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Minister: Investment Act review targeting natural gas sub-sector

Strategies put in place to boost the government's industrialization agenda powered by oil and gas shall be outlined, as well as investment opportunities and future of existing projects.

By Henry Mwangonde

THE government has said that forthcoming amendments to the Investment Act are designed to attract investments in gas infrastructure so as to make the clean energy accessible and affordable to more people.

Angela Kairuki, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), said yesterday that the new law which will be tabled in the legislature next month will among other things scrap red tape in business registration and abolish several nuisance taxes.

Minister Kairuki was speaking in Dar es Salaam during the Third Tanzania Oil and Gas Congress saying the government intends to see locals participate fully in the sector as it grows. "The capacity to make the lucrative



Retired Vice President Dr Mohamed Charib Bilal (C) seeing off the Minister of State in the Prime Minister Office (Investment) Angela Kairuki shortly after opening the third Tanzania Oil and Gas Congress organised by Ocean Business Partners at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (from L-R) is the congress organiser Abdulsamad Abdurahman, Minister for Energy Dr Medard Kalemani and Tanzania Private Sector Foundation chairman Salum Shamte. Photo: John Badi



Uganda leader decriminalises prostitution, mild deviation

KAMPALA

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni yesterday ordered the 'immediate release' of suspects arrested on charges of being 'idle and disorderly.'

Museveni said no person should be arrested for this crime.

"H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda has directed that no person should be arrested for the crime of 'idle and disorderly' conduct. The president has also directed that all those already arrested for this crime, be released immediately and prosecution discontinued. I hereby instruct all police officers to fully comply



Daily Monitor reports that this is not the first time Museveni is directing police to stop arresting Ugandans for being 'idle and disorderly'

with H.E the president's directive on the above subject matter," the Inspector General of Police, Martin Okoth Ochola said in a letter to police directors and regional police commanders.

Ochola further said the president had directed that all the people arrested by Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) enforcement personnel and are in prison for failure to pay a fine of Shs 1 million be released immediately but warned them not to repeat the offence of selling merchandise on pavements.

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PCCB launches house-cleaning, set to weed out corrupt officials

By Songwa wa Songwa

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) has embarked on a house-cleaning mission aimed at rooting out unethical officers who engage in corruption and other misconduct.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday during a meeting with editors, PCCB Acting Director General Brig Gen John Mbungu said the bureau has established a unit which deals exclusively with the conduct of its agents.

This comes after it emerged recently that an unscrupulous official in the agency



tasked with busting corruption engaged in the vice, tarnishing the image and credibility of the agency.

"Everybody is now spying on the other," he said, noting that there are no sacred cows in the bureau.

"Some of those who have already been taken to court include senior officials," he stated.

Brig Gen John Mbungu, who is PCCB deputy Director General said the house-cleaning mission is meant to cement the integrity of the agency so that the people have full confidence in it.

Govt, FAO launch guidelines on land tenure governance

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) yesterday launched a Swahili version of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT).

The aim is to popularize the understanding and interpretation of key global frameworks on land tenure governance issues in the country and is implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development. FAO developed the VGGT in the context

of national food security, as endorsed by the committee on World Food Security in 2012 with the aim of promoting secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing environmental protection.

Speaking at the launch here, FAO country representative Fred Kafeero (pictured) noted that the translation of the VGGT into Kiswahili was significant milestone in governance of land tenure issues.

"This is a big step in ensuring common understanding and interpretation of key global



frameworks by a wider audience," he said, elaborating that availability of the Kiswahili version will also strengthen capacities and operations of public bodies, private sector enterprises, civil society organizations and communities around tenure issues.

This initiative will ultimately contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, poverty eradication, environmental protection and sustainable social and economic development, he further asserted.

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Govt, FAO launch guidelines on land tenure governance

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The FAO was now working with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development to implement VGGT the development of a manual for providing support and training in alternative dispute resolution methods.

"This will help address natural resource-based disputes and conflicts," he stated, referring to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform for coordinating the main national actors working in land, fisheries and forests. He also projected a study for identifying the best practices in land-based investments as another area of collaboration.

The Kiswahili VGGT initiative is part of a project by FAO and the government for strengthening governance of land tenure through VGGT.

The translation is also designed to provide support in policy and sector coordination, address land conflicts and improve information on land-based investments.

Nicholas Mkapa, the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the ministry said while officiating at the launch that he appreciated efforts to have VGGT translated into Kiswahili, as this will enable more stakeholders to meaningfully engage in the governance of land tenure issues.

"The Kiswahili version will allow more stakeholders to understand and be able to use these guidelines in addressing land tenure challenges that they are facing and therefore boost the food security drive in the country," he said.

The Kiswahili VGGT version is an important tool that besides raising awareness of land, fisheries and forests issues among ordinary people, it will also support efforts to address various challenges including land use conflicts.

He pointed at conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, settlements, environmental degradation, deforestation as among those which could now be resolved with greater ease.

The launch was attended by various stakeholders, including officials from the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Dodoma region and the National Land Use Plan Commission.

Others came from the Land Tenure Support Program, Tanzania Land Alliance, community members, and officials from FAO Tanzania Office.

The meeting also witnessed the launch of a multi-stakeholder platform for supporting the implementation of VGGT components tied to national food security.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa talks to women processing cashew nuts during his visit at Yalin factory in Mtwara region yesterday. On his right is Mtwara Regional Commissioner Gelasius Byakanwa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Minister: Investment Act review targeting natural gas sub-sector

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(GDP) from 0.9percent in 2015 to 2.0percent, he said.

Participants at the congress are expected to discuss various issues in the sector including the

stalled construction of a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Lindi Region. They will also dwell on the pricing as well as mode of importation of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

Strategies put in place to boost the government's industrialization agenda powered by oil and gas shall be outlined, as well as investment opportunities and future of existing projects.

Tanzania's natural gas reserves currently stand at about 57.25trillion cubic feet following new deep sea discoveries off the country's southern coast. Plans are also being finalized to set up

a liquefied natural gas processing plant in Lindi.

The congress which is held annually is taken as an official platform for promoting government and industry collaboration.



Dar es Salaam City director Zipora Liana (R) shakes hand with NMB chief financial officer, Ruth Zaipuna during the inauguration of NMB customers' week held at Mlimani City yesterday. Looking on is Dar es Salaam zone manager Idd Badru. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Uganda leader decriminalises prostitution, mild deviation

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"By copy hereof, the executive director of Kampala City KCCA is also asked to comply with the directive of H.E President of the Republic of Uganda," Ochola noted in a letter copied to the Minister for Internal Affairs.

Daily Monitor reports that this is not the first time Museveni is directing police to stop arresting Ugandans for being 'idle and

disorderly.'

On February 9, 2016 the president ordered police and other authorities to stop arresting people for being "idle and disorderly." He reiterated the order - which has never been implemented - in the State of the Nation address 2017.

The president made the first order while addressing his supporters at Kazo grounds in

the new Nansana municipality, Wakiso District.

In a rally ahead of the February 2016 presidential elections, Museveni also tasked his aides at State House to remind him to engineer the repeal of the law criminalising 'idle and disorderly' persons.

No such legislation to repeal the order has ever been brought before Parliament more than

three years later.

Section 167 of the Penal Code Act criminalises wandering persons, those gambling for cash or prostituting as being idle and disorderly and if convicted in court, they, if prostitutes or involved in soliciting for immoral purpose, face a maximum of seven years imprisonment. Other aspects of the offence attract three months in jail or Shs3,000

fine or both.

Critics say the law on being idle and disorderly was enacted during the colonial era and is now outmoded and oppressive, so it should be abolished. Uganda Prisons officials have complained that prisons are crowded with petty offenders, most of them on remand, imposing an unnecessary burden on resource-constrained detention facilities.

PCCB launches house-cleaning, set to weed out corrupt officials

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And it is with that confidence that the agency will be able to receive more tip-offs and cooperation from the citizenry for effective execution of its duties, he declared.

He appealed to stakeholders including the media, state agencies, the private sector and individuals to play their part by relaying corruption-related activity to the bureau for action.

"We cannot win this war alone; we are just on the frontline but victory depends largely on the contribution of

other fighters," he said.

PCCB is mandated by law to take necessary measures for the prevention and combating of corruption in public agencies, parastatals as well as the private sector.

Tanzania is currently ranked 99 in the corruption out of 175 countries, on the basis of the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index prepared and researched by Transparency International.

The country's ranking averaged 98.62 from 1998 until 2018, reaching an all time high of 126 in 2009 and a record low of 71 in 2002.

Govt sets aside 65bn/- for construction of towers

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE government has set aside 65bn/- for the construction of communication towers in various regions so as to improve and expand communication services in the country.

Deputy minister for Works, Transport and Communication Eng Atashata Ndiye said improvement of communications was vital as the country pioneers to become middle income country.

According to him, the government through its Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF) will construct a total of 1222 communication towers in 521 wards across the country.

Speaking during the tour to observe communication services status in Nyampande ward, Sengerema in Mwanza region, Ndiye said that the government is committed towards bridging the communications gap to the rural and urban un-

der-served Tanzanians so as to foster social, educational and economic development.

He said that UCSAF will have to enter into agreements with telecommunications companies to fulfill the work.

UCSAF is responsible for enabling accessibility and participation by communications operators in the provision of communication service, with view of promoting social-economic development of the rural and urban under-served areas and to provide for availability of communication services.

Mathayo Thobias, the Malaga village chairman commended the government for bringing communication services near to the people saying that the move had improved social and economic activities in the area.

He said that the communication tower constructed few years ago at the village had brought a number of changes including injecting in 3.6m/- to the village as revenues.

Saanane Island National Park plans to bring 50 guinea fowls

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

SAANANE Island National Park (SINP) plans to bring 50 guinea fowls and increase the number of chimpanzee in a move aimed at improving attractions so as to attract more tourists in the area.

The move comes amid requests by different tourists visiting the park located in Lake Victoria, some few metres from Mwanza city centre who urged for the new attractions to be added in the park.

Assistant Conservation Commissioner at the Park, Eva Mallya told The Guardian that currently the Island had no guinea fowls and chimpanzee as tourist attractions.

According to her, guinea fowls and chimpanzee are among the uniquely significant wildlife habitats, so if put in the park, will draw more tourists thus increase revenue collections.

"The chimpanzee will be kept in a special cage

which will be built here, to take closer care of them

She underscored that before taking animals to the island, a thoroughly scientific research will be conducted to establish facts as to whether they can manage to survive in such environment.

Tourist attractions available at the park include impala, zebra, wildebeests, lions, peacocks, more than 70 species of birds both aquatic and terrestrial migrant as well as residents and lake panoramic view.

Others are revert monkeys, lizards lagama, monitor lizards, crocodiles, rock hyrax, pythons as well as sea otters to mention just a few.

Government Notice No. 567/64 of the United Republic of Tanzania initially established SINP as a zoo in 1964 undertaken after the long-term owner and resident of the island, Saanane Chawandi and his family were relocated to a nearby Gabalema Island off Capri Point in Mwanza city.

The main objective was

to promote interest and conservation education in wildlife, and also to promote recreation to the people of Mwanza town.

In 1991 the zoo was upgraded to the status of game reserve to protect the island from encroachment and resource degradation by enforcing Wildlife Conservation Act No. 12 of 1974 by Government Notice No. 265 and 275.

In the year 2006 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism directed Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) to take over the management of Saanane Island Game Reserve.

Tourism is the largest foreign exchange earner since 2012, contributing an average of \$2 billion annually, which is equivalent to 25 per cent of all exchange earnings, according to the government data. It also contributes to more than 17 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product (GPD) and creating more than 1.5 million jobs, 500,000 of which are direct.



India marks 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi (father of the nation). Looking on are Sanjiv Kohli, Indian High Commissioner to Tanzania (C) and music teacher Shanno Devi (3rd R) and students of Indian school in Dar es Salaam. The event took place at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Debt stocks in developing countries rose to \$ 7.8 trillion in 2018, says WB report

By Guardian Reporter

THE new World Bank's International Debt Statistics 2020 report shows that total external debt of low- and middle-income countries climbed 5.3 percent to \$ 7.8 trillion last year.

The report highlighted that net debt flows (gross disbursements minus principal payments) from external creditors tumbled 28 percent to \$ 529 billion

World Bank Group President David Malpass said: "To grow faster, many developing countries need more investment that meets

their development goals".

According to Malpass, debt transparency should extend to all forms of government commitments, both explicit and implicit.

He added: Transparency is a critical part of attracting more investment and building an efficient allocation of capital, and these are essential in our work to improve development outcomes."

With exception of South Africa, Sub-Saharan countries saw debts stocks swell by 8 percent on average in 2018, and over half the countries in the region have seen external debt stocks double since 2009.

Although on average the external debt burden of low- and middle-income countries was moderate, several countries have been on a deteriorating debt trajectory since 2009, the report indicates.

The share of low- and middle-income countries with debt-to-GNI ratios below 30 percent has shrunk to 25 percent, down from 42 percent ten years ago.

World Bank Development Economics Data Group Director Haishan Fu said: "Borrowing patterns and debt instruments have changed over time, and so has the depth and scope of International Debt Statistics".

Fu noted that the report provides comprehensive, timely data on the external debt of low- and middle-income countries to support debt management and related policy decisions. The report states that net debt inflows to low- and middle-income countries from multilateral creditors surged 86 percent, principally due to the International Monetary Fund's support for Argentina.

Bond issuance by low- and middle-income countries - a primary source of external financing for some countries fell 26 percent to \$ 302 billion in 2018 amid heightened global uncertainty, tighter capital markets, and

credit ratings downgrades.

However, Sub-Saharan countries excluding South Africa issued a record-high \$17 billion in bonds. Issues in 2018 were characterized by longer maturities and all were oversubscribed.

Net financial flows to low- and middle-income countries - including both debt and equity - slipped 19 percent in 2018 to \$ 1 trillion. Excluding China, which accounts for half of net debt flows and 43 percent of net equity flows, net financial flows to low- and middle-income countries tumbled 28 percent.

Parents raising children with Down syndrome call for govt intervention

By Getrude Mbagi

PARENTS of children with Down syndrome (Ds) have urged the government to come up with a special system to identify children with the mental disorder and establishing special units in public hospitals to serve the group.

They are also appealing for the government to create units that will monitor all newly born infants to find out if they have the characteristics of the defect, and educate parents on how to take good care of the children for their proper development.

Speaking during the event that brought together parents of

children with Down syndrome in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday, Mony Teri Petit, one of the parents said that Down syndrome is one of the most common mental disorders known in many countries, and yet there have been little efforts to help them.

Petit who is also the founder of a local Pearl of People with Down Syndrome Foundation, said that most children with the defects have talents, if developed they can fully contribute to the development of the country.

According to Petit, often when a woman gives birth to a child with Down syndrome she is shunned by the society. People believe

witchcraft is involved and that the mother has been cursed.

She added that persons with Down syndrome can achieve optimal quality of life through parental care and support, medical guidance and community based support systems like inclusive education at all levels.

This facilitates their participation in mainstream society and the fulfillment of their personal potential.

Statistics show that the estimated incidence of Down syndrome is between 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,100 live births worldwide. Each year approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chro-

sosome disorder.

Yusuph Magulumali, a resident of Tandika in Temeke district said that he has two children with the defect one at the age of 15 and the other is 9 years old.

"My appeal to the government is to provide close support to us, as we are grappling a lot to make sure that our children services, it is not an easy task taking care of these children, so if the government could help us, we will be so happy...these children often fall sick so we have to spend a lot in their health," he said.

Another parent, Zainab Balaja, a resident of Mbagala urged the government and development

partners to create public awareness campaigns in communities about victims of Down syndrome; and commit doctors and teachers of their understanding, and make sure they are becoming active and valuable participants in the communities and the society as well.

"I remember when I gave birth to my child with Down syndrome, doctors didn't tell me so I came to recognize it months later and started seeking for

medical assistance...So it is better also to train medical staff equipping them with skills to serve the group, it is so hard for us," she said.

Down syndrome is a genetic disorder caused when abnormal cell division results in an extra full or partial copy of chromosome. It is primarily recognized from its distinctive characteristics such as mental retardation, distinguishing facial features, and other traits.



Lindi region district commissioners and other stakeholders during a meeting with government officials and investors chart investments strategies in the region. The event took place last week in Lindi. From right is Sarah Chiwamba (Liwale);Rukia Muwango (Nachingwea) and Hashim Mgandilwa (Ruungwa) Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PUBLIC NOTICE



MR. HASSAN VUAI MWINYI

MR. HASSAN VUAI MWINYI (D.O.B 22/01/1988) who is pictured above is wanted in crime mentioned in the RB NO. KW/RB/ 314 2016.

If you know the location of this subject please contact any Police Station on call no. 0716 381 575 to provide any information.

Police Report No: KW/RB/341/2016

Tanzania SMEs secure meat, rabbit markets in Kenya and South Africa

By Beatrice Philemon

TANZANIA has secured markets for rabbit meat, chicken and Nile tilapia fish in South Africa and Kenya, it has been learnt.

Kimilio Letu in Pair International Networking (KIPI-NET), Agricultural Extension Officer, Nassy Fundikira told The Guardian that small and medium scale farmers engaged in those sector will soon start earning millions of shillings after gaining access to markets in South Africa and Kenya.

Fundikira said the traders will have to export a quota of

300 metric tons of chicken per week, 200 metric tons of rabbit meat per month and 100 metric tons of fish to Kenya after every seven days.

He said the demand for rabbit meat from Tanzania is increasing in South African. He however said that buyers prefer German Giant rabbits and New Zealand white rabbit species.

"We have already got both species for people willing to engage in rabbit farming business so that Tanzania can benefit from this market," he said noting the price for both species will be 40,000/- per rabbit.

He said that if Tanzanian farmers will fail to meet the required standards for the South African market, buyer from South Africa have agreed to construct a small rabbit meat processing plant in Tanzania that will be producing rabbit meat and sausage.

On chicken market, Fundikira said there is huge market for hybrid chicken and KIPINET had begun to distribute chicks to different people across the country to help them produce high quality chicken to tap the international markets.

KIPI NET, he said, will conduct trainings for SMEs en-



Minister of State in the Prime Ministers' Office, (Investment) Angela Kairuki speaks with CRDB Bank acting director for corporate banking Prosper Nambaya (C) and the Bank's manager for project financing Focus Mrosso, when she visited the Bank's pavilion at the oil and gas congress at JNICC in Dar es Salaam yesterday. CRDB Bank is one of the main sponsors of the congress. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



INVITATION TO BIDS DISPOSAL OF COMPANY ASSETS

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED (MCCL) is a subsidiary of the LafargeHolcim Group having its industrial operations in Songwe, Plot No. 1 Industrial Area, Mbeya.

MCCL hereby invites all interested individuals, organizations, and the public to participate in a sealed bidding to purchase one or more assets under disposal. The items are being auctioned on the condition of "as is where is".

All sealed bids shall be enclosed in plain envelope marked **INVITATION FOR BID: DISPOSAL OF COMPANY ASSETS**, must be delivered to;

THE TENDER COMMITTEE,

MBEYA CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED,
PLOT NO.1, SONGWE INDUSTRIAL AREA
P.O. Box 529, MBEYA, TANZANIA

And deposited at the Tender Box located at Reception, Administration Block, Songwe Plant, Mbeya.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

- ITEMS are sold on "as is where is" basis. Mbeya cement shall not have further liability after sale.
- Successful bidder will be required to pay full bid amount within 10 working days from the date of the award.
- Bidders will be required to unbranded the item (if branded) within 7 days from date the item are handed over to them.
- Mbeya cement reserves all rights, and without assigning any reasons thereof not to accept the highest bid.
- All assets shall be visited from **7th - 11th October 2019**, between 10h00 AM - 12h30 PM
- Deadline For Bids Submission: **15th October 2019**.
- Later bids shall not be accepted

LIST OF ITEMS TO BE SOLD

POWER GENERATOR

S no	Asset	Make	Modal	YOM	Location
1	GENERATOR SN:OLY00000KPKXM00398	OLYMPIAN	GEP18-2	2003	MCC-MBEYA
2	GENERATOR D100B	VOLVO PENTA ENGINE	C334B	1989	MCC-MBEYA

LIGHT VEHICLES

S no	Asset	Make	YOM	Chassis Number	Engine Number	Location
1	PICKUP FORD RANGER T153BWY	FORD	2011	AFATXXMJ2TBY1612 8	WLAT1276127	MCC-MBEYA
2	PICKUP FORD RANGER T724BWY	FORD	2011	AFATXXMJ2TBD0053 5	WLAT1253832	MCC-MBEYA
3	PICKUP HARDBODY T105BES	NISSAN	2008	ADNJ82000E001796	QD32270818	MCC-MBEYA
4	PICKUP HARDBODY T709BNA	NISSAN	2010			MCC-MBEYA

MOBILE EQUIPMENT

S no	Asset	Make	Modal	YOM	Engine Model	Location
1	EXCAVATOR 235B	CATERPILLAR	235 BHD	1990	3306DI	MCC-MBEYA
2	BACKHOLE LOADER	SDLG	B877	2015	WP4G95EE221	MCC-MBEYA

OTHER ASSETS

S no	Asset	Location
1	KILN SHELL (COOLER MOUTH SECTION)	MCC-MBEYA
2	KILN SHELL (TIRE 3 SECTION)	MCC-MBEYA
3	MV SWITCH GEAR 36 KV,6.3 KV,33KV,17.5KV CIRCUIT BREAKER COMPLETE FOR SUBSTATION	MCC-MBEYA

SPARE PARTS FOR OBSOLETE EQUIPMENTS

Company is also selling spares for equipment which are no longer in use.

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- ISUZU KB 280
- JIEFANG TIPPER
- LOADER CAT 980C
- NISSAN PATROL TD-42
- TOYOTA -1HZ

gaged in the specific sectors to ensure they produce quality products.

He noted that KIPI NET had already procured tilapia fingerlings from Kenya that had been distributed to five KIPI NET's members so that they produce more fingerlings to be distributed to fish farmers across the country. The fingerlings are sold at 300/- each.

He called on Tanzanians engaged in fish farming to use the opportunity be-

cause the demand for Nile tilapia fish is huge in Kenya and that they need 100 metric tons of fish after every seven days.

Deputy director, aquaculture division in the ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Dr. Hamis Nikuli, said currently fish production in Tanzania is estimated at 350,000 metric tons per year while the demand is about 750,000 metric tonnes per year.

"We need investors who can invest in fingerlings production, re-circulating Aquaculture Systems (RAS) and cage fish farming areas to control over-fishing in lakes, curb illegal fishing and increase fish production for domestic and global market", he noted.

Dr Nikuli said the demand of tilapia fish, catfish and Nile Perch fish is huge in Philippines, Europe, Tanzania, Congo and other foreign countries.

Commotion, panic prevail in Songwe airport as police conduct rescue drill

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

PASSENGERS and other people using the Songwe International Airport in Mbeya region on Tuesday were briefly jolted when members of the rescue security forces conducted a rescue drill following reports that there were bombs in the passengers' area of the building.

In addition there were also reports of a plane flying from South Africa to the Far East that was about to make an emergency landing at the airport following engine problems, hence rescue personnel and equipment thereof were mobilized to high gear.

The reports instilled apprehension and panic at the airport that saw many people running towards the Tanzania-Zambia Highway (Tanzam) while an airport official was trying to give directions to where people should take cover for their safety.

During the ensuing commotion accompanied by shouting as people

tried to save themselves, some fell down and lost consciousness, while others were seen weeping openly.

Members from the security forces including JWTZ, Police and Fire Brigade were scattered in the area for rescue work while health workers from Mbeya District Designated Hospital (DDH) at Ifisi offered first aid treatment to those in need.

The Ag Mbeya Region al Police Commander Jerome Ngowi said he received a call from the Airport Manager asking for police help following bomb threat in the passengers' area, hence he arrived with his squad and after liaising with other security and rescue forces managed to put things under control.

