



National Pg 3

Expansion of Kilombero Sugar project



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Sensitise public about TASAF



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Addressing high incidence of pests



National Pg 6

Launch of village land use planning



WHO cautions on dangers of worldwide flu-like pandemic

GENEVA

A FLU-LIKE illness could travel around the world in 36 hours and kill 80 million people, experts have warned.

A century ago the Spanish flu pandemic infected a third of the world's population and killed 50million people.

If a similar outbreak were to happen with today's constantly-travelling population, the effects could be even worse, a report has suggested.

The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board (GPMB), a team of health experts led by a former chief of the World Health Organization, has produced the report to try and spur world leaders into action.

"The threat of a pandemic spreading around the globe is a real one," the group said in a report released yesterday.

"A quick-moving pathogen has the potential to kill tens of millions of people, disrupt



'The threat of a pandemic spreading around the globe is a real one,' the group said in a report released yesterday

economies and destabilise national security.'

The report, named 'A World At Risk,' said current efforts to prepare for outbreaks in the wake of crises such as Ebola are 'grossly insufficient.'

The GPMB is headed by Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Norwegian prime minister and director-general of the WHO, and Alhadj As Sy, the secretary-general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

It said in its report that recommendations it made in an earlier report have been largely ignored by world leaders.

'Many of the recommendations reviewed were poorly implemented, or not implemented at all, and serious gaps persist,' the GPMB wrote.

'For too long, we have allowed a cycle of panic and neglect when it comes to pandemics: we ramp up efforts when there is a serious threat, and then quickly forget about them when the threat subsides. It is well past time to act.'

The report contained a map of the world with a list of possible infections which could trigger the hypothetical outbreak. These were split into 'newly emerging' and 're-emerging/resurging' pandemic threats.

Among the former were the Ebola, Zika and Nipah viruses, and five types of flu, and

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KIA luggage scanners 'not in use for last three years'



A section of Coco Beach in Oysterbay suburb of Kinondoni district in Dar es Salaam, geared for a facelift by the Kinondoni municipal authorities. Petty traders who conduct their business at the area have until November to remove their goods to pave the way for the improvement. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Responding to these complaints, the Director of the Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO) Christopher Mukoma, said these challenges are being addressed

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

SCANNERS for examining luggage belonging to passengers arriving at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) are currently not in use, as they broke down three years ago.

The situation is causing some tourists arriving from foreign countries lose their luggage, while some of the staff at the terminal are unfaithful when reading the machines.

This was reported yesterday during a joint meeting of tourism stakeholders who use the airport, and officials from the Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism, Home Affairs and regional officials from Kilimanjaro and Arusha.

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Constantine Kanyasu said the government was compelled to convene the meeting after complaints were aired during the reception from South Africa on September 10 of nine rhinos out of 10 who are genetically tied with those found in the country.

"On that day when we were receiving the animals, we received complaints from



He said the situation angers visitors and it is bound to diminish the country's tourism market

various stakeholders in tourism who grumbled over the loss of their luggage and visas via the new e-Visa system.

"They said to them this is a big challenge which disrupts the tourism industry because the industry requires competence and faithfulness," Kanyasu said.

Emmanuel Mollel, the chairman of the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators (TATO) said that 90 percent of foreigners arriving via KIA air their complaints over loss of portions of their luggage and have to stand in queue for lengthy periods to have their visas processed, sometimes up to three hours."

He said the situation angers visitors and it is bound to diminish the country's tourism market.

"Breaking down of the screen for several years now is a big challenge to tourism stakeholders, in particular tourists themselves, in finding out travel schedules of various planes," he said.

Another tourist stakeholder from Zara Tanzania Charity, Bernard Sihini, said breaking down of the machine and lack of desk facilities for information was a huge challenge in receiving guests from foreign countries.

Responding to these complaints, the Director of the Kilimanjaro Airport Development Company (KADCO)

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Why many Tanzanians needing plastic surgery suffer in silence

By Henry Mwangonde

MANY Tanzanians with deformities and other illnesses that are corrected through plastic surgery suffer in silence due to the small number of surgeons and lack of awareness about the treatment, it was said yesterday.

Tanzania has less than 10 plastic surgeons and the Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) alone receives an average of 15 patients who require surgery every three months and it has only four surgeons, Dr Deogratius Manyama, the Acting



Other patients who require the services are those with diabetes, obesity and birth defects in children

Director of Surgical Services at MNH's Mloganzila Hospital has declared.

Briefing the media on a three days reconstructive surgery camp at MNH in collaboration with experts from South Korea, Dr Laurean Rwanyuma a consultant surgeon at MNH said there are many people who require the service but, they do not obtain it because the number of such surgeons in the country is small.

"There are a lot of patients who require plastic surgery not only in Dar es Salaam but

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High Court convicts three for murder, sets capital penalty

By Guardian Correspondent, Songwe

THE High Court of Tanzania, Mbeya Zone has sentenced three youths to death by hanging after they were found guilty of murder contrary to section 196 of The Penal Code Cap 16 as amended in 2002.

The trio is Nathaniel Elias(31), Moses Kasitu (26) and Elias Mzumbwe whose age was not immediately established.

Reading the judgment, Judge Dr Adam Mambi said the court was satisfied from the evidence



tendered by the prosecution and the sentence should act as deterrence to those who want success by causing death to others.

Judge Mambi said the accused in criminal case No 23 of 2016 committed the offence on 25/7/2014 in Mpemba area in Tunduma Municipality, Momba District, Songwe Region.

He said the accused attacked one Vascal Njowela who had come out of a shop at Mpemba as he was transacting some business and he was going back to his business partner to deliver

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Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Employment, and People with Disability) Jenister Mhagama (R) inspects tomato seedlings and drip irrigation system at one of green houses at Mnenia ward in Kondoa Town Council in Dodoma region on Tuesday. Left is the ward councillor Adam leria. Photo: PMO

High Court convicts three for murder, sets capital penalty

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money. On the way they shot him dead at took away from him one million shillings.

Defence attorney Justian Mshkolwe said from the evidence adduced in court by prosecution witnesses, he had to agree with the court's sentence but said there is a channel for appeal to upper courts.

Prosecution State Attorney Shindani Michael praised the court in meting out proper justice which should act as a deterrent to other people who may

have urges to commit similar offences.

Outside the packed court, the wananchi led by one Adam Juma praised the court for the sentence saying such crime incidents were on the rise in the region.

Juma said the shooting was cruelty of unimaginable proportions, "to kill and rob the victim money, just 1m/. We are tired of such crimes now rampant in our region, as every passing day people are attacked and sometimes killed due to love affairs, or bodaboda drivers robbed of their machines."

Why many Tanzanians needing plastic surgery suffer in silence

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countrywide. They are mostly those whose complications were caused by injuries from road and fire accidents," he said.

Other patients who require the services are those with diabetes, obesity and birth defects in children, he said.

There is need for raising the capacity to train and get more plastic surgeons, as well as creating a succession plan to ensure we have a reasonable number of experts who will provide services to the population, he further noted.

In his remarks, Prof Jeong Tae Kim, a Korean plastic surgeon, said he was surprised when he saw the huge number of patients who needs plastic surgeries but they are not exposed to doctors.

"This hospital is well facilitated and it has most of the standards required

worldwide, but I was surprised that there are many patients with injuries, wounds and scars including children who are in serious need of reconstructive surgery. But unfortunately they are not exposed to any help because of the lack of surgeons in Tanzania," he said.

He said his country has good relations with Tanzania and the plan is to train more Tanzanian experts on plastic surgery so when they start working they can easily conduct cosmetic surgery. South Korea was among countries with tremendous achievements in training plastic surgeons as currently it has more than 2000, the medic intoned.

One surgery takes eight to nine hours depending on the complexity and in Korea one surgery can cost up to \$3,000 to the patient's family or insurance, he added.

KIA luggage scanners 'not in use for three years'

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Christopher Mukoma, said these challenges are being addressed.

"It has taken a long time to install the equipment due to amendments to the Public Procurement Act (PPRA), but we have now completed all the procedures and any time from now the equipment

will be installed at the terminal," he said. The law was amended in 2016.

At the meeting, Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo admitted the shortcoming in the tourism sector and suggested the formation of a committee that will look into various

issues confronting the sector as well as its performance at KIA and Arusha airports.

He said the committee should include officials from KIA, private tourist operators and government officials including those from the Immigration

Department.

The RC also pleaded with tourism sector stakeholders to stop ill-feelings in the tourism sector. They should compete benevolently to improve the country's tourism sector operating environment, he added.

WHO cautions on dangers of worldwide flu-like pandemic

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the latter included the West Nile virus, antibiotic resistance, measles, acute flaccid myelitis, yellow fever, dengue, plague and human monkeypox.

The report referenced the damage done by the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic and said modern advances in

international travel would help the disease spread faster.

With vast numbers of people crossing the world on planes every day, an equivalent air-borne outbreak now could spread globally in less than 36 hours and kill an estimated 50million to 80million people, they added.

EU and stakeholders in Pemba for climate change resilience

By Guardian Reporter

GOVERNMENT representatives, community leaders and members of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania yesterday convened on Pemba Island to celebrate successes and lessons learnt from an ambitious four year climate change resilience and poverty reduction initiative.

According to a statement released yesterday by the EU delegation to Tanzania, the project, which is called 'The Scalable Resilience: Outspreading Islands of Adaptation' is funded by the EU for an amount of EUR 1 million (2.542 billion/-).

Led by the local NGO, 'Community Forest Pemba (CFP)' in partnership with the Wete District Authority, the work was funded under the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) programme and spanned 32 at-risk communities across all four districts of Pemba Island, reaching 33,600 people with a wide range of activities including solar energy, rainwater harvesting, climate-smart agriculture, and mangrove forest restoration.

During his speech, the Guest of Honour, Regional Commissioner for North Pemba, Omar Khamis Othman stated that, "On behalf of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and myself, I pledge that we will continue to encourage, monitor and work closely to ensure that the programs initiated by Community Forests Pemba through the GCCA Tanzania program are sustained and continue bringing benefits to the Pemba community."

Speaking at the ceremony, Jenny Correia Nunes, EU Head of Natural Resources, said, "The project we are handing over here today has proven that Climate-Smart Actions work and create economic opportunities for the communities. A good example is the spice growers who have introduced new techniques and are now exporting their spices to Europe. It is my hope that this project will serve as a good model of how we can adapt to the negative impact

of climate change by planting trees, applying climate-smart agriculture and a wide range of other adaptation strategies demonstrated and documented by the project."

One of the many lessons highlighted yesterday is the strong link achieved between smart climate action and economic growth. The majority of project participants have improved their income by engaging in new, more climate resilient approaches to their work. 35 new local producer groups have been established supporting enterprises as diverse as clean cook-stove manufacturing, sustainable forestry management, and fair trade spice marketing. "We are living on the front lines of climate change here in Pemba - our small island environment is already affected by rising sea levels and so many other climate challenges. But now the world is paying attention to Pemba because of the innovative community solutions." We are thankful for the generous support of the European Union, our international partners, and all of the hard work of local communities through this effort - we are together," said Mbarouk Mussa Omar, Founder and Executive Director of CFP.

The production of high value spice crops like vanilla, in new tree-based farm systems that are more resilient to the negative effects of climate change, has been especially successful with a new island-wide farmer cooperative coming out of the project to meet the growing international demand.

"Spice growing brings me money and helps me to tackle several issues like paying school fees. It ensures I have food in the house and helps pay for clothes. I am also aware of climate change - nobody should be allowed to just cut down trees, because we need shade to plant our vanilla and without shade there is no moister and we can't plant anything" said Bimajo Massoud Juma, project beneficiary and Committee Member of the newly formed Pemba Spice Producers Cooperative (PROSPER).



Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummu Mwalimu and United Arab Emirates ambassador to Tanzania Khalifa Abdulrahman Mohammed Al Marzooqi talking to children who had heart problems moments after undergoing surgeries at Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The treatment was sponsored by Sharjah Charity Group. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala.

Police arrests 8 for defrauding hundreds in Kuwait job scam

NAIROBI

Detectives in Nairobi on Tuesday arrested eight people for allegedly defrauding more than 300 people with the promise of greener pastures in Kuwait, the Middle East.

The suspects were arrested at 680 and Clarion hotels by detectives from Central Police Station.

The suspects - Franline Otieno, Kevin Olondi, Stella Cheruto, Joseph Gikonyo, Catherine Ngendo, Habiba Shafi, Aisha Mohamed and Mary Ogola - are believed to have taken millions of shillings from unsuspecting job seekers.

"Over 300 victims who have allegedly been defrauded of up to Sh130,000 each to cater for logistics, training and transport to Kuwait were waiting in vain for their journey to mature," the Directorate of Criminal Investigations

(DCI) tweeted.

NYS staff involved

A woman police believe has been receiving the money and is based at the National Youth Services (NYS) headquarters is at large.

"A suspect at large, allegedly from NYS HQs has been receiving the money ... with the promise that the group would be transported to NYS HQs before exit to JKIA [sic]," the DCI said.

Some detectives interrogated the eight suspects as others hunted down the NYS staff.

Fraudulent job opportunities

Every year, hundreds of Kenyans are lured with the promise of lucrative jobs and a chance to escape unemployment.

Thousands are said to be working in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Lebanon and other Middle East countries.

However, there are no official records

because most recruiting agencies operate underground, with some jobseekers ending up with working conditions that border slavery.

In 2018, families of more than 70 Kenyans from Mombasa were stranded in Qatar for lack of travel documents and air tickets to return home after falling out with their employers.

They were forced to seek help from the government yet they had paid Sh120,000 to different recruiting agencies in Kenya to secure jobs in Qatar.

What many did not know was that the agencies were not recruiting firms but travel companies 'owned' by Nigerians in Mombasa.

Ban on foreign employment

In September 2014, the Kenyan government banned its citizens from seeking domestic work in the Middle East and revoked the licences of 930

recruitment agencies after reports of abuses increased.

In March 2016, however, the same government lifted the blanket ban on the exportation of labour to countries such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Kuwait.

The government, through the Labour ministry, said Kenyans with professional qualifications, for accounting, hotel management and secretarial duties, can freely work in the Gulf States, provided they apply through properly vetted recruitment agencies.

In January, the government allowed Saudi Arabia to start recruiting Kenyan domestic workers again.

Labour and Social Protection Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said the decision followed the signing of a bilateral agreement in 2017, paving the way for structured recruitment.



Board chairman for Kilombero sugar company, Ami Mpungwe (C) shows Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa (R) a plot where Kilombero Sugar Company is planning on building another sugar factory after completing feasibility studies and attaining approvals from the shareholders. On the left is Regional Commissioner for Morogoro Region, Dr Steven Kebwe. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Implement expansion project, Majaliwa counsels sugar firm

By Guardian Reporter

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has pledged government support towards initiatives to expand Kilombero Sugar Company plantation, saying the country is in need of more investments to address the sugar supply gap, bolster industrial growth and increase employment opportunities.

"We have put weight on investments in sugar factories in Tanzania and we still continue to persuade investors to build more factories in other areas as well. We still have enough land, for instance here in Morogoro at Mkulazi we have ample land. Despite government plans to set up a sugar factory at the area, there is still space for you (Kilombero Sugar) to go and build another factory," said the PM.

Majaliwa made the remarks at the company's premises in Morogoro region on Tuesday when he paid a visit as part of his four-day tour of the region.

The premier noted that as part of its efforts to encourage the growth of local sugar factories, the government prohibited importation of sugar as it was hindering growth of the local industry. The government is now encouraging the use of sugar from local industries, he stated.

"Sugar demand in the country stands at 545,000 tonnes (household sugar) per annum. I believe our sugar industry will be able to achieve this in the near future, hence I once again encourage you to expand to eventually reach the target of 545,000 tonnes per year," he told company staff and management.

He further urged the sugar company to not only invest in expanding the sugar plant, but also on its employees and cane growers.

Ambassador Ami Mpungwe, the

board chairman, commended the government for continued support towards the sugar company especially now that it is in the process of expansion.

"For now our expansion project is in the final stages of feasibility study before acquiring approval from the board as well as its shareholders. These include Kilombero Holdings with 75 per cent shares and the government with 25 per cent shares," said Ambassador Mpungwe, requesting the government to issue its approval as minority shareholder to allow implementation of the project.

The company shall continue to work with the government to ensure that the sugar company achieves the government's vision to produce enough sugar for local consumption, and eventually attain an industrial economy and reach middle-class economy status by 2025.

The premier commended KSC's long term plan to produce enough for local consumption and thereafter start producing industrial sugar after expansion, saying this will be a good move for the sugar industry in the country.

"Some unscrupulous traders whom we have given permission to import industrial sugar use this opportunity as a loophole to import table sugar as well. So we want to get away with importing industrial sugar as well," he declared.

He encouraged the sugar firm to seek other areas for planting sugar cane, saying there are many suitable areas such as Kigoma, Rufiji and Babati where there is suitable land for sugar cane planting. Kilombero Sugar Company needs to consider investing in such areas as well, once they complete this anticipated expansion project, he added.

Briton jailed two years for working without permit

By Guardian Reporter

THE Kisumu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam has sentenced the manager of Fuel Security Co. Ltd, Malcom Doherty to pay 11m/- fine or two years in jail after being found guilty of working without a work permit, giving false information and involvement in employment without following the country's laws.

The accused who is a British national was sentenced on Tuesday by Principal Resident Magistrate Thomas Simba.

Reading the judgment, Thomas Simba said the court has found the accused guilty on all counts as charged, and that he has fined him 500,000/- for each of two counts or one year in jail.

He further said the accused is fined 100,000/- or one year in jail for other

two counts.

He also said he has fined him 10m/- or two years in jail for engaging himself in employment without work permit.

The prosecution claimed the accused committed the offence on October 19, 2017 at Immigration Offices in Kigambonui District Dar es Salaam.

Earlier it was claimed that the ac-

cusced entered the country without a work permit and gave false information to immigration officials about his nationality, saying that he was a Tanzanian while he was not.

In his defence the accused asked for clemency from the court saying he was a law abiding citizen, has a Tanzanian wife and that his passport was stolen.

The accused failed to pay the fine, so he was taken to jail.



REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sightsavers is an international organization working with partners in developing countries to eliminate avoidable blindness, and promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities

Sightsavers Tanzania Country Office is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from suitably qualified companies who wish to be prequalified for provision/ supply of goods and services for a period of one year with a possibility of extension.

Sightsavers is seeking proposals for the following:

- Supply of Office Stationeries
- Supply of Staff Amenities
- Travel Agency Services (local air ticketing)
- Hotel Accommodation and Conference facilities (Morogoro, Singida, Lindi and Ruvuma)
- Courier Services
- Vehicle Repairs and Maintenance Services
- Servicing Air Conditions
- Servicing Generator
- Servicing Photocopier
- Supply of ICT materials (cartridges, external drives, etc)
- External Printing Services (including production of calendars, diaries, programme cards and t-shirts etc)
- Medical supplies/consumables
- Vehicle Hire and Taxi services.

Eligible suppliers/service providers are invited to submit proposals strictly via email to, gkatunzi@sightsavers.org by the closing date **4th October, 2019**. For more details please contact Sightsavers through +255 677 000350 and +255(0)222780154 during office hours.

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Sightsavers reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without giving reasons for its decision and will not in any case be responsible or liable for any costs associated with the preparation and submission of any proposal.

Note: Existing providers are also advised to participate.



ADVERTISEMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: CONSULTANCY FOR FOOD SAFETY CAPACITY BUILDING AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR AGRIFOOD ENTERPRISES IN RWANDA.

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20190260

The County Government of Mombasa (CGM) with support from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organisation funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) with the support of TMEA is seeking proposals from qualified firms/consortium for the Consultancy Services on food safety capacity building and certification program for agrifood enterprises in Rwanda.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <http://www.trademarka.com/get-involved/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com. The closing date for submissions is **Thursday, 10th October 2019 at 11.00 am (Rwanda Time)**.

Applications are only open to firms/consortium. Interested and qualified consultancy firms/consortium must register and apply online ONLY on the TMEA procurement portal at the website: <http://procurement.trademarka.com> and all attachments must be **10 MBs** or less.

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



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UK and Germany MPs arrive in Tanzania for anti-malaria drive

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of all parties parliamentary group on malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) from the United Kingdom and Germany who are visiting the country have met and held talks with their Tanzania counterparts on how to end malaria by 2030.

The tour is hosted by the Tanzania parliamentary against malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (TAPAMA and NTD).

The delegation of parliamentarians met the Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira yesterday to discuss various issues regarding the challenges and efforts aimed at ending malaria and NTD in the region.

On her part, Mghwira welcomed the parliamentarians from UK and Germany commending them for their support in ending the deadly malaria disease as well as NTD in the country.

During the tour in the region, two parliamentarians from the UK and Hellen Keller and Sight Savers, the representatives of the Non-governmental organisations in Tanzania visited Karume Health Centre in Rombo District.

While at the health centre, the parliamentarians witnessed with eye problems and trachoma getting treated. Initially, medical experts were visiting people in their home places to provide such treatment.

The treatment at the Karume health centre involved surgery of people found with the problem of trachoma with 30 patients expected to be treated.

The project is being implemented jointly by the Ministries of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Regional Administration and Local Government, Kilimanjaro Center for Community

Ophthalmology (KCCO) financed by the UK government through Commonwealth fund.

TAPAMA Secretary-General Dr Raphael Chegeni said the visit will enhance awareness of the UK legislators who then will advise their government through the Department for International Development (DFID) to increase resources and cooperation in the programme aimed at fighting malaria and the government of Tanzania through the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) and the NTD. It targets to empower these institutions in the programme geared at ending malaria in the country.

TAPAMA Executive Director Dr Hermengild Mayunga said the tour is the unique opportunity for APPG legislators to learn the challenges that the Tanzania government face in the efforts aimed at ending malaria and NTD.

While in the country, the parliamentarians will meet the Speaker of the National Assembly Job Ndugai on September 19, 2019.

Also the delegation of parliamentarians will meet the Minister of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, the NMCP management in Dodoma on September 19, 2019 to discuss challenges that the ministry face in combatting the malaria and NTD. It will be an opportunity to hear on what the UK government and its people can do through the DFID to support programme.

The parliamentarians will visit various projects on malaria and NTD implemented in the country funded by the government through the DFID and the Global Fund.



Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner Anna Mghwira (L) explains a point to Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu (2nd L) during his visit at the Kilimanjaro International Airport to identify the challenges facing tourists when arriving at the airport. Right is Arusha Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo. Photo: MNRT

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Agro dealers Cooperative Society (TADCOS) has appealed to the government to withdraw the 170,000/- business permit levy they are charged so as to enable them conduct the business smoothly while selling the products to farmers at affordable prices.

The Union's chairman Gerald Mlenge said that the levy imposed on them stands among the major reasons for high price of agriculture inputs thus thwarting the country's development.

"We are appealing to the government to take this matter seriously and see how it solve this problem. This situation affects both traders and farmers," Mlenge said during the agro-dealers

Agro dealers want business levy waived

workshop.

He also called on the government to provide grants to the suppliers something that will help production of quality and affordable seeds.

According to him, currently agro-seeds are being sold at the price between 10000/- and 12000/- per 2-kilogramme which is too high for the farmers to afford.

Mlenge also called on stakeholders and the government to create a special system of financing training for agro-dealers which most of them cannot afford to attend due to high fees.

"For an agro-dealer to be good and perfect to conduct the trade, he/she

should attend special trainings to be capacitated on required skills and knowledge of the businesses...but most of us fail to attend them due to high fees charged...they range from 350,000/- to 450,000/-, so this remains a major challenge to us," he added.

Also speaking, one of the farmers from Blambila village in Shinyanga district Rodgers Donald said that most of the farmers in the area are unaware of modern farming methods.

According to him, most of them are farming for consumption and not for commercial due to low knowledge.

"My plea to the government is to come to the rural areas, meet famers

and support us with prerequisite skills and knowledge as well as financially to enable the group embark on agribusiness for the country's development," he said.

For his part, the Deputy Registrar of Cooperatives from the Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC) Charles Malunde said that for the country to have sustainable agriculture, investing in quality agro-dealers was vital.

"Having qualified dealers of agriculture inputs will enable farmers to get quality seeds, fertilizer and other key equipment thus improving their farming and doubling yields," he said.

By Getrude Mbago

LOCAL government authorities across the country have been urged to intensively educate the public on the forthcoming second phase of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF-III) programme so as to make sure that all poor households are reached and enrolled once the exercise is commenced.

The programme which is set to commence soon will cover all villages across the country compared to the current one which has enrolled only 70 percent of villages.

Deputy permanent secretary President's Office, Regional

Sensitise public about TASAF III, the local authorities told

Administration and Local Government (Health) Dr Dorothy Gwajima made the call on Tuesday when she visited TASAF beneficiaries in Mkuranga district, Coast region.

The deputy PS underscored the need for the TASAF coordinators to work closely with officials in grassroot level and invest in awareness programme for the public to understand deeply about it and be ready to respond to it.

According to her, the implantation of TASAF III programme which is

expected to reach all villages enrolling poor households will lift up lives of those people living in abject poverty.

