



ORDER



TRAIN INVESTIGATORS WELL - MASAUNI PAGE 3

DELUGE



OVER 300 HOUSES SURROUNDED BY FLOODWATERS IN BABATI PAGE 5

INSURANCE

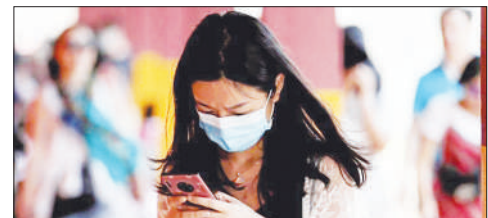


DR KIJAJI URGES TIRA TO REACH MORE TANZANIANS PAGE 7

SPORT



SIMBA COACH IMPRESSED BY BOCCO, KAGERE EXPLOITS PAGE 20



China sacks party officials as corona deaths still rising

WUHAN

SOME 242 deaths from the new coronavirus epidemic were recorded in the Chinese province of Hubei on Wednesday - the deadliest day of the outbreak.

There was also a huge increase in the number of cases, with 14,840 people diagnosed with Covid-19.

Hubei has started using a broader definition to diagnose people - which accounts for most of the rise in cases.

China sacked two top officials in Hubei province hours after the new figures were revealed.

Until Wednesday's increases, the number of people with the virus in Hubei, where the outbreak emerged, was stabilising.

But the new cases and deaths in the province have pushed the national death toll above 1,350 - with close to 60,000 infections in total.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says it is seeking "further clarity" from China about the changes to how cases of the virus are being confirmed.

China has been accused of suppressing the full extent of the outbreak in the past, says the BBC's Nick Beake in Hong Kong.

Professor David Heymann, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said that what has happened in China is that they have changed the definition of what the disease really is - now they are taking people who have lesser symptoms.



It is the first major change of Hubei party officials since the outbreak began

"The deaths are quite worrisome. There is an increased number of deaths reported, but if you look overall at the total number of deaths and the total number of cases, the fatality ratio is about the same as it has been - but it is still high, as high as the death rate in influenza."

Only Hubei province - which accounts for more than 80 per cent of overall Chinese infections - is using the new definition to diagnose new cases.

Over the past 24 hours, in Hubei alone, nearly 15,000 people were moved into the infected column. This would have sent shockwaves around the world, but actually, if you consider Wednesday's cases by the old definition, the rate could well mean another day of decline: a completely different picture.

The Communist Party secretary in Hubei, Jiang Chaoliang, has been replaced by the Shanghai party chief, Ying Yong, state media reported. The party chief of the capital city, Wuhan, has also been relieved of his duties.

It is the first major change of Hubei party officials since the outbreak began.

Earlier this week, a number of health officials were "removed" from their jobs.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein escorts CRDB Bank Pic board chairman Ally Hussein Laay (C) and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela shortly after talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday on the strategy the bank is planning to use in supporting development projects in the Isles. Photo: State House

DC, regional mining team run into marijuana farm

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

SENIOR government officials in Kahama District, Shinyanga Region, were at midweek shocked after making an impromptu visit to an artisanal gold mining camp in the area to inspect progress only to meet a thriving marijuana farm.

But since this apparently well attended farm located at Kakola area within Bulyanhulu Ward was in an area used by tens of hundreds of miners, law enforcers failed to make any arrest as those in the vicinity disowned it.

Kahama District Commissioner Anamringi Macha who led the team on Wednesday moved to order the miners to weed out all the plants.

The miners obliged, got to work and in a matter of minutes, uprooted the whole farm lest they get into more trouble. But after consulting his colleagues, the DC told the miners what he

thought:

"I'm very disappointed about you. Instead of engaging in gold mining, you have ventured into marijuana farming which is an illegal activity."

The DC threatened that if the illegal activity continued in the area, the government will not hesitate to stop artisanal mining in the area or allocate the plots to law abiding individuals.

Macha also directed law enforcers in the district to embark on inspection of all small mining camps in the district to check on illegal activities like marijuana farming.

Shinyanga regional mining officer Joseph Kumburu who was part of the delegation said the inspection of activities in artisanal mining camps will be extended to cover the whole region.

"These miners are lucky that no one has been arrested. If we find this kind of activity anywhere

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Reform stalwart Iddi Simba dies, burial expected today

By Guardian Reporter

PROMINENT Tanzanian economist and business sector leader Iddi Simba died at the Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute (JKCI) in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the age of 84 and is expected to be buried in the city today.

The one-time minister for Industry and Trade was born on October 8, 1935 and received his education at universities in Pakistan and Toulouse in France and upon return he was picked to work with the World Bank.

He led the East African Development Bank (EADB) as executive director from 1968 to 1978, and for a couple of years he was the resident

representative of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

As the reform period came onto the scene, he became a stakeholder in trade reform first as among the founders of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) before splitting from it to form the Tanzania Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI).

Surprisingly, while he rejected nationalistic policies at TCCIA to advocate market equality for all business practitioners, he later entered politics to campaign for the Ilala constituency in the legislature, advocating precisely the nationalist

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Govt inks 3trn/- loan accord for the remainder of SGR railway

"We are delighted to have reached this milestone in Tanzania to fund the SGR project that will deliver massive benefits to Tanzanians and support the government's 2025 vision of making Tanzania a semi-industrialised country"

By Francis Kajubi

THE government yesterday signed a USD1.46 billion (3.3trn/-) loan agreement with Standard Chartered Bank for the construction of 422 kilometers Morogoro-Makutupora section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project.

The amount is a concessional loan from 17 development financial institutions (DFIs) and bankers most of them based in Sweden and Denmark.

Speaking during the signing ceremony in Dar es Salaam, Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango said the amount will facilitate completion of the remaining 70

per cent of the second phase of the project.

"The money has been deposited with the Treasury and payments to the contractor begin next week. The government will keep on borrowing for development projects but we are keen that the loans secured don't contribute to unnecessary piling up of the national debt," he stated.

Standard Chartered Tanzania acted as global coordinator, bookrunner and mandated lead arranger on the facility agreement that is the largest foreign currency financing raised by the Treasury to date. The biggest component of financing is treated as a covered facility of export credit

TURN TO PAGE 2

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Govt inks 3trn/- loan accord for the remainder of SGR railway

FROM PAGE 1

agencies of Denmark and Sweden.

"These two nations, Sweden and Denmark, have shown us their true friendship not only in words but in action. Please convey our country's sincere appreciation to the export credit agencies and lenders in your countries that have supported this signature project. As a country we shall honour our commitments as we have always done," the minister underlined.

He also commended the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Trade and Development Bank (TDB) and the African Export-Import Bank (Afrexim), for supporting the project in partnership with export credit agencies of Denmark and Sweden.

Sanjay Rughani, Chief Executive Officer for Standard Chartered (TC), said that the agreement proves investors' confidence in the market and demonstrates Standard Chartered's international network capabilities and commitment to Tanzania.

"As a leading international bank for Africa, with over 100 years of being in Tanzania, the African continent remains a key corridor not only for Standard Chartered but also our global clients.

"We are delighted to have reached this milestone in Tanzania to fund the SGR project that will deliver massive benefits to Tanzania and support the

government's 2025 vision of making Tanzania a semi-industrialised country," he said.

The bank will continue to leverage its unique network reach and the credibility it has built over time to further position Tanzania as the go-to destination for investments, he stated.

Masanja Kadogosa, the director general of the Tanzania Railways Corporation, said that the Morogoro to Makutupora portion is completed at 30 per cent and that the loan will facilitate speeding up construction work.

"Construction of the Dar es Salaam to Morogoro first phase has been completed for about 75 per cent and still on the right track. We are confident that before mid this year Tanzanians shall witness completion of the SGR first phase thanks to the president," he elaborated.

Treasury Permanent Secretary Doto James, Bank of Tanzania Governor Prof Florens Luoga also attended the signing ceremony, along with Danish ambassador Mette Norgaard Dissing-Spandet and the Swedish ambassador, Anders Sjöberg.

Robert Mengoni, the Italian ambassador and Calumm McCallum, the country director for international trade at the UK High Commission also attended, while others included the country manager for the African Development Bank, Dr. Alex Mubiru and the resident representative for the IMF, Jens Reinke.



Iran's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mousa Farhang, flips through copies of The Guardian during his tour of The Guardian Ltd offices yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

DC, regional mining team run into marijuana farm

FROM PAGE 1

else in the region, those working there will be arrested and prosecuted," he warned.

This discovery comes less than a week after a Polish national was arrested in connection with growing and processing marijuana for sale locally and export at Himo area in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region.

Briefing reporters after the arrest of Damian Sankowski, the Drugs Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) Commissioner General James Kaji said the suspect produced well packaged products that look like jam and honey.

He said the products—some of which were seized in the suspect's residence—were not for medicinal but intoxicating use and were popular with users from Europe.

Reform stalwart Iddi Simba dies, burial expected today

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policies he had earlier rejected.

He had meanwhile risen in CCM ranks to become chairman of the Parents' Organisation from 1996 to 1999 and thus also become a member of the party's National Executive Committee (NEC).

Having won the Ilala (Dar es Salaam)

seat in 1995 which he kept for two four terms, he was appointed minister in the Industry and Trade portfolio in 2000 and stayed there only briefly, as policy inconsistency with regard to sugar led to his resignation.

Simba stepped down in November 2001 at the time of the sugar importation debacle after he was accused of issuing importation licences

that would kill local factories.

But much of the criticism levelled against him relates to the broader issue of his role in opening up the country's economy.

At the time of his departure from the cabinet, the government had an ambitious 10 year plan to revitalise the sugar industry by first ensuring that enough sugar was grown

and that factories worked at full capacity.

Sympathisers to the late business leader noted at the announcement of his death that close to 20 years since he stepped down, the very issue that led to his resignation—local sugar production verses imports - is still a challenge authorities are struggling with.



Russia's Ambassador to Tanzania, Yuri Popov, speaks at a Diplomats Day reception in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday evening. He is with Russian Embassy protocol officer Zakiya Kunaeva (R) and counsellor Alexander Anoshkin. Photo courtesy of Russian Embassy

Small gold miners' health at risk by using mercury

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

SMALL gold miners in the country could be in danger over the use of mercury in recovering gold from other materials without protecting gears.

This was revealed recently by the Theonestina Mwashu, Foundation of ASM Development (FADeV), a Non-Governmental Organisation Director engaged in the development of small miners in the country during his tour with newsmen at Mtalingi Mine in Nyakagwe area in Geita district.

Mwashu said among the issues they

deal with in developing small gold miners is to educate them on their own safety especially when they go down into the pits, and the use of mercury in recovering the gold from the sand that they should wear protective gear.

"The number of small gold miners in the country is big and they are not well educated on the importance of using protective gears when prospecting for gold, including the use of mercury, they don't wear safety shoes, protective gloves, instead they use bare hands which is dangerous to their health, she said.

She said when the miner uses mercury to separate gold from other materials with bare hands he or she is prone of getting bruises and if the mercury penetrates into the body, he or she will start to experience headaches, loss of memory and gearing, kidney infections ending up in death.

One of the gold miner, Boniphace Charles, said he understand that mercury is harmful to them and said they are used to recover gold with bare hands and appealed for more education on the importance of protective gear.

The owner of the gold mine Mtalingi Hamzeh said they know the adverse effects of mercury but when their provide protective gear to their workers they do not use them even though they were originally educated by FADeV, saying they are used working with bare hands.

He said despite recognizing harmful effects of mercury, small gold miners lack adequate operating capital to meet alternative ways to recover gold from other materials, hence appealed to financial institutions to provide loans to them so that they abandon the use of mercury altogether.

Why women must be bold on condom use

By Henry Mwangonde

ALTHOUGH Tanzania has made strides in reducing new HIV infections, women need to play decision-making role on the use of condom if the country is to eliminate Aids.

For, although influential in deciding whether or not to use condoms, they have withdrawn from that responsibility, leaving it to men who normally choose not to use protection.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the commemoration of the International Condom Awareness Day, Director for Social Enterprise at T-MARC Tanzania which promotes the use of condoms Flavian Ngole said Tanzania stands a better chance of ending Aids and other sexually transmitted infections if women used their influence to discourage unprotected intercourse.

"Women have relegated this responsibility to men; they even feel shy to buy condoms while in reality their role is weightier in decision-making," he said.

The day is taking an opportune time to promote the use of condoms and educate people about the need for practicing safe sex at all times. The aim is to get more people comfortable with purchasing, carrying, talking about and using condoms during sexual activity.

With the theme 'focusing on the importance of consent and testing of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) such as HIV/AIDS and unintended pregnancy between partners', the day's is celebrated on 13th February each year a day before St. Valentine's Day.

"We all know the enthusiasm that comes along the day across the globe. We think it is a good time to promote healthy and safe relationships and

reminding people about the risks of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies. In short, we use the day as a reminder to everyone to always ensure that they practice safe sex," he added.

The day is also used to fight against such stigma which is putting the lives of many people including youth and women at high risk.

According to him, this was the right time to sensitize the society on the need for both men and women to be free in making their consent on condom use in order to protect themselves.

"They should also be encouraged and supported to go for voluntary STDs testing and support thereafter," he added.

He said T-MARC Tanzania has been working with the Government of Tanzania and other partners to improve public health and the well-being of Tanzanians through forming up strong partnerships and programmes to ensure them with accessible, affordable and quality services and products.

Tanzania has managed to reduce the rate of new HIV/AIDS infections by 20.6 per cent among adults and 31.3 per cent among children below 15 years old from 2010 to 2018.



They should also be encouraged and supported to go for voluntary STDs testing and support thereafter



Water minister Prof Makame Mbarawa (L) tours Mkuranga District water projects implemented jointly at Mwanambaya, Mkwalia, Kitumbo and Mkerezange by the Dar es Salaam Water and Sanitation Authority (Dawasa) and a rural water supply and sanitation agency. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

Iranian envoy cautions media

IRAN'S Ambassador to Tanzania, Mousa Farhang, has appealed to the country's media to stop depending on western countries as their source of news since they don't have interest in Africa and developing countries.

He said for a long time the media in western countries have been writing all bad news in developing countries for their own interests, which has made some African media to also start writing bad things about their own countries.

"Western media have been writing negative reports on other countries. Is it possible to always have dirty clothes without even having clean ones?" questioned Ambassador Farhang when speaking with the management of The Guardian Limited in Dar es Salaam during his visit at the company's offices

in Mikocheni yesterday. The Ambassador stressed that the media in Tanzania should realise that they have a big responsibility in the country's political, economic and social development hence the need to be careful with foreign propaganda that can slow back the country's development.

He said the media in foreign countries can write news that is hateful about a leader of a certain country but have been doing that not as against the person, but against the country.

"For example you may not like the country's President, John Magufuli, but not the country as a whole, but why should the hate against Magufuli be

directed to the whole country? This is not right and the media should be careful about it," he said.

Ambassador Farhang also cautioned the media on the habit of publishing pictures and reports about aid extended by various institutions to the society in need, saying this degrades the society that is given such aid.

He said some institutions have been giving money to poor households while showing a replica of a bank cheque showing the amount of cash given as aid, adding that this exposes the true condition of the households - that they are poor.

"There are other institutions, including the Iranian Embassy that

provides aid to the society without advertising. You advertise yourself for giving aid to those in need? This is the same as deriding them," he said.

The Guardian Limited General Manager, Srinivas Chintaluri, said there has been a habit by some institutions, banks in particular whereas they have been circulating pictures when providing aid to society.

But Farhang said there is no problem for a bank to publish pictures of a function such as opening a new branch or development activities.

He advised the media to have policies that would control the publication of news that undermines sections of the society that are in need. **Photo: Page 4**

Dodoma welding trainees hail Denmark for support extended to their project

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

FIFTY youth being trained in welding at Hombolo in Dodoma Region yesterday thanked Denmark for the financial support the country has given to their project that seeks to make them future self-reliant and dependable artisans.

Speaking at their workshop premises, interviewees were positive to Danish support saying the financial help was directly helping the beneficiaries. The Danish support to the project goes through the Local Investment Climate Project (LIC) which works closely with the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC).

"If it had not been for the Danish help and the TNBC I would not have been here," said Andrea Masanika, one of the trainees, adding: "We're grateful for the Danish government. LIC has funded the training we are having here so that we can be able to employ ourselves and employ others."

He said welding was a kind of profession that could easily make a welder self-reliant because, he said, services of a welder were needed in many parts of the country. However, he said most of the trainees would be unable to get capital to start their own workshops after completing the course.

Masanika, supported by fellow trainees, proposed that district councils should support young people to start projects after getting training through their own initiatives.

The training at Hombolo is done by a local company that produces simple machines that process crops in villages. The owner of the company, Joel Ngosso said he was happy with the training because, he said, the trainees were serious with their lessons and he is convinced that most of them would become skilled artisans.

He thanked the government and the TNBC for designating their company

for training the youths. "I had a dream of giving young people this kind of knowledge. I have realized my dream because the government, through the TNBC, listened to me and believed in me. This is how I got support from LIC to train these people," Ngosso told journalists who accompanied Minister Jenista Mhagama on an inspection tour of TNBC-sponsored projects in Dodoma Region.

Mhagama is the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Youth, Women and People with Disabilities). LIC projects are designated as economic empowerment projects in the region.

Ngosso said through LIC support their workshop got high-voltage electricity, the workshop was expanded, the company was given technical equipment and machinery specifically for training people.

"This huge support was a big motivation to us. It hardened my commitment to train these people."

The TNBC Executive Secretary, Dr Godwill Wanga said the TNBC would continue to encourage young people to seize such kind of opportunities to be able to benefit from donor-funded projects.

"Our job, as TNBC, is to follow up closely projects started with the help of outsiders and ensure they benefit the people as planned," he said.



We're grateful for the Danish government. LIC has funded the training we are having here so that we can be able to employ ourselves and employ others

Train investigators well, Masauni orders Moshi-based police college

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

HOME Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni has said that investigators must be well prepared in colleges because they are the main cause of congestions of remand prisoners in jails.

Speaking during his official visit at Moshi Police College in Kilimanjaro region on Wednesday, he said the college instructors must ensure they professionally train case investigators.

"You must ensure that you give them professional training on investigation so that when they graduate they can perform their job professionally so that the public benefit from the training they received," he said.

"When speaking at celebrations to mark Law Week last week President John Magufuli touched on the issue of police investigators being the cause for congestion of remandees in jails and today I've just come from Arusha prison and talked to the remand prisoners," he added.

He said both remand and other inmates have complained over their cases being skewed and worse still some have been sentenced out of investigations that

were not thorough. "This is a big problem, it's not right for the President to complain every day, now the government directives to you... you must train well your investigators," he said.

The college's commandant

ACP Omar Khamis pledged to work on the directives given.

He said the college has 856 students of whom 725 are males and 131 are females in various categories of training and all were doing

well. During the visit Masauni toured various areas of the college including sleeping quarters, classrooms, parade ground, computer room and renovation work to the dining room.



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"This is a big problem, it's not right for the President to complain every day, now the government directives to you... you must train well your investigators"

Iran ambassador pays visit to The Guardian Limited



Iran's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mousa Farhang (L), leads his delegation during talks with The Guardian Ltd general manager Srinivas Chintaruri (R), and Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (2nd-R) and deputy ME Epsou Luhwago (3rd-R). He toured the newspaper publishing company's offices in Dar es Salaam yesterday.



Ambassador Farhang (R) presents a souvenir to The Guardian Limited general manager Chintaruri, as human resources manager Emmanuel Matondo looks on.



Nipashe ME Bandawe briefs the ambassador (L) on operations in The Guardian Ltd newsroom.



Ambassador Farhang (L) is shown around The Guardian Limited newsroom, led by GM Chintaruri. Right is TGL commercial director Ajay Goyal.



The ambassador skims through an advertisement pullout at the company's printing unit.



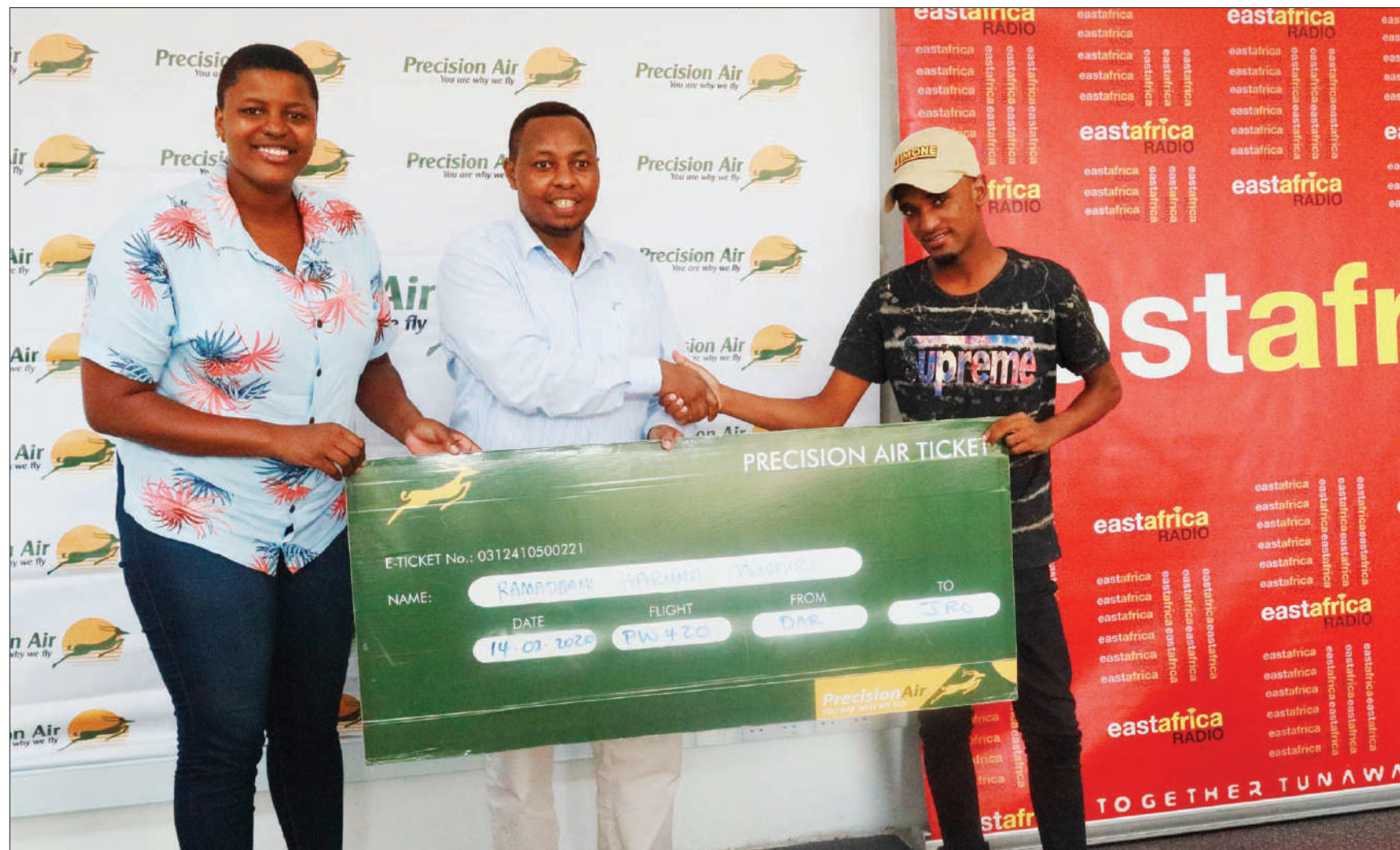
Ambassador Farhang has a feel of newsprint and other printing material stocked at the TGL printing unit.



The ambassador has a word with Nipashe ME Bandawe and HRM Matondo.



