



National Pg 3

Boosting livestock vaccine production



National Pg 4

WCF donates equipment to MOI



National Pg 5

Shortage of anesthesia experts



INSIDE



Donors, govt rolling out ear, hearing care four year plan

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government yesterday launched the National Strategic Plan for Ear and Hearing Care 2019-2023 with commitment to bring the services to the majority in rural communities to reduce the level of ear and hearing complications.

Health statistics show that at least three percent of school going children have hearing problems while 24 percent of people with life style diseases and 50 percent those working in mining sites and textile industries have hearing problems as well, said the minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu (pictured).

Speaking at the launching here, the minister said the government has made a number of efforts to being about a significant reduction in the number of people with ear and hearing problems.

This has been made possible through



Minister Mwalimu noted that in the past ten years the government managed to increase the number of Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialists four-folds, from 11 in 2009 to 46 in past year

improvement in screening and diagnostic services in community health centres, schools and places of work in order to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment of those affected.

Minister Mwalimu noted that in the past ten years the government managed to increase the number of Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) specialists four-folds, from 11 in 2009 to 46 in past year.

"The number is quite small considering the population of our country but the government is doing all it takes to improve the service," she said, directing the relevant ministerial department to ensure services reach district levels within six months.

She said the government is supporting the experts to conduct advanced surgeries on repairing hearing defects including cochlear implants, at the Muhimbili National Hospital.

Mwalimu highlighted the single procedure where the government subsidizes around 35m/- as initial cost for installation of cochlear implant on children under five years of age with profound hearing loss.

In the past two years local experts managed to attend 23 children and there are more than 100 on the waiting list for the service, she stated.

"We look forward to expand these services

TURN TO PAGE 2

Govt says dengue fever control plan now ready



The mosquito becomes a carrier when it takes the blood of a person infected with the virus. After about one week, the mosquito can then transmit the dengue virus when biting a non-affected person

By Guardian Reporter

THE government is drawing up new strategies to control dengue fever which has continued to wreak havoc as it emerges that the mosquito that spreads it is resistant to regular repellents available for domestic use.

The Minister Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Ummu Mwalimu told the National Assembly yesterday that the government is working on effective measures to contain the disease, noting that the new plan of action is ready for launching.

This follows reports of more people being hospitalized because of the disease as reports of casualties make headlines. Prominent businessman Abbas Tarimba is currently grieving after revealing that he has lost two adult children to the disease in the last four months.

Minister Mwalimu's revelation of the new plan comes after Ilala MP Mussa Hassan Zungu sought to know what the government was doing to contain the disease. Specifically, the lawmaker asked why mass fumigation was not being undertaken in areas where the disease is prevalent.

"We have deployed a team of experts tasked to



We have deployed a team of experts tasked to destroy the mosquitoes that spread the disease but as things stand, it is apparent that the vectors are resistant to the repellents

destroy the mosquitoes that spread the disease but as things stand, it is apparent that the vectors are resistant to the repellents," she said.

A number of repellents are being used in the exercise with the view to finding the most effective that can be adopted for mass use in affected areas. The only way to contain the disease is to come up with a way to kill female mosquito *Aedes aegypti* that spreads the disease plus destroying its breeding grounds, the minister noted.

The mosquito becomes a carrier when it takes the blood of a person infected with the virus. After about one week, the mosquito can then transmit the dengue virus when biting a non-affected person.

In the recent outbreak in April, two people were confirmed dead from dengue fever, with 1,222 diagnosed with the fever in Dar es Salaam, Tanga and Singida regions. But the figures could be conservative as no updated figures were available on later reported cases and casualties.

The Deputy Minister for Health, Dr Faustine Ndugulile said recently that the number of dengue patients rose from 307 diagnosed cases by April 12 to 1,222 cases recorded by May 3.

Dar es Salaam was leading with 1,145 dengue

TURN TO PAGE 2

World Bank: Resilient infrastructure is critical to economies, well being

By Felister Peter

TANZANIAN firms are incurring losses of 1.5trillion/- (USD 668 million) a year equivalent to 1.8 percent of GDP due to power and water outages, apart from transport disruptions, a new report by the World Bank has shown.

The report by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) attached to the World Bank said that almost half of transport disruptions in the country are due to floods, while flood-related transport disruptions cost more than \$ 100 million per year.

The GFDRR Secretariat is housed at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C. with satellite offices in Brussels, Tokyo and Geneva.

However, the World Bank report calls for low and middle income countries including Tanzania to invest in resilient infrastructure which would cost \$ 4.2 trillion, but the benefit are \$ 4 in each \$ 1 invested.



The four essential infrastructure systems that governments should invest in are power, water and sanitation, transport and telecommunications

The four essential infrastructure systems that governments should invest in are power, water and sanitation, transport and telecommunications.

Investing in resilient infrastructures will not only avoid costly repairs but also help to minimize wide-ranging consequences of natural disasters for the livelihoods and well-being of people, it said.

It said that outages or disruptions to power, water, communication and transport affect the productivity of firms, incomes, jobs plus direct impacts to people's quality of life. Often it becomes impossible for children to go to school and contribute to spread of water-borne diseases like cholera.

World Bank Group President David Malpass said that resilient infrastructure is not about roads or bridges or power plants alone. "It is about the people, the households and the communities for whom this quality infrastructure is a lifeline

TURN TO PAGE 2

Maize rich regions lead in under-fives stunting

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE irony of under-nutrition in Tanzania's breadbasket regions has continued with latest statistics showing that 2.6 million under fives stunted in the country live in food-rich Njombe, Rukwa, Ruvuma, Songwe and Iringa regions.

Deborah Charles, a nutritional officer with the Tanzania Food and Nutritional Centre

(TFNC) said on Tuesday that the highest numbers were recorded from eleven regions including the breadbasket zone.

She was addressing reporters in Dar es Salaam in a training session on nutrition jointly organised by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) and TFNC.

Other regions where levels of stunting

TURN TO PAGE 2



Maize rich regions lead in under-fives stunting

FROM PAGE 1

are not to high include Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Kigoma, Mara, Dodoma, Geita, Tanga, Ruvuma, Mbeya, Morogoro and Tabora.