"Majority of Tanzanians especially in remote rural areas are unaware of the of Tasaf programme, most of them do not know the importance of the programme and they don't see the importance of being enrolled in the programme," she said.

Dr Gwajima wanted public officials to preach about the programme wherever they go so as to complement the government's efforts and help

Tanzanians get out of poverty line.

"The government is pioneered to fight poverty in all its ways to make sure that it becomes a thing of the past making Tanzanians live decent life and forget all the huddles of abject poverty...this will be achieved if all public officials will work in team carrying Tasaf agenda in their meetings and plans," she added.

The deputy PS cited Tasaf as a pioneered programme which if well implemented will lift lives of a number of Tanzanians living in abject poverty

thus pushing forward the country's agenda to become middle income country by 2025.

Andrew Kibona who represented the Tasaf executive director said that the forthcoming second phase will incorporate all villages across the country thus calling upon the general public to come out in big numbers whenever they are informed on Tasaf's meetings in their areas.

He said that at as the country embarks on the implementation of the second phase of the productive social

safety net (PSSN) programme, TASAF has designed to reach the 30 percent left out during the first phase.

According to him, the first phase didn't cover all villages, streets and Shehia due to limited resources.

He also articulated that the forthcoming phase will put more efforts in the provision of entrepreneurial and business skills to enable its beneficiaries' engage fully in production activities; establish small scale industries and businesses within their areas.

Road safety stakeholders propose on how to reduce road accidents

By Correspondent James Kandoya

STAKEHOLDERS on road safety have recommended the use of safety approach system in which all causes of accidents namely human errors, poor vehicles and poor infrastructure share responsibility outcomes in improving road safety in the country.

A professional officer from the World Health Organization (WHO) country office Mary Kessy said in an interview with The Guardian at the weekend that under the system approach, all system designers share the responsibility for road safety outcomes.

The system designers include planners, engineers, parents, policy makers, enforcement officers, educators, utility providers, insurers, vehicle manufacturers and importers, the media, fleet managers and many more.

Kessy said it was the most effective way of considering and responding to fatal and serious casualty crash risks on a network.

She said although a number of issues had been implemented including construction of road infrastructure, collectively responsibility was much preferred instead of dealing on single entity.

According to her, it was an inclusive approach that caters for all groups using the road system,

including drivers, motorcyclists, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, and commercial and heavy vehicle drivers.

Besides that, Kessy said the approach provides a set of design and operating principles to guide



The legislators added that safe System approach compels system designers to provide an safe environment, and to consider the combined system as the major factor in crashes rather than the traditional approach that placed most responsibility for safety on the road user

action on the journey to the long term elimination goal.

"The prime responsibility of a road authority and other agencies is to support road users to reach the end of their trips safely. On so doing we can be protecting the people wellbeing," she said.

In the same vein, the advocate of high court, John Seka said road crashes is violation of human rights and it was against the section Article 8 (b) 1 of the Constitutional of the United Republic in Tanzania, 1977.

The above article among others emphasized the wellbeing of people which is also pointed out in the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG's), goal 3-Good health and Wellbeing.

"The system approach among others insists on the mutual responsibility of stakeholders instead of blaming each other. Poor infrastructure is just one part," he said.

A Member of Parliament for Dodoma ,Special seat(CCM) Fatma Tafiq said a lot had been done in terms of infrastructure development since the government assumed power four years ago.

But, there was a need to deal with multiple issues to deal with road safety issues instead dealing with of one issue.

"The government has done more to ensure the country is networked

with roads from all corners which according to WHO contributes to 8 percent of all accidents," she said.

"The legislators added that safe System approach compels system designers to provide an safe environment, and to consider the combined system as the major factor in crashes rather than the traditional approach that placed most responsibility for safety on the road user", she said

Tafiq, who is a Member of Network of Road Safety Legislators in Tanzania, noted that the system design and operation must become forgiving of routine human (road user) error.

It has become the normal routine for politicians and central government leaders during the electoral campaign to promise the voters that they would improve infrastructure if elected into power.

But, sometimes their promises were not put in place and therefore leave the voters in a dilemma and even the dormant poor road contributes to accidents.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), poor road infrastructure contributes to 8 percent of road accidents and therefore threatens the people wellbeing which is against the Article 8 (b) 1 of the Constitutional of the United Republic in Tanzania, 1977.

unicef for every child
United Nations Children's Fund | Tanzania Country Office
P.O. Box 4076, Plot 133, Karume Road, Oysterbay Dar es Salaam
Telephone: (255) 22 219-6500 | Facsimile: (255) 22 260-1355 | dar@unicef.org | www.unicef.org

Advert - Request for Proposal for digitization of IPOSA content LRF 2019 -9150810

UNICEF Tanzania is looking to engage the services of a competent civil society organization (CSO) or individuals to support the digitization of the modules for Integrated Programme for Out of School Adolescents (IPOSA).

The CSO or individual consultant will work with Institute of Adult Education and PORALG to select IPOSA modules which can be translated into video, audio, simulations, animations and texts to make it more interactive and facilitate self-learning. The materials are supposed to provide user friendly options with interface that can enable learners to navigate around the content with little support from a teacher.

For this assignment, UNICEF seeks a reputable institution or individuals with proven track record of designing and developing digital content for online learning. This includes high capacity in video recording, web designing, animations, simulations, audio recording and integration of texts and other multimedia content. Interested applicant should send a link of the content previously developed or CDs with a sample content.

For more information on this assignment including detailed terms of reference, objectives, timelines, milestones, deliverables and how to apply log onto <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/97107>

Deadline for applications 4th October 2019.



Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage Authority revenue manager Edgar Zawayo (L) looks at man-made irrigation pond at Mbweni in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter

EAST African Community (EAC) Deputy Secretary General in-charge of productive and social sectors, Christophe Bazivamo has urged partner states to work closely with the private sector and farmers' associations to curb the high incidences of pests and diseases in the region.

Bazivamo underscored the fundamental linkages between agriculture, trade and agro-industry and stressed the need to strengthen these sectors.

Bazivamo made the remarks during a regional validation workshop on Pest Risk Analysis (PRAs) for maize, beans and rice held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The DSG disclosed that the PRA tool would be very useful for the regulatory plant health authorities in the partner states in identifying appropriate phytosanitary measures necessary to protect plant resources against new or emerging pests of plants or plant products, adding that it will contribute to enhanced coordination among regulatory agencies and reduce trade barriers of phytosanitary nature.

EAC states urged to address the high incidence of pests, diseases

He further pointed out that unnecessary delays and rejections of agricultural commodities at the ports of entry will be minimized. PRAs developed will also expand trade facilitation opportunities beyond the region in the context of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The chairperson of the workshop, Ingabire Jeanne Priscille, the Crop Protection Programme Manager, Rwanda Agriculture and Animal Resources Development Board, said that the harmonized PRAs for maize, rice and beans will facilitate trade within the Community in accordance with provisions of Article 4 of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) protocol on plan health matters.

Esther Muchiri, the Coordinator of African Phytosanitary Information Committee (EAPIC) highlighted the progress made and achievements registered in the development and operationalization of PRAs for maize, beans and rice.

The East Africa Phytosanitary Information Committee (EAPIC), was formed by the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) from EAC Partner States to spearhead a harmonized approach and strengthen regional cooperation in pest risk analysis in the EAC.

Dr Isaac Macharia, the General Manager, Phytosanitary Services at the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), informed the participants that work on PRA has been motivated and informed by World Trade Organization SPS Agreement provisions and science-based principles whose main focus is to facilitate trade while ensuring protection of human, animal, plant health and food safety.

PRA is conducted to establish if an organism is a pest, the likelihood of the entry and establishment, spread and potential economic, environmental and social impacts. PRA also proposes the measures to mitigate the impacts.

Serengeti, Mara river ecosystem to have higher density of trees

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

OVER 2500 farmers in Mara Region have been supported to plant over 20,000 trees along the Serengeti National Park and Mara river as well as in farmlands in order to conserve ecosystem of the area under the sustainable agro forestry practice.

The Serengeti-Mara ecosystem has been facing many challenge with pressing natural resource management and biodiversity conservation challenges threatening the ecosystem including socio-economic, environmental, climate change and policy to guide its conservation.

Speaking over the weekend during the sensitization meeting held at Bochungu village in Mara region, project coordinator for VI Agro forestry implementing SEMA project in Tanzania, Amani Shipella said the training was provide under the Serengeti-Mara (SEMA) initiative with an overall objective of contributing to conservation of Serengeti-Mara trans boundary ecosystem through empowering local communities to adopt sustainable livelihoods and enhancing regional cooperation.

"The livelihoods of the communities living along the Mara river basin depend on the river and its sustainable

conservation efforts of the river and its resources," he said

He added that community participation is important in achieving the initiative and urge all to take initiative to conserve the ecosystem.

Shipella explained that communities living adjacent to the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem have for a long time struggled with human-wildlife conflicts.

"Many have died and lost their loved ones and their crops have been destroyed, their stories moved us to take action. We believe where trees grow people grow. Trees help in mitigating the impacts of climate change," he detailed.

The project with a duration of two years (2018-2020) funded by the European Union (EU) is targeting on small holder farmers with a special focus on women, youth and children, farmers organizations, public, private sector and research institutions, works to promote diversified sustainable livelihoods for communities in Transboundary Conservation Areas (TFCA).

Themed; 'I, Mara River-Stand with Me' the event held to mark Mara Day, brought together different key stakeholders drawn from government and different conservation organization, to discuss and deliberate on practical solution that will enhance the conserva-

tion of the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem.

For his part Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima said the mission is to have common goals in conserving Mara river.

"Your presence here today shows your concern for the Mara river, we cannot ignore the human activities affecting the river and the impacts of climate change all of which are big concern," he said.

"I urge all of us and especially communities living adjacent to the river, to stop cutting trees without replanting."

Saving Mara River is the responsibility for everyone, we want to assure Tanzania of our goodwill from the Kenya

side and we look forward to a continued and fruitful collaboration.

"There is however need to review commitments made before and have clear guideline on how we can have a functional and systematic way of implementing our conservation efforts and reducing the effects, let us not lose sight of the resources we need to conserve the river," Bomet governor Dr Hillary Barchook said during the opening remarks at the stakeholders meeting in Tanzania.

The Serengeti-Mara trans-boundary ecosystem is renowned for its spectacular wildlife and scenery for example the wonder of the world.

Dividend paid out by Kilombero Sugar Co is dismal - PM

By Guardian Reporter

THE Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said he is not satisfied by the 800,000m/- dividend paid by the Kilombero Sugar Company, adding that the factory has a much bigger output compared to that of Tanzania Planting Company that pays 15b/- dividend per year.

The Premier said this on Tuesday this week during his inspection of the factory during his fourth day of his tour in Morogoro Region. He has called upon sugar producers in the country to produce enough sugar to satisfy the country needs.

Speaking about sugar import permits, the Prime Minister said the government decided to allow sugar producers to import the commodity in order to do away with malpractices by private importers who used to import the commodity some of which was of low quality.

Nonetheless, the PM said the country is not sugar sufficient yet especially for industrial use, hence the government issued permits to sugar producers to reduce the shortfall.

"Domestic sugar producers should ensure the increase production of industrial sugar so as to offset the existing shortfall," he stressed.

On his part, the Deputy Minister for Agriculture Omary Mgumba said sugar the country's consumption for this year has increased to 710,000 tons as compared to 610,000 tons last year.

He said the increase has been caused by the increase of new factories in the country that use sugar, hence the need for industrial sugar in the country now stands at 165,000 tons.

Mgumba said the current consumption of sugar for domestic use is 545,000 tons out of which the Kilombero sugar company

produces 134,000 tons, Manyara Sugar Company 6,000 tons, Mtibwa Sugar company 39,000 and TPC Moshi 100,000.

The Deputy Minister said in order to tackle the shortfall of sugar, the government has put up strategies for more sugar factories including one at Bagamoyo that will initially produce 35,000 tons by 2022. The others will be ones at Mkulazi that is expected to produce 200,000 tons and Mbigili 50,000

tons.

In his report on the company's performance the Chairman of Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT) Balozi Amry said the Kilombero Sugar Company has fully adhered to the government call to increase production and to put in place concrete plans in increasing acreage for sugar cane planting as well more processing machinery. The project will cost 700b/-.

In another development,

the Prime Minister has given two weeks to the Kilosa District Development Director (DED) to construct water boreholes in Ruaha Ward to enable its residents get clean and safe water.

He issued the directive after the residents of the Ward stopped his motorcade as he was in his way to Malolo.

He said the Council collects more than 2b/- per year hence it should allocate some to fund wananchi's development projects.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Letshego Tanzania Limited t / a Faidika would like to inform all ex-staff of Faidika and Letshego Bank Tanzania Limited who have defaulted their loans with Faidika that they should immediately make payment of their outstanding loans or contact Credit Department for loan repayment plan. All ex-staff defaulters should contact Faidika within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice.

For defaulters who fail to comply with this notice, Letshego Tanzania Limited (Faidika) will take appropriate legal actions including publishing their names and photos in newspapers and other media outlets.

All debtors should contact Faidika office through numbers; 0769128421 and 0755508892 or visit Faidika (Letshego) head office located at Morocco, plot 23, Ursino Estate, 3rd Floor, Vodacom Towers-Paloma Park, Bagamoyo Road



NOTICE OF THE HALF YEARLY GENERAL MEETING 2019

[Issued under Article 13 of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club Constitution, 2017]

NOTICE is hereby given that the Half-Yearly General Meeting of the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club will be held at the Roof Terrace of the Club on Thursday 26th September, 2019 commencing at 6:00 PM.

AGENDA:

- To read the Notice convening the Meeting and confirmation of the agenda.
- Confirmation of the Minutes:
 - Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 28th March 2019.
 - Minutes of the Special General Meeting of 25th July 2019.
- Matters arising from the two above.
- To receive the Report of the Management Committee in accordance with Article 13(b) (ii).
- To approve the appointment of the Club's Auditors in accordance with Article 13(b) (i).
- At the discretion of the Chairman, to consider any other business of which the Half-Yearly General Meeting is competent to discuss.

Issued in Dar es Salaam this 05th day of September 2019

By Order of the Management Committee.

Ivan Tarimo

Ivan Tarimo
Honorary Secretary



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar is Local Non- Government Organization (NGO) affiliated to SOS Children's Villages International, a worldwide child care organization that work to protect and care for children who have lost parental care, or who stand at risk of losing it. Established 64 years ago, SOS Children's Villages International currently has Children's Villages and other projects in 135 countries around the world. Globally, it runs two major programmes i.e. Family Based Care based at SOS Children's Villages and Family Strengthening Programmes supporting families in local communities. SOS has been working in the United Republic of Tanzania since 1991, and runs Children's Villages and other projects in Tanzania, the organisation runs four Children's Villages in Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mwanza and Zanzibar and other programmes in Pemba, Iringa and Mufindi.

Job title : Human Resource Cum Administrative Officer
Job Reference Number : 16/19
Duty station : SOS Children's Village Zanzibar
Reporting to : Program Director - Zanzibar

POSITION SUMMARY

Your main task is to provide support in human resources recruitment, placement, transfer, promotion, performance appraisal, disciplinary measures, leave and other HR functions. The position holder shall motivate staff to perform effectively, build trust, facilitates the capacity building and development of employees and ensures that the organization policies, procedure and systems are effectively implemented in the program location. The role also administers and provides support to general services such as transport, maintenance of property, procurement of materials and services and managing security services.

Principal Responsibilities

1. HR Planning and Policies Implementation

- Leads preparation and development of program location yearly HR plan and oversees its implementation.
- Participates in the budgeting process, monitors performance by coordinating with Program Director, Senior Accountant and Program Coordinators.
- Provides support for project team in preparing project budget related to HR.

2. Staffing, Recruitment & Selection

- Prepares and circulates vacancy announcements, assist in designating assessment tools, evaluates applications, arranges and participates in interviews and makes recommendations; prepares job offers and related documents for successful candidates.
- Facilitate and implement decisions of promotion, transfer, termination and other staff decisions as per the policies and procedures thereon.
- Collects references, conduct reference checks and notifies candidates about the results of the selection process.
- Conduct exit interviews for exiting co-workers and maintain copies in the personnel file
- Ensure that exit procedures are properly followed during co-workers' resignation and makes sure that the organization is free from any contingent liabilities.
- Regularly updates staff personnel files at the SOS Children's Village Zanzibar, ensuring that all required documentation is in place and monitoring documentation of personnel files in all Program of Zanzibar and Pemba.
- Assists in preparation of presentations for the Human Resource department e.g. during annual planning sessions, orientations and any other fora that may arise.
- Arranges for printing of new staff identity cards and for existing staff as occasionally required.
- Participates in special projects as required e.g. policy developments and feedback requirements.

3. Lead staff performance management

- Promote staff performance and productivity across the location and support to address poor Performance.
- Follow up on staff performance evaluations and ensure appraisals are carried out in a timely and effective manner. Works with program coordinators on the needs for action reflected in reports on staff performance and supports to address cases of poor performance in collaboration with the Program Director and National Human Resource Coordinator.
- Assist the National Human Resource Coordinator on review and improvement of performance management and appraisal tools.

4. Administration and Logistics

- Ensures that license and other required government formalities are fulfilled on time
- Coordinates board meetings, maintains confidential files and contact information, conferences and committees to support the National Director's agenda at the location.
- Work closely with the National Director and SOS Tanzania Board through regular correspondence and prepare briefing materials for the National Director.
- Coordinates and ensures proper recording, use and timely maintenance of the facilities, building and equipment as per the policies and procedures thereon.
- Organizes and coordinates the efficient provision of office services, transport, maintenance and other general services to program units and staff.
- Plans and prepares budgetary requirements of equipment, materials, maintenance of property and general service.
- Ensure utility services are there as appropriate and also ensures that monthly payments are done on time.
- Controls vehicles management such as log sheet, fuel usage, insurance, pertinent reports and related tasks
- Makes sure that vehicles and other movables maintained as necessary and annual inspections are done on time

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES

Minimum Education

- Degree in Public Administration, Social Sciences (psychology, counselling) or Human Resources Management and its equivalent.

Experience

- At least three (3) years of relevant professional experience, demonstrated by solid competencies in the field of office administration, secretarial and HRM in NGO setting

Competencies

- Ability to work independently, self-organize, use initiative, keeps commitments and meets deadlines.
- Passion of working with children and youth
- Self-motivated, innovative with new ideas and a team player
- Good written and verbal communication skills both in English and Swahili, ability to communicate at multiple levels in the organization.
- Computer literacy and good presentation skills

Kazi : Mama Msaidizi wa SOS (2)
Kituo cha Kazi : SOS Children's Village Zanzibar
Anaripoti : Mratibu wa Malezi Mbadala

Majukumu ya kazi ya Mama Msaidizi.

- Kuhakikisha ustawi wa mtoto kupitia malezi
- Usimamizi stadi wa nyumba yake na shughuli muhimu ndani ya nyumba
- Kuwajengea fursa watoto kuwa huru zaidi na kuwajibika.
- Kuwalinda watoto dhidi ya unyanyasaji wa aina yoyote
- Kuendeleza familia kwa upendo, ulinzi, uaminifu na usalama kwa watoto atakaokabidhiwa kwa muda wote.
- Kumjenga mtoto katika familia na kumsaidia kiafya, kimwili, kiakili, kijamii kutamaduni na ustawi wa kiroho wa kila mtoto.
- Kuwajengea uwezo wa kujitegemea na watoto wanaowajibika kwa jamii husika

Sifa za Muombaji

- Awe na umri kati ya miaka 33 na 40.
- Awe na elimu si chini ya Sekondari
- Asiwe na majukumu makubwa ya kifamilia na asiwe na watoto wenye umri chini ya miaka 12
- Awe yuko tayari kuishi katika Kijiji cha SOS kama mama wa watoto wanaohitaji malezi.
- Uwezo wa kuongea kwa lugha ya Kiingereza ni sifa ya ziada.
- Kama hana cheti cha sekondari awe na cheti chochote cha malezi ya watoto au barua yoyote ambayo inamthibitisha kuwa amekuwa akijihusisha na malezi ya watoto wanaoafanana na hawa.
- Mama aliyemaliza kidato cha nne atapatiwa kipaumbele.

How to apply

If you are interested to be part of this dynamic team and become a change agent then send your CV and letter of motivation to recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org addressing

The Human Resources Department
 SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Closing date is two weeks after the first Advert.

SOS Children's Villages Zanzibar is an equal opportunity employer. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

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Igunga communities hailed for adapting to climate change

By Correspondent Allan Ntana, Tabora

MORE than 6,000 vulnerable rural communities consisting of 36,000 individuals in nine villages of Mbutu and Igunga wards in Igunga District, Tabora Region have benefited from the climate resilience technologies shared by Igunga eco village project.

Heifer International shared increased capacities of vulnerable to adapt to climate change through an interdisciplinary approach combining interventions in the field of agriculture, aquaculture, water management, forestry and energy.

Speaking at the handing over event of the EU funded Igunga eco-village project in the district, EU Head of Development Cooperation, Jose Correia Nunes, said the project together with other four climate change adaptation projects which are supported in Tanzania under the EU Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA programme) have transformed livelihood of communities and the negative impacts of climate change.

He said Igunga eco village project

which was facilitated by Heifer International in collaboration with Heifer Tanzania has enhanced the capacity of Igunga District Council communities to access, plan and implement climate change adaptation strategies.

He added that the project was implemented for four years with an EU contribution of EURO 1.6 million equivalent to T.sh 4 billion and the project has encompassed an integrated approach to address the impact of climate change and has made strides to increase and diversify incomes, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities.

According to Correia Igunga eco village project has been running since March 2015 as part of five projects implemented across various agro-ecological zones of Tanzania with a total of Euro 8 million equivalent to 20.34 billion/-.

He added that the Tanzania GCCA program, funded by EU started 10 years ago with a focus on the eco village approach, which is an integrated approach to tackle climate change and adapt to it in various aspects of rural life.

"Climate change has affected lives and landscapes, making it harder for the rural communities to effectively engage in productive activities to improve their livelihoods, Igunga district is among the affected areas", he added.

Tabora Regional Commissioner, Aggrey Mwanri, said the government is highly impressed by the work done by the project adding that some of the technologies such as tree planting, fuel efficient stoves and rain water harvesting tanks have been adapted by other districts councils in the region.

"We, as the government will make sure the interventions done by the projects are taken over and scaled up to other areas so that our farmers could enjoy this opportunity just like their fellow here in Igunga," he said.

The handing over occasion was held yesterday at Mwanzigi village in Igunga district and was attended by EU Officials, Heifer Netherlands Project Coordinator, Sara Peeters, Igunga eco village project manager Stella Thomas and the co-staffs, Tabora Region and Igunga District Officials and residents of Igunga district.



Nyamagana District Commissioner Dr Philis Nyimbi speaks at Access Bank Mwanza business forum over the weekend. Others are the bank's deputy chief executive officer and chief financial officer Julius Ruwaichi (2nd R), chief business officer Prosper Gwemella, head of banking services Michael Fraterne and Lake zone regional manager Emmanuel Venace. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Approaches for understanding land-use conflicts improving'

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Mufindi

THE launching of the Village Land Use Planning (VLUP) in six villages of Igobavani and Sadani wards in Sadani Division of Mufindi District, Iringa Region gives hope of improving to ending land use and village boundary conflicts, the Guardian has learnt.

The VLUP stage one to four is being implemented and supported by Care Tanzania in collaboration with World Wildlife Fund for nature (WWF) and Mufindi District through the CARE-WWF Alliance.

WWF Tanzania Country Director Dr. Amani Ngusuru said yesterday during the launching held at Lugodalutali Village, that the VLUP is nucleus to end all land and village boundary conflicts that villages might be facing at the moment.

He said that the collective land use plan will work in villages along Ndemba River Sub-catchment including Igobavani, Lugodalutali, Utosi, Mapogoro, Uhambila and Kibada that will help reduce land disputes.

Dr. Ngusuru explained that the purpose of the project is to conserve Ndemba River Basin together with improving people's livelihoods through agricultural value chains.

He also pointed out the VLUP project is ten years period 2018-2028 aimed at

capacitating people on good agricultural practices (GAP) to avoid bottom valley cultivations.

The project works in some key results as inclusive green growth (IGG), with new and existing investments in agricultural value chains while respecting ecosystem functions.

"Under the value chains, smallholder producers and big farmers will improve their net income and food security through engagement in flexible food system and access to market opportunities," Dr. Ngusuru observed.

Food insecurity is a major global challenge where billions of people in the world are suffering from starvation, malnutrition and other nutrition related problems.

The African challenge indeed is a key to mitigating food insecurity and therefore, heads of states and governments in the African Union (AU) should fulfill their commitments to double their domestic budgets devoted to agriculture so as to reach 10%.

Waleed Rauf a Care Tanzania Country Director has urged the villages to make use the land use plan so that they can improve their livelihoods.

He noted that they should use VLUP effectively to enhance the efficient use of resources with minimal impact on future generations.