Ambassador Farhang, who showed keen interest in newspaper work, is taken around the TGL printing unit. Photos: Selemani Mpochi



'Nogeshah Mahaba' ambassador Lesa Sidi (L) and Precision Air marketing manager Hilary Mrema present a special Valentine's Day Dar es Salaam-Kilimanjaro air ticket to one of the winners of the promotion raffle, organised by East Africa Radio in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The campaign is sponsored by the airline. Photo: EATV

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

Over 300 houses 'engulfed' by floodwaters in Babati District

MORE than 300 houses in Babati District, Manyara Region have been surrounded by water and others have collapsed due to the ongoing heavy rains in the area.

This was revealed on Monday by the Babati District Commissioner Elizabeth Kitundu when speaking to this paper in her office on the effects of the rains and how the government was responding to them.

Kitundu said four people have died after they were swept away by flood water, including a primary school student who was looking for his shoe that had fallen into an abyss.

She said a total of 342 houses have

been surrounded by flood water while 54 collapsed, and adding that 17 had their roofs blown away by winds.

She said one of the reasons that exacerbated the situation is a result of environmental destruction by the wananchi - people's habit of cutting down trees whose logs end in blocking culverts.

She hailed the wananchi who assisted flood victims by providing them with food and shelter.

Kitundu said in addition to this assistance, the government, through Disasters Committees in villages, wards and districts worked together in rescuing people surrounded by water.

She said as a district, they have no budget for such disasters to help victims instead they incorporate other stakeholders to give assistance.

She said in addition to these emergency measures, they have asked the government - the Office of the

Prime Minister for assistance.

A resident of Magugu, Ignas Jacob, said this year's rains have caused great havoc to them as even crops in the fields have been swept away by flood water.

Another resident Zabron Bahati advised the government via its Disasters Management Department to go around and educate the society not to settle in lowland areas for their own safety.

Creation of more favourable policy environment vital in transformation of agriculture, raising food security

By Correspondent James Kandoya,

Dodoma

THE foreign exchange used to import foodstuffs has dropped to US \$ 200 from US \$ 600 following the government's amount of review of its agricultural policies, analysts said yesterday.

Speaking during the 6th Annual Agricultural Policy conference (AAPC) in the country's capital - Dodoma, Coordinator of Policy Analysis Group (PAG) David Nyange said the government has reviewed more than 200 policies to ensure conducive environment that could enable investors in various sectors including agriculture.

The conference which attracted 150 participants was jointly organised by PAG in collaboration with the Ministry for Agriculture and other ministries. Themed 'Public and Private Sector Investment for Agricultural Transformation in Tanzania' it brought together the academia, researchers, policy makers and advocacy groups.

Nyange noted that despite efforts to improve the agriculture sector and progress in policy reforms, there is need to address remaining challenges to create a favourable policy environment to accelerate agriculture transformation, food security and nutrition and poverty reduction.

"It will take another 52 years to completely eliminate poverty in Tanzania unless there are drastic improvements in agricultural sector or slow down in population growth," he said.

He commended the government for scrapping unnecessary fees charged to the local processors of agricultural goods and small scale entrepreneurs. He said merging of some regulatory authorities was a good move towards improving policy environment.

Nyange added: "We must ensure economic growth to reduce poverty. It is virtually impossible for a poor

country to reduce poverty without enhancing economic growth".

The PAG Coordinator appealed to the government to reduce cooperate tax currently charged at 30 percent while in neighbouring countries such as Zambia and Mozambique they charge only 10 percent.

Addressing delegates, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki said the government is reviewing its investment policy to create an enabling environment for investors in both, agriculture and livestock sub-sector.

Kairuki informed that various moves are aimed at improving the agriculture and livestock sectors and increase its contribution to the Nation Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The minister said the government plans to sign Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the private sector to further improve the sector as well as ensure accountability.

"Since most Tanzanians depend in agriculture, it is high time we consider setting good investment policy in agriculture sector", said the minister.

Agricultural Non State Actor Forum (ANSAF) Executive Director, Audax Rukonge said the conference provides an opportunity for agricultural stakeholders and the government to assess progress in implementation of policy reforms.



We must ensure economic growth to reduce poverty. It is virtually impossible for a poor country to reduce poverty without enhancing economic growth

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Opening date : Bids will be opened on Tuesday 25th February 2020 at 13.00 hrs, in the PACT (T) Dar es Salaam conference room, 74 Uporoto Street – Mikocheni. All bidders are encouraged to attend. Representatives, where necessary, must be appointed in writing.

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Pact enables systemic solutions that allow those who are poor and marginalized to earn a dignified living, be healthy, and take part in the benefits that nature provides. Pact accomplishes this by strengthening local capacity, forging effective governance systems, and transforming markets into a force for development.

Pact Tanzania is looking for an enthusiastic, creative, energetic individual to fill the following vacant positions for the Kizazi Kipya Project:

Job Title : Cluster Technical Manager (1 position)
Location : Songea
Reporting To : Technical Integration Cluster Manager
Project : Kizazi Kipya

Position Purpose:
 The overall purpose of Cluster Technical Manager is to ensure quality and coordinated program delivery, to coordinate training activities, and to provide technical support to Pact's technical staff (Technical Service Coordinators) and implementing partners (CSOs and consortium partners); to complete timely deliverables in the core project technical areas (i.e., economic strengthening, case management, health and HIV (including community-clinic linkages), child Protection, parenting, education, and youth).

Job Title : Research and Learning Officer (1 position)
Location : Dar es Salaam
Reporting To : Research and Learning Coordinator
Project : Kizazi Kipya

Position Purpose:
 Research and Learning Officer provide technical support to the USAID Kizazi Kipya program research and learning activities to contribute to an increased evidence base for OVC services. The incumbent will work closely with the M&E and program teams to support the design, implementation of program learning activities, ensuring that lessons learned are integrated into program implementation to continuously improve quality of interventions and outcomes. She/he will also provide active participation in designing and conducting operations research as needed.

Job Title : Gender and Youth Coordinator (1 position)
Location : IRDO, Kyela DC
Reporting To : Cluster Technical Manager/CSO Program Manager
Project : Kizazi Kipya

Position Purpose:
 The Gender and Youth Coordinator serves as an active member of the program team for the implementation of Pact's Kizazi Kipya project. The coordinator will ensure the technical cohesion of project integration, strengthening age and gender appropriate HIV/AIDS-related and other services for improved care, health, nutrition, education, protection, live hoods and psychosocial well-being. This position will lead the implementation of DREAMS activities and any other youth HIV prevention activities in respective clusters under the USAID Kizazi Kipya project in targeted councils.

The Gender and Youth coordinator will be seconded at the CSO offices in the councils implementing DREAMS interventions so as to closely monitor all gender and youth related intervention with most focus on monitoring the DREAMS activities i.e. in-school intervention for 9-14 girls, HIV prevention- SRH interventions for 9-17 girls and boys, vocational scholarships for 15-17 girls, Furaha parenting program for adolescents and their caregivers, gender related sessions for caregivers etc.

Job Title : Assistant Health Informatics Officer (1 position)
Location : Mwanza
Reporting To : Cluster Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator
Project : Kizazi Kipya

Position Purpose:
 The Assistant Health Informatics Officer will be responsible for training and technical support and capacity building of all data management systems including GIS mapping at the cluster level. He/ she will also contribute to building capacity of the clusters' staff in data visualization, interpretation and promoting the culture of data use for decision making in the project.

Detailed Job Description and How to Apply:
 If you believe you are the ideal person we are looking for, please submit your application describing why you are the right candidate for this position and a curriculum vitae detailing your experience and three (3) professional referees from previous and current place of employment.

Please send the applications through the following links:

Cluster Technical Manger:
<https://www.brightermonday.co.tz/job/cluster-technical-manager-w2nnp0>

Research and Learning Officer
<https://www.brightermonday.co.tz/job/research-and-learning-officer-q7ww2n>

Gender and Youth Coordinator
<https://www.brightermonday.co.tz/job/gender-and-youth-coordinator-x2wnp0>

Assistant Health Informatics Officer
<https://www.brightermonday.co.tz/job/assistant-health-informatics-officer-48rnv>

The closing date for applications will be Wednesday 26th February 2020

Qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

Please note only the applications sent to through this link will be reviewed.

(only shortlisted candidates will be contacted)

To learn more about Pact Tanzania visit:
<http://www.pactworld.org/country/tanzania>

Pact provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, genetic information, age, national origin, marital status, disability status, political ideology, military or protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

Over 30 trucks stuck for six days after flood waters sweep away 2.3-km road

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

MORE than 30 trucks have been stranded for six days after the 2.3km road section between Chang'ombe and Mwakuni in Songwe District was swept away by floods.

Speaking to this paper yesterday, the drivers of the trucks said recent heavy rains caused Lupa River to overflow its banks hence the water lost its direction and swept away the road.

"It's the sixth day today we are stranded here at Mkwajuni, road communication has been severed due to heavy rains and we do not know when the water will subside so that we can continue with our journey," said Rafael Mwambaje, one of the drivers.

He said due to the importance of the road Shanta Mining Company has brought in earth moving equipment and has started to fill the swept away

areas with ballast.

Mwambaje appealed to the government through TANROADS and TARURA to assist in repairing the broken section of the road to restore road communication.

A trader, Getruda Mwakyo, said she and her fellow traders have not been able to reach Mbeya to purchase goods for their shops because of the severed road communication.

"It's the sixth day today we are stranded here at Mkwajuni, road communication has been severed due to heavy rains and we do not know when the water will subside so that we can continue with our journey"

Mbozi district Commissioner Samwel Jeremiah said the situation calls for road closure for two days to give room for repairs being undertaken by Shanta Mining Company in collaboration with TANROADS in Songwe Region.

He directed TANROADS to erect a camp on the road instead of leaving everything to other stakeholders who have offered to assist the government.

However Shanta Mining Company Administrative manager Simon Rweyemamu said they will ensure the work is completed in time so that normal transport service along the road is restored.

Songwe Region TANROADS Manager Nyembo Mhaga said they were looking for a permanent solution on the control of floods in the area because last year's floods was manageable but this year the rains have caused a great havoc to the road.



Vodacom Tanzania Plc consumer business unit director Linda Riwa briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on the firm's new data campaign dubbed 'Wajanja hatuzimi data' alongside the launch of 'Jimwage' internet bundle. Left is the firm's customer operations director Harriet Lwakatare. Photo: Correspondent

REPOA rated leading think tank in Tanzania for 2019 in global index

By Getrude Mbago

REPOA has been ranked as the top think tank in Tanzania for the 6th consecutive year and number 11 of the 612 leading research organisations in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 2019 Global Go to Think Tank Index (GGTI).

Organised by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Programmes (TTCSP), the index major aim is to acknowledge the important roles that Think Tanks plays in informing policy thus accelerating development in respective countries.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, REPOA's Executive Director, Dr. Donald Mmari commended TTCSP management for their innovation and efforts to raise the voice of Think Tanks Globally.

According to him, REPOA has been ranked top due its quality of research, capacity building initiatives and contribution to policy development.

Dr Mmari said; "The 2019 Global Think Tank Report was launched on January 30, 2020 in Washington DC and in more than 123 other cities around the World. This Year's theme is 'Why Think Tanks and Policy Advice Matter.'"

Top think tanks in Sub Saharan include the Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) followed by African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) of South Africa, the Ghana's IMANI Centre for Policy and Education and Kenya Institute for Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPR)

"This ranking is significant to

REPOA as we begin to implement a new strategic plan for 2020-2024. It reminds us our responsibilities and commitments to continue to undertake credible research and analytical work, to provide information that is relevant for evidence-formed policy making and to continue providing capacity development to diverse stakeholders," he noted.

Dr Mmari highlighted three thematic areas of research for the next five years as productive sectors and inclusive



Our research will also focus on other crosscutting issues such as climate change, technology and innovation. These are essential elements to inform a comprehensive national agenda on socio-economic transformation for inclusive development and the commitments to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

development; gender and human development as well as governance, accountability and citizen engagement.

"Our research will also focus on other crosscutting issues such as climate change, technology and innovation. These are essential elements to inform a comprehensive national agenda on socio-economic transformation for inclusive development and the commitments to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs)," he said.

He said that REPOA has been at the forefront of research on economic development and the reduction of poverty reduction in Tanzania since its establishment in 1994. It has consistently worked with the government and development partners to increase capacity for research and policy as well as contributing to greater transparency and improved governance in the country.

"We also acknowledge the recent and ongoing support to our long-term collaborative research programmes and targeted capacity building, we commend the Norway Embassy, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union, The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), IDS at the University of Nairobi, Think Tank initiative (TTI) and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)," he noted.

The Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) is an independent research institution which creates and utilizes knowledge to facilitate socio-economic development in Tanzania.

Female education lobby eyes programme set to cover all public secondary schools in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

AFTER five years of successful implementation of the Learner Guide Programme by a local organisation-Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED) stakeholders now want it expanded to cover all public secondary schools.

Introduced in 2013, the Learner Guide programme works to provide life skills education to girls and help them progress to a secure adulthood. The learning sessions are conducted at secondary schools once a week involving vulnerable girls supported by the organisation.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, CAMFED National Director, Lydia Wilbard said scaling the programme to five new regions would reach more Tanzania youth with quality educational opportunities.

She said the organisation has for more than a year being in consultation with the government and stakeholders on how the programme can be expanded to other regions with support from the government.

"We want the learner guide programme to be adopted and integrated as a national programme since its implementation has improved school attendance as well as academic performance," said Wilbard noting that currently the programme is

implemented in 27 municipalities in five regions.

Wilbard said through the Learner Guide programme which is implemented by CAMFED alumni association (CAMA) over 5,500 vulnerable children have been able to return to school.

She added that girls who failed their Form Two examinations have been assisted to re-sit exams or enroll into alternative pathways such as vocational education so as to secure employment.

"The programme has been well received by students in almost all the secondary schools, there are good attendance in these learning sessions because students love what is being



We want the learner guide programme to be adopted and integrated as a national programme since its implementation has improved school attendance as well as academic performance

taught," she noted.

Kinondoni District Education Officer (Secondary), Leonard Msiwaga said the programme has reduced school drop out level in the district because girls from poor families have been assisted to join secondary education as well as those who failed Form Two examinations are assisted to re-sit exams.

"Taking into consideration the positive impacts of the programme, we want it expanded to all public secondary schools. In Kinondoni, the programme covers 12 out of the available 29 secondary schools", said the official noting that the aim is to reach all the 300 schools in the district. Mwanaisha Waziri who conducts the learning sessions at Dunda secondary school in Bagamoyo district said: "Students love the lessons. The life skills education we impart on them is of great help as they prepare to enter into adulthood".

CAMFED was launched in Tanzania in 2005, working with the government to boost secondary school enrolment. It started working in Iringa region before spreading to eight other regions across the country. It works with 819 partner schools in 32 districts.

It has also supported more than 3.3 million children to go to school in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Ghana and Malawi.



MFUKO WA MAENDELEO YA JAMII KIPINDI CHA PILI CHA AWAMU YA TATU

UTANGULIZI

Kipindi cha Kwanza cha Awamu ya Tatu ya Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii - TASAF kilitekelezwa kuanzia 2012 na kukamilika Desemba 2019. Utekelezaji ulifanyika katika halmashauri 159 za Tanzania bara, Unguja na Pemba na kufikia kaya milioni 1.1 zenye zaidi ya watu milioni 5.

Tathmini ya utekelezaji wa sehemu ya kwanza inaonyesha kuwa kwa kiasi kikubwa utekelezaji wa Mpango huu umefanikisha azma ya serikali ya kupunguza umaskini nchini. Takwimu zinaonesha kwamba umaskini wa mahitaji ya msingi umepungua kwa asilimia 10 na umaskini uliokithiri umepungua kwa asilimia 12 kwa kaya maskini.

Utekelezaji umewezesha walengwa kujikita kwenye ufugaji, uvuvi, kilimo na biashara na kujiimarisha kiuchumi. Vile vile Mpango umeongeza idadi ya watoto kutoka kaya maskini kuandikishwa shule kwa kiwango cha asilimia 7.2. katika sekta ya afya, Mpango umeongeza mahudhurio ya kliniki kwa watoto walio na umri chini ya miaka 5 kwa kiwango cha asilimia 1.5

Kipindi cha Pili cha Awamu ya Tatu ya Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii (TASAF)

Kipindi cha Pili kinatekelezwa katika halmashauri 185 za Tanzania bara, Unguja na Pemba katika vijiji/mitaa/shehia zote ikiwa ni pamoja na Vijiji/Mitaa/Shehia zaidi ya 5,000 ambavyo hazikufikiwa katika utekelezaji wa kipindi cha Kwanza. Kipindi cha Pili cha Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii (TASAF) kitafikia kaya milioni 1.4 zenye watu wapatao milioni 6 kote nchini.

Madhumuni ya Kipindi cha Pili cha TASAF ni kuwezesha kaya zilizoandikishwa kutumia fursa za kuongeza kipato, huduma za kiuchumi na kijamii na kuendeleza rasilimali watu hususan watoto.

Taarifa ya Utafiti wa Mapato na Matumizi ya Kaya wa mwaka 2011/2012 inaonesha asilimia 28.2 ya watanzania wanaishi katika umaskini huku asilimia 9.7 wanaishi katika umaskini uliokithiri hivyo utekelezaji wa Kipindi cha Pili utawezesha kaya maskini kujikwama kutoka kwenye umaskini na kufanya kazi na kujiimarisha kiuchumi na kuiwezesha nchi kufikia uchumi wa kati ifikapo mwaka 2025

Utekelezaji wa Kipindi cha Pili cha Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii (TASAF)

Shughuli kuu zitakazofanyika ni kutoa fursa ya ajira za muda kwa kaya maskini zenye watu wenye uwezo wa kufanya kazi kushiriki katika shughuli za uzalishaji na kuboresha miundombinu ya barabara za vijijini, elimu, afya, maji na hifadhi ya mazingira. Kuhamasisha walengwa kujiunga katika vikundi vya kuweka akiba na kuwekeza katika shughuli za uzalishaji mali na kutoa ruzuku kwa masharti ya elimu na afya kama kichocheo cha mahudhurio ya watoto shuleni na kliniki ili kupata elimu na huduma za afya na hivyo kuwajengea maisha bora. Aidha wadau katika ngazi mbali mbali watajengewa uwezo kwa njia ya mafunzo ambayo yatawawezesha kutekeleza na kutimiza majukumu yao kwa ufanisi.

Matarajio

Matarajio ya Serikali kupitia utekelezaji wa TASAF ni kupunguza kiwango cha umaskini kwa kutoa fursa kwa walengwa kushiriki kwenye kazi za kilimo na uzalishaji na hivyo kuchochea ukuaji wa viwanda, kuboresha miundombinu ya elimu afya hivyo kupunguza vifo vya mama wajaawazito na watoto na kuongeza kiwango cha wanafunzi wanaomaliza darasa la saba na kupitia miradi ya kuongeza kipato kaya maskini ziweze kuboresha lishe kwa watoto wenye umri chini ya miaka mitano, na kupunguza udumavu na utapiamlo kwa watoto.

Kipindi cha Pili cha Awamu ya III ya Mfuko wa Maendeleo ya Jamii (TASAF) kitazinduliwa rasmi na Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, Mhe. Dkt. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli.

Kwenye Ukumbi wa Mikutano wa Kimataifa wa Julius Nyerere Dar es Salaam, tarehe 17/02/2020

Dr Kijaji urges TIRA to reach more underserved population

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE deputy minister for Finance and Planning, Dr Ashatu Kijaji, has called on the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) to expand its services to reach more Tanzanians.

She said the authority's performance is not satisfactory as only four million Tanzanians have access to insurance services leaving behind farmers and livestock keepers.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of TIRA workers council meeting here yesterday, the deputy

minister expressed shock that the authority's management has not set realistic goals to help reach uninsured population.

Earlier, TIRA Commissioner, Dr Musa Juma said the target is to ensure the authority contribution to the national economy reach three percent by 2021 up from the current 0.53 percent.

"The management's target is not realistic at all as many people in the country, especially children still do not have access to insurance services 58 years after independence," she said, adding that it is the duty of TIRA to ensure all Tanzanians are

covered.

She argued that towards the industrial economy, there is need for expanded insurance coverage, more so on the raw material producers like farmers and livestock. "What is the role of insurance sector in the industrial economy drive?" she asked.

Dr Kijaji said there is no industrial economy without producers who are sure of what they do, stating that the surety is given by the insurance sector.

According to the deputy minister, a 2017/18 report showed that only 15 percent of adult population has

access to insurance services.

She also expressed concern at different rates of charges offered by different insurance companies in the country, calling on TIRA to ensure uniformity. She said the government loses a lot of money due to lack of uniform charges.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, Dr Juma said the authority plans to increase insurance awareness among Tanzanians by 45 percent by 2021, increase insurance purchase to 30 percent in the same period.

"We also target to ensure that at least 20 percent of Tanzanians have one insurance scheme by 2021

and the sector's contribution reaches three percent of the GDP," he said.

He argued that insurance sector recorded Sh 661.9 billion in revenue from sales of insurance services in 2018 and Sh 637.1 billion in 2019.

The commissioner attributed the increased collection to hard work by the staff as well as use of the electronic fiscal devices. He added that during the council

meeting, they will come up with new measures to achieve the target and improve the authority's performance.

He said the authority plans to improve the existing electronic subsystem in collaboration with TRA, TPA and other institutions. He noted that customers will therefore be able to get services through electronic system, thus reducing time lost in physical services.



Samwel Mwiru (L), Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority's director of licensing and marketing conduct supervision, presents a Bancassurance engagement certificate to DTB-Tanzania CEO and Country manager Viju Cherian in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA
(COMMERCIAL DIVISION)
AT DAR ES SALAAM
COMMERCIAL CASE NO. 147 OF 2019**

HABIB AFRICAN BANK LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

ZAMZAM OIL COMPANY LIMITED.....1ST DEFENDANT
SHIRAZ PYARALI WALJI.....2ND DEFENDANT
KANIZ RAZAHUSSEIN FAZAL.....3RD DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ZAMZAM OIL COMPANY LIMITED
P.O BOX 3651,
DAR ES SALAAM.


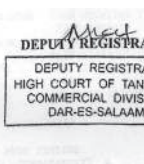
KANIZ RAZAHUSSEIN FAZAL,
P.O BOX 3651,
DAR ES SALAAM.


TAKE NOTICE that the plaintiff has instituted a suit against you with particulars set out in the plaint filed in this court. Service of the summons on you has been ordered by means of this publication.

You are directed to collect copies of the summons and plaint from the Court's Registry, P.O. Box 12533, Dar es Salaam. You are ordered to file your written statement of defence within twenty one (21) days of publication of this notice. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in the person or by an Advocate or an agent duly authorized on 28th day of February, 2020 at 09:00 am when this case will be heard.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT should you default to file your written statement of defence and /or enter appearance as herein provided, the suit will proceed and a decision may be given in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this 28th day of January, 2020.



Slipway Road, off Chole Road
Plot # 1365 -Msasani
PO Box 9270
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

INVITATION FOR SALE OF USED GENERATOR - 750KVA

Date: 14 February 2020
Ref: KSL/IOM/011/20

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kigoma Sub Office invites sealed bid document from interested bidders for the sale of the following used Generator as described in below.

ASSET NUMBER	TYPE OF GENERATOR	SERIAL NUMBER	YEAR OF MANUFACTURE
40018036	GENERATOR PERKINS 750KVA	DGBF6001U1127B	Year 2017

Instruction to Bidders:

- The Generator is being sold on the condition of "as is" and without recourse or warranties of any kind.
- Interested eligible bidders are allowed to inspect the Generator daily from 10:00AM - 04:00PM from 17-28 February 2020 at IOM Makere, Kasulu District in Kigoma Region.
- Bid prices must be submitted in Tanzania shillings.
- The enclosed Bid Form shall be filled and submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to:

Procurement officer
International Organization for Migration
Dar es Salaam Office, Plot 1365 Or
Slipway road off Chole road Msasani
P.O. Box 9270, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Procurement Officer
International Organization for Migration
P. O. Box 303, Kasulu
Kasulu Kigoma

The enclosed bids form must be delivered by hand on or before the deadline of the bid submission date. The currency of the bid and figures should be clearly indicated in order to avoid ambiguity. Bids that do not fulfill this requirement will be disqualified.

