS charges.

The latest adjustment is effective 13 June 2019 and is published on the company's website. Local call tariffs have not been adjusted. The most expensive destination to call from Zimbabwe, according to the new tariff schedule, is classi-

fied under Group 7 where call charges are as high as RTGS\$60 per minute.

Consumers remain critical of operators over what they believe to be steep data and call tariffs.

The Posts and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (Potraz), has resisted pressure to force the tariffs down - although it is now mulling data roll over and has pushed for infrastructure sharing to relieve some of the

pressure.

The government has also defended telcos, saying they have international obligations that require settlement in foreign currency, especially after the introduction of a partially liberalised foreign exchange rate regime in February.

ICT Minister Kazembe Kazembe said early this week that Zimbabwe still offers competitive telecom tariffs compared to other regional countries. He said Potraz would enforce a ceil-

ing on any further escalation in pricing.

Zimbabwe's local currency has lost value from 1:1 against the US Dollar in February to the current rate of just around 1:5.3.

On the parallel market, currency rates for US Dollar vs RTGS have shot up to 1:9 by Thursday morning. Local businesses have to source foreign currency from the interbank forex market at the 1:5.3 exchange rate to settle international obligations.

INNOVATION

Egypt's non-oil business activity contracts in May on fewer new orders

CAIRO

EGYPT'S private sector activity contracted again in May as output and new orders declined with companies expected to remain under pressure in the summer before outlook improves, a survey showed.

The Emirates NBD Purchasing Managers' Index, an indicator of the non-oil private sector's health, fell in May to 48.2 from 50.8 in April - dropping below the 50 mark that

signals growth in business activity, the lender said on Monday.

The drop signalled a moderate deterioration in the health of the sector, ending growth in April for the first time in eight months.

"The dip back below 50 was driven by both output and new orders, both of which saw moderate declines compared to the previous month, following expansions in April," Daniel Richards, Mena Economist

at Emirates NBD, said on Monday. "New export orders contracted at a quicker pace, with respondents citing a deterioration in tourism activity."

Egypt has been implementing tough economic reforms as part of a three-year \$12 billion loan agreed with the IMF, starting in November 2016.

The measures included flotation of the exchange rate, energy subsidy cuts and fiscal consolidation. S&P Global Ratings main-

tained Egypt's credit rating at "B", five levels below investment grade, with a stable outlook, reflecting the country's economic growth prospects.

Output declined modestly in May because of falling sales amid low client turnout.

Egyptian companies reported a moderate slip in total new orders, with anecdotal evidence pointing to stagnant market conditions that led to weaker sales volume.



Daniel Richards, Mena Economist at Emirates NBD.

Decline in new export orders extended to nine months, with businesses citing a lack of foreign contracts. New subsidy reforms are expected to raise energy and fuel tariffs, further squeezing margins of companies, according to the survey.

"The private sector has continued to bear the brunt of ongoing reform economic efforts in Egypt, and will likely remain under pressure over the summer period," Mr Richards said.

"Upcoming subsidy reforms and a renewed pause in the Central Bank of Egypt's [rate] cutting cycle means that conditions remain difficult for private firms."

Conditions are expected to improve after the summer months as stronger economic growth bolsters demand and companies leave the more difficult economic reforms behind them this November, Mr Richards said.

Companies shared the optimistic outlook, with 38 per cent expecting an increase in activity this year on the back of new business opportunities.

ALERT

IMF official says FinTech and climate change key challenges in next decade

STOCKHOLM

FINTECH and climate change are among the key global challenges going into the next decade, International Monetary Fund deputy managing director Tao Zhang said.

"In many respects these issues are fundamentally different ... But they have some similarities, most importantly in the fundamental need for close co-operation within the global community," said Mr Zhang in an address given on Thursday in Stockholm, Sweden.

He said these two topics, which both shape the global economy and its financial systems, are important for the IMF and its membership to engage in over "the medium and longer run".

On the positive side, FinTech has increased convenience, reduced financial service costs and increased financial inclusion, especially in low-income countries where mobile phones have brought payment and credit services to the masses. For example, in Kenya about 90 per cent of the population over 14 years old pays with M-Pesa, Mr Zhang said.

However, Mr Zhang warned that "very rapid and deep changes in financial systems can entail stability risks". He cited the financial liberalisation of the 1980s, which "led to an easing in credit standards, asset price booms especially in commercial real estate, culminating in serious banking crises". The framework for FinTech must also address money laundering

and other threats to integrity along with consumer protection, he said.

In October of last year, the IMF and the World Bank published the Bali FinTech Agenda, to address 12-high-level issues. The objectives centred around building an environment for FinTech innovation, ensuring an adequate financial sector policy framework, addressing risks and resilience, and encouraging international collaboration.

"There are an estimated 1.7 billion adults in the world without access to financial services," said IMF managing director Christine Lagarde in a statement at the time. "FinTech can have a major social and economic impact for them and across the membership in general. All countries are trying to reap these benefits, while also mitigating the risks."

Ms Lagarde added that greater international co-operation is needed to "make sure the FinTech revolution benefits the many and not just the few." Mr Zhang said that FinTech could favour "Big Tech" companies entering the pay-



Tao Zhang, IMF deputy managing director.

ment and credit markets, given their large user base. Another scenario is that some banks adapt the technology faster than others, leading to sizeable movements in market shares.

Climate change is the second challenge that IMF and its membership should focus on, given that it "may have profound implications for economic and financial stability," said Mr Zhang, who has been the IMF deputy managing director since August 2016.

"The process of climate change is set to have a significant economic impact on many countries, with a large number of lower-income countries being particularly at risk," he said. Mr Zhang encouraged finance ministries around the world to help mitigate climate change through the use of measures such as carbon taxation, energy subsidy reforms and emissions trading systems.

"The point is to establish, one way or another, a price on CO2 emissions and thereby incentivise the entire economy to shift to cleaner energy sources and conserve on the use of electricity and fuels," Mr Zhang said.

"Our own message here at the Fund continues to be 'price it right, do it smart, and do it now'."

TRADE WAR

India rolls out retaliatory tariffs on 28 US products

NEW DELHI

INDIA will impose higher retaliatory tariffs on 28 US products including almonds, apples and walnuts from Sunday, following Washington's withdrawal of key trade privileges for New Delhi.

The new duties take effect from Sunday, a government notification said, in the latest trade row since US President Donald Trump took office in 2017, vowing to act against countries with which Washington has a large trade deficit.

From June 5, President Trump scrapped trade privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) for India, the biggest beneficiary of a scheme that allowed duty-free exports of up to \$5.6 billion. India termed that "unfortunate" and vowed to uphold its national interests.

India was preparing to levy higher tariffs ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first meeting with Mr Trump on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Japan on June 28 and 29. India initially issued an order in June last year to raise import taxes as high as 120 per cent on a slew of US items, incensed by Washington's refusal to exempt it from higher steel and aluminium tariffs.

But New Delhi repeatedly delayed raising tariffs as the two nations engaged in trade talks. Trade between them stood at about \$142.1bn in 2018. India on Saturday amended its previous order "to implement the imposition of retaliatory duties on 28 specified goods originating in or exported from USA" while preserving the existing rate for these goods for all other countries, the government notification said.

Higher Indian tariffs on US goods could impact growing political and security ties between the two nations. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who is expected to visit India this month, said this week the US was open to dialogue to resolve trade differences with India, through greater access for American companies to its markets.

India is by far the largest buyer of US almonds, paying \$543 million for more than half of US almond exports in 2018, US Department of Agriculture data shows. It is the second largest buyer of US apples, taking \$156m worth in 2018.

New Delhi's new rules in areas such as e-commerce and data localisation have already angered the US and hit companies such as Amazon, Walmart, Mastercard and Visa, among others.



Containers are piled up at a terminal at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai, India. Higher tariffs on 28 US products including almonds, apples and walnuts take effect from Sunday.

FISCAL CONTROL

Saudi Arabia's 'sin tax' on sugary drinks set to come into force from December

RIYADH

SAUDI Arabia will start levying the new excise tax on drinks containing added sugar before the end of this year, as the kingdom, the biggest Arab economy, continues to diversify its revenue streams.

Mohamad Al Jadaan, the minister of finance and the chairman of the kingdom's General Authority for Zakat and Tax (Gazt), has approved the amendments to the excise tax legislation, including the "implementation of excise tax on sweetened drinks" from December 1, Umm Al Qura, one of Saudi Arabia's official newspapers reported on Thursday, citing a Gazt statement.