"You have already has a village land use plan in place and all you need to do is to make use of it in improving your

lives," said Rauf.

On his part, Mufindi District Commissioner, Jamhuri David William, who was represented district agriculture officer, said that he was very happy with project and promised to continue cooperation with CARE-WWF Alliance to ensure the program is successfully implemented.

He urged the villages to make use of the village land use plan in improving their livelihoods by observing the laws of land management and water uses.

Mufindi District Council has a total of 1774 water sources but only more 700 water sources are preserved and protected, so the VLUP will help in ecosystem functions.

On other hand, residents of the six villages of the project have welcomed the project and said the project will help resolve any potential conflicts.

They said that the project is of great benefit to them including avoiding the problems that would arise later between different groups of needs taking into account the growing population, for example the crisis of farmers and herders.

Anthony Ng'holo on behalf of the villagers of the six villages, said the project has enabled them to gain a better education on land use.

He also noticed all the boundaries of the six project villages have been officially identified and marked with Beacons.

NBC, TPC agree on delivery of financial services

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Bank of Commerce (NBC) and Tanzania Postal Corporation (TPC) yesterday signed an agreement on the delivery of financial related services through the newly introduced TPC Single Window System.

The move will serve in among others, easing money transactions and collection of the government's non-taxable revenues, said the TPC Chief Postal Master, Hassan Mwang'ombe.

"Our main target is to serve all Tanzanians; especially those in villages who embark on a long distance walk in search of postal and bank services. The Corporation has about 370 offices country-wide, but we will start with 99 offices and get expanding according how time goes on," he noted.

Then after, the Corporation will start offering bank accounts opening services for NBC clients, said the Chief Postal Master.

NBC director general, Theobald Sabi commented that money depositing and withdrawing would be also part of the services through the new system.

"In totality, all bank services we offer in our offices/branches, including loans issuing will be available in all those postal offices. After the clients have fulfilled all requirements, then transactions for loan offering and debts' clearing will be done through the agency window in the postal offices," he added.

It was expected that by June of the next year, all 370 postal offices countrywide would be able to offer money transaction and other bank services, according to the DG.

Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Eng Isack Kamwelwe said that the TPC should continue speeding up the improvements and introduction of the services, which consider the clients' needs.

The Corporation should mainly aim at introduction and promoting on-line businesses, which (on-line business) are directions of the world business currently, as it was insisted by the two global postal strategies, namely Doha World Postal and Istanbul World Postal Strategies, said the Minister.

He also urged the Corporation to consider affordable service delivery to its clients and the nation at large so as to meet legal requirements as per Universal Postal Obligation.

"Currently according to our records one postal office serves up to 80,000 people. There is also a small pace of physical delivery of mail as the average of 98 percent of the letters is delivered through private/individual postal addresses. Such small average shows that we have still an obligation to expand and improve our postal services in the country so as to put the services close to the community," said the Minister.



Our main target is to serve all Tanzanians; especially those in villages who embark on a long distance walk in search of postal and bank services. The Corporation has about 370 offices country-wide, but we will start with 99 offices and get expanding according how time goes on



NBC Director General, Theobald Sabi (L) and TPC Chief Postal Master, Hassan Mwang'ombe display signed documents of the agreement on the delivery of financial related services through the newly introduced TPC Single Window System. The signing ceremony was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya

THE government and other key stakeholders have been urged wanted to involve young people in various projects being implement for the country to attain its development aspirations.

That advice was given by Engenderhealth Country Director, Prudence Masako while officiating Youth caravan comprising around six youth, who started their journey in Dar es Salaam yesterday, journeying across Tanzania to mark 25 years of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

She said "Youth are critical patterns in all process towards development, in creating, designing, implementing and evaluating from the grass root, so, government and other key players in development should involve them

Youth involvement in development plans key to economic development

in all plans so as to have meaningful participation."

Masako further noted that when you talk about development and population, you cannot leave the young people behind because according to statistics they make 52 of the Tanzanian population. "Young people are capital in bringing development, they need to have conducive environment to ensure they participate fully in development," she said. She said the caravan that began its journey in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday 18 September, was to travel across the country for 21 days.

The caravan will stop in 12 regions across Tanzania Mainland, which

includes: Tanga, Manyara, Dodoma, Tabora, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Mara, Kigoma, Katavi, Mbeya, Njombe, and Dar es Salaam. In the Isle are Unguja, and Zanzibar, where the young people on board will interact with their peers and reflect on the challenges they are facing in realizing their sexual, reproductive health and rights.

For her part, Project Admin from the same organization, Ms. Salha Aziz said that the young people in the caravan was expecting to reach more than 300,000 young people across Tanzania with reproductive health messages either directly or through online platforms such as U-Report,

Facebook and Instagram.

She said that this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, where 179 governments adopted a landmark Programme of Action (PoA) that put reproductive health and rights at the centre of national and global development efforts.

According to Aziz, their main messages to the Tanzanian youth will be on female genital mutilation, teenage pregnancies, contraceptive prevalence rate, HIV/Aids, Maternal mortality rate, early and child marriages, and sexual and gender based violence.



Dodoma Regional Police Commander SACP Gilles Muroto shows to journalists petroleum and diesel containers of more than 5000 litres which were allegedly unlawful obtained during an operation in the region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Coast RC thanks investors, inviting more to come

By Guardian Correspondent, Kibaha

COAST Regional Commissioner, Everist Ndikilo has showered praises on investors who have started businesses in different sectors across the region, urging more to come.

He assured investors that the government will continue to create better investment environment in the region and the country at large.

RC Ndikilo was speaking yesterday at the function to receive 200 bags of cement from the owner of the Global Packaging and Wande Printing and Packaging Ltd, Joseph Wasonga. The cement is for the construction of the Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) offices in the region.

Ndikilo said Wasonga has shown an extraordinary enthusiasm in contributing towards the development.

"In a special way I would like to thank the Chairman of Global and Wande Printing companies for the way in which he has made himself a champion in contributing towards the development of the Party and Government, this move should be emulated by other investors and all development stakeholders," he said.

Ndikilo pointed out that the construction of office and a hall would go a long way in boosting opportunities in the region.

"This donation to CCM if used well will help in the completion of office buildings and a hall which will highly increase opportunities especially employment, revenue and construction of a stronger CCM in the Coast Region," said Eng. Ndikilo.

The Regional Commissioner called upon other Party and Government stakeholders to continue contributing for the construction of the building.

"Let's be proud of contributing towards the development of the Party as it has been said several times by the CCM Secretary General, Dr. Bashiru Ally party members should be proud of contributing towards the development of our party, Wasonga has shown the way, others should follow," he said.

For his part, Wasonga who is the

Global Packing Companies Director and who handed over the cement bags on behalf of the Chairman, Benno Mwitumba thanked the RC Ndikilo for in which he has been supporting investors and development partners in the region.

"We thank the regional commissioner's office on how it has been supporting investors and development partners in this region, this has motivated us to consider expanding our investments here," he said.

Wasonga said he will mobilize fellow investors and other stakeholders to contribute in furthering the course in a bid to make sure that CCM's dreams of building a modern hall are becoming a reality.

"We are informed that this hall is scheduled to be completed in June, this year, this will be possible if we the development stakeholders in the region would mobilize ourselves to contribute," he said.



In a special way I would like to thank the Chairman of Global and Wande Printing companies for the way in which he has made himself a champion in contributing towards the development of the Party and Government, this move should be emulated by other investors and all development stakeholders

Priority courses in loans disbursement unfair – RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

MBEYA Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila has blamed the government's programme of giving priority to some courses in loans allocation, saying it kills talents of other students.

Speaking here at the weekend during the opening of entrepreneurship training to university graduates conducted by the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) to assist them in self employment, Chalamila said the practice of prioritizing courses such as natural sciences and education force students to abandon field of their dreams to take up other fields because

they are desperate for loans.

He said it would better for HELSB to dispense loans based on applicants' academic performance from examinations they sat for without considering the fields they want to pursue.

Said he: "What they (HESLB) now do is to shift the students applying for loans from what the love to do in life to what they don't, simply because of the new procedure. He said some of these fields have been sung by the students since they were small kids."

Chalamila praised UDSM for initiating the training which he claimed will assist youths to start their own projects instead of waiting to be employed by

the government.

The representative of training from UDSM Dr Issack Allan said many young people who are higher education graduates are in streets and do not know what to do and blame the government for their predicament.

He said the situation delays the country to attain the countries of middle income and that some of have started businesses but failed due to lack of expertise.

He said after the university realized the gravity of the problem it came up with this idea of training through its entrepreneurship section to assist the youth employ themselves and stop complaining.

He said the university conducts training from funding obtained from own internal sources and that it will take a total of nine days.

"For this year the training will be conducted in 10 regions including two from the Isles," he said and mentioned the regions that include Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mbeya, Mwanza, Dodoma, Iringa, Lindi, Katavi Zanzibar South and Pemba North.

On his part the Ag Director of Mbeya City Council Vincent Msolla said the government has put up friendly environment for the youths with skills who want to become entrepreneurs, including loans from 10 percent of the councils' incomes.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2019

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

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LATRA: E-ticketing should ease travellers' hassle

AUTHORITIES in the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) are finalising an integrated electronic ticketing system to be used by upcountry buses as a whole, either those from Dar es Salaam to other regional centres or intra-regional travel as well. The main focus of that arrangement all the same looks like it is placing an orderly arrangement at the Ubungo upcountry bus terminal in the city, as most of what has been said of its intentions and effect focuses on what happens there. Other regional centres tend to be a bit timid.

The director of road transport regulation in the authority was explaining lately that e-ticketing would provide passengers with a wide range of choice of vehicles. It means that this can't be gained by mere visibility if one visits the terminal, and physical pressures inhibit actual ability to choose, but this side of things might be a bit rosy. In the final analysis all buses are supposed to find passengers, while regulators, when they have the upper hand, tend to wish to put flat rates for instance in ticket prices, thus shifting competition elsewhere.

When some buses leave early in the morning and some other leave later, and of those which leave early their air conditioning facilities for instance are not quite the same, is it the bus operator or the authority that decides ticket prices? When two buses with different apparent qualities or facilities have the same ticket price, who shall determine which passenger gets a ticket, and why so?

The director said that there are some buses currently using e-ticketing systems, but they are few and have limited choice of vehicles operated by

those firms. The idea is thus to spread e-ticketing far and wide but this brings up new issues of coordinating the ticketing, if this becomes centralized as in purchasing petrol or supermarket chains with electronic registers. The fact that all major shops have electronic fiscal devices hasn't eliminated competition between them, as the goods they sell don't have prices fixed by using electronic devices.

At the same time there is excessive emphasis on the notion of booking, whereas not all travelers bother to book, only arrive at the terminal at the hour or time they wish, or they can afford on the basis of their previous day work.

It means that they will simply board a bus which has space, and the ticket ought to be connected with electronic device the way police fines these days carry a connected gadget which tracks revenue sums collected that way, different from payment slips with carbon copies. E-ticketing ought to be that connection, not the mode of 'booking' or the fare that one is offered, basically.

There is a problem of hassles that passengers get at the terminal which is supposed to be sorted out by e-ticketing and indeed this can be done on condition that it doesn't interfere with fare variations as an aspect of competition. At the same time it should be remembered that hassles are a failure of law and order in the premises, part of the problem being that it tends to be a cooperative sort of arrangement, or a district authority facility. There is no strict regulation of who enters and what they are doing there, like arresting touts who aren't uniformed bus conductors registered with a specific bus.

Zanzibar: Targeting to market itself as a single tourist destination is crucial

TOURISM in Zanzibar includes the tourism industry and its effects on the islands of Unguja and Pemba. Tourism is the top income generator for the islands, outpacing even the lucrative agricultural export industry. The government plays a major role in promoting the industry. The Vision of Zanzibar regarding tourism is to become one of the top tourism destinations of the Indian Ocean, offering an up market, high quality product across the board within the coming 17 years.

The principal grouping of attractions on Zanzibar are coastal tourism, terrestrial wildlife, dhow cruising and spice tours.

Zanzibar is courting international hotel investors to capture the island's fast-growing tourism industry, looking to raise the number of leisure and business tourists visiting the islands.

International hotel chains have established their businesses in the islands since the past 2 years, making the islands among the leading hotel investment areas in East Africa.

The Indian Ocean semi-autonomous island had attracted big and international hotel chains to invest there looking to develop marine tourism.

Madinat El Bahr Hotel and RIU Hotels and Resorts have opened their businesses on the islands between July and August of this year after Hotel Verde entered the islands late last year.

The Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein, said that Zanzibar stands a better position to share tourism benefits with the rest of East Africa through its pristine beaches and rich Indian Ocean resources. He said that his government is now looking to attract more investors in hotel services and tourism with fresh hopes to make this Indian Ocean island a competitive market in East Africa.

The island had attracted big and international hotel chains to invest there looking to develop marine tourism. In its recent plans, the island is working in partnership with Comoro to encourage businesses on the East Coast of the Indian Ocean.

Zanzibar launched last year, the annual tourism shows targeting to promote its tourism and the rest of Africa sharing the Indian Ocean waters. The Zanzibar Tourism Show will be taking place in September each year.

In the same vein, Zanzibar has launched the destination marketing that will be an umbrella body to market our tourist products under a single roof as to pull more tourists to visit Zanzibar.

Destination marketing brand is so far targeting international tourist markets across the world, looking to attract more visitors to the island. Marketing initiatives including the promotion of cultural festivals aiming to attract international visitors.

Zanzibar is also looking to compete with other East African destinations including Kenya by marketing itself as a conference tourism destination, attracting foreign and international hotel investors and better airline connectivity with other East African countries. Major Gulf carriers like Emirates, flydubai, Qatar Airways, Oman Air and Etihad, all of whom fly frequently to Tanzania, have become catalysts for changing the tourism landscape.

With a population of about one million people, Zanzibar's economy depends mostly on Indian Ocean resources - mostly tourism and international trade. Cruise shipping tourism is the other source of tourist income to Zanzibar due to the Island's geographical position with its proximity in the Indian Ocean island ports of Durban (South Africa), Beira (Mozambique), and Mombasa on the Kenyan coast.



Our burning planet: As the sun sets on carbon, mining can still rise

By Reinhardt Arp

MINING houses and other industrial sectors heavily invested in coal and carbon-heavy activities are pushing back against the carbon tax. But, if you crunch the numbers, low-carbon investments make good business sense.

As the Minerals Council SA's Integrated Annual Review 2018 makes clear, the mining industry makes a large contribution to the economy and to our balance of payments, and is a large employer in a country in which many people are mired in poverty.

So, we had better take seriously what they say about the impact of the carbon tax on the industry and the economy, notwithstanding that the sector is dominated by large multinationals that repatriate significant profits to other countries. We have no reason to question the bona fides of their numbers, noting of course that, like good lobbyists, they will cherry-pick the assumptions, figures and messaging that best serve their interests and manage shareholder perceptions.

And no-one likes any tax, right? Nevertheless, the carbon tax is an instrument designed to re-orientate the economy by making lower-carbon operations, goods and services relatively more attractive than higher carbon ones to investors and customers all along value chains. If we do not re-orientate ourselves now, we risk finding ourselves adrift in a high-carbon backwater of the global economy. And we will pay the opportunity costs of not getting into the low-carbon game with its potential for exponential growth off a low base.

There are companies, cities and many other economic actors who get this and are standing up for the new economy. To join them, see the nascent Alliances for Climate Action. At the 2019 Coal Industry Day in July 2019 much was made of companies selling mines to new entrants or black-owned companies. Examples included Anglo American selling its three Eskom-tied mines to BEE company Seriti, and South32 exiting thermal coal by setting up a standalone BEE entity for its coal business.

One might ask whether these were genuine BEE moves or the nifty removal of soon-to-be-stranded assets from the balance sheet. It is against this backdrop that we should view an intensive and coordinated pushback against the carbon tax by members of



the "Carbon Club".

The real price of carbon The truth is that the interests of heavy-emitting companies do not align with those of the economy and society as a whole. The negative effects of their activities are costs not carried (or internalised) by producers of greenhouse gas emissions and reflect what is widely acknowledged by mainstream economists as a market failure - in that the market price does not reflect the true cost of the goods or services.

A World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) paper captures the work being done by economists on pricing the externalities of fossil fuels. It shows that the external costs of carbon emissions from coal-based electricity in South Africa are estimated to be R430,000/GWh. In only six months, from January to June 2019, Eskom distributed 102,314GWh of electricity with a potential carbon external cost to the economy of just under R44-billion, never mind other external costs along the coal value chain.

This cost is being carried by you, me, taxpayers and your business, in coping with climate change impacts - which are rapidly accelerating. The affordability issue The Minerals Council cites absolute numbers of the tax liabilities of the industry - and they are scary. But let's put them into context: in the worst-case scenario, the total potential tax bill in the second phase of R10.2-billion (as calculated by the council) is only 2.9% of the mining sector's self-reported R350.8-billion contribution to GDP in 2018.

It is more useful to look at the cost

of the carbon tax at the margin than in absolute aggregate figures. Using data in the public domain, WWF-SA did a study in 2018 of the likely financial impacts of the tax on the top 20 emitting listed companies in South Africa. Five mining companies among those were found to generate between R5,000 and R42,000 pre-tax profit per tonne of carbon emissions (tCO₂e) they produced. Even at the headline tax rate of R120/tCO₂e (before rebates), it is clear the carbon tax is affordable for them.

The Carbon Tax Act allows for inflation-pegged increases in the tax rate, which by 2023 would bring the headline tax rate to merely R137/tCO₂e, even if all the tax-free allowances fall away in the post-2022 Phase 2, which is highly unlikely. It bears underlining, no-one will pay the headline rate, because tax-free allowances designed to cushion the impacts of the tax on exposed sectors bring the rate down to between R6/tCO₂e and R48/tCO₂e.

These rebates may well be reduced down the line and their removal would indeed expose a larger proportion of the emissions from tax-liable entities to taxation. But bear in mind that the resulting "97% increase in tax liability" that the Minerals Council speaks of is because, at present, between 90% and 95% of all the companies' emissions have been exempted from the tax. Allowances and offsets.

The Minerals Council statement makes much of policy uncertainty (about a tax that has been on the cards since 2010 and exhaustively consulted) and speaks of a "murkiness [which]

stems in part from confusion over the fate of the offsets during the second phase". The murkiness may lie in the council eliding two different things: the tax-free allowances discussed above and carbon offsets. There is no confusion about the offsets. Treasury has stated that offsets will remain part of the carbon tax in Phase 2, with even a possibility that it will increase the amount a company may offset. Certainly, there is some uncertainty about the future levels or existence of the rebate allowances. Any strategic CFO worth their minerals should be able to make a call about the numbers they are going to put into projections, based on the company's risk appetite, ability to hedge and nimbleness.

What's the bet all are factoring in the full headline rate since this is so immaterial anyhow? It is also worth bearing in mind the potential for mining companies to reduce their tax liability by powering their operations from renewable energy - a shift that also builds stronger supply reliability and autonomy for their operations, given the challenges of Eskom's supply. Indeed, many mining houses are already making this shift in Chile and Australia, and even some in South Africa are seeing the opportunity. Mining new seams The Department of Mineral Resources puts coal at 37% of total domestic and export sales of South African mineral commodities in 2018.

This leaves the economy highly exposed in the global low-carbon transition. With coal having such a major share of the mining sector, the industry's resistance to the carbon tax is shielding coal, but there is a bigger mining picture. A 2017 World Bank report, The Growing Role of Minerals and Metals for a Low-Carbon Future, shows that the technologies in the shift to clean energy production, and those that reduce carbon emissions or increase energy efficiency, are "more material-intensive in their composition than current traditional fossil fuel-based energy supply systems".

A WWF publication, A Low-Carbon Sunrise for the Mining Industry, sets out the opportunities for mining in South Africa to feed the demands of a domestic and global low-carbon economy.

This is also where growth and new jobs lie. Mining companies should rather be seeking to hasten the onset of a low-carbon economy than pushing back against a tax and other levers designed to help our economy do so.

An open letter to the world's children

8 reasons why I'm worried, and hopeful, about the next generation

By UNICEF's Executive Director Henrietta Fore on the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Dear children of today and of tomorrow,

Thirty years ago, against the backdrop of a changing world order - the fall of the Berlin Wall, the decline of apartheid, the birth of the world wide web - the world united in defence of children and childhood. While most of the world's parents at the time had grown up under dictatorships or failing governments, they hoped for better lives, greater opportunities and more rights for their children. So, when leaders came together in 1989 in a moment of rare global unity to make a historic commitment to the world's children to protect and fulfil their rights, there was a real sense of hope for the next generation.

So how much progress have we made? In the three decades following the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in spite of an exploding global population, we have reduced the number of children missing out on primary school by almost 40 per cent. The number of stunted children under 5 years of age dropped by over 100 million. Three decades ago, polio paralyzed or killed almost 1,000 children every day. Today, 99 per cent of those cases have been eliminated. Many of the interventions behind this progress - such as vaccines, oral rehydration salts and better nutrition - have been practical and cost-effective. The rise of digital and mobile technology and other innovations have made it easier and more efficient to deliver critical services in hard-to reach communities and to expand opportunities.

Yet poverty, inequality, discrimination and distance continue to deny millions of children their rights every year, as 15,000 children under 5 still die every day, mostly from treatable diseases and other preventable causes. We are facing an alarming rise in overweight children, but also girls suffering from anaemia. The stubborn challenges of open defecation and child marriage continue to threaten children's health and futures. Whilst the numbers of children in school are higher than ever, the challenge of achieving quality education is not being met. Being in school is not the same as learning; more than 60 per cent of primary school children in developing countries still fail to achieve minimum proficiency in learning and half the world's teens face violence in and around school, so it doesn't feel like a place of safety. Conflicts continue to deny children the protection, health and futures they deserve. The list of ongoing child rights challenges is long.

And your generation, the children of today, are facing a new set of challenges and global shifts that were unimaginable to your parents. Our climate is changing beyond recognition. Inequality is deepening. Technology is transforming how we perceive the world. And more families are migrating than ever before. Childhood has changed, and we need to change our approaches along with it.

So, as we look back on 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, we should also look ahead, to the next 30 years. We must listen to you - today's children and young people - about the issues of greatest concern to you now and begin working with you on twenty-first century solutions to twenty-first century problems.

With that in mind, here are eight reasons why I'm worried for your future, and eight reasons why I think there is hope:



You need clean water, clean air and a safe climate

Why I'm worried: It sounds obvious that all children need these basics to sustain healthy lives - a clean environment to live in, clean air to breathe, water to drink and food to eat - and it sounds strange to be making this point in 2019. Yet climate change has the potential to undermine all of these basic rights and indeed most of the gains made in child survival and development over the past 30 years. There is perhaps no greater threat facing the rights of the next generation of children.

The Food and Agriculture Organization noted last year that climate change is becoming a key force behind the recent continued rise in global hunger, and as escalating droughts and flooding degrade food production, the next generation of children will bear the greatest burden of hunger and malnutrition. We are already seeing evidence of extreme weather events driven by climate change creating more frequent and more destructive natural disasters, and while future forecasts vary, according to the International Organization for Migration, the most frequently cited number of environmental migrants expected worldwide by 2050 is 200 million, with estimates as high as 1 billion.

As temperatures increase and water becomes scarcer it is children who will feel the deadliest impact of waterborne diseases. Today, more than half a billion children live in areas with extremely high flood occurrence and almost 160 million in high-drought severity zones. Regions like the Sahel, which are especially reliant on agriculture, grazing and fishing, are especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In this arid region, rains are projected to get even shorter and less predictable in the future, and alarmingly, the region is warming up at a rate one and a half times faster than the global average. In the Sahel, the climate gets hotter and the poor get poorer, and it is all too common for armed groups to exploit the social grievances that arise under such pressurized conditions.

These challenges will only be compounded by the impact of air pollution, toxic waste and groundwater pollution damaging children's health. In 2017 approximately 300 million children were living in areas with the most toxic levels of outdoor air pollution - six or more times higher than international guidelines, and it contributes to the deaths of around 600,000 children under the age of 5. Even more will suffer lasting damage to their developing brains and lungs.

And, by 2040, one in four children will live in areas of extreme water stress and thousands will be made sick by polluted water. The management and protection of clean, plentiful, accessible groundwater supplies, and

the management of plastic waste are very fast becoming defining child health issues for our time.

Why there is hope: To mitigate climate change, governments and business must work together to tackle the root causes by reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement. Meanwhile, we must give the highest priority to efforts to find adaptations that reduce environmental impacts on children.

UNICEF works to curb the impact of extreme weather events including by designing water systems that can withstand cyclones and saltwater contamination; strengthening school structures and supporting preparedness drills; and supporting community health systems. Innovations such as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) schemes - if deployed at scale - could preserve reservoirs of clean water to protect millions of children from the dangers of water scarcity and disease.

Even in complex environments like the Sahel, there is hope - it has a young population, hungry for work and opportunity, and the climate offers vast potential for harnessing renewable, sustainable energy sources. With investment in education and employment opportunities, improved security and governance, there is every reason to feel optimism for the region's ability to develop climate change resilience and adaptation.