- Interested bidders may obtain the Bid Form from the following address

IOM sub Office Kasulu,
Kibondo road, P.O. Box 303,
Kasulu, Kigoma - Tanzania

IOM Dar es Salaam Office
Plot 1365, Slipway road off Chole road
Or Msasani, P.O. Box 9270
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

- Bids must be accompanied with Bid Security of TZS 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Tanzanian Shillings). The Bid Security will be returned to unsuccessful bidders after completion of the bid process.
- The Generator will be sold to the bidder with the highest offer. In case of having more than two bidders quoting the same price, IOM will open a rebid between those who provide same quoting price.
- The deadline for submission of this bid is **03:00PM on 6 March 2020**. All bids must be registered on delivery. The outer cover shall be clearly marked "**PURCHASE OF USED GENERATOR - 40018036**"
- Bids received after the closing date will not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall be notified by a letter of award and request for payment to IOM within Five business days. The Generator must be removed from the premises of IOM Makere within 14 business days after payment.
- If the winning bidders fail to pay the winning amount in Five days, the bidder shall forfeit the entire Bid Security and IOM may dispose the Generator in any way it seems fit.
- If the winning bidder fails to remove the Generator within the specified dates, IOM shall take appropriate action as necessary and will not be held responsible for any damage caused.
- IOM will not provide any assistance, either mechanic or manpower, for removal of the Generator.
- The winning bidders are responsible for any statutory fees required while transferring ownership of the Generator.
- IOM reserves the right to accept, reject or cancel any or all bids.



ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) SECRETARIAT ON FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMON MARKET PROTOCOL

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190845

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional organization mandated by the governments of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan to spearhead the East African economic, social and political integration agenda. In support of the on-going integration process, and in line with its objectives to support the EAC Secretariat, TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is seeking consultancy services to provide technical support to the partner states, in their implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol and monitor progress made.

The tender document for this assignment can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above tender title and number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarka.com quoting the tender title and number. The closing date for submission of proposals is **13 March 2020**.

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



Growing Prosperity Through Trade

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Needless delays in investigation of cases should become history

PRESIDENT John Magufuli last week yet again publicly expressed concern over delays in dealing with court cases, which are commonly cited as amounting to the unjust treatment of persons otherwise presumed innocent.

The president's remarks constituted part of a speech he delivered at in Dar es Salaam on the occasion of the commemoration of Law Day and were in relation to the performance of the Judiciary in the past four years.

While noting that there was noticeable improvement, he was emphatic that the delays frustrate court operations and often result in easily avoidable congestion in remand prisons.

To illustrate his point, the president gave the current number of inmates in jails across the country as a little over 31,000, but with 17,632 - slightly over half the total - being remand detainees with ongoing court cases.

He said investigators were still letting down the justice system as a whole, what with the slow pace at which they were moving, adding that some suspects are held in remand prisons for far too long, crying and blaming judges and magistrates instead of investigators.

It is our view that the president made a very valid point, as we sincerely believe in the dictum governing criminal justice that has been held sway throughout history - that "justice delayed is justice denied". For, it surely is.

Numerous other people must be feeling similarly with respect to what usually goes on in courtrooms when time and again a remandee is brought before a magistrate only for the prosecutor to stand up and declare what has now literally become a common song - to the effect that

investigations into the incident are not complete yet and an adjournment is requested.

As to exactly when things will be ready so that proceedings can begin in earnest often remains a mystery.

We would go a little further by recommending that the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) abandon this "tradition" and change tack, as innocent people might be suffering for no valid reason, especially if they face charges in respect of which no bail is granted.

We strongly advise that arrests and prosecutions should be made only after thorough investigations are made over the suspects' culpability.

It is heartwarming that the president also noted that a lot has improved in the judiciary since he assumed office a little over four years ago.

However, we would appreciate seeing all concerned go an extra mile and strive even harder and in a much more focused manner towards ensuring the appropriate amendment of pieces of legislation that impose crippling limitations on the part of investigators.

Changes we would like to see include the setting of a limit to the period within which investigators can conduct investigations before the hearing of a case actually starts and the court can decide whether to grant bail to an accused.

Any drawn-out delays at that stage then would be taken as amounting to deliberate and therefore unnecessary, and the trial judge or magistrate would be at liberty to throw out the cases in question.

Fortunately, no lesser a Judiciary executive than the Chief Justice thinks along these very same lines - which should make execution not much of a taxing undertaking.



SPECIAL INTERVIEW

Tanzania has made tremendous progress in education

THE United Nations General Assembly has long proclaimed January 24 as International Day of Education. All 193 UN member states, who are also members of various other international and regional organisations, therefore observe the Day reflecting on efforts made to improve the standard and achievement of education in their respective countries. The states are also party to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, thus, agree under Goal Number Four - on efforts to achieve Quality Education by 2030.

The year 2020 is a special and tremendous one within the UN in that it marks the world body's 75th anniversary and the second year since the UN's Education Day resolution was adopted in 2018. The Day celebrates the role of education in the enhancement of peace and the fostering of development. It is mainly a time to celebrate the ways in which learning can empower people, preserve planet Earth, build shared prosperity and foster peace.

The 74th President of the UN General Assembly, Tiji Muhammad-Bande, recently wrote that there is indeed cause to celebrate education globally, elaborating: "The rise in school enrolment rates worldwide is by itself a cause for celebration. More and more children are going to, and staying in, school. This roughly translates into high literacy rates. Specifically, the literacy rate for all males and females that are at least 15 years old is 86.3 per cent. The literacy rate for males aged 15 and over is 90 per cent worldwide and for females it is 82.7 per cent."

Stella Vuzo, Information Officer at the UN Information Centre in Dar es Salaam, recently interviewed DANIEL BAHETA, Chief of Education for the UNICEF Tanzania Country office, about the state of education in Tanzania and what the UN agency has done to support the education sector in the country over time. Excerpts:

Daniel Baheta: On International Day of Education we celebrate our teachers, our students and our communities and we reflect on the positive impact education has brought for social change globally. Education is a game changer and I think like the air we breathe, the water we drink, education has become one of the most essential aspects of our lives and so we reflect on the importance of education. And also we look at the challenges of education. Providing access to quality education to all children is something

that we think and reflect as a sense of urgency globally.

It is a great day to celebrate education but also a great day to remember what we need to do for children to keep all children no matter where they may be to give them access to quality education and that requires all of us to work together. I think Tanzania has made tremendous progress in education and has given access to millions and millions of children. One has to put into perspective what has been done since independence and I think sometimes we forget where we have come and where we are going.

I think the Government of Tanzania has invested heavily in education and it continues to invest in education and it allows partners like UNICEF to work with them to build a better future for Tanzania so we are here to support the government in that regard.

We remain with challenges. One of the areas where we are working with governments is in improving the quality and the relevance of education. In the 21st century, the importance of education continues to be critical, but the relevance of education is of crucial importance. For example, we need to have digital literacy - which is a new concept - in engaging equal opportunities for children as well. So, we are working, we are supporting and engaging the Government as well to see what is the best and most efficient way to give quality education to children in this country.

Q: Do you have any specific examples of UNICEF's intervention in the education sector here in Tanzania?

We have done quite a lot together and we continue to do so. One of the achievements I am really excited about relates to one of our programmes known as IPOSA (Integrated Programme for Out of School Adolescents) which has just recently won a regional competition. It brings out of school children back to school from wherever they might be and it gives them an opportunity to get some form of education and some form of skills, entrepreneurial skills and life skills so that they can actually gain employment.

So this is a really critical programme led by the Government and supported by UNICEF, under which we are bringing out of school children back into school. We give them an opportunity to learn carpentry, digital technology, electrical technical skills and mechanics. We give them an opportunity to be trained for almost two years while they are getting

formal education.

This programme has been in place for only about a year or so. We had planned to reach 5,000 children last year but we were able to reach twice as many. We will continue collaborating with the Government in expanding it and even scale it up. But this is really one of the most critical area where in a century when we are saying to the Government and to our other partners that not only do we need to bring children to school just to learn but so that they learn skills so that they can be employed.

We bring them to classrooms so that they can actually have an opportunity to be able to work. And I think this is an excellent programme we are contributing to and I am incredibly excited in that it's very gender-focused: it brings both boys and girls back to school. We are quite excited with how we support the government through this programme.

Soon after the global goals were adopted globally, Tanzania adopted the free primary education system. It's now four or five years since this was launched. In your view, what impact has this had - and do you see it as having made any difference in the country?

I think the system has worked. Essentially, it has really increased the number of children enrolled in schools. That has surely improved, and it has also raised the level of the government's responsibility of giving children access to education. It really has brought positive change for the community so that everyone now knows that it is their right, their duty and their responsibility to take children to school.

The government has even gone further. It is not just stressing the importance of taking children to school but it is actually going to every community and saying children those who are out of school need to go back to school. So it has really made a significant difference in terms of access.

What we are working to improve on now is quality. Since now children are in school, we need to have more teachers. So we need to support government in ensuring that there are more teachers, if need be by training more teachers to meet this need.

With the rise in enrolment, we need to have more space in place. So the Government is rightly focusing on the construction of schools, which I think they should be commended. It is doing the right thing by building more schools and bringing in more

teachers, and we encourage them to do so. And because of the numbers that have come in, the education budget also needs to increase, and we know the Government is really working hard to boost that budget. These are really positive trends and I think we need to encourage them to continue to do that.

The need for quality education is being underlined across the continent and Tanzania is one of the first few countries to have migrated from content-based education to competency-based education, and that needs to be reviewed. Children are not just learning content but are gaining competency so as to gain helpful life skills crucial in the building of a better future Tanzania.

UNICEF released a report early this year indicating that many adolescent girls from poor families have never been to school. What is the situation here in Tanzania?

It would be unfair to pick on any one country in looking specifically at the issue of gender. I think the numbers in terms of gender parity here are very promising. They are very very promising. I think Tanzania has done a wonderful job. Since the time of Founding President Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Tanzania has made tremendous progress in bringing girls back to school and I think the gender parity particularly for primary school is fine. In secondary schools in some areas boys are more affected than girls owing to the nature of routine duties and culture, and we need to work on that.

The gender-related issues are definitely something on which we need to support the Government. These are things we need to sit down and discuss as we look at the report more closely. We will dig in and see how we can address the issue of gender, but we must take it from the positive - because noticeable progress is being made. Today there are equal numbers of boys and girls in secondary schools, but the higher we go, the more we lose girls. I think that is related to issues like culture, child and other forms of marriage, but those are things that we have been working on for the last few years and we continue to address them. But if you look at it overall, particularly at primary and pre-primary school level, Tanzania is one of the few countries that have made tremendous progress. I think they are making really great progress in terms of gender parity.

• For feedback, contact: Vuzo@un.org

Coronavirus impact on tourism illustrates risks of globalisation

TANZANIA National Parks' (Tanapa) expectations of earnings are said to be on a free fall during and likely to remain so for a while, partly owing to the coronavirus outbreak.

Tanapa has declared that it will not be able to meet its earnings target for this financial year following a rise in the cancellation of trips to various tourism hotspots owing to the scare.

It has reported that earnings have dwindled because the global travel industry has slumped. People are worried about going to China and apparently about going anywhere. That looks like the real explanation.

So far, it is only in China that the disease is causing tremendous dislocation and extensive disturbance, while a few other countries are counting a handful of screened cases.

Tanzania has no such case screened so far, and Kenya - with an appreciably greater reach in air travel quantity - was said to have isolated one suspected case of the virus.

It all means that there is little correlation between the real threat of coronavirus and the extent of travel impact globally, as Tanzania can't have been targeted alone in that regard. Overreacting is a facet of globalization.

Still the conservation commissioner pointed out other challenges now facing tourist visits, especially torrential rains, as a deterrent for tourists. Most roads leading to and around national parks were damaged by floods, this reducing the number of visitors touring those destinations. It was a little earlier than the virus scare.

It is possible that some other issues could have been raised to explain the

slump in arrivals, especially because the Wuhan viral outbreak isn't really adequate to explain cancellations in a cascade manner.

Likely negative advisories by tourism companies worried about the state of roads could more directly explain the situation, but it is hard to figure out the scale of such road damage, as minor landslides can be cleared by bulldozers within a few hours and some hard surface restored in a day or two. In that case there were auxiliary or attendant factors too.

One can't avoid the feeling that blanket travel bans and advisories, restrictions on visa access or emigration visa card eligibility may have to do with the cancellations.

It is to paint a bad image of a country, creating the impression that the security of tourists can't be assured. At the same time, travel firms wish to please governments where they operate, so they can advise tourists to go elsewhere and report the same to the respective government departments, aware that they will be satisfied with their efforts.

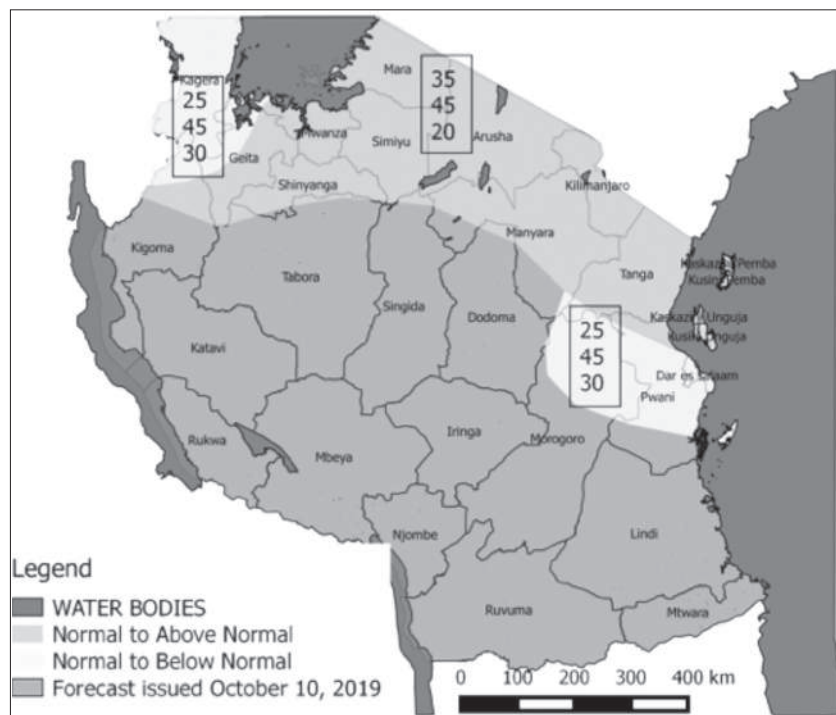
There is something ironic about these developments, such that those we intensely compete with in the tourism sector aren't feeling any such crunch.

But chances are some countries may cut a better image with important foreign powers and thus avoid blacklisting. So the travel ban is something else that haunts tourism, not just the virus as some authorities have explained.

It is something our diplomats shall have to explain, even if they don't have the same reach as our 'black imagers'.



CLIMATE OUTLOOK FOR MARCH – MAY, 2020 (MASIKA) RAINFALL SEASON



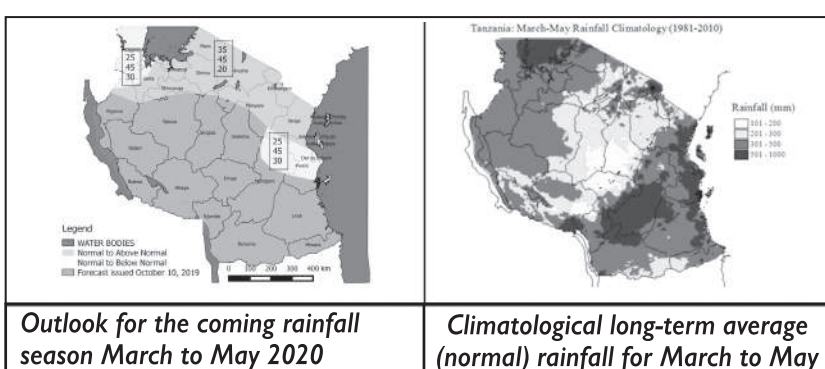
Highlights for March –May, 2020(Masika) rainfall Season

This statement describes the evolution of the climate systems and outlook for the March to May, 2020 rainfall season, advisories and early warnings to various weather sensitive areas such as, Agriculture and Food Security, Livestock and Wildlife, Natural Resources and Tourism, Water and Energy, Local authorities, Health sector and Disaster Management. The key messages in the statement are:-

- March to May, 2020(Masika) rains are likely to be normal to above normal over Tanga region, Unguja and Pemba islands as well as most areas of Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions, together with eastern parts of Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara and eastern parts of Geita regions.
- Areas of Kagera and western parts of Geita region, northern parts of Kigoma region, Dar es Salaam, Pwani (including the Island of Mafia) and northern parts of Morogoro region are likely to feature normal to below normal rains
- The ongoing off-seasonal rains over the bimodal areas are likely to coincide with the start of MAM, 2020 season, particularly over the northern coast.

Expected Impacts:

- Sufficient rains especially over the areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains are likely to favour crops which are adaptive to excessive soil moisture such as paddy. Moreover, sufficient pasture and water for livestock keeping is also expected.
- Outbreaks of diseases and pests, are expected due to moist conditions and stagnant waters.
- In small-scale mining activities, safety precaution should be observed as excessive water in the soil may trigger landslides and cave-ins especially over the areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains.
- Short periods of heavy rains may be expected even over the areas which are anticipated to have normal to below normal rains, thus necessary precaution should be taken to avoid any negative impacts.



Outlook for the coming rainfall season March to May 2020

Climatological long-term average (normal) rainfall for March to May

I) SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK MARCH – MAY 2020

The Masika rainfall season is specific to areas of the northeastern highlands (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions), northern coast Dar es Salaam, Pwani (including Mafia island, Tanga regions, northern parts of Morogoro region, and Unguja and Pemba isles, Lake Victoria Basin (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions) and the northern parts of Kigoma region.

Based on the current and expected climate systems (As indicated in part III of this statement), generally, normal rains are expected over most Bimodal areas during the Masika, 2020 season. However, most areas of north-eastern highlands, eastern and southern part of Lake

Victoria basin, Tanga region together with Unguja and Pemba islands are more likely to receive normal to above normal rains while areas of the western Lake Victoria Basin and the remaining areas of the northern coast Dar es Salaam and Pwani regions (including the island of Mafia together with the northern parts of Morogoro region) are expected to feature normal to below normal rains.

1. Lake Victoria Basin: (Kagera, Geita, Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu and Mara regions):

The seasonal rains are expected to be normal to above normal over Mwanza, Shinyanga, Simiyu Mara, and eastern parts of Geita regions; while normal to below normal rains are expected over Kagera, western parts of Geita and northern parts of Kigoma (Kakonko and Kibondo districts). The rains are expected to start during the second week of March, 2020 and cease between the second and third week of May, 2020.

2. Northern Coast areas and its Hinterlands: (Dar es Salaam, Pwani, and Tanga regions and northern parts of Morogoro region, and Islands of Unguja and Pemba):

Rains are expected to be normal to above normal over Tanga region and islands of Unguja and Pemba. However, normal to below normal rains are expected over Dar es Salaam, Pwani (including Mafia island) and northern parts of Morogoro region. These rains are expected to start between the first and second week of March 2020 over Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Pwani, northern parts of Morogoro region together with Unguja and Pemba islands. Furthermore, the ongoing off-seasonal rains over these areas are anticipated to coincide with the start of the MAM, 2020 seasonal rains. Cessation of Masika rains is expected during the third week of May, 2020.

3. North-eastern Highlands: (Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions):

Rains are expected to be Normal to above normal over most areas and anticipated to start between the first and second week of March 2020. Cessation is expected to be between the second and third week of May, 2020.

Outlook for the coming rainfall season March to May 2020

Climatological long-term average (normal) rainfall for March to May

Note:

- Periods of dry spell are expected during the first week of May, 2020.
- It should be noted that events of heavy and short duration rainfall might occur even over areas with normal to below normal rainfall conditions.

(II) LIKELY IMPACTS AND ADVISORY

The impacts and advisories of the outlook were jointly developed with experts from respective sectors during the stakeholders meeting held on 11th February 2020.

a) Agriculture, Food Security, Fisheries and Livestock Production

In areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains are likely to favour production of crops including those adaptive to excessive soil moisture conditions such as paddy. Pests and diseases are expected due to wetness and stagnant waters. Livestock production together with their products such as milk are also expected to improve due to sufficient pasture and water most parts. However, animal diseases such as rift valley fever; and foot and mouth are likely to occur. Farmers are therefore advised to put in place soil-erosion control structures and improve irrigation infrastructure.

Fishery sector in these areas can also be impacted due to possible excessive water levels in fish production dams, therefore fish farmers are advised to improve their dam infrastructure.

In areas where normal to below normal rains are anticipated, farmers are advised to plant early maturing crops and also crops which do not require a lot of water to grow. Community is advised to practice pasture storage and rainwater harvesting for future use.

b) Energy, Minerals and Water

Sufficient water availability is likely, especially in areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains. Water levels in dams and river flow discharge are likely to improve. However, negative impact on water resource infrastructure may occur. In small-scale mining activities, safety precaution should be observed as excessive water in the soil may trigger landslides and cave-ins which may lead to loss of lives and properties.

c) Local Authorities

Clean water supply and wastewater management infrastructure may be negatively impacted, especially in the areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains. Deterioration in quality of water for

various uses is likely due to the anticipated rains. Local authorities and the community at large are advised to clean drainage systems so as to avoid possible water accumulation due to surface runoff and floods.

d) Health sector

Surface water is likely to be abundant over the areas expected to receive normal to above normal rains. This may result into conducive environment for vector breeding and increase of malaria cases. In areas where normal to below normal rains are expected, community may be forced to utilize unclean water which may further result into occurrences of water borne diseases (examples: cholera, diarrhea, typhoid). Therefore, communities and responsible authorities are advised to take appropriate health measures needed to minimize the expected negative impacts.

e) Disaster Management

Heavy rains and flooding may cause injury, loss of lives, damage to infrastructure and other properties. Thus, disaster management authorities, humanitarian responders and other stakeholders are advised to take necessary mitigation measures to ensure preparedness for effective response to address potential negative impacts

f) Media

Media houses are advised to make regular follow-up on weather and climate information including warnings and advisories; and disseminate accordingly and appropriately. Also, media are encouraged to seek and obtain reliable information from relevant sectors before communicating to the Public. Co-sharing of climate stories within the climate journalist community is also emphasized. Communications Regulatory Authorities are advised to control spread of misleading information that may cause public outrage.

The Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) advises all users of this climate outlook including farmers, livestock keepers, wildlife conservation authorities, hydrological and health sectors to continue seeking and utilizing experts' advice on their relevant sectors.

(III) CLIMATE SYSTEMS OUTLOOK

Warmer than average sea surface temperatures currently observed over the entire Indian Ocean are likely to persist through March-April-May period. This is expected to increase moisture influx from the ocean to the northern coast. On the other hand, average sea surface temperatures are expected over the southeast Atlantic Ocean (off Angola Coast) which is likely to weaken moist-westerly winds from Congo Basin penetrating into western parts of Tanzania.

Sea surface temperatures over the off coast of south-eastern part of Madagascar and over the western Australia coast are expected to be colder and slightly warmer than average respectively, this situation is likely to reduce the possibility of low-pressure systems occurrence over the South Western Indian Ocean basin. Over the central Equatorial Pacific Ocean, temperatures are likely to be near average, this condition is expected to have less contribution to the rainfall over the country during March-April-May 2020 season.

Short track of westerly low-level wind is expected to dominate most parts of the northern coast which indicates unfavorable conditions for rainfall making mechanism.