The kingdom, Opec's top oil producer and the biggest crude exporter in the world, said in May it would impose a 100 per cent tax on electronic cigarettes and a 50 per cent levy on drinks with added sugar, broadening the excise duty on similar products as it looks to expand its revenue base and cut its reliance on oil income.



SATURDAY 15 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30 Usafiri wako
12:00 Mapishi
12:30 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko
15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Igizo: Elininyo
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
19:30 Jungu Kuu
20:00 Habari
21:00 Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:00 Moja bet
22:15 Isidingo rpt
01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 16 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:45 Aibu Yako
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mahabusu
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
16:45 Mjue zaidi
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mizengwe rpt
18:45 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mahabusu 2
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

MONDAY 17 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI

8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Elininyo
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Kimya Milele
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jungu kuu rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Mjue Zaidi
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:10 Aibu yako rpt
18:15 Mapishi rpt
18:30 Kesho Leo
19:00 Afya ya Jamii
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Insta Bet
21:15 Dakika 45
22:10 Series: Iris
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
02:00 CNN International

TUESDAY 18 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 Habari
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Shamsham za pwani
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Shamsham za pwani
11:25 Igizo: Mtego
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Uchumi na biashara
13:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt : TFDA
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 The great queen Seonduk

19:00 Jarida la wanawake
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Tanzania yetu
21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Miaka 50 ya Total
21:45 Chetu ni chetu
22:15 Telenovela: Destiny (Destino)
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

WEDNESDAY 19 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Korean: The Great queen Seonduk
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Korean: The Great queen-Seonduk
11:15 Jagina
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
13:00 Dakika 45
14:00 Series rpt
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mizengwe rpt
18:30 Ijue Sheria
19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TFDA
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?
21:10 Kipindi Maalum : Tanesco
21:40 Ripoti Maalum
22:15 Series: Iris
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 Al Jazeera
2:00 CNN International

THURSDAY 20 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Igizo: Kivuko
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Igizo: Kivuko
11:15 Ripoti Maalum rpt

11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Ijue Sheria
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Sanaa na wasanii
13:30 Tanzania yetu
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza Huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu
17:00 The Base
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Jagina
19:00 Usafiri wako
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

FRIDAY 21 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:30 HABARI
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
8:55 Habari za saa
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
9:30 Isidingo
9:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Watoto wetu
10:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
10:55 Habari za saa
11:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo
11:30 Usafiri wako
11:55 Habari za saa
12:00 Al Jazeera
12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
12:55 Habari za saa
13:00 Jagina rpt
13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
13:55 Habari za saa
14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
14:15 Series rpt: Iris
14:55 Habari za saa
15:00 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto wetu
17:00 The Base
17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe
18:30 Shamba lulu
19:00 Uchumi na biashara
19:30 Isidingo
20:00 Habari
21:05 Kipima joto
23:00 Habari
23:30 The Base
00:30 CNN International

SATURDAY 22 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi

6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
9:00 Watoto wetu
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt
11:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt
11:30 Usafiri wako
12:00 Mapishi
12:30 Series rpt: Iris
14:45 Igizo rpt: Kivuko
15:15 Igizo rpt: Elininyo
15:45 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
16:00 Igizo rpt: Kimya Milele
16:30 Igizo: Mtego rpt
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Igizo: Ahadi
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii
19:30 Jungu Kuu
20:00 Habari
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja
21:10 Igizo: Kimya Milele
21:30 Hawavumi lakini wamo
22:00 Isidingo rpt
01:00 CNN International

SUNDAY 23 June

5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
6:00 HABARI
6:40 Kumekucha
7:00 Habari
8:00 Al Jazeera
09:00 Watoto Wetu
10:00 Isidingo
11:45 Aibu Yako
11:50 Hawavumi lakini wamo rpt
12:50 Bongo Movie rpt: Mahabusu 2
14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
15:00 Mwangaza
16:00 Korean drama: The great queen Seonduk
16:45 Mjue zaidi
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
18:00 Jiji Letu
18:15 Mapishi
18:30 Mizengwe rpt
18:45 Matukio ya wiki
19:30 Igizo: Mtego
20:00 Habari
21:05 Mizengwe
21:00 Bongo Movie: Mkwé
22:00 Telenovela rpt: Destiny (Destino)

WORLD

Taking aim at Johnson, PM hopefuls make Brexit case

LONDON

SEVERAL hopefuls vying to replace British Prime Minister Theresa May turned their fire on favourite Boris Johnson yesterday, questioning his pledge to leave the European Union by the end of October no matter what.

With former London mayor and foreign minister Johnson keeping a low profile, the other candidates have targeted the air waves to try to present their cases to lead the governing Conservative Party. But the question always returns to "Boris".

The free publicity has done little so far to hurt Johnson, who unlike many politicians is better known by his first name Boris. He secured a large lead in the first round of voting and his team hopes for an increased share this week in the second.

But now the gloves are off. Candidate after candidate on Sunday questioned his ability to navigate Britain's departure from the EU, saying his pledge to leave on Oct. 31 was nigh on

impossible and would set Britain on track for a no deal Brexit.

"The difference between me and Boris is that I would try for a deal," said foreign minister Jeremy Hunt, who is running in second place in the leadership contest.

"I am not going to create a set of circumstances that makes it all but impossible to get a deal because I think we should be offering the country some better choices," he told the BBC Andrew Marr Show, adding that he was the only "alternative".

One of Hunt's supporters, work and pensions minister Amber Rudd, went further, making a thinly veiled criticism of what she described as some candidates "do or die approach" to Brexit without "considering the consequences to people's jobs".

TORY TOAST

Almost three years since Britain voted to leave the EU, the country, the parliament and both of the main parties are still deeply divided over how,



Boris Johnson, leadership candidate for Britain's Conservative Prime Minister, leaves home in London, Britain, on Saturday. REUTERS

when and even whether Brexit should happen.

Brexit has claimed two prime ministers. David Cameron resigned shortly after the referendum and now May is making way for a successor because of her failure to get a deal she agreed with the EU through parliament.

The question over Britain's membership of the bloc is dominating the Conservative leadership race, with many of the candidates, albeit some of them reluctantly, saying they would lead the country out without a Brexit deal.

One, Rory Stewart, who wants to rule out a no deal Brexit, took issue with Johnson's argument that the only way to get an improved deal from the EU was to prepare for leaving without an agreement and using that as leverage.

"They are not scared of it because it is not a credible threat. The European Union knows no deal cannot get through parliament," he told the

BBC, taking aim at Johnson for not offering up his views to scrutiny.

"How is Boris going to deliver Brexit, how? ... I don't even know what he believes. He won't talk to me, he won't talk to you, he won't talk to the public. We want to know what he believes," said Stewart, international development minister.

Dominic Raab, a former Brexit minister who is more in tune with Johnson but declined to say whether he would back him, said there was time to catch up with the frontrunner by taking part in debates to explain policy. All the candidates, except for Johnson, will take part in a debate later on Sunday.

"The Tory party will be toast unless we are out by the end of October," Raab told Sky News. "I certainly think the Conservatives cannot win an election unless we've delivered Brexit."

Agencies

Netanyahu's wife admits criminal wrongdoing in meals catering case

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife, Sara, appeared in court yesterday to admit criminal wrongdoing over the misuse of state funds to order catered meals, in a plea bargain carrying no jail time.

Under the agreement, a fraud charge was reduced to a lesser offense and she will pay the state 45,000 shekels (\$12,490) in reimbursement and a 10,000 shekel (\$2,775) fine.

According to the original indictment, Sara Netanyahu, along with a government employee, fraudulently obtained from the state more than \$100,000 for hundreds of meals supplied by restaurants, bypassing regulations that prohibit the practice if a cook is employed at home.

Smiling broadly, Netanyahu faced a phalanx of cameras in the courthouse before the session got under way.

At the hearing, a judge ratified the plea deal, convicting her of the criminal charge of intentionally exploiting another person's mishandling of state money for her own benefit, after prosecutors dropped the more serious offense of fraud.

"Do you understand what you admitted to?" the judge asked Netanyahu, 60.

"Yes, I do," she replied.

Israel's YNet website published a photograph of what it said was a note from her husband, who was not in the court, that was passed to her during the session. "We will get through this, too. Be strong!", it said.

While the deal lifts a legal cloud



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's wife, Sara, arrives in to the Magistrate Court, for a hearing on a plea deal over the misuse of state funds for meals, in Jerusalem yesterday. REUTERS

over Sara Netanyahu, it has no direct bearing on the prime minister's own troubles - three corruption cases in which he has denied wrongdoing.