He said: "After putting things under control there came other reports of an air accident, hence we were again called to remove the apprehension from those at the airport."

The Ag RPC said he is satisfied that the wananchi have started to understand how to respond to emergencies as they ran away from the area of

supposed danger, as opposed in the past when the used to run towards the suspected danger are claiming they were trying to offer help, while in fact many wanted to steal.

The Songwe Airport Manager Pius Kazeze explained that the whole affair was merely an exercise to evaluate the preparedness of the airport including its stakeholders in case of an emergency to see whether it conforms to international standards.

He stressed that the exercise did not affect the airport's flight schedules as it was done when there were no planes landing or taking off.

On his part the Chairman of Mbeya Region Security and Defense Committee who is also its regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila said he had the report of the intended drill exercise at the airport but kept it to himself in order to evaluate the ability of security and defense apparatus under his charge.

He said he was closely monitoring each apparatus - on how fast they responded and he said he was satisfied.

Students have reasons to smile after completion of modern food court

By Guardian Reporter, Njombe

STUDENTS at Madunda primary school at Mawengi ward, Ludewa district in Njombe region have all reasons to smile after completion of the modern food court construction where they can have their meals comfortably.

The dining block worth more than 66m/-. has been built by a non-governmental organisation dubbed Southern Highlands Participatory Organization (SHIPO) was handed over to the school leadership last weekend.

Handing over the food court, SHIPO project coordinator, Nemes Temba said, the upgrading of the school infrastructure will stimulate and increase student's academic performance.

"Prior to the implementation of these school upgrading projects, the academic performance in our district was 61 per cent, but after improvement of infrastructures in the existing 20 schools in four wards of Mawengi, Milo, Mlangali and Lubonde the academic performance for 2018 had improved to 74 per cent", said Temba.

He said the five-phase government has decided to provide free education to primary and secondary schools, hence the need for stakeholders to provide support to ensure that the challenges of classrooms, toilets, teachers' houses, stoves and food courts are resolved.

'Academically Ludewa was ranked sixth or fifth, in Njombe region with six districts, but since the start of the school infrastructure development project, the school was ranked third in the region in last year's Standard Seven national examinations', he said.

Receiving the building, the headmaster of the school, Ditrani Chaula, called on other education stakeholders to support SHIPO's efforts to address the challenges at primary and secondary schools in the region.

'If challenges are resolved, performance will continue to rise each year, so I thank SHIPO for building the food court for our children so they can have their meals at a good place', said Chaula.

The head teacher said that completion of the dining hall will now eliminate the problem of lack of proper dining space that caused students to worry during rainy or sunny days.

On the other hand, the director of Ludewa District

'Time to mop up illegal small arms and light weapons in the region'

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is emphatic that partner states should as a matter of necessity, ratify, domesticate and operationalise the Nairobi Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty to enhance the fight against trans-boundary crime.

The legislature warns that failure to do so creates a lacuna and opens up avenues for the weapons to get in to the wrong hands including that of terrorist networks. It also called for a regional legislative framework to address the problem of proliferation of small arms.

However, the Assembly has adopted the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolutions (RACR) on the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the EAC region. The oversight activity was carried out in the region on August 25-28th, 2019, in collaboration with the International Committee on the Red Cross (ICRC).

Chair of the RACR, Victor Burikukiye, urged the Assembly to recommend to the EAC Council of Ministers as a matter of priority, to ensure the process of marking and registering the firearms and light

weapons is prioritized to enhance the fight against trans-boundary crime.

"Integrated, holistic and comprehensive long-term civilian approaches towards disarmament are necessary", said Burikukiye.

He added: "These approaches should be complemented by socio-economic inputs and confidence-building measures between the public and security officers. The approaches should be of regional nature and should address the alternative livelihoods and demobilize the mind".

According to Burikukiye, there are a number of challenges that implementation of the Nairobi Protocol on small arms is facing and such include the lack of human and financial resources in many Member States.

The chair informed the House that the regional centre on Small Arms (RECSA) was dependent on foreign donors and this presented a major challenge of implementation of the protocol at the national level.

The committee chair said many partner states to the Nairobi Protocol were yet to make the amends to their legislation to adopt new firearms legislation as outlined in the Nairobi Protocol, despite making promises to do so.

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CONTRACTORS REGISTRATION BOARD

DELETION OF CONTRACTORS

The Contractors Registration Board (CRB) is a government autonomous regulatory body established by Contractors Registration Act, Cap 235 R.E 2002 to register all types of contractors and regulate their conduct for the purpose of protecting consumers of construction services in Tanzania. In relation to this objective, CRB is also duty bound to promote the development of local contractors. The day to day activities of the Board are performed by a Management Team (Secretariat) under the Registrar as Chief Executive Officer.

We wish to inform all clients, Consultants and general public that the following contractors have been deleted from our Register of Contractors with effect from 01.10.2019 in accordance with subsection 13 (1) (b) (c) and (d) and 15 (1) (c) respectively of the Contractors Registration Act Cap 235 R.E 2002.

LIST OF DELETED CONTRACTORS FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REGISTRATION CRITERIA

FOREIGN CONTRACTORS

BUILDING			
S/N	COMPANY NAME	CATEGORY	REG NO:
1	CHINA JIANGSU INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION CORPORATION	BUILDING	B1/0011/8/1994
2	CHINA HAINAN CORPORATION FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC & TECHNICAL CORPORATION	BUILDING	B1/0014/5/1996
3	CHINA HUASHI ENTERPRISES CORPORATION	BUILDING	B1/0015/8/1996
4	QUINGDAO CONSTRUCTION GROUP (TANZANIA) LTD.	BUILDING	B1/0018/7/1997
5	JCP ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0092/09/2008
6	NATIONAL ENGINEERING CO. LTD.	BUILDING	B1/0099/03/2009
7	LONGXING INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0100/07/2009
8	YONG SHUN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0104/05/2010
9	AFRO TURK INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0118/11/2011
10	CHENGDU SHEMNA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0121/01/2012
11	MUTLUHAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMPANY LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0129/02/2013
12	HALIC CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/0132/07/2013
13	HITAJI COMPANY LIMITED	BUILDING	B1/148/07/2015

CIVIL			
S/N	COMPANY NAME	CATEGORY	REG NO:
1	SKANSKA AFRICA A/S	CIVIL	C1/0007/2/1998
2	ADUCO INTERNATIONAL B.V	CIVIL	C1/0018/11/1998
3	KONOIKE CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.	CIVIL	C1/0024/3/1999
4	E. PIHL & SON A.S	CIVIL	C1/0027/7/1999
5	GROUP FIVE TANZANIA LIMITED.	CIVIL	C1/0050/06/2006
6	BAMBOO ROCK LIMITED	CIVIL	C1/0077/7/2012

ELECTRICAL			
S/N	COMPANY NAME	CATEGORY	REG NO:
1	ABB SAE (T) LTD.	ELECTRICAL	E1/0016/04/1999
2	SPENCON SERVICES LIMITED	ELECTRICAL	E1/0040/03/2010
3	AIRCON ELECTRA SERVICES (NAIROBI) LIMITED	ELECTRICAL	E1/0045/7/2011
4	MUTLUHAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMPANY LIMITED	ELECTRICAL	E1/0054/01/2014
5	CHENGDU SHEMNA INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	ELECTRICAL	E1/55/10/2014
6	SINOTEC CO. LIMITED	ELECTRICAL	E1/61/12/2015

MECHANICAL			
S/N	COMPANY NAME	CATEGORY	REG NO:
1	ENEGROINVEST D.D.SARAJEVO	MECHANICAL	M1/0003/7/99
2	NATIONAL ENGINEERING CO. LTD.	MECHANICAL	M1/0005/3/2000
3	GROUP FIVE TANZANIA LIMITED.	MECHANICAL	M1/0023/10/2014

SPECIALISTS			
S/N	COMPANY NAME	CATEGORY	REG NO:
1	AFRICAN CONSTRUCTION SERVICES (PTY) LTD.	SPECIALIST BUILDING	SPB1/0002/12/2000
2	LJIE INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CO. LIMITED	SPECIALIST BUILDING	SPB1/355/01/2015
3	SHAFT SINKERS INTERNATIONAL (PTY.) LTD.	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/004/3/2000
4	LTA CONSTRUCTION (T) LTD.	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/005/10/2000
5	BENWELL ENGINEERS LTD.	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/007/12/2000
6	MURRAY & ROBERTS CONTRACTORS (T) LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0075/03/2004
7	GEOLOGICAL DRILLING COMPANY LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0232/07/08
8	ZHONGHAO OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CO. LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0305/7/2011
9	MOOLMAN MINING TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0322/6/12
10	DABENCO ENTERPRISES LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0323/8/2012
11	DONGXING INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0340/07/2013
12	WOORAM TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST CIVIL	SPC1/0352/11/13
13	DOWN TO EARTH LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/0103/02/07
14	AUA INDUSTRIA (T) LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/0105/11/06
15	PLESSEY (PTY) LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/0303/5/2011
16	COMPUTECH ICS TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/0317/4/2012
17	LINKSOFT COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/0357/02/2014
18	FOUNTAIN TECHNOLOGIES TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/365/01/2015
19	FOUNTAIN TECHNOLOGIES TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST ELECTRICAL	SPE1/366/01/2015
20	EAST AFRICAN ELEVATOR COMPANY LTD.	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0004/04/1999
21	ABB BERKELEY ELECTRICAL LTD.	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0028/5/2000
22	GROUPE SNIG LTD.	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0047/9/2000
23	TECHNAL COMPANY LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0291/8/2010
24	EAST AFRICA FIRE FIGHTING LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0336/04/2013
25	HITAJI COMPANY LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0339/06/2013
26	DESIGNERS TOUCH ALUMINIUM & GLASS EAST AFRICA LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0345/08/13
27	SANDBLASTING & COATINGS (TANZANIA) LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0347/10/2013
28	EURO LIFTS LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0349/10/13
29	MUTLUHAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMPANY LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0355/01/2014
30	MUTLUHAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMPANY LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0358/03/2014
31	SHENZHEN KEXIN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CO. LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0361/06/2014
32	LUBAN CONSTRUCTION INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/0364/11/2014
33	TOYOTA TANZANIA LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/365/12/2014
34	LJIE INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING CO. LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/366/01/2015
35	ALLTERRAIN SERVICES (TANZANIA) LIMITED	SPECIALIST MECHANICAL	SPM1/372/12/2015

REGISTRAR

PEPFAR grants over 570 million/- for HIV/AIDS projects implementation

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

THE United States through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has released USD 257,000 (more than 570m/-) to 11 registered civil societies, non-profit and faith based organisations across the country for execution of projects that address HIV/AIDS.

The grant recipients applied for the funding which comes from (PEPFAR) by responding to an open call for proposals to address issues related to HIV/AIDS in their local communities.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday at a ceremony to hand over the grants, US Charge d' Affaires, Dr Inmi Patterson said the programme has been running for 16 years whereas USD 4.6 billion have been spent in the specific period.

She added that PEPFAR understands that there is more work to be done to reach the goal of ensuring 90 percent of people living with HIV know their health status.

"We are happy to execute the programme and to provide funds for helping people living with HIV," she said adding that this year they received 223 applications from NGOs, CSOs and religious institutions across the country.

She said the 11 registered organisations are confident enough to fight against stigma and discrimination present to people living with HIV.

"They are working to reduce the existing incidence of gender based violence and they are eager to increase the scope of knowledge to people living with HIV," she said.

Director of HIV unit at the National Muslim Council of Tanzania (BAKWATA) Asina Shenduli said the council has been working to address stigma and violence to people living with HIV.

"To date, the main challenge is the increase of stigma and discrimination to people living with HIV, there is a need for collaborative efforts to eradicate the challenge," she said.

"The council will work to spread the knowledge on how to take care and

to live with people living with HIV in three districts of Kigoma region," she explained.

The recipient projects focus on key strategic priorities including improved treatment literacy, reduction of stigma and discrimination, innovative solutions to prevent gender-based violence, accessing support related to GBV and reaching men with HIV testing and linkage to treatment.

The proposed projects addressed improving understanding of HIV and strengthening access to services among people living with HIV, orphans and vulnerable children, vulnerable populations' men and young men and adolescent girls and young women.

The Ambassador's fund for HIV/AIDS Relief (AFHR) started in 2009 and has provided grants to more than 130 community based and non-profit organisations in Tanzania. The US is proud to continue the strong tradition of partnering with this organisation in pursuit of Tanzania's HIV epidemic control goals.



The overall winners for Young Scientists Tanzania (YST) Editha Barde (2nd L) and Nasra Mpochi (4th L) both the students from Chief Dodo secondary school in Manyara region. The two girls last week participated at the international science fair held in South Africa recently and won a gold medal under their project titled: 'Is the Kivumbasi (Ocimum Canum) a solution to beekeepers'. Third from left is SIEMENS country manager for Tanzania Stephan Luyt, and first left is the project manager for Young Scientists Tanzania Nabil Karatela. Photo: YST.

Senior citizens decry isolation, poor access to health services

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OLDER People in the country are pushing for their rights including the old people policy claiming to be isolated when seeking healthcare services in facilities.

Kinondoni Municipal Elderly People's Council Chairman, Wallace Mwakikalo told The Guardian yesterday that elders in the country face various challenges including difficulties in accessing health services.

The International Day of Older Persons was nationally commemorated yesterday in Mtwara region.

Mwakikalo linked the elder's healthcare services challenges with lack of knowledge amongst health care providers, noting some of them still do not accept community health fund cards issued to older persons.

The chairman said the community health fund cards were issued recently to older people to allow them to get free medical treatment, but it is unfortunate that they are not accepted at some hospitals.

He noted that at some health facilities, the older people are asked to share treatment cost which is contrary to government directives.

Morogoro Elderly People's Organisation (MOROPEO) Director, Samson Msemembo stated that older people still face challenges including abuse, abandonment and violence.

Msemembo said that lack of older people policy and lack of drugs at some health facilities are burden to the senior citizens especially those in need to treat non communicable diseases (NCD).

"Older people are prone to non communicable diseases. We call upon the government to provide geriatricians to deal with the health of senior citizens as it is for women and children," he said.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Faustine Ndungulile said on Monday that on top of the list of burdens older people carry is opportunistic diseases, abandonment by family members as well as lack of income which together push many older people to seek shelter and other subsistence support from private as well as state-run care centres.

Dr Ndungulile told The Guardian that the government has put in place various strategies to protect senior citizens, and the number of elders has risen to around 1.8 million, those above 65 years of age. "This is a sign of some success in the health sector," he declared.

Bank of Africa group approves 22.9 billion/- capital increase for Bank of Africa Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

BANK of Africa Tanzania Limited has secured a capital increase of 22.9bn/- as part of the bank's strategy of broadening and improving services to the market. Following the capital boost, Bank of Africa Tanzania is set to invest heavily in digital solutions to enable customers across the country to have easy access to the financial services provided by the bank.

Bank of Africa group made the unanimous decision to inject new capital to Bank of Africa Tanzania Limited in order to unravel the potential of the untapped Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the country through digital solutions.

The group CEO Amine Bouabid delivered the decision at the board of directors meeting that was recently concluded in Madrid, Spain.

The board chairperson ambassador Mwanaidi Maajar expects the additional capital to be utilized effectively and deliver the expected results, such as offering a diverse array of financial products and instruments that suits the needs of our exceptional customers and consequently impact the economy at large.

The managing direc-

tor, Joseph Iha, said, "This capital injection is essential for the bank to strengthen its efforts and to meet customer expectations. Our shareholders have entrusted us with a great responsibility, and we are committed to keeping up the spirit of pan Africanism and to provide a full range of modern digital financial solutions that fully support our clients' needs."

The proceeds of the capital increase are expected to provide the bank with additional resources to pursue its digital transformation agenda, enabling it to expand its reach to retail customers and its core segment of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and corporate customers.

In its three year medium term development plan, Bank of Africa Tanzania is focused on increasing its market share in the Retail and SME segment through various digital solutions and automation of processes that will allow its customers to access financial services with ease.

In addition, the new capital will provide the bank with more resources to play a significant role towards the growth of the Tanzanian economy by supporting the industrialization agenda and other economic value ecosystems.

PCCB in Dodoma warns against corruption during civic elections

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Dodoma region have warned the public against corruption activities during the forthcoming civic elections. Addressing a press conference here yesterday, PCCB regional commander, Soshenes Kibwengo said as usual, his team is ready to arrest anyone involved in corruption acts, especially during polls.

He warned that those vying for leadership positions should not try bribing people, adding that in addition to legal procedures, their names will be expunged from the list of contenders.

"There is a tendency of people engaging in corruption activities during elections but let me warn the public against such acts which contravene the law," he said.

Giving report of the bureau for the period between July and September this year, Kibwengo said PCCB managed to arrest one, Emmanuel Mziwanda (62) who was on the run since July 2017 when the authority booked him for misappropriation of funds.

He said Mziwanda was until then serving as Chief Health Officer for Belgian Fund for Food Security (BFFS), a programme that was implemented in Bahi district council.

The PCCB boss noted that Mziwanda is accused of deceitfully using documents that led to a loss of Sh 15 million to the government. He added that evidence gathered by PCCB showed that the accused acquired the money fraudulently.

After prosecution by the DPP's office and order for arrest, Mziwanda allegedly disappeared until he was arrested last month during a funeral in Mpwapwa. He is set to

appear in court to answer charges against him. In other developments, he said regional PCCB office in implementing its duties, organised public education on corruption during the election period, conducted 210 radio programmes and one television programme.

On the control of corruption, he said the bureau investigated 39 projects worth Sh 46,901,978,729.26 in the construction sectors in infrastructure, education, water, health and agriculture.

He said they realised elements of corruption in some four projects worth Sh 1,996,600,000.00 whereby the rightful procedures were not followed, forcing the bureau to launch investigations.

In another development, PCCB has intervened in the implementation of a project between a district council and a private land survey and planning company that would see the council lose Sh 700,000,000.

During the period, the regional PCCB office received a total of 155 corruption allegations in different sectors. In ratio, ward, village and streets led by 39.4, land 13.5, education 12.3, court 7.7, ministries 5.8, police 5.2 private sector 5.2 and water 4.5.

"The remaining percentage was in the health, immigration, TARURA and political parties," he said, adding that the bureau has completed 15 case files and opened eight cases. Kibwengo also noted that his officers on Monday arrested the Makutupora ward chairperson, Petro Simon Sangula (55) for asking for Sh 500,000 bribe.

In another development, he said PCCB has opened office in Chemba district, making all district in the region have the anti-corruption bureau offices.



Tanga Regional Commissioner Martin Shigela (2nd R) inspects 70 motorbikes issued by Tanga City Council to empower Bodaboda youth under the programme titled: 'Tanga Kwanza'. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Animal welfare organisation in Arusha Region embarks on rabies vaccination

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

MORE than 100 dogs have been vaccinated in Arusha region to protect residents against rabies, the deadliest infectious disease.

The rabies vaccination was conducted by a non-governmental organisation—Protection Animals

Welfare Society (PAWS).

More than 99 percent of the people infected with rabies get it from the bite of an unvaccinated dog. Nearly 60,000 people die each year from rabies and approximately 50 percent of them are children under 16.

PAWS Chairman, Evarest Maguo

said the organisation carried out the rabies vaccination in Arusha municipality aiming at protecting humans as well as providing medical treatment to the dogs.

Rabies is the deadliest infectious disease known to humankind with a case fatality rate of 100 percent.

"We also work to protect the

rights of animals. We want people to love and protect the animals as their human friends," said Maguo insisting on those keeping the animals to provide them with all the needed requirements including food and proper medical treatment. He said the rabies vaccination campaign will be sustainable

insisting on the residents to bring their animals for vaccination.

A recent press statement released by Rabies Free Africa said that World Health Organisation's goal is to eliminate human rabies deaths by 2030.

Under the global initiative that seeks to eliminate the rabies virus—

Rabies Free Africa is set to vaccinate two million dogs in East Africa.

In the last year alone, approximately 215,000 dogs were vaccinated for the rabies virus in Kenya. In Tanzania, another 120,000 dogs received the vaccine, according to the statement.

"Through vaccination we have

eradicated smallpox in humans and rinderpest in cattle. We are on the verge of winning the battle against polio - rabies belongs up there," said Dr Thumbi Mwangi, clinical assistant professor in the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health (Allen School) and director of Rabies Free Kenya.



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Tenders are invited from established and reputable companies for **SUPPLY OF WIRE ROPES FOR QUAY CRANES (QCs) AND RUBBER TYRE GANTRY CRANE (RTGCs)** at TICTS Offices.

Tender documents may be collected from **TICTS PROCUREMENT OFFICE**.

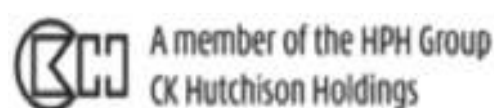
The Tender will be closed on **October 18, 2019 at 3.00 pm**. No bids will be accepted after this time.

TICTS reserves the right to cancel the tender at any time and is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

Sealed tender bids should be submitted to the **TENDER BOX** located at TICTS Finance office in PSPF Commercial Buildings along Sokoine Drive, clearly marked with name of Tender on the envelope and addressed as hereunder:

Chief Executive Officer
Tanzania International Container Terminal Services Limited
P.O Box 71442, Dar es Salaam
Tel. 255 22 2134056 Fax: 255 22 2134019

Email: ticts@ticts.com



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Tenders are invited from established and reputable companies for the Tender of:

1. Fire Extinguishers Service
2. Car Rental Service

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**Taking A New Look
At The News
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Easing transit transport regulations presents logistic, revenue challenges

MAKING the country's investment climate competitive and among the best in East Africa and in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) is often easier to postulate than to actually set out conditions that aren't just positively encouraging but also satisfy key stakeholders. That is what the government has lately been facing, trying to sort out remaining bottlenecks in transit trade, where owners of fleets of lorries carrying imported goods especially to eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda form a major group. It was hard to tell proper competition issues and privileges.

There was also a problem of reference points in what actually is a competition issue, where for instance it was apparent that to be competitive the conditions under which transit trade or transportation takes place has to be identical or less constraining than the current least constraining routes. That is largely the case when the transporters that are being sought to use our roads for ferrying import goods can switch to other routes with little prejudice to their own costs. If on the contrary they stand to lose plenty it is clear they can bear with a slight increase on the cheaper route, as the switching is largely unfeasible.

What transporters were basically telling the government is that it should continue softening charges and harmonizing regulations for cargo transportation for the sector to be competitive. It means adopting the least charges route and long period of free transit without any charges, which means that the country essentially benefits from auxiliary services that the transporters will make use in having the lorries serviced and refilled in the country, part from excise duties in registering the lorries,

etc. It means that transit trade makes our towns lively and petrol stations busier, and that is where we collect revenues.

These recommendations were being made at the annual general meeting of the Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) last week in Dar es Salaam, where the TATOA board chairperson lent some advice to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and the Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to revise some regulatory provisions "that act as impediments to efficient operation of the sector, thus become setbacks for the sector to compete regionally." For once, the transporters assert that the taxman needs to extend the free transit period to at least 90 days for bulk import cargo including fuel, and 120 days for export in order to attract bigger volumes of fuel, fertilizer and sulphur. They gave examples of South Africa and Mozambique which offer 180 days of free transit, making the two countries more competitive in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). The issue is do we directly compete with them?

Other suggestions like making use of discretionary power provided in the East African Community Customs Management Act (EAC CMA) to waive custom warehouse rent on bulk cargo, as well as waiving the EAC Vehicle Load Control Act are set in the same direction, that we ought to be attracting as many transporters as possible, and collect revenue basically from the services to be provided or excise duty in registering the vehicles. These demands appear to most people to be privileges but it is true that is how globalization operates at present. The taxi service Uber makes a profit by getting a portion of the airtime surplus for Uber service callers, not from payments for the taxi services as such. It is really a challenge

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Increased community-based engagement crucial and critical to build climate action

By Victoria Lihiru

WORLD leaders, businesses and civil society have met to boost their ambition and actions to address the global climate emergency. The deliberations at the United Nations General Assembly's climate action summit, reminded me of the women I met last month from Enguserosambu and Sale villages in Ngorongoro district, Arusha region. These Maasai women have upgraded their actions to tackle the adverse impact of climate change, by adjusting the famous village Community Banks (VICOBA) to Community Conservation Banks (COCOBA).