In her presentation relating to the nutritional landscape of Tanzania, the official said although surveys shown that between 2014 and 2018 the prevalence of stunting dropped from 34.7 percent to 31.8 percent, the situation was still bad.

She said that World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations emphasize that stunting ought to be kept well below 20 percent of under-fives.

The leading region in stunting are Njombe at 53.6 percent, Rukwa 47.9 percent, Iringa 47.1 percent, Songwe 43.3 percent, Kigoma 42.3 percent and Ruvuma 41.0 percent.

The prevalence of stunting recorded in Tanga region rose from 23.8 per cent to 34.0 percent during the period, she said.

Low stunting prevalence rates were recorded in Kilimanjaro region with 20.0 percent and Dar es Salaam 20.1 percent on the Mainland as well as the Urban West region of Zanzibar at 20.4 per cent and Pemba South region at 20.8 percent.

"Most people do not know that babies not growing normally would be suffering from stunting. Parents do not know the kind of food they should give their babies," she asserted.

In the case of wasting or acute malnutrition, the prevalence has dropped from 3.8 to 3.5 percent despite that the number of affected children rose from 445,000 to 480,000 during the period.

The officer noted that a bad situation was recorded in Singida region with 5.2 percent while less affected regions were Kilimanjaro with 1.5 percent and Mtwara 1.6 percent acute malnutrition.

Rising prevalence rates of acute malnutrition were recorded in Singida (0.7 to 3.7 percent), Shinyanga (4.7 to 5.2 percent), Mwanza (2.7 to 4.3 percent), Katavi (1.5 to 3.6 percent) and Geita 1.7 to 3.9 percent).

Among women of reproductive age from 15 to 49 years, acute malnutrition increased from 29.7 to 31 percent.

Regions leading with underweight women were listed as Zanzibar North with 10 percent prevalence rate, South Pemba with 14 percent, Manyara 12 percent, Kagera 12.2 percent and Singida 10.8 percent.

For her part WFP Nutrition Officer Neema Shosho said the foundation of a healthy future for every child is the 1,000 days between a mother's pregnancy and her child's second birthday.

The right nutrition during this critical period puts a child on track to be stronger, healthier and ready to learn, she stated.

Through the Boresha Lishe Project (2017-2021), the WFP aims to improve access to and use of nutritious foods to women and children.

The project is implemented through social behaviour change communication, diversification of food production and distribution of specialised nutritious foods in Bahi and Chamwino districts in Dodoma region, as well as Ikungi and Singida Rural districts in Singida region.

PANITA Nutritional Coordinator Jane Msagati said increased awareness on nutritional issues was highly needed in the community so as to influence behaviour change.

The World Bank estimates that countries blighted by stunting and other consequences of malnutrition lose at least 2-3 percent of their Gross Domestic Product, as well as billions of dollars in forgone productivity and avoidable health care spending each year.



Fire and Rescue Commissioner General (L) Tobias Andengeny explains about the use fire appliance to Simiyu secondary school students yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Happy Severine

Govt says dengue fever control plan now ready

FROM PAGE 1

patients, followed by Tanga with 76 patients and Singida with just one registered patient.

The worst dengue outbreak in Tanzania was in 2014 when more

than 400 patients in Dar es Salaam were diagnosed with the disease, which killed at least three, including a doctor who caught it while attending to patients.

Dengue fever is said to affect about 390 million people in the world every

year, and is particularly prevalent on the East African coast.

In the aftermath of the last outbreak, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a global alert on the rise of vector-borne diseases, urging travellers to take

precautions.

As there is no curative drug or vaccine for dengue, health experts recommend measures preventing mosquito bites and effective palliative care like infusion of fluids and using painkillers.



Employees of Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) engaging in a clean-up exercise at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) yesterday to celebrate this year's Africa Public Service Week. The fund also donated various equipment to the institute. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

East Africans trust vaccines than the Europeans and Americans

EASTERN Africa region has recorded one of the highest rates of trust in vaccines - beating many European countries and North America in the latest global study into attitudes on immunization.

The biggest research by the Wellcome Trust whose findings were published yesterday includes responses from more than 140,000 people in over 140 countries and suggests confidence is low in some regions.

The results show that Eastern Africa region scored 92 per cent of respondents having confidence in vaccines, second only to South Asia, where 95 per cent agreed - the highest percentage.

This is in contrast with several European countries that expressed little confidence in vaccines. In France for instance - a country among several European ones now experiencing outbreaks of measles - one in three disagreed that vaccines were safe, according to the survey.

That was the highest percentage for any country worldwide. People in France were

also among the most likely to disagree that vaccines were effective, at 19 per cent, and to disagree that vaccines were important for children to have, at 10 per cent.

Its neighbour Italy - where 76 per cent agreed vaccines were safe - recently passed a law that allows schools to ban unvaccinated children, or fine their parents, after immunisation rates dwindled.

The US has also been experiencing its own measles outbreak - the biggest to hit the country in decades, with more than 980 confirmed cases in 26 states in 2019 to date.

In Northern America, and Southern and Northern Europe, just over 70 per cent of people agreed that vaccines were safe.

The figure was as low as 59 per cent in Western Europe, and 50 per cent in Eastern Europe.

In Ukraine, which reported the highest number of measles cases in Europe last year

(53,218 in total) - only 50 per cent of people agreed vaccines were effective. This figure was 46 per cent in Belarus, 49 per cent in Moldova, and 62 per cent in Russia.

In the survey, people with more trust in scientists, doctors and nurses tended to be more likely to agree that vaccines were safe. Conversely, those who had sought information about science, medicine or health recently appeared to be less likely to agree.

The Wellcome report does not explore all of the reasons behind low confidence but researchers say there are likely to be many factors involved.

Some of it may be complacency - if a disease has become less common, then the need to get immunised may feel less pressing when weighing the benefits against any possible risk.

All medicines, vaccines included, can have side-effects. But vaccines are thoroughly tested to check they are safe and effective.

FROM PAGE 1

in other specialized hospitals and improve on preventive services which are cheap and easy to manage even at household level," she stated.

About 60 per cent of causes of ear and hearing problems are preventable at no cost, while the remaining 40 per cent may need expert management, she further noted.