To turn the tide on air pollution, governments and business must work hand in hand to reduce fossil fuel consumption, develop cleaner agricultural, industrial and transport systems and invest in scaling renewable energy sources. Many governments have taken action to curb pollution from power plants, industrial facilities and road vehicles with strict regulations. A 2011 study by the United States Environmental Protection Agency found that the country's 1990 Clean Air Act had delivered US\$30 of health benefits to citizens for every US\$1 spent. Such policies hold the key to protecting little lungs and babies' brains from damaging airborne pollutants and particulate matter.

In the meantime, it is vital that we search for solutions that can ameliorate the worst effects of air pollution on child health. Mongolia's capital city Ulaanbaatar has among the most polluted air in the world during winter. The biggest source of pollution comes from coal-burning used by 60 per cent of Ulaanbaatar's population. UNICEF innovation experts together with the community, government, academia and the private sector have begun to design and implement energy efficiency solutions for traditional homes to reduce coal consumption and improve air quality, including by designing "the 21st Century Ger".

And we are finding ways to recycle and reuse plastics in innovative ways as well, reducing toxic waste and putting rubbish to good use. Conceptos Plasticos, a Colombian social enterprise, has developed a

technique to make bricks out of non-PVC plastics that are cheaper, lighter and more durable than conventional bricks - and is using them to build classrooms. Africa's first recycled plastic classroom was built earlier this year in Côte d'Ivoire, in just a few weeks. It cost 30 per cent less than traditional classrooms. This innovative approach of transforming plastic waste into construction bricks has the potential to turn a plastic waste management challenge into an opportunity, by addressing the right to an education with the construction of schools, empowering these communities and cleaning up the environment at the same time.

One in four of you are likely to live, and learn, in conflict and disaster zones

Why I'm worried: Children have always been the first victims of war. Today, the number of countries experiencing conflict is the highest it has ever been since the adoption of the Child Rights Convention in 1989. One in four children now live in countries affected by violent fighting or disaster, with 28 million children driven from their homes by wars and insecurity. Many lose several years of school - as well as records of achievements and qualifications for future learning and careers. Conflicts and natural disasters have already disrupted learning for 75 million children and young people, many of whom have migrated across borders or been displaced. That is a personal tragedy for every single child. To abandon the aspirations of a whole generation is a terrible waste of human potential. Worse, creating a lost, disillusioned and angry generation of uneducated children is a dangerous risk that could cost us all.

Why there is hope: Some states have demonstrated effective policies to keep refugees learning. When large numbers of children escaping the war in the Syrian Arab Republic arrived in Lebanon, the government faced the challenge of accommodating hundreds of thousands of children in a public-school system already under strain. With the support of international partners, they turned that challenge into an opportunity and integrated refugee children into schools while strengthening the education system for Lebanese students at the same time.

And digital innovations can help us do more. UNICEF is collaborating with Microsoft and the University of Cambridge to develop a 'learning passport' - a digital platform that will facilitate learning opportunities for children and young people within and across borders. The learning passport is being tested and piloted in countries hosting refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons. A digitally inclusive world should allow young people, no matter

their situation, to get access to education. Scaling up solutions like the digital learning passport could help millions of displaced children gain the skills they need to thrive.

We must make it OK to talk about mental health

Why I'm worried: If we believed everything we read about teenagers today, and the images portrayed in television and film, we could be forgiven for thinking they are a wild, antisocial bunch. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. The evidence actually shows that teens today smoke less, drink less, get into less trouble and generally take fewer risks than previous generations. You might even call them Generation Sensible.

Yet there is one area of risk for adolescents showing an extremely worrisome trend in the wrong direction - one that reminds us of the invisible vulnerability that young people still carry inside of them. Mental health disorders among under 18s have been rising steadily over the past 30 years and depression is now among the leading causes of disability in the young. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 62,000 adolescents died in 2016 because of self-harm, which is now the third leading cause of death for adolescents aged 15-19.

This is not just a rich country problem - WHO estimates that more than 90 per cent of adolescent suicides in 2016 were in low or middle-income countries. And while young people with severe mental disorders in lower-income countries often miss out on treatment and support, there is no country in the world that can claim to have conquered this challenge. To quote the WHO's mental health expert Shekhar Saxena, "when it comes to mental health, all countries are developing countries." With most low-income and middle-income countries spending less than 1 per cent of their total health budget on mental health, and high-income countries just 4-5 per cent, it is clear that it needs greater priority around the world.

UNICEF works with children who have suffered unthinkable traumas, gender discrimination, extreme poverty, sexual violence, disability and chronic illness, living through conflict and other experiences that place them at high risk of mental distress. The cost is not only personal, it is societal - the World Economic Forum consistently ranks mental health as having one of the greatest economic burdens of any non-communicable health issue. Despite this overwhelming evidence of a looming crisis and the alarming trends in rising self-harm and suicide rates, adolescent mental health and well-being have often been overlooked in global health programming.

Why there is hope: With half of lifetime mental health disorders starting before age 14, age-appropriate mental health promotion, prevention, and therapeutic treatment and rehabilitation must be prioritized. Early detection and treatment are key to preventing episodes of mental distress reaching a crisis point and precious young lives being damaged and lost. But all too often, what stands in the way of young people seeking help at an early stage is the ongoing stigma and taboo that prevents communities talking openly about mental health problems. Fortunately, this taboo is beginning to fall, and young people, once again, are leading the way - founding non-governmental organizations,

developing apps, raising awareness, and being vocal about their own struggles with mental illness and their efforts to address their condition, in hope that others feel empowered to do the same.

UNICEF uses campaigns in schools to promote open discussion about mental health. For example, in Kazakhstan, which has one of the highest suicide rates among adolescents worldwide, UNICEF stepped up efforts to improve the mental well-being of adolescents through a large-scale pilot programme in over 450 schools. The programme raised awareness, trained staff to identify high-risk cases, and ensured referral of vulnerable adolescents to health specialists. Nearly 50,000 young people participated in the pilot with many significant improvements in well-being. The programme has since been scaled up to over 3,000 schools.

The prioritization of adolescent mental health promotion and suicide prevention has resulted in a 51 per cent decrease of self-injury mortality in the 15-17 years age group at the national level and the number of suicide cases decreased from 212 in 2013 to 104 in 2018 for this age group. And perhaps most importantly, mental health is now being integrated into mainstream primary health care services, helping to overcome the stigma which often puts young people off from seeking help.

Over 30 million of you have migrated from your place of birth

Why I'm worried: Migration has been part of the human experience throughout history. For thousands of years, children and families have left their place of birth to settle in new communities in search of educational or employment opportunities. Today is no different. We live in a mobile world in which at least 30 million children have moved across borders.

For many, migration is propelled by a drive for a better life. But for too many children, migration is not a positive choice but an urgent necessity - they simply do not have the opportunity to build a safe, healthy and prosperous life in the place they are born. When migration is driven by desperation, it can lead to children migrating without the legal permissions they need, becoming so-called 'irregular migrants'. They often take perilous journeys across deserts, oceans and armed borders, encountering violence, abuse and exploitation on the way.

And one of the greatest migrations the world has ever seen is happening not across borders, but within borders, with millions migrating internally from rural to urban areas. In 1989, when the Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted, the majority of the world's children lived in rural areas. Today the majority live in cities, and the urbanization rate is set to grow. Though urban residents on average enjoy better access to services and opportunities, inequalities can be so large that many of the most disadvantaged children in urban areas fare worse than children in rural areas. For example, the poorest urban children in 1 in 4 countries are more likely to die before their fifth birthday than the poorest children in rural areas. And the poorest urban children in 1 in 6 countries are less likely to complete primary school than rural children.

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A career and a Mrs... you can have both

Tick tock, tick tock. Do you hear that? It's your biological clock. Whether we like to admit it or not, as women, many of us do look at our age as a timeline.

At what age should I have kids? At what age will I get married? At what age should I be financially stable?

As young women, we are exposed to societal pressure everywhere around us, having a steady financial plan, raising kids, meeting The One someday amongst others.

Everyone around you is talking about how much you have to hurry and get everything done by the time you are thirty.

Thirty? Really? So if I began college at twenty, finish at twenty-three or four, I now have six years to get myself together? Wow. This is absurd literally!

But how much easier would life be if society did not put such pressure?

So what does it exactly mean to have yourself together?

For some it's an amazing career, for others it's family. But for those of us who want both, why does society want us to choose? Woman who go to work, are labeled as not so great mothers or wife materials, and those who wait until they are more established are labeled as the ones who won't keep a man.

See, the expectation is that you'll find your dream partner in college, land your dream job, and live your life happily ever after. But as the majority of women can tell



you, that isn't the case. An alarming number of women after college aren't even working in their fields.

You want to move up, gain more responsibilities, and really make a name for yourself in your organization. Employee evaluations and promotions are coming up, and you really want to make sure you

stand out. You may not have time to date as much as you would like. In your mind, it's okay because you know what you are working towards. To others however, that's abnormal.

I've been asked on numerous occasions, when I plan on getting married or having kids. Those who ask do not care where my life is

headed right now, might be engaged in study, establishing a business or among many other options.

A majority would go like "a bachelors is enough, Time to go settle down now".

"Oh something must be wrong with her," they say. Why does something have to be wrong with

someone? The naysays women receive from not falling in line with traditional gender roles is ridiculous.

We have different priorities right? Generations before us expected women to stay at home and rely on the man for financial support, but this is a new day and age. More women are the breadwinners

too. Nevertheless, it's still possible to achieve both.

Growing up, my mum would often joke, you go to college to get two degrees: "your bachelor and your MRS..." And although we laughed, there was an edge of truth to what she said—which was typically followed by, "because you need someone that can support you".

I would cringe at the statement and stay quiet for a while reminiscing on past scenarios that explained why a woman wasn't supposed to even have the thought of studying to a higher learning institution lest she would look as not so appealing, not so of a future mother figure or "the know it all" kind of woman.

As outdated as this "a woman needs a man" mantra might seem, it, well, actually isn't relevant in the society today.

The "secure the bag" cliché on the woman is still very suitable.

Whether we blame the growing higher education rates and career goals for a woman or even the trend of "finding yourself" before walking down the aisle, the truth is this, the old model of relationships is becoming out of fashion.

Nevertheless, in the past our African culture and the

society at large had it that a woman was the receiver and the man the sole provider of the family unlike in the current times where both could be the sole providers of the family, not in all cases but in a majority of families.

Women are juggling college classes, career, friends, various development projects and so much more and sadly a lot of women may be too busy to find love or might dread surprises, the idea of settling down with a mate who's not aligned to the path they want to follow in life or career.

Cultural and societal expectations would in some time pressure you to start the search for "the one" but it's best to do when you are mentally ready and because forever is a lot of work, seek to sail through it with the right one, with the one who brings in the peace, wipes away the chaos, whom your soul loves and who loves his mother too (see this is just too important ladies)

Don't let society tell you otherwise. Do what makes you happy, and if you want both you can have both a family, a clear outlined career path before walking the aisle and so much more. Anything is possible and I believe no one wants to live a life of regrets.



THE CAREER MIRROR

With

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From page 9

Why there is hope: No child should feel forced to migrate from their home, yet until the root causes are addressed, the situation is unlikely to change. That means tackling community and gang violence, strengthening protection systems so children can be safe in their communities, improving access to quality education and job opportunities, and making sure young people have the chance to gain the skills they need to build better - and safer - futures for themselves and their home countries.

UNICEF estimates that tens of thousands of children do migrate without legal permission, some with family and some alone, making them extremely vulnerable. It is essential that child migrants - legal or otherwise - have their rights upheld. Wherever they are, and whatever their story, migrant children are children first and foremost. Governments can protect child migrants by prioritizing the best interests of children in the application of immigration laws, and wherever possible, they must keep families together and use proven alternatives to detention, such as foster families or group homes - many governments are testing such approaches successfully.

The so-called urban advantage breaks down when we look beyond averages and control for wealth, so social policies and programmes designed to support child survival and development must pay greater attention to the poorest and most marginalized urban children. Modern cities generally offer better access to clean water, health and social services, and educational opportunities. Thus, if city governments

can work to create inclusive access and equality of opportunity for the children in their cities, urban life could indeed provide a boost for child survival and development.

Thousands of you will officially never exist, unless we act

Why I'm worried: Every child has a right to a legal identity, to birth registration and a nationality. But a quarter of you born today - almost 100,000 babies - may never have an official birth certificate or qualify for a passport. If your parents are stateless, from a persecuted or marginalized community, or simply if you live in a poor remote region, you may never be given an identity or birth certificate. You may even be denied citizenship or have your citizenship stripped from you. This lack of formal recognition by any state means you may be denied health care, education and other government services. Later in life, the lack of official identification can mean you enter into marriage, dangerous work, or get conscripted into the armed forces before the legal age. As an unregistered or 'stateless' child, you are invisible to the authorities - it's as if you never existed.

For example, in the makeshift camps in Bangladesh, where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugee families have fled seeking sanctuary, babies are born every day. A Rohingya baby is unlikely to have their birth registered and have a nationality conferred upon them, robbing them of this basic 'passport to protection' from the very start of life.

And there is another

8 reasons why I'm worried, and hopeful, about the next generation

group of children today facing the threat of life without a clear legal identity and being left stateless. If you are an innocent child born to a foreign fighter from an armed group, you may not have citizenship, or you may have your citizenship stripped from you. In the Syrian Arab Republic alone, UNICEF estimates that there are close to 29,000 foreign children, most of them under the age of 12, and an additional 1,000 children believed to be in Iraq, who may have no civil documentation. They are at risk of becoming stateless and invisible.

Why there is hope: Registering children at birth is the first step in securing their recognition before the law, safeguarding their rights, and ensuring that any violation of these rights does not go unnoticed. The United Nations has set a goal that every human being on the planet will have a legal identity by 2030. UNICEF is supporting governments to work towards this goal, starting with registering all births.

For some children denied an official identity because of disagreements over their legal status, the only real solution is a political one. UNICEF urges Member States to fulfil their responsibilities to protect everyone under the age of 18 in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This includes children who are born to nationals from other states, who may be migrants, refugees or foreign fighters - because children are children first and foremost.

In other circumstances, technology and innovative partnerships promise a way forward. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for example, TIGO - a nationwide telecommunications company - the Electoral High Tribunal and UNICEF worked to increase birth registration in hospitals and health centres, resulting in registration at birth increasing by more than 500 per cent between 2015 and 2018. In Rwanda, the automatic registering of children at birth in hospitals led to birth registration increasing from 67 per cent in 2017 to 80.2 per cent in 2018. We must urgently scale up programmes like this to reach more children. This means dramatically

expanding digital access to the most remote and vulnerable communities, so registration systems can happen in real-time.

You need twenty-first century skills for a twenty-first century economy

Why I'm worried: There are more than 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world, one of the largest cohorts in human history. Too often, they lack access to an education that will prepare them for contemporary job and business opportunities - giving them the skills and outlook they need for a twenty-first century economy. Meanwhile, in the past 30 years, relative income inequality between countries has reduced, but absolute income inequality has increased significantly, so that some children and families with low incomes are left behind and miss out on the opportunities their richer peers enjoy. Moreover, mobility has stalled over the last 30 years, mirroring another generation in a poverty trap determined entirely by the family she or he is born into.

Why there is hope: UNICEF and our global partners have launched a new initiative to prepare young people to become productive and engaged citizens. Generation Unlimited aims to ensure every young person is in school, learning, training or employed by 2030. One programme in Argentina connects rural students in remote areas with secondary school teachers, both in person and online. An initiative in South Africa called TechnoGirl gives young women from disadvantaged backgrounds job-shadowing opportunities in the STEM fields. And in Bangladesh, tens of thousands of young people are receiving training in trades such as mobile-phone servicing. Through our Youth Challenge, we are bringing together bright young minds to solve problems in their communities, because young people are experts in their own lives and experiences. The

Generation Unlimited Youth Challenge has worked with more than 800 innovators across 16 countries and produced innovative solutions such as the SpeakOut mobile app, developed by young people in North Macedonia as an anonymous way to reach out to peers for help with bullying, and The Red Code, a self-sustaining micro-entrepreneurial scheme from Pakistan, which helps young women with both menstrual hygiene management and income generation.

Your digital footprint must be protected

Why I am worried: The world wide web was born in the same year as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 30 years ago. Today it has radically changed the world and reshaped childhood and adulthood alike. More than 1 in 3 children globally are thought to be regular users of the internet, and as this generation grows up, that proportion is set to grow and grow.

Debates about the benefits and dangers of social media for children are becoming familiar, and more action to protect children from bullying and exposure to harmful content is certainly needed. Parent and children are also becoming aware of the risk of sharing too much personal information on social media. But the truth is, the data contained within social media profiles created by children are just the tip of the data iceberg. Less well understood but at least as important, is the enormous accumulation of data being collected about children. As children go about their daily online lives, browsing social media, using search engines, e-commerce and government platforms, playing games, downloading apps and using mobile geolocation services, a digital footprint composed of thousands of pieces of data is accumulating around them. Some of the data may even have been gathered before birth and certainly before children are able to knowingly consent to its collection and use.

The era of so-called 'big data' has the

potential to transform - for the better - the provision of efficient, personalized and responsive services to children, but it also has potential negative impacts on their safety, privacy, autonomy and future life choices. Personal information created during childhood may be shared with third parties, traded for profit or used to exploit young people - particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized. Meanwhile, identity thieves and hackers have exploited vulnerabilities in e-commerce platforms to defraud and exploit adults and children alike; search engines track users' behaviour regardless of their age, and government surveillance of online activity is increasingly sophisticated around the world.

Moreover, data collected during childhood have the potential to influence future opportunities, such as access to finance, education, insurance and health care. The relationship between data collection and usage, consent and privacy is complex enough for adults, but it is doubly so for children, since the internet has never been designed with children's rights and needs in mind, and few are equipped to navigate the complexities of data sharing and privacy control.

Too often, children do not know what rights they have over their own data and do not understand the implications of their data use, and how vulnerable it can leave them. Privacy terms and conditions on social media platforms are often barely understood by highly educated adults, let alone children. An analysis from The New York Times, showed that many social media privacy policies require a reading comprehension level that exceeds that of the average college student, meaning

many users, especially the very young, are probably consenting to things they can't fully understand.

Why there is hope: The challenge facing us all today is to ensure that we design systems that maximize the positive benefits of big data and artificial intelligence, while preserving privacy, providing protections from harm and empowering people - including children - to exercise their rights. And we are beginning to see action: governments are strengthening regulatory frameworks; private sector providers are recognizing their role; and educators are thinking about how to equip children with the tools to navigate the online world safely. It is a start.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child makes it clear that children have a specific right to privacy - there is no reason this should not apply online. Contextualizing children's right to privacy within the full range of their other rights, best interests and evolving capacities, it is evident that children's privacy differs both in scope and application from adults' privacy and there is a strong argument that children should be offered even more robust protection.

Where children use social media they need to have real opt-in or opt-out opportunities in relation to how their data are used by the provider or other commercial interests, and the terms and conditions need to be clear and understandable to children. As some children have argued themselves, this might extend to deleting historical social media profiles for example. Where data is collected about children through tracking their online behaviours, it is crucial that clear,

TO BE CONTINUED

By Priyanka Ukabhai

Climate change: A race we must win

The timing of the Climate Action Summit later this week, only three months before the annual meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (COP25), hints at the growing sense of urgency among world leaders to tackle climate change head-on.

On 23 September 2019, governments and non-state stakeholders will gather in New York to attend the UN summit, whose goal is to accelerate action against climate change in light of recent reports by the UN agency responsible for assessing the science related to climate change (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC), and worldwide youth climate strikes.

Indeed, the Climate Action Summit will be preceded by a Youth Climate Summit on 21 September, permitting young people to engage with policymakers at the highest level around the threats that climate change pose to present and future generations. The Summit also takes place alongside the General Debate of the UN General Assembly, which has taken as its theme this year “galvanising multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion”.

The necessity of an additional summit to ‘boost ambition and accelerate action’ against climate change reflects not only

the worrying findings of the latest IPCC report, but also the rising frustration of ordinary citizens in response to what they view as inadequate political leadership in addressing climate change.

Throughout the year, various youth climate strikes, including ‘Fridays for Future’ and ‘Extinction Rebellion’ have taken place. In Greta Thunberg, the Swedish teenage climate activist who has been grabbing headlines this year, ordinary citizens, particularly the young, have found a spokesperson. Thunberg will attend the Climate Action Summit, having sailed rather than flown to New York from Europe to reduce her carbon footprint.

The growing awareness of the possible ramifications of climate change and the inadequacy of the political response so far have led many to call for a change in how we speak about the challenges we face: “climate change” is passé, instead we should be speaking of “climate crisis” or “climate breakdown”.

Last year the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres adopted the language of “climate crisis”, calling this a direct existential threat to humankind. The dimensions of this crisis have been articulated in the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C by the IPCC, which



The Africa Climate Week 2019, attended by 3,000 participants, ended on March 23, 2019, after a five-day programme of events focusing on actions to meet the 1.5°C temperature goal and building climate resilience both of which are inked in the Paris Agreement. The summit was held in Accra, Ghana and was hosted by the government of the Republic of Ghana.

warns of the grave consequences of a 1.5°C global mean temperature increase. In order to keep the planet below 1.5°C, Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) need to be cut soon. However, the IPCC and the International Energy Agency warn that current GHG emission trajectories do not show any sign of slowing down and that current climate action strategies need to be stepped up before it is too late.

Guided by the theme ‘A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win,’ September’s Climate Action Summit will bring together various stakeholders to formulate implementable, scalable and replicable plans to enhance the Paris Agreement commitments and essentially give climate action one last push ahead of COP25.

Because the Paris Agreement commitments will be renewed next year, 2019 is an important milestone and opportunity to reassess current climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

Climate Action Stocktake To understand where gaps and opportunities lie to boost climate action, it is useful to take stock of what the global community has currently achieved and what is lacking in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Mitigation Climate change mitigation (actions taken to reduce GHG emissions) has made the most headway. Strong political commitment has meant that mitigation policies, measures,

plans and action have continued to expand. At present, 183 parties have submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement - 177 of these contain a vision for low-emission development.

Under the current UN reporting framework, only developed countries are required to assess progress towards achieving their 2020 emission targets. Nonetheless, 43 developed country parties have reported positive progress, with seven already reporting emissions lower than their 2020 target (the EU’s 28 member states are considered a single party).

The upcoming Climate Action Summit provides an important opportunity to reassess and

enhance climate mitigation measures in light of new findings. A particular focus will be on the two largest carbon-emitting countries in the world: the United States and China.

Adaptation The first round of NDCs emphasised the need for climate change mitigation, with less focus on adaptation. Although many developing countries have begun to formulate National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), an assessment by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conducted in January this year found that none of the countries that had submitted NAPs had implemented any of the policies or projects stipulated therein. The majority of adaptation work still lay in

groundwork phases - with large gaps in implementation strategies.

Although mitigation is crucial for keeping global temperatures below dangerous levels, adaptation needs more attention, as the effects of climate change are already playing out - especially in the developing world. Effective implementation of adaptation measures is vital for Africa, as the continent is especially vulnerable to climate impacts and currently lacks the capacity to respond appropriately.

Ecosystem-based Adaptation In light of the current GHG emission trajectories and the limited attention given to climate change adaptation, parties attending the upcoming Climate Action Summit should turn their gaze towards solutions such as Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA).

While EbA presents itself as an adaptation measure, its benefits span not only adaptation, but also mitigation and socio-economic upliftment. Through the sustainable management and governance of ecosystems, resilience to climate change implications is enhanced and communities are supported in adapting to current and future climate change ramifications, hence strengthening livelihoods. Additionally, EbA measures such as mangrove restoration act as ‘carbon sinks’ - contributing to the reduction of GHG emissions.

The protection of many of the world’s planetary boundaries and healthy ecosystems lie in the hands of the African continent, however EbA remains largely absent from climate change response measures. The Climate Action Summit, under the ‘Nature-based Solutions’ working group provides an important opportunity to include EbA into plans to enhance and accelerate actionable ideas in terms of Climate Action.

China sends 163 peacekeepers to South Sudan

BEIJING

A group of 163 Chinese peacekeepers on Tuesday left Beijing for South Sudan on a one-year mission.

The peacekeepers, consisting of a sapper team of 130 and a medical unit of 33, are the first group of a 331-strong battalion sent by China for the mission.

The sapper team will handle tasks including maintaining and upgrading supply routes, repairing runways at airports, building shelters and providing engineering support in mission areas.

The medical unit will be tasked with providing basic healthcare services, treating common and infectious diseases, performing operations and vaccinations and more.

The second group of the battalion is scheduled to depart from Beijing on Sept. 25.

Meanwhile, a team of 110 Chinese peacekeepers Tuesday departed Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province, for the Democratic Republic of Congo for a one-year peace-keeping mission.

They are the first group of the 23rd batch of peacekeepers that China has dispatched to the central African nation. With 218 members in total, the battalion consists of a sapper team of 175 and a medical unit of 43. They will be sent to the mission area in two batches.