(IV) SEASONAL RAINFALL (NOVEMBER TO APRIL) OVER UNIMODAL AREAS:

Seasonal rains, which started in November, 2019 over the unimodal areas (Dodoma, Singida, Kigoma, Tabora, Katavi, Rukwa, Mbeya, Songwe, Njombe, Iringa, Ruvuma, Lindi, Mtwara and southern parts of Morogoro regions) are progressing well as forecasted.

NB: The current status of seasonal forecasting allows for prediction of spatial and temporal averages over larger areas and may not fully account for all physical and dynamical factors that influence short-term climate variability. Users of this outlook are, therefore urged to make good use of daily, ten day and monthly updates issued by the Tanzania Meteorological Authority.

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) will continue to monitor developments of the weather systems and issue updates whenever appropriate.

**Issued on: 13th February, 2020
By Tanzania Meteorological Authority**

Southern highlands regions oil palm farmers see light at the end of the tunnel

By Gerald Kitabu, Mbeya

Oil Palm, a perennial, evergreen plant which is adapted to cultivation in biodiversity rich land areas has finally knocked door of Kyela farmers in Mbeya region.

The farmers have so far described the improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety as to see the light at the end of the tunnel after nearly a century of struggling and suffering from poor oil palm production.

In an interview with The Guardian during setting up of a unit in the district for production and dissemination of improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety for the farmers in the Southern highland regions of Tanzania, the farmers said the introduction of TENERA variety that takes only three years to mature has given them a new zeal and curiosity to expand their farms and increase production.

In Kyela, most farmers grow exclusively local Oil palm called Dura that has low yielding potential. But the unit that has been set up by the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) will provide several opportunities including establishing processing industries and employment.

The Unit was inaugurated by Kyela District Commissioner Claudia Kitta who said Kyela will now move from depending on Cocoa and Maize to a new giant crop and therefore add household income and revenues of the district.

According to the farmers, the Oil Palm are grown in old farms which have been established more than 50 years ago and have never been replaced with new and improved seedlings of Oil Palm ever since.

Oil Palm farmer at Kikusya village, Itope ward, Unyakyusa division in the district, Boniface Mwaipungu said that the traditional Oil palm seeds have been taking long time to mature and even when the farmer harvests, he



does not get high yield, leave alone lack of reliable market.

"Many farmers have abandoned their old farms and ventured into Cocoa because they don't see profit anymore. We are only selling to the petty traders who, sometimes not reliable as well," he said.

He further explained that for the crop to attract many farmers in the district and the region as a whole, more efforts are needed to make sure that improvement of the crop goes hand in hand with investments, processing industries and creating reliable markets.

"In Kipusya we have big land and conducive climate for the crop, the government should see the need for investing in smallholder farmers and ensure advisory services are available all the time," he said.

In another development, Mwaipungu explained that in recent years, some traders from neighbouring country of DRC have started buying the Oil Palm locally at a price between

Kyela district commissioner Claudia Kitta (C) plant improved seedlings of Oil Palm to launch a special unit in Kyela for production and dissemination of improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety for the farmers in the Southern highland regions of Mbeya, Iringa, and Rukwa. With her are TARI directors, agricultural researchers and Kyela district council officials. Photo by correspondent Gerald Kitabu

15,000/- and 20,000/- per 20kgm of pitcher. However, he said the traders tend to exploit them because they are the ones dictating the price.

Itope Ward Executive Officer, Kyela district Owden Andembwisy echoed the farmers concern saying the Oil Palm is one of the main crops in the district but it has been neglected due to poor yield.

"We understand that in our culture, the Oil Palm has countless benefits. First it is used for cooking food, for skin oil and for processing soaps. Furthermore, some traders have discovered that the tree is used for making timbers and branches are used by school students to make sweeping blooms. So, with the new TARI initiative, farmers are happy" he said.

To address all these challenges and the farmers' concern, TARI

has come up with new plan of setting up the unit for production and dissemination of improved seedlings of Oil Palm.

TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo is pioneering this national wide campaign. Several units have been launched in Kigoma, TARI Ilonga in Kilosa, TARI-Naliendele and now Kyela.

In Kigoma, the units are working very well and the production and dissemination of improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety have reached almost all district councils in the region. As part of TARI's national wide campaign of revamping the crop to meet the requirement of edible oil, it was necessary to expand this campaign to other district councils and regions in the country, he said.

"When I was coming here, I saw many Oil Palm along the road, I think that is Dura type which normally has low yield potentials. So, with this improved variety, the farmers will transform their agriculture and TARI-Uyole will be closer for providing technical support," he said.

TARI Uyole and TARI Kihinga will work together to ensure the farmers get improved oil palm variety (Tenera) and are supplied to the farmers on time.

TARI-Uyole centre Director Tulole Bucheyeki said his centre will make sure that technical backstopping is provided adequately and on time to fulfill the dreams of Kyela farmers.

"Oil palm, as one of the giant crops in this district will be given required weight by our centre because its value chain has many opportunities in this industrial drive," he said.

Kyela District Commissioner Claudia Kitta echoed the farmers' concern saying the farmers in the district have been using

poor seeds and sensitization of the crop was done traditionally without following good agricultural practices methods.

"In Kyela people are ready to venture into the crop and you can see for yourself when you pass through the district you can see some of the plants but they are being discouraged due to lack of improved seeds. In fact it is very rare to find two or more acres at one place," he said.

Historically, people say they were planting the Oil Palm along the roads to prevent cattle from moving out of the road as they go and return from grazing. So, awareness on the crop and management was poor. So, if the crop will be improved, it will provide good income, local and international market

"Therefore, let me say that your initiative to come here to launch a special unit for production and dissemination of improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety for the farmers will help to raise awareness and provide education to the people of Kyela," she said.

With the improved seedlings many farmers will be reached, production will increase, attract investors, a situation that will transform local processing of the Oil from crude methods to better processing industries, she stressed.

The Acting Kyela District Executive Director Raphael Samweli commended TARI for setting up the unit for production and distribution of the improved seedlings of Oil Palm saying it will improve people's income and revenues of the district council.

I believe that after getting these improved seedlings of Oil Palm called TENERA variety, our farmers will see the impor-

ance of expanding their farm. We have been growing Oil Palm that have low yielding since 1970 and nobody takes trouble to bring improved seedlings, he said.

"We thank you so much for giving us first priority, we as the district council have received this project with two hands, we shall make sure that we manage them properly for the benefit of our farmers and the district at large," he added.

Kyela District Agriculture, Irrigation and Cooperative Officer (DAICO) Kenneth Nzilano said that the district had planned to develop the crop but the plan was hampered by lack of funds but this year, the district has set aside a total of 5 million/- to develop the crop adding that with availability of the new improved seeds, the district will work with TARI to ensure that this crop reaches more farmers in the district.

In Tanzania, palm oil is the most consumed oil due to its widespread availability and, at a relative lower-price. In 2016, Tanzania edible oil consumption was estimated to be 570,000 MT, 64 percent of it being palm oil, 30 percent sunflower oil and 2 percent cottonseed oil. In the same year, Tanzania edible oil production was estimated to be 210,000 MT, 83 percent of it being sunflower oil, 5 percent cotton seed oil and 2 percent palm oil. This indicates that about 99.3 percent of palm oil consumed in Tanzania is imported from other palm oil producing countries. Tanzania spends about 443 billion shillings per year to import edible oil from foreign countries. Such expenditure stands as one of the stumbling block for the economic growth of the country.

PCCB doing a good job in providing education on sextortion

By A Special Correspondent

ONE of the government institutions which have done commendable work in educating the public on the tasks they have been entrusted with by the nation is the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

This institution has ably used its Mass Education and Communications Unit to provide education concerning corruption, and its effects on the public and the society in general. Certainly as to providing this education by using the mass media, leaflets, roadside placards and in social media platforms, PCCB have plainly shown support for efforts of the fifth phase government to fiercely combat corruption in the country.

The problem of corruption generally besets many governments in the African continent. You will see during general elections, it is the main argument in political platforms. Any politician who emphasizes that if his party takes office it will combat acts of corruption stands a good opportunity of garnering many votes and succeed in being elected, as the larger part of the population are tired of acts of corruption.

In recent years in the country there has emerged a new type of corruption known as 'sextortion,' where 15 years back or earlier it was scarcely being heard, despite that it was there.

Ordinary corruption has been interpreted as involving handing out money or some other valuable item to give to someone with power over some issue, so that he gives preference to you, the giver of that bribe.

We have been hearing about millions in cash (which are bribes) had been given to a certain official or company so that it is given permission to operate a major project for electricity, mineral, water, trade, etc.

We remember a number of prominent individuals resigning in Parliament and others facing the music in public on account of faulty contracts and fictitious purchases.

This other type of bribe, sexuality is different from the usual kinds of bribe which people are familiar with, that of giving money or gifts like a car, machine



or bales of clothing.

Sexual extortion or sex bribery has become influential because people with power somewhere want women, girls or lower level public servants serving under them to offer such bribe so that they give them some kind of favor. A teacher could demand that a student give that kind of bribe so that he marks her paper highly. A woman who has applied for a job is required to offer such bribe so that she is employed, etc.

It is a form of corruption linked with body desires, erosion of ideals and giving a favor to someone because she doesn't recognize her rights.

Recently the Women Fund of Tanzania - Trust (WFT) which is led by its managing director, Mary Rusimbi, has provided a grant to PCCB so as to boost its capacity to supervise the fight against sexual bribery, by applying legislation

passed by Parliament.

In various PCCB seminars, topic presenters from the organization - Annete Mavika, Doreen Kapwani, Matai Kivumbi and Sarah Chorota - have emphasized that the penalty for sextortion (which a few years ago was a jail term of not more than three years or a fine of not more than five hundred thousand shillings or both penalties together) has been raised to become a jail term of 20 years.

Some people are surprised, why should this penalty be increased so massively, such that it is being compared with economic sabotage? These topic presenters insist that sextortion deserves heavy penalty because of its effects, including employing people who don't deserve the positions, or

they don't have the right qualifications in our institutions, violations of lawful procedures and also violation of human rights.

Also another impact is institutions to be dotted with workers with inadequate education simply because they offered sex., unplanned pregnancies, increase in sexually related diseases especially HIV, and also interruption of studies especially among girls in schools and colleges.

"There are powerful people in offices who have a habit of sexually approaching their workers in a random manner, even if they are wives of other people. When they are given a bad response they become angry and start pursuing them. Please give us names of

those powerful people so that we follow them closely," said one of the topic presenters.

On the WFT side, its spokesperson Bernadetta Kafuko said they continued cooperating with PCCB and the police force to oppose sextortion and gender-based violence, and will continue providing a grant to educate the public in order to eliminate that kind of victimization.

Up to now WFT has cooperated with PCCB in campaigns with the slogan 'Refuse Sexual Bribery. Build a Just Generation,' and 'Break the Silence, Refuse Sexual Bribery.' WFT and PCCB signed a cooperation agreement in September last year.

The spokesperson emphasizes that increasing cases of sextortion

in our society has many reasons including oppressive systems (especially patriarchy), being shy about this problem (victims suffer silently) and abuse of power.

The issue of quickly reporting an incident for victims of sextortion is very important. PCCB offices are in 28 regions and 117 districts in Mainland Tanzania.

Just like other incidents of corruption are reported, a sextortion incident can be reported to PCCB by using a toll-free line number 113. Similarly, sound evidence on phone or video is received. These reports are worked upon in great secrecy, in other words those who report an incident are protected.

If evidence is gathered, PCCB is ready to take to court all those involved in sextortion, even if they are powerful people in the government, in political parties, parastatal organizations and private companies. Several cases have been filed in court by PCCB in the recent past.

WFT issues grants to provide education as it builds courage among women and girls, so that they don't continue to accept sextortion and being humiliated.

Also WFT have praised PCCB for conducting surveys in various colleges, to know in detail why this matter of sextortion is being speedily taking root in the past few years. Many shocking reports have been released by media organs.

WFT will continue to cooperate with PCCB on this question on account of the fact that it is the only institution with legal powers to take to court perpetrators of sextortion so that they are properly tried. Many people are congratulating PCCB for educating the public on legal provisions which can enable conviction of people with power and have the urge to commit sextortion.

If you are a victim of this form of corruption you can also report on the website rushwangono@pccb.gov.tz

UN Women, UDSM strengthening skills, competency and knowledge of women MPs on transformational leadership

By Guardian Reporter

THE mood is almost electric, and over 100 women MPs and members of Tanzania Women Parliamentary Group (TWP) have gathered in a room on the parliamentary grounds in Dodoma for a 3-day transformational leadership workshop organised by UN Women and the University of Dar es Salaam.

Where the beginning of most training sessions sees facilitators struggling to get responses from their participants, in this workshop the hands of the women MPs keep shooting up, eager to share their personal stories and lend their voice to the discussion. Each story is different, but one message comes out clearly - women can lead, and women in parliament are determined to ensure that gender equality is achieved in leadership spaces.

One of the participants, Sonia Jumaa Magongo has been a member of parliament through special seats since 2017. As a daughter of a politician, and the descendant of Sultan Kimweri, a legendary figure who ruled over a kingdom in the Tanga region in the 19th century, growing up, she says she always knew she could be a capable leader, which was something she always aspired to.

But the reality is that most women in Tanzania are still forced to grapple with several obstacles on the road to a parliamentary seat, making it harder for women to bridge the 13% gap to reach 50/50 representation.

"Women have to face so many challenges, from lacking support from their family and communities, to discriminatory beliefs and customs, and women themselves lacking the necessary confidence, knowledge and skills to penetrate politics and eventually lead," said Magongo.

"Sadly, many people still look at women leaders and think that they didn't legitimately get to where they are," she added, stating that both the government and political parties need to fully support women and prioritize gender equality in order for real change to happen.

Taska Restituta Mbogo, a special seats MP whose passion for politics began as a form 2 student in 1977 agrees.

"This means that political parties also need to be capacitated to ensure that they support their women members, and to eliminate the belief that putting a woman in a certain position means that they will not win," said Mbogo.

The capacity strengthening workshop the women MPs were participating in was organised as a part of the UN Women Tanzania's flagship project on Women's Leadership and Political Participation, also known as the "Wanawake-Wanaweza" phase II project.

With the support of the Governments of Finland, Sweden, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Government of Switzerland, the project aims to increase women's participation in the political sphere by creating an enabling environment; eliminating social barriers; supporting institutional change; addressing violence against women in politics, and building the capacity of potential and actual women leaders, through capacity building.

"Through programmes such as this, our goal is to ultimately create a strong pool of skilled and qualified women to take up leadership roles at different levels," said Stella Manda, UN Women Gender Expert, as she delivered remarks on behalf of the UN Women Representative at the workshop's official opening.

The workshop took the women MPs through sessions focused on the required knowledge, skills and competences required to attain leadership positions and lead effectively, including modules on transformational leadership, public speaking, effective communications and reflecting on the characteristics of transformational leader.

"The aspect of reflections was the most useful part of the workshop for me. I was able to really take the time to evaluate myself and I feel like I have a much better understanding of my personal strengths and weaknesses," said Mbogo.

Magongo said that she gained valuable knowledge that will continue to help her in various leadership positions.

"Political leadership is difficult, and it is even harder for women. The unfortunate truth is that fear still prevents many women from choosing this path, and that is why this workshop is so important, because it helps you gain the courage, confidence and knowledge required to succeed," said Magongo.

Another participant, Sophia Mwakagenda, echoed these statements, and emphasized the need for additional opportunities for training on similar topics.

"The training was definitely informative, but it shouldn't end here. Continuity is important and as MPs, we need to periodically participate in workshops such as this in order to enhance our effectiveness," said Mwakagenda.

As staunch supporters of women's issues within parliament, the women MPs said they would continue to do their part to ensure that women are able to claim their space and be equally represented in the highest decision-



Some of the participants of the 3-day UN Women and UDSM workshop on transformation leadership for women MPs posing for a group photo recently in Dodoma. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

making organs.

"The reason we still have discriminatory policies and legislation is because there aren't enough women in decision-making roles. If the numbers increase, I believe that we will begin to see significant improvements in the issues that directly affect women," said Magongo.

Mbogo emphasized, however, that seeing an increase in women in leadership requires collective action.

"We all have the responsibility men, women, non-governmental organizations, the media, religious and traditional leaders and others - to continue to sensi-

tize both women and communities on women's ability and right to lead, because it is our human right," she said.

With significant increases in the number of women in leadership in the last few decades, Magongo believes that the outlook is positive.

"What's important at the end of the day is that we are moving forward. We make up about 37% of parliament now, and in 5-10 years we may very well be at 50%. Women fought hard for the right to lead, so we will continue pushing forward and never give up until we get there."



Hubert Kairuki Memorial University



Govt urged to invest more in high learning institutions

BY CORRESPONDENT ZUWENA SHAME

THE government has been advised to invest more in higher learning institutions so that graduates are able to compete at the global labor market.

Vice-councilor of Catholic University of Health and Alliance Sciences (CUHAS) Prof Paschalis Rugarabamu made the call over the weekend when presenting public lecture as commemoration of during 11th Hubert Kairuki Memorial lecture. This year's lecture is themed: 'The living name's legacy in higher education and health care delivery'.

Prof Rugarabamu said: "If Kairuki was living today, I'm sure he would have advocated and lobbied for the following as a way of preparing our population education-wise in order to compete, collaborate, and play along with the rest of the world best:- We cannot afford being sidelined".

He said that the government should also be more and realistic for its support for specialized private universities especially in supporting tax or investment incentives for industrialization drive and facilitating access to capital for educational development.

According to him, the government should have close collaborations with private universities to cut down running costs because currently most of the private universities are small entities competing for few students in the same or similar disciplines.

"There is almost neither diversification, nor differentiation, no niches or areas / centers of excellence linking with industry. Just duplicating what everybody is doing. Those who are native to Mikocheni know very well how the existence of this relatively small but efficient institution, has transformed this place and the lives of people for the better and for good," he said.

He also suggested the need for the country to come up with new approach that will increase students' enrolment in higher learning institutions.

Prof Rugarabamu said that the number of universities and students enrolled in recent years whereby Tanzania has a total 44 public and private universities whereby 2017/2018 it enrolled 177,963 students while Kenya has 70 universities and in 2015 it enrolled 539,749 students.

He said that in order to beat World Trade Organization rules and restrictive financial conditions, is to use internally generated resources instead of depending on grants, loans and lines of credit from northern masters, and aggressively invest in higher education more than what the country is doing now.

"On this I think the Health Care System has made notable advances (in terms of infrastructure). Kairuki rose to the occasion more 20 years ago by articulating locally available resources to establish this network. And His vision lives on," he added. He further suggested the need for medical education scale-up as part of health-system strengthening, identified pre-medical preparation as a good innovations, critical faculty shortages in basic and clinical sciences, the growing role of private medical schools, and community-based education, and international partnerships.



"The founder saw these needs more than 20 years ago and took steps to contribute to their alleviation. HKMU has to-date enrolled 3,945 Students and Graduated 2,489 Human Resources for Health Personnel in 9 disciplines (58% being females), let alone KH attending to more than 4.6M out patients and close to 1.15M inpatients over its 33 years of existence."

He added that Kairuki hospital has an average of 400 out patients per day and 12,000 per month. Our contribution and commitment are called to attention now to carry over the Founder's good work" He said that HKMU has 2,489 graduates and that lack of global recognition of Kairuki's memory is one of the challenges which HKMU face because it has students from as far as Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, DRC, India, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Seychelles, Uganda, UK, USA, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Prof Rugarabamu said: "How are they identifying themselves as a

strong well-trained ALUMNI force that would leverage on the technological developments to keep connected and advance the Kairuki Spirit in this challenging job market environment?"

Apart from holding public lecture, in commemoration of late Kairuki, KH also had two day free eye testing, blood donation, breast cancer and sic cell. KH managing director, Asser Mchomvu said that for the first day only 330 people conducted eye testing, 210 went breast screening 230 did sic cell testing.

"In celebrating Kairuki's life we have decided to have free medical testing and treatments for the people around us.

For those who will be found with problems, will assist them by treatments according to our capabilities," said Mchomvu.

Mchomvu said that for those who went eye testing and found with eye problem were given free specs and those in need of operation were treated.



One of the participants, Sonia Jumaa Magongo has been a member of parliament through special seats since 2017. As a daughter of a politician, and the descendant of Sultan Kimweri, a legendary figure who ruled over a kingdom in the Tanga region in the 19th century, growing up, she says she always knew she could be a capable leader, which was something she always aspired to



Lack of infrastructure investment for effective vehicle inspection hindering road safety

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution of March 2010 proclaimed 2011-2020 the Decade of Action for Road Safety with a goal of stabilizing and then reducing the forecasted level of road traffic fatalities around the world, by increasing activities conducted at national, regional and global levels.

The resolution calls upon Member States to implement road safety activities, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behaviour, road safety education and the post-crash response.

The global plan serves as a tool to support the development of national and local plans of action while simultaneously providing a framework to allow coordinated activities at the global level.

Tanzania, being among the member countries which agreed to implement the plan, is still far behind the implementation of proper mechanisms for supporting effective vehicle inspection which can guarantee safer vehicles, to align with pillar number three of the global plan, according to National Institute of Transport. (NIT).

Lack of infrastructure investment to support effective vehicle inspection is among the hindrance factors towards safer vehicles in the country.

Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1973 insist on the vehicle inspection on the ground that, vehicle will not cause crash.

In order to have safer vehicles, the government should collaborate with stakeholders to set out main Vehicle Inspection Centers (VIC) across the country to let the exercise be effective.

The existing situation in the country on vehicle inspection

Mary Mwakayo, the head of road safety department for National Institute of Transport (NIT) told The Guardian in Dar es Salaam that, NIT is working with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) to ensure that every imported vehicle has the standard needed.

"Any vehicle found with below national standard is then taken back to its origin for further improvement to align with the national standards," she said.

"It is however that, the ongoing vehicle inspection in the country is not effective implemented to guarantee the safety of the vehicle, because of lack of infrastructure investment which could facilitate effective inspection," she explained.

She added that, currently, it is only the Institute (NIT) and Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) who are able to conduct an effective vehicle inspection in the inspection centers, but the NIT is only based in Dar es Salaam, and that they cannot provide inspection



services across the country.

"Despite the fact that inspection is mandatory, it is true that the exercise is not conducted effectively, but is featured with visual inspection," she detailed.

"Effective vehicle inspection involves inspecting the vehicles' electrical systems (lighting, and its intensity), braking systems (service brake pedal, build-up of air pressure or vacuum) suspension including stub axle, wheel bearings, control arms and many more," she mentioned.

Makayo noted that there is need for further investment in establishing main vehicle inspection centers (MVIC) to allow effective vehicle inspection, if we need to save the lives of people.

"There is no scarcity of experts for inspection because the institute has trained a lot of them," she added.

The head explained that, in Tanzania, we are lacking the leading agency special for road safety, which would coordinate all road safety activities like what the (UN) United Nations decade of action recommend.

"If the agency will be there, education on road safety could have been spread at a wide scope, like what was done in the national campaign against HIV/AIDS, which is now known to every individual," she said.

Vehicle Inspectors from the National Institute of Transport (NIT) at work inspecting a vehicle before permitted to operate in the road. Vehicle inspection manager from the institute said there is a need for investment in major vehicle inspection centers across the country like the one available at NIT, in order to reduce possible road crashes. Photo by Correspondent Crispin Gerald.

The United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety recommend establishing a lead agency (and appropriate coordination mechanisms) on road safety involving partners from a range of sectors through; designating a lead agency and establishing related secretariat, encouraging the establishment of coordination groups; and developing core work programmes.

Manager, vehicle inspection center at the National Institute of Transport (NIT) Christian Nabora said the challenge present in the inspection exercise is lack of clear system for regular check-up of vehicles three to six months later after the initial inspection.

"This is a great challenge because there is no mechanism for making follow-up on the status of vehicles in the months later after it going through the initial inspection," he explained.

"There is need for a national dialogue to include all stakeholders in the sector to discuss what needs to be done, if we really need to save the lives of people who use vehicles daily," he explained.