The COCOBA members automatically become the champions and keepers of the environment. They receive trainings on the manifestations, and implications of climate change, and guided to co-create local level mitigation and adaptation strategies. The members are also trained on the basics of conservation laws, encouraged to be on the watch and required to report to the local government authorities when they encounter acts of abuse of forests and water sources. Because of their passion for environment, some of the COCOBA members have been trusted to be in the local governments ward's environment committees-ward level decision making organs on the issues of environmental preservation.

Each member of COCOBA commits to plant trees in their household and encourages the neighbors to do the same.



The demand for trees is on the increase, leading to some of the COCOBA groups such those from Samunge village to engage in germination of tree seeds and selling of trees. As addressing climate change also requires change in life style, Enguserosambu and Sale women are adopting local technology for building energy efficient stoves which in turn saves many trees that would otherwise be used as source of cooking energy.

The major successes of COCOBA are witnessed by number of community groups willing to transition from VICOBA to COCOBA or formulate new groups with COCOBA component. Data from Ngorongoro district depicts that more than 500 groups have been registered as COCOBA. While saving and lending groups such as VICOBA is mostly seen as women enterprises, the COCOBA's en-

vironment keeping component has attracted men too. Men are working together with women on the environmentally friendly economic activities such as beading, leather processing, bee keeping and cultivation of drought resistant crops such as sunflower. Men install beehives, guard the farms, and source materials for businesses, relieving them from forest exploitation economic activities such as trading on charcoal and wood. While women are still the majority in COCOBA groups making up to 70 per cent, adult men form about 30 percent of these groups.

Despite this initiative, Enguserosambu and Sale women still experience droughts, unreliable rains, hard to manage crop diseases, affecting honey harvests and other agricultural produce. As the world leaders have just met in New York to increase efforts towards ad-

ressing climate actions. A call is made for Tanzanian government to replicate initiatives such as COCOBA to other districts. Working within its current commendable move, where ten percent of the local government's own source has to be allocated and lent to support the women, youth and people with disabilities' economic activities on a 4/4/2 basis respectively.

The cross cutting climate emergency should trigger the Local Government Authorities to add a conservation element into the criteria for accessing the 4/4/2 interest free loans. Most of the COCOBA economic activities are funded by non-state actors among others, Oxfam through its local partner PALISEP, GIZ and Frankfurt Zoological Society. With more than 60 per cent of the Tanzanian population living below the poverty line and thus depending on the 4/4/2 loans, introducing COCOBA component will bring awareness on the realities, effects, adaptation and mitigation measures to a more than half of Tanzania population.

As COCOBA members are tasked to spread climate education and report environmental risk incidences, the ripple effect of intersecting COCOBA and 4/4/2 will see every Tanzanian acting to protect the prestigious mother earth. Under the circumstance where the countries take common but differentiated responsibilities, polluters continue to raise finances, and other dynamics continue to twiddle climate actions, involving everyone within the available community frameworks remains central for the world to strengthen the currently bent backbone of its existence.

Businesses contribute to economies by bringing growth and innovation

BUSINESS is the activity of making one's living or making money by producing or buying and selling products such as goods and services. Simply put, it is "any activity or enterprise entered into for profit. It does not mean it is a company, a corporation, partnership, or have any such formal organization, but it can range from a street peddler to General Motors."

Having a business name does not separate the business entity from the owner, which means that the owner of the business is responsible and liable for debts incurred by the business. If the business acquires debts, the creditors can go after the owner's personal possessions. A business structure does not allow for corporate tax rates. The proprietor is personally taxed on all income from the business.

The term is also often used colloquially (but not by lawyers or by public officials) to refer to a company. A company, on the other hand, is a separate legal entity and provides for limited liability, as well as corporate tax rates. A company structure is more complicated and expensive to set up, but offers more protection and benefits for the owner.

In the same vein, customers of the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) recently convened at a capacity building validation workshop organised by the bank, which among other things aimed at discussing business opportunities offered by the bank.

The workshop held in Dodoma featured both small and medium sized businesspersons who were taken through the various improved services offered by the bank, as well as how best they can interact with the various business institutions to help them achieve their goals.

Addressing participants at the workshop who were drawn from different districts of the country's capital, the bank's business development manager in charge of the SMEs unit, Jonathan

Bitababaje, said following the improved services by NBC which can now cope with the current technology, there was a need to intensify capacity building programmes that can make customers to get accustomed to the services provided by the bank.

"Our bank, has now ventured into robust technological changes in service provision depending on the economic changes, therefore, we felt that it is important we embark on capacity building programmes for our customers," he said.

He further emphasized that apart from capacity building, at the workshop, NBC customers had an ample time to offer their opinions and recommendations on the services provided by the bank, a move he said would help to improve services according to customers' need.

At a one-day workshop, participants had yet another chance to receive and contribute on presentations from other institutions including the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) and Tanzania Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture (TCCIA) representatives who expounded on various business and economic empowerment opportunities inside and outside the country, including how best they can interact and meet businesspeople from abroad. "In collaboration with NBC, we have been helping many businesspersons and we expect in the next few days to take a group of Tanzanians to China where as they will only be required to pay US Dollars 2,500 which will cover their transport, food and accommodation, among others, said TCCIA industrial development manager, Patrick Magai.

Speaking at the workshop, some participants commended the ongoing cooperation between them and NBC requesting the bank to continue helping them especially when seeking for loans and guarantee from the lender.

P&ID contract scandal: Buhari vows to punish corrupt, unpatriotic Nigerians

By Samuel Ogunidipe

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari has condemned Nigerian officials who oversaw the problematic gas processing contract with Processing and Industrial Development Limited, an Irish engineering firm. Buhari promised to punish all Nigerians involved for their "corrupt and unpatriotic" act that threw Nigeria into a \$9 billion arbitration liability.

"The P&ID arbitral award has underscored the manner in which significant economic damage has been caused by the past activities of a few corrupt and unpatriotic Nigerians," Buhari said in his speech to Nigerians at 59th independence.

The president said new measures

were being institutionalised to ensure that no public official gets away with similar "criminal and unpatriotic acts" in future. "Our renewed partnership with the 9th National Assembly will facilitate the swift passage of enabling laws that will institutionalise these anti-corruption efforts in our criminal justice system," Buhari said.

"In this connection, I call upon our States to intensify their own efforts to instil greater fiscal transparency and accountability. And to ensure greater fiscal efficiency and optimum use of our very scarce resources," he added.

Nigeria entered into a gas processing and supply contract with P&ID in 2010. The Irish firm was tasked with ending hazardous incineration of Nigeria's

abundant gas supply by processing it for home and industrial use.

Even though Jonathan had not been designated Nigeria's president as of January 11, 2010, when the contract was signed, he was in charge during the botched implementation. He assumed office as acting president on February 9, 2010, barely a month after the contract was signed.

It was also under Jonathan that P&ID alleged breach of contract and sought a heavy settlement. Still, Buhari was himself not without culpability, despite his attempt to blame Jonathan and his administration officials solely for the botched contract that now threatens Nigeria's fiscal stability.

Documents showed that Buhari mis-

managed the crisis and allowed the settlement to skyrocket from \$850 million when he assumed office to \$9.6 billion and counting today. An estimated \$1.2 million is believed to be growing on the arbitral award per day.

Jonathan's government negotiated the \$850 million settlement deal with P&ID, but deferred payment to Buhari, who was then a president-elect.

However, Buhari, his attorney-general, Abubakar Malami, and other officials abandoned the agreement and also failed to properly argue their decision before an arbitration tribunal. In hindsight, analysts said the crisis would have been significantly mitigated if the payment schedule prepared by the Jonathan administration had been followed.

No to ageism, yes to intergenerational equality

BANGKOK, Thailand

As we are celebrating the International Day of Older Persons today, we recognize that population ageing is a human success story, a story of longer and often healthier lives of the world's people.

The many faces of older persons that we see in Asia and in the Pacific, and, indeed, all over the world, attest to this fact. Still, however, ageing is considered a threat. There is talk about the "burden of ageing", exploding healthcare costs, and concerns about plummeting economic growth due to the shrinking labour force.

In many cities of Asia-Pacific, we see advertisement for "anti-ageing cosmetics" and surgeries. The current ideal is that we must be young, dynamic and without wrinkles or grey hair, especially older women.

Population ageing is a human success story and an inevitable outcome of the demographic transition. In Asia-Pacific, the pace of change is unprecedented, with fertility rates falling rapidly across the entire region and life expectancy rising, resulting in a rapid increase in the proportion of older persons. In 2000, those aged 65 or older made up 6.1 per cent of the population; in 2019 it was 8.7 per cent and in 2050 it is projected to be 18.4 per cent.

In many European countries, it took almost a century to increase the share of the older population from 7 to 14 per cent. In Asia-Pacific, this is happening in as little as 18 to 20 years, such as in Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. This means that countries, and in particular policymakers need to act fast.

The region continues to be the prime driver of global economic growth, yet a significant proportion of the working age population is not covered by pensions. In several countries of the region, especially ones in South-East Asia and South and South-West Asia, coverage is well below 20 per cent. Similar challenges exist in terms of providing accessible and af-



fordable health care, particularly for those left furthest behind. Robust social protection systems must be developed to address population ageing in a comprehensive manner. Because the majority of older persons are women, their needs must be specifically addressed.

Older persons make vital contributions to society; their role should not only be acknowledged, it should be made easier, including through improving their knowledge and skills through lifelong learning, promoting flexible working arrangements, and allowing them to have easy access to everyday conveniences, like public transportation.

A study on the time use of men and women shows that overall, older persons provide more care than they receive. They provide care to grandchildren and other older persons who need care, with many intergenerational benefits, including indirect contributions to family income by making younger women freer to participate in the paid labour force.

Ageing surveys have also found that

the health of older persons tends to be better if they are socially connected, volunteer and contribute to society.

Through older persons associations, older persons generate income, build up social support structures and provide access to credit, allowing them to stay more active and healthier. Mindsets need to change; we can worry less about shrinking working-age populations when we consider that people live longer and healthier.

Pensions systems should be adapted to cover those in the informal sector and retirement ages adjusted to provide the choice to older persons to work up to a later age. We must alter our perception of ageing as a burden. Rather, policies and plans should see ageing as opportunity, with benefits to be harnessed.

Population ageing provides attractive business prospects, often identified as the "Silver Economy". More products should be tailored to the needs of the growing older population, while universally designed products and the care economy can grow

exponentially. Financial products and instruments, like reverse mortgages, can be designed to adapt to needs of older persons, including to use their immovable assets to fund financial requirements.

The young people of today are the older persons of tomorrow. Population ageing can only be addressed systematically if an intergenerational approach based on equity and seeing youth and ageing are part of a single continuum is adopted. Let us celebrate population ageing and embrace it. A fair society for older persons is a just and prosperous society for all ages.

ESCAP and HelpAge have recently joined forces to address population ageing more comprehensively through the organization of advocacy events and the collaboration on research on older persons. We stand ready to support countries in the region in designing and developing policies and programmes to ensure that older persons are not left behind.

IPS

Tandahimba: The great distance travelled to add value to cashews, take up cattle, mixed farming

By Gaudensia Mngumi

In a bid to ensure that Tanzania's cashew industry is feasible not just selling raw nuts in international markets, cashew farmers in Kitima village in Mtwara region have set up a modern cashew processing facility.

The facility has the purpose of ensuring that the main crop that is produced in the area is used to integrate the local community into the cashew nuts value chain rather than enjoying selling the nuts with their shells, oil and nut kernel.

They put up a plant at a time when Mtwara region remains the largest cashew producer in the country, as statistics indicate that in recent years the national leader produced around 130,000 metric tons (70 per cent of the total crop). Since 2009 Kitima villagers have seen that window of opportunity and aligned themselves to industrialise somewhat.

According to KilimoForum, an agricultural non-state actor, Tanzania produces around 195,000 to 200,000 tonnes of cashews annually, the eighth global cashew producer and number four in Africa after Nigeria, Ivory Coast and Guinea Bissau, on the basis citing FAO, statistics 2018.

Kitima Village is found in Tandahimba district, the national cashews hub. The locals in Kitima have put up a modern processing facility named Kitima Farmers Group Company.

This was revealed during an interview with Kitima and Tandahimba Farmers' Association (TAFa) officials, on a press trip organized by ActionAid Tanzania in Mtwara region.

Saidi Awadh, the farmer's group secretary, said the group was formed by 252 members in 2009 when they raised around 12.6 million from their own pockets by contributed 50,000/-each.

Later on, with a 20m/- support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the farmers' group started construction of the factory premises, he explained.

The UN agency, in a bid to make things happen faster, procured 250 cashew cracking machines, along with a boiler, generator, steamer, two vibrators, conveyor belts, grading machines and dryer, costing around 600m/-.

Via other initiatives, the group attracted grants from ActionAid Tanzania (AATZ) which released 27m/- to accom-

plish the premises building project.

So far Kitima Farmers Group Company can process around 3,000 metric tons of raw cashews annually after the cashew is collected from the farms.

But for the facility to move ahead the group needs proper markets, packing machines and 35m/- to complete the construction of warehouse premises.

Their enterprising initiative has been supported by the government which has connected them with electricity, whose installation cost 70m/-. Water was connected to the factory and since June the factory is working on government cashew consignment.

"Our processing capacity is 3,000 kilos of raw cashews a day. We are cracking the nuts, sorting, grading, packing and storing. As of now we are working on government cashews," explains Awadh. The Kitima village firm which in future will be able to export cashews to other parts of the world has requested for aid from the government.

"We still need support to acquire modern packing machine, apart from 35m/- to complete construction work of the warehouse, while around 80m/ has been used to put up the storehouse," he stated.

By early this year they had already employed 300 workers, where the larger number is composed of women, around 90 per cent of the work force. They are working on cashew shelling, drying, grading, packing and outstandingly, the firm is improving the lives of women in Kitima and in the neighborhood.

Tandahimba cashew factory didn't come out of the blue, as the Tandahimba Farmers Association (TAFa) had a role to play. Formed in 1999, it became an entry point for cashew farmers to increase production after a successful struggle against exploitative prices.

TAFa through the support of AATZ united the cashew growers and supported them to market their products at the same time.

TAFa Treasurer Lukanga Issa said that poor regulation and lack of reliable payments to farmers have caused significant challenges to the cashew nuts farming industry in the region and Tanzania as a whole.

Issues of burdens of taxes and unfair charges, and low level of value addition on cashew complicated the business, he



The Group Secretary General Awadh, displaying some of the cashew products that the factory has been working on i.e. shelling, grading and packing.

said.

"Looking back at the period of nuisances taxes, we were able to bring them down from 12 to four. This has improved the farmers' situation; it indeed has helped to cut costs of production."

From the time of its formation TAFa has sought to secure a better life for the Tandahimba farming population and their children's future through education and food security.

"We put greater emphasis on education, as AATZ supported our children's education through Access program. We accepted it and sent our children to the village schools," he elaborated.

ACCESS stands for Appropriate Cost effective Centres for Education System. The programme was engineered by the ActionAid Tanzania in Mtwara region to provide basic education for children living in poor communities in an appropriate, flexible and cost effective way by establishing centres in villages where there were no formal schools.

Villages like Namedi and Mnaida were among centres established to complement children's rights to formal education. While working on the ACCESS docket, TAFa was involved in saving the lives of mentally challenged people in Tandahimba, the official noted.

He admits that while the government still takes on most responsibility of treating the mentally ill, the association treated dozens of mentally disturbed people in Tandahimba who are now able to keep up with production and managing their lives.

He mentions that around the year 2000 several mentally challenged villagers were being left alone, loitering in the village with nobody attending

to them. So in order to save their lives TAFa joined hands with AATZ for an outreach program in which they were reached and given medications. Some were taken the Tandahimba District Hospital mental health department for treatments and support programs.

"Our vision was to heal the sick and change the people's attitudes towards mental illness in order to help them produce their own food and manage their lives," he further stated.

As the patients healed this helped to alleviate poverty, elevated lives and promoted production activities, especially farming.

"One of the most important areas is food. Not many years back you would find no cattle in Tandahimba. Today there are numerous herds of cattle, sheep and goats. There are many butcheries across the villages, managed by our people (the locals), which was impossible to find in the late nineties," says Faraji Njapuka, the TAFa chairperson.

All in all TAFa wanted to promote healthier diets comprised of beef and milk, foods which were not common among the Tandahimba people, he pointed out.

"Another remarkable work we have done is to improve the lives of our farmers by encouraging them to carry out mixed farming. TAFa raised awareness on not just relying on cashew production, and instead taking up multiple crop farming like growing Bambara nuts or njugu mawe, as well as cassava, maize and sweet potatoes. Sometimes it is under the cashew trees, adjacent or elsewhere in the villagers' fields. Eventually this has made a positive impact on our people's lives," he explained.



Keeping original aspiration, CPC creates glorious achievements

"THE original aspiration and the mission of Chinese Communists is to seek happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation. This original aspiration, this mission, is what inspires Chinese Communists to advance."

What General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Xi Jinping remarked at the opening ceremony of the 19th National Congress of the CPC well explained the mission of the Party.

In the new era, Xi called all members of the CPC to remain true to their original aspiration and keep their mission firmly in mind.

Since the 18th National Congress of the CPC, historic achievements have been created by hundreds of millions of Chinese people under the leadership of the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi at the core. The Chinese nation has achieved a tremendous transformation: it has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming influential.

Today, as the Fuxing bullet trains are running as fast as 350 kilometers per hour and have become forerunners in the global high-speed rail industry, the Chinese people are closer, more confident, and more capable than ever before of truly attaining the goal of national rejuvenation.

History, which has witnessed the rise and fall of countries, proves that a nation faces the most immense pressure in two periods. These come both when it is weak and poor and also when it is embracing development and revitalization.

China is now transitioning from a big country into a strong one, so it is facing increasing pressure from both inside and outside. However, what it has achieved in the past 70 years makes it proud rather than self-contented, and the country will never sit idle and brag. What it still needs to do next is to create more significant miracles with its strong spirits.

The Chinese Dream proposed by Xi resonates in the minds of hundreds of millions of Chinese people, and has become the most influential notion to date in Chinese society.

Xi has repeatedly stressed that the Chinese Dream, after all, is the dream of the people. History shows that the personal future and destiny of each individual are closely connected with the future of the country.

Founded in 1949, the People's Republic of China started the great course of reform and opening-up in 1978 and entered the period of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era in 2012. If these years mark important time nodes China has experienced on its voyage of revitalization, then the three greater goals to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, to basically realize modernization by 2035, and to make China a great modern socialist country in every dimension by the middle of this century, are the essential

coordinates in the country's future trip to chase its dreams.

By reaching the targets it has set and started off toward following targets, China is gradually approaching the final destination of its great national rejuvenation.

Standing at a new starting point of history, China must undergo a great struggle to realize its great dream.

The founding of the CPC and the People's Republic of China, the implementation of reform and opening-up, and the promotion of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era all emerged, developed and gained strength in struggles.

The world is undergoing profound changes, and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation is in a decisive stage. As Xi always says, achieving national rejuvenation will be no walk in the park. In the future, China will only face more and more complex challenges. Risks cannot defeat the country, and what the country must keep is its struggling spirit.

If the CPC is to unite and lead the people to effectively respond to significant challenges, withstand major risks, overcome significant obstacles, and address major conflicts, it must have a strong determination to struggle.

Everyone in the Party must do more to uphold Party leadership and the Chinese socialist system, and resolutely oppose all statements and actions that undermine, distort, or negate them. They must do more to protect people's interests, and firmly oppose all moves that damage their interests or put distance between the Party and the people. They must do more to channel their energies toward the contemporary current of reform and innovation, and address deep-rooted problems determined to resolve. They must do more to safeguard China's sovereignty, security, and development interests, and staunchly oppose all attempts to split China or undermine its ethnic unity and social harmony and stability. They must do more to guard against all kinds of risks and work determinedly to prevail over every political, economic, cultural, social, and natural difficulty and challenge.

Never in history has a political party in China gathered so many progressives nor had such a sound and broad organization like the CPC did. The CPC is good at summarizing its experiences and treats its mistakes seriously. It has established and adhered to correct theories and paths and made enormous sacrifices for the Chinese nation during the protracted and arduous struggle. The Party has made so many achievements and miracles.

The CPC's long-term governance of China is in line with the fundamental interests of the people and the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and a sure choice of China both in the past and at present.

People's Daily

Why the wheels of justice are turning so slowly

By Pierre De Vos

WHEN advocate Shamila Batohi started work in February this year as National Director of Public Prosecutions (NDPP), it raised unrealistic expectations with the public that the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) would soon begin to charge and prosecute the very many corrupt politicians and businesspeople.

This was never going to happen as there are severe constraints on the ability of the NDPP to speed up prosecutions. While it would have been marvellous if it had been different, it is not possible for the NDPP to fix internal NPA problems overnight.

Some of the reasons why prosecutions are not happening also have very little to do with the NPA.

On the last point: The NPA cannot prosecute cases unless these cases have been properly investigated and unless investigators have prepared dockets containing sufficient evidence to warrant prosecution.

Normally (more about this later), the NPA does not itself conduct criminal investigations. It relies on either the South African Police Service (SAPS) or on the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (also called the Hawks) to investigate criminal activity and to collect the evidence which would be used by prosecutors to try and secure criminal convictions in court.

The problem is that political interference in both the SAPS and the Hawks has had a devastating effect on the willingness and ability of those employed by these bodies fearlessly to investigate corruption, money laundering, theft and fraud perpetrated by well-connected politicians and by their business benefactors.

The long list of disastrous political appointees as commissioner of the SAPS is just the tip of the iceberg as

far as the politicisation of the SAPS is concerned. As anyone who has ever attended a protest march will attest, many SAPS members are badly trained and unable to distinguish between their loyalty to the governing party and their duty to uphold the rule of law.

The Hawks has its own problems, having been born in sin. Recall, the Hawks was created to give the impression that the Zuma government was not indifferent about corruption while protecting the Zuma faction from prosecution for corruption.

To ensure political control over the Hawks, it could not originally operate independently from the political influence of the government. Most importantly, the minister of police retained final control over which cases could be investigated by the Hawks.

A few weeks after the Constitutional Court removed the power of the minister of police to control decisions by the head of the Hawks on which cases to investigate, the minister suspended the then-head of the Hawks, Anwa Dramat, from his position.

Eventually, the minister relied on trumped-up charges to remove Dramat from his position as head of the Hawks. Dramat had to be removed because the crooked politicians and their crooked private benefactors believed he was too honest and too independent to be trusted with their freedom.

Dramat was replaced by the odious General Berning Ntsemeza, whose appointment was later declared invalid by the High Court. In the judgment declaring his appointment invalid, the High Court held that Ntsemeza had a "contemptuous attitude towards the rule of law and the principle of legality and transparency". Another court had previously found that Ntsemeza was guilty of dishonesty and of acting in bad faith.



Ntsemeza has now been replaced by advocate Godfrey Lebeza, while the SAPS is now headed by General Khehla Sitole. But many of the senior people appointed by their less than honest predecessors are still working in the SAPS and the Hawks.

Worse, the political interference into the Hawks and the SAPS also led to an exodus of many of the best and most honest investigators employed by these bodies. There is now a dire shortage of skilled investigators who can collect the appropriate evidence required for a successful prosecution of complex financial crimes.