Chronic ear infections, use of medicines especially antibiotics with auto toxic effects without consulting physicians, mechanical injuries to the ear drum by inserting instruments or excessive noisy pollution for instance in industries and the use of earphones were the key reasons for ear and hearing problems, she said.

Tanzania has so far three audiologists (hearing experts) and three speech and language defect specialists, she remarked.

"It is my sincere hope that through this partnership with the Starkey Foundation for Ear

Donors, govt rolling out ear, hearing care four year plan

and Hearing Care we will work on these challenges and come out victorious as one team," she told the gathering.

Dr Bill Austin from the Starkey Foundation for Ear and Hearing Care underlined the need to address ear and hearing losses early as possible.

Minister Mwalimu asserted that the strategy has come at the right time given the increasing number of people diagnosed with hearing problems due to increased exposure to risk factors attributed by rapid urbanization, industrialization and a rise in non communicable diseases.

Establishing the extent of ear and hearing problems especially in communities has been challenging due to inconsistency and limited resources to conduct population-based surveys, she

said. However, in some selected studies in different settings, it has been shown that almost three per cent of school children in primary schools have different degrees of hearing problems.

Ear and hearing problems compromise significantly the quality of life and it affects more children in their developmental ages, as the damage resulting from hearing problems affect learning, hence affecting their level of functions in all domains of life including academic, social and occupational skills.

For her part, the Director of Curative Services in the ministry, Dr Grace Magembe said the unit aims at early hearing disability interventions and expanding the services at lower health facilities where the majority are found.

World Bank: Resilient infrastructure is critical to economies, well being

FROM PAGE 1

to better health, better education and better livelihoods."

He stated that investing in resilient infrastructure is about unlocking economic opportunities for people.

"This report offers a pathway for countries to follow for a safer, more secure, inclusive and prosperous future for all," he said.

World Bank Senior Director for Climate Change, John Roome said infrastructure investors, whether governments, development banks or the private sector should understand that investing in resilient infrastructure is both sound and profitable. "It is not about spending more, but about spending better," he declared.

Stephane Hallegatte, lead author of the report said it is cheaper and easier to build resilience if governments look beyond individual assets like bridges or electric poles, and understand the vulnerabilities of systems and users.

"In so doing, entire systems can be better designed and with greater flexibility so that damages are localized and do not spread through entire networks, crippling economies at large," he pointed out.

The report also finds that the lack of resilient

infrastructure harms people and firms more than previously understood.

Natural disasters, for instance, cause direct damages to power generation and transport infrastructure, costing about \$ 18 billion a year in low- and middle-income countries.

Disruptions caused by natural hazards, as well as poor maintenance and mismanagement of infrastructure, costs households and firms at least \$ 390 billion a year in low- and middle-income countries.

The report suggests that governments identify critical infrastructure assets and systems that resources can be directed toward them and build institutions that are resilient.

It demands that resilience be included in regulations and incentives as financial incentives can be used to ensure that the full social cost of infrastructure disruptions are accounted for. Encouraging service providers to go beyond just meeting mandatory standards is vital, the report intoned.

According to the report, the right kind of financing at the right time is key because small amounts of resources can support regulators and be used at the early stages of infrastructure design compared to the billions needed to repair and recover in the aftermath of a disaster, it added.



Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency chief executive officer, Dr Furaha Mramba (L) explains a point to a representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Fred Kafeero, (3rd R) who was the leader of delegation of technical staff which visited the Tanzania Vaccine Institute in Kibaha, Coast Region yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FAO, TVLA teams up to boost livestock vaccine production

By Guardian Reporter

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has commended the great work by the Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency (TVLA) in efforts to make the country self-reliant in livestock vaccine production.

Speaking during a visit to the Tanzania Vaccination Institute (TVI) in Kibaha, Coast region, FAO Representative in Tanzania, Fred Kafeero, commended the exemplary work by TVLA through the Institute to produce different types of vaccines for controlling animal diseases in the country.

"We appreciate the great work being done here by your experts. FAO's mandate on livestock is on both animal health and production. As one of FAO's major programmes, is an Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) which aims to strengthen capacities of member countries to detect and control animal diseases.

"As a technical Agency, FAO will continue to provide technical expertise through strengthening capacities of personnel involved in vaccine production. We will also continue advocating for the good work you are doing, and interesting other development partners to offer their

support," he added.

During the visit, the TVLA Chief Executive Officer, Dr Furaha Mramba, said that they were determined to make Tanzania self-reliant on livestock vaccines and that several types of vaccines have been produced since 2014 while a number of others are at various stages of trials.

"It is cost-saving when the country produces its own vaccines instead of importing them and spending so much money for the purpose. We have plans for expansion that will enable us to reach this important goal," Dr. Mramba said.

On her part, TVI Manager, Stella Bitana, said that the institute began operations since 2014 and that it has ever since been expanding step by step by training its personnel within the country and abroad to ensure that they have the required qualifications and competences for the work. These capacities are still needed.

For many years now, FAO and TVLA have been working together in a number of areas in animal health issues mainly around capacity building of national and regional laboratories across the country through provision of training to technical staff, provision of diagnostic equipment, laboratory consumables and reagents, ICT materials.

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Minister tasks veterinary researchers to conduct studies to develop dairy sector

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina has tasked veterinary researchers to conduct studies which will reflect the government's efforts to develop the dairy sector.

Minister Mpina was speaking here yesterday moments after inspecting selected daily cows under the African Dairy Genetic Gains (ADGG) programme which is implemented by the Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALRI).

The minister directed the researchers to conduct daily research saying it should not be done during events alone so that it reaches farmers on time. "We have 3,795 our

workers in all the municipalities and district councils countrywide, I propose that they should be in groups so that they are equally reallocated to get the best results," he said.

He added that the government on its part is ready to ensure that all diseases affecting livestock are controlled and the immunised at an affordable prices.

According to him, the time to sell farmers fake medications has come to an end adding

that the malpractice has had a huge negative impacts on livestock keeping in the country.

Apart from that the minister said the government will soon start working on ensuring that diseases from other countries do not cross the country's borders.