In February, Israel's attorney general said he intended to file fraud and bribery charges against Benjamin Netanyahu, pending a pre-trial hearing.

That session is set for early October, two weeks after a Sept. 17 general election that follows a ballot in April in which Netanyahu declared victory but failed to form a government.

In explaining the plea agreement to the court, prosecutors cited Mrs Netanyahu's clean record, the public humiliation she has suffered as a result of the case and the time that has passed - up to nine years - since the crimes were committed.

The government employee charged along with Netanyahu also reached an agreement with the prosecution and was fined 10,000 shekels.

Sara Netanyahu has elicited a multitude of headlines in the past over what family spokesmen have described as an undeserved reputation for imperiousness. Agencies

Saudi crown prince says isn't seeking war in region

DUBAI/CAIRO

SAUDI Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in remarks published yesterday that the kingdom is not seeking war in the region, but warned it will not hesitate to confront threats to its security.

His comments came just days after the US blamed Iran for suspected attacks on two oil tankers near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, denouncing what it called a campaign of "escalating tensions" in a region crucial to global energy supplies.

The US alleges Iran used limpet mines to target the tankers, pointing to black-and-white footage it captured that American officials describe as Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops removing an unexploded mine from the Kooka Courageous.

Iran has rejected the US claim that it was responsible for Thursday's attacks, saying it stands ready to play an active and constructive role in ensuring the security of strategic maritime passages.

Iran has also been accused of being behind the May 12 attacks



on four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates. Two of those vessels belonged to Saudi Arabia.

Iran summoned the British ambassador to Tehran on Saturday

after London blamed it for attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman, the semi-official Students News Agency ISNA reported.

British Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt issued a statement on Friday blaming Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for the attacks, saying no other state or non-state actor could have been responsible.

A British foreign ministry official said the report was wrong and the ambassador has not been summoned.

In his first public comments since

the start of these incidents, the powerful Saudi prince, who is also defense minister and oversees all major levers of power in the country, said the attacks "confirm the importance of our demands of the international community to take a decisive stance" against Iran's behavior.

"The kingdom does not seek war in the region, but we will not hesitate to deal with any threat to our people, sovereignty and vital interests," he said in an interview with the Arabic newspaper, Asharq al-Awsat.m. Agencies

'Russia, China can cooperate in cybersecurity, Internet of Things'

HARBIN

RUSSIA is interested in cooperation with China in the cybersecurity sphere and in development of technology solutions, Deputy Prime Minister Maxim Akimov told reporters on the sidelines of the VI Russia-China EXPO in Harbin.



"This is cooperation in the cybersecurity sphere, support of countering cyber-threats. This is cooperation in the sphere of developing solutions for the Internet of Things, mobile operating platform, and industrial solutions. We keep a close eye on the experience of Chinese colleagues," the official said.

Russia and China outlined a large-scale cooperation program in this sphere during the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, Akimov (pictured) said. "(We) asked the telecom ministry and the ministry of industry and trade to prepare a roadmap for development of contacts in this sphere," he added.

Soya supplies

Russia has ambitious plans of exporting soybeans to the China market, Akimov said.

"We are going to change the structure of our [trade] relations and trading in agricultural products is of high importance in this regard. In particular, soybeans - we have ambitious plans in this regard," Akimov said.

Russia and China have already signed "a document to reach 3.7 mln tonnes of supplies of soybeans and soya products" to the Chinese market, the official said. Agencies

Over 40 per cent of newly elected Indian lawmakers facing charges

NEW DELHI

INDIA'S recent national election delivered a historic victory to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party, but also exposed the influence of money, power and questionable morality on the world's largest democracy.

Nearly 43% of the new members of the lower house of Parliament that convenes on Monday for the first time since the election won despite facing criminal charges.

More than a quarter of those relate to rape, murder or attempted murder, according to a report by the civic group Association of Democratic Reforms.

The loophole that allows them to take office is that they have not been convicted - in part because the Indian legal system has a huge backlog of an estimated 30 million cases and trials often last decades. When asked about the charges against them, they invariably accuse a political rival of framing them.

Since such rivalries often lead to false accusations, the main political parties say it would be unfair to bar people from contesting elections unless they have been convicted by court.

Under existing laws, only those who have been sentenced to prison for two years or more can be barred from elections. Members of Parliament with criminal backgrounds is not a new phenomenon in India, but despite Modi's campaign vow in 2014 to clean up corruption and the influence of money in politics, the problem appears to be only growing worse.

In the 2004 national election, the percentage of can-

didates with pending criminal cases was 24%, which rose to 33% in 2009, 34% in 2014 and 43% this year, said Shahabuddin Y Quraishi, a former chief election commissioner.

The Association of Democratic Reforms found that 116 of the 303 lawmakers from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party elected last month face criminal charges, including one for alleged terrorism.

Pragya Singh Thakur, who won a seat from Bhopal in central India, is awaiting trial in connection with a 2008 explosion in Malegaon in western India that killed seven people.

Twenty-nine of the opposition Congress party's 52 lawmakers face serious charges.

"This trend has been growing in India, leaving no political party untouched. We need to educate voters not to elect these people," said Jagdeep S Chhokar, ADR's founder.

"What the Indian state has been unable to provide, strongmen promise to deliver to people in their area of influence, using gun and money power," said Lennin Rasghuvanshi, a coordinator with the People's Union for Civil Liberties.

Starting in the 1960s and '70s, some Indian politicians began turning to the criminal underworld for cash to win votes.

"In due course, the criminals started thinking that these politicians were winning because of their money or crimes so why shouldn't they become lawmakers themselves? If they are people running from the police, they know that when they became lawmakers, the same police will protect them," Quraishi said.

Using Huawei 5G technology means more than quicker communication

MADRID

SUPPORTED by the Huawei technology, Vodafone Espana commercialized the first 5G mobile services in Spain on Saturday.

The ultra-fast and low-latency 5G network is the infrastructure that can make a huge difference. About half of the population in 15 major Spanish cities including Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Seville are initially involved, which

makes the country among the first that rolled out 5G services in Europe.

Vodafone Espana's embracing of the Huawei 5G technology means not only communication 10 times faster in Spain, but also a step closer to a future brimming with excitements like autonomous driving, telemedicine and virtual reality in everyday life.

Another thing that is certain is that the United States' pressuring of its European allies to join itself to block the

global 5G technology leader Huawei from the 5G network market at their expense will not work.

As Washington has failed to prove that the Chinese telecom giant makes backdoors to enable spying on any users, the U.S. bullyism under a security pretext harms its credibility.

In dealing with its business rivals, as the world's largest economy, the United States' pursuit of its America First policy backed by politicized accusations has

definitely constituted a disruption to global free trade and economy.

European countries like Germany, Italy and the Netherlands have their own standards for security, which are certainly not like the American one which led to the loose licensing of Boeing 737 Max. In response to the U.S. pressure, many have made this clear and are expected not to exclude any bidder from their 5G projects for prejudice, smear, or groundless doubts.

For example, carriers supported by Huawei are rolling out their 5G services in Britain and Switzerland. For them, choosing Huawei is but a market-oriented decision based partly on lower costs and a reliable longtime partnership. It is a fact worth mentioning that Huawei has been in cooperation with most of the major mobile operators across Europe.

The European attitude towards Huawei also represents a widening gap be-

tween the two sides of the Atlantic, with an openness to safeguarding multilateralism and cooperation.

This stands in stark contrast to the U.S. unilateralism and protectionism, and promises brighter economic prospects with new business models and other innovative ideas generated by the quicker and advanced 5G network.

Spain is not the first in Europe to use Huawei technology, and is surely not the last one. Agencies

Jimmy Carter feted for role in China-US relations

ATLANTA

JIMMY Carter, the former U.S. president who helped set the China-U.S. diplomatic relationship in motion forty years ago, was recognized for his crucial role in an award ceremony this week.

The George H. W. Bush Foundation for U.S.-China Relations, also known as the Bush China Foundation, bestowed its inaugural George H. W. Bush Award for Statesmanship in U.S.-China Relations on Carter, saying he made "profound contributions to the development of constructive and mutually beneficial relations" between the two countries.

At the award ceremony held at the Carter Center here on Wednesday, speakers took the opportunity to look back at how Carter helped normalize what would be considered the most important bilateral relationship in the world, and reaffirm the importance of this bilateral relationship for the peoples of the two countries as well as the world forty years on.