Which means that to speed up investigations of politically tainted corruption, money laundering, theft and fraud, and to improve the chances of successfully prosecuting the corrupt politicians and their private-sector benefactors, one would need to rid the SAPS and the Hawks of a large number of senior offic-

ers and replace them with more professional, more honest, more competent and more diligent people.

This has not happened and, for both political and legal reasons, is not likely to happen. Which means that for the time being it would be naïve to hope that the SAPS and the Hawks will speedily and effectively investigate the large number of priority crimes involving politicians and politically connected businesspeople.

If the NPA had to rely on the Hawks to gather sufficient evidence to ensure prosecution, very few of the so-called State Capture culprits would ever see the inside of a courtroom.

It is true that some of the vacancies within the Hawks have recently been filled and that it has completed some investigations into corruption and is awaiting feedback from the NPA, but I would be very surprised if Hawks investigations do, in the short to medium term, lead to a

large number of high profile corruption prosecutions.

I suspect this is exactly why in March 2019 President Cyril Ramaphosa created a Special Investigative Directorate inside the NPA. The directorate - headed by advocate Hermione Cronje - is situated within the NPA. This allows the directorate to conduct investigations in which both prosecutors and other investigators are involved - similar to the method used by the former Scorpions.

The proclamation establishing the directorate gave it extraordinarily wide jurisdiction to decide which crimes to investigate. Apart from common law offences "including" fraud, forgery, uttering, theft and any offence involving dishonesty, the directorate also has the power to investigate statutory offences relating to corruption, money laundering, organised crime, and offences committed in terms of the Public Finance Management Act, Municipal Management Act, Financial Intelligence Centre Act, and "any other statutory offence involving dishonesty".

It is also empowered to investigate any unlawful activities relating to serious, high profile or complex corruption including but not limited to offences or criminal or unlawful activities arising from the Zondo Commission of Inquiry, the Nugent Commission of Inquiry into SARS; and the Mpati Commission of Inquiry into the Public Investment Corporation (PIC).

If the Special Investigative Directorate is properly funded and managed, it is most likely to have significant success in bringing the high-profile politicians and their enablers to book.

But this is not the end of the story.

The NPA itself is in crisis. Ever since it was created, the NPA

has been mired in controversy. While the Constitutional Court has confirmed that the NPA and specifically the NDPP enjoys constitutionally protected independence and that politicians and other powerful role-players are not permitted to interfere in prosecutorial decisions, there has consistently been political interference in the work of the NPA and the NDPP.

Moreover, ever since Vusi Pikoli was unlawfully removed from his post as NDPP, a long line of full-time and acting national directors of public prosecutions contributed to the weakening of the NPA - often with the assistance of then-president Jacob Zuma.

Many politically motivated senior appointments were made by Zuma and by various NDPPs. (Ramaphosa recently moved to nullify the appointment of several senior NPA leaders "appointed" in the dying days of the Zuma regime - but this move is being challenged in court.)

During the era of Menzi Simelane, Shaun Abrahams and Nomgcobo Jiba many skilled and committed prosecutors also left the NPA. NDPP Shamila Batohi inherited a dysfunctional and weak institution and it is going to take years to fix the NPA. Just because the NPA is now headed by an honest and fearless person does not mean that all the institutional problems and weakness of the organisation will magically disappear.

No wonder that Hawks head Lebeza complained to Parliament this year that it "still takes months" for the NPA to make decisions on whether to prosecute cases prepared by the Hawks. One outstanding decision was in respect of alleged R11-million fraud over misrepresentations

former Eskom CEO Brian Molefe made to the power utility's pen-

Striving to create a miracle in human history

UNDER the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), China has achieved the dream of the millennium, marched toward national rejuvenation, and led one-fifth of the world's population to approach the center of the global stage, said the article titled "Striving to create a miracle in human history."

The article pointed out that China made a massive success in the economic field and became the most stable and prosperous economy in the world. In just several decades, the country has finished what took developed countries several hundred years to complete.

It has fully proved that the Communist of China (CPC) plays a crucial role in leading the country and the people to make new advances unseen in the century and supporting the nation to manage its own affairs well. It also shows the world that the CPC and the Chinese people are fully confident to provide a Chinese solution for the exploration of a better social system for all humankind.

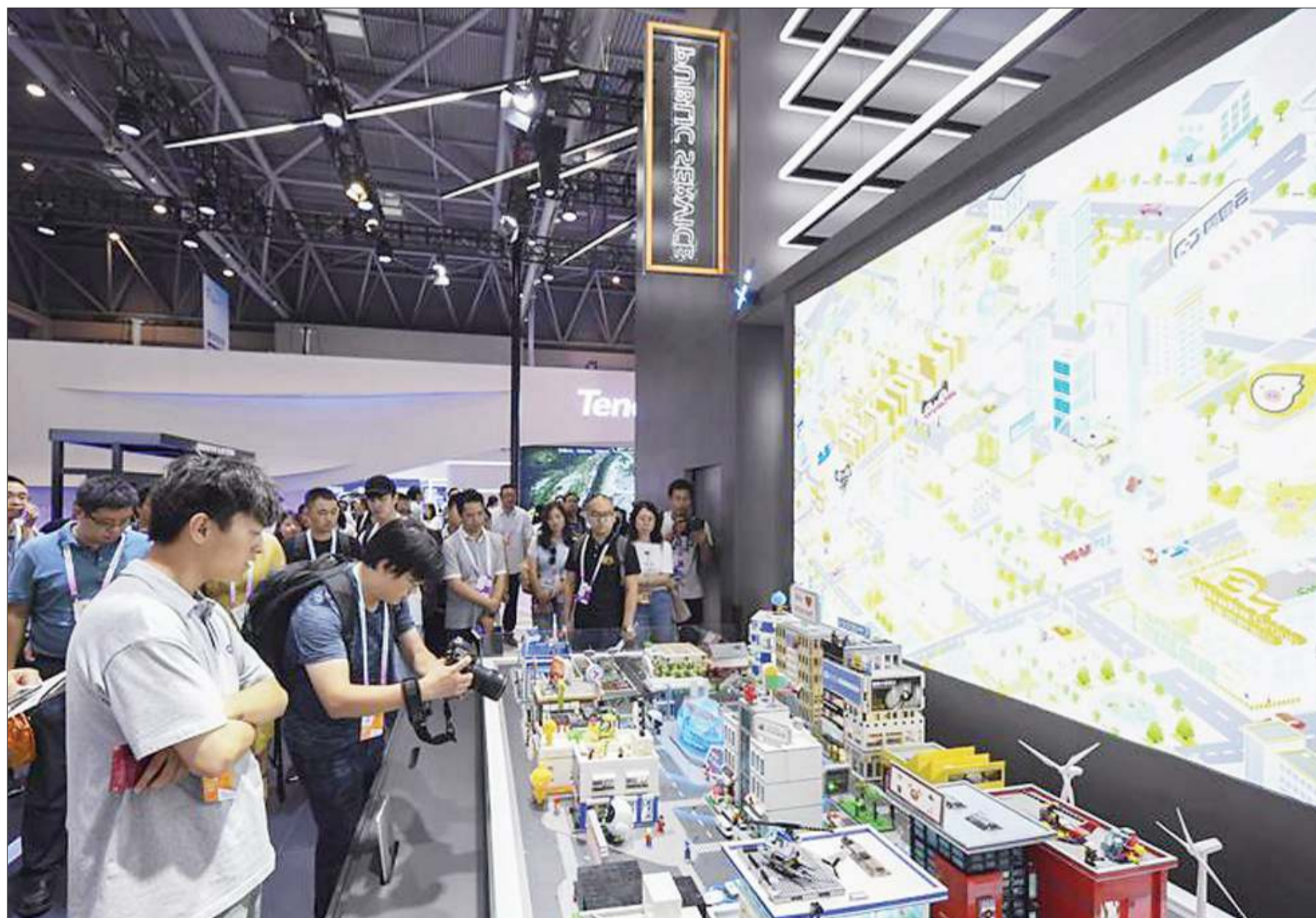
The main points of the article are summarized as follows:

Seventy years is merely a fleeting instant in the history of human development. However, the Chinese people have created a magnificent miracle with 70 years of hard work. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the CPC has led the people to create a miracle of rapid economic development and a miracle of long-term stability and guided the country to stand up and become vibrant and influential.

The past 70 years is a historical process in which the ancient civilization pursued the dream of the millennium and marched toward national rejuvenation. It is also a process for China to lead one-fifth of the world's population toward the center of the global stage.

Chairman Mao Zedong described China's national industry as incapable of producing a plane, a tank, a car or a tractor. Besides, there were doubts that the CPC did an excellent job in making military strategies and political strategies, but performed poorly in the aspect of developing the economy. Some even asserted that the victory of the CPC would not last long.

Reform and opening-up was a game-



changing move in making China what it is today. It enables the country to liberate the mind and break institutional barriers that hinder its development, replace the highly centralized planned economic system with a socialist market economy full of vigor, become an open economy from a closed and semi-closed one, and put its economy on a fast track of development.

From 1952 to 2018, China's GDP jumped from 67.9 billion yuan to 90 trillion yuan, an increase of 174 times. The GDP per capita increased from 119 yuan to 64,600 yuan, an increase of 70 times.

China has risen to the second-largest economy in the world, the number one trader of goods, holder of the

world's most substantial foreign exchange reserve and home to the longest high-speed mileage and largest banking system in the world.

In one day, China's GDP increases by 246 billion yuan, trade of goods by \$12.6 billion. In one day, 140 million parcels are delivered and sent, and 76,000 vehicles are manufactured in China.

These achievements were beyond imagination in the past.

Today, China is one of the world's 20 top players in terms of innovation and is home to more than 100 million market entities. With a strong determination to pursue high-quality develop-

ment with unceasing efforts, the country has become full of innovation momentum, and everyone aspires to become better.

US economist Jeffrey Sachs said that China is a very successful story in the world of economy.

From stressing that youth is the hope of the nation, to yearning for rebirth and reconstruction of the nation and calling for national rejuvenation, generations of our predecessors have fought for the country.

Those who could not stand on their own feet cherish most the joy of being able to stand up; those who were impoverished aspire to become wealthy; those

who are marching toward rejuvenation are most confident to become strong and healthy.

China, which contributed 30 percent to global economic growth for years in a row, has become the primary stabilizer and source of power for world economic growth. The country, which has managed to lift 700 million impoverished rural people out of poverty, or 70 percent of the total world impoverished population, has created a miracle in global poverty reduction.

China, which has been through ups and downs in the past 70 years, is still full of energy to swim against the tide in the new

era. The country, having a long history, embraced modern civilization along its development course. The country, which has undergone many vicissitudes, carries the dream of rejuvenation with it while making strides toward a better future.

With a burning passion to strive for what it pursues China has experienced the joy of handling crises successfully. With the spirit of never retreating in the face of setbacks, the country has made epic accomplishments.

The grand rejuvenation of the nation, which carries the exploration of people with high ideals in the past more than a century and gathers together aspirations of millions upon millions of people, is like a sun shining in all its splendor.

For many people, what is amazing about the dramatic changes in China is that they are enormous in terms of scale. China has a population of nearly 1.4 billion, which is much bigger than the total population of all other major countries in the world before its rise. Besides, China made these achievements in a very short time. In just several decades, China has finished what took developed countries several hundred years to complete.

While making considerable achievements in a short time, China has also maintained long-term social stability, and let vitality of economic and social development come out in an orderly manner. In this way, it has struck a balance between vigor and order, and between development and stability.

The principles of historical development have indicated that a country experiences social contradictions and risks while it is in the process of modernization.

China was compared to a "compressed capsule" on the way of modernization, as it had been through many changes in a short time while meeting and solving all kinds of contradictions and problems. A tiny issue will be maximized in China, given its huge size.

As economic crisis deepens, Zimbabwe's President Mnangagwa pleads patience

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S President Emmerson Mnangagwa has pleaded for time and patience to bring the country's economy back from the "dead", as his government faces blame for surging inflation that evokes dark days under late former leader Robert Mugabe.

Hopes that the economy would quickly rebound under Mnangagwa, who took over after Mugabe was deposed in a coup in November 2017, have faded fast with Zimbabweans grappling with acute shortages of fuel and electricity as well as soaring prices.

In a state of the nation address in the Parliament of Zimbabwe on Tuesday - a speech boycotted by the main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) which disputes his election - Mnangagwa acknowledged the economic crisis as well as the need for reforms.

"I'm aware of the pain being experienced by the poor and the marginalised. Getting the economy working again from being dead will require time, patience, unity of purpose and perseverance," Mnangagwa said.

Zimbabwe has suspended the publication of official annual inflation data since August 1. In its last official figures, inflation hit more than 175 percent in June, its highest level since hyperinflation under Mugabe wiped out the economy in 2009. Mnangagwa's opponents accuse him of lacking commitment to political reforms and using his predecessor's heavy-handed tactics to stifle dissent.

The International Monetary Fund said last week that Zimbabwe needed to intensify reform efforts and meaningfully improve transparency to boost economic growth.

Mnangagwa and senior officials say they are doing their best to lay the foundations for future growth, and they blame Western sanctions for hampering recovery and deterring in-



Zimbabwe currently has the world's highest inflation rate, according to the International Monetary Fund.

vestment.

A United Nations human rights envoy said on Friday that Zimbabwe's political and economic environment was deteriorating, caus-

ing anxiety as hopes fade for a long-awaited improvement in people's living conditions.

In his address on Tuesday, Mnangagwa repeated his commitment to implement rec-

ommendations made by election-observer missions to Zimbabwe's 2018 election, as well as a commission of inquiry led by former South African President Kgalema Motlanthe.

Don't arrest small miners taking minerals to auctions, says minister

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE deputy minister for Minerals Ladislaus Nyongo has cautioned the police not to arrest small miners who are found with minerals while taking them to mineral auctions, and instead arrest those who avoid selling their

minerals to the auctions.

The deputy minister said on Tuesday when responding to complaints from Members of Parliament from Geita region during a function to close the second exhibition of investment technology in the minerals sector in the region.

The minister said the govern-

ment will allocate mining areas as soon as the government finishes the survey thereof.

Earlier, the Member of Parliament for Busanda in Geita district, Lorenzia Bukwimba complained about the habit of the police to arrest small miners who have minerals as they were sending them to the auctions and then

charge them for economic sabotage. The MP complained before the minister during the function. Biteko was the guest of honour at the function representing the Vice President Samia Hassan Suluhu.

Bukwimba said "Hon. minister, I have personally visited the villages and heard the complaints,

as it amounts to sheer humiliation of the miners; they should be allowed to go and sell their minerals to the auctions without harassment."

On another development, the MP said an investor had conducted evaluation for villagers from Lwamgasa and Buckreef for the purpose of paying compensation

for their land but up to now they have not been paid and asked the minister to follow up the matter.

The Member of Parliament for Nyanghwale in Geita region Hussein Nassoro Amri urged the government to allocate mining areas that will be recognized as such as Nyanghwale residents who currently conduct their activities by

invading any areas they believe to have minerals.

The MP said because they have no proper areas for mining activities they can't get loans from the financial institutions.

He also congratulated President John Magufuli for managing well the country's mineral resources by starting minerals auctions.



Zantel head of mobile financial services and marketing communications Sakyi Opoku (2nd L) shakes hands with TPB Bank director of technology and operations, Jema Msuya to signify the launch of partnership which allows Zantel customers to do mobile bank transactions from Ezypesa wallet to the bank and bank to wallet. Looking on is head of Zantel Zanzibar, Mohammed Khamis Mussa (L) and Deo Kwiyukwa, TPB director of marketing and business development (R). The event took place in Zanzibar yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Special envoys set for second African tour to apologise for the xenophobic attacks

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that he will dispatch his team of special envoys to other African countries and to the African Union to convey his apologies and explanations for recent violent attacks by South Africans on foreigners.

Ramaphosa has received a preliminary report from the special envoys, former cabinet minister Jeff Radebe and the president's special adviser on international relations Khulu Mbatha, about their West African visit, his spokesperson Khusela Diko said.

"President Ramaphosa has expressed his sincere appreciation for the generosity of spirit with which heads of state and (the) government(s) of Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal and Niger received the Presidential special envoy(s)."

She said Radebe and Mbatha had emphasised to the leaders "the sincere, public apologies extended by President Ramaphosa about the unfortunate events in South Africa, expressing government's view that such acts of criminality and violence represented neither South Africa's value systems, nor the sentiments of South Africans, particularly against foreign nationals living in the country."

The West African leaders had welcomed Ramaphosa's apologies and expressed appreciation to him for taking time to explain the situation in South Africa "which had generated concern". The West Africans pledged that the relationship between their countries and South Africa would be solidified, "while describing the attacks as very unfortunate".

The special envoys assured the West African leaders that "South Africa remains a multicultural society that promotes interaction among people of different back-

grounds, and remains an integral part of the African continent as it advocates for a peaceful, vibrant and sustainable Africa. The country remains deeply committed to the values of progressive internationalism, and the ideals of pan-African unity and solidarity."

Khusela said the West African leaders had also expressed concern about "the irresponsible use of social media by certain individuals to create confusion and tension in the public mind. They also raised their concern about the reported causes of tensions between South Africans and migrants."

Some leaders had agreed on the need to adopt a common approach to deal with criminality, irrespective of the nationalities of the perpetrators.

The Nigerians had stressed that in addition to law-enforcement operations, it was necessary to prevent some prisoners conducting illegal activities from prisons, even beyond the borders of SA.

The West African leaders and Ramaphosa's envoys had agreed that it was necessary for law-enforcement agencies, including intelligence agencies, right across Africa, to work together to tackle such problems.

"The president believes this positive reception provides a basis for building closer relations and addressing the situation in South Africa. The special envoys will be dispatched to more countries over the next couple of weeks including the African Union," Diko said.

Ramaphosa's statement was issued on the eve of a state visit to South Africa by Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, during which xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in South Africa are expected to be on the agenda of the meeting of the Binational Commission between the two countries.

Telecom operator partners with TPB to provide mobile financial solutions

By Guardian Reporter

As the use of mobile money services continues to grow steeply and simplifying accessibility of financial services, Zantel's Ezypesa has moved to partner with TPB bank to allow customers to do interbank transactions from wallet to bank and bank to wallet.

This makes TPB the 12th bank to partner with Zantel for inter-

bank transactions, all in efforts to make life easy with Ezypesa.

"Our industry keeps evolving at a very high pace and we always thrive to keep up with all the technological advancements, all in efforts to give our customers the best services by expanding accessibility of our mobile money services through partnerships with other players," said head of Zantel Zanzibar Mohammed Khamis Mussa.

Adding, "Through this partnership, our customers can now have access to TPB mobile banking through Ezypesa by simply going to Ezypesa menu."

"With mobile money, transactions have been made easy especially through partnerships with financial institutions like TPB, and we are excited to add them to our roster. With TPB on board, our Ezypesa customers who are banking with TPB

will now have the luxury of doing interbank transactions at their fingertips," added Mussa.

He said: "Zantel aims to make life easy with Ezypesa, hence the partnership with various commercial partners to achieve the goal, and we will not end here, we will continue to partners with more financial institutions to make sure that our Zantel customers from various financial institutions have the option of do-

ing interbank transactions."

The Zantel head of mobile financial services and marketing, Sakyi Opoku, said the Ezypesa and TPB Popote presents an opportunity for Zantel to further extend service reach and improve people's lives. "We are determined to extend financial inclusion in the country by bringing banking services to the fingertips of the unbanked customers."

On his part, TPB bank's direc-

tor of marketing and business development Deo Kwiyukwa said TPB Bank is a bank that caters for the needs of all Tanzanians, and therefore he believes Zantel is the right partner for this product because both institutions share the same interest for their customers. "We are pleased to enter into this agreement with Zantel, because it reinforces our commitment to extend financial inclusion while also giving us the

opportunity to serve Zantel customers with other services from our Bank." He added: "With Ezypesa and TPB Popote mobile services you will also be entitled to get other services including balance inquiry from your TPB bank account, mini statement and bank transfers with the ease of a few clicks from the comfort of your homes or offices, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week," explained Mr. Kwiyukwa.

3 times you shouldn't select a faculty for its' earning power

BEFORE I took to college, selected the course I would pursue and live the graduate dream; a colorful lifestyle just after college, I vowed that I wouldn't select a faculty for what I would earn in the professional world.

Anyone could earn a living, support their family just from any career field literally!

Mark you even robbers could do just that but "how much does it pay in the end?" question shouldn't be embraced by a learned career oriented individual who wishes to attend a higher learning institution someday.

Today, as a student looking forward to apply for college and select a career field, you shouldn't opt for courses that career coaches say are in the bracket of those that you can get hired promptly after completing college and get paid some ransom amounts of money instead go for that career you have always had passion for and that's engraved in your heart regardless of its' opportunities.

You don't need a degree in a field that is hiring and paying well literally! This is why

Your stay at college will leave you feeling Miserable



Your main motivation to go to for lecturers won't be because you love what you study but rather show up only when exams are around the corner, prepare for exams because you won't do the mistake of putting your

future self at stake just to land yourself in the supplementary exam room fighting for a C grade and just study to reach the set course work points and go home. Sometimes you sleep through

lecturers not because you are exhausted but due to the fact that the lessons don't arouse any interest in you.

Even when you choose to struggle being awake you will continually peep at the clock and every lecturer period will feel like a buffering YouTube video.

You may spend so much time on an individual assignment trying to solve math problems rarely getting the answers right and never understanding why.

When the exams, assignments and group discussions aren't available, you will sit back and contemplate why you selected that course.

Your class performance won't be quite pleasing

There are subjects that will take your misery to a whole new level. You will find yourself spending hours and hours solving a problem, contemplating and still failing terribly.

You may even find yourself asking around if sorcery is involved in your terrible failure only to realize that you don't even pay attention in lecturer because the



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classes don't interest you anyway.

You would head to your hostel block every evening envisioning yourself working in that career field writing out the brain storming equations and math solutions that are sickening you to date and maybe think looking forward to a brighter future in that career could motivate and inspire you to work harder but then realize that no amount of critical future envisioning could motivate you because you don't even love what you study in the first place.

You will start taking things for granted

You will suddenly stop attending to lecturers' sessions, lose interest in your coursework and you won't even care of your future career.

This is the exact point where it will hit you so hard such that you will draft a letter to the registers office requesting to take another course.

You would wish to think about

the future in your career field and get motivated to go beyond your school work and seek new experiences.

There are some university courses that are termed as useless and even listed in blogs, websites, journals and magazines.

However no course is useless if it brings smiles and intrigues to your passionate career dreams.

It's much more meaningful to pursue a career field of your choice rather than fail terribly in courses people term as popular and high paying that doesn't interest you anyway.

Albert Eisten put this so pretty clear. "Everybody is a genius, but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it's stupid".

At the end of the day, it isn't always about the money but rather what drives you to wake up early in the morning or sleep late attending to office duties in the career you are pursuing.

Over 8 million remain internally displaced in East and Horn of Africa

Nairobi

MORE than half of all movements observed in the half of this year through flow monitoring in the East and Horn of Africa (EHOA) were motivated by economic reasons, and yet over 8 million people remain internally displaced.

This is according to a new edition of 'A Region on the Move', an International Organisation for Migration (IOM) report that provides an analysis of the mixed migration movement trends affecting the region.

The report notes that population movements in the region remain extremely dynamic, with people moving in and out of situations of vulnerability.

During the first six months of the year, an estimated 8.1 million remained internally displaced and 3.5 million refugees and asylum seekers were hosted in the region as conflict and climatic events put pressure on the most fragile communities.

While conflict-induced displacement decreased, intercommunal violence became more frequent in Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. Furthermore, a severe drought was declared in the region in May, particularly affecting Somalia, northern Kenya, southeastern Ethiopia, northern Uganda and Djibouti.

The report also combines information on migration routes, migrant profiles, socio-economic drivers and protection challenges. It also presents humanitarian evacuations from Yemen, returns from Saudi Arabia and information on Migration Response Centres - assistance facilities for migrants in distress.