The minister also directed the permanent secretary in his ministry to ensure that livestock researchers are allocated in all the areas that do not have such people.

The minister also called the private sector to make use of the abundant livestock in the country to produce more milk and make money for the country saying it was sad to see the country losing about 30bn/- yearly for importing milk.

For his part, the managing director for International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Gimny Symith said every nation is working on developing the dairy sector.

Jubilee
 JUBILEE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF TANZANIA LIMITED
 HEAD OFFICE: P.O. BOX 20524 DAR ES SALAAM
LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. 00238
 BARAKA RASHID BARACK
 Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policies, the originals having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.
 Dated at Dar es Salaam, 11th June 2019

Jubilee
 JUBILEE LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF TANZANIA LIMITED
 HEAD OFFICE: P.O. BOX 20524 DAR ES SALAAM
LOSS OF LIFE POLICY NO. 00528
 FINA ENDREW
 Application has been made to this company for the issue of duplicate of the above numbered policies, the originals having been reported as lost or misplaced. Notice is hereby given that unless objection is lodged to the contrary at the office of the company within thirty days from the date of this notice, duplicate policies will be issued, which will be sole evidence of the contract.
 Dated at Dar es Salaam, 11th June 2019



INVITATION FOR TENDER

PRE-QUALIFICATIONS OF SUPPLIERS FOR PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR THE YEAR 2019/2021

Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) invites applications from eligible, competent and qualified Companies to apply for pre-qualification for provision of Goods and Services Listed below:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES
1	Stationeries
2	Publications and Printing
3	Supply of Motor Fuel, Generator and Lubricants
4	ICT Equipment's & Maintenance
5	Office Furniture's and Fittings
6	Vehicle Maintenance and Parts Supplies
7	Groceries/Kitchen Utensils
8	Conference Packages
9	Catering Services
10	Media Houses
11	Consultancy Services
12	Auditing Services
13	Travel Agents
14	Insurance (Medical, Assets)
15	Internet Services
16	Security Services
17	Office Repair and Maintenance
18	Transportation Agencies
19	Fleet Management System
20	Legal Services
21	Event Planning and Decorations

Completed pre-qualification documents MUST have seal and marked "Invitation for pre-qualification of vendors for the supply of goods and services and the category applied for."

Interested bidders have to submit their applications at the address specified below not later than **11th July 2019 at 12:00 noon**. Late and incomplete submissions will be disqualified. Tender will be opened promptly after the deadline in the presence of representatives who wish to attend at CDF Conference Room, 6th floor Mlimani Tower.

Executive Director
 Children's Dignity Forum (CDF)
 6th Floor, Mlimani Tower Building
 Sam Nujoma Road - Sinza
 P.O Box 34241, Dar es Salaam

For more details about CDF, please visit: [facebook@cdf.tz](https://www.facebook.com/cdf.tz) or www.cdf.or.tz

IN THE HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA (COMMERCIAL DIVISION) AT DAR ES SALAAM COMMERCIAL CASE NO 152 OF 2018

TANZANIA PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY LIMITED.....PLAINTIFF
 VERSUS
 NAKHAR LIMITED.....DEFENDANT

SUBSTITUTED SERVICE BY PUBLICATION.

TO:

NAKHAR LIMITED,
 P.O. BOX 31289,
 DAR ES SALAAM

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

You are directed to collect copies of the summons and plaint from the Court's Registry, P.O. Box 12533, Dar es Salaam. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person or by an Advocate or an agent duly authorized on **18th day of July, 2019 at 11:00 am** when this case will be heard.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that should you default to enter appearance on the day and time mentioned above, the suit will proceed and a decision may be given in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 27th day of May, 2019



[Signature]
 DEPUTY REGISTRAR

Unwanted noise can damage the physiological health, NEMC

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has directed bars, night clubs and church owners to control noise pollution because it affects both health and behaviour. Unwanted sound (noise) can damage physiological health. Noise pollution can cause hypertension, high stress levels, tinnitus, hearing loss, sleep disturbances, and other harmful and disturbing effects.

NEMC general director, Dr Samuel Gwamaka told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that the council has received a number of complaints from members of the public on increased noises from various recreational centres and churches.

"There are so many complaints on noise pollution from bars, night clubs and churches. Noise pollutions are restricted by the Environmental Management Act of 2004 and its regulations", said Dr Gwamaka.

He said the laws and regulations want owners of recreation centres to control noises coming out from their buildings. He said such buildings should be constructed in a manner that no noise goes out to the public in other words they should sound proof.

The NEMC boss noted that one of the factors contributing to the noises is that some of the bars, churches and night clubs have been construction within residential areas.

"The council research indicated that

most of the recreation centers were constructed without consulting city planners. Night clubs, industries, bars and churches have been constructed at residential areas, contrary to country laws," he noted.

Some interviewed residents in Dar es Salaam backed the council insisting the noises have been one of the major nuisances especially during night.

Yasini Mbalami from Mbagala Kuu in Temeke district said the directive has come at the right time as noise pollution is too much at their areas. He said the noises are from bars and night prayers conducted by churches at open spaces located within residential places.

Kigamboni resident, Mohammed Twaha commended NEMC saying the directive has been delayed since the problem has existed for several years.

"We cannot sleep in comfort due to noises generated from activities and prayers conducted by churches at open spaces", he said.



We cannot sleep in comfort due to noises generated from activities and prayers conducted by churches at open spaces



Home Affairs deputy minister Hamad Masauni (C) inspects new 330 police homes at Kunduchi Beach in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam. The event took place on Tuesday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

By Guardian Reporter

THE Workers Compensation Fund (WCF) yesterday donated different equipment to the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) and conducted clean-up exercise of the environment surrounding the institute.

The cleaning exercise was led by the fund's Director of Health Services and Evaluation, Dr Abdulsalaam Omary who said apart from donation of the equipment and cleaning the surrounding environment, WCF provided education to MOI workers, as they are among the fund's potential stakeholders.

The event was part of

WCF donates equipment to MOI

commemorations of the Africa Public Service Week which is marked by members of the African Union (AU). The celebration involves a week of series of events from June 16th to 22nd each year.