"President Carter displayed tremendous vision in normalizing U.S.-China relations," said Neil Bush, son of former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, on behalf of the Bush China Foundation.

"President Carter took bold and politically courageous action to es-



establish formal diplomatic relations between our nations. That decision not only transformed U.S.-China relations, but indeed quite literally changed the world and for the bet-

ter," Bush said, explaining why Carter was chosen as the first recipient of the award. "Intuitively, President Carter understood that normalization was about the long game," Bush

said.

Carter, who suffered a fall and underwent subsequent surgery last month, was not present at the ceremony in person. His son Chip Carter received the award in his place.

Chip Carter recalled that normalizing the relationship with China had been a priority for his father going into the presidency, and that an official delegation including Chip Carter was dispatched to China to meet with its top and local officials less than three months into Carter's presidency.

The speakers noted that the statesmanship the two former presidents demonstrated in developing the U.S.-China relationship should be an example for modern-day leaders, as some in Washington are trying to pit the two countries against each other.

"President Bush categorically rejected the notion that China is an enemy or adversary of our nation. On the contrary, he laid out a powerful vision of U.S.-China full partnership and friendship," said David Firestein, president and CEO of the Bush China Foundation, in his remarks.

"Many of us here today are alarmed as President Bush was at the increasing shrillness and anger that we now hear in the rhetoric about China in some U.S. elite circles. President Bush held the view that anger did not make for good policy," Firestein warned.

Firestein noted that both presidents, Carter and Bush, attached great importance to the China-U.S. relationship, and called on Washington to "heed the wise counsel" of the two presidents.

Cui Tiankai, Chinese ambassador to the United States, echoed Firestein in saying there "are yet some irrational dialogues about our relationship." "Some are clamoring for a decoupling of the two countries and even a new cold war.

These attempts are not only questioning the achievements we have made over the past four decades and challenging the very tangible outcomes of our cooperation, but also putting the future of our relations and the prospects for global stability and prosperity at great risk," Cui said.

Ambassador Mary Ann Peters, CEO of the Carter Center, said there is great potential for the two countries to cooperate. Peters said an idea for a deconfliction committee among countries with a military presence in Djibouti, including the United States and China, has been "turned into a reality with discussion ongoing about how to institutionalize regular meetings.

"Firestein said the award would continue to be bestowed and that it would not be limited to U.S. citizens.

Xinhua

Russia calls for abandoning global trade wars - Putin

DUSHANBE

THERE is a need to restore trust between countries in relation to global trade and find a way to resolve trade war issues, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, addressing the summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Tajikistan's capital of Dushanbe on Saturday.

"Unfortunately, trade wars are raging across the world, in fact, ultimate fighting is ongoing, which involves bullying and attempts to eliminate competitors through non-market methods.

Today, our collective efforts to find a way out of the situation are important like never before," Putin noted.

He emphasized the need "to restore trust and establish fair economic cooperation rules," "starting by protecting the social and humanitarian sector from trade and economic sanctions."

Putin pointed out that the issue had been raised at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) held on June 6-8.

The Russian leader also touched upon cooperation between Asian countries, noting that the region was one of the drivers behind global economic growth.

Putin said that Russia paid particular attention to this area of cooperation. He pointed out that in 2015, CICA members created a business council at Russia's initiative, while a memorandum of cooperation between small and medium-sized enterprises had been prepared ahead of the Dushanbe summit.

"We call for boosting trade, and abandoning protectionism and illegitimate sanctions, as well as politically-motivated restrictions and barriers.

We are determined to enhance investment and industrial cooperation based on WTO rules and respect for each other's interests," Putin said.

UN condemns bombing attacks in Somalia, Kenya after death of 21

MOGADISHU

THE United Nations mission in Somalia yesterday condemned bombing attacks in Mogadishu and in northeastern Kenya that killed at least 21 people and injured more than 20 others on Saturday.

No political agenda can be served by acts of terrorism, the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia said after the attacks, both claimed by al-Shabab terror group.

Nine people died in two car bomb blasts in Somalia, and 12 Kenyan policemen were killed

when a vehicle they were traveling in ran over an improvised explosive device (IED) in Wajir County, along the Kenya-Somalia border.

"UN Somalia strongly condemns yesterday's attacks in Mogadishu and northeastern Kenya by al-Shabab," it said in a

tweet yesterday. Somali police commander Bashir Abdi Mohamed said on Saturday that nine people were killed and 25 others injured in the first car bomb attack at Sayidka junction.

The second car bomb exploded near KM4 junction and resulted in the death of the bomber,

Mohamed said, adding that security forces arrested an accomplice, who was injured.

In the northeastern Kenya IED attack, one police officer sustained serious injuries. The police officers were on patrol between Khorof-harar and Konton in Wajir county when their ve-

hicle ran over the IED, Police Inspector General Hilary Mutyambai said.

Both Mogadishu and Wajir attacks were claimed by al-Shabab, who on Thursday abducted three Kenyan police reservists from the same area in Wajir region.

Xinhua

Promoting security governance with Asian features

DUSHANBE

AGAINST the backdrop of changing security challenges in the world, countries in Asia need to pull together to bring their vision of a security governance model with Asian features into reality.

The 5th summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) opens on Friday in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe, bringing together leaders of member countries to find effective mechanisms to tackle security and other challenges facing Asia as a whole.

Asia is the world's largest and most populous continent. It harbors 48 countries and comprises 30 percent of the world's land area with 60 percent of the world's population.

The task of maintaining security in this part of the world is therefore immensely difficult.

Today, some parts of the continent are still plagued by turbulence and conflict caused by traditional and non-traditional security threats.

At the same time, the reemergence of the Cold-War mentality and hegemonic bullyism are posing serious threats to the stability and security of the world, including Asia.

It is imperative to invent and implement a security system that can safeguard the vital interests of all Asians.

On the one hand, Asian countries all value mutual respect, consensus-building and accommodation of each other's comfort levels, which means it is fea-



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) receives the Order of the Crown, Tajikistan's highest decoration, from Tajik President Emomali Rahmon during a ceremony in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on Saturday. (Xinhua)

sible to explore a new approach to regional security cooperation, one that reflects Asian needs, suits Asia and serves the common interests of all.

Asia is home to diverse ethnic groups, religions and cultures, and varying social systems, development paths and levels of economic development.

CICA members should build consensus in the region in order to develop a new type of partnership featuring deepened security cooperation and confidence-building. Ultimately the hope is to build a community with a shared future in Asia.

Meanwhile, mutual understanding, mutual accommodation and peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and consultation are practical ap-

proaches toward such goals.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his signed article published on Wednesday ahead of his state visit to Tajikistan, hailed CICA as "an important regional platform," saying that the organization in its 27-year history "has responded to the call of the times and sought to enhance trust and collaboration among countries and uphold regional security and stability, making positive contributions to peace and development in Asia."

Since the 2014 CICA summit held in Shanghai, CICA members have not only broadened their cooperation, but also stepped up CICA's interactions with such multilateral institutions as the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Orga-

nization. Building on their past achievements and facing new situations, Asian countries and their partners worldwide need to jointly preserve multilateralism and the global free trade system, oppose unilateralism and bullying, and commit themselves to improving and updating the global governance system.

When speaking to the CICA foreign ministers in Beijing in 2016, Xi said: "A stable and developing Asia is a blessing, while a turbulent and declining Asia would bring nothing but trouble to the world."

And it is a shared responsibility for all Asian countries to ensure that their continent is a blessing for the world.

Xinhua

Kenya marks Day of the African Child with pledge to protect minors

NAIROBI

KENYA yesterday marked the Day of the African Child with renewed pledge to strengthen protection of minors amid threats like physical abuse, neglect and forced labor.

The government is committed to improving the welfare of children in line with constitutional obligations, Ukur Yatani, cabinet secretary for labor and social protection, said in a statement.

"The government continues to apply the principle of 'children's rights first,' particularly the right to life, survival, development and non-discrimination," Yatani said.

He called on African governments, corporations and the civil society to prioritize protection of junior citizens from dangers linked to human actions and natural calamities.

The theme of this year's Day of the African Child, "Humanitarian

Action in Africa: Children's Rights First," seeks to rally governments and communities toward robust commitment to the welfare of young ones.

Kenya has domesticated international best practices to ensure that children's livelihoods are improved through universal access to basic education, health, shelter and proper diet, Yatani said.

"The welfare of children has greatly improved through programs the government has been implementing," he said. "More children have enrolled in school since we started the free primary and subsidized secondary education."