Fifty-seven per cent of the more than 390,000 movements so far observed this year through flow monitoring in the region were motivated by economic reasons. Most migration was observed along the Eastern route (61 per cent), followed by the Horn of Africa route (35 per cent), the Northern route (2 per cent) and the Southern route (2 per cent).

The Eastern route is used by migrants intending to travel to Yemen, the Middle East and beyond, while the Horn of Africa route accounts for intra-regional movements. The Northern route is for those travelling to Libya and Egypt and onwards to Europe, while the Southern Route takes migrants to South Africa.

Along the Eastern route, more than 84,000 migrants' crossings to Yemen were recorded, a very slight decrease from the same period last year. Saudi Arabia continued to attract young migrants eager to find economic opportunities but has so far returned at least 57,843 Ethiopians, 29,419 Yemenis and 2,284 Somalis to their countries of origin this year alone.



Mohammed Abdiker, Regional Director of IOM's Regional Office for the East and Horn of Africa, has commenting on the situation of vulnerable migrants along the different migratory routes.

"IOM is committed to supporting member-states in the region in managing migration with particular focus on promoting developmental aspects like job creation in migrant-sending communities to address the root causes of irregular migration," he said

"Meanwhile, protection of migrants remains a firm priority against the scourge of human smuggling and trafficking," he added.

The report highlights a number of issues and developments. One is that, in the wake of having to cater for over 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of March 2019, the government of Ethiopia launched a nationwide return process in April through

the Peace ministry and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission.

In South Sudan, the seven-month period following the revitalised peace agreement accounted for 45 per cent of the estimated 1.2 million returnees. However, as indicated by movement dynamics in and out of Protection of Civilian sites, returns are fragile.

Displacement in Burundi meanwhile fell by more than 15 per cent, decreasing from 134,054 IDPs in January to 113,067 IDPs as of June, mainly owing to increased return and local integration. Aid agencies, in collaboration with the government of Somalia, launched a Drought Impact Response Plan in June 2019, targeting 4.5 million people for an overall funding requirement

of USD 685 million over a seven-month period.

From January to June 2019, a whole 1,631 new cases of Ebola were recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo, bringing the total to 2,339 cases by the end of the reporting period. On June 11 the Ugandan Health ministry confirmed the cross-border spread of the outbreak.

Similar to last year, most of the 84,000-plus migrants' arrivals in Yemen were of Ethiopian nationality (90 per cent), followed by Somalis (10 per cent), while 5 per cent were unaccompanied migrant children.

Returns of Ethiopians, Sudanese, Yemenis and Somali nationals in the thousands every month by Saudi Arabia did not deter migratory movements.

Humanitarian evacuations

from Yemen continued, with 3,046 Ethiopians airlifted by IOM from Aden and Sana'a to Ethiopia. In collaboration with UNHCR, 1,009 Somali refugees were assisted from Aden to a reception centre in Berbera in the first half of the year.

The number of migrants from the EHOA arriving by sea in Greece, Italy and Spain plummeted by almost 80 per cent compared to the first half of last year (from 3,011 in 2018 to 635 in 2019).

These and other trends in migrant movements are studied by the Regional Data Hub (RDH) which was established in early 2018 at the IOM Regional Office for EHOA, under the EU-IOM EU-IOM Joint Initiative for Migrant Protection and Reintegration in the Horn of Africa.

The government of the Netherlands and the Danish International Agency also fund the RDH, DTM and flow monitoring activities. The RDH is meant to support evidence-based strategic and policy level discussion on migration through a combined set of initiatives, including strengthening regional primary and secondary data collection and analysis and increasing information management capacity across countries.

It is also meant to provide technical support to ensure harmonisation and interoperability of key methodologies used to monitor population mobility as well as to engage key stakeholders and governmental counterparts in migration dialogue and consultation.

AGENCIES



Study: African economies with greatest potential for trade growth

LONDON

African economies come first and third in the Standard Chartered Trade20 Index, which identifies the markets with the greatest potential for future trade growth.

Côte d'Ivoire is the market that has most rapidly improved its trade growth potential over the past decade, according to new research from Standard Chartered. The Trade20 index, which identifies the 20 rising stars of trade, places African markets Côte d'Ivoire in the top spot, and Kenya at number three.

The Trade20 index determines each market's trade growth potential by analysing changes within the last decade across a wide range of variables, grouped into three equally-weighted pillars: economic dynamism, trade readiness and export diversity.

The study examines 66 markets around the world. It finds that while existing trade powers like China and India continue to rapidly improve their trade potential, African economies are making particularly strong progress from a relatively low starting point.

Kenya is consolidating its position as the trading hub of East Africa, while Côte d'Ivoire is cementing its position as a West African trading hub. Ghana also performs well in the index, placing just outside the top 10.

The key findings of the Trade20 index for African markets are: Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya have significantly improved their trade readiness, demonstrating that investments in infrastructure and business environment improvements are paying off. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana also fare well for economic dynamism, with Côte d'Ivoire enjoying robust GDP and export growth, and Ghana seeing an influx of FDI.

Saif Malik, regional co-head, Global Banking, AME, Standard Chartered, said: "Home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies, Africa has the potential to become a much bigger player on the global trade stage. Already connected with the trading powers in Asia, particularly China, through the Belt and Road Initiative, and with the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, we see numerous growth opportunities for trade and investment in the years ahead. Additionally, the growing young, digitally-savvy population and an increasing female workforce will aid in the continent's economic transformation."

66 markets
Trade20 examines 12 metrics across 66 global markets - the major global economies plus the major economies in each region - to reveal the 20 economies that are most rapidly improving their potential for trade growth.

While most traditional trade indices are based on a market's present performance, the Trade20 index captures changes over time to reveal the markets that have seen the most improvement within the last decade. This enables us to identify the economies where recent positive developments may point to an acceleration in trade growth potential.

These markets are identified by measuring changes in 12 metrics under three pillars: economic dynamism (foreign direct investment, export and GDP growth), trade readiness (infrastructure, e-commerce, and ease of doing business) and export diversity (the range of exports).

While most traditional trade indices are based on a market's present performance, our index captures changes over time to reveal the markets that have seen the most improvement during the last decade. A high ranking also suggests a market that is improving as a possible outsourcing location.



These markets are identified by measuring changes in 12 metrics under three pillars: economic dynamism (foreign direct investment, export and GDP growth), trade readiness (infrastructure, e-commerce, and ease of doing business) and export diversity (the range of exports).

BoT has no mandate to reign in spiraling loan interest rates

By Francis Kajubi

BANK of Tanzania has no legal powers to reign in spiraling commercial banks' interest rates charged on loans offered to consumers hence borrowers should be on their guard.

There is a growing consumers' outcry against outrageous interest rates being charged by banks and other financial institutions which hover between 16 and over 30 percent which has prompted Finance and Economic Planning Minister, Dr Philip Mpango to order the central bank to intervene.

"Interest rates being charged by banks and micro-lenders are both very high with the latter charging interest rates of as high as 30 percent. These micro-lenders are preying on the poor who include civil servants," Dr Mpango said a fortnight ago when he launched Tanzania Bankers Association's Code of Conduct for the industry.

He ordered BoT which was represented by Governor, Professor Florens Luoga at the launching ceremony, that the TBA Code of Conduct should also cover micro-



Bank of Tanzania Governor, Professor Florens Luoga. File photo.

lenders most of which are managed by dishonest people preying on the poor.

But now BoT's Director of Finance Sector Supervision, Jerry Sabi said the country's banking industry is liberalized with interest rates left to be determined by market forces. Sabi said much as the central bank may wish to intervene, it can only do so by cutting down on its discount rate to boost liquidity which then

makes money available for lending at cheap rates.

"In fact, cutting down of discount rate was meant to increase liquidity in the market to spur growth of credit to private sector at affordable rates," Sabi noted.

According to him, other initiatives taken to influence lending rates includes improvement in the supervision of banks, strengthening the credit reference system, establishment of

collateral registry and secure transaction regulations, improvement of monetary policy formulation and implementation, and requiring banks to strengthen their credit processes, deal with dishonest staff and observe their code of conduct.

"Positive results have started to be realized as reflected by declining lending rates, albeit at slow pace. However, to ensure there is proper market conduct

and to protect borrowers' banks are required to disclose their lending rates to the public through publication in the newspapers and at their respective business halls," he noted.

He said up-to-date there are two credit bureaus licensed by BoT, namely Dun & Bradstreet Credit Bureau (Tanzania) Limited and Credit Info (Tanzania) Limited.

In March 2017, the BoT cut its discount rate to 12 percent from 16 percent to help spur lending and boost economic growth. It was the first time since 2013 that the central bank lowered rates. Again in August of the same year, it lowered the discount rate to an all-time low of 9 percent.

Commercial banks lending rates have also come under intense public scrutiny because of the paltry between 4 and 6 percent interest rate paid on deposits.

"Indeed, lending rates have continued to be high despite a number of initiatives taken by the government and Bank of Tanzania. This is mainly on account that the transmission mechanism of the initiatives has not been efficient such that it will take a while for the impact of the initiatives to be realized," the BoT Director of Finance Sector added.

City director urges banks to book for space at Mbezi Upcountry bus terminal

By The Banker Reporter

COMMERCIAL banks should book for office space at the 50bn/- Mbezi Louis Upcountry bus terminal which is due to be completed by July next year.

Dar es Salaam City Director, Zipora Liana said in Dar es Salaam this week when kick-starting NMB Bank Plc's customer service week that banking products and services will be badly needed by consumers at the state-of-the-art bus terminal which is currently under construction.

"There is plenty of space for services providers at Mbezi Louis Terminal which includes that designated for banks," Liana said while challenging NMB's management to continue extending services to every part of the country.

She pointed out that the modern bus stand will be an international gateway with foreign business people and visitors from neighbouring countries and beyond. "It is important that a big bank like NMB have enough space at the terminal to meet customer demand for services," the City Director added noting that the government recognises NMB's massive contribution

to economic growth.

In her welcoming address to Liana, NMB's Chief Finance Officer, Ruth Zaipuna said the country's largest bank has continued to invest in expansion and that now its physical branches have increased to 230 which translates into one branch in every administrative district of the country.

Zaipuna said the physical branches are backed by 8,000 ATM machines and 6,000 agents scattered throughout the country as the bank implements the government's financial inclusion agenda. "In order to improve our services, we will start closing down our branches in Kariakoo and Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam; and Kahama in Shinyanga at 7pm soon," she noted.

Since 2005, NMB has seen its number of customers has ballooned from 6,000 to over 3.5 million today thanks to hardworking staff and investment in digital solutions to cover the wider domestic market.

"During the customer care service week, we hope to get feedback from our customers regarding our products and services being offered," she noted while inviting the public to visit NMB branches countrywide to give their feedback.



NHIF Manager for Lake Zone, Jarlath Mushashu (L), Britam Insurance's CEO, Raymond Komanga in a jovial mood while displaying a certificate received after the company was declared winner of TIRA's 'Best Campaign Award for the Year 2019. Others in the photo are Britam's officials.

Britam wins 'Best Campaign Award' in TIRA's maiden insurance awards

By The Banker Reporter

BRITAM Insurance joined a list of companies which emerged winners in Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority's maiden awards with a 'Best Campaign Award' for 2019.

The TIRA Awards ceremony which was held in Mwanza City last week, recognised Britam's awareness campaign christened, 'Tupo na Wewe' as having mobilised the public during the period under review.

The TIRA Awards which were under seven categories included: Insurance Company of the Year; Most Innovative Insurance Product; Corporate Social Responsibility Award and Insurance Brokerage of the Year. Others were Young Achievers Entrepreneurship and Young Achievers Research, Development and Ideas Awards.

Britam's CEO, Raymond Komanga said that the award is another milestone for the company which is striving to achieve world-class insurance service provision in the local market. "We are so excited to receive this honour

which to us it is a great achievement. We believe that this award gives us courage to do more and deliver best services to our customers," Komanga said.

The TIRA Awards are aimed at recognizing outstanding players in the insurance industry in market as well as to foster innovation and creativity among industrial players.

He said with its quest to foster insurance adoption among Tanzanians, Britam decided to design a campaign that will further create awareness among the public on the importance of insurance coverage for possible adoption and usage.

"As Britam Insurance, we are committed to continue doing public awareness campaigns in support of government efforts to reach all masses and reach attain 45 percent insurance knowledge and understanding by 2021," the CEO added.

With the acquisition of Real insurance in 2014, Britam became a Pan-African company operating in seven countries in eastern and southern Africa, Tanzania inclusive.



Dar es Salaam City Director, Zipora Liana.

By The Banker Reporter

THE government's plans to industrialise the country's oil and gas subsector are strongly backed by one of the largest commercial banks in the domestic market, Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam earlier this week ahead of the third Oil & Gas Congress which started in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Stanbic's Head of Oil and Gas, Elias Ngunangwa said the Dar base lender strongly backs the third Oil & Gas Congress because it focuses on industrialisation of the subsector.

"It's an honour to participate and attend the congress as a panellist from Stanbic Bank. I am excited to be part of conversations that will further the oil and gas sector which will contribute towards the development of Tanzania's economy," said Ngunangwa.

He said the bank which is part of South African based lender, Standard Bank Group, has vast knowledge, ex-

Stanbic Bank backs industrialization of oil and gas subsector

pertise and experience in advising and arranging capital for projects in the extractive industry which includes oil and gas development.

"We believe that financial institutions have an important role in facilitating investment in sectors such as oil and gas to promote industrialization and economic growth. We are committed to being a key player in supporting the government and stakeholders to utilize the resource effectively," the Stanbic Bank

Tanzania Head of Oil and Gas, declared.

The country remains one of Africa's major natural gas powerhouses with over 57 trillion standard cubic feet of natural gas reserves, the highest volume in East African Community region. Monetization of the gas resources has already started with billions of standard cubic feet from Mnazi Bay in Mtwara and Songo Songo Islands in Lindi being used to generate close to 500 megawatts of electricity currently.

Ngunangwa said full utilization of the natural gas resource is a game changer in the development of the country's economy as it will speed up industrialization.

The third Oil & Gas Congress which will draw together over 300 participants from both the public and private sectors aims to foster partnerships and share knowledge on the investment opportunities and explore strategies to boost industrialization in the country.

Stanbic's Head of Oil and Gas, Elias Ngunangwa.



New service stations opened as Engen plots Mwanza siege

By Beatrice Philemon

IN a bid to conquer Mwanza City's petroleum products market, Engen Petroleum Tanzania Limited has opened two new service stations in the country's

second largest city.

Speaking at the launching ceremony in Mwanza last weekend, Engen Tanzania's Managing Director, Paul Muhato said investment into the new service stations is a result of consumers' growing demand.

Muhato stated that the two stations will complement others in the city to provide better services to customers and also assure them of having quality services and products.

"Our expansion is a normal step in

the company's growth plan as we continue to look at strategic areas across the country for new investment and acquisition of retail stations to improve services in the market," he noted

The Engen Tanzania chief further noted that as part of the strategic plan to update its infrastructure, the public should expect to see stronger presence of the company in the market in line with the good economic growth of the country with Mwanza city in the Lake Zone as one of the major growth centres.

Currently, the downstream petroleum products dealing company has 10 service stations spread across the whole country in Arusha City, which is the tourism capital; Dar es Salaam which is the country's largest city and commercial capital, Dodoma which is the new administrative capital, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions.

"As we aim to keep our customers as first priority, you should expect at least four more stations in strategic locations in the country as we stay focused to serving the market with quality fuel and lubricants," Muhato added.

Engen Petroleum is a Vivo Energy Operational Unit, is a successfully established and innovative company that provides premium quality petroleum products and well-established stores. Engen has been operating in Tanzania for more than 20 years.



Engen Tanzania's Managing Director, Paul Muhato addressing the public during the launch of Sinai service station in Mwanza City last week. Photo: Beatrice Philemon.

KRA can't trace Sh800bn wired from offshore banks

NAIROBI

Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has lost trace of Sh803 billion that wealthy Kenyans wired back into the country from offshore accounts in the last three years after they were offered an amnesty on tax and the source of the riches.

The taxman Tuesday said he was uncertain whether the repatriated money was used for the intended purpose of development or shipped back to offshore investments after receiving clearance from the State.

About 3,403 applicants took advantage of the three-year amnesty window to repatriate the billions tax-free in a period when they were not required to declare the source of their wealth or even account for previous years' tax arrears.

"We didn't come up with a policy to say if you have brought in money, you cannot take it back again. And my fear now is that I might be holding on applications of (repatriated) funds which have already taken flight again," the KRA commissioner for domestic taxes, Elizabeth Meyo, told an ICPAK meeting held in Nairobi yesterday. The accountants' lobby hosted the meeting to review the impact of the cash wired from offshore accounts on the Kenyan economy.

"It's an issue we are going to look at very critically because I am not seeing the impact



KRA commissioner for domestic taxes, Elizabeth Meyo.

of repatriated funds in the economy because Sh803 billion is a lot of money. If it's true that it came back and it's in the economy, we would have seen investments going up."

The amnesty, which was announced by Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich in

2016, was aimed at attracting wealthy Kenyan investors who had opted for offshore investments in an attempt to mask the source of their wealth.

Stashed wealth

Analysts opine that some individuals could have used the amnesty to clean

dirty money and later ship it out to foreign capitals that could have questioned the initial origins of the income and assets. Previously, the income, a significant part suspected to be stolen or acquired irregularly, was stashed in secret bank accounts in countries like Switzerland, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and Channel Islands.

Wealthy Kenyans have traditionally stashed wealth abroad to either escape the taxman's scrutiny or to spread their risks by investing in the more politically and economically stable Western democracies.

A report by an American think tank, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), last year revealed that Kenya's super-rich were holding more than Sh5 trillion in offshore tax havens across the world.

The money that KRA says was repatriated in the three-year period is equivalent to about 30 per cent of national wealth or gross domestic product (GDP). With the return into the country of close to Sh1 trillion, the owners of the cash have effectively 'cleaned' their wealth and evaded any questions on the source of the money or any tax liabilities that may have been due in the years before they made the declaration. The colossal amount has, however, not made a visible impact in the economy, raising questions on where the cash has been kept or invested.

"The amnesty could actually have offered a chance for persons to bring in illicit cash, cleanse it and then ship it out as clean money," said Samuel Kiautha of Sam & Associates, the consultant for Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK) who guided the study on the impact of amnesty.

Egypt cuts interest rates for the third time this year as stocks rebound

CAIRO

Egypt cut interest rates for the third time this year, seizing on slower inflation and a stable currency as stocks rebounded following a rare bout of anti-government protests that rattled the market.

The Monetary Policy Committee lowered the deposit rate 100 basis points to 13.25 per cent and brought the lending rate down to 14.25 per cent, according to a statement on Thursday. While all 15 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg predicted a cut, they were split about how much easing the central bank could afford.

After a pivot to monetary easing in August thanks to a steep slowdown in inflation, the MPC is looking past last weekend's unrest and fear of more to come – coupled with greater political risk across the Middle East. Despite some investor backlash that followed, monetary stimulus couldn't be more timely as business activity has contracted in all but two of the past 12 months, according to the Markit Egypt Purchasing Managers' Index.

The Arab world's most populous nation has been on a mission to bring inflation under control after it devalued the currency by half in 2016 and slashed subsidies on items like fuel to curb the budget deficit and seal a \$12 billion International Monetary Fund loan. Inflation rocketed to over 30 per cent before a steep slowdown.

With annual urban inflation easing to 7.5 per cent, its lowest level since 2013, Egypt still offers fixed-income investors one of the most profitable carry trades in emerging markets. Egypt's pound is the world's second-best performer against the dollar this year with a gain of almost 10 per cent. In August, policy makers delivered a cut of 150 basis points, the first in six months and their biggest since 2017.

Standard Chartered unit cuts 100 retail jobs in UAE

DUBAI

A retail business unit of Standard Chartered Bank in the UAE has let go of about 100 staff as the lender increasingly digitises its services.

The third-party business unit of the bank has made the job cuts in recent weeks, a bank official said on Tuesday, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "We are continuously reviewing our businesses and accelerating our shift towards digital and consumer preferences," a spokesperson of the bank said in a statement, declining to comment on specific details.

Lenders in the UAE, the second-biggest Arab economy, are investing heavily on digitising their services, cutting paper trails and human interactions to reduce costs and boost efficiency. Mashreq Bank, the Dubai lender controlled by the Al Ghurair family, plans to spend at least Dh500 million over the next five years on digitisation, as it looks to shut half of its branches in the UAE this year.

Speaking to The National in September 2017, Mr Al Ghurair said the bank would cut about 10 per cent of its workforce of more than 4,000 as part of its drive. Other banks in the UAE, including Dubai's biggest lender, Emirates NBD, are also pivoting towards providing services digitally, with the bank spending Dh1bn on its digital drive.

Letshego Group's 1H results show 2pc increase in pre-tax profit

By The Banker Reporter

HALF year results for Letshego Group indicated that pre-tax profit increased by two percent from 600 million Botswana pulas compared to P590 million realised during the first half in 2018.

In its latest financial performance report for the period ending June 2019, Letshego Group which is a holding company of Letshego in Tanzania has indicated that the results are within expectations.

The group has made good progress in the three areas of focus for 2019 being: reduction in the cost to income ratio; cost of credit risk and the effective tax rate. These are expected to continue into the second half of 2019.

In remarks after receiving news of the half year results, Letshego's Interim Group CEO, Dumisani Ndebele said despite changes in leadership, the results have seen the bank achieve alignment with performance from the first half of the same period last year, while achieving a positive improvement on the second half of 2018.

"The business is undergoing a period of review to ensure we leverage and maximise high potential business streams, mitigate unnecessary rising costs, and entrench our comprehensive risk management framework," Ndebele said.

The group which has taken a number of

initiatives which are showing positive results hopes to see better growth in the second half of 2019 and beyond. "Letshego's business fundamentals are strong, and we intend to maximise the opportunities for long term growth, and look forward to sharing further strategic progress in the second half of the year," Ndebele added.

The six months group results also indicate that net profit was down by two percent to P364 million compared to P370 million last year while costs increased by 11 percent resulting in a cost to income ratio of 41 percent against 40 percent over the same period.

The financial performance report further noted that gross advances to customers peaked P10 billion which was an increase of 15 percent while customer deposits and borrowings were flat for the period.

"Yields on advances to customers and the cost of borrowings were generally maintained resulting in a six percent increase in net operating income. The cost of credit risk was 2.5 percent (2018: 2.6 percent) and the group's coverage ratio was 109 percent for all non-performing loans (2018: 95 percent)," the report stated.

The Botswana Stock Exchange listed bank said it remains well capitalised with a capital adequacy ratio of 38 percent compared to 39 percent in 2018 and a debt to equity ratio of 110 percent against 112 percent in 2018.

"Return on equity was 17 percent compared to 18 percent in 2018 while return on

assets was seven percent against eight percent in 2018," the report added noting that earnings per share declined by a percentage point to 15.4 thebe compared to 15.6 thebe in 2018.

On non financials performance, the report said total borrowing customers increased to 387,000 during the period compared to 364,000 in the previous year while the number of customers with savings increased from 167,000 to 250,000 during the period.

"Customer access points have remained the same at 315. The group employed 1,902 (2018: 1,908) full time employees supplemented by an additional 1,459 (2018: 1,398) commission-based sales agents," the half year report for 2019 noted.

During the period under review, the bank's board progressed with a number of appointments to fill current positions that are held on an interim or acting capacity, plus strengthen the overall executive management team.

While this is happening the executive management team, as led by the Interim Group CEO, Dumisani Ndebele, remains in place and they have been successful in making good progress in achieving the 2019 financial targets for the Group as well as commencing an overall review of the medium and long term strategic objectives, the report explained.

As for the second half performance forecast, the report said, "Based on the current

financial performance of the group and current economic circumstances, the board expects the company's financial fundamentals to remain robust over the next 12-18 month horizon, despite risks associated with its regional expansion."