Dr Omary said that MOI is among the major WCF stakeholders since they have been providing medical treatment to people who are injured at work. He said that WCF decided to engage in community activities as part of marking the public services day.

"We have donated various equipments that are used by doctors

and nurses in their daily activities. The equipment will help protect doctors and nurses from injured in the course of implementing their duties", said Dr Omary adding that they have also provided different equipment used for cleaning. "We also educated some of the institute staff on what WCF has been doing", he said.

MOI executive director, Dr Resipisio Boniface commended WCF for providing the various goods to the hospital and patients as well as cleaning the hospital surroundings.

WCF was established under the

Workers' Compensation Act 2008 to provide compensation for employees injured or incapacitated in the course of employment.

The Act applies to all employers and employees from both the private and public sector in Tanzania mainland.

Under the Act, all employers are required to contribute to the WCF whereby private sector employers contribute 1 percent, and public sector employers contribute 0.5 percent of their annual tax bill for one year. Contributions are due on a monthly basis.



Health Policy Plus Tanzania Country Director

Palladium develops and delivers solutions that create positive impact for communities, businesses, societies and economies. Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a USAID-funded five-year \$185 million project awarded to Palladium (formerly Futures Group) on August 28, 2015. HP+ works with key stakeholders to advance health policy and financing for family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), HIV, and maternal and newborn health at national and subnational levels. HP+ aims to improve the enabling environment for equitable and sustainable health services, supplies, and delivery systems through policy development and implementation, with an emphasis on voluntary, rights-based health programs, and by strengthening in-country partners' capacity to navigate complex environments for effective policy design, implementation, and financing aligned to the existing priorities.

HP+ Tanzania is focused on family planning and HIV/AIDS health areas to: support execution of policies and strategic plans through the lens of performance monitoring and resource mobilization; generate high-quality evidence to support the planning and development of sustainable health financing policies and systems; and develop capacity of local civil society organizations to effectively conduct evidence-based advocacy.

The Country Director will lead the Tanzania field program under the global USAID-funded Health Policy Plus (HP+) project. This is a full-time, fixed-term 12 month contract, starting as soon as possible.

The Country Director provides senior level content knowledge, technical assistance, consultation and support for the development and execution of project/program-specific strategies. S/he exercises judgement within broadly defined practices and policies in selecting methods, techniques, and evaluation criteria for obtaining results and works closely with the Country Activity Manager to manage workplan, budget and technical assistance.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Provide senior leadership, management oversight, and coordination to HP+ Tanzania program.
2. Provide subject matter expertise/technical assistance to the program, technical staff and administrators as required in family planning. Areas of focus include budget advocacy, health financing, performance monitoring, governance and stewardship.
3. Foster partnerships with key stakeholders in support of achieving project goals.
4. Acts as primary in-country representative of HP+ and point of contact for USAID, Government of Tanzania, and other key stakeholders.
5. Lead and assist in research, data collection, policy formulation, training and capacity building efforts in support of contract/agreement activities and deliverables.
6. Identify, consider, and resolve issues or problems.
7. Use quantitative and qualitative techniques to perform contract or cooperative agreement tasks.
8. Lead and/or review and monitor programmatic functions, i.e. development of workplans and budgets.
9. Ensure quality of services and compliance per project/program requirements.
10. Provide functional guidance to outside vendors/consultants to ensure quality deliverables are completed within timelines and budgets.
11. Participate in and/or prepare necessary program-related reports, including presentations and white papers.
12. Organize and support project/program trainings, conferences, workshops, and meetings, as needed.
13. Participate and represent the organization, as needed, in technical working groups, outside associations, conferences, and symposia.
14. Provide guidance to lower level staff members.

Requirements

1. Demonstrated experience managing projects or programs.
2. Well versed knowledge of the Government of Tanzania systems and institutions, especially the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC) Reproductive and Child Health Section, and demonstrated experience in navigating relationships and coordinating across various government institutions, such as PORALG and Ministry of Finance
3. Proven in-depth understanding of the health sector and family planning program in Tanzania
4. Strong network within Tanzania's health sector, family planning program, and a good understanding of key players and stakeholders, including in-depth knowledge of MOHCDEC and professional experience with USAID programs
5. Demonstrated success in collaboration and coordination across partners, sectors and with home office;
6. Demonstrated technical expertise in family planning programs.
7. Ability to navigate politically sensitive environments and being able to appropriately complete tasks within the limitations placed by external stakeholders.
8. Professional and diplomatic demeanor and conduct, especially during interactions with the government, USAID, partners, and other key stakeholders.
9. Substantial experience with policy development, policy implementation, and policy advocacy, preferably in the Tanzanian context.
10. Attention to detail and ability to effectively and efficiently perform multiple tasks and balance competing priorities often within a required timeframe.
11. Ability to anticipate, respond and adapt quickly to changing requirements and competing demands.
12. Ability to take initiative and/or respond independently to situations.
13. Demonstrated problem solving, analytic, financial and evaluative skills.
14. Effective written and oral communication skills.
15. Proficient in the use of desktop software, esp. Microsoft Office.

Minimum Education or Experience

- Advanced degree in a relevant discipline or equivalent.
- 10+ years of experience in public health program management, health governance, health economics, policy formulation, or other field related to international health programs are required.
- Experience working with the Government of Tanzania in health programs is required.
- Technical expertise in family planning, monitoring and evaluation, health financing, advocacy, is highly preferred.
- Experience working with USAID and/or USAID partners is preferred.
- Strong interpersonal, writing, presentation, and organizational skills are required.
- Fluent written and spoken English and Kiswahili.

"To apply please visit: https://palladiumhr.secure.force.com/recruit/Recruit_ApplyJob?vacancyNo=VN7046

215265901

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has received a total of 21.6bn/- in revenues from the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) since 2007 when the Wildlife Resources User Rights was given to the authority, the House heard yesterday.

Deputy Minister for National Resources and Tourism, Constatine Kanyasu told the lawmakers that under the rights, the amount of money was generated through different activities like photos and negative impact of poaching on tourisms.

He was responding to a question asked by the Longido MP, Steven Kiruswa(CCM) who had wanted to know what the government have got in terms of revenue since the WMAs were established in the country in 2003/2004.