The sapper team will be tasked with engineering support, repairing roads, constructing airports and barracks and destroying unexploded ammunition in mission areas. The medical unit will carry out tasks including treating the wounded, medical evacuation and epidemic prevention.

Besides undergoing special training, the peacekeepers have also studied UN



Keji county, toward the southern border with Uganda

peacekeeping regulations, diplomatic protocols and local customs to better fulfill the mission.

Among the officers and soldiers, 56 have conducted peacekeeping missions previously.

A panel of U.N. experts warns the failure of South Sudan’s warring factions to implement last year’s peace accord risks plunging the country into full-scale war once again.

The report by the three-member Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan shows no improvements since South Sudan’s President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar

signed a peace accord aimed at ending the country’s six-year civil war.

The chair of the commission, Yasmin Sooka, said more than six million people are going hungry, 1.3 million children under five are acutely malnourished, and millions more are stunted, affecting their health and mental development.

“The starvation in South Sudan is neither random, nor accidental,” she said. “It has been part of a deliberate strategy on the part of the warring parties to target civilians in acts that may amount to war crimes. ... There is no doubt that the responsibility for the endur-

ing humanitarian catastrophe in South Sudan rests firmly with the country’s warring politicians.”

Sooka warned that important provisions of the accord are not being implemented, including the disengagement of rival forces in preparation for the creation of a unified military force for South Sudan. She urged the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union and the international community to deal effectively with armed groups to prevent a return to full-scale war.

In addition, she said gross human rights violations are rampant and widespread,

levels of sexual and gender-based violence are exceedingly high, and justice for the victims has proven to be impossible.

“In the military courts that are actually trying to prosecute perpetrators, the judges do not even have ink and paper to print their judgments and have been going to the market to print court documents, paying for it out of their own pockets,” Sooka said. “This is a government that cannot supply stationery or even food, but has no problem buying bullets.”

Not all assessments of South Sudan’s near-future are so bleak. In late August, IGAD representatives in Ad-

US airstrike in Somalia kills at least two Al-Shabaab militants

MOGADISHU

The US Africa Command (AFRICOM) said Wednesday that it had conducted an airstrike against the al-Qaeda affiliated al-Shabaab group in southern Somalia, killing two militants.

The airstrike took place north of the port city of Kismayo, the capital of Lower Jubba, and they were targeted after the group attacked a Somali patrol, according to AFRICOM.

“In coordination with the Federal Government of Somalia, U.S. Africa Command conducted an airstrike on Al-Shabaab insurgents after they attacked a Somali patrol northwest of Kismayo, Lower Jubba Province, Somalia on Sept. 17. At this time, it is assessed the airstrike killed two (2) militants,” AFRICOM said in a statement posted on Twitter.

No civilians were injured or killed as a result of this airstrike, the statement added.

Separately, on Tuesday, Somali National Army Commander Gen. Odawa Yusuf Rage said that the army had killed the al-Shabaab “governor” of the central region of Hirran alongside another senior militant.

Meanwhile, the Jubaland State of Somalia forces said that it had killed more than 15 al-Shabaab fighters in the Lower Jubba region in an operation on Tuesday.

The Hague based International Justice Court -ICJ is scheduled to start public hearings over the maritime dispute between Kenya and Somalia in early November.

On Tuesday, the court outlined conditions to journalists, diplomats and members of the public wishing to attend the hearings.

Journalists who had received accreditation for the hearings which were initially set for the first week of September have been told they will have to reapply.

“Owing to the limited number of seats available in the Great Hall of Justice, priority access will be given to representatives of the States Parties to the case, and to members of the diplomatic corps,” a statement from the court said.

Diplomats and Journalists have until October 24 to apply for accreditation to access the court for the hearings.

“A number of seats will be allocated to members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no advance registration procedure, and admission requests submitted beforehand will not be considered,” the statement said.

The new Mogadishu Mayor and Governor of Banadir region Omar Mohamad Mohamed (Omar Filish) and the Turkish ambassador to Somalia Mehmet Yilmaz have held deliberations geared at improving infrastructure in the city.

The governor and the Turkish Ambassador discussed among other things, ways to strengthen the various capital projects that are being redeveloped in the streets of Mogadishu.

The two leaders also discussed strengthening ties between Somalia and Turkey, which are two countries.

“The Turkish Ambassador to Somalia today met today to discuss the strengthening of bilateral relations and the continued support and support of the Hamar Municipality,” the mayor of Mogadishu said.

The governor of Banadir thanked the Turkish Ambassador for his warm welcome and promised to work with him.

AGENCIES

AGENCIES

The astounding journey of a White Zulurocker

After a more than four-year-long battle, British-born South African Zulu-rock icon, Johnny Clegg, finally succumbed to pancreatic cancer in July. Family friend for nearly 40 years, **Chris du Plessis**, reminisces about Johnny's journey through everything from searching for and becoming a father, to science-fiction films and a Zulu tribal leader called Chief Queen Victoria.



By Chris Du Plessis, Johannesburg

Jonathan Paul Clegg's lifelong friend and musical ally, Siphon Mchunu, chokes on his words by the grave side as he bids his best friend a final farewell. The he suddenly thrusts his clasped hands out in his frustration to find the words, throws his head skyward and emits a muffled, heart-ripping "Hamba Kahle!" before imploring Johnny not to fear the journey he is poised to embark on.

"Do not be afraid to meet your fathers and your peers umfowethu (my friend)". He addresses Johnny by his clan-name Skeyi - borrowed from the "skei" part of the Afrikaans word jukskei - the wedge that fixes cattle to the "juk" (yoke) or wooden brace that binds them to their load. His friend, Siphon pronounces as a hush envelops the concentrated gathering, has now been freed from his bonds...

Msinga Valley, KwaZulu-Natal, 1983

The massive bank of black thunderclouds amassing over the Msinga valley in South Africa's Kwazulu-Natal province doesn't seem to bother Mashiye Dladla as he emerges from the thatched hut in full traditional Zulu warrior raiment.

He glances briefly skyward, shakes some fine powder from a leather pouch onto the palm of his hand, and blows. Inside the hut, the chanting reaches a crescendo as the powder billows into the dank atmosphere.

Satisfied, Mashiye turns and heads back to join his companions, confident that his actions will keep the rain

at bay until the day's events were concluded. As leader of his Indlamu-group, it's his duty to make sure the weather doesn't impede on the all-important proceedings.

When the row of warriors eventually emerge from the hut draped in battle regalia, a young Johnny Clegg sports the same amaShoba (cow tails tied around the upper arms and below the knees), izinjobo (long animal skins around the hips) and amaBeshu (calf-skin rear apron) but his pale veneer forms a stark contrast to his brethren of the Chunu clan. Behind him is Dudu Zulu, a close companion and one of his team's fiercest combatants. It's 1983, before Johnny became a household name in South Africa and France, before Zulu threatened to become just another four-letter word, and before Dudu was brutally slaughtered by rival clan factions in nearby Keate's Drift.

Johnny Clegg on October 25, 2012 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Clegg is preparing for a concert in the city. (Photo by Gallo Images / Foto24 / Werner Hills)

In a semi-trancelike state, the line of warriors snake down into the valley to meet their opponents. Similar groupings have been forming among the amaBomvu and amaTembu who share the harsh conditions in Msinga with the amaChunu people.

They have been surviving here since Shaka Zulu herded fellow Nguni clans hostile to the House of Zulu (People of the Sky) to the peripheries of his kingdom. That's where the trouble began and where it still froths ominously forth. Today will be a battle to remember... Johannesburg, July 2013 "Ever

since I was a boy I wanted to be a warrior," Johnny Clegg states sternly while surveying the captive audience gathered to celebrate his 60th birthday in Johannesburg. "And it seems to have rubbed off on my family. My son Jesse and my wife Jenny are warriors too. They worry all the time. It often ends up with Jesse worrying that Jenny might be worried about something that he's worried about..."

Johnny comes across focused and relaxed as he stands there snatching anecdotes from his hind-head for the receptive collection of friends and colleagues.

It's a unique occasion in more ways than one - the first time in many years that anyone has seen Johnny and his counterpoint counterpart, his cadence-compadre, Siphon Mchunu, share a stage. After so many years and ritual sorghum beers, their combined vocal prowess is still apparent. During the sound check that afternoon, staff and management had stood frozen as the singing commenced.

The two voices have danced together so many times, chased one another through the riffs and raised roofs in unison for so long, it's virtually impossible to distinguish one from the other as they negotiate the ancient Zulu ballads about women, war and cattle-culture. Siphon & Garfunkel; Simon & Clegg. When the har-

monies mesh, it becomes a single timeless South African anthem.

Only a few hours before things were happening somewhat faster.

"I feel like a foreign person in a foreign country," Johnny had muttered speeding between last-minute errands in his navy blue kombi-bus. "This land of 60 years old is uncharted turf to me."

It had to be, I mused, still manically buzzing about like he was 20 years old.

On a normal day, Johnny would at least have had Baf's help with all the driving around. But not much in Johnny's life has ever really been normal, and his trusted cutman for the past three decades, Baf, or Bafazane, had recently been incapacitated. Subject of the bass-driven Juluka ditty Bullets from his hind-head for the previous week. Only this time, unlike the other occasions, it was an own goal. As he bent down for his wallet at the petrol station, he triggered his weapon and shot himself through the leg.

"You know," Johnny says, swivelling to steer into a side-road while slapping his hand down on the dashboard to stop the umhupe (traditional Zulu mouth-bow he'd hastily cobbled together that afternoon from string and sticks for the evening's proceedings) from sliding any further towards

the open car window, "Life is a constant balancing act between security and meaning..."

Before he can elaborate, an unearthly ring bursts from his cellphone. It's a personal message from the then South African state president Jacob Zuma (in the days before he was so widely discredited by the State Capture scandal) with a lengthy apology stating why he regretfully won't make it to the party that night. Johnny unaffectedly clicks off from the obligatory invite and latches back onto the train of thought.

"It's a desire for structure against the rage for chaos. Too much security, and you wither and die. Too much searching for meaning without finding answers can kill you as well. But we only achieve meaning by destroying structure..."

The untimely exercise in philosophical deconstruction is classic Clegg. The thought-rush could have been triggered by anything: a sudden mental snapshot of Bafazane's ordeal, a biker thundering past, a weathered pigeon settling on the roof of one of the suburban mansions flitting by... His mother was probably subjected to a deconstruction of the event the first time Johnny fell from his cot.

With such precipitous lapses into deep thought, he morphs instantly into the hunched academic, the analytical intellectual - a guise as comfortable to him as the more popular public persona: Johnny Clegg - the musical trendsetter, the prancing foot-stomper, the robust human rights campaigner, the bouncing bundle of renegade energy...

In the past four decades, Johnny and his groups Juluka and later Savuka have sold over five million records worldwide and released two-dozen LPs/CDs. He has received the Presidential Ikhamanga Award - the highest honour that can be bestowed on a South Africa citizen - was anointed a Knight (of Arts and Letters) by the French government and has now been listed as recipient of an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire). He's right up there where most contenders wish to be seen in the African/World Music constellation.

But the episodes of sometimes morose contemplation and insistence on addressing life's murkiness with more zest than most refreshingly places Johnny Clegg apart from the average glamour-seeking popstar or garden variety rock-twit - for better or for worse. And Johnny Clegg is no stranger to worse. Through the same passage of time, he's had to battle the prejudices of apartheid, wade through the complex quagmire of the cultural boycott, falter and find his feet again in the cutthroat confines of the international business world, lose and regain a fa-

ther, bury some of his closest companions (either gunned down in Msinga's inter-tribal skirmishes or assassinated by apartheid's secret police), pick up the pieces after Juluka's sudden demise at the band's peak, and endure the rejection of Zulu culture - the fundamental source of his creative output - that accompanied the widespread condemnation of Inkhata during the 1980s. Jonathan Clegg first saw the light of day in the small hamlet of Rochdale, England, some 66 years ago. His dad, Dennis, had been enlisted in the RAF and stationed at a base in Gwelo (now Gwero) in the old Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where he met Johnny's mother Muriel, whose parents were farming in the district.

(Her eyes still glaze over when she conjures up their courtship: "Dogs loved him," she remembered fondly during a visit one morning to her well-appointed chambers at a Johannesburg home for the elderly. "He always used to pick up the strays on the way to my house like the Pied Piper.")

When his tenure was over, Dennis returned to his hometown and invited Muriel to join him there and, on her visit to the UK some time later, the romance was rekindled and Johnny was conceived.

But the low skies and more restrained British ways soon made a naturally gregarious Muriel miserable enough to start longing for home. Without telling her mother, Muriel's dad flew over to Rochdale to fetch his daughter, and after some "delicate negotiations", returned to Zambia with both her and the six-month old boy...

Msinga Valley, KwaZulu-Natal, 1983 As the lines of warriors from the different clans and released two-dozen LPs/CDs. He has received the Presidential Ikhamanga Award - the highest honour that can be bestowed on a South Africa citizen - was anointed a Knight (of Arts and Letters) by the French government and has now been listed as recipient of an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire). He's right up there where most contenders wish to be seen in the African/World Music constellation.

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THE GUARDIAN GOLF WORDFIT

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: MEN, AGE, TOP, OFF
 4 Letter word: AIDE, NICE, DARK, CUTE, MOPE, SCAM EMIR, MASS, TIME
 5 Letter word: LIEGE, MAMBA, FRAME, RENDS,
 6 Letter word: NOD OFF, AFRAID, MODERN, AFRICA, FUSING, TENURE, DERRAIL,
 7 Letter word: STRIKER,
 9 Letter word: AFFECTION

WORDFIT

M I N E R A I L P A C I F I C A B W E
 O R E I D L E I A A W A Y
 S O R G H U M E O L Y M P I C G A N B S
 H T O E B G A D N U A A E R O G
 I S H I A R S E N G L I S H E R B G I
 I R A N G E E L A I D A G
 R U S S I A A S H E N B U R D
 S I A S Y L U M E D E W A R A B I R
 C O U P L E S E F A R C O R E
 R I A M E N D F I E S T A H A I R S
 O V A R Y N A R D V H M R A G E
 I E R S U B E P E F D E E P O A D

THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD - 010 -

Clues: Across

1. Traditional ruler of Tibet (5,4)
1. Longest river in western Europe (6)
1. Prevent something from happening(5)
2. Fine - grained soil (5)
3. Fine - grained soil (5)
4. Throw things around (7)
5. Ceremonial act (4)
7. Ordered series (4)
8. Precise (8)
10. relating to opening in bodily organ (6)
11. S-shaped curve (4)
13. limited right of use of property (8)
16. Feeling of illness (7)
18. Right to choose (7)
19. Kind and sympathetic (7)

Down:

17. Playing card (3)
18. Allow (3)
20. Fasten something with rope (3)
21. Anger (3)
22. Limited number (3)
23. Foliage (4) 24. Feudal lord (5)
26. North African drum (6)
27. Mix ingredients (4)
28. Large crab (5,4)

By Maggie J. Sanchez@msmrt@gmail.com 0789437309

TO BE CONTINUED



Thursday 19 September 2019



Former CBK governor Prof Njuguna Ndung'u.

Ex-CBK boss urges greater mobile money connectivity

NAIROBI

Increasing the level of interoperability among the mobile network operators (MNOs) in Kenya will raise market reach and lower the costs of mobile money, new research shows.

The study, carried out by former Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) governor Njuguna Ndung'u shows that Safaricom's control of a large proportion of the mobile money market gives it incentive to restrict access to competitors.

Prof Ndung'u, during whose reign as CBK boss Safaricom's M-Pesa money transfer services were licensed and launched, said the cost of telecoms services was a major concern. In the research, he pointed out that the current market structure is such that it gives rise to a fundamental conflict of interest for the largest operator as all other financial institutions are customers and competitors of Safaricom.

"The interoperability for mobile network operators and transparency in the costing of services are still concerns for telecommunication regulators and financial institutions. ... The fact that Safaricom continues to lead the market creates a fundamental conflict of interest since all other financial institutions in Kenya remain customers of, and competitors to, one dominant MNO," said the scholar in the study.

The research, titled Digital Technology and State Capacity in Kenya, was published last month by the Centre for Global Development, which works to reduce global poverty and improve lives through innovative economic research.

Quoting previous work by other scholars, Prof Ndung'u points out that "the presence of a dominant MNO leaves third-party providers with no other option to reach the majority of the market than to go through this MNO."

"This implies little incentive for the MNO to drive down the price of unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) technology, which is the dominant front-end technology used in the deployment of mobile banking services in Kenya," he said.

The agency management model has been built around Safaricom activities with regulators imposing supervisory responsibility on the telco, it notes, adding that the resulting master agents model has pushed the M-Pesa success.

"The argument here is that interoperability is supposed to increase the market size, lower unit costs and enhance competition as well as efficiency, leaving market shares to depend on the products and services rolled out by the different MNOs," he noted.



This implies little incentive for the MNO to drive down the price of unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) technology, which is the dominant front-end technology used in the deployment of mobile banking services in Kenya

Tourism College comes up with events management course to address demand

By Francis Kajubi

GROWING demand for professional events managers in the domestic market has pushed National College of Tourism to partner with Canadian Vancouver Island University to introduce technician level courses.

NCT's CEO, Dr Shogo Sedoyeka said in Dar es Salaam during the week that the new courses are being introduced through its improving skills training program that targets to produce personnel that meets international standards of the event management profession.

Dr Sedoyeka said popular market demand and growing profession needs have prompted NCT and VIU to begin the new course as tourism conference gathers momentum in some African countries including Tanzania. She said the courses are considered as an opportunity of boosting tourism in the country.

"This is the right time for us because the government through the Ministry of Natural Resources and



National College of Tourism's CEO, Dr Shogo Mlozi Sedoyeka announcing a new event management course to journalists in Dar es Salaam during the week. She is accompanied by Finance and Administration Director, Bonphase Mwaipaja (L) and Studies Director, Stephen Madenge. Photo: Selemani Mpochi.

Tourism is planning to build a modern event and conference center that will need profession service providers," she underlined.

The NCT chief further noted that due to environmental and technological advancements, demand for qualified event managers is booming as technologies

and innovation squeeze the global market into a village.

"A generation of certified experts will boost competition and lower the cost of organizing

events due to the presence of many experts in the field," she added while stressing that events management is a broad area that covers dressing styles, film, sports and cultural, ceremonies and festivals that need to be organized in a profession way.

According to her, VIU has assisted NCT in preparation of basic level, technician and ordinary diploma course curriculums.

She said before NCT had decided to come up with the course, it found out that people are acquiring knowledge and skills of event management in an informal way, often from uncertified people in the industry. "For those who are already in the industry will be offered with short term courses," the NCT chief stated.

The inception class is expected to enroll 40 students this financial year for both certificate and diploma level courses that will take up two years of training.

According to Ministry of Tourism's goal is to attract two million foreign tourists by 2020 from the current 1.5 million with conference tourism on the cards as a product to lure international arrivals.

StanChart Tanzania CEO flattered by Global Finance recognition

By The Banker Reporter

Global Finance publication's naming of Standard Chartered Bank Tanzania as the Best Consumer Digital Bank in the domestic market for a second year in a row will only encourage management and employees stay the innovation path.

UK based Global Finance publication also said StanChart Tanzania was also recognised for its information security and fraud management systems, under its digital offerings.

The bank's CEO, Sanjay Rughani reflected on how the award reaffirms Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited's commitment to its digital agenda and how it is leading the way in developing digital solutions that are aligned with country's financial inclusion agenda.

"Our Digital Bank on Mobile solution is a demonstration of how the bank continues to be on the cutting edge of strategic technology investments and marries very well with our customer obsession mantra," Rughani said.

He further stated that digitization means disruption from traditional and conventional ways of banking to transforming banking business with the sole objective of improving clients' experience.

"It is imperative that we respond to the changing customer needs by providing solutions that address their evolving needs. Clients today are looking for products and partners who will offer solutions that are accessible, convenient, cost effective and, most importantly, forward looking," Rughani added.

StanChart Tanzania which is part of UK based Standard Chartered Bank Plc has since early this year embarked on digitisation of its banking services gaining recognition for having the top mobile banking application.

The global lender's subsidiaries have bagged various awards during the year with Standard Chartered Uganda and Standard Chartered Zambia were voted the Most Innovative Digital Banks while Standard Chartered Nigeria and



Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited's CEO, Sunjay Rughani brandishes the Global Finance Award won last year. File photo.

Standard Chartered Cote d'Ivoire both won the Best Mobile Banking, the Best Integrated Consumer Bank Site, and Best Bill Payment and Presentment, respectively. Standard Chartered Botswana won the Best Online Deposit, Credit and Investment Product Offerings awards.

Reacting to the successes being made in the region, Standard Chartered Regional Chief Executive Officer for Africa & Middle East, Sunil Kaushal said, "The awards are a testament that the Bank's Africa digital transformation strategy is paying off. We are proud of the recent launches of fully retail digital banks in Tanzania, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Botswana,

Zambia, and Zimbabwe."

"Digitizing Africa remains at the heart of our business strategy for the region and we are glad that we have been voted the Best Consumer Digital bank in most of the countries we've implemented or continue to implement our digital transformation agenda," Kaushal added.

Winning banks were selected based on the strength of strategy for attracting and servicing digital customers, success in getting clients to use digital offerings, growth of digital customers, breadth of product offerings, evidence of tangible benefits gained from digital initiatives, and web/mobile site design and functionality, Global Finance said in its statement.

Standard Chartered targets retail banking for Nigerian expansion

LAGOS

Standard Chartered's Nigerian unit is joining the rush to grab a larger share of the consumer-banking market in Africa's most populous nation, targeting a five-fold increase in customers over the next two years.

"Retail is where we're going to see exponential growth," Lamin Manjang, the chief executive officer for Standard Chartered's Lagos-based subsidiary, said in an interview. "It's just a logical expansion of our portfolio" so the company can be diversified should there be a downturn in other parts of the business, he said.

Standard Chartered, which has focused on corporate banking since opening an office in Nigeria 20 years ago, plans to expand retail banking to 15% of local revenue over the next two years from 6%, the CEO said. Retail customers are expected to increase to about 500 000 from 100 000 by using digital technology that enables customers to open an account in less than five minutes, Manjang said.

The push by the London-based emerging-markets lender comes as banks scurry to meet a central bank directive to increase their loan-to-deposit ratios to 60% by the end of this month. With only two out of the six biggest banks meeting the threshold, consumers and small- to medium-sized businesses are being bombarded with offers that allows them to take out loans via a text message.

Who is where in Nigerian credit?

The increased use of technology and rapid urbanisation is also opening up a market in a nation of 200 million people in which a quarter don't have financial services. Standard Chartered is looking for 5%-10% growth in its overall loan book this year. In personal loans, it has doubled the size of the facility it offers to 20 million naira (\$55 300), Manjang said.

"Within our retail portfolio we have a segment called business banking," he said. "It is a segment we see a lot of opportunities for growth. Currently, we believe the scale of that business is small relative to opportunities we see in that market."

The company would like the central bank to relax the penalty on the loans-to-deposit ratio target it announced in July as part of a raft of measures aimed at stimulating the economy by boosting access to credit.

"I hope the penalty for noncompliance can be waived or looked at," Manjang said. "People are put under pressure to meet a certain target within a short period of time." The rush might initially cause banks to price their loans too aggressively, the CEO said, although over time, banks will put in "measures to symmetrically grow their loan books in a responsible way."

Airtel Money subscribers to share 2.5bn/- in annual profits

By The Banker Reporter

AIRTEL Money subscribers will share 2.5bn/- being profits made by the mobile money platform during the third quarter of this year.

Announcing the interest disbursement sharing to customers in Dar es Salaam this week, Airtel Money Director, Isaack Nchunda said the interest earned will be distributed to all subscribers based on their utilization of the service for the past 12 months.

The amount earned each customer depends on how frequently they use their Airtel Money service account in transactions which include withdrawing money from banks, paying for utility bills such as LUKU and DAWASA water bill and other government fees.

"Our aim is to continue to

support government's agenda in promoting financial inclusion hence the decision to share approximately 2.5bn/- accrued interest for the period covering September 2018 to March 2019 quarters," Nchunda said.

Nchunda added that this is the eighth time in a row that Airtel Tanzania Limited is giving back interest earned through various transactions to all Airtel Money subscribers who include agents since 2015. In all, the company has shared 19bn/- with its subscribers during the four year period.

"We are happy that in addition to customers interest distribution, our over 60,000 Airtel Money agents county wide will also receive their interests through their mobile money wallets," the Airtel Money Director added.

On his part, Airtel Tanzania's Communications Manager, Jackson Mmbando said the mobile



Airtel Tanzania Plc's Director of Airtel Money services, Isaack Nchunda speaks in Dar es Salaam this week when announcing payment of 2.5bn/- to subscribers of the mobile money platform. Right is Airtel Tanzania Public Relations Manager, Jackson Mmbando. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

phone service company is committed to improving and bringing its services closer to customers and address the gap of unbanked population across the country.