While Letshego results have been reviewed by Ernst & Young and backed by Moody's which decided to keep Letshego's Group Credit Rating unchanged at Ba3 (stable) outlook.

On dividend payment, the report stated, "Notice is hereby given that the board has declared an interim dividend of 4.3 thebe per share for the period ended 30 June 2019. In terms of the Botswana Income Tax Act (Cap 50:01) as amended, withholding tax at the rate of 7.5 percent or any other currently enacted tax rate will be deducted from the final gross dividend for the period."

The Letshego Group is an African multinational financial institution headquartered and listed in Botswana and focused on delivering inclusive finance solutions to underserved populations across 11 Sub Saharan African markets including Tanzania.

Letshego's history in the country dates back to 2006 when it started as credit institution financing low and middle-income civil servants through Faidika. The financial inclusion agenda resulted in the acquisition of Letshego Bank (2016) formerly known as Advans bank.



Letshego Group's Interim CEO, Dumisani Ndebele.

Stanbic Bank's tailor made products meant to enable SMEs compete globally

EMPOWERING YOUR FINANCIAL SUCCESS



Farha Mohamed

By Farha Mohamed, Head, SME, Stanbic Bank

Industrialization is earmarked as one of the pillars of transformation in the second Five Year Development Plan (FYDPII) that will allow Tanzania to attain its development vision by 2025. In that regard, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are identified as the leading driver of employment, trade and economic development in the country.

According to the latest National Baseline Survey of SMEs in Tanzania from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the sector comprises of over 3 million enterprises that contribute 27 percent of gross domestic product, with most of the entities being in the agricultural sector.

The country's development agenda is underpinned by the establishment of key infrastructure for industrialization and an environment that enables dynamism of the private sector. However, there are key constraints that impede the growth of the SME sector this includes, a challenging legal and regulatory environment, underdeveloped infrastructure, inadequate business development information, poorly coordinated institutional support framework and limited access to financing.

of trade in the Tanzania market system.

Research indicates that SMEs face these challenges in both developed (where statistics illustrate that 20 percent of businesses fail in their first year) and developing countries, but the hurdles are greatest in lower income countries like Tanzania.

As the pace and scale of Tanzania's trade with the world is increasing, it becomes imperative for financial service providers to increase flows of finance to SMEs. Without enabling trade finance, opportunities for growth and development are missed and small businesses are deprived of the financial support they need to trade with the global market and expand their business internationally.

For most local businesses, trading internationally can often be complicated, frustrating and risky and that's where Tanzanian banks can intervene and offer innovative, flexible and tailored solutions that aim to facilitate global trade while minimizing risks by ensuring that international transactions done by small businesses are processed quickly and without a glitch.

Banks such as Stanbic Bank Tanzania leverage their insights into business circumstances on the continent to offer structured trade financing for local companies, empowering them to transact with the world and hence increase the market for their services and products.

Structured trade finance through short-term loans is used primarily in the commodity

sector by traders, producers and processors and can be tailored based on the needs of the businesses in a variety of sectors. From agribusiness; energy and oil, telecoms, and textiles, businesses have the option to receive support through structured trade financing across the supply chain to facilitate and ease trading activities.

A more common trade finance tool, the letter of credit, is another option for companies seeking access to foreign markets. By offering conditional guarantee of payment to SMEs, banks like Stanbic Bank Tanzania facilitate cross-border trading activities for businesses by ensuring the creditor that they will pay off the debts and liabilities incurred by their customer - individual or business entity - in case they are unable to do so. The processes involved in successfully utilizing letters of credit are plenty and require the assistance of a bank that protects the interest of both buyers and sellers.

As an emerging market, Tanzania has massive potential to grow its economy by creating a favourable environment for SMEs to trade globally. As banks continue to give SME's a leg to global market, it becomes imperative for the government to sustain a forward momentum by prioritizing actions that accelerate economic growth. With innovative solutions and development, it is possible to build strong political and economic trade ties between Tanzanian SMEs and the world.

BANKING&FINANCE

Class action lawsuit aims to shut down scam lenders

CAPE TOWN

Stellenbosch University Law Clinic is bringing a class action suit to the Western Cape High Court, to stop internet loan lender Lifestyle Direct and 18 other respondents from deceiving the public into applying for bogus loans.

Customers who signed up complained that they did not receive any loans, but had their bank accounts debited for so-called "legal services packages." The Law Clinic also wants the court to stop Lifestyle from debiting the accounts of people who applied for what they thought were loan agreements, and from harassing or threatening them for payment.

Henno Bothma of attorneys Abrahams & Gross, which is defending most of the respondents, says Lifestyle intends defending the case. "Our instructions are to oppose the matter." Asked how Lifestyle intends to answer the claim of misleading the public, Bothma says numerous clients who qualified for loans were referred to lenders and received loans. "Our case will be more fully laid out in our opposing affidavit," he says.

"Unconscionable" The Law Clinic says the lending practices of Lifestyle violate the Consumer Protection Act and are "unconscionable, unjust, unreasonable or unfair". It wants any money deducted from consumers misled by these websites to be returned to them, as well as for the respondents to compensate them for wasted bank charges.

The loans are offered to

the public via websites such as Loan Quest SA, Loan Locator SA and Loan Hub SA, none of which are registered credit providers. The websites offer loans of up to R200 000 with no credit checks and a "hassle-free application process."

Complaints started dribbling through to consumer website Hello Peter in 2016 when 'loan applicants' reported funds disappearing from their accounts, followed by harassing phone calls, after filling out what they assumed to be an online loan application. The dribble became a flood, with thousands of complaints online by consumers who have fallen victim to these scams.

There is also a Facebook group called 'Action Against Lifestyle Legal, Loan Hub SA and other scams.' Those who signed up thought they were applying for a loan or for assistance in finding a loan. They did not believe they were entering into an agreement to purchase unwanted services.

All the websites have virtually identical terms of service and legal disclaimers, and require the applicant to provide the date of salary payment to facilitate successful debit orders.

Deception intentional The purpose of the websites is to deliberately mislead the public, says the court application. Some offer a 30-day cooling-off period during which applicants can cancel the agreement, but none knew they had entered into an agreement. Consumers also report that their pleas to cancel the unwanted agreements during this cooling-off period fell on deaf ears.

The Law Clinic has applied to the court for an 'opt-out' class - meaning anyone who has been adversely affected is assumed to be a member of the class unless specifically opting out. In an affidavit before the court, the Law Clinic's senior attorney Stephan van der Merwe says hundreds of complaints were received from members of the public who had visited one or more of the dozen websites operated by Lifestyle, which appear to offer loans or free loan-finding services.

Unrelated 'services' The websites all employ the same modus operandi: they invite consumers to submit an application online for what appears to be a loan or a loan-procuring service. Buried in the terms of service, consumers submitting applications are deemed to have entered into an 'agreement' for a service that has nothing to do with loans, such as "telephonic legal advice assistance".

The agreement is usually for a fixed term of 12 months, with an initial subscription fee of R399 to R429 a month. Consumers are required to fill in their bank account details as part of the loan application process, but what they appear not to realise is that they have consented to a monthly debit order against their bank accounts.

"Attempts to cancel the 'agreements' and to stop the debit orders are met by stonewalling and threats from companies behind the websites," says Van der Merwe's affidavit. Most of the applicants for these loans are poor and often

desperate people, he adds. Despite acres of adverse publicity over the years, Lifestyle "continues to operate this scam with impunity and the number of consumers harmed is continuously growing."

The Law Clinic is asking the court for recognition as a class, and for an interim interdict to shut down the offending websites and a prohibition on Lifestyle harassing and threatening 'customers' for the recovery of bogus debts.

One of the applicants in the case is Ignatius Heyns, who submitted an application through the Loan Zone SA website. Loan Zone SA then debited his bank account. Heyns reversed this, but was then hit with demands for payment and threats of "punitive" action. The more-than-a-dozen websites offering loans are making fraudulent misrepresentations to the public, says the Law Clinic. The websites are all connected to each other and to company directors Damian Malander and Nandie Paich.

All but one of the companies that operate the relevant websites were registered on the same day (May 20, 2015), and all share the same directors, namely Malander and Paich. Their websites are also hosted on the same server.

On June 10, 2016, Malander resigned as director of some of the companies and was replaced by Paich. Lifestyle Legal, a subsidiary of the Lifestyle Direct Group, plays a critical role in the scam, says the Law Clinic.

Lifestyle Legal is a registered debt collector and the group's in-house collections agency. When a customer fails to make payment in terms of an 'agreement' allegedly concluded through one of the websites, they are handed over to Lifestyle Legal for debt collection.

In one case cited by the Law Clinic, after interacting with one of these websites, a consumer's bank account was debited by an entity called All Wheel Auto (Pty) Ltd, despite the fact that the consumer had no prior interaction with the company. Malander is also a director of this business. The case for the interdict to stop these websites from operating in this misleading way (or at all) will come before the court on November 27.

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A poster promoting online borrowing in South Africa.

WORLD

Ukraine's leader: Trump didn't use US military aid as lever

KYIV, Ukraine

UKRAINE'S president said on Tuesday that no one explained to him why millions of dollars in US military aid to his country was delayed, dismissing suggestions that US President Donald Trump froze the funding to pressure Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is struggling to distance himself from US politics – and to contain the damage to Ukraine and his own reputation from a July phone conversation with Trump that unleashed a congressional impeachment inquiry.

"It is impossible to put pressure on me," he told reporters Tuesday. "Many people try to influence me," he said, but "I am the president of independent Ukraine."

Zelenskiy said that in discussions with Trump, he repeatedly stressed the importance of US military aid to help Ukraine battle Russian-backed separatists.

In the July call, he thanked Trump for his "great support in the area of defense" and said Ukraine was ready to "cooperate for the next steps," according to a rough transcript released by the White House. Zelenskiy suggested Tuesday that military aid was raised in other discussions, but didn't say when they took place.

The Pentagon announced plans in June to send US\$250 million in aid to Ukraine, but its delivery was delayed. A defense official said last week that the Trump administration held up the money to analyze the extent to which Ukraine was addressing long-standing US concerns about corruption.

The funding was then released in September.

"It wasn't explained to me" why the money didn't come through earlier, Zelenskiy said.

Zelenskiy also said he has never met or spoken with Trump's lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who has been at the heart of Trump's effort to investigate Biden. According to the transcript of their con-



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy

versation, Trump told Zelenskiy he would have Giuliani call him about pursuing an inquiry into the role of Biden's son, Hunter, on the board of the Ukrainian gas company Burisma.

Zelenskiy is facing a dilemma over how to handle Trump's request in the July call for Ukraine to "look into" the Bidens.

If Ukraine opens an investigation into the case, that helps Trump and the Republicans. If it doesn't, that helps the Democrats. And what Ukraine's current leadership really wants is continued US support, no matter who wins next year's US elections.

Ukraine "is the key ball in the political football between Democrats and Republicans," said anti-corruption activist Daria Kaleniuk. "We are in the middle of a very hot fight to which we don't belong."

"Ukraine is now in a very dangerous situation. We are in a country at war," she added.

For Zelenskiy and many Ukrainians, solving Ukraine's conflict with Russian-backed separatists is more important than whatever happens

in the US election campaign. Zelenskiy scheduled Tuesday's news conference to announce much-anticipated accords that paved the way for peace talks with Moscow, and bristled when some journalists asked him about Trump instead.

Former Ukrainian lawmaker Serhiy Leshchenko said the revelations about the Trump-Zelenskiy call present both "a challenge and an opportunity" for Ukraine.

Ukraine risks losing the support of either the Democrats or the Republicans, he told The Associated Press, "and especially now with Ukraine facing Russian aggression, we need bipartisan support."

But it's also "a chance to show that Ukraine is ready to fight corruption," he said.

Leschenko said Ukraine should not remain "hostage to this situation," and predicted that Zelenskiy "will keep himself as distant as possible" from the US political debate.

A comedian with no political experience, Zelenskiy campaigned on promises to end the endemic, crippling corruption that has held back Ukraine's economy since it gained independence from the Soviet Union.

He introduced a long-stalled anti-corruption court after his election in April, but no major cases have made it to court yet. Anti-corruption campaigners hope he uses his new mandate to finally take on vested interests.

A former Ukrainian security chief argued Tuesday that the best way to show that Ukraine is serious about fighting corruption is to open new investigations into Burisma.

"The whole world is talking about Ukraine and the whole world wants to know what happened" at Burisma, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told the AP. Nalyvaichenko, a parliament member who twice headed Ukraine's National Security Service said he will initiate a parliamentary inquiry into Burisma.

He insisted he is not trying to do Trump's bidding. "We have no way to know whether any crimes were committed if we don't lead a comprehensive, transparent investigation inside Ukraine," he said. A previous probe was closed in 2016.

Agencies

Impartial probe into MH17 disaster to shatter suspicion of Russia's role – legislator

MOSCOW

THE chairman of the State Duma's International Affairs Committee, Leonid Slutsky, has described as the "voice of reason" the proposal of the Dutch parliamentarians to initiate a probe into the role of Ukraine in the MH17 flight disaster over Ukraine's Donetsk Region in July 2014.

"In the MH17 disaster case the voice of reason has been heard at last: Dutch legislators demanded a probe into the role of Ukraine in the crash of the Malaysian Boeing. An impartial probe will turn all suspicion about Russia's complicity to dust," Slutsky tweeted yes-

terday.

Earlier, Dutch parliament members demanded the country's government should study the role of Ukraine in the MH17 flight disaster, as follows from a proposal supported by all parties that took part in Tuesday evening's debate.

The legislators said that to achieve clarity regarding the failure to close the air space over and around Eastern Ukraine further examination of facts would be necessary.

They demanded that the government should consider what options there exist for conducting such a fact-finding probe and report the results to the lower house



of parliament.

A passenger Boeing-777 of Malaysia Airlines (flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur) was

shot down on July 17, 2014 in the Donetsk Region of Ukraine.

A total of 298 passengers and crew – nationals of ten countries

– died in the crash. Although hostilities were underway in the area on the ground Kiev failed to close Donbass airspace to international passenger flights.

A Joint Investigation Team incorporating Australian, Belgian, Malaysian, Dutch and Ukrainian officials was created.

Last June the JIT said it had identified four suspected accomplices in the plane's crash: three Russians – Igor Girkin (also known under the nickname Strelkov), Sergei Dubinsky and Oleg Pulatov. The fourth suspect is Ukrainian citizen Leonid Kharchenko. A court trial is scheduled to begin on March 9, 2020.

Agencies

Israel begins Netanyahu's pre-indictment corruption hearing

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's long-awaited pre-indictment hearing on corruption charges began yesterday in Jerusalem, as a jittery political world eagerly sought clarity on his legal standing amid the stalemate that followed the country's second inconclusive election of the year.

Netanyahu is currently struggling to prolong his lengthy rule by building a unity government with his primary opponents, the centrist Blue and White party, who refuse to partner with him because of the serious crimes of which he is suspected.

Israel's attorney general has recommended charging Netanyahu with

bribery, fraud and breach of trust in three separate cases. Netanyahu has denied wrongdoing, calling them part of a media-orchestrated witch hunt.

The allegations against him include suspicions that he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars of champagne and cigars from billionaire friends, offered a critical publisher legislation that would weaken his paper's main rival in return for softer treatment and allegedly used his influence to help a wealthy telecom magnate in exchange for favorable coverage on a popular news site.

Netanyahu has long promised he'd clear his name in the hearing. A team of his lawyers arrived at the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem to argue that all charges should be dropped.



"We are going to present not only the evidence everyone is aware of but also new evidence. We are sure that once we present our findings there will be no choice but to close the case," Netanyahu attorney Amit

Haddad said, upon entering the hearing. "We believe and know that at the end of the day all the three cases must be closed."

The sessions are expected to extend over four days. It could take several weeks for the attorney general to render his final decision.

However, legal experts say the likelihood of an indictment is very high given the mountains of evidence collected by police over years of investigations and the prosecution's seeming consensus of pursuing a trial.

Although Netanyahu would not be required to step down if charged, he will face heavy pressure to do so. Already, he hasn't

been to muster the required 61-seat majority in parliament to build a coalition government and faces stiff resistance from those he will need to back him.

President Reuven Rivlin selected Netanyahu last week as the candidate with the best chance of forming a government. That move came after Rivlin failed to broker a unity government between Netanyahu and Blue and White leader Benny Gantz in recent days.

A unity government appears to be the preferred option for both sides, but they remain far apart on who should lead it first and what such a constellation would look like.

Agencies

Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa says cartels sabotaging the economy

HARARE



ZIMBABWEAN President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Tuesday lamented the emergence of monopolies and cartels in the economy, blaming them for incessant price increases of basic goods and services.

In his state of the nation address and speech to mark the opening of the second session of the ninth parliament, Mnangagwa (pictured) said the government will impose stiffer penalties to deal with the unscrupulous businesses.

"Government has noted with concern the emergence of monopolies as well as cartels which stifle competition and engage in unjustified price hikes," Mnangagwa said. "While government will not revert to price controls, we are nonetheless, in the process of reviewing the Competition Act in order to introduce deterrent penalties to combat such business malpractices," he added.

Zimbabwe has witnessed a wave of price increases of basic goods and services in recent months, amid a severe shortage of foreign currency despite liberalization of the exchange rate since February. The price increases have fueled inflation and eroded people's purchasing power.

The president said last week's events of exchange rate manipulation, which resulted in the Zimbabwe dollar falling sharply against the U.S. dollar on the black market, amounted to economic sabotage and said this should not be tolerated.

The Zimbabwe dollar, re-introduced by the government in June after the ban of the U.S. dollar, was trading at about 8.8 against the U.S. dollar on the inter-bank market in mid-July but almost doubled to 14.8 Zimbabwe dollars to the U.S. dollar a month later.

The black market rate was between 16.40 and 16.60 to the U.S. dollar as at mid-September but last week, the local unit further fell to about 20 against the greenback.

Mnangagwa said his government was aware of the challenges faced by the public in accessing cash, which have resulted in some unscrupulous traders selling cash in exchange for electronic money.

"Appropriate measures are being taken to address the cash situation, which include a gradual removal of arbitrage opportunities created through multistage pricing," he said.

The president also encouraged communal and small-scale farmers to grow traditional grains. The country experienced drought and a cyclone in the past season which has left more than half of the population in need of food aid. **Xinhua**

DPRK fires projectiles days before resuming US talks

SEOUL

THE Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) fired a ballistic missile from the sea yesterday, Republic of Korea (ROK)'s military said, a suggestion that it may have tested an underwater-launched missile for the first time in three years ahead of a resumption of nuclear talks with the United States this weekend.

The DPRK missile flew about 450 kilometers at a maximum altitude of 910 kilometers after lift-off from an unspecified place in the waters off the DPRK's eastern coastal town of Wonsan, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement. ROK and US intelligence authorities were analyzing more details of the launch, it said.

Japan lodged an immediate protest against DPRK, saying the missile landed inside Japan's economic exclusive zone. If confirmed, it would be the first DPRK missile that has landed that close to Japan since November 2017.

The US State Department said it calls on the DPRK "to refrain from provocations, abide by their obligations under UN Security Council resolutions, and remain engaged in substantive and sustained negotiations to do their part to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and achieve denuclearization."

The ROK military officials wouldn't officially disclose whether the missile was fired from a submarine, a barge or another possible platform. But during an emergency National Security Council meeting, council members placed weight on the possibility that DPRK performed a submarine-launched missile test and expressed "strong concerns" over the DPRK move, according to ROK's presidential office.

The DPRK having the ability to launch missiles from submarines would be alarming because such weapons are harder to detect in advance. Some experts say the DPRK is attempting to raise the stakes and ramp up pressure on the United States before their nuclear negotiators meet on Saturday.

Agencies

SEVENTY years ago on Oct. 1, the first five-star national flag was raised on this land. Since then, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has overcome all kinds of difficulties and made a series of achievements. On the 70th anniversary of the PRC's founding, approximately 1.4 billion Chinese people are delighted and proud to celebrate the birthday of our great country together.

In 70 years, China and its people have undergone unprecedented changes.

China has never stopped striving for a better future. The Communist Party of China (CPC) has led Chinese people in the development of the economy and infrastructure and launched the reform and opening-up policy. China has impressed the world with miracles of rapid economic growth and long-term social stability.

After the 18th National Congress of the CPC, socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era. Chinese people have stood up, become richer

Saga of striving, strength of rejuvenation

and stronger. Today, those who were unable to feed themselves are living in a society that soon will be moderately prosperous in all respects.

The once impoverished China now firmly stands in the east of the world. The once weak Chinese nation is now bracing for a promising future of rejuvenation.

As President Xi Jinping noted, "History fully testifies to the fact that the Communist Party of China and Chinese people are not only able to break an old world, but also to build a new one. Looking ahead, China has a promising future."

Xi highly praised the development of the new China in the past 70 years, saying that "this is an earth-shattering epic of striving in both the history of the Chinese nation and the history of the world."

This epic of striving reflects the original aspiration and mission of the CPC.

Once the CPC was established, it shouldered the historic mission of "seeking happiness for the Chinese people and rejuvenation for the Chinese nation."

In the past nearly 100 years, regardless of whether it was weak or strong, or in good or bad times, our party has not changed its original aspiration and has been determined to lead the Chinese people through thousands of difficulties with huge sacrifices.

Our party has dared to face the twists and turns and to correct mistakes, and has overcome many seemingly insurmountable odds one after another, creating one miracle after another.

The fundamental reason for the great changes of the new China in the past 70 years lies in the leadership of the CPC.

The CPC leadership is the defining feature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, and the greatest strength of the distinctively Chinese socialist system.

This epic of striving has demonstrated the endeavor and pride of hundreds of millions of people.

"Our people are the country's solid foundation and our main source of confidence to govern."

Everything the Chinese people have today was gained through hard work. Relying on the support and trust of the people, always being of the same mind with them, sharing the same destiny with them, and working together with them, we have made achievements that are worthy of history and the times and true to the expectations of the people. With the passion to create history, the ability to realize dreams and the confidence to continue to work miracles,

hundreds of millions of people will certainly make our country more prosperous and stronger by rolling up their sleeves to work harder.

This epic of striving has secured the success and glory of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

In 70 years' time, especially the last four decades of reform and opening-up, we have created and developed socialism with Chinese characteristics and fundamentally changed the fate of the Chinese people and Chinese nation.

It is not easy to govern a big country like China, but we have provided an excellent answer.

The great success of socialism with Chinese characteristics has declared the bankruptcy of the "the end of history" theory with facts, proclaiming the bankruptcy of the vertical thinking on history in which countries will eventu-

ally adopt the Western political pattern.

The socialist system with Chinese characteristics and the national governance system formed in the past 70 years have shown strong vitality and strength. History will surely prove that socialism with Chinese characteristics is the only way to lead the Chinese nation towards a great rejuvenation.

China rose to become the world's second largest economy from scratch, an extraordinary accomplishment achieved by following the path of peaceful development, rather than expansionism or colonialism.

China has been serving as a main economic powerhouse for global growth for 13 straight years, with its contribution to world economic expansion exceeding 30 percent.

China also has been reaching out to other developing countries with the Belt and Road Initiative and the pledge to build a community with a shared future for humanity. **People's Daily**



The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HK SAR) in Central.

Beijing slams US, UK politicians for condoning violence

A PRINCIPAL official of the Commissioner's Office of the Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has expressed strong disapproval and firm opposition to remarks by some British and American politicians who had openly condoned radical protesters, confounding right and wrong and in total disregard of the fact.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the principal official said black-clad radicals in Hong Kong committed appalling violence across the territory on Oct 1, the dearly cherished 70th anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

They set fire, smashed shops, vandalized public property, hurled gasoline bombs, and assaulted the police and residents, causing serious injuries to a number of police officers.

A police officer fired a shot as he was beaten up by a group of radicals and in a life-threatening situation. "It was for saving the lives of his colleagues and himself that he was forced to shoot an assaulter," the official said.