"What is the government plan to develop more WMAs in different parts of the country?" asked the MP, also questioning the WMA in Lake Natron

'Govt received 21.6bn/- from WMA since 2007'

shall be given users rights.

The deputy minister explained that in 2003 the government established WMA on pilot projects in 16 areas in the country and there after evaluation on the same was done in 2007.

He noted that it was realized that involvement of residents to allocate village land for wildlife management through WMA had positive results and a lot of importance to people.

He said thereafter the government continued implementing the wildlife policy throughout the nation, encouraging residents in areas where there are wildlife to start WMAs in accordance with the law.

"To date at least 38 WMAs have been established countrywide, 22 to get users rights for wildlife while the

remaining had reached various stages of rights allocation" said the deputy minister.

The deputy minister added that Lake Natron is an important area for conservation bearing in mind the ecological system of Mount Kilimanjaro and the table land of Masai and also connection to Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Tsavo, Amboseli and Masai-Mara reserves.

He said the area has international importance, hosting 'Ramsar Site' identified in 2002, whereby 75 per cent of the lesser flamingo of East Africa reproduce.

According to the deputy minister interconnection of the national reserve areas allow wild animals to move freely, thus improve their habitat.



Tanzania's high rise buildings changing Dar es Salaam City landscape along Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road as captured by our roving photo grapher. Photo: Selemah Mpochi

MNH-Mloganzila conducts successful neuron surgery

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

Muhimbili National Hospital-Mloganzila has succeeded to conduct neuron surgery to a patient who faced with cerebral aneurysms as part of the efforts to reduce referrals outside the country.

The operation that took place for six hours has been performed by neurologists at Mloganzila in collaboration with Prof Huh Seong a specialist in neuron surgery and advisor for neuron surgery from Yonsei University Health System in Korea.

Speaking to reporters yesterday at the facility, neuron surgeon at Mloganzila Dr Raymond Makundi said the operation was conducted to Cosila Tambila (62) a resident of Kurasini in Dar es Salaam who suffered from cerebral aneurysms a problem that faces about three per cent of people worldwide.

He said the problem affects blood vessel walls by putting pressure on it causing vessels to burst or rupture and spills blood into the surrounding tissue which indeed threatens the life of a person.

"A ruptured aneurysm can lead to a serious problem to a patient such as haemorrhagic stroke, brain damage, and even death," he explained.

According to Dr Makundi, the aim of

the operation was to remove cerebral aneurysms by using aneurysm clips in order to prevent aneurysm rupture in the brain.

The operation makes Mloganzila hospital a second public hospital to have successfully performed the surgery after Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute (MOI) that has so far performed four to five same surgery.

"In average at Mloganzila, we receive four to six patients per month suffering from the problem. However, most people are not aware of the problem and they end up seriously ill and died," he said.

Dr Makundi mentioned several symptoms that a patient will experience including long period headache, double vision, unconscious and body stroke...adding that the problem occurs commonly to people aged 30-60 years. "The disease is caused by inheriting from someone through birth, that weakens blood vessels which suddenly burst inside the head. But also smoking and alcoholism are the main cause for the problem to occur," said Dr Makundi.

Dr Alvin Miranda a neuron surgeon for Mloganzila said that there is no means for preventing the disease, but what needs to be done is to reduce or

to refrain from engaging in risk factors including smoking and alcoholism.

"Cerebral aneurysms can occur anywhere in the brain, but the most form in the major arteries along the base of the skull," he said.

"Previously, due to lack of medical equipment and experts (surgeons), patients were referred outside the country for treatment which they get at a high cost of up to 20 or 21m/- per person," Dr Miranda explained.

"If there is aneurysm rupture, a patient will end up with sub arachnoid haemorrhage, and he or she will be in the risk of losing life for 30 percent, but when the same patient will acquire aneurysm rupture for the second time, he or she will be in the risk of losing life for 70 to 80 percent," he explained.

Dr Miranda detailed that an average of 3percent of people in the world face the problem every year, and it is half of them who get the chance to visit the hospital while already in serious condition.

For his part, Prof Huh Seong said Yonsei hospital in Korea will continue to collaborate with Muhimbili National Hospital of Tanzania in exchange of experts and to expand the scope of the public hospital in rendering quality health services to the people.



Fruits vendor attends to his customers outside the headquarters of Tanzania Football Federation in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam city yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

By Guardian Correspondent, Karagwe

WMA inspects and verifies 317 weighing scales in Kagera region

WEIGHTS and Measures Agency (WMA) has inspected and verified 317 weighing scales that are to be used to weigh coffee during the forthcoming buying season in Kagera region.

Speaking during an impromptu inspection of weighing scales in Kyerwa and Karagwe districts, WMA manager in Kagera region, Heriety Lukindo said: "So far a total of 317 scales from across the district have been inspected and verified."

In the inspection exercise carried out in the Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS), Lukindo said that no weighing scale was found with faults, hence assuring farmers that they should use them without fear.

According to the WMA official, a total of 146 weighing scales were inspected in Karagwe and Kyerwa districts, whereby 171 others were inspected in Muleba,

Bukoba Rural and Misenyi districts.

Lukindo urged farmers in the region to understand all issues related to WMA operations so that they cannot be cheated by traders during sales of their produces.

For his part, WMA official in Kagera Region, James Msalike said that impromptu inspection is sustainable so that farmers get payments they deserve.

He said that the move is part of the agency to ensure that farmers benefit from their right to profits from their agricultural produce.

"This is also part of our move to ensure that weighing scales that are used in primary cooperative unions are accurate," she said, adding: "The

ongoing inspection is to ensure that no one is being cheated between the buyer and the seller."

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

She also urged farmers to double check the weighing machines before measuring their crops, noting that WMA certified weighing scales have been stamped with a special government sticker and special number codes.

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

Govt chart training strategy to undo the shortage of anesthesia experts

SHORTAGE of anesthetists in several regions in the country is quite alarming forcing the government to encourage those currently on health training to engage them, the House heard yesterday.

Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children in collaboration with the ministry of State in the President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government have secured 400 positions for health workers in different training institutes in the country to take the course.