"But, infrastructure investment for establishment of vehi-

cle inspection centers across the country is highly recommended to ensure effective inspection is taking place," the manager added.

According to him, the government can take an example of vehicle inspection center available at NIT, because the center is capable of inspecting the vehicle effectively through the computerized systems fixed on it.

"The institute is planning to establish vehicle inspection centers in other five regions in the country in order to reduce the risks of road crashes to people," he said.

At the Institute's vehicle inspection center, there are various tests conducted including speed test, electrical systems (hooters, brake lights, electrical wiring and equipment), fitting and equipment, braking systems (air or vacuum warning device), wheels (roads wheels and hubs, condition of tires), suspension (cleanliness, chassis or frame, shock absorbers).

Responsible organ for land transport

Director, road transport regulation for Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) Johansen Kahatano admitted that vehicle inspection which is conducted in the country is merely a random inspection.

He added that there is no main or effective inspection which will force individuals or owners of buses and individuals to go for inspection.

"And this is due to lack of a clear system and laws to let commercial vehicles to go for effective inspection," he said.

The director said, the authority has noticed it as a challenge, and that, "we are currently preparing the regulation for new law (LATRA Act 2019) which gives the authority mandate to make sure that vehicle inspection in the country is implemented effectively.

"Therefore, we are planning to establish main vehicle inspection centers (MVIC) which will be allocated in the selected regions in the country to assist effective inspection to all commercial or passenger vehicles," he detailed.

He said that, it is a business, and we will invite the private sector through the tendering process to get the right investor who will take part in the inspections needed.

According to Kahatano, the authority will prepare an electronic system which will monitor all inspection centers in the country, and that no one will be given his or her driving license if the vehicle is not inspected.

"The system will be computerized able to show how many times the vehicle has been inspected, and owners will be required to show the certificate of inspection so that he or she can be given the license," he detailed.

"Through the system, we will be able to ensure effective inspection is carried out in the country that will help to reduce the risks of having more road crashes," he said.

What Traffic Police says about vehicle inspection?

Interviewed, head of public education unit at the Traffic Police Headquarters SP Abel Swai said that, inspection of vehicles which are done at the bus stops are merely to satisfy with the condition of vehicles.

"The responsibility of inspecting the vehicle is on the owner of the vehicle, they are supposed to take their cars to Traffic Police for inspection," he said.

Swai said the law states on mandatory inspection, whereby it directs every owner of vehicles to make sure his or her car is inspected by Traffic Police and provided with certificate of inspection.

"Therefore, vehicle inspection is the responsibility of the owner who is supposed to comply with mandatory inspection," he said.

"Our responsibility is to enforce the law by cross checking those who comply with the law, and those who don't, so that legal measures can be taken against them," he explained.

With no accurate data of how many vehicles are being inspected in a daily basis, the head said that there is no scarcity of manpower for inspection; the exercise is done every day early in the bus stand.

He added that there are more than 58,000 commercial vehicles in the country, and inspection which is carried out daily shows that most of buses found to have minimal technical faults which cannot restrict the buses to operate.

What is Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) doing on the standards of vehicles?

Acting standard manager for Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) Yona Afrika said that the Bureau is mandated to control all imported vehicles in the country by inspecting them before issuing the certificates to owners.

He said the Bureau is mandated for inspecting the standards of vehicles within and outside the country by using its authorized agents.

Afrika also warn owners and drivers of passenger vehicles from using fake and un-certified spare parts for their vehicles, because by doing so they weaken the ability of the vehicle and put it in a risks of getting accident.

He detailed that the Bureau has already prepared the standards of spare parts and it is now in the implementation stage.

The existing gaps in the Road Traffic Law

Section 39 of the Road Traffic Act 1973 states on the condition of motor vehicle, that;

(1) No motor vehicle or trailer shall be used on a road or in any other public place unless the motor vehicle or trailer and all parts thereof and its equipment, including its chassis, engine, gear system, brake system, bodywork or any part thereof, tires and lights.

(a) Are in good repair and in efficient working order, and are in such condition that the driving of the vehicle on the road either in the daytime or at night is not likely to be a danger to the persons traveling on the motor vehicle or trailer or to other users of the road;

(b) Fully comply with any requirements or specifications prescribed in respect thereof by the regulations.

Despite the law mentioned about the importance of the vehicle to be in a good repair, it has not state on the need for regular check-up of vehicles in the well-developed inspection center.

A literature review conducted by Land Transport Regulatory Authority

According to the report commissioned by the then Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA) in 2017, the Road Traffic (Periodical Mandatory Vehicle Inspection) Regulations from 2015 describes the yearly vehicle testing requirements.

The standards seem comprehensive albeit very basic. It appears to allow vehicle inspection to be franchised out. But there seem to be no allowance for new vehicles.

The vehicle inspection process required by the law is to all intents and purposes ineffectual; anecdotal evidence provided to the review team suggested that at most the average vehicle only receives a visual inspection by a vehicle examiner.

Vehicle inspection process is completely incapable either within the legal framework or more importantly practically of examining and assessing the 'high end' modern vehicle fleet currently seen on the road network.

The report recommended that, if the sale of new sub-standard cars is allowed to continue decades of avoidable fatality risk are inevitable. The sooner that all new vehicles registered in Tanzania are required to meet acceptable safety standards the quicker will be the overall improvement in passenger car safety.

But also the need to develop a set of standards with respect to vehicle safety is seen as essential. Using something like the Harmonized Road Transport Regulatory System for the ESA Region as a start will provide an excellent starting point.

How lack of vehicle inspection causes deaths to people (Data on road crashes)

The available data on road crashes shows that; from January to October 2019, there were 2,353 road crashes leading to deaths of 1,248 people in the country while 2,462 others were injured.

While, in the same period last year, there occurred 3,209 road crashes, 1,549 deaths and 3,226 injuries.

By comparing the above data gathered in two different years, but in the same period, it shows a decrease in number of road crashes and deaths, however, the difference in number is not promising enough to celebrate the initiatives embarked on reducing road crashes.

More efforts are required together with infrastructure investment to make sure that vehicles are kept safe to reduce and subsequently eliminate road crashes

A model of main vehicle inspection centers in Uganda

In Uganda, the government has opened up more than five main vehicle inspection centers under the SGS Company in inspection, verification, testing and certification.

In 2017, they announced the opening of a new vehicle inspection station in Nabbingo, Uganda, the second of seven fixed vehicle inspection test stations being constructed around the country.

In March 2015, Uganda's Ministry of Works and Transport awarded SGS an exclusive contract to carry out vehicle inspections countrywide on its behalf. The vehicle inspection exercise is carried out under "Safe Drive Uganda" - a road safety measure intended to ensure vehicle road-worthiness and reduce carnage on Ugandan roads.

Such mandatory exercise is aimed at improving road safety by compelling motor vehicle owners and drivers to use safe and well-maintained vehicles. Environmental conservation is an additional goal; vehicle emissions, one of the main sources of air pollution, will be tested.

A mobile inspection station was set up at Namboole Stadium parking lot in February 2017. Since the mandatory exercise began, 10,000 cars have been inspected at the two stations.

Five other fixed test stations are under construction around the country in Namulanda (Entebbe Road), Namanve (Jinja Road), Mbarara, Gulu and Mbale. In addition, three mobile stations will cover several upcountry locations with sparse vehicle population.

Solution to improve the vehicle inspection in the country

A report commissioned by LATRA recommends that, a new comprehensive vehicle inspection system needs to be built as it is not achievable by scaling up what is presently done.

Tanzania should create a 'Construction and Use' style regulations, e.g. comprehensive set of Vehicle Construction and Road worthiness Regulations under the RTA based on the vehicle standards in the 'Harmonized Road Transport Regulatory System for the ESA Region' this should be done as a matter of priority without waiting for the agreement of all countries.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =048=

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

- 3 letter word: I AM, EVE, NEE, DOT, ALP, ICE, CAR, PAT
 4 letter word: OPEN, BEAR, MENU
 5 letter word: SALES, SPARE
 6 letter word: ABUSED, UNESCO
 7 letter word: SPRINGS
 8 letter word: NAUTICAL, PREVIOUS, DETRITUS
 9 letter word: CHAGRINED, ABANDONED, ABATEMENT
 10 letter word: CHALKINESS, KIDNAPPERS, EVACUATION

WORD FIT CROSSWORD

- Clues: Across
 1 Being the legal owner of land (6)
 3 Clean (5)
 7 Someone who can not see far objects (11)
 9 An animal that is developing in it's mothers womb (6)
 10 Periods of time (5)
 11 An adult female chicken (3)
 12 Adolescent (5)
 15 low hills covered in grass (5)
 17 Marine mammals (4) 19 A cooker (5)
 20 Do well in an examination (4)
 22 remains of fire (3)
 23 Longest river in Africa (4)
 24 Gentle and loving (6)
- Down:
 1 Habitual behaviour (8)
 2 Not far away (6)
 4 the threads which grow around the seeds of a tall plant (6)
 5 Upsetting and destabilizing (9)
 6 Iron cooker which keeps its heat (3)
 8 a well-known and wise statement (6)
 10 A pain you feel inside your head (8)
 13 Frequently (5)
 14 Long printed story (5)
 16 cantillation mark found in psalm (3)
 18 the direction from which the sun rises (4)
 21 Armed fighting between Nations (3)

DR SHEIN INVITES CRDB TO INVEST IN ZANZIBAR AGRICULTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRIES

By Property Watch Reporter

ZANZIBAR has plenty of room to accommodate massive investments in commercial farming and industrialization, President Ali Mohamed Shein said when he welcomed a delegation of CRDB Bank Plc to the Spice Islands this week.

Dr Shein said investments in agriculture and manufacturing has the potential to turn around Zanzibar into a vibrant middle income and semi industrialised economy capable of serving East Africa and the entire region.

"Commercial bank's like CRDB are our trusted partners in achieving the Zanzibar Development Vision 2020 Agenda because apart from providing a financial cushion necessary for empowering individuals and businesses, they also play a key role in financing government infrastructural projects that are crucial in fostering business transactions," President Shein said.

He said CRDB and other banks have capacity and financial muscles to assist his government, the private sector and individuals unleash the Spice Islands potential as a tourism hub with well established infrastructure and a financially included public.

Dr Shein further noted that CRDB and other financial institutions have an obligation to ensure that the majority of rural folks are incorporated into mainstream banking services if industrialization and middle income status are to be achieved.

He said the Isles government will continue establishing a conducive business environment that will allow the private sector including financial institutions to grow their footprint and reach more people in Zanzibar.

"As a government, we will continue to put in place various measures for financial institutions and the private sector thrive. My call is for banks to be more innovative to meet market demands because there is a big room for growth, especially in financing agriculture, fishing, tourism, industries, manufacturing and trade," he noted.



CRDB Bank Plc's new head offices in Dar es Salaam.

Briefing Dr Shein on products and services that CRDB can provide, Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela expressed commitment to continue working closely with the government of Zanzibar in supporting economic growth and general development of the country.

"We are committed to deepen financial inclusion and broaden access to the people of Zanzibar. Our footprint of branches, CRDB waka-las, ATMs and merchant points of sale have pushed our servicer even closer to the public," Nsekela said.

He pointed out that CRDB is also capable of providing funding to government infrastructure projects and also private sector investments in industries through a number of friendly products and services.

"We are keen on increasing our financing provision in areas of tourism, agriculture, transportation, light industries and SMEs. By the end of 2019, we had disbursed loans to more than 400 customers in Zanzibar and Pemba valued at over 30bn/-" the CRDB chief added.

Out of the 30bn/-, 3.7bn/- were consumer loans, 6.7bn/- SME loans and 26.3bn/- corporate loans. "We believe that through these initiatives, we will be able to improve both public and private sector financing and significantly contribute towards the achievement of Zanzibar economic blueprint through Vision 2020, which is now in its final stages," Nsekela noted. The Dar es Salaam lender's delegation was led by Board Chairman, Ally Laay.

SA industry targets 170 wind farms in 10 years

JOHANNESBURG

THE South African wind energy industry is targeting to build at least 17 wind farms per year over the next 10 years.

Industry body, the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA), says SA's energy transition is poised to unlock economic growth and deliver thousands of much-needed new jobs, at a time when the country faces staggering unemployment rates that threaten to continue well into the new decade.

It points out that thousands of jobs await a ministerial determination to give a green light for the next round of wind farms to be built. "The positive impact of continued wind farm construction

on the economy, over the next 10 years, cannot be overstated. In the construction phase, wind energy projects make a significant impact on jobs in different parts of the value chain," says Ntombifuthi Ntuli, CEO SAWEA.

The industry body says 12 wind farms are currently being constructed across the country creating thousands of jobs as well as high levels of local content, which is in line with energy minister Gwede Mantashe's stated imperative that the renewable energy sector, wind stakeholders included, increases its local content efforts.

This as power utility Eskom is struggling to keep the lights on. In a statement today, the parastatal says stage two rotational load-

shedding is in effect today and will be implemented tomorrow, owing to a shortage of capacity and a higher demand in electricity.

SAWEA says Perdekraal East Wind Farm, the Western Cape's largest BW4 wind farm, which is currently under construction and providing local employment to community members of Ceres, Nduli, Bella Vista and Prince Alfred Hamlet, is just one of these projects that are helping to drive the local sector.

"We are pleased to confirm that our obligation for local content exceeds 48% of the total project value, making this a truly South African endeavour," says Glenn Hobson, construction project manager for Perdekraal East Wind Farm.

SAWEA notes that over the next 10 years, which brings on an average of 17 new wind farms each year, South Africa will see the local manufacturing sector helping to boost economic growth and job creation, two priorities across the African region.

It says tower manufacturing facilities are already set up in the country, with additional capacity and facilities awaiting government's next bid round as part of the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Procurement Programme (REI4P).

"Looking specifically at the manufacturing sector that is poised to create jobs, the annual capacity of 1 600MW per annum translates to 640 individual towers and 1 920 wind turbine blades,

each year," says Ntuli.

According to SAWEA, the existing local tower manufacturing facility in Atlantis, on the Cape's West Coast, currently produces 150 towers per annum and has created 340 direct jobs and 200 indirect jobs.

Therefore, it says, manufacturing 640 towers locally can potentially create 1 360 direct jobs and about 800 indirect jobs. DCD Wind Towers, in Nelson Mandela Bay, closed its doors in April last year, due to the halted REI4P procurement, says the organisation. The plant, which has a potential to manufacture up to 300 towers and create 142 direct jobs, is now looking for an investment partner, to revitalise production and local jobs.



Perdekraal East Wind Farm in Cape Town.

Additional potential exists; should wind tower blades and other components such as drive trains be manufactured locally, the number of jobs could easily scale up to the 8 700 estimated by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) analysis, says SAWEA.

Mbarali villagers in land dispute with MP plead with Lukuvi to visit them

By Property Watch Reporter

RESIDENTS of 11 villages in Mbarali district of Mbeya region who are involved in a land row with their lawmaker through his company, Highland Estate Limited have pleaded with Lands Housing and Human Resources Minister, William Lukuvi to visit them and get first hand information.

Chairman and Secretary of a committee formed to follow up the matter with Lukuvi said the Lands Minister has been misinformed by his lieutenants at both district and regional level because their lawmaker, Pirmohamed Mulla has influence over them.

"We call upon Minister Lukuvi to come over and talk to us because his assistance here both at district and regional level are in bed with Mulla who has influence over them," said Patrick Mnyota who chair the



Mbarali paddy rice farmers at work.

villagers committee. "We have been harassed and threatened by district and regional

officials who claim that Mulla is the rightful owners of the land which incorporates our farmlands," noted

Oswald Mndeva who is secretary of the group.

Recently, Minister Lukuvi told

The Guardian that the villagers are part of beneficiaries of President John Magufuli's revoked land which he ordered to given to villagers from the land conflict prone district when he visited Mbarali in May last year.

"These people are not part of the beneficiaries because their matter is being addressed at regional level," Lukuvi said when asked about allegations that President Magufuli's order has not been legitimately executed.

In an open letter to President Magufuli in December 2019 signed by Mnyota and Mndeva, the residents argued that the head of state's directive made while on a visit to the district last this year to return their land and present him with names of the beneficiaries has yet to be fulfilled.

"Your decision to hand back our farms grabbed by Highland Estate

Limited while on a visit to Mbarali in May this year and directive that regional authorities present to you a list of villagers and their signatures after getting back their farms, is yet to be implemented," the letter which has been signed by 12 representatives said.

Dated December 12, 2019, the residents said Mulla's estates has not removed beacons erected in 2017 which annexed their farms as directed hence request the president to intervene and demand the list of beneficiaries as earlier demanded.

The 11 villages which include Nyeregete, Ibohola, Mbarali, Ubaruku, Utyego, Mayota, Warumba, Urinda, Ibumila, Imailiosongwe and Mwanavala, allege that Mulla and his company has annexed farms which are outside the two National Food Company (Nafco) farms which he acquired in 2014.

FIFTY AGRO-STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM SBL'S 'KILIMOVIWANDA' SCHOLARSHIPS

By Property Watch Reporter

FIFTY students coming from farming community backgrounds will undergo agriculture production courses at Kilacha Agriculture and Livestock Training Institute in Kilimanjaro thanks to Serengeti Breweries Limited's 'KilimoViwanda' scholarships.

Under 'KilimoViwanda' program, SBL has undertaken to increase the scholarships from 30 to 50 in order to breed experts in farming who will help feed the government's industrialization agenda.

Speaking during the program launch at Kilacha Agriculture and Livestock Training Institute in Kilimanjaro earlier this week, SBL Managing Director, Mark Ocitti said the program targets underprivileged students from farming.

"We believe this program will go a long way in strengthening the existing pool of agricultural experts in the country which is necessary in helping farmers increase productivity and ultimately their incomes," Ocitti said. He said the scholarship program is in line with the company's objective to increase its uptake of cereals used in beer production including maize, barley and sorghum. Last year SBL procured over 17,000 tonnes of grains from local farmers, equivalent to 70 percent of its annual raw material requirement.

"SBL's ambition is to increase its sourcing of local raw materials to 85 percent by 2020 that's why we find it important to support the government in training specialists such as field extension officers, agronomists and others. We currently source grains from a network of 400 farmers in various regions across the country," the SBL chief added.

In a vote of thanks, Kilacha Institute's Principal, Benito Mwenda commended SBL for the initiative and urged other institutions in the private sector to support the development of agriculture sector in the



SBL's plant in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

country like the beer brewer.

"We hope more sponsors will come forward to assist us," Mwenda said. Incorporated in 1988 as Associated Breweries, SBL is the second largest beer brewer in the market with its beer brands accounting for over 25

percent. SBL has three operating plants in Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Moshi.

Since the creation of SBL in 2002, the business has grown its portfolio of brands year on year. The majority stake acquisition by EABL/Diageo in 2010 has seen increased

investment in international quality standards leading to greater job opportunities for the people of Tanzania.

SBL Brands have been receiving multiple international awards and include Serengeti Premium Lager, Serengeti Lite, Pilsner Lager,

Pilsner King, Tusker Lager, Tusker Lite, Kibo Gold, Guinness stout and Senator. The company is also home to world's renowned spirits such as Johnnie Walker Whisky, Smirnoff Vodka, Gordon's Gin, Captain Morgan Rum and Baileys Irish Cream.

Orascom Development chairman steps into executive role following chief's death

CAIRO

ORASCOM Development Holding's chairman, Samih Sawiris, will become executive chairman following the death of the company chief executive Khaled Bichara in a car accident in Cairo on Friday.

Mr Sawiris will be assisted by an interim committee whose role will involve supervising and supporting the company's executive management as well as leading the appointment and on-boarding of a new chief executive, Cairo-based Orascom Development said.

"We are deeply saddened by this tragic loss," said Mr Sawiris in a statement to the Swiss stock exchange, where the company's shares trade. "Khaled was an innovative leader who, above all, lived the company's core values with a true passion for our people and an exceptional commitment to the group, while consistently delivering strong results. His energy, drive and leadership will be sorely missed."

He added that "the momentum created by Khaled will not be lost," and the company has a solid strategy in place which it will continue to execute. The interim committee includes board members Naguib Sawiris and Jurgen Fischer, as well as chief financial officer Ashraf Nessim and the company's chief development officer of hotels, Abdelhamid Abouyoussef.

"I am confident that with this new interim structure supported by the strong board of directors and executive management team, the company will remain on the same track," said Samih Sawiris. Orascom Development is a developer and operator of resorts, hotels and residential communities. It operates 33 hotels in seven countries, including The Cove resort in Ras Al Khaimah and the Jebel Sifah resort in Oman.

In the nine months to September, the company reported a 43 per cent increase in revenue which helped it curtail losses by 73 per cent.

Bichara had been chief executive of Orascom De-



The Lustica Bay project in Montenegro, which was developed by Egypt's Orascom Development.

velopment since 2016. Prior to this he had been chief executive of Orascom Telecom and chief operating officer of Veon in Netherlands fol-

lowing its takeover of Italy's Wind Telecom. He had co-founded one of Egypt's first major internet service providers, Linkdotnet, which was

eventually sold to Orange Egypt, and was co-founder of Accelero Capital, which made investments in the telecoms, media and technology



Legal Services Facility managing director Lulu Ngw'anakilala makes a presentation on engaging radios in promoting legal services education to local citizens during a meeting to celebrate World Radio Day which was held in Zanzibar earlier this week. The LSF recently partnered with the local community radios organization in order to educate the public on legal rights and especially those living in rural areas. Photo courtesy of LSF.

Mozambique shows off Rovuma basin's £42bn investment

MAPUTO

OFFICIALS from Mozambique have showcased the level of investment in the prolific Rovuma basin in a bid to attract the expertise of North Sea companies to its supply chain.

Natalia Camba, local content manager from the country's National Petroleum Institute, was speaking at the opening of Subsea Expo about a trio of projects off the country's coast which have attracted a combined \$54bn of investment (£42bn).

Mozambique's oil and gas sector remains in its "infancy," with hopes to attract UK expertise to further develop the industry. Ms Camba said there are "opportunities everywhere" for suppliers, with the Rovuma Basin so far being assessed to have 165 trillion cubic feet of gas in place. The region has two projects already in development: the \$8bn Coral field which is due to begin production in 2022 and the \$23bn Golfinho/ Atum field.

Meanwhile the third, the \$23.6bn Rovuma LNG project, is due for final approval in the first quarter of this year and will produce 15 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas per year. Ms Camba said the country offers "countless opportunities for investment" throughout the value chain, with the approval of projects "contributing to the building of infrastructure, hence boosting exploration interest."

She pointed to a host of areas that UK firms could get involved in, from industrial services to supply vessels and lab analysis services, with the government's local content regulations benefiting those who are in some way partnered with companies based in Mozambique.

The country expects further exploration drilling as a result of its upcoming sixth licensing round later this year. Ms Camba was speaking at the Global Opportunities Business Breakfast hosted by Scottish Development International and the UK's Department for International Trade. Also speaking was Ketan Pednekar, SDI's senior oil and gas trade specialist based in Mumbai. He told the conference there was "a big opportunity for all of you to be suppliers for these subsea projects" upcoming in India, particularly major developments in the Bay of Bengal.

Court stops building of eco-lodge in Ngong Forest

NAIROBI

THE construction of an eco-lodge within Ngong Forest has been stopped following a court ruling that said the investor had breached the terms of the licence. The court said Secure Homes Limited, which was build-

ing a Sh80 million facility must vacate forthwith to pave the way for restoration of the forestland. The investor moved to court last year protesting the revocation of the order, saying it had injected money into the project and had filed an application with regulators seeking approval.

In its suspension order, KFS faulted the developer for failing to submit architectural drawings, site management plans and an environmental impact assessment audit within six months for approval. This, it said, amounted to total disregard of the laid down regulations that warranted the

punitive action.

"The court noted that the balance of convenience tilts in favour of KFS in ensuring the approval's terms are adhered to, forest environment is not compromised and that it is also in the interest of the public to conserve the environment," said KFS in a notice pub-

lished in the daily newspapers.