Children Bill 2008, which has ensured protection of minors from abuse and discrimination, is strengthened from the grassroots to national level, Yatani said.

"We wish to reaffirm Kenya's commitment in protecting children rights at all times, includ-

ing in emergency situations as stipulated in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child," he said.

Yatani said the government has developed guidelines on alternative care for missing children to ensure they are nurtured in a safe environment.

"We are further developing guidelines on online child protection to address all forms of online child abuse," he said.

The Day of the African Child is observed on June 16 to commemorate the massacre of hundreds of protesting children of color by Apartheid security forces in South Africa in 1976.

Joyce Nguni, chairperson of National Council for Children Services, urged concerted efforts to protect vulnerable minors like orphans and those living in regions affected by conflicts and natural disasters.

Xinhua

Trump denies New York Times' report on more frequent US cyber-attacks against Russia

NEW YORK

ASSERTIONS made by the New York Times that US special services became much more active during the last year in attempts to introduce malware into the Russian energy system run contrary to facts, US President Donald Trump said.

"Do you believe that the Failing New York Times just did a story stating that the United States is substantially increasing Cyber Attacks on Russia," Trump tweeted. "This is a vir-



tual act of Treason by a once great paper so desperate for a story, any story, even if bad for our Country," the US President said. This is not true, he added.

"Anything goes with our Corrupt News Media today,"

Trump tweeted. "They will do, or say, whatever it takes, with not even the slightest thought of consequence!" he wrote.

The New York Times reported earlier, citing sources, that Washington made more frequent attempts during the last year to introduce malware programs into the Russian energy system.

Pentagon representatives did not respond earlier to a request from TASS to clarify whether assertions in the publication correspond to facts. **Agencies**

Xinhua

HKSAR chief executive announces suspension of fugitive law amendments, promises to continue explanation

HONG KONG

HONG KONG Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced on Saturday that the HKSAR government will suspend the amendments to the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance and the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Ordinance until further communication and explanation work is completed.

"I now announce that the government has decided to suspend the legislative amendment exercise," Lam told a press conference Saturday afternoon at the HKSAR government headquarters building.

The HKSAR government's secretary for security will send a letter to the Legislative Council (LegCo) president to withdraw the notice of resumption of second reading debate on the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal

Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment) Bill, and the LegCo will halt its work in relation to the bill until the HKSAR government completes its work in communication, explanation and listening to opinions, Lam said.

The bill, tabled by the HKSAR government at the LegCo in April, aims to deal with a murder case that happened in China's Taiwan but involves a Hong Kong suspect who has



returned to Hong Kong, and to fill loopholes in HKSAR's existing legal framework concern-

ing mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Lam said the HKSAR government has been discussing with various sectors of the community in a rational manner and has introduced amendments to the proposal on two occasions to ease the concerns of society and narrow differences, including increasing the threshold for fugitive offenders surrender and introducing additional human rights safeguards.

"My relevant colleagues and I have made our best efforts, but I have to admit that our explanation and communication work has not been sufficient or effective," she said, adding that the HKSAR government will do more work in this regard.

"I want to stress the government is adopting an open mind to heed comprehensively different views in society towards the bill," she added.

To deal with the Taiwan mur-

der case, the HKSAR government has been trying to get the bill passed ahead of the LegCo summer recess in July. However, in consideration of Taiwan's overt and clear expression that it would not accede to the HKSAR government's suggested arrangement in the transfer of the concerned suspect, the original urgency to pass the bill in this legislative year is perhaps no longer there, Lam said.

Xinhua

SPORT



Madonna

Madonna offers a needy, trying-too-hard mess of an album

By MARK KENNEDY

MADONNA. "Madame X" (Interscope) These days Madonna is wearing an eyepatch for dubious reasons. But it's her ears that seem to have failed her.

The shape-shifting Queen of Pop has missed badly with "Madame X," a needy, trying-too-hard mess of an album that sounds like Madonna threw up on Madonna. Even she admits: "It's a weird kind of energy." She used to thrill with endless new looks and an edge to her pop, but that was decades ago. Now she's like that daffy aunt who shows up at the holiday party inappropriately dressed, slightly high and offering to buy beer for the teenagers.

The 13-track "Madame X," Madge's first LP since the underappreciated 2015 s "Rebel Heart," sees her predictably collaborate with the hot young things of pop – Quavo, Swae Lee, Maluma, Anitta – with results that are fine, but boring. It seems more like a checklist than the spark of partnership.

In "Madame X," she sings – too often computer-altered – in Portuguese, Spanish and English, covering all bases. There's reggaeton, Latin pop, trap, disco, African drumming, dancehall and gospel choirs. There's a restless churning even in the same song and – with Pablo Picasso and Jean-Paul Sartre referenced – a whiff of pseudo-intellectualism.

Why "Madame X"? She has told us: "Madame X is a dancer. A professor. A head of state. A housekeeper. An equestrian. A prisoner. A student. A mother. A child. A teacher. A nun. A singer. A saint. A whore. A spy in the house of love. I'm Madame X."

In other words, everything and nothing.

JUST WANT ME, she seems to ask. Perhaps she's too exhausted to even construct a new coherent persona. She leaves it up to us. And leaves behind a sonic jigsaw puzzle that even recycles from her past, referencing saying "a little prayer" several times.

Even her hammy attempt to push the boundaries in "Dark Ballet" – a return to her Joan of Arc obsession – starts promising enough but drifts into a computer-altered pile of jumbled, pointless slogans that eventually dissolves into Tchaikovsky.

Madonna has plenty to say but none of it is very coherent. She seems to be referencing Trump when she sings "Get that old man/put him in a jail/where he can't stop us" on "Batuka," but it's never clear. Yet when it comes to the cloying "Killers Who Are Partying," she's overly blunt: "I'll be Islam/If Islam is hated," she sings with a faux British accent. "I will be a child/If the children are exploited."

She even steps on herself, needlessly. One of the album's best songs is the last, "I Rise," which she has said is about gay and marginalized people. But she samples a speech from Parkland School shooting survivor Emma Gonzalez. So is it really about gun control? Madonna can't even get that message straight. (And, Madge, if you're so anti-gun, you might want to skip using gunshots as a "wake up call" in "God Control").

Madonna here is sticking with the same gimmick that made her a mega-star: borrow cool stuff from others – voguing, Marlene Dietrich, Latin music, EDM – and adopt it as her own. But these aren't good days for Madonna. We are hungry for authenticity and she's hiding behind a bejeweled eye patch.

Raptors' president Masai encounter with deputy being investigated



Masai Ujiri

SAN FRANCISCO

PROSECUTORS will decide whether to charge Toronto Raptors President Masai Ujiri with misdemeanor battery after he was accused of shoving and hitting a sheriff's deputy in the face while trying to join his team on the court to celebrate their first NBA championship.

Alameda County sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Ray Kelly said Friday that investigators are reviewing footage from body cameras worn by the deputy and other officers, the stadium's surveillance video and cellphone video. He said a report will be forwarded prosecutors.

After the game Thursday night in Oakland against the Golden State Warriors, Ujiri tried to walk past the deputy who was checking court-access credentials, Kelly said. When the deputy stopped him, Ujiri shoved him back several feet and yelled obscenities, Kelly said.

"That's when our deputy goes hands-on and moves Mr. Ujiri back from the court. Mr. Ujiri made a second, more significant shove and during that shove his arm struck our deputy in the side of the head," Kelly said.

The deputy complained of pain in his jaw and was taken to a hospital for evaluation and later released.

A video of the altercation obtained by NBC Bay Area shows Ujiri and a deputy being held back courtside by several bystanders. It doesn't show the scuffle. The video appeared to show Ujiri holding some type of credential in his right hand while standing by the court.

Greg Wiener, a 61-year-old Warriors' season ticket holder, said Friday he was standing next to the deputy during the encounter and didn't see Ujiri strike him in the face.

Wiener said the encounter began when the deputy put his hand on Ujiri's chest and pushed him. Ujiri shoved him back before bystanders intervened, Wiener said.

"The thing about the cops saying the policeman asked for his credentials, that didn't happen. There was no conversation at all," Wiener said. "This part about striking him in the face, yeah that didn't happen."

Wiener said he hadn't been interviewed by authorities.

"This looks like somebody trying to embellish what happened to protect what they did, what the policeman did," Wiener said. Kelly said deputies took witness statements and were reviewing footage from body cameras worn by the deputy along with footage from the arena surveillance system and cellphones.