This was said by the deputy minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children, Faustine Ndugulile while responding to a question from Special Seats MP, William Mgaya (CCM).

The MP said that most hospitals in Njombe region lacked health workers with ability to carry out anaesthesia, saying when the government would post them in the region.

She queried, "For a long time hospitals in Njombe region do not have health workers specialized in this field, when the government shall send them to the affected hospitals?"

But the deputy minister clarified that among those to study the field of health service, some are from Njombe region and once they complete studies they will be posted to different hospitals in the region too.

He further stated that in the 2018/2019, Njombe region in its centres

trained five nurses from Ludewa district council, two from Makete, one each from Wanging'ombe, Njombe Town in one year course.

Ndugulile noted that the regional hospital sent two doctors to further studies in Master's programme on anaesthesia in efforts to boost provision of quality health services.

He told the lawmakers that in the 2019/20, the government plans to sponsor some 12 health workers for one year course to improve provision of services at district levels.

Specialist anaesthetists are fully qualified medical doctors who hold a degree in medicine and spend at least two years working in the hospital system.



ARIEL GLASER PEDIATRIC AIDS HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE
An affiliate of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Terms of References for Procurement, Installation and Integration of Biometric Finger print devices into CTC-2 Databases

Background
Ariel Glaser Pediatric AIDS Healthcare Initiative (AGPAHI) is an independent National Non-Governmental Organization in Tanzania. AGPAHI implement activities for provision of high quality comprehensive HIV and AIDS services in Mara, Mwanza, Simiyu, and Shinyanga in partnership with Center for Diseases Prevention and Control (CDC), and Tanzanian Ministry of Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDGEC).

AGPAHI seeks applications from highly qualified individuals or organizations to assist in the procurement, Installation and Integration of Biometric Finger Print Devices into CTC-2 Databases at selected health facilities.

Objectives
To procure, Install and Integrate Biometric Finger Print Devices into 44 health facilities having CTC-2 Databases

Scope of Work

1. Procurement of 44 Biometric Finger Print devices (Specification SECUGEM HAMSTER PLUS (Unlocked))
2. Installation of Biometric Finger print devices in 44 selected sites
3. Configure the Biometric Finger print devices in 44 selected sites and integrate with CTC-2 database
4. Train Service providers and AGPAHI staff on the use of Biometric Finger print devices
5. Systems maintenance and support

Deliverables

- A Fully Functional Biometric finger print device system installed in 44 selected sites, which must operate within 21 days from the date signed the agreement.
- Full functional system Operational and User maintenance service, user training and support up to three months after training, features enhancements and support up to 1 year after system hand over.

Qualification

- Relevant experience and evidence in installation of Biometric Finger print devices data management systems
- Knowledge of CTC-2 database is an added advantage

Technical and Financial

- Profile of the applicant and comparable reference projects carried out in the last 3 years. This should include contact details of the organizations worked for.
- Profile of the personnel to be involved in the assignment with details of their qualifications, experience and involvement.
- Proposed work plan including proposed timelines.
- Detailed description of approach, activities and methodologies proposed to achieve the objectives of the assignment.
- The financial proposal should include the total cost of carrying out the assignment.

Evaluation Criteria

- Experience with similar projects; 40%
- Understanding of the project 20%;
- Proposed approach and project work plan recommendations 20%;
- Cost of carrying out the assignment 20%

Submission
Bids submission should be by hand delivery addressed to;

Executive Director
Plot No.372, Chole Road
P.O Box 38252
Masaki,
Dar es Salaam.

The deadline for submission of Bids will be 27th June 2019 at 16.00pm.

List of Sites

S/n	Region	Council	Facility Name
1	Mara	Bunda TC	Bunda Hospital - Designated District Hospital
2	Mara	Bunda TC	Manyamanyama Health Center
3	Mara	Musoma MC	Musoma Hospital - Regional Referral Hospital
4	Mara	Rorya DC	Kowak Hospital
5	Mara	Rorya DC	Shirati KMT Hospital - Designated District Hospital
6	Mara	Tarime TC	Tarime Hospital
7	Mwanza	Buchosa DC	Nyehunge Health Center
8	Mwanza	Ilemela MC	Buzuruga Health Center
9	Mwanza	Kwimba DC	Ngudu Hospital - District Hospital
10	Mwanza	Kwimba DC	Sumve Hospital - Designated District Hospital
11	Mwanza	Magu DC	Kisesa A Health Center
12	Mwanza	Magu DC	Magu Hospital - District Hospital
13	Mwanza	Misungwi DC	Bukumbi Hospital
14	Mwanza	Misungwi DC	Misasi Health Center
15	Mwanza	Misungwi DC	Misungwi Hospital - District Hospital
16	Mwanza	Nyamagana MC	Bugando Medical Centre (BMC) Hospital - Zonal Super Specialist Hospital
17	Mwanza	Nyamagana MC	Igoma Health Center
18	Mwanza	Nyamagana MC	Mwananchi Trust Hospital
19	Mwanza	Nyamagana MC	Nyamagana Hospital - District Hospital
20	Mwanza	Nyamagana MC	Sekou-Toure Hospital - Regional Referral Hospital
21	Mwanza	Sengerema DC	Sengerema Health Center
22	Mwanza	Sengerema DC	Sengerema Hospital - Designated District Hospital
23	Mwanza	Ukerewe DC	Nansio Hospital
24	Shinyanga	Kahama TC	Kagongwa Dispensary
25	Shinyanga	Kahama TC	Kahama Hospital - District Hospital
26	Shinyanga	Kishapu DC	Kishapu Health Center
27	Shinyanga	Msalala DC	Bugarama Dispensary
28	Shinyanga	Msalala DC	Isaka Dispensary
29	Shinyanga	Msalala DC	Lunguya Health Center
30	Shinyanga	Msalala DC	Ngaya Dispensary
31	Shinyanga	Msalala DC	Segese Dispensary
32	Shinyanga	Shinyanga DC	Bugisi Dispensary
33	Shinyanga	Shinyanga DC	Tinde Health Center
34	Shinyanga	Shinyanga MC	Kambarage Health Center
35	Shinyanga	Shinyanga MC	Shinyanga Regional Hospital - Regional Referral Hospital
36	Shinyanga	Ushetu DC	Bulungwa Health Center
37	Shinyanga	Ushetu DC	Chambo Dispensary
38	Shinyanga	Ushetu DC	Nyalwelwe Dispensary
39	Shinyanga	Ushetu DC	Ukune Health Center
40	Shinyanga	Ushetu DC	Ulowa Dispensary
41	Simiyu	Bariadi TC	Bariadi Regional Referral Hospital - District Hospital
42	Simiyu	Busega DC	Nassa Health Center
43	Simiyu	Maswa DC	Maswa Hospital
44	Simiyu	Meatu DC	Meatu Hospital - District Hospital