"In promoting financial inclusion, Airtel recently launched 'Tuko nawe kila kona' campaign with the rollout of Airtel Money branches, one of the largest mobile money distribution set-ups in the country with over 1,000 outlets," Mmbando said.

He said Airtel will continue to widen its agent's footprint to ensure mobile money services are available to the majority of Tanzanian especially those in rural areas. "To serve our growing customer base with Airtel Money services, we have also integrated our systems with various payment platforms such as e-government where customers can make several state payments at a go," the Communications Manager added.

Airtel Money is also connected to over 40 banks in the country which makes it possible for customers to do instant money transfers from their bank accounts to their mobile money wallets anywhere any time.

EABL pays Sh64bn in tax to the region

NAIROBI

Beer maker East Africa Breweries Limited's (EABL) #ticker:EABL tax contribution to regional exchequers rose by 18 percent to hit Sh64 billion, the company's annual report indicates.

The rise is attributable to higher sales of EABL's brand categories which saw revenues rise 12 percent to Sh83 billion, compared to the previous period.

EABL's performance was underpinned by recovery in the consumption of both beer and spirits across Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. According to the firm's audited financial state-

ments, all regional markets registered increased sales, pushing up the firm's total revenues by 12 percent to Sh82.54 billion from Sh73.45 billion.

Revenues in Uganda and Tanzania grew by eight percent and 20 percent respectively while Kenya went up 13 percent. Ugandan and Tanzanian subsidiaries contributed 15 percent and 12 percent respectively to EABL's profits with Kenya accounting for 73 percent of the earnings.

In Kenya, EABL sells the low-end lager Senator Keg brand and spirits and these attracted double-digit growth. EABL is counting on frothing demand for the

low-priced Senator Keg beer and also Scotch whisky to counter the impact of tax increases.

The increased demand for Senator Keg has resulted in the company increasing the number of sorghum farmers to 62,000, earning Sh1.2 billion during the last financial year. Sales of Senator Keg, a low-priced lager made from locally-grown sorghum, rose by close to a third in the last financial year, which will help to offset the impact of higher taxes.

"Our efficiency and agility, coupled with a relatively stable macroeconomic environment, have provided tailwinds for better performance, with EABL returning

organic volume of 11 per cent and net sales growth of 12 per cent," said Group managing director Andrew Cowan. The firm, however, decried unpredictable excise tax saying the increases inflict a counterproductive effect on its revenue contribution to governments and help drive consumers to illicit alcohol.

"Sound tax policy must be fair and sensitive to the effects of losing consumers to illicit alcohol, which is neither safe for consumption nor do they contribute to the economy in form of taxes," EABL's local subsidiary Kenya Breweries Limited Managing Director, Jane Karuku.



Group managing director Andrew Cowan.

Bank of England set to hold interest rates this month

LONDON

The Bank of England is set to keep interest rates on hold at its meeting this month – the last one scheduled before the UK's current October 31 Brexit deadline.

Governor Mark Carney and the Monetary Policy Committee have been hemmed in by Brexit for months, stuck along with the rest of the country waiting for the uncertainty to end. Policy

makers will keep the benchmark rate unchanged at 0.75 percent on Thursday, according to economists in a Bloomberg survey.

The decision comes amid a wave of global easing that has seen the Federal Reserve and European Central Bank cut rates in recent months. The Fed is expected to lower borrowing costs again next week. UK politics has been plunged into further

turmoil since new prime minister Boris Johnson suspended Parliament, but not before lawmakers voted to compel him to seek an extension to Brexit negotiations if he doesn't get a deal.

Mr Johnson will travel to Luxembourg for his first face-to-face talks with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Monday, and continues to insist the UK will

leave at the end of next month.

Some data out of the UK is flashing warning signs that the chaos is weighing on the economy, although a report last week showed the economy expanded more than forecast in July, allaying fears of an imminent recession. UK inflation data is due out on Wednesday and retail sales for August will be published Thursday.



Atiq Rehman, the head of Europe, Middle East and Africa Emerging Markets Cluster for Citigroup.

Citi expects 'record year' on back of Saudi Arabia and UAE operations

DUBAI

mimic its moves.

Citigroup expects its Middle East business to pick up this year, despite a drop in interest rates and a slowdown in some regional economies, the bank's head of emerging markets said.

"Top-line [growth] is in high single digit ... we are going to have a record year for revenues," Atiq Rehman, the head of Europe, Middle East and Africa Emerging Markets Cluster for Citigroup, told The National in an interview in Dubai on Tuesday, citing a pick-up in its fee-based income. "Profit is a function of many things but I would say it would be for the bottom line as well," he said declining to provide specific figures.

Mr Rehman, who was previously chief executive of Citi's Middle East and Africa operation, was this week charged with running the bank's emerging markets cluster, consisting of the Middle East and North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, in addition to Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

The cluster contributes significantly to Citi's overall business growth as it accounts for "inside of 10 per cent" of Citi's net profit from its global operations, he said. The lender reported a net profit of \$18 billion (Dh66.1bn) last year, a 14 per cent year-on-year growth.

"I remain confident about the future as our business [in the region], which is immensely strong. We are in the budgeting process right now and we are going to budget for growth [next year]," Mr Rehman noted.

The hydrocarbon-dependent Middle Eastern economies have faced headwinds in the wake of volatility in oil prices against a gloomy backdrop of softening of global growth as the US-China trade war continues to weigh heavy.

Most Arabian Gulf states, including the UAE and Saudi Arabia which are pegged to the US dollar, have lowered key interest rates after the US Federal Reserve cut its policy rates last month for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis. The Fed is expected to further reduce benchmark rates and central banks in the region are likely to

Like other lenders, a drop in interest rates will impact Citi, but the bank has a diverse business model in the region and generates a large amount of revenue from its investment banking and wealth management businesses, which helps to offset any drop in revenue elsewhere. Governments and corporates are likely to tap debt markets as the cost of borrowing declines, and this means more income for Citi and its peers.

"Fee-based income is still a significant part of our revenues in the region. I haven't seen any impact on my business this year," he said. "It is not necessary that a bank's business is linked to the economic growth rates [and] we typically do much better than the economic growth rate, given our business model," he explains.

The bank has invested heavily in building its investment banking capability in the region, to capitalise on opportunities arising out of Saudi Arabia's economic transformation. The kingdom, which is the largest economy in the Arab world, is diversifying and wants to reduce its reliance on oil. It opened its stock market to foreign investors and tapped debt capital markets to reduce the burden on state finances from lower oil prices.

Privatisation of some state-owned entities, including the world's largest oil producing company, Saudi Aramco, is also part of Riyadh's economic overhaul efforts. A rise in merger and acquisition deals has also driven Citi's investment banking business in the kingdom where it plans to increase its headcount to 20 from 14 by the end of next year.

"This year investment banking has done exceptionally well ... M&A activity in the region ... has been unprecedentedly high and Citi has been part of most of the transactions," Mr Rehman said. Citi was the fourth-highest investment banking fee earner in the region in the first half of this year, with a 5.1 per cent share of the market, according to financial data firm Refinitiv. This placed it behind Bank of America Merrill Lynch (5.7 per cent share), JP Morgan (12.1 per cent) and HSBC (13 per cent).



Stanbic Bank's CEO, Ken Cockerill (L) hands over a token of appreciation to Ambassador of China to Tanzania, Wang Ke, at the launch of 'I Go Tanzania' campaign that provides Industrial Commercial Bank of China (ICBC) cardholders touring the country, offers and discounts in order to grow the number of Chinese tourists coming to Tanzania.

Stanbic, ICBC in partnership to propel rapid tourism growth targeting Asia, China

By Ken Cockerill, Stanbic Bank

Tanzania CEO

Globally, passionate and ambitious seasoned tourists often have a bucket list item that features one of Tanzania's many exceptional tourist attractions that range from a safari in the Serengeti, a beach holiday in Zanzibar or conquering Mount Kilimanjaro.

As one of the fastest growing economic sectors and a key foreign exchange earner, tourism has the potential to contribute to the country's economic transformation as global demand for unique touristic experiences gradually increases.

According to a 2017 report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the growth of the tourism sector globally has nearly tripled over the last 20 years, increasing from US\$69 billion in 1995 to US\$166 billion in 2014. UNCTAD noted that this in turn resulted to the creation of around 21 million jobs which

translates to 7.1 per cent of all jobs on the continent in 2014.

Bringing this close to home, the Tanzania tourism industry is a major contributor to the economy. Data from the Bank of Tanzania shows that for the year ending December 2018, the sector contributed 25 per cent to the country's foreign exchange earnings and a total of US\$2.43 billion in revenue.

Whereas this is commendable, there is still potential to grow further and reach Bot's projections of US\$16 billion annually by 2025. This will be boosted by such aspects as hotel room occupancy that is expected to rise at an average of 2.4 per cent annually with the number of available rooms increasing from 7800 in 2018 to 8800 in 2023. The big question, however, is how do we get there?

The Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources through Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has over the years championed campaigns promoting Tanzania's distinctive attractions all over the world and more recently trying to draw Chinese tourists who prefer countries in Africa as a

travel destination.

According to Nielsen data, Chinese tourists spent US\$288 billion in 2018 alone. As a leading trade partner to Tanzania, this presents a unique opportunity to promote the country's unique attractions to Chinese tourists and lure new investors in the hospitality sector.

With the recent launch of the 'I-Go Global rewards scheme,' Stanbic Bank Tanzania in partnership with the Industrial Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), have capitalised on the growing appetite among Chinese tourists to visit Tanzania by providing ICBC cardholders with a range of discounts and special offers with merchants across the travel, hospitality and lifestyle sectors.

This collaboration between the ICBC which is also the largest bank in the world, and Stanbic Bank, the largest financial institution in Africa by asset, will empower the financial success of the tourism sector, solidify trade ties and encourage investment flows - setting in motion the economic transformation of Tanzania.

Additionally, Stanbic Bank Tanzania has a commitment to ensure that there are innovative banking products that promote individual businesses and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). The goal is to enable businesses in the tourism sector to have enough funding to continue thriving and give tourists an all-round Tanzanian experience. Such businesses include: restaurants, hotels, taxis and other key services.

The country's growth plans for the tourism sector opens opportunities for local entrepreneurs, businesses, financial institutions and investors to participate in the tourism value chain by providing world class innovative products and services to enrich the natural endowments of Tanzania.

Private partnerships and initiatives such as Stanbic Bank Tanzania and Industrial Commercial Bank of China will help grow the tourism sector and play a significant role in enabling Tanzania attain middle-income economy status by 2025.

Mobile money agents cash in on Zimbabwe's cash crunch

HARARE

Despite growing complaints over premiums charged by agents to users for cashing out money from their mobile wallets, mobile money continues to be the preferred platform in Zimbabwe, according to the country's Reserve Bank.

Zimbabwe is currently facing a cash crunch as banks fail to meet demand for bank notes and coins. This has resulted in mobile money agents cashing in on this as they charge premiums of up to 40% for balances cashed out in notes and coins.

Latest figures by the Zimbabwean central bank show mobile money accounting for 85% in transaction volumes for the half-year period to June 2019. In terms of value, ZWL23-billion was transacted on mobile money platforms, accounting for 26.3% of all payments values in Zimbabwe during the period.

In terms of value, bank transfers under the Real Time Gross Settlement System accounted for 57% of total transactions while Point of Sale and internet values were at ZWL7-billion and ZWL6.7-billion, accounting for 8% and 7.7% of total values respectively. The Zimbabwe dollar is trading at around 1:14 against the US dollar.

"During the period January to May 2019, the electronic means of payment transactional activities amounted to RTGS\$ 87 billion, from 1 billion transactions," Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor, John Mangudya said in the mid-term monetary policy review statement released Friday. Mobile money companies in Zimbabwe include EcoCash, run by Econet Wireless, One Money controlled by NetOne and Telecash which is under Telecel Zimbabwe.

The Zimbabwean central bank

further explained that the aggregate monthly value of "digital payment transactions increased by an average of 18% during the first five months of 2019" while the corresponding "volumes exponentially increased by a monthly average of 23%" for the period under review.

Despite the rapid uptake and increase in mobile money payments platforms, there have been complaints over the premiums being charged for cash by mobile money agents.

Systematic level

The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) said via Twitter on Monday that it was concerned that this was being supported "at a systematic" level. "We are concerned about the volumes of isolated reports we have received in connection with EcoCash agents manipulating the cash ecosystem to their unfair advantage by selling cash and at prohibiting rates. We are aware that this practice is enabled & supported at a systematic level," the organisation stated.

It added that "an investigation has been opened which must determine and charge the real perpetrators" behind the premiums being charged by EcoCash. However, Econet said recently that it is penalising agents illegally charging premiums for cash-outs. Under this, over 1000 EcoCash agent lines had been shut down in the past three months to August 2019.

"We are aware of some of the activities that some of our agents have been participating in and we have been penalising agents. Within the past three months we have managed to penalize over a thousand agents whom we have closed who have been charging customers fees outside the regulated charges," said EcoCash general manager, Munyaradzi Nhamo.



Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor, John Mangudya.

BANKING & FINANCE

Maendeleo Bank target to extend market reach with inception of Bancassurance Regulations

With the launch of new Bancassurance Regulations in Tanzania recently, bankers including Maendeleo Bank Plc's Managing Director, Ibrahim Mwangalaba believe that the development will help speed up penetration of insurance products in the country. Our Correspondent PROSPER MAKENE spoke to Mwangalaba as his bank marks six years since starting operations, read on:

In May this year, Bancassurance Regulations were introduced in the market to guide how financial institutions led by banks work with insurers to provide various products to clients, how important are the regulations to the growth of the industry?

The concept of bancassurance is not new in the world because it is a prac-

tice which allows insurance companies and commercial banks work as business partners in serving consumers. With the launch of new Bancassurance Regulations in the domestic market, I can say this will help to increase insurance penetration but also encourage introduction of new product which will provide financial protection to large groups of customers with links to banks. As the banking network is well established and distributed widely in the country, insurance companies will leverage on utilising the network and reach many at minimal cost.

Can you tell us when did Maendeleo Bank start providing bancassurance services?

Maendeleo Bank has not yet started providing bancassurance services yet but it has been distributing insurance as a registered agent of three principal insurance companies since July 2014. With the new regulations, banks will have to register with Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority to distribute insurance products after approval by Bank of Tanzania.

What is market share is Maendeleo Bank targeting once it starts providing bancassurance services in the crowded market?

The philosophy behind establishment of Maendeleo Bank Plc is to offer finan-

cial services to underserved population such as Micro Small and Medium Size Enterprises, Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies and Village Community Banks. The bank is also considering to establish solution based products which will address insurance needs for the various clients, groups as mentioned earlier. In this context, we aim to contribute to insurance penetration target of 50 percent targeted by the government by 2028 through sensitization of consumers and actual selling of insurance products.

What is Maendeleo Bank's broad strategy to exploit the bancassurance domestic market?

With coming of Bancassurance Regulations, we consider this as an opportunity for Maendeleo Bank to extend its market reach because currently, as I said earlier, we are agents for three insurers only but now we will be able serve up to 10 insurers. This gives our customers a wide range of choices as to which company they prefer to be served by, but also enjoy a range of addition insurance products. As a bank, our priority is to serve clients with affordable product which will address their financial protection.

How much importance does the bank place on bancassurance? And what steps are being taken to boost

your presence in banking sector?

We place a lot of importance on bancassurance because it is enablers the bank to be a one stop shop centre for financial services provision to customers as well as boosting our revenue from non-interest income.

The bank has a strong team of professional insurers with business and banking knowledge but also has designed a marketing program which aims at raising awareness to customers and the public at large on importance of insurance services. We believe that with the kind of team that we have and plans in place, we have will broaden our presence and reach in the market.

What challenges will you likely face in providing bancassurance services?

As pointed out earlier, Maendeleo Bank being one of the players in the insurance industry participated in one way or another in the process of coming up with the regulations which means that bancassurance is an enabler towards successful participation in the insurance business in the country. The bank in partnership with insurance companies, will have to gather information on what the customer need and share with the insurers so as to package or develop product which will address market needs.



WORLD

High drama at UK Supreme Court in Brexit challenge case

LONDON

THE British government and its opponents faced off Tuesday at the UK Supreme Court in a high-stakes legal drama over Brexit that will determine whether new Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke the law by suspending Parliament at a crucial time ahead of Britain's impending departure from the European Union.

As pro-EU and pro-Brexit protesters exchanged shouts outside the court building on London's Parliament Square, the government's opponents argued that Johnson illegally shut down Parliament just weeks before the country is due to leave the 28-nation bloc for the "improper purpose" of dodging lawmakers' scrutiny of his Brexit plans.

They also accused Johnson of misleading Queen Elizabeth II, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature.

The government countered that, under Britain's largely unwritten constitution, the suspension was a matter for politicians, not the courts.

Government lawyer Richard Keen said judges in a lower court had "nakedly entered the political arena" by ruling on the matter.

"The court is not equipped to decide what is a legitimate political con-

sideration," he said.

Johnson sent lawmakers home on Sept 9 until Oct 14, which is barely two weeks before the scheduled Oct 31 Brexit day. A ruling against the government by the country's top court could force him to recall Parliament.

Johnson hasn't said what he will do if the judges rule the suspension illegal. He told the BBC on Monday he would "wait and see what they say."

Keen promised that "the prime minister will take any necessary steps to comply with any declaration made by the court." But he had no answer when judges asked if Johnson might recall Parliament on the court's order, only to suspend it again.

"I'm not in a position to comment on that," he said.

The prime minister says Britain must leave the EU at the end of next month with or without a divorce deal. But many UK lawmakers believe a no-deal Brexit would be economically devastating and socially destabilizing, and are determined to thwart him.

Lawyer David Pannick, who represents one of the campaigners challenging the government, told 11 Supreme Court judges that Johnson had improperly suspended the legislature "to silence Parliament ... because he sees Parliament as an obstacle to the furtherance of his political aims."



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson

Johnson says the suspension is routine, and will allow his government to launch its domestic agenda with a new session of Parliament. But the decision outraged many lawmakers, who say it's designed to prevent them from challenging Johnson's push for Brexit in October "do or die."

The suspension sparked legal challenges, to which lower courts have given contradictory rulings. England's High Court said the move was a political rather than legal matter, but Scottish court judges ruled last week that Johnson acted illegally "to avoid democratic scrutiny."

The Supreme Court is being asked to decide who was right, in a case scheduled to last up to three days. It is considering two questions: Is this a matter for the courts; and, if so, did the government break the law?

The government denies misconduct. Its lawyers argued in a written submission that the issue is "inherently one of high policy and politics, not law."

Keen, acting for the government, told the court that the Scottish judges "have simply gone where the court should not go."

Keen insisted there was nothing improper in the government's behavior. He said there were previous cases of British governments suspending Parliament "for political reasons" and for "extensive periods of time."

But Pannick, attorney for transparency advocate Gina Miller, told the court it was a funda-

mental constitutional principle that "Parliament is sovereign and the executive is accountable to Parliament."

He said the five-week suspension of Parliament was the longest for decades, and called it "remarkable" that the prime minister had not submitted a witness statement to the court outlining his reasons. He said, in the absence of a sworn statement, "we say the court should infer that there is no answer" to the allegation that Johnson acted improperly.

Pannick, however, stressed that he wasn't criticizing Britain's 93-year-old monarch in the case. "Her majesty acted on the advice of her prime minister," he said.

The case is the latest twist in a Brexit saga that has divided British politicians and the public for more than three years, since the country narrowly voted in 2016 to leave the EU.

Protesters with signs reading "reopen Parliament" and "defend our democracy" rallied outside the courthouse across from the Houses of Parliament, alongside a performer painted green and wearing a blond wig who called himself "The Incredible Hulk." Johnson told a newspaper over the weekend that the UK would break free of the EU "like the Hulk."

They were joined by a smaller group of pro-Brexit demonstrators, who shouted that their rivals were "traitors."

Agencies

Russia to offer Arab partners new means of protection from drones

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S exporter of military products Rosoboronexport will offer its Arab partners the newest Russian means of protection from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) at the Dubai Airshow 2019 on November 17-21, the company said in a news release on Tuesday.

Rosoboronexport CEO Alexander Mikheyev said the latest events in-

dicated the growing importance of protection of crucial facilities, such as transport junctions, infrastructures of large oil and gas enterprises and nuclear power plants from reconnaissance and attack drones.

"At the Dubai Airshow we will discuss with our Arab partners progress in the implementation of effective contracts and hold talks with them on the newest Russian means of protection from the UAVs as a special

field of work," Mikheyev said.

The CEO of Rostec Corporation, Sergei Chemezov, is quoted as saying that Russia will put on display in Dubai its air defense systems capable of effectively resisting UAVs and special means of resisting drone attacks.

"There are such effective air defense systems as mobile air defense missile systems of the Pantsir family, air defense missile Sosna, portable air defense systems Iglu, Verba

and others. Also, there will be radio-electronic warfare means capable of eliminating individual drones and providing comprehensive protection for transport nodes and industrial, military and other critical facilities. On the list of products in this field are such systems as Sapsan-Bekas, Ataka-DBS, Solyaris-N, Pishchal-PRO, Taran-PRO and others," Chemezov said.

In the early hours of September 14 ten drones attacked Saudi Aramco oil

refineries in the east of Saudi Arabia. Drones hit the world's largest oil processing facility Alqaiq, where there is a large community of Western specialists, and also an oil refinery in Hurais, Saudi Arabia's second largest oil field. The strikes caused a strong fire. The Houthi rebels Ansar Allah claimed responsibility. The attack forced Saudi Arabia to cut output by 5.7 million barrels a day from nearly 10 million barrels.

Agencies

Attacks on Saudi oil facilities raise global concerns

RIYADH

SATURDAY'S drone attacks on oil production facilities in eastern Saudi Arabia have raised global concerns over the broader Middle East, while global oil prices have surged.

On Tuesday, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) calculations showed that the price of the OPEC basket of fourteen crudes closed at 66.43 U.S. dollars a barrel on Monday, an over-10-percent rise compared with 60.02 dollars last Friday.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Monday "it's looking that way" that Iran was behind the recent attacks on Saudi Arabia's key oil facilities.

"We're having some very strong studies done, but it's certainly looking that way at this moment ... As soon as we find out definitively, we'll let you know," Trump told reporters at the White House.

When asked if he will meet with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly next week, Trump said "I have no meeting scheduled."

U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said in a series of tweets on Monday that he had spoken to Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, and Iraqi Minister of Defense (Najah) al-Shammary over the weekend.



"The United States military, with our interagency team, is working with our partners to address this unprecedented attack and defend the international rules-based order that is

being undermined by Iran," he said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi on Monday rejected U.S. claims that Iran is behind the attacks, calling them "baseless."

On the issue of who is behind the attacks, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said in a press release on Monday that "We don't think it is responsible to assert who is responsible before a conclusive investigation."

"China is against any move that will aggravate conflict," Hua said. "We call on relevant

sides to refrain from actions leading to escalation of the tensions in the region. We hope all parties will exercise restraint and jointly safeguard the peace and stability in the Middle East."

The attacks have ratcheted up the already tense situation in the Middle East caused by U.S. maximum pressure policies on Iran, including a total oil trade ban.

There are fears that the rising tensions could spark a military conflict in the Gulf between Iran and the United States or Saudi Arabia.

Agencies

China-designed big data system aids Angola's intelligent governance

THANKS to a modernized, digitalized and intelligent big data system designed by Chinese company, Angola, a country located in southwest Africa, has embraced for a more smart and scientific governance, and provided its residents with more convenience.

With beautiful landscape and abundant resources, Angola is known as the "Brazil of Africa". Despite huge potential and broad prospects for development, the country lagged behind in population management, posing a series of challenges to its economic development and social governance.

For example, due to the lack of assessment on its population resources, it is hard for the Angolan government to make scientific and reasonable economic plans. In addition, with inadequate knowledge of the distribution of domestic impoverished population, it is difficult to decide on the place to receive financial aid.

Given such circumstance, Chinese big data and artificial intelligence (AI) provider Percent Corporation, in June 2017, built an intelligent system used for information visualization and data analysis for decision making for the Angolan government. Before this, it was difficult to consult and manage the national population information as it was mainly recorded on paper.

The big data system can accurately and dynamically record data about the full life cycle of birth, education, marriage and social security of the local people as well as their biometric information such as fingerprints and facial images, laying a foundation for smart governance.

Big data provides a smart solution to scientific matching of social and livelihood resources. It can dynamically simulate the specialties and quantity of medical staffs and hospital grades by analyzing the current demand for medical resources.

Big data is also able to help the government reasonably plan the location and scale of schools by region through predicting the sizes of school-age population at all stages of education. Now, some of Angola's government employees have mastered the skills of using the system after a training held in China not long ago.

The modernized, digitalized and intelligent decision-making system marks Angola's pioneering utilization of big data in national governance. It not only makes the government well-grounded in making decisions, but also offers the locals with intelligent and convenient life.

The data and deduction of the system not only bring together the world's cutting-edge data science and model techniques, but also the powerful forces of scientific and technological exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations.