"We had the opportunity to make an arrest and we chose not to," Kelly said. "We decided it would be in everyone's best interest to slow things down and do an investigation."

The Raptors said the team is also looking into the altercation and cooperating with authorities. "We look forward to resolving the situation," the team said.

NBA spokesman Mike Bass said the league also was cooperating with authorities.

"We are in contact with the Raptors and local authorities and in the process of gathering more information," Bass said.

ESPN reported that Ujiri had watched the end of the game on television with other team officials outside the Raptors' locker room. He then went down a tunnel to join the on-court celebration.

Kelly said deputies had instructions to

strictly enforce the NBA's credential policy.

He said his office will recommend a charge of misdemeanor battery against an officer even though he understood that Ujiri had a tremendous amount of emotion while trying to meet his team on the court.

The results of the investigation likely will be forwarded next week to the Alameda County district attorney's office. A spokeswoman for the agency didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

"It will be up to the DA to file charges," Kelly said. Toronto Mayor John Tory came to Ujiri's defense.

"Anybody who knows anything about him would say that some notion that he would be shoving people around in Oakland or elsewhere in the world is not credible," Tory said.

Last week, the NBA banned Golden State Warriors investor Mark Stevens from games for a year and fined him \$500,000 after he was seen on camera apparently shoving Toronto star Kyle Lowry during Game 3 of the playoffs.

Lowry had dived into a row of courtside seats to try to save a loose ball. Stevens, wearing an NBA-issued credential, was seated about two spots away from where Lowry landed and shoved Lowry in the upper body.

Lowry said Stevens repeated a vulgar phrase to him about four times. The Warriors issued a statement, with the team and Stevens apologizing to Lowry and the Raptors.

AP

Analysis: Anthony Davis trade a win-win for both sides

By TIM REYNOLDS

THE saga is over.

When this trade is done, everybody can say they won.

The Lakers, the Pelicans, Rich Paul, LeBron James, they all can take a victory lap. The trade that will be official in the coming weeks sending Anthony Davis from the New Orleans Pelicans to the Los Angeles Lakers for Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Josh Hart and three first-round draft picks – first reported by ESPN, later confirmed to The Associated Press by the matter – is perfect for both sides.

James gets the superstar teammate he wanted. Paul, the agent James and Davis share, pulls off a power move. The Lakers instantly become major players in a suddenly open Western Conference. Davis finally gets his wish to leave New Orleans. The Pelicans don't begin Zion Williamson's era with a disgruntled superstar in the locker room. They load up on young players and have tons of draft chips to play around with.



Anthony Davis

For the Pelicans, it's a new beginning. For the Lakers, it's about winning now.

Draft picks, including No. 4 in this year's class, smartly were not overvalued by the Lakers – a team with a superstar who is turning 35 in December and should be doing anything necessary to help him win a fourth championship before his window closes. The Lakers have tons of money to spend starting June 30 and the sales pitch to Kemba Walker, Kyrie Irving or anyone else changes mightily after this move.

Before Saturday it would have been Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka saying, "We're trying to get Anthony Davis."

Now it'll be Pelinka saying, "We've got Davis, we've got LeBron and they want you with them."

That'll be a tough offer for anyone to ignore.

James is going to get another Big Three out of this: It was Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and him in Miami; Kevin Love, Irving and him in Cleveland; Davis, him and TBA with the Lakers.

Clearly, the focus will be on a guard, which is why the rumor mill will be all about either Walker or Irving going to Los Angeles in free agency.

The offseason is already in high gear.

Hard to believe it really just got started.

This deal got agreed to before the newly crowned NBA champion Toronto Raptors – this is true – hoisted the Larry O'Brien Trophy on Canadian soil for the first time. They won Thursday night at Oracle Arena to end Golden State's reign, then stopped for a party in Las Vegas before the parade in Toronto on Monday.

Not even 48 hours after they popped corks, the Lakers were starting their own celebration.

Williamson will get drafted No. 1 overall on Thursday night, and he'll go to New Orleans in the awkward spot of being an 18-year-old (he doesn't turn 19 until July 6) with a franchise on his shoulders. The Lakers will still be drafting No. 4 overall, though they'll be doing so on New Orleans' behalf because the trade cannot be consummated beforehand. The Pelicans need a center, and will likely look at the trade market.

The Pelicans have to watch an incredible player, one of the league's very best, leave. But David Griffin – the man tasked with rebuilding the Pelicans – clearly had concluded that there

was no way of convincing Davis to not leave as a free agent next summer anyway. Had Griffin waited to make a deal in-season, there's almost no way he could have pulled off this kind of haul in return. The longer he waited, the less the value. So they push the reset button and move on, which was the most prudent play.

Let the ripple effects begin.

The Warriors not only have to figure out what to do if Kevin Durant leaves, but how to contend next year without the Achilles-rehabbing Durant and the ACL-rehabbing Klay Thompson (for at least much of the season). Other contenders in the West – Houston, Denver, Portland – will be viewing the Warriors' woes as opportunity, so they'll be looking at ways to get better as well. And Boston will be dealing with the reality that not only are its hopes of landing Davis gone, but that Irving is likely leaving as well.

There will be countless big moves in the coming weeks. The Lakers, who have missed the playoffs in the last six seasons and have been stuck in dysfunction mode for the last couple months following the resignation of Magic Johnson and soap opera that followed, got the first one of the offseason to go their way.

Welcome to summer. Game on.

Costly tickets, empty seats and quiet crowd for Brazil game

SAO PAULO

THE Copa America opener on Friday yielded a box-office record for Brazil with gate receipts of more than \$5.7 million.

It was the atmosphere in the stands, though, that captured most attention, with some players complaining about a lack of support from the crowd in the home team's 3-0 win over Bolivia.

More than 46,000 fans paid an average of \$125 per ticket, but at least 22,000 seats were empty at the Morumbi Stadium for a match that organizers initially said was a sellout. The volume only went up in the stands when there was jeering after Brazil's lackluster first half, during homophobic chants when the Bolivian keeper took goal kicks, and after the three second-half goals.

"It's normal to be like that in Sao Paulo, many fans are more concerned about their clubs, so it is always tough for Brazil to play here," veteran right back Dani Alves said.

For Brazilian league matches, ticket prices for the most popular seats cost as little as \$15. The country, enduring an economic crisis since 2015, has established its minimum wage at \$256 for this year.

The mix of high prices, empty seats

and lack of noise surprised some players, who said they could easily hear instructions from their coaches during the match.

Winger David Neres said the atmosphere was "a bit different."

"We are usually very focused, we don't hear much anyway. But it was a little quiet tonight," he said. "Except for the break, when they booed us. I still don't understand why that happened." Defender Thiago Silva said the jeers were understandable after a goalless first half. He also linked the behavior of the fans to the high ticket prices. "It took us a while to open the score, the ticket prices were expensive, so it is normal that they boo," Silva said. "But we were not that bad in the first half." Alves said there would be a different atmosphere when Brazil plays Venezuela on Tuesday in Salvador, in the warm northeast state of Bahia.

"In Bahia the 'axe' is different," he said, using an African-Brazilian word that means energy. "People miss the national team there, they miss this energy that we take where we go. I am sure it will be more cheerful than here."

AP

Suarez: Liverpool loss worst moment of my life

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil

BARCELONA striker Luis Suarez said the shock elimination by Liverpool in the Champions League semifinals was as painful as when he was sent home from the 2014 World Cup for biting an opponent.

Barca had looked certain to reach the final of Europe's top competition for the first time since 2015 after winning the first leg 3-0 but were blown away 4-0 at Anfield by Suarez's former side, who went on to win 2-0 in the final against Tottenham Hotspur.

"The days after, back in Barcelona, were the worst moments of my life and career along with the 2014 World Cup; I wanted to disappear from the world," Uruguay striker Suarez said in an interview with Fox Sports, referring to when he bit Italy's Giorgio Chiellini and was subsequently banned from football for four months.

"I didn't want to take my children to school, everyone could see I was in a very bad way. I had days I didn't want to do anything, they were very difficult moments."

The 4-3 aggregate defeat to Liverpool came a year after Barca also surrendered a three-goal advantage in a Champions League

quarterfinal by losing 3-0 to Roma and were knocked out on away goals.

Suarez, however, said he could not have imagined history repeating itself when his side turned up at Anfield last month knowing that if they scored once Liverpool would have to score five.