On July 5, 2019, KFS Chief Conservator of Forests Julius Kamau suspended Secure Homes licence issued on July 18, 2017 saying, "failure to fulfil set conditions constitutes a material breach of the licence."

Secure Homes, which planned

to open a 100-bed facility in the first phase said the local investor had injected Sh10 million with the rest coming from development loans. In its application to the National Environment Management Authority (Nema), the investor planned to put up a restaurant, terrace, kitchen, conference room

with a capacity to accommodate 100 people, tax shops and basic landscaping for an open ground lodge. The facility, which had been allocated 20 acres within the 3,000 hectare forest was also to have 25 guestrooms, a cultural educational centre, a gym and spa as well as a swimming pool.

TECHNOLOGY

WORLD'S FIRST FLOATING CITY COULD SOON BECOME A REALITY, ABU DHABI FORUM HEARS



An illustration of Oceanix designed sustainable floating city.

ABU DHABI

THE world's first self-sustaining floating city could become a reality within the next decade, as experts grapple with the prospect of coastal communities being flooded by rising sea levels.

Water-based communities could be constructed in response to the potentially devastating impact of climate change and to combat overcrowding and poor living conditions. Located about one kilometre from land in the shallow waters of host nations, the settlements could offer a clean slate to rethink how people build, live, work, and play.

During a panel discussion at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, global experts said floating cities were a viable answer to upcoming challenges. Victor Kisob is deputy executive director of UN-Habitat, the UN's programme for human settlements and sustainable urban development.

"Floating cities sound like a crazy idea but they could lead to all sorts of possibilities if done in the right way," he said. "In 2019, the United Nations

pushed forward a discussion on this topic and we are keen to come up with real solutions for these cities.

"The next step would be to design a prototype with partners from the private sector that could be tried and tested." Mr Kisob said establishing a "brain trust" to increase knowledge on the science that would guide such an initiative was crucial. About 90 per cent of the world's largest global cities are vulnerable to rising sea levels.

As a result, the vast majority of these will be affected by erosion and flooding in the future. To reduce the threat of human displacement and permanent infrastructure damage, Mr Kisob said there is a need to create more "resilient and sustainable cities." Made up of floating, modular platforms which are moored to the ocean floor, the waterscapes could house tens of thousands of residents. They would also contain the typical urban spaces seen in today's cities such as public squares and marketplaces.

While design and infrastructure are core challenges to making floating cities a reality, Mr Kisob said people play a big part in their success too.

"They will be self-sustaining, so residents can grow their own food, generate energy and recycle waste. A key element would be the need to inculcate new behaviours in people. We need to ensure very little waste is coming out of a structure like this to make it sustainable."

In support of UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda, non-profit organisation Oceanix designed the concept for the world's

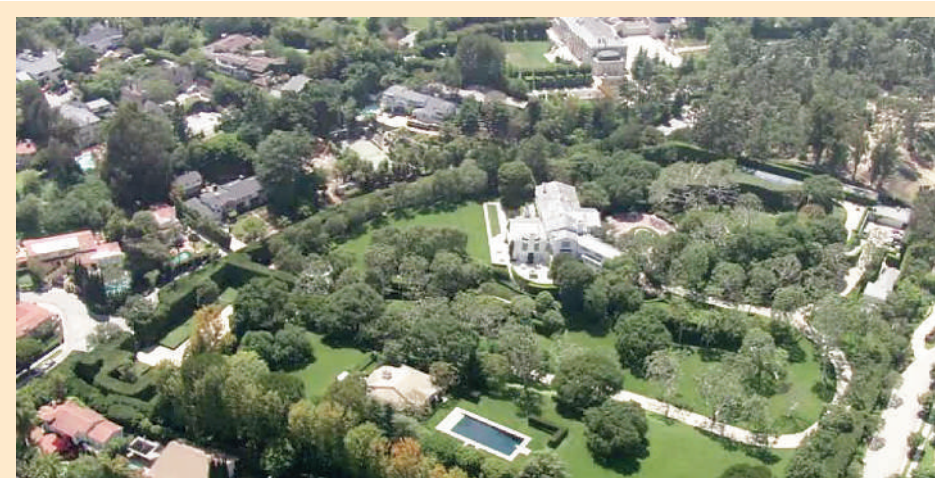
first sustainable floating community. On Monday, Marc Collins Chen, chief operating officer of Oceanix, said the city would produce its own power and heat using renewable sources such as sunlight, wind and waves. Water would be harvested from rain generation and vapour distillation technologies.

"I often get asked if these settlements would be robust against tsunamis, hurricanes and other severe weather extremities," he said. "We are working with MIT's Centre for Ocean Engineering to see how these modular structures can sustain category five weather conditions.

"It is a design issue - it's about building differently." Going forward, there would be challenges, Mr Collins Chen said. While the technology to build these cities exists, it is about bringing them together in an affordable way.

"If we design something that is unaffordable, it defeats the purpose of being sustainable. These cities are for the masses, not the few." Secondly is "political will" and finding the right host city to house the prototype.

"Cities have relied on water throughout history so the right partner would be a city or government that recognises the role of the ocean in a positive way," he said. "We are looking to partner with a country that shows recognition of the global issues around urbanisation and a strong leadership that is willing to think outside of the box to effect change."



Jeff Bezos' \$165 million Beverly Hills mansion.

Jeff Bezos is on a shopping spree befitting the world's richest man

CALIFORNIA

THE Amazon.com Inc. founder agreed to pay \$165 million for a Beverly Hills mansion on nine acres, according to a person with knowledge of the matter, setting a record for a Los Angeles-area home.

The property designed for Hollywood film titan Jack Warner in the 1930s was described by *Architectural Digest* in 1992 as the "archetypal studio mogul's estate," built in Georgian style with expansive terraces and its own nine-hole golf course.

It's emerging just days after regulatory filings showed Bezos cashed out \$4.1 billion of Amazon shares and comes amid reports that he's also entered the art market. He reportedly set a record for artist Ed Ruscha at a Christie's auction with a \$52.5 million purchase of "Hurting the Word Radio #2" in November and also bought "Vignette 19" by Kerry James Marshall for \$18.5 million.

The purchase of the Warner estate, described by the person on condition they not be named, was reported earlier Wednesday by the *Wall Street Journal*. The property has belonged to David Geffen since 1990, when he paid \$47.5 million.

Bezos was seen socializing on the entertainment mogul's mega-yacht last summer, visible in an Instagram post with girlfriend Lauren Sanchez and Goldman Sachs Group Inc.'s former chief, Lloyd Blankfein.

It's something of a style makeover for Bezos, 56, whose once-low-

key personal life has been a source of frequent headlines since he and MacKenzie Bezos divorced in 2019. He's been walking red carpets with Sanchez and has even been drawn into geopolitical controversies over allegations that the crown prince of Saudi Arabia was involved in hacking his phone.

Bezos had been shopping for an estate for months, according to agents who were contacted during the search. In a January interview, realtor Josh Flagg said he'd get a call "at least once a month from different agents asking if I have something."

The purchase adds to a string of mega-deals for high-end residential properties since the start of 2019. Citadel founder Ken Griffin plunked down record \$238 million for a New York penthouse at 220 Central Park South.

Lachlan Murdoch, the son of media mogul Rupert Murdoch, paid a then-California record of about \$150 million for a Bel-Air estate that had been featured about a half century ago on "The Beverly Hillbillies" TV show. Hedge fund billionaire Steven Schonfeld and his wife Brooke closed on a mega-mansion in Palm Beach, Florida, for \$111 million.

Bezos's real-estate empire already features homes on both U.S. coasts, such as a Washington, D.C., mansion where he recently hosted a party for capital elite including Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump. He also owns 170,000 hectares (420,000 acres) of desert scrub in Texas.

New York bans broker fees in boon to tenants

NEW YORK

THE broker fee, a costly element of New York City apartment living that renters have paid for decades, appears to have been outlawed - and that may actually make renting more expensive.

New legal guidance on the state's 2019 rent reforms that was disclosed this week said agents working for landlords may not charge tenants a broker fee. The practice has long made renting in New York ever more expensive. The fees, as high as 15 per cent of a year's rent, are paid by the tenant before moving in, on top of a security deposit.

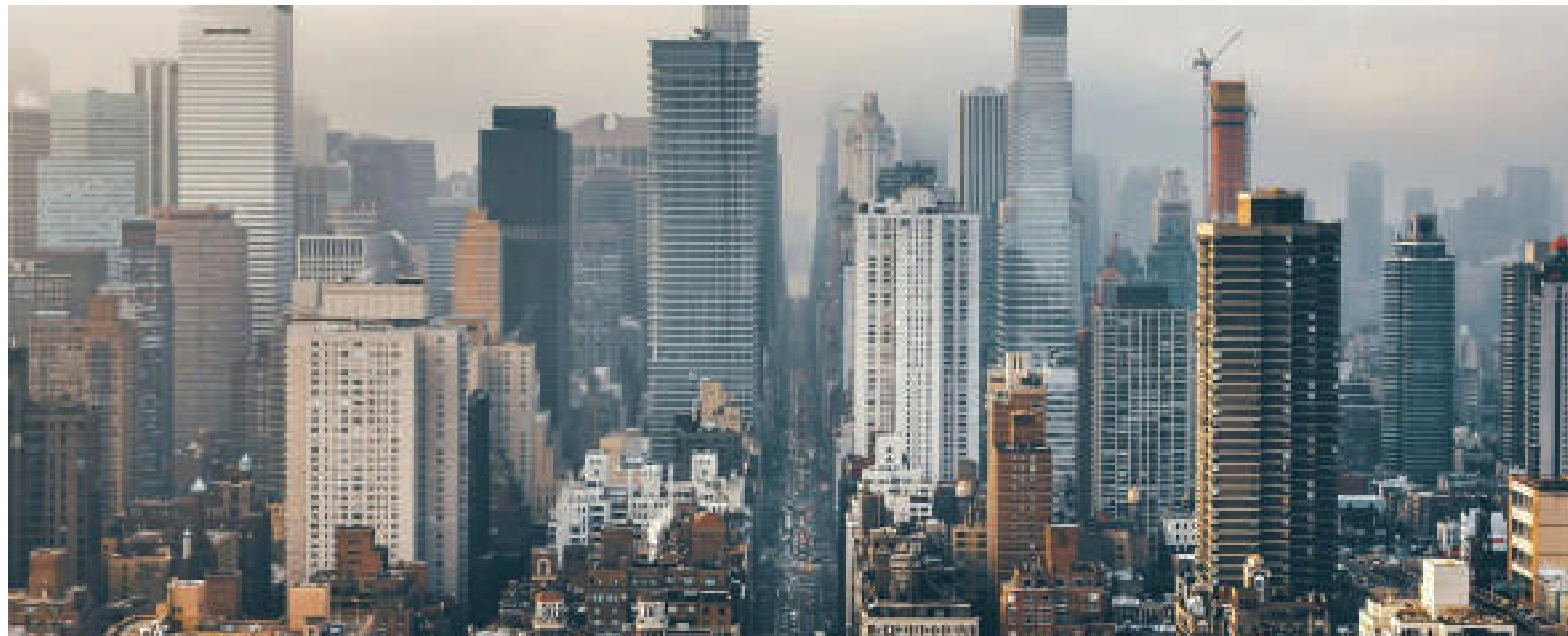
While apartment hunters will cheer the rule change, their celebrations may be premature. Someone has to pay a broker and that payment is likely to get passed along to tenants in the form of higher rents, says Andrew Barrocas, the chief executive of New York City-based brokerage MNS.

"If a restaurant sells hamburg-

ers and the cost of meat goes up, what do they do to the cost of hamburgers? They increase the price," Mr Barrocas said. The rules are further frustration for landlords still smarting from the broader legislation, which made it nearly impossible to raise rents or cover the cost of improvements in the city's roughly 1 million rent-regulated apartments.

Values of buildings with regulated units have declined and interest in acquiring them has plummeted as investors mull how much they are now worth. "There have already been rent regulations put in place this year that squeezed them," said Kenneth Thornton, an agent with Corcoran Group. "This is just another cost that is going to be on their plates."

The broker fee rule was included in a state document dated January 31, which clarified the laws passed last year. Reports of the change caused shock and confusion in the industry, which supports thou-



New York skyline.

sands of jobs in New York.

The real estate industry plans to fight the new rules, but exact-

ly how that effort will take shape wasn't clear, said Jesse Rhinier, an associate broker at City

Connections Realty who serves on the board of Real Estate Board of New York, the influen-

tial trade association. "There's no doubt fear is part of this," Mr Rhinier said in an interview.

"Most rental agents are barely scraping by right now."

WORLD

Coronavirus epidemic touchstone for resilient China-Africa friendship

NAIROBI

THE world's fight against the raging novel coronavirus epidemic has become a touchstone for the resilient friendship between China and African countries.

China has long been a major contributor to maintaining public health around the world, notably in Africa. Over the past five decades, China has sent medical teams of 21,000 members to Africa, and has treated 220 million African patients.

After the Ebola virus breakout in Africa in March 2014, certain countries closed their embassies and evacuated diplomats and citizens from three West African countries hit hard by the epidemic.

At that dreadful time, China decided to stay and help. The Chinese govern-

ment sent not only urgently needed supplies but also medical teams of over 1,000 military and civilian doctors to areas stricken most severely by the disease. Chinese diplomats and medical experts also fought together with local residents until the pandemic was defeated.

Hardship reveals true friendship and the China-Africa friendship has withstood various tests. At the African Union (AU) Summit concluded Monday this week, leaders of AU members expressed their solidarity with and confidence in the Chinese government and people in their efforts to counter the spread of the novel coronavirus though some tried to sow discords.

African governments and people have also offered their solid support for China through various means. Comoros, one of the world's least devel-

oped countries in Africa, has donated 100 euro (109 U.S. dollars) to China to fight the COVID-19 via Comoros-China association for friendship. The amount may look small, yet Comoros's kindness will be deeply appreciated.

So far, Africa still sees no report of confirmed novel coronavirus cases, given the fact that African countries adhere to the WHO advice that there should be no restriction in flights to, in and out of China.

Faced with a public health crisis, blaming or panic will not help humankind win the battle against the virus. The urgent task for everyone is to defeat the disease by holding their hands together.

Recalling that epidemics such as Ebola have been overcome through coordinated efforts, UN General Assembly President Tijjani Muhammad-

Bande has recently called for solidarity and cooperation in different forms in times of hardship.

To end the epidemic as soon as possible, China has made an all-out effort to take care of the victims and contain the disease from spreading. But China alone cannot claim the victory. It needs concerted efforts and assistance from the international community.

China is grateful for the help from around the world, and will continue to share information and strengthen cooperation with other countries in an open, transparent and highly responsible manner to safeguard the life and health of the Chinese people and to contribute to regional and global public health.

In union, there is strength. Slow but steady, humanity will prevail over this deadly disease.

Xinhua



UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Tijjani Muhammad-Bande receives an exclusive interview with Xinhua at the UN headquarters in New York, Jan. 23, 2020. (Xinhua)

THE OUTBREAK OF COVID-19
Number of new confirmed cases outside Hubei dropped

AS of 12 February, in mainland China, 59,804 confirmed cases had been reported, among which 5,911 were cured and discharged from hospital, 1,367 died, and 52,526 still under treatment.

There was 13,435 suspected cases pending test results in mainland China as of 12 February. In Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, 50, 10 and 18 confirmed cases have been reported respectively by 12 February.

On 12 February, the confirmed cases in Hubei province increased by 14,840, much higher than that of the previous day, 1,638. The reason is that according to the latest version of the diagnosis and treatment scheme released by the Chinese National Health Commission, any suspected cases with pneumonia-related computerized tomography (CT) scan results are counted as clinically diagnosed cases, which are unique to Hubei statistically.

To give those who have been clinically diagnosed the timely standard treatment of confirmed cases to further improve the treatment success rate, the Chinese authorities decided yesterday to include the 13,332 clinically diagnosed cases into the category of confirmed cases, therefore drove the surge in the number of confirmed cases in Hubei province.

The good news are: First, the number of new confirmed cases outside Hubei dropped to 377 on 11 February, declining for the eighth consecutive day; Second, the number of new confirmed cases in Hubei dipped below 2,000 for the first time on 11 February; Third, there is a notable rise in cure rates nationwide. The cure rates in Wuhan, Hubei and across China rose to 6.2%, 6.1% and 8.2% respectively as compared to 2.6%, 1.7% and 1.3% by 27 January.

According to WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, 99% of the COVID-19 cases are in China, and 97% of deaths are in Hubei province. Dr. Tedros commended China's strategy in fighting the disease at the 146th meeting of the WHO Executive Board.

He said that China's strategy is to take serious measures at the epicenter, at the source, in order to protect the Chinese people and prevent the spread of the virus to other countries. "If it weren't for China's efforts, the number of cases outside China would have been very much higher," Dr. Tedros stressed.

An advance team of international experts led by the WHO has arrived in China. They will conduct in-depth exchanges with their Chinese counterparts on the situation as well as the prevention and control of the epidemic.

By 11 February, altogether 27 foreign nationals in China are confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus, and none of them are Tanzanians. Among the 27 confirmed cases, 7 have been cured and discharged from hospital, 2 have died (one American, one Japanese), and 18 are receiving treatment in isolation.

We note that Tanzanian Ambassador to China H.E. Mbelwa Kairuki has been maintaining close contacts with Tanzanian students in Wuhan. We echo the Ambassador's advice that the safest way proposed by the WHO is to stay in Wuhan, avoid crowding and adhere to hygiene and isolation regulations.

The Hubei provincial government has taken a number of measures to protect foreign students against virus infection and to meet their needs for daily necessities and psychological guidance, including setting up special teams to take care of foreign students, provision of free meals everyday, and masks as well as disinfectants regularly, arranging Chinese staff to purchase articles for daily use according to foreign students' requests, and opening of 41 hot-lines to offer assistance in daily life and psychological counseling.

China's economy is resilient and China has the strength, resources and ability to deal with the emergency. Currently, except in Hubei province, people have been gradually returning to work in all other parts of China.

China's central bank has recently sent a powerful message of its intention to support the economy with injection of liquidity into the markets so as to drive the interest rates low.

The bank also made a special policy arrangement by providing preferential loans totaling RMB 300 billion (\$43 billion) to key enterprises engaged in the production, transportation or sale of vital medical supplies and daily necessities. We are confident that China will not only win the anti-epidemic battle, but minimize the impact of the epidemic on its economy.



The Hubei provincial government has taken a number of measures to protect foreign students against virus infection and to meet their needs for daily necessities and psychological guidance

People's Daily

Women set for junior jobs in Boris Johnson's govt reshuffle

By Bloomberg

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is planning to promote a number of women to junior government roles when he reshapes his administration to ready the country for life outside the European Union, in a cabinet overhaul yesterday.

Johnson has faced calls to increase the number of women in his cabinet, but a senior official suggested a generation of talented female politicians will have to wait to reach the very highest levels until after they had gained experience on the lower rungs of government.

British media have reported speculation that high-profile women in Johnson's team - including cabinet ministers Theresa Villiers, Andrea Leadsom and Liz Truss - could all be fired in the reshuffle. The official insisted that the overall number of women in the cabinet is not expected to decline as a result of the changes Thursday.

Among the women likely to be offered promotions are Anne-Marie Trevelyan, who may be given a job in the cabinet, Suella Braverman and Gillian Keegan. Others in line for promotion include cur-



In this file photograph dated Oct 2, 2016, then British Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary Andrea Leadsom (left) and Conservative member of parliament Anne-Marie Trevelyan walk along the bridge from the hotel to the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, central England on the first day of the Conservative party annual conference. (AFP)

rent International Development Secretary Alok Sharma and Oliver Dowden, who are both expected to be given higher profile jobs in the cabinet, the official said.

Johnson won the biggest victory for any Conservative Party leader in more than 30 years in December's election and is now the most powerful prime minister Britain

has had since Tony Blair.

Premier's Priorities

He is using his strength to stamp his authority on the way the government works and has been mulling a major overhaul for weeks, inspired by his controversial and radical chief adviser, Dominic Cummings. However, the official suggested the reforms had been

scaled back, saying the personnel changes overall are likely to be moderate, rather than sweeping.

The government's junior ministerial ranks are likely to be split equally between men and women, preparing the ground for a more equal gender split higher up in the administration in the future, the official said. On the lowest rung of

the government ladder, at least 60 percent of all ministerial aides will be women under Johnson's plans, the official added. Currently, the figure is just 18 percent.

Johnson wants to use his reshuffle to develop a generation of politicians who will be promoted further in the coming years, the official said. He will reward members of Parliament who have worked hard to deliver on his priorities to help equalize opportunities in what Johnson has called "left behind" regions of the country, the official said.

Ministers expected to leave the government include Culture Secretary Nicky Morgan, who stayed on as a temporary measure to complete a review of Huawei Technologies Co.'s role in next-generation broadband networks, and Attorney General Geoffrey Cox, who may be replaced or moved to another post.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Sajid Javid, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove and Transport Secretary Grant Shapps are among the senior officials expected to remain in Johnson's top team. **Agencies**

Ebola outbreak in DRC still international emergency, WHO announces

GENEVA

THE World Health Organization (WHO) announced Wednesday that the Ebola outbreak which started in August 2018 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) still constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a press briefing here on Wednesday that the decision was the unanimous view of the WHO Emergency Committee.

Major concerns from the WHO is that withdrawing the PHEIC now might have adverse consequences

for the response efforts through diminishing focus, let alone the serious ongoing outbreaks of other diseases, including measles and cholera, in the country.

The committee acknowledged the revised risk assessment, which puts the risk now as high at national and regional levels, and low at the global level.

It said the remaining challenges include community acceptance for response measures, protection of personnel at strategic health checkpoints, improvement of infection prevention and control practices in health facilities, strengthening of the local health system, and com-



prehensive treatment and support for patients in recovery.

The WHO recommends that the DRC should continue building trust with survivors and community awareness and engagement to prevent resurgence of the disease, while enhancing acceptance of re-

sponse measures and addressing access and security issues. Cross-border screening and monitoring at checkpoints around hotspots and at main roads should also continue.

The WHO recommends other at-risk countries to continue preparedness for detecting and managing

imported or locally acquired cases, and to strengthen risk communications and community engagement, especially at points of entry.

Still the WHO advises that no country should close borders or place any restrictions on travel and trade, and it does not consider entry screening at airports or other ports of entry outside the region to be necessary. The latest DRC Ebola epidemic began in early August 2018 in its eastern region of Kivu. As of Monday, there were a total of 3,431 cases in the DRC, of which 3,308 were confirmed and 123 were probable, while 2,253 persons have died.

Xinhua

Fighting 2019-nCov epidemic requires joint efforts from international communities - experts

CHINESE government's strong measures to tackle the spread of novel coronavirus have received positive reactions from the globe, with experts noting that joint efforts from the whole international community are crucial to deal with such a common threat for humanity.

In a report released by Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) on January 31, Chen Dongxiao, President of SIIS stressed that in the globalisation era, such epidemics as

2019-nCov have become common threats for humanity that demand joint efforts from the whole international community.

"This is the time for facts, not fear. This is the time for science, not rumors. This is the time for solidarity, not stigma," said Chen, quoting WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

According to Chen, despite the daunting tasks faced by China, the government has taken strong measures

including the lockdown of Wuhan and quarantine of other key areas, which are the most effective means to contain the epidemic from spreading to other Chinese provinces, or worse, to other parts of the world.

He further noted that under the leadership of the central government, as well as dedicated efforts from local governments and the whole society, the nationwide emergency-management system is beginning to take full effect.

Despite the positive outcomes, Chen warned that the battle against the novel coronavirus may bring much negative impact on both China and the world's economy in the short run under the circumstances of China's economic transformation and the complicated global political and economic landscape.

However, experts from SIIS believe China's economy will manifest strong surprising resilience; with the support from international communities, the

Chinese government and people will ultimately conquer the epidemic and China's economy will remain robust.

The 2019-nCov epidemic has become a common concern of the international community.