In five years after the proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative, China-built bridges, roads and ports have brought vitality to countries and regions participating in the campaign. Meanwhile, China is bringing more and more data, models and systems to other countries to boost their economic and social development.

People's Daily

AU set to combat post-harvest food losses on the continent

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) on Tuesday announced an undertaking to combat post-harvest food losses in Africa that could feed up tens of millions of people on the continent.

Global food losses and waste is estimated at 1.3 billion metric tonnes, which is equivalent to more than 30 percent of the total food produced for human consumption, and the waste could feed up about 1.6 billion people annually.

In Africa, a total quantity of 100 metric tonnes of food is estimated to be lost; and for grains alone the value of post-harvest loss is equivalent to approximately 4 billion U.S. dollars per year, according to an AU senior official.

Speaking at the opening of the 2nd edition of All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition on Tuesday at the AU Headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, the Head of Rural Economy Division of the AU Commission for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Janet Edeme, said the loss of grains alone was enough to meet the annual food requirement of 48 million people.

She also told a press conference in connection with the Congress that the AU Commission has identified key strategic interventions with focus on technologies, infrastructures, access to market, and capacity building to address postharvest challenge on the continent.

Africa has remained the most food insecure continent in the world, with approximately one in 4 people undernourished, Edeme has noted.

Recalling that over the years, most African governments have focused on increasing production to meet the food and nutrition needs of the ever rising population which is estimated to reach 2.5 billion by the year 2050, through intensification of land use and agriculture inputs, the official said.

Xinhua

Belt and Road News Network Media Workshop offers exchange opportunities for journalists

A short-term media workshop under the Belt and Road News Network (BRNN) kicked off in Beijing on Sept. 16.

Dozens of senior editors and journalists from Latin America and Africa attended the opening ceremony. They were welcomed by smart robots nicknamed Xiao Meng who opened their arms at the gate of the new headquarters of People's Daily.

Themed "new era, new ideas, new media, new technology", the workshop aims to present China's development of new media technology to the visiting editors and journalists.

"It's amazing to see China's rapid development in media technology," said senior editor Berhanu Mussa at Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation.

Media plays a unique and significant role in the joint construction of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Chinese

President Xi Jinping announced at the first Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation that China will put in place follow-up mechanisms and develop new people-to-people exchange platforms such as a Belt and Road news alliance.

Responding on President Xi's proposal, the BRNN was established as a key measure to deepen the Belt and Road media cooperation and people-to-people exchanges.

The short-term media workshop is one of the major projects since the official establishment of the BRNN. The BRNN Secretariat originally planned to invite 40 journalists from Africa and Latin America to the workshop, but the number of applicants went far beyond expectation.

After the invitation letters were sent out, the Secretariat received substantial inquiries about the workshop.

Some BRNN members also recommended their peers from non-member media outlets to participate in the activity.

In the end, 50 senior editors and journalists from 46 media outlets in 26 countries attended the workshop, including several editors-in-chief of mainstream newspapers, heads of departments, as well as regional coordinating directors and prominent journalists of well-known news agencies.

Marcelo Cantelmi, editor-in-chief of the Foreign Desk of the Clarin Newspaper in Argentina, addressed the ceremony, saying though China is a country on the opposite side of the world for Latin Americans, they should look beyond that.

Substantial evidence proves that China has more worth discovering, and Latin Americans should visit the main cities there to get a real image

of the country at a close range, Cantelmi noted. The media workshop is hosted by the State Council Information Office of China, and was jointly organized by the Secretariat of BRNN (the External Relations Department of People's Daily) and Communication University of China.

It will run for half a month, with a tight schedule and rich contents including lectures, visits to media outlets, panel discussions and field researches. During the workshop, renowned Chinese scholars and experts in international studies will brief China's economic and social development and fruitful results in various fields over the past seven decades since the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The visiting journalists will visit People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency and other state-owned media to expe-

rience and gain a deeper understanding of China's new media and artificial intelligence application.

The journalists will also go to Chinese provinces including Shaanxi, Zhejiang, Guizhou, and Guangdong for news reporting and investigation to have an authentic experience of China's achievements in poverty alleviation, ecological conservation, big data industry, urban planning and proprietary intellectual property rights.

"It's one of the priorities for African media to better tell African stories with high technology and digital devices. Therefore, technology and digital devices will be the key areas for us during the exchanges in the following two weeks," said Nwabisa Makunga, editor of the Herald and the Weekend Post in South Africa, who attaches high importance on the vital role of

the BRNN in media training.

"The workshop that lasts a dozen days is an opportunity for us to know more about China's politics, economy and culture and go deeper into what makes the BRI a success, and that is what we as media has to do," said senior editor Thierry Ramasawmy of Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation who has a high expectation toward the workshop.

The visiting journalists agreed that the BRNN provides a platform for equal dialogues and mutual inspiration among the BRI countries and their people. Mainstream media outlets along the Belt and Road will further expand cooperation, innovate cooperation modes, enrich cooperation content and jointly build the BRNN into a platform of news sharing, exchanges and cooperation, as well as communication.

People's Daily



A passenger is taking a selfie at the Nairobi station of the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) in Kenya.

China and Africa are deepening mutual infrastructure cooperation

CHINA and Africa have, in recent years, made important progress from a batch of big projects thanks to their mutual efforts in expanding cooperation fronts and deepening collaboration in infrastructure construction, a key engine to help China and Africa align their development strategies and build an even stronger community with a shared future.

Such efforts have laid a strong foundation to improve the people's livelihood and develop the economy in Africa, with the China-constructed standard-gauge railway connecting landlocked Ethiopia to Djibouti serving as one of the epitomes.

The Addis Ababa-Djibouti rail line, an "iron dragon" running through Ethiopian Highlands, is constructed with Chinese technology and equipment according to China standard.

"The rail line brings night-and-day difference. Thank Chinese friend!" said an excited Djiboutian passenger Abdullah who has taken the line three times, adding that before the rail line was put into use, the buses were the only transport he could choose when going to Dire Dawa in eastern Ethiopia.

"In the past, it took me 18 hours because of the poor conditions of the road, and the trip was unsafe as well. Now, I can arrive there in 4 hours by the comfortable train carriages," Abdullah told People's Daily.

Two lines of electrified light rail transit constructed and operated by Chinese firm in Addis Ababa have made the capital city of Ethiopia the first East African city equipped with urban rail transit and brought local residents convenient life.

The China-built Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) in Kenya linking Mombasa with Nairobi, also a key project under the framework of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the ten major cooperation plans between China and Africa, has created more than 46,000 jobs for local community.

As Kenya's largest infrastructure project since its independence, the rail line is also a symbolic project under the China-Africa cooperation on construction of Africa's high-speed rail network, highway networks and regional aviation and industrialization, as well as production capacity.

It is believed that the railway will generate better future for both the business climate of East Africa and local business men, said a construction contractor from Mombasa.

Under the China-Africa cooperation framework, a package of projects, including rail lines, industrial parks and special economic zones, are now under an accelerated construction or have been put into operation, most of which make up the short boards of Africa's weak infrastructure.

Thanks to the railways, highways and ports constructed by Chinese firms, more and more African resi-

dents have their life changed.

"When you set foot on the land of Africa, you will see many projects invested by Chinese enterprises, who are helping African countries build roads, railways, airports and ports," Namibian President Hage Geingob said, adding that African countries are witnessing a prosperous infrastructure construction under the support of China.

In the Republic of Congo, the Chinese-built national road connecting the country's capital Brazzaville and coastal business hub Pointe-Noire has shortened the travel time between the two cities from a week to six hours after its full line was opened to traffic in 2016.

About 4,000 vehicles are now running on the highway each day, far more than about 100 ones in previous days.

With a total investment of \$2.82 billion, the highway spanning 536 kilometers, which is also the biggest cooperation project between China and the Republic of Congo, is now the latter's main traffic artery, and reputed by local residents as "road of dreams".

Hailing that Chinese constructor has brought the dreams of generations of local people into reality, Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso said that "China is sincere in helping us develop economy".

China-financed Karuma hydro power plant, also a model for China-Uganda economic cooperation, has employed over 6,000 Ugandans, accounting for 87 percent of its workers in total.

Upon the completion, the plant will generate 4 billion kilowatt hours annually and provide more than \$200 million in revenue to the Ugandan government, which is close to 1 percent of its gross domestic product.

In Rwanda where rough mountain roads blocking the flow of materials and personnel, China Road & Bridge Corporation is renovating the road connecting Eastern Province of Rwanda to Tanzania and Uganda.

Road construction is not an easy job in the country known as "land of a thousand hills". Upon the completion, the project will greatly ease the transnational trade and transport pressure between Rwanda and other East African nations, leverage economic vitality of local community and ultimately bring Rwanda's geographical advantage as the "heart of Africa" into full play.

With China's help, the "land of a thousand hills" will be connected to more roads and break the bottleneck in transport with traffic arteries, said Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

By this March, China has put into use or made arrangement on over 90 percent of the funds it pledged to support the ten major China-Africa cooperation plans. **People's Daily**

S. African govt urged to clarify controversial universal healthcare bill

CAPE TOWN

THE South African opposition on Tuesday urged the government to clarify its National Healthcare Insurance (NHI) bill which envisages universal healthcare for all South Africans.

The opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) said it has received over 70,000 objections to the NHI bill from ordinary South Africans and that the government hasn't answered some crucial questions about the controversial bill.

Last month, Health Minister Zweli Mkhize submitted to Parliament the NHI bill which aims to achieve universal access to quality healthcare services in South Africa.

However, critics said the financing model of this bill will lead to a new tax imposed on ordinary citizens.

Several political parties and numerous bodies also voiced skepticism about the bill, calling it unrealistic and too expensive, and said the bill would potentially damage the healthcare sector, particularly when the country is facing a financial crisis.



Health Minister Zweli Mkhize

Parliament is seeking public opinion before adopting the bill, and the public are expected to submit comments before Oct. 1.

Meanwhile, the DA requested six more weeks for the public to make their voices heard.

"The people of South Africa are expected to support or reject the bill, yet they haven't been given the requisite explanation of what healthcare will look like should there be an NHI legislation implemented," DA Shadow Minister of Health Siviwe Gwarube said.

Gwarube urged the government to clarify some crucial issues, including the coverage of private medical schemes, the coverage of the care package provided by the state, the funding model and other funding sources, among others.

Also on Tuesday, Parliament said the Department of Health has produced a pamphlet that explains the NHI bill in 11 official languages used in the country.

Approximately 1 million copies have been distributed to all provinces, and this move may create an enabling environment for the upcoming public hearings on the bill, said Sibongiseni Dhlomo, chairperson of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Health.

Xinhua



ROK downgrades Japan trade status as dispute deepens

SEOUL

THE Republic of Korea (ROK) yesterday dropped Japan from a list of countries receiving fast-track approvals in trade, a reaction to Tokyo's decision to downgrade Seoul's trade status amid a tense diplomatic dispute.

ROK's trade ministry said Japan's removal from a 29-member "white list" of nations enjoying minimum trade restrictions went into effect as Seoul rearranged its export control system covering hundreds of sensitive materials that can be used for both civilian and military purposes.

The change comes a week after ROK initiated a complaint to the World Trade Organization over a separate Japanese move to tighten export controls on key chemicals ROK companies use to manufacture semiconductors and displays.

Seoul has accused Tokyo of weaponizing trade to retaliate against ROK court rulings ordering Japanese companies to offer reparations to ROK people forced into labor during World War II. Tokyo's measures struck a nerve in ROK, where many still resent Japan's brutal colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

According to ROK's trade ministry, the new measures in effect mean it might take up to 15 days for ROK companies to gain approvals to export sensitive materials to Japan, compared to the five days or less it took under a simpler inspection process provided for favored trade partners.

Lee Ho-hyeon (pictured), a ROK trade ministry official, said the change would affect about 100 local firms that export items such as telecommunications security equipment, semiconductor materials and chemical products to Japan. He said Seoul will work to minimize disruption to ROK companies.

Japan for decades has enjoyed a huge trade surplus with ROK, an economy that's much more dependent on exports. Many major manufacturers heavily rely on parts and materials imported from Japan.

But the dispute is taking a toll. Exports to ROK from Japan fell 9.4% last month, Japan's Finance Ministry reported yesterday.

The trade dispute between the neighbors erupted in July, when Japan imposed tighter export controls on three chemicals ROK companies use to produce semiconductors and displays for smartphones and TVs, major export items for ROK. It cited unspecified security concerns over Seoul's export controls. **Agencies**

Israel looks at coalition govt, Lieberman emerges kingmaker

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S closely-fought elections ended on Tuesday night, with exit polls showing a virtual tie between the Likud party, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the Blue and White party, led by former army chief Benny Gantz.

Initial exit polls posted by Israel's three main TV channels showed Gantz's centrist Blue and White party had a slight lead over Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party in Tuesday's vote, hurting Netanyahu's chances of winning a record-breaking fifth term.

The polls gave Blue and White 32 to 34 of parliament's 120 seats, versus 30 to 33 for Likud. Neither party appears to have enough support to form a majority coalition in parliament with their traditional allies, raising the possibility that they will have to form a broad unity government.

"It is too early to call but it seems that we have accomplished our mission," Gantz told his supporters at a post-election rally in the party's campaign headquarters in Tel Aviv Wednesday morning.

However, he asked them to wait for the final results, which are expected to be released later on Wednesday. Gantz then said he will act to form a broad unity government that will express the will of the people.

The results suggested both parties would need the support of Avigdor Lieberman, leader of the Israel Our Home party, to form a ruling coalition.

Lieberman, the kingmaker in Israeli elections, called for forming a unity government that will include his own party and Israel's two largest parties, the rightwing Likud party and the centrist Blue and White party.

Addressing his supporters at his party's headquarters, Lieberman said he would agree that his own faction will stay outside the coalition if it brings the Likud party and the Blue



Avigdor Lieberman, leader of Yisrael Beiteinu party, speaks at the party's electoral headquarters in Jerusalem, on Tuesday.

and White party together.

Lieberman urged Gantz and Netanyahu to publicly announce they would support a unity government.

He appealed to President Reuven Rivlin to summon Gantz and Netanyahu on Friday for "an informal talk" about forming a possible unity government.

"I suggest the president would speed up the process and not to wait for the final results," he said.

The negotiations on forming a coalition government will be very complicated as the three political blocs in Israel are uncompromising on certain issues, which indicates that the political deadlock that Netanyahu faced in the wake of April elections could be repeated.

Netanyahu, the longest-serving Israeli prime minister, is also facing serious corruption allegations and possible indictments.

Israelis cast their ballots on Tuesday for the second time in five months after Netanyahu called for the snap elections in the wake of his failure to form a governing coalition following the

April elections.

All the exit polls suggested that the far-right party Otzma Yehudit, or Jewish Power in Hebrew, did not pass the electoral threshold.

Meanwhile, Israel's main Arab political alliance Joint List seemed to become Israel's third largest party, in a "historic" win for the Arab minority.

Exit polls indicated that the Joint List won 11-13 seats in the Knesset.

Ayman Odeh, leader of the Joint List, a faction composed of four Arab and Arab-Jewish parties, told Channel 11 that if the official results will match the polls, it shows that "the Arab voters prevented Netanyahu from establishing a government, after he incited so much against them."

In a series of remarks widely condemned as incitement, Netanyahu "warned" his supporters of high Arab turnout.

Arab citizens of Israel, who make up about 20 percent of Israel's 9 million population, often complain about discrimination and racism by the Jewish majority.

Xinhua

Beijing, Moscow can balance negative impact from US – Chinese experts

BEIJING

CHINA and Russia have been successfully acting as protectors of global security amid the failure of the United States' foreign policy, particularly in relation to Afghanistan, said Chinese experts interviewed by the Global Times newspaper.

"After the collapse of peace talks between the US and the Taliban, a Taliban delegation met with Russian officials in Moscow, and China is also maintaining communications with relevant forces in Afghanistan.

This is proof that China and Russia are

all contributing to regional peace, while the US is failing," said Yang Jin, an associate research fellow at the department of East European, Russian and Central Asian Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"More importantly, they [China and Russia] are permanent members of the UN Security Council and have high-level mutual trust. They have irreplaceable conditions and capabilities to cooperate and coordinate on balancing the negative impact from the US," he added.

According to the expert, China and Russia are capable of balancing "the negative impact of US unilateralism" as the two countries have enough economic, military, diplomatic and technological influence.

Li Haidong, a professor at the China Foreign Affairs University's Institute of International Relations, in turn, pointed out that the damage Washington had done to the global economy was particularly affecting the United States' allies.

"The US is not only launching trade wars and imposing tariffs against China, but is also targeting other major trade partners, including Germany and Japan. That's why all major powers except the

US share a common goal at this moment, which is to safeguard multilateralism and free trade," Li Haidong said, as cited by the newspaper.

US-Taliban talks

Over the past year, the United States and members of the Taliban movement (outlawed in Russia) have held eight rounds of talks, discussing a ceasefire agreement, the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, intra-Afghan dialogue and ways to make sure that Afghanistan won't turn into a stronghold of international terrorism.

Agencies

SANTIAGO

UN rights chief denies campaign took money from Brazil's OAS

UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet is denying accusations by a former businessman ensnared in Latin America's biggest corruption scandal that her 2013 presidential campaign in Chile illegally took money from the Brazilian company OAS.

Bachelet told Chile's 24 Horas TV channel late Monday from Geneva that she "never had any link with OAS or any other company."

The Brazilian newspaper Folha de S. Paulo reported this week that Leo Pinheiro of OAS told

Brazilian authorities as part of a plea bargain that the company gave US\$140,000 to Bachelet's campaign to make sure an international consortium kept a contract to build a bridge to the Chilean island of Chiloe. He said OAS followed orders from Brazil's then president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is now imprisoned.

Da Silva was convicted in a corruption case that stems from a nationwide investigation that has ensnared many of Brazil's top businessmen and politicians.

OAS executives were not immediately available to respond to a request for comments. Former OAS president Leo Pinheiro was released from prison Tuesday, after a judge recently approved his request to spend the rest of his sentence under house arrest.

The "Car Wash" investigation has looked into billions of dollars in contracts with Brazilian oil-giant Petrobras and now affects almost all aspects of business and political life in South America's largest country.



Prosecutors say executives of major construction companies such as OAS, Odebrecht and

Andrade Gutierrez effectively formed a cartel that decided which firms would be awarded Petrobras contracts and how over-priced each deal would be. The padded prices were used to pay off dozens of politicians and Petrobras executives, investigators say.

The dozens of top businessmen and politicians who have already been convicted or are being investigated is a who's who of Brazil's elite. The initial probe has mushroomed into

related investigations in other nations because big Brazilian companies operated across Latin America and elsewhere in the world.

In a plea deal with US prosecutors, Odebrecht admitted to paying bribes in such countries as Colombia, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina and the Dominican Republic.

The center-right government of Chilean President Sebastian Pineria declined to comment on the accusations against the cent-

er-left Bachelet. But some governing party lawmakers asked her to provide more details.

"OAS is an international company that focused on financing candidacies from the left in exchange for favors, or in other words, corruption," said lawmaker Antonio Coloma.

Far-right lawmaker José Antonio Kast called on Bachelet to quit her UN post and answer to Chilean authorities. He said that if the accusations against Bachelet are true, "it would be the greatest corruption scandal to hit a Chilean president."

Agencies



Mtibwa Sugar forward, Riffat Khamis (L), celebrates with teammates (L-R) Haruna Chanongo, Issa Rashid and Ismail Muhesa, after the former had netted a goal against Simba in the Vodacom Premier League clash, which took place at the Uhuru Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

Crash knowledge-acquisition course on football in Tanzania

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

ADMITTEDLY, ours is a country that still wrestles with potent socio-economic ills such as poverty, youth unemployment and shoddy infrastructure among others.

Nevertheless, having said that though, it should still be acknowledged that some sectors of the economy appear to be flourishing and are in fact luring foreign investors from far and wide to our shores so as to grab sizable chunks of the especially tasty pies which are very much up for grabs in these relatively booming sectors of the domestic economy.

A few of these outstandingly performing economic sectors include the horticultural industry, the tourism sector that continues to go from strength to strength and the mining industry, which has for long been one of the most reliable sources of revenue for the authorities.

Indeed, the impressive manner in which the aforesaid economic sectors have been performing has attracted extensive interest from foreign investors who are flocking to our country from far and wide so as to invest in some of these promising economic sectors.

It should be noted that while many of them will be investors who have become quite familiar with our country.

Nonetheless, by the same token, a sizeable number of these foreign investors will be first-time visitors to our land.

Axiomatically then, for those first time visitors-cum-investors who may also be inclined towards savoring the magic of 'the beautiful game' wherever they may happen to be on terra firma, here are some deeply treasured nuggets of knowledge about Tanzanian football

Time was when the national women's football team, the Twiga stars, sadly bore the brunt of male chauvinism in its ugliest forms whenever the women's team would take to the field to represent the country in Africa qualifiers or international friendly.

Indeed, as the match was in progress, the Twiga Stars would be cruelly subjected to some of the vilest and demeaning abusive remarks ever uttered.

But that was not all. What really further soured the experience was the fact that those abusive comments were not coming from some stranger but were coming from their male compatriots who were watching then in action from the stands.

As if that were not enough on their plate, the Twiga Stars also found it exceedingly difficult to obtain a sponsor for years in spite of their titanic efforts to do so.

However, despite these monumental drawbacks, the gob-smacking miracle at the heart of this story is that incredibly and somehow albeit shakily women's football continued to determinedly forge ahead. You can't just put down these girls, can you?

For example, in 2010, the Twiga Stars became the first team from the region to qualify for the prestigious Women Africa Nations Cup finals, which is the premier championship for continental women's football.

And although it took an agonizingly

lengthy period of time, the first-ever national women's football league was set up around two-to-three seasons ago to the sheer joy of stakeholders, women and girls nationwide.

Perchance, the glorious feat of football excellence that jolted everyone to sit up and take notice occurred a few months ago when the national U-20 women's team nicknamed 'Tanzanite' vanquished the whole assemblage of contesting teams en route to emerging resoundingly triumphant as the undisputed champions of the inaugural COSAFA U-20 Women's Championship in South Africa.

Hopefully then, the plucky and impeccable exploits of the Tanzanite women players will spark off much greater levels of investment into national women's football because as we have been shown time and again, there is a rich reservoir of undiscovered talent just waiting to be tapped.

Switching gears, let us now embark upon a consideration of all or at least some of the key milestones, achievements and yes, even failures which have so marked men's football on the domestic patch.

For starters, let us ponder on some of the humiliating stuff regarding our football so that we can quite rapidly get them out of the way.

Our Most Embarrassing Moments: Despite our relentless efforts to do so, we have never ever qualified for the FIFA World Cup in history.

Indeed, though we may rank quite highly as one of the biggest cheerleaders from the sidelines of the quadrennial and global football festival that is the World Cup, we have forlornly never earned a seat at the High Table of the 'people's game'.

Our Proudest Moments: In spite of the arduous and tricky obstacles which we have had to negotiate our way around in our football journey, what has fueled our deep resolve to achieve our lofty ambitions are those precious moments of brilliant achievement when we collectively felt as a country on top of the globe even if only for a little while.

Thus, let us hurriedly dispense of all of the trivial stuff and swiftly run down through those moments of pure football magic, which left all of us grinning from ear to ear for days on end.

One major source of pride was our qualification for the 2019 AFCON Finals after a seemingly unending sojourn in the wilderness since 1980.

Another hugely cherished moment of football quintessence took place around 2015-2016 and at the center of it all was one Mbwana Samatta, our deadliest attacker in the present-day.

Around that time, Samatta made us all walk distinctly a few inches taller after he received the distinguished CAF African Player of the Year gong for only home-based players on the continent.

Thus concludes our crash knowledge-acquisition course on all things Tanzanian football. It is to be hoped that first-time investors in the country will find this particular commentary to be of great service to them.

Simba SC step up preps for 2019/20 Vodacom Premier League matches

BY CORRESPONDENT JOSEPH MCHEKA-

DONA

VODACOM Premier League defending champions, Simba SC, have said they have intensified their preparations for the coming Lake Zone assignments against Kagera Sugar and Biashara United.

Simba will on Thursday face Kagera Sugar at Kaitaba Stadium in Bukoba and the former will on Sunday come up against Biashara United at Karume Stadium in Mara.

Simba's team manager, Patrick Rweyemamu, said his side has intensified preparations for the two crucial games as the aim of his side is to collect maximum points.

The manager said his side is leaving no stone unturned as they know the challenges of facing the two sides.

He said after crashing out of this season's CAF Champions League, the focus now is on Vodacom Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup assignments.

"Everybody knows that Kagera Sugar have been giving us problems, in fact, they are the only side which we dropped all six points when we took on them last season, this time around we don't want that to happen again," he noted.

"We are really preparing well, the good thing is that this time we are only focusing on Vodacom Premier League and Federation Cup," he said.

He also said that his side is not underrating Biashara as the former are aware that each side is well prepared for the league this season.

"Biashara United have lost all their two opening league games,



Simba Sports Club's head coach, Patrick Aussems.

but that does not make them a bad side, we are going to face them with care knowing that anything can happen as in modern football there are no underdogs" he said.