"I didn't see it because we are Barcelona and we thought we'd have two or three chances to score; we said this but we became nervous, we gave stupid passes away, we didn't show the right attitude," Suarez added.

"When the first goal came we didn't know how to react, we knew we had really messed up. After the game in the dressing room no-one could say anything; there was sadness, bitterness and disappointment because we knew we'd given an awful image."

Days after the defeat to Liverpool, Suarez opted to undergo surgery to treat a long-term knee problem in order to be fit for the Copa America, which began on Friday with hosts Brazil beating Bolivia 3-0.

Uruguay, who have won the tournament a record 15 times, play their first game against Ecuador on Sunday.

Pogba: I want a new challenge

TOKYO

MANCHESTER United midfielder Paul Pogba has suggested that he could be open to a move away from the Premier League side, telling reporters in Tokyo on Sunday that now "could be a good time to have a new challenge somewhere else."

Pogba, 26, has been linked in the British media with a move to Real Madrid to work with coach Zinedine Zidane, or with a return to his former club Juventus. Sources told ESPN back in May that he would force an exit this summer even if United were not open to a sale.

The Frenchman's time at Manchester United has coincided with some insipid performances on the pitch and organisational turmoil at the club.

"Like you said, there is a lot of talking and a lot of thinking as well," Pogba told reporters in Tokyo. "For me I have been for three years in Manchester and have been doing great; some good moments and some bad moments, like everybody. Like everywhere else. "After this season and everything that happened this season, with my season being my best season as well... I think for me it could be a good time to have a new challenge somewhere else. I am thinking of this: to have a new challenge somewhere else."

(AGENCIES)

Goal-greedy strikers hold the key to Nigeria's Afcon success

By Colin Udoh, Special to ESPN

NIGERIA have always had the good fortune of being blessed with an array of attacking talent, especially going into an Africa Cup of Nations, and this edition is no exception.

As much as a good backline has always satisfied the maxim of "defence wins championships," it has been the swashbuckling forward line which has captivated the fans and shot the Super Eagles to continental glory on three occasions.

Witness: 1980 Nations Cup-winning forwards Segun Odegbami, Adokiye Amiesimika, Aloysius Atuegbu and Henry Nwosu, through to 1994 winners Rashidi Yekini, Daniel Amokachi, Samson Siasia, Finidi George and Emmanuel Amunike, to combined silver and bronze winners Victor Ikpeba, Osaze Odemwingie, Ike Uche, John Utaka, Yakubu Aiyegbeni, and the more recent 2013 winners Emmanuel Emenike, Victor Moses and Ahmed Musa.

Even before kicking a ball in anger at this month's edition in Egypt, Gernot Rohr's class of 2019 is sure to rank amongst the most lethal of the country's selections, at least in theory. They have scored a combined total of 87 goals in club football this season, a remarkable return which puts them in good stead for the title. But more on that in a bit.

Odion Ighalo leads a stellar cast of players who are almost as underrated as they are deadly. At least at club level.

Then, Ahmed Musa, Paul Onuachu, Victor Osimhen, Samuel Kalu, Samuel Chukwueze, Henry Onyekuru and Moses Simon make up the names that Rohr can select from to fill the starting positions in his front three at any point in time.

It is a fearsome selection. It is tough to remember when last the Super Eagles had such a deep pool of talented and in-form attackers on their roster, if ever.

Rohr has picked a forward line that is as diverse as it has been lethal infant of goal, a group so talented they can score in a variety of ways with deadly precision. And therein lies their strength: the ability to offer different looks to different opposition depending on how they shape up.

Ighalo is the typical, old-fashioned centre forward who led the rest of the African field in goals scored during qualifying, rattling off seven goals during the series. He offers brute strength, close quarters combat, headed



Odion Ighalo (L) and Alex Iwobi form part of the Nigeria frontline, and both will be eager to rack up the goals on the way to an Afcon title in Egypt. (Agencies)

goals and the fox in the box tap-ins.

The 29-year-old is also the designated penalty taker, and has a 90 per cent-plus success rate from the spot.

Both Onuachu and Osimhen are Ighalo backups, offering largely similar but also slightly unique skillsets. Onuachu's long-limbed frame means he can reach farther than most with his lower extremities to claim second balls, or keep them away from the opposition at close quarters.

It also means he can generate more power than most from range with minimal backlift, like he showed in scoring against Egypt, and he requires next to no elevation to reach high balls. For a man of his size, his nimble feet also comes as something of a pleasant surprise.

Osimhen, on the other hand, is a younger and quicker version of both, who can deliver venomous rockets from distance with the same instinctive ease with which he can poach inside the area.

His 20 goals this season for RSC Charleroi are the second highest scored by any of the

Nigerian forwards on the squad. Onuachu leads the way with 22.

Out wide, assistant skipper Musa is the orchestrator in chief. His pace has proven troublesome for even the best teams in the world, as he showed at two World Cups. Despite his small frame, he can also be deployed with success (as his time at CSKA Moscow shows) as a central striker.

Same thing applies to Onyekuru, whose 16 goals this season for Galatasaray is evidence enough of his clinical efficiency. He is just as quick, just as strong, as the best around despite being a slightly built player.

The other three, Moses Simon, Samuel Kalu, and Samuel Chukwueze, are marked by their waspish frames, nimble feet and venomous firepower, in addition to a rapid burst of sprinters pace.

All three thrive on trickery, take-ons and hit the ball with such vicious force from range that they either score or set up tap-ins for the teammates.

Chukwueze is particularly adept at this and,

as the only natural left-footer in the group, his ability to play as an inverted winger makes it extra difficult for fullbacks to stay with him when he cuts inside as he is wont to do.

This diverse combination of forwards is one that will have defenders cursing their luck. It is no surprise they have managed a combined return of 87 goals amongst them this past season.

As phenomenal a number as that might appear to be, it is still only second amongst the countries travelling to Egypt. Senegal's forward line have scored an astonishing 103 club goals between them.

And so the Super Eagles frontline will need to up their game in Egypt if Nigeria are to win the title. Their last two friendly games, against Egypt (sans Mohamed Salah) and Zimbabwe, yielded a grand total of just one goal. And they were playing at home.

In Egypt, they will need to do better. But at least no one can accuse this frontline of not knowing their way to goal. That, in itself, is cause for more than a little optimism.

Cross-sports push at World Cup for gender pay equality

PARIS

VENUS Williams joined retired soccer star Julie Foudy and ice hockey player Hilary Knight in the Eiffel Tower to highlight the push for pay equality for women athletes.

The trio gathered Saturday night for a forum sponsored by LUNA bar and moderated by Catt Sadler, who quit E! in December 2017 after she learned her male co-host earned twice the pay.

Williams praised women athletes who had joined the push for better pay and conditions.

"Not everyone wants to get on the train," she said. "So if they don't want to go to glory and go to the top of the mountain, they can stay at the base camp."

Players on the U.S. soccer team sued the U.S. Soccer Federation in March, charging institutionalized gender discrimination. The USSF countered that pay and benefits for members of the men's and women's teams, bargained by separate unions, can't be compared and said there was no basis for allegations of illegal conduct.

LUNA Bar announced on Equal Pay Day on April 2 that it was giving each of the 23 women on the U.S. roster \$31,250. That amount is how much more the U.S. men receive from the federation for making a World Cup roster.

Foudy, a 48-year-old former midfielder who won two World Cups and two Olympics, recited poor conditions for her and teammates in the 1990s, recalling "you're staying in roach motels and you're driving the hotel shuttle bus to games."

"We actually won a World Cup in 1991, yet at that time, there was no marketing, there was no support for the team, we were getting \$10 a day," she said.

FIFA doubled prize money for the women to \$30 million this year from the amount four years ago, and the amount for the winning team is \$4 million. That remains a fraction of the money awarded at last year's men's World Cup, where France received \$38 million from a \$400 million pool. FIFA has raised the men's pool to \$440 million for 2022.

Sadler, 44, had worked for E! for a dozen years when she learned co-host Jason Kennedy earned what she said was double her pay.

"Initially I was pretty ticked off about that, rather infuriated, a little embarrassed," she said.

She said she quit when management refused to remedy the situation. Williams, a five-time Wimbledon and two-time U.S. open champion, got involved



Panelist, from left, Catt Sadler, formerly of E!, hockey player Hilary Knight, retired soccer player and ESPN commentator Julie Foudy and tennis star Venus Williams discuss gender pay inequality Saturday, June 15, 2019, at a forum hosted by IUNA Bar at the Salon Gustave in the Eiffel Tower, Paris, France. (AP Photo)

in the women's player council 20 years ago, when she was 18. While the U.S. Open reached pay equality in 1973 after Billie Jean King threatened a boycott, the Aus-

tralian Open didn't follow until 2001, the French Open in 2006 and Wimbledon in 2007.