Since the first infection was diagnosed in Wuhan in December 2019, the novel coronavirus has been spreading at a speed even beyond the expectation of medical experts.

In response, the Chinese government mandated a quarantine of the

Wuhan city on January 23, 2020: 31 provinces and municipalities, including Beijing and Shanghai, have also taken measures on first-level response to this major public health emergency.

The international community has paid close attention to China's actions to control the epidemic. On the evening of January 30, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the 2019-nCov epidemic a "public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)."

Things to watch at Munich Security Conference 2020

BERLIN

THE 56th Munich Security Conference (MSC) is scheduled to kick off in the southern German city of Munich today and run through Sunday.

The annual conference, known as the "Davos" of global security and political events, has been an important forum for top officials to discuss major issues facing the world since its inception in 1963.

The theme this year is "Westlessness," the loss of the common standing of what it means to be part of the West, according to a security report published on Monday.

Here are some focal points worth watching at the conference:

NORD STREAM 2

Nord Stream 2 pipeline will be a major topic at the 56th MSC.

Scheduled to start operation in 2020, the 1,230-kilometer-long pipeline could deliver 55 billion cubic meters of Russian gas to Europe per year.

The United States has said the pipeline will make the European continent too reliant on Russia, but Germany "firmly rejects" the U.S. legislation imposing sanctions on companies

laying the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Europe.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is expected to lead a delegation to further press its European allies on the issue.

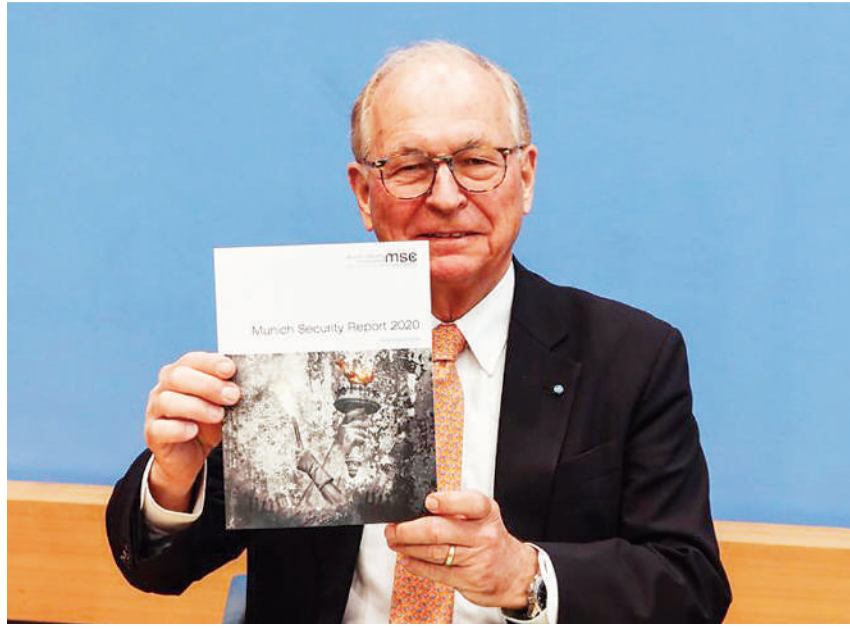
Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is also expected to comment on the pipeline project and other topics, including Russia's interactions with the United States in arms control, Ukraine and the Middle East.

IRAN AND U.S.

After a U.S. strike under President Donald Trump's orders killed Qassem Soleimani, former commander of the Quds Force of Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, the international community fears an uncontrolled conflict between the United States and Iran.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif is seen as a frequent in the MSC and often makes vital speeches.

His statement will probably be even more attention-grabbing this year against the backdrop of U.S.-Iran tensions, with Zarif's U.S. counterpart Pompeo expected to voice his views at the forum.



Chairman of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) Wolfgang Ischinger holds a copy of Munich Security Report during a press conference in Berlin, Germany, on Monday. The upcoming 56th Munich Security Conference will discuss a theme coined as "westlessness", the loss of the common standing of what it means to be part of the West, according to a report published on Monday. (Xinhua)

LIBYA

The confrontations between different warring factions in Libya will also be one of the major topics, according to Wolfgang Ischinger, chairman of the MSC.

Countries concerned with the North African country's long-running conflict, such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, France and Italy, will discuss ways to end it.

Just three weeks ago also in Ger-

many, the related countries agreed to stop military support to the warring parties while a cease-fire lasts, a step seen by analysts as a glimmer of hope to give Libyans space for a political reconciliation.

The war, however, has only become more intractable, as the factions accused each other of violating a truce and there was no mechanism capable of making embargo violations costly to perpetrators.

CORONAVIRUS

A panel discussion on global health security will be held at this year's MSC.

Regarding the outbreak of the novel coronavirus mostly in China but also in some other countries, Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is set to address the panel.

China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi will also deliver a keynote speech, talking about the Chinese government and people's concerted efforts and progress in fighting the epidemic and about advancing international cooperation against it.

Xinhua



Malawi court turns down fresh election stay application

LILONGWE

THE constitutional court in Malawi Wednesday turned down the application by the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and President Peter Mutharika to have enforcement of Feb. 3 court ruling suspended.

MEC and Mutharika (pictured) applied for stay order to the nullification of May presidential election and holding of fresh election in 150 days.

MEC and Mutharika also separately appealed the ruling to the supreme court of appeal, citing a number of grounds including the continuation of the case amid allegations of attempt to bribe the judges.

Among their grounds for application for stay order on the judgment pending the appeal, MEC and Mutharika argued that the period of 150 days given by the court for fresh poll was too short for a thorough exercise.

The appellants also argued that the polls would require over 48 million U.S. dollars which would not be easy to source.

MEC chairperson, Justice Jane Ansah, said in her sworn statement in support of the application for stay that "the election can only be held within at least 261 days on October 28, 2020 if we operate on an expedite calendar."

"But the court sustained the Feb. 3 ruling, saying the onus of expediting the election within the period stated by the court remained on the electoral body. On the cost the court said, "It is Malawians who will bear the cost through their taxes" and that "it is within the rights of the citizens of Malawi to be governed by a leader of their choice."

Sinn Fein seeks talks with Fianna Fail on forming new Irish government

DUBLIN

LEFT-WING Irish nationalist party Sinn Fein said yesterday it had formally requested talks with centre-right rival Fianna Fail to discuss options for forming a new government following an inconclusive election last weekend.

The request puts pressure on Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin, whose party has 38 seats in the 160-seat

parliament, to clarify his position on a possible tie-up with Sinn Fein, which has 37 seats.

Sinn Fein, Fianna Fail and the centre-right Fine Gael Party of Prime Minister Leo Varadkar secured just under a quarter of seats in parliament each, meaning it will be hard to form a government unless at least two of the three cooperate.

"Micheal Martin has said 'I am a democrat, I listen to



Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin

the people and I respect the decision of the people', so he

knows that the people have voted for change," Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald said in a statement to announce that the formal request had been made.

"There is an obligation on all of us to act urgently," she added.

During the election campaign, Martin ruled out doing a deal with Sinn Fein, the former political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), but in the immediate after-

math of the vote, he refused to exclude the possibility.

Fianna Fail lawmakers were due to discuss the issue yesterday. The Irish Times newspaper said Martin was expected to rule out such a coalition.

Fianna Fail and Fine Gael have dominated Irish politics since it broke from British rule nearly a century ago.

They have long shunned Sinn Fein, citing policy differences and the party's his-

toric links to the IRA, which fought British rule in Northern Ireland for decades in a conflict in which some 3,600 people were killed before a 1998 peace deal.

Fine Gael has ruled out doing a deal with Sinn Fein and has been reluctant to form a coalition with historic rival Fianna Fail. But on Wednesday Varadkar said he would be willing to help form a government if Sinn Fein fails to do so.

Agencies

We must fight the virus, not each other

PANIC and anxiety are inevitable in the face of a major global health challenge, but overreacting and letting irrational fears take control will not only do more harm than good, but will worsen the epidemic and make it easier to lose confidence.

In China, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the Central Government have directed and mobilized resources in the fight against the coronavirus.

Community workers in cities and villages across the country and especially in and around Wuhan are doing their best to protect millions of people.

The People's Liberation Army has sent teams of military medical staff to Wuhan to help fight the virus. We see the construction of makeshift hospitals and the conversion of buildings into temporary hospitals.

Enterprises have stepped up the production of essentials such as face masks. People from all levels of society are lending a helping hand at this time of need. The strength of China's system is on full display as the nation battles this virus.

While the coronavirus is a serious threat, there is another type of harmful "virus" that is spreading along with the coronavirus. Racism and xenophobia are making people blame the Chinese people for this virus



Not just the virus, we must also fight the misinformation

and making the Chinese people feel that they are the virus.

A lot of troubling news and commentary has appeared in recent days. For example, Thai daily Khao Sod reported on Monday that a restaurant owner in the northern province of Chiang Mai put up a sign barring Chinese customers from eating at the restaurant.

Then, the next day on Tuesday, the daily reported that a Chinese tourist and her child nearly had

to sleep on the streets in the resort town of Hua Hin because no hotel would take them.

The above-mentioned reports are just a couple of examples, but racist sentiment targeting Asians and especially Chinese is popping up in places all around the world.

At a time of fear and uncertainty, it is vital to remain rational. First, viruses do not respect borders. Although the Chinese city of Wuhan is the epicenter of

the outbreak, this virus is not a "Chinese virus." It originated in China and has spread quickly, but this is a global fight.

Second, it is wrong and dangerous to associate certain populations with something like the coronavirus. The coronavirus is dangerous, but the fear that is fueling this anti-China racism can have dangerous consequences for the entire world. We must do more to deal with the outbreak of anti-China sentiment during this crisis.

Fortunately, people are trying to bring attention to this problem. For example, a video on social media that has gone viral shows a young Chinese man in Italy standing in crowded areas with a blindfold and a face mask next to a sign that reads, "I'm not a virus, I'm a human. Eradicate the prejudice." People in the video give him a warm hug and the reaction online has been quite positive.

Let us not let the coronavirus spread fears and stereotypes and let us have confidence in China, which is doing everything it can do to fight the coronavirus.

The coronavirus is certainly something that we should fear and take guard against, but the anti-China racism that is spreading along with the coronavirus is even more terrifying and potentially dangerous.

People's Daily

Constitutional amendments should enter into force only after nationwide vote, says Putin

NOVO-OGARYOVO

RUSSIA'S constitutional amendment bill should only become effective after a nationwide vote so that citizens themselves acted as its authors, Russian President Vladimir Putin told a meeting with a working group for Russian constitutional amendments.

"It is important for me that this constitutional amendment bill enters into force only after ballots cast in the nationwide vote are tallied, that it is a true plebiscite and that it is the Russian citizens who are authors of these amendments to the constitution," Putin said.

The Russian leader added, "Considering the importance of the issues we are putting up to the nationwide vote, the importance of innovations we introduce to the constitution, I was coming from understanding that people should be directly involved in the making of this decision."

According to him, this aspect is the most important one "while how to put it, where to place what and which order to sign are technicalities."

"It is essentially vital that Russian citizens come to vote and registered that they are authors of this bill. Whatever people say will happen - if people confirm in the vote that they support it



then the law enters into force and the amendments are introduced. If they don't confirm it then the amendments will not be enshrined," the president stressed.

The public vote on amendments to the Russian Constitution needs to be held on a weekday that will be declared a day off, Putin said.

"We have agreed that it [the vote] will take place on a weekday, which will be a day off. It is a right thing to do but - I would like to draw the government's attention to this point - it cannot be one of the national holidays," the head of state pointed out.

Constitutional amendment bill

On Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin submitted the draft bill on constitutional

amendment to the State Duma.

On January 15, the Russian leader delivered his annual State of the Nation Address to the Federal Assembly (parliament), proposing a number of constitutional amendments. In particular, Putin envisages vesting the State Duma with the right to appoint prime minister, deputy prime ministers and federal ministers.

He also suggested that heads of power structures should be named after consultations with the Federation Council, upper house, while a new notion is also planned to be introduced - senator of Russia.

The Russian constitution will also be expanded by adding a new body - State Council - which will be formed by president. The bill also particularly increases time of residence in Russia from 10 to 25 years for candidates vying for Russian presidency and bans them from possessing foreign citizenship or permit residence at any point in time.

At the same time, it is specifically mentioned that the citizenship qualification is not applied to Russian citizens who previously held citizenship of a foreign state that was accepted into Russia or a part of it was accepted into Russia in accordance with a federal constitutional law.

Agencies

China confident to win decisive victory in fight against epidemic

CHINA has made greater and concerted efforts to prevent and control the novel coronavirus epidemic, boosting confidence to win a decisive victory in the fight against the virus outbreak.

The prevention and control work is still the most important task as the country faces complicated and serious situation.

Since the outbreak, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has exercised leadership and coordinated work in all aspects, while the Party committees and governments at all levels have resolutely implemented instructions.

Meanwhile, the leading cadres, Party members and medical staff have worked hard on the front line of the battle against the epidemic. And people from all sectors have donated money and goods to fight the virus.

Attaching great importance to the prevention and control work, Chinese President Xi Jinping made important instructions upon the outbreak. He stressed that China must put people's safety and health as the top priority, implement a comprehensive prevention and control network and strengthen mass prevention and treatment. He also spoke of

the need for the timely release of information and the deepening of international cooperation.

Xi's important speeches and instructions have charted the course for comprehensively enhancing the epidemic prevention and control work.

As a Chinese proverb goes, all sides come to help when one is struck by disaster. Currently, 31 provinces, municipalities and autonomous regions in China have activated first-level public health emergency response, drafted and implemented prevention and control measures among communities, and launched networked

management.

Medical teams and staff across the country have rushed to Wuhan to help fight virus without hesitation. The country has mobilized the general public among communities, popularized knowledge of epidemic prevention and control, and cancelled mass gatherings.

The institutional strength of China's socialist system which can bring together the resources necessary to take on great tasks is the key to win the battle against the epidemic.

Just as what World Health Organization Director-General Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, the high speed and massive scale of China's moves are rarely seen in the world. Many of the prevention and containment measures China has taken far exceed relevant requirements for dealing with emergencies, and the measures China has taken are good not only for that country but also for the rest of the world, he added.

By adhering to a national perspective, China strives to seize the initiative in epidemic prevention and control, which is a systematic project.

First, the CPC Central Committee has exercised unified com-

mand while local governments and departments have implemented relevant instructions. On the first day of the Lunar New Year, the leading group of the CPC Central Committee on the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus outbreak made overall planning and coordination.

In general, all provinces have established a leadership system headed by principal leaders of Party committees and governments, as well as a joint prevention and control mechanism featuring participation by multiple departments.

The strengths of all fronts

are complementary. A national research team of experts was set up immediately to focus on research on treatment of severe cases, research and development of vaccines and other aspects.

Healthcare security and financial departments have implemented the subsidy policies to ensure that patients' treatment would not be affected due to medical costs. And transport departments have enhanced management to cut off the transmission channels and ensure that passengers can cancel their tickets and get refunds for free.

People's Daily



Giannis Antetokounmpo

At All-Star Game, Africa's potential will be showcased

By TIM REYNOLDS

THE moment was not lost on Giannis Antetokounmpo. The NBA's reigning MVP, a Greek of Nigerian descent who is now starring in Milwaukee, was about to make his first two selections of this year's All-Star Game draft and understood how significant his words would be when they resonated across the world's second-largest continent.

His first pick: Philadelphia's Joel Embiid. "My African brother," Antetokounmpo said. His second pick: Toronto's Pascal Siakam. "My second African brother," Antetokounmpo said.

Just like that, a son of Nigerian migrants and two kids who were playing soccer in Cameroon before turning their attention to basketball less than a decade ago became set to take the NBA All-Star stage together. And when they're all on the floor to start the game in Chicago on Sunday night, it'll be hard to envision a more significant basketball moment for Africa – a place that the NBA has long believed is a developing hotbed for the next wave of elite talent.

But with Antetokounmpo, Embiid and Siakam – players who will be earning about \$90 million combined next season – already among the game's brightest stars, the argument could be made that Africa is no longer deserving of the "developing" label.

It could be argued that Africa has already arrived.

"If you made me delineate and I had to say one of those two things, I would say that it's here," said Brett Brown, Embiid's coach with the Philadelphia 76ers. "I've coached FIBA basketball, I've been lucky to go to three Olympic Games and see the world play the sport for three decades now. ... And Africa is at the ground level of arriving."

Of the 24 All-Stars this season, a record eight are representing countries other than the U.S. Dallas' Luka Doncic is from Slovenia, Utah's Rudy Gobert is from France, Denver's Nikola Jokic is from Serbia, Indiana's Domantas Sabonis is from Lithuania and Philadelphia's Ben Simmons is from Australia. Antetokounmpo plays for Greece but also holds a Nigerian passport – both of his parents are Nigerian; they moved to Greece three years before he was born. Siakam and Embiid come from Cameroon's two largest cities; Embiid is from Yaounde, Siakam from Douala.

For years, China was considered the NBA's future hotbed – and economically, that has been the case. But China is still a long way from sending a second big name to the NBA after Yao Ming, while Africa has no shortage of elite talent in the league right now.

"There is a lot of pride in this for all of us," Embiid said.

And this week the NBA is marking the 10th anniversary of opening its first office in Africa, that being in Johannesburg. The NBA's investment in Africa has grown considerably since, and even French President Emmanuel Macron was moved to commit 12 million Euros (\$13.1 million USD) in 2018 toward aiding youth sport programs in Africa – noting that some African heads of state had told him basketball can serve as a bridge between nations and cultures.

In March, the new Basketball Africa League – backed by the NBA – is set to begin play. The 12

teams that will participate in the inaugural BAL season will be announced Saturday in Chicago, at an event where BAL President Amadou Gallo Fall will speak and unveil their uniforms.

And to further underscore Africa's appetite for NBA content, Sunday's game will be aired in no fewer than 42 nations on the continent.

"The Dream Team started it, and it just led right into us playing here," Charlotte Hornets owner Michael Jordan said in Paris last month, before his team faced Antetokounmpo and the Bucks. "Now you've got two different teams playing. We've got China. We've got Africa now. So the game is expanding all over the globe."

Players from at least 11 different African nations are represented in the NBA this season, and the league is constantly looking for more. There's an NBA Academy in Senegal. NBA scouts have been to places like Mozambique and Morocco in recent months. And it's not just boys who are on the radar – the women's game is also developing rapidly in Africa and will likely see a big boost by Nigeria's national team giving the U.S. women all they could handle before falling 76-71 in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday.

The Nigerians, who will play in the Tokyo Olympics this summer, celebrated on-court after that game anyway.

"I just hope we've killed the overarching stigma that Africa never sends their best team (to the Olympics) and when they do it's not of any substance," Nigeria women's coach Otis Hughley Jr. said. "I hope we're eating away at that stigma, at that assumption and that there will be at least a modicum of respect for the team that comes out of Africa. I hope this is the first day of something greater than what's going on now."

Embiid and Siakam are both alums of the NBA's Basketball Without Borders program, and as has been the case at the past few All-Star weekends, BWB will have a presence in Chicago as well. Among the 64 boys and girls invited to play at this weekend's camp: children from Angola, Egypt, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, the Congo and the Central African Republic.

Siakam will be among the coaches at this weekend's camp. He and Raptors President Masai Ujiri speak often about ways to keep developing the game in Africa; it has long been a passion project for Ujiri, whose roots are Nigerian. On the night last June when Toronto won the NBA Finals for the first time, Ujiri did a wave of television interviews with a Nigerian scarf draped over his shoulders.

"Masai and the NBA and everyone is doing their part, promoting the game on the continent and making sure that we continue to tell young players and young kids that it's possible, it's something that they can do," Siakam said.

It's unfair to say that there will be another Antetokounmpo, Embiid or Siakam in that group. But to Boston's Tacko Fall, who didn't even like basketball before his grandmother in his native Senegal made him watch the NBA – the first game he remembers was an All-Star Game, in fact – the bigger point is that more and more African kids get to see the opportunity the game provides.

"It's amazing and it shows any African kid that if you have that hunger, you can get here," Fall said. "Joel has taken steps forward every year. Pascal is now an All-Star starter. That means a lot to me and I know it means a lot to the entire continent."

James' triple double, Davis lead Lakers past Nuggets 120-116

DENVER

LeBRON James wasn't about to coast into the All-Star break, and neither was Anthony Davis.

"I could tell they were locked in pregame. LeBron had his jersey with like 80 minutes to go before the game," guard Alex Caruso said after the Los Angeles Lakers' 120-116 overtime triumph in Denver on Wednesday night.

James posted his 12th triple-double of the season, tied with Luka Doncic for the NBA lead, and Davis scored seven of his 33 points in overtime as the Western Conference leaders took a 41-12 record and a four-game lead over second-place Denver into the All-Star break.

"I was trying to be laser sharp, laser focused as I could," James said. "I know the break was coming, but I wasn't going to take this opportunity for granted. I wanted to play extremely well tonight for our ballclub and I wanted us to play extremely well going into the break on a high note. And our team, we responded very well."

The Nuggets were the hottest team in the league, having won six of seven, including short-handed stunners at Milwaukee and Utah.

So, James, who had 32 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds, saw this as playoff prep.

"Every opportunity we get to play in a close game against a tough opponent, it's a learning experience for all of us," he said. "It prepares us for a postseason game where it's going to be back and forth, back and forth. I thought tonight was a playoff atmosphere for both teams, being No. 1 and No. 2 in the Western Conference, jockeying for position. We were just trying to make plays whatever it takes. And A.D. was there knocking down big 3s and getting a block and getting some stops, the jump ball, as well. It was big time."

In addition to his 33 points, Davis tied up All-Star Nikola Jokic for a key jump ball late in regulation when the officials had to waive off the basket by Denver's big man after he muscled the ball away from Davis and into the basket.

Jokic has 22 points and 11 rebounds for Denver, which saw its four-game winning streak snapped.

Dwight Howard added 14 points for the Lakers, who improved their NBA-best road record to 23-5.

Jamal Murray led the Nuggets with 33 points, but Jokic was in foul trouble late and made some crucial blunders in the extra period, including a turnover on a bad pass



Brooklyn Nets forward Wilson Chandler (21) defends against Toronto Raptors forward Patrick McCaw (22) goes up for a layup during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020, in New York. Nets won 101-91. (AP Photo)

with 19 seconds left after he passed up an open 3-pointer with Denver down 119-116.

The back-and-forth game went to overtime tied at 111 when James' fadeaway 15-footer hit the iron and bounced away at the buzzer.

Gary Harris' 3-pointer tied it at 116 with 3:06 remaining in overtime, but the Nuggets suddenly went cold, especially Jokic, who missed three shots and bypassed a wide-open 3 with 20 seconds left and the Nuggets down 119-116. He followed with a bad pass right into the arms of Kentavious Cadwell-Pope.

"It was a close game. We just didn't execute in the last minutes," Jokic said. "I made a lot of terrible mistakes. Every decision was bad. So, I need to be better with my decision-making. I think I just need to look to shoot a little bit more."

NO RUNAWAY

LA opened the second half with a 3-pointer by Danny Green and a thunderous dunk by James for an 11-point lead, the Lakers' largest of the night. But the Nuggets used an 11-0 run capped by Jokic's long 3-pointer to tie it at 66.

Jokic picked up his fourth foul and went to the bench with 4:44 left in the third quarter. The Nuggets vehemently argued the call because Davis took three steps in the paint before contact and should have been called for a travel.

But his teammates picked up the slack to give the Nuggets an 87-84 lead heading into the fourth quarter. Jokic returned with Denver trailing 97-94 with 7 1/2 minutes left in regulation.

James' jumper put Los Angeles ahead 53-51 and his drive to the hoop with one-tenth of a second left gave the Lakers a 61-55 halftime lead.

SILVER LINING

Despite the disappointment, the Nuggets are pleased to take a 38-17 record into the All-Star break.