The principal official said that "should the rioters be allowed to run amok, Hong Kong citizens would be left with no security, the rule of law be demolished, and interests of countries here gravely damaged."

It is the black-clad radicals and the ringleaders behind them who are the greatest threat to Hong Kong and the common enemy of the international community, he added.

"Some politicians in the UK and the US, however, have distorted the truth and confounded the police's law enforcement efforts with the extremists' illegal violence, rather than condemning and opposing the crime of the black-clad rioters. What else can it be but an open condoning of violent crime?" he said.

The principal official said that when tackling similar demonstra-

tions in their own countries, the British and American governments will give a green light to the police, and never hesitate to employ all kinds of weapons including guns.

As reported by foreign media, the shooting by American police in enforcing the law caused a casualty of nearly 1,000 in 2017 alone, and the case is similar in the UK and other countries.

"So why do the politicians of these countries turn a blind eye to the rioters' violence and fire accusations instead against the police's law enforcement efforts when it comes to Hong Kong?"

Do they allow only assaults and even lethal attacks by the rioters of the police, but not law enforcement and self-defense efforts of the police when they and their colleagues are under life threat? We are highly indignant over and firmly opposed to such outright double standards and gross interference," he said.

The principal official emphasized that no time should be lost to stop violence, end the chaos and restore order to Hong Kong. A growing number of Hong Kong residents are condemning the violence by the black-clad radicals, and those behind the scenes who are manipulating the youth as their pawns to take risks for their agenda.

"Should the chaos continue, it would undermine not only the fundamental interests of the Hong Kong citizens but also the interests of the international community as stakeholders in the city.

It is our hope that all international stakeholders who love Hong Kong will speak up against violence by the black-clad rioters and the evil intention of those behind them, and support the SAR Government in stopping violence, ending the chaos and restoring order," he said.

Agencies

Philippines' president arrives in Moscow on official visit

MOSCOW

PRESIDENT of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte has arrived in Moscow on an official visit, a diplomatic source informed TASS yesterday. "The president has arrived in the Russian capital," the source stated.

No media was present at the greeting of the delegation at the airport. Duterte visited Russia in May 2017; however, he was forced to cut his trip short due to the situation in the Mindanao Province in the southern Philippines, where martial law was declared after clashes between the local military and the militants linked to the Islamic State terrorist group (outlawed in Russia).

Earlier, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov informed that on October 3, Duterte, along with Putin and the leaders of Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Jordan would take part in a session of the Valdai Discussion Club in Sochi.

According to the spokesman, the Russian president plans to hold bilateral meetings with his foreign colleagues, including the leader of the Philippines.

E. Africa bloc mulls regional tax treaty framework to boost integration

NAIROBI

THE East Africa Community (EAC) bloc plans to develop a regional tax treaty framework to boost regional integration, an official said on Tuesday.

Doris Akol, commissioner general, Uganda Revenue Authority told Xinhua in Nairobi that once the treaty is in place the trading bloc will negotiate double taxation agreements jointly with other non-EAC countries.

"Currently each of the partner states negotiates with other coun-

tries on a bilateral basis. The regional taxation framework will help to reduce the harmful effects of tax competition in the EAC as each country seeks to attract foreign investors," said

Akol on the sidelines of the seventh pan Africa conference on illicit financial flows and taxation.

The three-day annual gathering will bring together policymakers, academia, civil society from Africa to review efforts to curb illicit financial flows and enhance domestic resource mobilization in the continent. EAC members states include Kenya,

Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. Akol said that so far a draft EAC treaty has been developed which will receive inputs from all relevant stakeholders.

She said that the economic bloc is also making progress towards harmonizes its tax regime in order to promote regional integration.

Akol added that revenues authorities across the region are keen to ensure that there is mutual recognition of each of the respective national tax systems in order to enhance revenue collection and reduction tax evasion.

Xinhua

Britain to submit new Irish border proposals as Brexit end-game looms

LONDON

BRITAIN is expected to submit new proposals to avert a post-Brexit hard border on the island of Ireland this week as most British ministers are attending an annual conference focusing on Brexit.

The issue of what happens to the border after Britain leaves the European Union (EU) has become one of the main stumbling blocks for the Brexit deal with Brussels so that a Monday report by Irish national broadcaster RTE about hard borders caused a frenzy of comments on Tuesday in Dublin, London, Brussels as well as Manchester where Prime Minister Boris Johnson and most of his ministers are attending the annual Conservative Party Conference. Citing leaked government proposals, the RTE said that Britain is proposing setting up "customs clearance centers" on both sides of the Irish border after Brexit.

In the House of Commons, junior Brexit Minister James Duddridge faced an avalanche of questions following the RTE report. He told the legislators that formal proposals from the British government for an alternative to the Irish backstop issue will be sent to Brussels before the end of this week. "That is not the intention. Those reports simply are incorrect," Duddridge said, adding that the leaked confidential technical papers are not the government's formal position. "The technical papers are not even our final proposals to the Commission. They are very much working documents, but we will be giving proposals to the European Commission shortly," Duddridge said. Political commentators at the party conference in Manchester reported there is an expectation that the plans will be submitted to the EU after the conference concludes on Wednesday afternoon when Johnson will close the conference with a keynote speech.

In an early evening interview with the BBC, Johnson said Britain will put forward some very constructive and far-reaching proposals to the EU for



Prime Minister Boris Johnson

an alternative to the backstop.

"If the EU is going to insist on customs checks then we will have to accept that reality. And there will have to be a system for customs checks away from the border. We think those checks can be absolutely minimal and non-intrusive and won't involve new infrastructure," he said.

"We can ensure that there aren't checks at the border, no physical, no interruption of trade or movement of people. And we can also protect the benefits that Ireland has got over the years from the EU single market," said Johnson.

Apart from domestic issues, the immigration system was also discussed in the Manchester conference. Home Secretary Priti Patel, in charge of interior issues, said once Britain leaves the EU it will introduce an Australian-style points-based immigration system.

Describing the current situation as a defining moment in British history, Patel told delegates: "It is to end the free movement of people once and for all, a system that works in the best interests of Britain, one that attracts and

welcomes the brightest and the best, and one that is under the control of the British government.

"On crime control, Patel said police chiefs in Britain would be given more power to equip cops with tasers.

At a fringe meeting in Manchester, Transport Minister George Freeman said the government assumed that Brexit disruption would roughly halve the traffic on Britain's main trading link for three months with drops between 40 percent to 60 percent.

The Freight Transport Association (FTA) said it has made preparations so a wholesale meltdown is not expected, but people will see less fresh produce.

Deputy CEO of the FTA James Hookham said the association will hold 140 training sessions in the next few weeks to educate hauliers about the potential paperwork needed.

According to the Telegraph, Hookham said, "The biggest unknown in our book is what the French and EU will demand in terms of British goods imported into the EU."

Xinhua

UN urges Africa to reform fiscal laws to enhance taxation of digital economy

NAIROBI

THE United Nations on Tuesday urged African countries to reform their fiscal laws in order to enhance their tax revenues from the digital economy.

Uzumma Marilyn Erume, economic affairs officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa told journalists in Nairobi that the

digital sector in Africa is growing by approximately 40 percent annually.

"African countries need to review their tax policies to ensure that governments capture their rightful share from the digital economy," Erume said on the sidelines of the seventh pan Africa conference on illicit financial flows and taxation.

The three-day annual gathering brings together policymakers, aca-

demia, civil society from Africa to review efforts to curb illicit financial flows and enhance domestic resource mobilization in the continent.

Erume said that Africa has one of the lowest tax revenue to gross domestic product (GDP) rates in the world. She called for the continent to explore areas where it can expand the tax net without necessary



Australia's PM denies being pressured by Trump over probe

By Bloomberg

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison denied being pressured by President Donald Trump to help probe the origins of the US Justice Department's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

Morrison (pictured) said Wednesday he had a brief telephone conversation with Trump a couple of weeks ago, in which the president asked for a point of contact within the Australian government to help Attorney General William Barr with the inquiry.

In an interview with Sky Television, Morrison said he was happy to provide that, given that Australia's ambassador to the US had already made a written offer of help to Barr in May. It would have been "quite extraordinary" to deny such cooperation, Morrison said.

Australia's prime minister has come under fire from opposition politicians at home who have questioned whether he granted special favors to Trump shortly before he was feted at a White House state dinner last month.

The phone call was revealed earlier this week by the New York Times, which said the president urged Morrison to assist Barr in his efforts to undercut Special Counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry.

"It was a very brief conversation and was not one that I would characterize as being laddled with pressure," Morrison told Sky. "It was a fairly polite request."

Trump has publicly questioned whether Australia played a role in setting off the counterintelligence probe into Russian meddling in the election. That traces back to a meeting that Alexander Downer, Australia's former high commissioner to the UK, had in May 2016 with Trump's then-campaign adviser George Papadopoulos.

According to the New York Times, Papadopoulos revealed to Downer in a London bar that Russia had political dirt on Hillary Clinton, including thousands of emails that would embarrass her. Two months later, when leaked emails began appearing online, Australian officials passed information about Papadopoulos to their American counterparts, according to the report.

Downer earlier this week confirmed that he'd spoken with Papadopoulos and had passed "one element" of the conversation to the Americans.

Morrison was asked whether Australia had been asked by the US to hold its own inquiry into Downer's contact with Papadopoulos.

Agencies

Egypt displays 2,100-year-old looted coffin returned from New York

CAIRO

A GILDED coffin that dated back to the Ptolemaic dynasty, dissolved in 50 B.C., was displayed on Tuesday in the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Cairo's Fustat district.

The coffin of Nedjemankh, an ancient Egyptian priest, was returned to Egypt on Wednesday after it was determined to be a looted antiquity, said Egyptian Minister of Antiquities, Khaled al-Anany in a press conference.

The coffin was featured at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art after being bought from a Paris art dealer in 2017 for about four million U.S. dollars.

It was removed in February. The Met has apologized to Egypt.

The coffin was smuggled by fraudulent documents including a forged 1971 Egyptian export license, Anany said.

"This is not only for Egyptians, but for our common human heritage," Anany told the foreign ambassadors who were present at the ceremony. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Thomas Goldberger attended the ceremony.

Anany said the repatriation of this "unique, wonderful" artifact shows a "very strong solidarity" between Egypt and the U.S..

He extended his thanks to the U.S. side for his cooperation in repatriating the piece to its motherland, noting "the mutual coordination efforts meant to prevent the illicit traffic of human heritage." The coffin will be showcased



The coffin of Nedjemankh is displayed at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo, Egypt, on Tuesday.

in Egyptian Grand Museum in 2020, according to the minister of antiquities.

The gilded coffin was looted and smuggled out of Egypt in 2011, in the aftermath of the protests, Shaaban Abdel Gawad, su-

pervisor general of Egypt's Antiquities Repatriation Department told Xinhua.

He pointed out that investigations undertaken by the Manhattan District Attorney's Office lasted for nearly 20 months, dur-

ing which Egypt has submitted evidence of ownership.

The stolen coffin was neither gifted or sold by the Egyptian side to any country, Abdel Gawad said, explaining that before the promulgation of Antiquities Protection Law of 1983, Egyptian law allowed the export of some artefacts.

The coffin is craved in wood and covered with a layer of gold inscribed for Nedjemankh, a high-ranking priest of Heryshef of the city Herakleopolis, which is located in the upper Egypt province of Beni Suweif, he said.

The elaborately decorated surface included scenes and tests in thick gesso relief that were intended to protect and guide Nedjemankh on his journey from death to eternal life as a transfig-

ured spirit, Abdel Gawad added.

The coffin's return back took place in light of the 2016 joint agreement between Egypt and the U.S. regarding the protection of Egyptian Antiquities, he added.

The 2-meter-long coffin was initially restored in the American prestigious museum, but its feet was damaged during the long journey of smuggling, Abdel Gawad added.

"The return of the unique coffin is a message for all the museums, exhibitions, private collections, bids and dealers around the world that Egypt will never abandon its stolen heritage," he added, stressing Egypt is fighting to return all heritage back.

He reiterated more efforts are still exerted for tracing hundreds

of other looted pieces abroad.

Egypt restored around 200 pieces in 2019 and 222 pieces, and 21,660 coins in 2018, and 574 ones in 2017, he added.

"Our main objective now is to add more pieces in new museums inside and outside the capital about our history to attract more tourists," he pointed out.

Egypt has repatriated its looted antiquities no to keep it safe in warehouses like before, but to display its beauty for the tourists, he added.

The tourism industry, a lifeline to the struggling Egyptian economy, has recently started to recover. Official figures show that growth rates are on the rise and tourists are coming back.

Xinhua



This Sept. 7, 2019 file photo shows Eddie Murphy, right, star of the film "Dolemite Is My Name," with director Craig Brewer at the Shangri-La Hotel during the Toronto International Film Festival in Toronto. (AP)

Eddie Murphy, off the couch, is rejuvenated by 'Dolemite'

TORONTO

EDDIE Murphy is very fond of his couch. He talks about it a lot. It's where, according to Murphy, he's spent much of his last few years, in a happy retreat from the public eye. He's a natural homebody, content to stick close to his Los Angeles home with his family (he has 10 kids) around him. One of the funniest, most electric comedians ever – the leather-suited dynamo of "Delirious," the street-wise rebel of "Beverly Hills Cop" – just lounging.

But after a decade of relative relaxation – a time of half-hearted comebacks, movies that fizzled and occasional music projects – Murphy is back. He is – and this is big news – feeling it again, decades after he last performed stand-up.

"When I'm being funny, there's this spirit that comes up," Murphy says. "That spirit comes up in me a lot now. Stuff's just been coming out of me like it used to. This movie has got my spirit up. This movie got me off the couch."

The movie is "Dolemite Is My Name," which opens in theaters Friday and arrives on Netflix Oct. 25. In it, Murphy plays Rudy Ray Moore, the iconic comic performer whose pimp persona, Dolemite, spawned a long-running stage show, a series of profane comedy records and the shambling 1975 classic Blaxploitation film "Dolemite."

Murphy's performance as Moore has all the familiar charisma and exuberance of peak "48 Hours"-era Murphy, but mixed with a more mature and gentle side of the 58-year-old comedian. It's the Eddie Murphy we've been missing, one that Murphy was ready to rejuvenate. At least under the right circumstances.

"I didn't want to just pop up out of nowhere. I was waiting for a really funny movie. We were thinking I could tour after a 'Coming to America' movie but this movie came out so funny," Murphy said in a recent interview at the Toronto International Film Festival where he was momentarily breaking from production on a "Coming to America" sequel. "This movie turning out the way it turned out made me go, 'I'm going back to "SNL." And I'm doing stand-up.'"

Those are the next items on Murphy's comeback agenda. In December, he'll host "Saturday Night Live" for the first time since 1984, shortly after he departed the sketch show. And he's prepping a return to stand-up with a tour next year along with a Netflix special.

When it's pointed out that people would have been plenty thrilled for those things, regardless of the big-screen lead-in, Murphy replies with a grin: "I didn't want to show up there and the last movie you've seen me in is 'Mr. Church.'"

And "Dolemite Is My Name," thankfully, is no "Mr. Church." Directed by Craig Brewer ("Hustle and Flow"), it's an ode to DIY filmmaking and to Moore, who through sheer toil and pluck, carved out a place for himself and others in a movie industry that offered little room for African Americans. Murphy calls him "the godfather of making a spark into a flame."

Murphy first tried to get the film going years ago after meeting with Moore, shortly before his death in 2008.

"There was no Netflix then. That was just a crazy thing we were trying to put together," says Murphy before slipping into the voice of an incredulous film producer. "A Rudy Ray Moore biopic? And you're just coming off 'Pluto Nash'? I don't know if we're going to get financing."

To write it, Murphy sought out Larry

Karaszewski and Scott Alexander, the screenwriting team behind another affectionate portrait of a movie-making striver whose enthusiasm surpassed his filmmaking proficiency: "Ed Wood." When they walked into the meeting, Murphy was doing lines from the 1994 biopic.

But when they couldn't get the film off the ground and as years went by, Karaszewski says, "We sort of felt the whole thing had passed us by." Other plans for a "Dolemite" remake or a biopic of Moore floated around Hollywood, never coming to fruition. The project was revived, the writers say, after their success creating the miniseries "The People v. O.J. Simpson." With their new industry capital in hand, they asked if Murphy wanted to give "Dolemite Is My Name" another try.

"Eddie hadn't made a movie in a while but we always felt that this movie doesn't exist unless Eddie is doing Rudy Ray Moore," says Karaszewski. "That's what makes this exciting."

Murphy has long adored Moore. His movies, Murphy calls them "stoner pictures," were "the best thing to watch when you smoked." "Dolemite Is My Name" goes behind Dolemite, capturing Moore assembling his over-the-top character bit by bit, a transformation familiar to the mild-mannered Murphy.

"I'm nothing like any of my characters. I'm this guy. What I like to do the most is be around my family, sit on the couch, strum the guitar," Murphy says. "Even when I'm doing stand-up comedy, it all comes from little snippets of stuff I've really said. But once I put it all together into a structure and go up there in a leather suit, I'm not that guy."

Murphy laughs. "I'm not that guy in the leather suit."

Murphy connects with Moore in another way. He sees his early screen persona as almost a real-life Blaxploitation hero, just without the kung fu.

"I was the first African American actor to get roles where I took charge in the white world. Going into the white world and taking charge, and being funny too," says Murphy, referencing "48 Hours," "Trading Places" and "Beverly Hills Cop." "I didn't plan it. When I step on the set of '48 Hours,' I'm 20-years-old. I'm just: Whatever's coming my way, I'm doing." Yet "Dolemite Is My Name" achieved something that nothing else could: It got Murphy back on the stage. To film scenes of Moore performing in small clubs, Murphy was again in front of a microphone, telling jokes and riffing.

"When he left, I turned to the audience and said, 'Y'all, do you realize what just happened? I don't think he's done that in like years! Decades!'" says Brewer, who's also directing "Coming 2 America." Alexander watched the extras sitting in the faux-nightclub thinking, "You're getting paid to watch Eddie Murphy do stand-up in a 40-seat room. That's a good job."

It was mounting outside pressure, Murphy says, that caused him to give up stand-up in the first place. In 1996, amid protests in San Francisco over gay slurs from his 1980s act, Murphy issued a statement apologizing for jokes about AIDS.

"I wasn't getting the kick that I would usually get from it. I started feeling like there's a pressure. People had an expectation," Murphy says. "A lot of it was controversial. I'd get picketed. They started being on my act. If I said something it would be in the newspaper. I just wanted to tell some jokes. They were reading too much into it. I was like, 'You know what? How about I just go do 'Dr. Doolittle.'"

AP

The tough life of VPL coaches

BY CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL MWEBE

VODACOM Premier League (VPL) clubs are infamous for sacking coaches before the ink has even dried on their contracts.

This season has proven no different, with three coaches sacked hardly five rounds into the new season.

Alliance FC, led by their trigger happy chairman, Mwanza Mayor, James Bwire, were the first to press the panic button, sacking coach Athuman Bilali 'Bilo' in August.

Bilo, who had been in charge for only one match, failed to guide the team to opening day victory against city rivals, Mbao FC.

Last weekend, another Lake Zone side, Biashara United, fired head coach Amri Said 'Stam'.

They announced they were parting ways with Stam after their 1-0 home defeat to JKT Tanzania.

After helping Biashara United narrowly escape relegation last season, by winning nine out of 12 home games, Stam complained the team management failed to sign the players he recommended.

With new players signed against his wish, it was a case of hoping for a fresh start which needs time and patience.

It came as no surprise that Biashara remained winless after four games, losing three and recording draw in one to languish one place from the bottom with one point.

The former Simba SC defender defended his side's poor run of form, saying his players are yet to settle into the new season and more importantly they were grappling with financial difficulties.

Players and the technical bench had not been paid since



KMC FC defender, Kelvin Kijiri (L), challenges Azam FC winger, Iddi Kipagwile, in the Vodacom Premier League clash that took place in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

the start of the season.

On Sunday, Biashara United played their fifth league match against Simba with a temporary manager, Madenge Ramadhan, but results did not improve, given they succumbed to 2-0 loss.

Singida United, who remain one of six winless teams in the league five games into the new season, joined Mtibwa Sugar, Biashara United, Mbeya City FC, Ndanda FC and the bottom-placed Young Africans (Yanga), who have only played one game so far, became the latest club to fire their coach.

An opening day away loss to Mwadui FC sent Singida United into panic mode, four matches later and without registering maximum points, head coach

Fred Felix Minziro announced he had left the club.

When one club fires a coach in panic, especially for perceived small clubs, the anxiety spreads to other sides. And, judging by the early rounds, we can surely expect more divorces. Brace up for the drama.

The new format of promotion and relegation has increased pressure on coaches.

There is a gripping battle to avoid being caught in the relegation quagmire. The VPL structure will reduce to a 16 team competition in the 2021/22 from the current 20-team affair.

To get to down to 16 teams, four teams will be automatically relegated, and two will be promoted from First Division League at the end of this new

season and the next one.

The play-off format that was introduced last season adds another element of drama, with two teams from the top flight fight to retain their status against two teams from the First Division League who will finish as first runners up in their groups.

Presumably, this changes have intensified the panic over struggling teams at risk of relegation, teams feel they no longer have time to be patient with coaches. Coaches being the easiest scapegoat, will arguably suffer the most.

Everyone, save the big three teams, Azam FC, Simba and Yanga, has pushed club's management and fans into panic mode.

Qatar worlds highlight track's many nationality switches

DOHA, QATAR

JUST as migrant workers built Qatar's stadiums, a foreign-born medalist is building its reputation in track.

Abderrahman Samba's bronze in the 400-meter hurdles Monday was the first Qatari medal at the world track championships and sparked joy in the VIP enclosure, the one part of the stadium where local fans were dominant.

"Today when they say my name, everybody starts screaming," Samba said. "I say to myself, 'Just go, man.'"

Samba was born in Saudi Arabia and competed for his father's home nation of Mauritania in Africa before getting a Qatari passport in 2015, just five months after moving to the country. Such nationality switches are a sore point for track's international governing body.

For years the IAAF has been trying to shut down what its council member Hamad Kalkaba Malboum likened in 2017 to a "wholesale market for African talent."

"You can't have athletes being traded, it's bordering on trafficking if you're not careful," IAAF president Sebastian Coe told The Associated Press in August. "I've had member federation presidents who have said to me openly that they were waking up to emails from people saying 'We've got so and so (who) is available for ...' You can't have that."

Qatar's team has athletes originally from at least six other countries including Britain, Nigeria and Egypt. Qatar offers athletes advanced training facilities and a chance to shine. The new arrivals generally don't have prior ties to the nation.

In a country where native Qataris are vastly outnumbered by migrant workers, whether Bangladeshis on construction sites or service workers from the Philippines, relying on imported talent is nothing new.

Qatar's two-time Olympic high jump medalist Mutaz Barshim was born in the country, but sometimes Qatar and other nations seem to behave like professional soccer clubs rather than national teams.

The IAAF has reported Ashraf Amjad Al-Saifi was "spotted" when winning the Egyptian youth title in hammer throw aged 15 and handed a Qatari passport a few months later in 2011. New IAAF rules aim to prevent a repeat with a three-year waiting period to compete for a new nation.

In the Kenyan town of Iten, known as the



Saif Saeed Shaheen

"University of Champions" for training star distance runners, Qatar promised to build a stadium after naturalizing Kenyan runner Stephen Cherono, later known as Saif Saeed Shaheen. The track was to bear the tartan pattern found on local people's cloaks.

Although Shaheen brought Qatar onto the international track stage with world championship gold medals in 2003 and 2005, no stadium was ever built.

Renato Canova, an Italian distance coach who formerly trained Qatar's team and now works in Kenya, argues athletes have the right to switch to escape tough competition for squad places at home.

"The country of course is not happy when you change citizenship, but the point of view is the individual point of view. It's not that the federation here is guilty, there are thousands of athletes, and it's not possible to assist everybody," Canova told The Associated Press.