The manager also disclosed that nearly all of his side's players who were nursing injuries have recovered.

Simba are currently topping the league table with six points from two games. They beat JKT Tanzania 3-1 in the first game and later notched 2-1 victory over Mtibwa Sugar.

Kagera Sugar are on second position with six points from the same number of games. They beat Biashara 2-0 in the

first game and then posted 2-1 win over Alliance FC.

Kagera Sugar, coached by Mecky Mexime, were the only side which won all games against Simba in the domestic top flight competition last season.

Biashara United, coached by former Simba SC player Amri Said, are placed 18th with no point as they lost 2-0 to Kagera Sugar and 1-0 to Mbao FC.

Coach Amri Said was reported in the media to have disclosed that his team which has lost two games will bounce back.

He said his side is creating a lot of scoring opportunities but they are only unlucky that they

are not finding the opponents' back of the net.

"I'm very confident that my team will emerge one of the best teams this season, we are playing well and creating a lot of scoring chances only that we are unlucky to score," Said disclosed.

"I'm sure in our next two games against Alliance this coming Sunday and next week against Simba we will record the desired results," he said.

The last time Simba played Biashara at Karume Stadium in Mara, the league's defending champions won 2-0 courtesy of goals netted by captain John Bocco.

Judo champion who defied Iran's rules now in hiding

DUESSELDORF, GERMANY

SAEID Mollaei has been in hiding since he left the Iranian judo team last month, saying he had been ordered to withdraw from the world championships on political grounds.

Now he's training for next year's Olympics without a guarantee he can compete.

Mollaei was the defending world champion, and Israel's Sagi Muki his biggest rival for the gold medal. There was one problem – Iran has a policy of boycotting all competitions against Israelis, even if that means an athlete's training was all for nothing.

Mollaei told The Associated Press he was ordered to lose a preliminary bout against a Russian in order to cover up the reason for his withdrawal. When he refused and won, he received more intimidating calls from senior officials.

"For once, I decided to live as a free man for myself, and prove to the world that I am a brave man," Mollaei said in a recent interview in Germany, where he's living in an undisclosed location.

"I did this for my human soul. For myself. I wanted to practice and compete with freedom, with peace of mind," said Mollaei, speaking in Persian. "I didn't want to worry about whom to compete with and whom not to compete with. I'll compete with anyone, to honor the Olympic charter."

In the end, Mollaei lost a bronze-medal bout and didn't face Muki, who won gold. The International Judo Federation, which is supporting Mollaei, said he received demands to withdraw from an Iranian deputy sports minister, embassy staff and the head of the Iranian Olympic Committee.

Mollaei's likeliest route to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics is now the International Olympic Committee's team for refugees. The IJF is helping him but said he will need refugee status from the United Nations.

So far, adapting to life in Germany

is hard.

"Even the clothes you can see on me (are gifts). I had nothing when I arrived in Germany. I just decided to come and I came," he said. "I had a lot of gifts from friends and this is how I live now, with the help of a few friends and the IJF. I'm still waiting to see what will happen later, how I can compete, but obviously from the very beginning of my arrival here in Germany I started my training. Where and how I will compete later, I don't know yet."

Mollaei said he has not asked for asylum in Germany. Instead, he is living on a visa issued when he competed in German club events, and is cautious about security.

Powerfully built, with broad shoulders, Mollaei speaks softly and chooses his words carefully.

"Even when I want to contact my family I do it through a friend in Tehran because my family is under surveillance and I can't talk about many issues," he said. "I don't have much contact with any of my friends."

Mollaei told the AP he had been given similar orders to avoid Israeli competitors on three previous occasions. The last time was in February, when he failed to appear for the medal ceremony at a competition in France because it would mean sharing the podium with Muki.

"Almost all Iranian athletes have received such orders when it is linked to Israeli athletes," he said.

Iranian officials have said Mollaei was somehow manipulated into leaving the team, and that he would be welcomed if he returned home.

He is skeptical, pointing to an Iranian letter to the IJF in May pledging to comply with Olympic non-discrimination rules. At the time, it was hailed as a signal Iran would end its sports boycott of Israel.

"I can assure you that they didn't comply with the Olympic Charter. So how can we trust them?" Mollaei



In this photo taken Sept. 12, 2019, Iranian judoka Saeid Mollaei poses for a portrait photo at an undisclosed southern city of Germany. Saeid Mollaei has been in hiding since he left the Iranian judo team last month, saying he had been ordered to withdraw from the world championships on political grounds. (AP Photo)

said of Iran's sports officials.

Mollaei's break with the Iranian authorities comes at a time when activists are using sports to defy government demands.

Female Iranian activists have campaigned for years to be allowed to attend sports stadiums, particularly for men's soccer games, and staged protests at last year's World Cup in Russia. Last week, Iranian news outlets reported 29-year-old soccer fan Sahar Khodayari had died after setting herself on fire upon learning she could spend six months in prison for trying to sneak into a game.

Mollaei expressed sympathy for Khodayari and other female campaigners.

"I wondered why this happened, why Iranian women can't freely live like other girls, and enjoy sports and enjoy watching sports," he said. "I don't know what's going on, and why such difficulties should only happen to Iranians and the Iranian sport community."

"I don't know what to say. I'm just sad and disappointed. I just hope that one day the girls and athletes in my country can live freely and can enjoy life."

AP

'Clear and obvious, no penalty', says Klopp after Napoli defeat

NAPLES, ITALY

LIVERPOOL manager Jurgen Klopp said it was "clear and obvious" that Dries Mertens' controversial penalty should not have been given after the holders slipped to defeat at Napoli in their Champions League opener on Tuesday.

The Premier League leaders fell behind in the 82nd minute after Jose Callejon went down easily under pressure from Andy Robertson, before Fernando Llorente's stoppage-time strike secured Napoli a 2-0 win.

"I don't think it's a penalty," Klopp told BT Sport.

"What can I say, for me, it is clear and obvious, no penalty. He jumps before any contact, we can't change that."

Liverpool became the first holders to lose their opening game of the following Champions League campaign since AC Milan in 1994, as their front three of Mohamed Salah, Sadio Mane and Roberto Firmino were all guilty of wasting chances.

"It should hurt because there were opportunities for us," added Klopp. "It was an open game with a lot of counter-attacks, but we didn't finish them off and that is a problem."

"We controlled moments but had not enough chances in the end. We made decisions that were not right and have to accept the result."

"It was very often the final ball that was not right."

Liverpool next face a difficult trip to Stamford Bridge to take on Chelsea in the Premier League on Sunday, and host Salzburg -- who thrashed Genk 6-2 on Tuesday -- in their second Champions League Group E game on October 2.

Meanwhile, Carlo Ancelotti insisted that there was no sense of "euphoria" after beating Champions League holders Liverpool 2-0 in the

opening match of the campaign.

Dries Mertens and Fernando Llorente scored late as Liverpool fell in their Group E game in the San Paolo Stadium on Tuesday night.

"Euphoria at what? We won the first match, it was a good test and we come out of this match aware that this team can do well," said Ancelotti.

"It was just one victory, but yes it has given us confidence, being able to match Liverpool is impressive as for me they are the best team in Europe at the moment."

"It's proven that this team can perform very well, dig in and make sacrifices."

Ancelotti has started his second season at Napoli with the Italians going out in the group stage last year after losing to Liverpool at Anfield, having beaten Klopp's side beforehand in Naples.

"We brought in important players who improved the quality of the squad and have different characteristics to what we had before," said the 60-year-old, whose side are fourth in Serie A.

The three-time Champions League winning-coach -- twice with AC Milan and once with Real Madrid -- said his focus was just on getting out of the group stage.

"I thank (Liverpool coach Jurgen) Klopp for saying we can win this competition," said the Italian, "but it's a long way to go. Now we must think about progressing to the knockout stages."

Belgian Mertens added: "We beat Liverpool a year ago as well, it counts for nothing if we don't do well in the next matches."

Napoli next play Belgian side Genk on October 2, followed by a trip to Salzburg, before visiting Anfield on November 27.

AFP

I deserve more Ballon d'Or awards than Messi, says Ronaldo

LONDON

JUVENTUS forward Cristiano Ronaldo said he deserves to end his soccer career with more Ballon d'Or awards than Barcelona counterpart Lionel Messi and hopes to establish himself as the greatest player of all time.

Ronaldo, 34, has won the renowned France Football magazine trophy for the world's best player five times - as many as Messi - but is eager for more as he moves into the twilight of his career.

"Messi's in the history of football," Ronaldo told broadcaster Piers Morgan in an interview with Britain's ITV on Tuesday. "But I think I have to have six or seven or eight to be above him," he said, referring to the Ballon d'Or awards.

"I'd love it, I think I deserve it."

The Portugal captain said he

was no friend of the Argentine but credited his rival for helping push him further in his own career.

"My relationship with him is, we are not friends, but we have shared this stage for 15 years," Ronaldo said. "I know that he has pushed me to be a better player and I have pushed him to be a better player as well."

Ronaldo, who also played for Manchester United and Real Madrid, has five UEFA Champions League winners' medals and led Portugal to victory at the 2016 UEFA European Championship and 2019 UEFA Nations League tournaments.

"I don't follow the records, the records follow me. I'm addicted to the success, and I don't think it's something bad, I think it's good," Ronaldo said.

"It motivates me. If you're not motivated, it's better to stop."

REUTERS

Will Ansu Fati be Africa's next great superstar?

BARCELONA

BARCELONA wonderkid Ansu Fati is the name on everyone's lips after the 16-year-old continued to write history in La Liga this weekend, following a start to the season that no one saw coming.

The Bissau-born youngster has already broken records this season after stepping into an unexpectedly prominent role at Barca.

He became the club's second youngest debutant when he took to the field against Real Betis at 16 years, 298 days, and then became Barcelona's youngest ever scorer when he came off the bench to net against Osasuna ahead of the international break, six days later.

Only two players younger than Fati had ever found the net in the Spanish top flight, and the teenager has appeared undaunted by the challenges set in front of him.

This weekend, only one minute and 51 seconds into his Nou Camp debut, against Valencia, he scored again. It may only have been 20 days since he first inserted himself into the season's narrative, but already, a star has been born.

Minutes after his opener, a drilled effort after being picked out by Frenkie de Jong, Fati took off past Ezequiel Garay, leaving the Argentine defender for dead, and then played the ball in to the Netherlands international to make it 2-0 to the hosts as they marched towards a 5-2 victory.

Naturally, following his remarkable three-week introduction, Fati is already being heralded as the future of Barcelona, not to mention the future of Spain. After all, no player younger than the starlet has both scored and assisted in a La Liga game this century.

He's enjoyed, although just whisper it, a better start to his Barcelona career than Lionel Messi, who needed 13 games to hit two goals for Barca -- a tally Fati has managed in just three matches.

Having been born in Guinea-Bissau, the forward has the potential to become the next great superstar of the African game, although the Royal Spanish Football Federation has confirmed to ESPN FC that it is pursuing the necessary paperwork to recruit the attacker.

(Agencies)

Penalty drama as holders Liverpool, Chelsea lose Champions League openers

PARIS

HOLDERS Liverpool began their defence of the Champions League trophy with a defeat against Napoli on Tuesday, while one missed spot-kick condemned Chelsea to defeat against Valencia and another came to Barcelona's rescue.

Liverpool survived a 1-0 defeat in Naples in the group stage last season to go on and win their sixth European Cup, and this time a 2-0 reverse at the San Paolo made them the first reigning champions to lose their opening game in the competition since 1994.

Both sides had chances in the Group E clash before the hosts won a late penalty with barely 10 minutes remaining when Jose Callejon went down under an Andy Robertson challenge.

Dries Mertens beat Adrian from 12 yards and substitute Fernando Llorente -- who played for Tottenham Hotspur against Liverpool in last season's final -- then took advantage of a rare defensive lapse by Virgil van Dijk to make it 2-0 in stoppage time.

"I don't think it's a penalty. What can I say, for me, it is clear and obvious no penalty," Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said to BT Sport. "We played a lot of good football but didn't finish it off."

- Hat-trick hero Haaland -
Liverpool must now bounce back in two weeks when they host Austrian champions Salzburg, who made a stunning return to the group stage as teenage forward Erling Braut Haaland netted a hat-trick in a 6-2 demolition of Genk.

Salzburg had fallen in the qualifying rounds in the last seven campaigns but finally progressed this season to the group stage for the first time since 1994-95.

Haaland, the teenage English-born Norwegian striker whose father Alf-Inge played for Manchester City, gave Salzburg a second-minute lead and netted twice more before half-time.

Aged just 19 years and 58 days, Haaland is the third-youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick behind Wayne Rooney and Raul, according to sports statisticians Opta.

The South Korean Hwang Hee-



Napoli's defender Kalidou Koulibaly (R) blocked Liverpool's Egyptian midfielder star Mohamed Salah at the San Paolo stadium. (AFP Photo)

Chan and Dominik Szoboszlai also struck before the break for Salzburg, while captain Andreas Ulmer completed the rout in the second half.

Jhon Lucumi and Tanzanian striker Mbwana Samatta scored for the Belgian champions.

Last season's Europa League winners Chelsea ensured it was two defeats out of two on the night for English sides as they lost 1-0 at home to Valencia.

The Spaniards scored in the 74th minute when a Dani Parejo free-kick was converted by Rodrigo Moreno. Chelsea were given a chance to rescue a draw when Daniel Wass was penalised for handball in the box, but Ross Barkley's 87th-minute penalty hit the bar and went over.

"It's a harsh lesson of Champions League football, a game we've played pretty well in and we lose it," said Chelsea boss Frank Lampard. "The good thing is we have five more games to turn it around."

- Ajax impress -
Also in Group H, last season's semi-finalists Ajax claimed an impressive

3-0 home win over Lille with two of their newest signings among the goals.

Quincy Promes headed the Dutch champions in front and the Mexican Edson Alvarez doubled their lead early in the second half before Nicolas Tagliafico sealed the win.

After a patchy start to the season, Barcelona will be relieved to escape from their trip to Borussia Dortmund with a 0-0 draw as Lionel Messi returned from injury as a second-half substitute.

The home side will feel they should have won, but Marco Reus had a second-half penalty saved before Julian Brandt hit the bar late on.

"We played brilliantly in the second half, and it feels a bit like we have lost two points," Dortmund defender Mats Hummels told Sky.

Those two appear well placed already to progress from Group F after Inter Milan needed a stoppage-time Nicolò Barella goal to rescue a 1-1 draw against rank outsiders Slavia Prague.

Nigerian forward Peter Olayinka

put Slavia ahead in the 63rd minute, only for Barella to level in the second minute of stoppage time after a Stefano Sensi free-kick hit the bar.

In Group G, RB Leipzig won 2-1 at Benfica with Timo Werner bagging a brace before Haris Seferovic pulled one back.

Earlier, Memphis Depay's penalty gave Lyon a 1-1 draw at home to Zenit Saint-Petersburg after Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun opened the scoring.

Meanwhile, Salzburg striker Erling Braut Haaland became the third-youngest player to score a Champions League hat-trick as the Austrian champions romped to a stunning 6-2 win over Genk on Tuesday.

The 19-year-old took his incredible tally to 17 goals in nine appearances for Salzburg this season.

Only Real Madrid great Raul (18 years and 113 days) and former Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney (18 years and 340 days) have scored trebles in the Champions League while younger than Haaland (19 years and 58 days).

AFP

Man Utd, Arsenal carry English hopes in Europa League

PARIS

MANCHESTER United and last year's finalists Arsenal headline an English trio that also features Europa League newcomers Wolves while record five-time champions Sevilla figure to be among the primary contenders as the group stage begins Thursday.

Scottish rivals Celtic and Rangers face testing paths to the knockout rounds as bitter foes Roma and Lazio bid to end Italy's two-decade wait for the title.

Porto, PSV Eindhoven and Feyenoord are the other former European Cup winners in a competition that will welcome the eight third-place finishers from the Champions League groups for the knockout phase.

United, Europa League winners in 2017, will host Astana in Group L as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side face opponents from Kazakhstan for the first time in club history.

They will expected to progress with relative ease from a group that also includes Partizan Belgrade and former finalists AZ Alkmaar of the Netherlands.

Unai Emery's Arsenal return to the competition after last season's 4-1 defeat by Chelsea in the final in Baku saw the Blues pip them to Champions League qualification.

The Gunners visit Eintracht Frankfurt to kick off their campaign, with 10-time Belgian champions Standard Liege and Portugal's Vitoria Guimaraes also in Group F.

Wolves, in their first European campaign since 1980, will meet Portuguese club Braga in their opening game at Molineux.

Nuno Espirito Santo's team came through three ties just to reach the group stage. They beat Torino 5-3 on aggregate in the play-offs.

"I think any team in the Europa League are a good team who we will



respect going up against them. We will give everything, try to play and try to beat any team," said Wolves winger Adama Traore.

"Any player wants to play in Europe, but the Europa League is exciting, it is a new thing for us and it's a good thing."

- Six newcomers -
Scottish champions Celtic travel to French Cup holders Rennes in Group E, with Italian Cup holders Lazio and CFR Cluj, the Romanian side to whom

they lost in Champions League qualifying, completing a tricky section.

Steven Gerrard's Rangers are at home to Jaap Stam's Feyenoord on Thursday and will do well to navigate a group with Porto and Swiss champions Young Boys.

Roma will take on Istanbul Basaksehir in their first game while Moenchengladbach host Austria's Wolfsburg -- not to be confused with German outfit Wolfsburg.

Austria boast two representatives

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Near full house in Taifa Stars camp ahead of Sudan tie



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars'.

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S senior national soccer team, Taifa Stars, camp continues to fill up ahead of Sunday's Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) qualifiers' match against Sudan.

It was a near full house at first day training session held at Boko Veteran grounds with Young Africans SC (Yanga) defender, Kelvin Yondani, being given time off to shake off tiredness.

Interim head coach, Etienne Ndayiragije, said all players initially called up checked in save for Yanga midfielder Abdul Makame and Kagera Sugar goalkeeper Said Kipao

who were set to report later yesterday.

"All players except Makame who has gone to Zanzibar to attend to family burial, will report tomorrow, goalkeeper Kipao who had a league game in Mwanza will arrive tonight (Wednesday). Yondani is not here, he was feeling a little bit tired so we allowed him time out to rest at the camp," he disclosed.

The presence of a near full house gives coach Ndayiragije time to fashion out a game plan and strategy in what is either

make or break second round qualifiers for CHAN finals.

After eliminating Kenya in the first round, Taifa Stars have to do it again against Sudan to qualify for the 2020 CHAN tournament.

Since Tanzania qualified for the inaugural CHAN tournament in 2009 by overcoming Sudan, the former have always come short but there is hope this is the time for them to return to the second tier continental competition.

Though coach Ndayiragije is yet to win a game, he has remained unbeaten in his

first four matches since he was appointed on an interim basis to take over from his fired predecessor, Nigerian Emmanuel Amunike.

Goalkeepers; Juma Kaseja (KMC FC), Metacha Mnata (Yanga SC) and Said Kipao (Kagera Sugar).

Defenders; Haruna Shamte (Simba), Boniphace Maganga (KMC FC), Gadiel Michael (Simba SC), Mohammed Hussein (Simba), Kelvin Yondani (Yanga), Erasto Nyoni (Simba), Iddy Mubi (Polisi Tanzania), Bakari Mwamnyeto (Coastal Union).

Midfielders; Jonas Mkude (Simba SC), Baraka Majogoro (Polisi Tanzania), Mohammed Issa 'Banka' (Yanga SC), Mudathir Yahya (Azam FC), Salum Abubakar 'Sure Boy' (Azam FC), Frank Domayo (Azam FC), Muzamir Yassin (Simba SC), Abdulaziz Makame (Yanga SC), Hassan Dilunga (Simba SC) and Feisal Salum (Yanga SC)

Forwards; Iddi Suleiman 'Nado' (Azam FC), Miraji Athumani 'Madenge' (Simba SC), Shaaban Iddi Chilunda (Azam FC) and Ayoub Lyanga (Coastal Union).

SPORT

Penalty drama as holders Liverpool, Chelsea lose Champions League openers

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

EATV **TODAY @ 18:00**

THURSDAY

1:00 EATV News
1:30 Piliwani
2:00 Bongo
2:30 Bongo
3:00 Bongo
3:30 Bongo
4:00 Bongo
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eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
07:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Pionel Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Jackson Mayanja opens up on KMC FC struggles

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

VODACOM Premier League's KMC FC head coach, Jackson Mayanja, has opened up on the team early struggles this season.

He admitted they are having issues to solve and turn back the tide of poor results.

The team, nicknamed Kino Boys, brought in nine new players to their squad ahead of 2019/20 season and it appears it is taking time for coach Mayanja to knit the team together into an effective unit. He said it is taking time for the new players to gel.

"It is not easy to build a new team, you realize we signed a lot of new players. It takes time to build combination between players," he said.

"We find ourselves in this position because we have been unlucky with injuries, we did not have proper pre-season but also have not add time to rest," Mayanja explained.

Moreover, Mayanja went on to claim that he is still confident and patient about his squad and that they will figure out things as the season progresses.

He also lauded the fans who travelled all the way to Tanga to support them despite the early struggles.

But how the former Uganda Cranes striker must wish he had old hands, midfielder Jean Baptiste Mugiraneza and defender Besala Bokungu, able to step into the playing squad and inject experience.

Sadly the experienced duo is yet to be cleared for lack of International Transfer Certificate, ITC.

The club has since sought Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) intervention to obtain the delayed ITC.

Mayanja, who had previously coached Coastal Union, Kagera Sugar and Simba, was appointed in June to replace the departed Etienne Ndayiragije, who has moved to Azam FC after guiding KMC FC to an impressive fourth-place finish in their debut topflight season.

Mayanja's first task was in the CECAFA Kagame Cup where the team had mixed results, registering one win, one loss and one draw to bow out of the group stage.

His next assignment came in the CAF Confederation Cup where they failed to go past Rwanda opponents, AS Kigali, in the preliminary.

An encouraging goalless away draw was followed up by a shocking 2-1 home loss.

An opening-day 1-0 defeat by Azam was followed by a game of two halves against Coastal Union in Tanga last Sunday.

KMC FC showed much promise in the first 45 minutes before being outfoxed by the hosts for much of the second half and lost 2-0 to remain pointless in the league.

They are now under intense pressure to get results against two newly promoted teams, Polisi Tanzania, on Saturday and high flying Namungo on September 25.



Jackson Mayanja

Ling Long sprint thrills fans in Dar

By Guardian Correspondent

HUGE crowds turned out at the Kawe grounds in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday afternoon unable to miss out Ling Long motorsport sprint competition spectacularly won by Tufail Amin.

The highly thrilling midweek event attracted over 10 drivers and navigators who took part in the biggest ever motorsport sprint for the closing season.

Tufail who is a leading driver in the on-going national topflight motor rally championship, narrowly beat Robert Taylor by two seconds on his way to the podium.

The winner was flat-out in Subaru Impreza with visiting Ling Long Tyres sales director for Middle East and Central Asia, Kevin Chang as a navigator.

Taylor missed the top spot by a whisker as he used lady navigator, Karen Joya, in their Subaru Impreza providing huge challenge to the eventual winner in all three rounds of two kilometres each.

Third-placed in the event was rally guru Kirit Pandya also in his Subaru Impreza, picking up Chinese Tony Dohy as a navigator.

Satindersingh Birdi who happens to be the vice



Dar es Salaam Regional Sports Officer, Adolf Halii, flags off Robert Taylor/Karen Joya car (Subaru Impreza) during the Ling Long Tyres motorsport sprint staged at the Kawe grounds in the city on Tuesday. Taylor finished runners-up missing the title by two seconds. PHOTO: COURTESY OF CORRESPONDENT FIROZ GHOR

president (motorsport) of the Automobile Association of Tanzania (AAT) presided over

the prize presentation ceremony together with Dar es Salaam Regional Sports officer, Adolf

Halii. Ling Long Tyres' representative in Tanzania, the Artan Group, had

their director Mire Artan Ismail who also presented trophies to the winners.

Other drivers and navigators who made the event possible and provided challenge to the winners include Frank Taylor (Nissan Silvia), Hasher Habib/Yusuf Ali (Mitsubishi), Prashant Valambia/Abdel Ghani, Kelvin Taylor/Shawn Yang (Toyota Celica GT4), Mohamed Digala/Mustafa Mohamed (Suzuki Escudo), Munir Farook, Michael Maluwe and Feng Yugting/ D. Johnny.

Ling Long Tyre's official Chang said this is the fourth event supported by his firm in the world in three years. The first was staged in Addis Ababa in 2016, then Kampala in the following year and the last was in Lebanon ahead of the Dar es Salaam showdown.

AAT's chief executive officer Yusuf Ghor expressed his sincere appreciation to Ling Long Tyres for supporting the day-long event saying it played a huge role in the country's motorsport development.

Tanzania Traffic Police head of education and training Abel Swai had earlier wished all of the drivers the best of luck and then said he has been satisfied as the show ended peacefully.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