"Of course nobody wants to lose, but we lost to an amazing team," said Jokic, who was battered after 37 minutes of having James, Davis and Dwight Howard come at him in waves. "They are one of the best teams in the NBA right now. They are playing at a really high level. It's not a bad thing to lose against them, especially because it's overtime and we put up a fight."

And Denver was without the injured trio of Mason Plumlee, Michal Porter Jr. and Will Barton III. "We are still second," Jokic said, "so I like it." Meanwhile, in New York, the Toronto Raptors were hoping to keep rolling right into the All-Star break.

Instead, they had their franchise-record winning streak stopped at 15 games with a 101-91 loss to the Brooklyn Nets. Still, the reigning NBA champions are 40-15 despite losing Kawhi Leonard last summer and battling injuries all season, so

they could easily shrug off a poor performance Wednesday.

"In the big scheme of things, you look at the overall of where you're sitting and have to be pleased with that," coach Nick Nurse said.

The Raptors couldn't find the form that helped them average 121.2 points and shoot 50% over the previous 15 games. This time, they hit only 37.8%, with Kyle Lowry's triple-double coming on a night when the All-Star point guard was just 4 for 13.

"We didn't play well. Simple as that," Lowry said.

"They played well and give them credit, they played their butts off. They beat us. It's only one game."

Caris LeVert scored 20 points for the Nets, who ended a six-game losing streak against the Raptors. That included Saturday in Toronto, where LeVert scored a career-best 37 points but the Nets fell 119-118.

"I think we felt like we were right there in Toronto. We were really a last second tip-in from winning the game and we were confident going into it," forward Joe Harris said. "Obviously any time you play home in front of your own fans, you definitely get a distinct advantage that way".

Harris added 19 points and Spencer Dinwiddie had 17 points and nine assists for the Nets, who head into the break 25-28 after having Kyrie Irving for just 20 games. He sat out again with a sprained right knee.

AP

Smith, Warner must 'ride the storm' in South Africa - Hazlewood

MELBOURNE

STEVE Smith and David Warner will be ready for whatever South African crowds throw at them when the Australia batsmen return to the nation two years after the ball-tampering scandal, paceman Josh Hazlewood has said.

The pair will fly out with the Australia squad on Friday for a limited overs tour in the duo's first visit to the country since serving 12-month bans for their parts in the tampering plot during the Cape Town test.

The pair were jeered relentlessly by English crowds during last year's one-day World Cup and the following Ashes series, and Hazlewood said they would be unfazed by more hostility.

"Steve and Dave have ticked off pretty much every box since coming back," Hazlewood told reporters in Sydney on Thursday.

"It's just another one of those and I don't think it'll faze them one bit.

"They probably play better when it's like this.

"It's nothing we haven't experienced before ... we'll be fine."

Both Smith and Warner have thrived since returning to the national fold after their bans expired last March.

Smith played a leading role in Australia's retention of the Ashes while Warner was awarded the Allan Border Medal for the third time on Monday as the country's top cricketer in 2019.

Local media have reported that the



Steve Smith

head of the national players' union will tour with the side in South Africa to offer extra support for the players.

Hazlewood said Smith and Warner would not need to be shielded.

"They'll probably try to take as much heat as they can actually, try to keep the young guys out of the spotlight," added the paceman.

Hazlewood said engaging positively with fans was the best way to defuse them.

"Join in and try to have a good time with them. Often when you do that, they end up being on your side after a couple of overs," he said.

"It is when you fight them that it becomes to and fro, and quite abusive. Ride the storm and go along with it."

Meanwhile, Matt Renshaw, once tipped as a long-term fix for Australia's opening batting problems, is taking a break from cricket after being dropped by Queensland ahead of the resumption of the Sheffield Shield season.

The 23-year-old left-hander has failed to score a century in Australia's domestic first-class competition since playing the last of his 11 tests in 2018.

"As part of our usual review process of player performance, our coaching and support staff spent time with Matthew this week and they all came to the conclusion that he would benefit from some time away from cricket," Queensland performance boss Bennett King told News Ltd

media.

"We're confident Matthew will benefit from a break from the game to freshen up, and look forward to working with him once he is ready to resume playing."

Renshaw had been expected to be named in a Cricket Australia (CA) XI to play the England Lions development squad in a four-day game in Hobart this week but he told selectors he had decided to step away from the game, CA's website (cricket.com.au) said.

Renshaw made his test debut at 20 against South Africa in 2016 and scored 184 against Pakistan in his fourth test, an Australian record for a player of his age.

Dropped ahead of the 2017-18 home Ashes against England, Renshaw appeared set to reclaim his spot after openers David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were suspended for ball-tampering in South Africa the following year.

But after suffering concussion during a tour match leading into the 2018 series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates, the Yorkshire-born batsman has been overlooked by test selectors since.

Fellow Queenslanders Joe Burns has partnered Warner at the top of the Australia order for the past year, though Burns' spot has also come under scrutiny after a lean series against New Zealand over the home summer.

REUTERS

CAF Super Cup clash offers chance to forget

DOHA

AFRICAN football bosses will hope Friday's Super Cup clash between Tunisia's Esperance and Egypt's Zamalek in Doha overshadows the fiasco over the way Esperance qualified.

Esperance won the AFC Champions League after opponents Wydad Casablanca abandoned the final in protest at the organisers' decision not to use VAR.

Play was stopped for more than an hour with the Moroccan side insisting they had not been told the video ref would not be deployed.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport named Esperance the winners after a bruising legal battle that did nothing to enhance the image of scandal-tainted African football.

CAF president Ahmad Ahmad faces allegations including corruption, financial misappropriation and sexual harassment but has not commented.

Friday's fixture is fraught with political pitfalls. Zamalek initially said they would boycott. Egypt is one of four countries enforcing an economic boycott of Qatar over alleged backing for radical Islamist groups and for Iran. Doha denies the charges.

Zamalek's board voted to play the match but the club's colourful chairman Mortada Mansour warned his players in an online video that they

were "travelling to a hostile country".

- Blood and Gold vs the White Knights -

He suggested that Zamalek's training jerseys in Qatar would be adorned with an image of President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, the words "Long live Egypt", and the national flag.

The Super Cup is an annual one-off match pitting the winner of the CAF Champions League and second-tier CAF Confederation Cup against each other. It was staged in Africa from its inception in 1993 until last year when it moved to Qatar.

The match - with a 20,000 capacity crowd expected - may be a test for Qatar's infrastructure but not for any of the 2022 World Cup venues as the game will be played at Al Gharafa, not one of the 2022 stadiums. It will kick off at 1600 GMT.

Esperance, known as "Blood and Gold" and "the White Knights" of Zamalek are among the giants of African football. The Tunisian side have won the Super Cup once and the Egyptian outfit on three occasions.

Esperance often start as many as seven non-Tunisians, including four Algerians, although star defender Abdelkader Bedrane is reportedly injured and will not play in Doha.

Zamalek rely heavily on Egyptians including star forward Mostafa Mohamed.

AFP

Martial: I was desperate to prove Mourinho wrong

LONDON

MANCHESTER United striker Anthony Martial has said he was determined to prove former manager Jose Mourinho wrong during the second season of his Old Trafford reign.

Speaking with RMC Sport, in an extract taken from an interview that will air as part of a film about the Portuguese coach, the France international said Mourinho's methods are designed to provoke a reaction from his players.

"It is true that I prefer to be told to my face," Martial said. "There is no need for it to be said in front of everybody. Certainly, after that, you want to prove him wrong."

"He did not play me during the first matches of the season. Each time I came on, I scored, and he eventually said to me [smiling]: 'you see, now you understand what I am after.'"

"It can sting, but you just want to show him that you should be on the pitch."

Martial started just three of the opening 11 Premier League games during the 2017-18 campaign - Mourinho's second season as United boss. He finished the term with nine goals in 30 league appearances.

Mourinho is now in charge of United's Champions League qualification rivals Tottenham Hotspur after he replaced Mauricio Pochettino in November.

Meanwhile, Manchester United have told new signing Odion Ighalo to stay away from their

Carrington training base because of fears over coronavirus, sources have told ESPN.

The striker has been training at the National Taekwondo Centre, next door to Manchester City's Etihad Stadium, since arriving from Shanghai Shenhua as a precaution.

After signing on loan on deadline day, Ighalo arrived in Manchester from China on Feb. 1 and will remain in the mandated 14-day incubation period until Friday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and his squad will return from their warm weather camp in Marbella on Friday morning and Ighalo will train with his new teammates at Carrington for the first time over the weekend before the trip to Chelsea on Monday.

Ighalo was not included in the squad which travelled to Spain because of fears he would not clear UK immigration on the way back having been in China fewer than 14 days earlier.

The 30-year-old, who has not played a competitive game since Dec. 6, has been working to a personalised training programme designed by United staff in a bid to ensure he is ready to feature at Stamford Bridge.

"He is going to travel with us," said Solskjaer. "We will just see his fitness work this week and I think we will get him sharp."

"We want to integrate him as quickly as we can because, of course, he is desperate to play for us."

(Agencies)

Nigeria appoint World Cup vet Yobo as assistant

By Colin Udoh, Special to ESPN

NIGERIA have appointed former Everton defender Joseph Yobo as assistant coach of the men's national team.

Yobo, 39, replaces Imama Amapakabo, the 1985 FIFA Under-16 World Cup winner, as one of head coach Gernot Rohr's lieutenants. Amapakabo, whose responsibility included oversight of the Olympic team and B side, saw that position compromised when both teams performed abysmally in their respective qualifying campaigns.

It is uncertain if Yobo, who captained the team from 2010 to 2013, the year he led the Super Eagles to their third African title, would be given the same responsibilities. "I'm super excited about the opportunity," Yobo told ESPN. "It's not something I was expecting so it came as a bit of a surprise, but when

the opportunity came I had to grab it. And that's what makes it so special because I wasn't chasing it. "My mentality is super strong. What I will bring to the team is knowledge about the game, my experience as a player who played for over 10 years with the national team and led the team as captain. It is a huge honour to be given this opportunity and I hope I can help the players with an even better appreciation of what it means to represent the country."

Yobo started his international career as a cadet, representing Nigeria at U20 level during the FIFA World Youth Championship (now known as FIFA U20 World Cup) in 1999. He won his first cap for the senior team in an Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match away to Zambia in Chingola in April 2001, and played at three FIFA World Cup finals in 2002, 2010 and 2014.

Bayern and Real Madrid show how big-club power keeps you on top

By Musa Okwonga, ESPN.com writer

IF there were a film to describe the course of the current Bundesliga season, it could well be "The Empire Strikes Back." Bayern Munich were meant to be in crisis, having sacked manager Niko Kovac in November after a series of disappointing results. Meanwhile, a trio of challengers waited to take advantage: RB Leipzig, catalysed by the brilliant Julian Nagelsmann, Lucien Favre's Borussia Dortmund and Borussia Monchengladbach, who are enjoying a thrilling campaign under Marco Rose. Yet as we enter the later stages of the campaign, Bayern stand at the top of the table.

In Spain, Real Madrid have pulled off a similar trick. At the start of the season, they too appeared to be an ailing empire. Their coach, Zinedine Zidane, faced accusations that he was merely suited to knockout tournaments, not the long haul. He had fallen out publicly with star Gareth Bale, making every effort to extract him from the club. His midfielders were experiencing an extended run of poor form, and his summer signings (Luka Jovic, Eden Hazard, Eder Militao) were falling flat. A few months later, Zidane's men lead La Liga, three points clear of Barcelona.

How have these teams done it?

Broadly speaking, there are three reasons: Football's major empires are wealthy, are ruthless and have been here before. Their institutional memory is one of victory. When Bayern were struggling, they were able to throw money at the problem. After the superb performances of Robert Lewandowski kept them competitive early in the season, summer additions Philippe Coutinho and Ivan Perisic have added much-needed quality and depth in attack.

Such are Madrid's financial resources that they were able to absorb the difficult teething period for Jovic, who has scored only twice since his €60 million transfer from Eintracht Frankfurt in the summer.

However, money is nothing without ruthlessness, and both Bayern and Real have an abundance of that. Bayern could not care less how they were perceived for sacking Kovac, the man who only a few months earlier delivered them a domestic league and cup double. Similarly, Madrid were not much bothered by the open warfare between Zidane and Bale; though the player has not featured much this season, there's no sign that he has significantly harmed their title ambitions.

In both cases, the clubs acted quickly to address the signs of off-field chaos. This is a lesson Manchester United and Barcelona, in persisting so long with



their leaders at the managerial and boardroom level, have failed to heed. While United toil in contention for the Europa League, Barcelona are struggling to move on from the sluggish end to the Ernesto Valverde era, allowing Madrid to nose their way in front.

Last of all, there is the question of prior experience. Watching Real Madrid, who own the best defensive record in La Liga, there is a sense that they are playing from memory, that club greats such as Sergio Ramos, Luka Modric and Karim Benzema are going through the familiar motions of glory.

They've won so many trophies that they know both how success works and how to pace themselves throughout a season. In Germany, there is a comparable picture. Although Leipzig, Dortmund and Gladbach have produced some of the season's most exhilarating results in isolation, Bayern still hold a considerable advantage: namely, that several members of their side

have won at least five consecutive league titles with them, and five (Manuel Neuer, Thomas Muller, Jerome Boateng, Javi Martinez and David Alaba) have won the past seven.

The coach in Spain or Germany who seems most aware of the scale of the challenge is Leipzig's Nagelsmann, a manager whose own club, it must be said, is not exactly short of money. In a surprisingly combative recent address to his players, following a startling 2-0 defeat at Eintracht Frankfurt, he said, "We need to decide whether or not we push towards the title or whether we stay here, have something to eat and drink, and fall back into the pack."

Nagelsmann believed that his players, none of whom have won the Bundesliga, were merely happy to be at the top of the league, therefore suffering from a sort of altitude excitement. His words seemed harsh at the time, but results since have stood them in decent stead. Draws

against Gladbach and Bayern mean that the only game left against their closest challengers is at home to Borussia Dortmund, whose defence has been inconsistent of late and whose injuries, most notably to Marco Reus and Julian Brandt, have come at precisely the wrong time. Although Leipzig could and should have beaten Bayern, following startling misses from Timo Werner and Marcel Sabitzer, they remain just one point off the top after Sunday's 0-0 draw.

Perhaps Nagelsmann has decided that in order to break a club's reign, you need to be even more brutal than they are. A complaint levelled at Dortmund last season, most devastatingly by former Bayern striker Sandro Wagner, was that they were far from the supreme outfit everyone else in Germany thought. By contrast, Leipzig have shown of late that they have the resilience - and, just maybe, the ruthlessness - to resist one of football's proudest empires, for a season at least.

Are UEFA scoring environmental own goal with Euro 2020?

PARIS

THE 2020 European Championship will be the first to be played all across the continent, with 12 different countries hosting matches, forcing teams and supporters to rack up thousands of air miles and leave behind a gigantic carbon footprint.

Sold by UEFA as a one-off to celebrate 60 years since the first European Championship, the format of Euro 2020 may be innovative, and organisers have promised to make the tournament environmentally friendly.

That promise seems to ring hollow, however, when, for example, Polish supporters will have to travel over 6,000 kilometres (3,730 miles) in 10 days to watch their team's group games, to Dublin and Bilbao and then back to Ireland again.

Matches will also be played by the Caspian Sea in Baku, nearly 5,000 kilometres from London, where the final will be held.

Contrast that with Euro 2016, when the tournament was held in France, and the next Euro in Germany in 2024. Both of those countries are compact enough to travel around easily by train.

"This is a total nonsense from an environmental viewpoint," Karima Delli, a French Green who chairs the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee, told AFP.

"They say this new format is about showcasing European unity, but they're forgetting that there is a climate emergency."

However, UEFA insists it has taken this "emergency" into account and says it is "taking steps to ensure that Euro 2020 is our most environmentally conscious tournament to date."

- Pollution -
The format for Euro 2020 will see several leading nations - England, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands - whose fans "are known to travel in their tens of thousands for major international tournaments," play their group games at home.

"This will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the tournament," UEFA told AFP.

Meanwhile, Budapest's Puskas Arena will be the only brand new venue for the tournament. This, UEFA says, has spared "a huge environmental cost in energy, concrete and other resources."

In contrast, four new stadiums were built in France ahead of Euro 2016.

Andrew Welfle, of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at the University of Manchester, admits that construction is "a major source of emissions" for any major tournament.

That means there is a "huge difference" between the emissions caused by Euro 2020 and, for example, the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where all eight venues are either being built from scratch or modernised for the competition.

Emissions caused by travelling supporters can



One critic has described the pan-continental format of Euro 2020 'a total nonsense', but UEFA say they are doing their best to make the tournament environmentally friendly (AFP Photo)

be "the hardest thing to calculate", according to Welfle.

"The estimates will be based on lots of different assumptions which will themselves be more or less realistic."

UEFA itself has calculated that travelling fans and teams will produce 425,000 tons of carbon emissions over the duration of the Euro.

In comparison, it says, Euro 2016 in

France created 517,000 tons of emissions. The 2018 World Cup, held in 11 cities across Russia but with 32 teams instead of 24 at the Euro, produced almost 1.5 million tons of emissions, according to reports produced by organisers.

- Constant expansion -
To compensate, UEFA is pledging to invest in "emission reduction projects", and intends to plant 50,000 trees in each

of the host countries in order to "leave a lasting legacy".

But experts are not convinced. "Planting trees is great, but planting trees and then leaving does not resolve the problem," says Welfle. "At the end of the day that is not going to change the quantity of emissions produced during the tournament."

UEFA is also attempting to reduce emissions, for example giving supporters free use of public transport on matchdays, and recycling more waste.

Yet surely the least sustainable aspect of all is the constant obsession with expanding major competitions, with the Euro having grown from 16 teams to 24, while the World Cup will soon balloon from 32 to 48 teams.

"If climate change is becoming a priority, there are numerous ways in which these competitions can be organised differently," Welfle says.

"Why not base the decision on the host country on the issue of transport? Maybe they can reduce the number of matches, and give spectators longer to travel to venues."

In September, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin acknowledged that football had "not done much for the environment".

The pan-European format is unlikely to be repeated and UEFA has promoted the "excellent transport infrastructure" in Germany, the next host. Maybe 2024 will be the first properly environmentally friendly Euro?

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Bayern and Real Madrid show how big-club power keeps you on top

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Aga Khan SC's cricketer, Aahil Jessani, in action against Shree Kutchi Leva SC in last year's GP Gymkhana Shield competition, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Jessani catapulted Aga Khan SC to victory over Aces in the Regional 50 overs League's semi-final played early this week. PHOTO: NIKHIL PUJARA

Aga Khan SC cricketers storm into Dar 50 overs League final

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM cricket big guns, Aga Khan SC, have booked a place in the final of the Regional 50 overs League's Division A, walloping Aces Club by five wickets in a thrilling semi-final which took place in the city early this week.

Caravans Club will be Aga Khan SC's opponents in the event's final, given the former made it to the stage after having been given a bye in the last four stages.

Aces chose to start batting against Aga Khan after the former had won the toss, they nevertheless struggled in the innings to eventually register 99 runs all out in 31.2 overs.

They had a promising start, with the opening pair of Jumanne Mohamed and Ankit Baghel partnering to register 48 runs before they were dismissed by Aga Khan SC's Aahil Jessani.

Mohamed scored 26 runs, which consisted of two boundaries, whereas his fellow opener notched 18 runs which included three boundaries.

The side's pursuit of an imposing score was, later on, dealt a blow, given batsmen were dismissed in quick succession.

Imran Khan to some extent attempted to improve his squad's pursuit of a good total, posting 16 runs, which consisted of a boundary.

Jessani ended as Aga Khan's hero during the team's bowling spell, given he almost single-handedly demolished the Aces' batting lineup.

The gifted all-rounder had eight wickets, leaking 20 runs in his 10-over spell, preventing Aces from reaching triple figure in their innings.

Aces' batsmen were hardly able to counter Aga Khan's spin attack of Jessani, Sadick Iddi and Dhruvit Mehta.

Iddi and Mehta were equally dangerous, with the two bowlers taking a wicket apiece.

Needing 100 runs to win, Aga Khan did not start their innings well, losing three wickets in quick succession and forcing veteran skipper, Ayzaz Jessani, to press panic button.

The experienced all-rounder eventually managed to counter a formidable Aces' bowling trio of Salum Jembe, Ally Mpeka and Mohamed Ali.

Aga Khan managed to post the much needed triple digit total in the 34th over for the loss of five wickets.

Much as Aces cricketers put a spirited showing, their efforts to defend the 99 runs hit snag, given they conceded 31 extras.

Jembe was Aces' top wicket taker, taking two wickets, leaking 14 runs in nine overs.

Caravans were, as disclosed by the competition's organizers Dar es Salaam Cricket, given a bye to the final after the club's semi-final against Shree Kutchi Leva SC was abandoned because of rain.

Caravans finished top of their group during the group games, hence making it to the final on that basis.

Wheelchair tennis team seeks to excel in World Team Cup Qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONAL wheelchair tennis team's players, who left for Kenya on Wednesday to compete at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup Qualifiers, have said they are confident of performing well at the event.

Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) chairman, Dennis Makoyi, mentioned players making the team as Novatus Temba, Juma Hamisi, Lucy Shirima and Rehema Seleman.

Experienced tennis coach, Riziki Salum, is heading the team.

Makoyi said based on history, Tanzania's players are expected to excel at the World Team qualifying tournament.

"Yes, the players left yesterday (Wednesday) for Kenya where they will compete at BNP Paribas World Team Cup Qualifiers, they have all promised to do well at the event and I'm sure they will perform well," he said.

He disclosed that the players and coach have been sponsored by International Tennis Federation (ITF) and TTA.

The country has in the past competed at the BNP Paribas World Team Cup in Turkey and Italy.

The BNP Paribas World Team Cup is the International Tennis Federation (ITF)'s flagship wheelchair tennis team event.

It is often referred to as the Davis Cup and Fed Cup of wheelchair tennis.

The initial event took place in California, USA in 1985 involving six men's teams.

The women's competition began the following year, with quad and junior events being introduced in 1998 and 2000 respectively.



Simba forward, John Bocco.

Simba SC coach impressed by Bocco, Kagere exploits

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC head coach Sven Vandebroek has said he is happy with the combination of his top strikers John Bocco and Meddie Kagere.

The coach said he is of the view that the combination of the two will help the team excel in the ongoing Vodacom Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC).

Vandebroek issued the comments after the two played together in Simba's 3-0 win over Mtibwa Sugar in a league match, which took place in Morogoro on Tuesday.

"I'm of the view that if the two will be playing together, their combination will help the team very much, they play well and support each

other on the field," he said.

Strikers Bocco and Kagere used to play together during the reign of the then head coach Patrick Aussems.

The two players have not been playing together from the time Vandebroek took over due to, among other reasons, injury Bocco had sustained and was sidelined for some time.

Last year the combination of the two proved vital as Simba managed to defend the Premier League and Kagere ended as the league's top goal scorer.

Kagere is the current leading goal scorer in the Vodacom Premier League.

He has, however, not been at his best lately, a development which has, as per some of the

domestic soccer analysts, been attributed to missing Bocco on the field.

Currently, Simba SC has scored 26 goals and conceded eight in the 21 league games the squad has so far played.

Commenting on Simba's league clash with Lipuli FC, which will be played on Saturday, Vandebroek said his players are ready for the encounter and they are looking forward to collecting three points.

He said the clash will, however, not be easy considering that Simba will play away and every team is fighting for points.

"At this stage of the league all games are difficult, but we are ready for the challenge ahead as our aim is to collect three points," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



Needing 100 runs to win, Aga Khan did not start their innings well, losing three wickets in quick succession and forcing veteran skipper, Ayzaz Jessani, to press panic button.

EATV FRIDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Mid Week Movie (r)
13:30 Kaili Za Wana
14:00 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wakilisha (r)
16:00 Ujenzi (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Skonga
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Friday Night Live
23:00 Kurasa (r)

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10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 Friday Night Live

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