"When we speak about World Championships and Olympics, those that involve all the world, then the athletes have the right to go."

In 2017, the IAAF froze all nationality switches in track and field. One of its concerns was that athletes were being traded by influential agents, without much say over which country they represented.

The IAAF has also fought to ensure naturalized athletes get full citizenship rights. That didn't always happen in the past, leaving them at risk of being abandoned if their performances dropped.

There are signs that the pressure on some naturalized athletes leads them to break the rules. Since June, two Africa-born athletes for Bahrain have been banned for doping, including Olympic marathon silver medalist Eunice Kirwa. A third was pulled from worlds for an investigation into missed drug tests.

It's not only Arab nations fielding athletes who've switched allegiance.

The Netherlands has Sifan Hassan, who arrived from Ethiopia as a 15-year-old refugee and gained Dutch nationality five years later. On Sunday, she became world champion in the 10,000 meters.

Born in Iten, Paul Chelimo won the Olympic silver at 5,000 for the United States but had to serve in the U.S. Army on his way to gaining citizenship.

Speaking during training Kenya before the world championships, he was sure he made the right choice. "I'm happy I made the decision, because I would not have had such a good chance here."

AP

Pochettino on Bayern rout: Spurs 'must stay together'

LONDON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino said his side must "stay all together" following their 7-2 shock defeat to Bayern Munich in Champions League group stage action.

The disastrous result at Tottenham Hotspur stadium on Tuesday night was the club's worst home defeat in European action, thanks in part to Serge Gnabry's four-goal performance.

Runners-up in last season's final, Spurs looked a shell of themselves as the five-time European champions put on a clinic behind Gnabry's big night and Robert Lewandowski's brace.

"Now it's a moment to stay all together. We cannot talk now. Today is a moment where we know how we feel, all disappointed," Pochettino said after the game. "The feelings are not so good. Now is a moment to be calm. After a result like today, there will be no shouting or talking when the emotion is on the skin."

Pochettino's side continue to struggle this season across all competitions. They were knocked out of the Carabao Cup by fourth-tier side Colchester last month and remain mired in the middle of the table in the Premier League.

But the Argentine stressed that his side cannot dwell on the loss.

"The most important thing is to move on. Of course to assess the team always and our players is the most difficult job for us," Pochettino said. "I think after five years, I think to be clear and to try to work like always, trying to give solutions to my players. We are very critical with ourselves. We need to move on. It's now psychological and it's more damaging to talk among each other."

"It's going to be a tough season ... After the Champions League final it was a chapter closed and the club need to start a new chapter. This defeat is not going to change my opinion. You need to show your quality like a man first. To face it like a professional is like a man."

For Bayern manager Niko Kovac, the result was unexpected and was especially heartened by the play of Gnabry and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer.

"Of course you are somewhat surprised when you score seven goals. What has to be said though is that all of our shots made it and in our goal Neuer had a lot to do."

When asked if the score could affect Pochettino's future, Kovac added: "I have compassion for my colleague but this doesn't happen every week. I wish Tottenham the very best and my colleague the best for the future."

(Agencies)

Solskjaer wants Manchester Utd to learn from clinical Aubameyang

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer encouraged his forward players to learn from the killer touch of Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang after the Arsenal striker secured a 1-1 draw for the Gunners at Old Trafford on Monday.

United have now won just two of their first seven Premier League games of the season and again paid for their inability to convert their chances other than a long-range strike from Scott McTominay just before half-time.

Solskjaer's side have failed to score more than once in any game since the opening day of the season.

"We go 1-0 up and then we don't get the second goal that we want to get. That's the learning now for this time," said Solskjaer, whose side are languishing 10th in the table.

"Be more cynical, clinical. There

are so many games we have been 1-0 up.

"We will learn. We are at the start of building something. It's just a bit disappointing that we can't get that second goal."

Aubameyang was not even distracted by an erroneous offside flag that initially ruled his goal out just before the hour mark.

However, the goal was given after a VAR review with the Gabon international clearly played outside by Harry Maguire.

Aubameyang has now scored eight goals in eight games this season, including seven in the Premier League.

"Seven now in seven games, so that's clinical," said Solskjaer admiringly of Aubameyang.

"You think at the time maybe Harry managed to get out but it was a few yards onside and a good finish."

AFP

Zidane: Madrid's goals conceded 'laughable'

REAL Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane described the goals they conceded in their 2-2 draw at home to Club Brugge in their Champions League group stage clash as "laughable."

Madrid went into half-time 2-0 down at the Bernabeu thanks to two goals from Emmanuel Dennis, but rallied back to draw thanks to second half strikes from Sergio Ramos and Casemiro.

Zidane said he was not happy with the result, but took positives from the reaction as Madrid picked up the first point of their European campaign, having lost 3-0 away to Paris Saint-Germain in their opener. "The result is bad, but the reaction is good," Zidane said. "We cannot be happy with the first half because we produced a 45 minutes like never before."

"I am not happy with the point because we wanted three, but I did like the reaction. The two goals we conceded were laughable. We weren't concentrating where the opponents are at their strongest. They scored the first goal, they went forward, and then scored the second. I insist we cannot be happy but you always have to think about the positives."

Zidane replaced goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois with Alphonse Areola at half-time and the on-loan PSG man made a superb save moments before Ramos reduced the deficit.

"Courtois is in a bad way and could not continue for the second half," he added. "He is the Real Madrid goalkeeper alongside Areola."

"Everyone can have an opinion;

I am not going to get involved. We all need to be ready, like he was in the past three matches. I am not worried at all. He wants to do well.

"We can blame Thibaut, but here we are all in this together and I am the main culprit. For this, I am happy with the second half reaction. At half-time, I said if we carried on like that, we would lose the match and we had 45 minutes to change the result."

"We produced a bad first half but, in the second, we had a better attitude, went in search of the victory and changed the match. We had more heart and courage."

Meanwhile, Club Brugge forward Emmanuel Dennis was ecstatic after scoring twice in his side's surprise 2-2 draw at Real Madrid in the Champions League but now faces a painful double session in a tattoo parlour after coming good on a pre-match pledge.

The Nigerian striker was caught on camera looking awestruck as he walked around the Santiago Bernabeu before Tuesday's clash and said if he was able to score at Real's temple he would honour the occasion by getting himself inked up.

"Santiago Bernabeu, this is a dream. A lot of people didn't even think they would come here to play. If I score then I will get a tattoo on my skin," he said in a video posted on the club's YouTube channel.

The 21-year-old did not take long to fulfil his promise, giving the Belgian side a shock lead in the ninth minute by beating Real keeper Thibaut Courtois with an unorthodox finish.

Bayern hand Spurs record defeat as Real Madrid blushes spared

PARIS

SERGE Gnabry scored four second-half goals as Bayern Munich came from behind to hand last season's runners-up Tottenham Hotspur a stunning 7-2 home defeat in the Champions League on Tuesday after Real Madrid escaped with a 2-2 draw against Club Brugge.

There were routine wins for Manchester City, Paris Saint-Germain and Atletico Madrid, while Cristiano Ronaldo netted in a comfortable Juventus victory, but most of the drama was in north London.

The evening started well for Spurs as Son Heung-min fired across Manuel Neuer and into the far corner to give Mauricio Pochettino's team the lead against Bayern.

However, the German champions came roaring back to leave Spurs on the receiving end of the biggest ever home defeat for an English team in Europe. It was the first time they had ever conceded seven goals in a home game.

"In football it can happen. Every single touch went in. We are very disappointed and very upset but we have to stay together," a shellshocked Pochettino told BT Sport.

Two super strikes from Joshua Kimmich and Robert Lewandowski had Bayern ahead at the break and Gnabry, the former Arsenal winger, then scored two goals two minutes apart to make it four early in the second half.

Harry Kane reduced the arrears from the penalty spot, but Gnabry ran through to complete his hat-trick on 83 minutes and he smacked in the seventh goal after Lewandowski had netted his second of the evening.

- In Messi's footsteps -

"It's difficult to put this into words, winning 7-2. None of us would have imagined this," Gnabry told SkySport.

"To have scored four goals is also an amazing feeling. I imagine all the Arsenal fans enjoyed that one!"

The last player to score four in a game against English opposition was Lionel Messi for Barcelona against Arsenal in 2010.

The result means last season's beaten finalists already face a struggle to qualify from Group B after they drew at Olympiakos in their opening game.

The Greek club were beaten 3-1 at Red Star Belgrade on Tuesday despite Ruben Semedo giving them the lead as the second-half sending-off of Yassine Benzia for the visitors changed the game.

Milos Vucic equalised for Red Star before late headers by Nemanja Milunovic and Richmond Boaky secured victory for the Serbs, who go to Spurs next.

Meanwhile, City beat Dinamo Zagreb 2-0 at the Etihad Stadium to make it two wins from two in Group



Bayern Munich's Serge Gnabry celebrates scores their seventh goal during their Champions League Group B match against Tottenham Hotspur at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, Britain on Tuesday. (Agencies)

C.

Ilkay Gundogan hit the bar for Pep Guardiola's team in the first half before Riyad Mahrez squared for Raheem Sterling to tap in the 66th-minute opener.

Sterling then turned provider for Phil Foden to secure the points in stoppage time.

- Casemiro rescues Real -

In the same group, Israeli forward Manor Solomon netted the winner deep in injury time as Shakhtar Donetsk came from behind to beat Atlanta 2-1 in Milan.

Duvan Zapata gave the Italian side a first-half lead after Josip Ilcic had a penalty saved, but Junior Moraes equalised for the Ukrainian champions prior to the break, before Solomon's late heroics.

In Madrid, record 13-time champions Real were 2-0 down at half-time against Club Brugge, for whom Nigerian forward Emmanuel Dennis scored a first-half brace.

But Zinedine Zidane's team came storming back as Sergio Ramos headed in before Casemiro claimed a dramatic equaliser in the 85th minute, seconds after Ruud Vormer had been sent off for the visitors.

"I would like to keep the second half and forget the first," said Zidane afterwards. "The goals we conceded were laughable."

It is a first point for Real in Group A, which is led by PSG. The French club, again missing the suspended Neymar, beat Galatasaray 1-0 in Istanbul thanks to Mauro Icardi's second-half goal.

- New Ronaldo landmark -

Meanwhile, Gonzalo Higuain set Juventus on their way to a 3-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen in Turin before he set up Federico Bernardeschi to double their lead and Ronaldo completed the scoring late on.

That strike means the 34-year-old Portuguese forward has now scored a Champions League goal against 33 different opponents, equalling a record set by Raul.

Maurizio Sarri's team share first place in Group D with Atletico, who ran out 2-0 winners at Lokomotiv

Moscow thanks to second-half goals by Joao Felix and Thomas Partey.

Meanwhile, after his four-goal haul, Serge Gnabry says Bayern Munich's 7-2 gala romp at Tottenham Hotspur sent a "big message" to their Champions League rivals.

Gnabry dazzled at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Tuesday as Bayern handed their hosts the highest-ever home defeat suffered by an English team in European competition.

The former Arsenal winger netted his four goals in a devastating second-half spell while Poland striker Robert Lewandowski also scored twice as Spurs' defence capitulated.

"I think (the other teams know) we are not stopping," Gnabry told reporters after his first Champions League goals in his 12th appearance at this level.

"After going 3-1 or 4-2 up we could have stopped but we wanted more."

"I think it's a big message for everyone else."

Germany legend and Sky pundit Lothar Matthaus agreed that Bayern "set an example to their international competition as far as the Champions League title is concerned."

"I don't want to say that they are title candidates, but this result will give them self-confidence," he added.

Gnabry is no stranger to claiming goals in high-score wins after a hat-trick on his Germany debut three years ago in an 8-0 romp at minnows San Marino in a 2018 World Cup qualifier.

However, the 24-year-old admits his four goals is something special.

- 'Hard to put into words' -

"It's hard to put it in words. I think the last time I scored four goals was when I was a child," he laughed.

"I'm very happy with my performance of course and glad I could help the team to such a big win," he said.

"It was a great performance -- one of the best we've had so far."

Tottenham's early lead by Son Heung-min was wiped out 194 seconds later by Joshua Kimmich as Bayern led 2-1 at half-time after a superb Lewandowski finish just before the

whistle.

The second-half belonged to Gnabry as the ex-Arsenal forward broke down the left after the break, burst into the box and drilled into the bottom corner.

He struck again two minutes later, firing home after Spurs' Harry Winks lost possession.

The hosts pulled back to 4-2 on the hour mark when Harry Kane converted a penalty after a foul on Danny Rose, but it was all Bayern from then on.

Gnabry sealed his hat-trick on 83 minutes after getting behind Spurs' defence, yet there was still time for Lewandowski to side home a sixth for the Germans.

The result is Bayern's second highest away victory in the Champions League's group phase, bettered only by their 7-1 thrashing of Roma in October 2014.

Bayern now have 10 goals from two group games to sit top of Group B having seen off Red Star Belgrade 3-0 and on present form are steaming towards the last 16.

Gnabry was born in Stuttgart, but joined Arsenal's academy as a teenager before moving back to Germany for spells at Werder Bremen, Hoffenheim and then Bayern recruited him as replacement for Arjen Robben in 2017.

He said knowing his family were watching in London urged him on.

"I believe the pressure helped a bit. My dad said I had to play well", but Gnabry insisted the German league leaders must stay focused.

"Seven goals don't happen often but we have to keep our feet on the ground," warned Gnabry.

"If we do that then performances like that can come more often."

"It was a great night and we're in a good place now in the Champions League."

Germany's press swooned over his four-star performance with football magazine Kicker full of praise for "Gala Gnabry" while daily Bild enthused "Blimey Bayern!".

AFP

Goal-shy United face stern European test at solid Alkmaar

PARIS

MANCHESTER United's misfiring attack will face another test of its goalscoring credentials when they travel to AZ Alkmaar in the Europa League on Thursday, days after spluttering to a drab draw with Arsenal.

United coach and former striker Ole Gunnar Solskjaer watched in frustration as his side squandered opportunities to kill off the Gunners when a goal up on Monday, only for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to pounce and snatch a point with his only real chance of the game.

"We go 1-0 up and then we don't get the second goal that we want to get. That's the learning now for this time," he said after a 1-1 draw that left his side 10th in the Premier League.

"Be more cynical, clinical. There are so many games we have been 1-0 up."

Since their 4-0 thrashing of Chelsea on the opening day of the Premier League campaign, Solskjaer's struggling side have failed to score more than once in any match, and they will likely find Alkmaar a tough nut to crack.

Thursday's clash, being played in The Hague after the roof at Alkmaar's home ground the AFAS Stadion collapsed last month, will also provide an indication as to who will top Group L, with solid Alkmaar flying

high in the Netherlands.

Alkmaar are third in the Eredivisie, just a point behind leaders Ajax and PSV Eindhoven -- who take on Rosenborg in Group D -- thanks in large part to a defence that has let in just three goals in eight league matches since the start of the campaign.

They also came away with a creditable draw at Partizan Belgrade last time out, while group leaders United huffed and puffed before squeezing past Astana.

Solskjaer also has a burgeoning injury crisis on his hands, with ESPN reporting that Paul Pogba aggravated

an ankle injury at Old Trafford and could be left out of the short trip to the Netherlands.

Should he be ruled out, the World Cup winner would join forward Anthony Martial and defenders Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Luke Shaw as either doubts or confirmed absences.

In Rotterdam, two former European champions will face off when Group G leaders Porto travel to Rotterdam to take on Feyenoord, who will be looking to bounce back from their opening-day defeat at Rangers.



AFP Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Yanga eye Police Tanzania scalp



Yanga players take part in training session in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for this season's Vodacom Premier League and continental assignments. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

Today's game will be the second for the Jangwani Street-based side.

The match is also expected to be entertaining considering that Police Tanzania are reeling from a 1-0 defeat in the hands of Ruvu Shooting.

Police Tanzania's left fullback Yasin Mustafa deflected the ball into his team's net, leaving Ruvu Shooting collect crucial three points.

Police Tanzania's coach, Suleiman Matola, said his charges are well prepared for today's game and they are looking forward to posting good results.

He said he has told his players to forget last weekend results and concentrate on today's game.

"My players are ready for the game and I'm sure of good results, of course it will not be an easy game, but we are well prepared for them," he said.

The last time the two sides met was in a friendly match in Kilimanjaro, where Police Tanzania notched 2-0 victory over their opponents.

The clash was part of Yanga's preparations for this season's Premier League and continental assignments.

Although they are new in the league, Police Tanzania have such good players like keeper Mohamed Yusuf, winger Marcel Kaheza and forward, Ditram Nchimbi, who are making full use of their experience to seek good results.

SPORT

FIFA president lambasts Italian soccer for 'hiding' racism

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TODAY @ 18:00

THURSDAY

11:00 DADAI (live)
12:00 MAYO
13:00 PINDIKA
14:00 BONGO HITS
15:00 SHASHIAG
17:00 SHELFT
17:30 KUNDA
18:00 SHASHI
18:30 MUSIC
19:00 EAST AFRICA
19:30 MADALA
21:00 BONGO HITS

News is your one stop show for everything entertainment. It covers celebrity interviews, gossip, what's hot, what's not - trending online and offline and what happened in history.

east africa RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipanga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
15:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipanga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) have said they are ready for today's Vodacom Premier League encounter with Police Tanzania, which will take place at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

The Jangwani Street outfit's information officer, Hassan Bumbuli, said although his side did not have enough time to prepare for the game, he is confident that they will

emerge victorious.

He said his side has set its sight on collecting maximum points.

Bumbuli said Yanga cannot manage to lose two Premier League games in a row.

They got off to a wobbly start in this season's domestic top flight, suffering 1-0 defeat to Ruvu Shooting.

"We are ready for tomorrow (today's) game, we did not have enough time to prepare as you know we were in Zambia for CAF

Champions League assignment and some of our players arrived yesterday (Tuesday)...but all in all we are ready for the game and I'm sure will get good results," he said.

Yanga come into today game after exiting this season's CAF Champions League by conceding 3-2 aggregate loss to Zesco United.

Zesco United recorded 1-1 draw with Yanga in the first leg clash at the National Stadium.

The Zambia club went on to post 2-1 win over their opponents in the second leg at Levy Mwanawasa Stadium in Ndola to book a place in the groups' stage of the first tier of continental club competitions.

Yanga who have assembled a mixture of old and new players will bank on such experienced players like Mrisho Ngassa, Kelvin Yondani and skipper Papy Tshishimbi to notch victory over Police Tanzania.

Rohit hits hundred as India make South Africa toil

VISAKHAPATNAM

ROHIT Sharma scored a century in his first innings as India's new test opener and gave the hosts a flying start along with partner Mayank Agarwal in the opening match of the three-test series against South Africa at Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

Rohit and Agarwal ensured South Africa's bowlers went wicket less in the first two sessions of the first day to take India to 202 for no loss after home captain Virat Kohli won the toss and opted to bat.

Rohit completed his fourth test hundred and was unbeaten on 115 with Agarwal 84 not out - his best test score - when bad light forced an early tea break.

The only player in the world with three double hundreds in one-day internationals, Rohit has built a formidable reputation as a limited-overs opener but batted in the middle order in his stop-start test career.

The 32-year-old could not have hoped for a more benign pitch to begin his journey as a test opener with both the fast bowlers and spinners from South Africa failing to make any impact.

Visiting pace duo of Kagiso Rabada and Vernon Philander beat the bat on a few occasions with the new ball and those were the only moments of discomfort that the right-handed batting pair encountered.

South Africa captain Faf du Plessis introduced spin in the ninth over in the form of Keshav Maharaj but it only allowed the Indian batsmen to score more freely.

Rohit frequently danced down the pitch to the spinners, hitting five giant sixes to go with 12 fours.

A top-edged lap-swept four off debutant Senuran Muthusamy, which narrowly missed the fine leg fielder, brought up his fifty, and a slashed boundary that just eluded the gully fielder were among the rare moments when Rohit did not look in control.

Agarwal did not compete with his partner in shot-making but managed to put away the bad balls, hitting 11 fours and two sixes in his burgeoning knock to remain on course for his maiden hundred.

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REUTERS

Akmal, Shehzad return to Pakistan T20I squad

LAHORE

AHMED Shehzad and Umar Akmal, two players who have seen precious little international action in the recent past, are back in the Pakistan T20I set-up for the Sri Lanka series, recalled after 16 months and three years respectively.

Their recalls were the most notable aspect of a side that also sees Faheem Ashraf, who saw himself miss out on a central contract this year, return, while Mohammad Rizwan and Abid Ali are absent. Imam-ul-Haq doesn't form part of the squad either, though the PCB said in a press release that was due to the injury he sustained to his hand during the second ODI against Sri Lanka in Karachi.

Shehzad last featured in a T20I in June 2018 against Scotland and later was left out after the opening batsman was suspended for testing positive on a dope test. Umar lost his place in 2016 when he was involved in a public spat with head coach Mickey Arthur, leading to a three-match ban and a PKR 1 million fine, with the PCB revoking No-Objection certificates for the player that prevented him playing overseas for two months.

The squad announcement means there will be some awkward reunions in the side, particularly between Shehzad and Akmal, and the newly appointed bowling coach Waqar Younis.

As head coach until the 2016 World T20, Waqar had resigned with scathing parting shots at both Ahmed Shehzad and Umar Akmal, saying sacrificing "one Umar Akmal will allow us to develop other players who can truly and proudly wear the star on their chest and represent



Ahmed Shehzad

Pakistan".

He had also said Shehzad should be made to re-earn his place in the national side after performing domestically.

In a recent press conference, he drew attention to that last remark, insisting he had never said he wanted the duo to be kept away from the national side forever.

The three T20Is, all to be played at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore from October 5-9, will be the first multi-game series in the shortest format for Pakistan since the world number one side saw their 11-series streak snapped in South Africa at the start of the year. Sarfaraz Ahmed, however, was not part of that series, and has still yet to lose one as captain.

Iftikhar Ahmed has been recalled to

the T20I side as well, his solitary game in the format coming in 2016 against Sri Lanka, a match where he did not get to either bowl or face a ball. Mohammad Nawaz could also play his first T20I in over a year, and alongside Imad Wasim and Iftikhar Ahmed, is one of four spin options in the squad.

The first T20I will be played on Saturday, with the other two games scheduled for Monday and Wednesday. T20I squad: Sarfaraz Ahmed (captain), Babar Azam (vice-captain), Ahmed Shehzad, Asif Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Sohail, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Nawaz, Shadab Khan, Umar Akmal, Usman Shinwari, Wahab Riaz. AGENCIES

Atlas Schools set to host race

By Correspondent Faustine Feliciane

DAR ES SALAAM's Atlas Schools will host a special race in the city on October 14.

Renowned dance musicians, Christian Bella and Beca Ibrozama, are then set to take the stage to entertain the event's attendees, as disclosed by the schools' administration.

The race gears towards raising funds for construction of modern public library.

Atlas Schools' vice-principal Joseph Njingo pointed out they are expected to get 750,000 US dollars in three years to complete the project.

Njingo noted the race will see participants take part in 21km race, 10km race and 5km race. "We expect the event will involve 2000 athletes, a section of them will be foreign athletes, will also have various entertainments," he disclosed.

Njingo pointed out Athletics Tanzania (AT) has sanctioned the race. The association's officials are expected to supervise the race, he added.

"We have set aside awards for every event. There will be medals and cash prize to be presented to winners."

He disclosed the 21km winners will be presented with 1m/- apiece, second placed athletes will get 760,000/- apiece, the third runner will rake in 500, 000/-, fourth and fifth athletes will receive 300,000/- and 200, 000/- respectively.

Atlas Schools' director, Sylvanus Rugambwa, noted the race is organized as per the institution's motto.

He disclosed every individual can compete in the event.

He noted the library, to be constructed after the acquisition of the funds, will be used by every citizen.

He added Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Innocent Bashungwa, who is as well Karagwe Constituency's Member of Parliament, is set to be the event's guest of honour.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