"I think the fuel is when people say that



SPORT

Goal-greedy strikers hold the key to Nigeria's Afcon success

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Taifa Stars coach fears injuries ahead of AFCON 2019

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA national soccer team coach Emmanuel Amunike hopes that none of his players will pick up serious injuries between now and Saturday, as the AFCON 2019 championship looms with just four days to go.

Amunike told Tanzania Football Federation TV in an interview published yesterday that whether it was in the training or later yesterday's friendly against Zimbabwe, the most important is to avoid injury.

"For me the most important thing is that I always pray that even in training we should not sustain any injury that would be a kind of set back to the team," Amunike said.

The former Barcelona winger also spoke about the friendly loss to hosts Egypt in which he praised his side for showing discipline in a game where they were outplayed.

Looking on the positive side, he said: "We have played against Egypt and I think we have seen what the competition looks like. For us we learn from it. It is not about losing. The players, from a tactical point of view, were disciplined. They were able to maintain that discipline when we don't have the ball."

At the AFCON, which runs from June 21 to July 19 in Egypt, Tanzania face the Senegal, Kenya and Algeria in Group C.

Taifa Stars's will begin their AFCON journey against Senegal on June 23, thereafter playing neighbour Kenya and Algeria on June 27 and June 31, respectively.

In the opening match, Amunike will miss the service of right full-back Hassan Ramadhan 'Kessy' who will be serving a one match suspension for the two yellow cards he accumulated in the qualifiers.

His Senegal counterpart, Aliou Cisse, will miss his influential captain and striker, Sadio Mane.

Mane was booked in Senegal's 1-0 victory against Equatorial Guinea in Malabo in November 2018 and in a 2-0 victory over Madagascar in March.



TONIGHT @ 21:00

UJENZI

MONDAY

11:00 DADAZ (LIVE)
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 UTAKA
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 KURASA
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SSPORTS LIVE
22:30 BONGO HITS

Ujenzi Watch this informative show on the domestic construction process both on site construction and interior/exterior designing whilst using the latest technology and appliances that have made construction easier.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM



Nickson Kibabage



Senior national football team, Taifa Stars.

Godspeed Taifa Stars

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipoke

PRECISELY on the 21st of this month in the land of the fabled Pharaohs, Egypt, the greatly esteemed AFCON Finals will kick-off.

The enormously prized tournament is a biennial showcase football event which features the continent's foremost sides all earnestly vying to realize just one ambition, which is to become the new African champions.

As is to be expected, the full-blooded nature of the competition witnessed at past installments of the AFCON Finals leave no one in any doubt that the customarily ding-dong rivalry is certainly NOT for the faint-hearted.

From our standpoint, though, as a nation which loves the 'People's Game' to bits, this year's AFCON Finals will definitely feel infinitely more special to us than previous editions of continental football's most invaluable trophy.

And, while not wishing to sound insulting, you would have to have been living under a rock not to know the reason why the 2019 AFCON Finals will be of such gigantic significance to our largely football-mad populace.

The reason is, of course, that for the first time since 1980, our Taifa Stars will be very

much a part of the expectedly unforgettable spectacle in Egypt this year.

Naturally, the Taifa Stars' hard-earned qualification for this most prestigious of all African football championships has filled all of us in the country, neutrals included, with arguably an unquantifiable amount of pride.

However, having followed the goings-on in football for a lengthy period of time, now, I would like to inject a dose of realism into our expectations of how brilliantly the Taifa Stars will be able to perform on continental football's most exalted stage, where no quarters will be asked and none given.

Indeed, as D-Day approaches faster and more rapidly (D-Day referring to Tanzania's AFCON Finals opener), it should be borne in our minds that certain feats of admirable football quintessence will be most likely a bridge too far at the looming AFCON Finals.

For instance, the prospect of the Stars exceptionally going on a remarkable fairy-tale run from their very first encounter all the way to the tournament's final showdown is a dim one doubtlessly.

In addition, apart from the aforesaid far-fetched possibility, another dream which has been long nursed by some of my fellow Tanzanians is the idea of the Taifa Stars rid-

ing roughshod over the opposition as they successfully make their way to the latter stages of the competition.

Encouragingly though, I am pleased as punch to report that only a thin slice of the country's population have jettisoned their sense of reason and instead succumbed to the dangerously alluring charms of a fantasy world, especially where their expectations of the Taifa Stars' overall performance at the forthcoming AFCON Finals are concerned.

Indeed, many wananchi are well-aware that the Stars will come up against perennial qualifiers for the AFCON Finals such as Nigeria and the Carthage Eagles of Tunisia among others, which will make their task decidedly more arduous.

Still, being realistic does not mean that the Taifa Stars and their chief supporters, us, have to hurl all of our imagination and dreams into a ditch.

Thus, my humble advice to the Taifa Stars would be for them to use the impending AFCON Finals as a sort of coming out party, again, to remind the continent and the world of the little-known magic of Tanzanian football, or as some of us here would put it, the spell-binding magic of football, Bongoland-style!

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Tanzanian youngster signs for Moroccan side, Difaa el Jadidi

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

MOROCCO top flight side Difaa el Jadida have completed the signing of Tanzanian youth left full-back Nickson Kibabage in a four-year deal from Mtibwa Sugar.

Jadida, who finished fifth in the Botola Pro league, confirmed the transfer of the player to their club on Saturday night through the official social media accounts.

The 19-year-old, who was part of Tanzania squad that played at the AFCON U-17 Finals in 2017, caught the eye of the Moroccans' scouts in Africa and was handed a two-week trial.

Kibabage revealed that he is delighted with the opportunity but will still need support to realise his dreams. He also explained why he opted for the number 43 jersey.

"I chose the number 43 because it is my lucky number. I have been using it at Mtibwa Sugar and did it well. Difaa were ready to give me a different number but I asked them to hand me this one. They agreed to my request though they reminded me I would have to use another number in case of continental matches which restrict numbers between 1 and 30," said Kibabage.

Kibabage becomes the second Tanzanian at Difaa el Jadidi after Taifa Stars striker Simon Msuva, who was recruited in 2017.

Msuva has been big success in Morocco, emerging the club's top scorer in his first two seasons and is now likely to be sold to a bigger club in a transfer fee estimated to be at least \$1.5m.

He becomes another key member of the Tanzania U-17 class of 2017 to land an overseas deal after Ally Ng'anzi and Yohana Nkomola who joined Minnesota United and Arsenal Kyiev respectively.

In the just ended season, Kibabage was an understudy to Issa Rashid but still got a couple of games in the Tanzanian Premier League while also featuring for the U-20 side which are the defending champions of a title they won last year in Dodoma.

Congolese youngster Jonathan Ifasolfunga (20) was also signed on a four-year deal by the Moroccan outfit who are well known for grooming talent and selling them at very good profits as part of their transfer strategies.

Arusha dispatches youth soccer team to Beijing

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

YOUNG soccer players from Arusha are being outfitted to partake in the forthcoming Sino-Africa young football players tourney to take place in Hunnan Province of China next week.

Participating African teams for the week-long event being organized by the China Sports Association will come from Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The latter's squad will be originating from Arusha, outfitted by the Future Stars Academy.

The 'Under-Eleven,' youth soccer tourney will be held at Loudi City in the Hunnan Province from the 23rd to the 30th of June this year. A total of eight teams will be taking part in the sports event, four from Africa and the other four originating from China itself.

The Director of Future Stars Academy (FSA), Alfred Itaeli, who is also the team's coach, said the delegation of 23 personalities, including 16 players and 7 officials, will be jetting off from Arusha to China on Friday.

"The China event will provide good exposure and better grooming for the young football players from Tanzania," said Itaeli, adding that the Future Stars Academy of Arusha will also invite Chinese youth to participate in the annual Chipukizi Cup events held here every December. One of the parents, Samuel Daniel Diah, whose child is among the envoys to China, said the academy is doing a great job in recruiting and grooming future sports people. He said his son Joshua Diah has been training with Future Stars for five years now.

On his part, one of the young players heading to the Far East, Amani Musa, said they need more support from the government in this stance. Another youth, Sabeer Rahim, said they have a dream of playing in European tournaments and that the Safari to China is threshold of their dreams. "Plus we are going to win," he assured.