215284601

'Over 200 tonnes of the outlawed plastic carrier bags surrendered to the authorities countrywide'

By Guardian Reporter

More than 200 tonnes of outlawed plastic carrier bags have been surrendered to authorities by large industrial users countrywide since the ban on the items took effect on June 1, the government has announced.

A statement issued yesterday by the Vice President's Office quoted the Director General of the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) Dr Samuel Gwamaka saying that a total of 253.71 tonnes of the bags have so far been taken to government offices from village to district levels.

The ban outlawed the importation, export, production, sale, distribution, storage and use of plastic bags to the end to ensure environment conservation.

The government through the Vice President's Office in collaboration with the task force team has made the operation in various parts of the country with a view to tracking its implementation aside providing public education.

From June 1, the task force comprising various government institutions was scattered and started around in various regions to ensure citizens follow the law.

Meanwhile the Vice President's Office said in the statement that it is participating in the Public Service Week starting from 16 to 23 June this year by providing public education on various aspects including the plastic bags ban campaign.

Speaking in Dodoma, the Acting Director of Administration and Human Resources in the Vice President's Office Samuel Mwashambwa said various activities such as creating awareness on Union affairs and Environment have been implemented through the media.

Mwashambwa explained that the campaign on plastic bags ban together with speaking of the life without those bags will be undergoing in order to encourage public using alternative carriage.

He added that the public will be educated about the types of alternative quality carrier bags required in conjunction with the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA) for guidelines.

"In conjunction with the industrial policy the citizens will have an opportunity to be aware of environmental impact assessments to ensure that Tanzania's industrialisation is successful. They will also be informed about the role of the Vice President's Office in the safe use of modern biotechnology or biological products," he pointed out.

According to the Acting Director, the Public Service Week will be used to educate the public on Union issues in general, including success in eliminating its challenges as far as the Office is concerned.

The Public Service Week according to the African Union (AU) calendar where member states celebrate the participation of various public service activities and urged citizens to keep track of various issues of education.

This year the theme is 'The Intersection of Youth Empowerment and Migration; Entrenching a Culture of Good Governance, ICT and Innovation for Inclusive Service Delivery'.

"In conjunction with the industrial policy the citizens will have an opportunity to be aware of environmental impact assessments to ensure that Tanzania's industrialisation is successful."



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and Disabled Jenista Mhagama (R) in discussion with minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Umyy Mwalimu (L) and her deputy minister Dr Faustine Ndogulile in the National Assembly in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: PMO

Clerics advised to preach peace ahead of 2020 general elections

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

CLERICS from different Christian denominations across the country are meeting with local government leaders in Arusha to discuss a number of issues as the nation prepares for civic polls and general elections.

Speaking during the one day workshop held in the city, Director of the Inter-Religious Council of Peace Tanzania (IRCPT) Bishop Canon Godda said religious leaders play an important role in protecting the country's peace especially during elections.

Bishop Godda said they brought together the clerics to remind them their responsibilities in ensuring peace and unity among Tanzanians throughout the election period. He challenged them to continue preaching about peace during their congregations so that Tanzania remains a peaceful country.

"You church congregations should consider talking about peace in the civic polls and general elections. Let us educate people on the importance of maintaining peace", he noted.

Secretary of the Arusha peace committee, Abdalah Masood said the workshop was purposely to insist on the clerics to preach peace as well as educate people on their rights to choose the best leaders.

"We urged the clerics to talk to both, candidates and voters on the importance of political tolerance to make sure the elections ends up peacefully", said Masood.

Manager of the US funded project under United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Elly Ahimidiwe said they decided to

involve religious leaders due to their potential role in enhancing peace and unity among the community.

He said that workshop resolutions will be submitted to the regional peace committee for further actions. He said the resolutions will help the country to conduct its elections peacefully.

According to Ahimidiwe, the workshop also included civil society foundations, the disabled, youth, leaders of motorbike drivers association and representatives of small and medium scale enterprises.



Wami/Ruvu river basin authority officer Simon Ngonyani (striped t-shirt) listens to one of the mining dealers at Mbezi river in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam after a lorry with registration number T838 DQH which was ferrying sand was intercepted. Photo: Frank Monyo

'Millennial agripreneurs are transforming African farming'

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

FARMING has an image problem in large parts of Africa. For many people, it's synonymous with poverty. So it's hardly surprising parents don't want their children to end up working the land. Things may be starting to change, though. A growing number of African millennials are working to dispel the notion that all educated young people should aspire to professional desk jobs.

The understanding that agriculture is key to the continent's long-term economic viability and growth is prompting an increasing number of African university graduates to choose careers in farming. The African Development Bank (ADB) says these millennials are a driving force for agricultural transformation - and it's spending \$350 million to support them with training, advice and technology.

They're known as "agripreneurs", and they're showing that growing

the food the continent's 256 million undernourished people desperately need can be a rewarding career choice.

Africa has 65% of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land, an abundance of fresh water and about 300 days of sunshine each year, according to the ADB.

Yet in 2017, African nations spent almost \$65 billion importing food. "This is unsustainable, irresponsible, and unaffordable. It is also completely unnecessary," says ADB President Dr Akinwumi Adesina. Although Africa produces almost three-quarters of the world's cocoa beans, for example, it receives just 2% of revenues from global sales of chocolate. Dr Adesina says that if the continent's farms were to achieve their potential, the continent could become a major food exporter, with significant economic benefits.

Farming accounts for 60% of jobs in Africa and much of the work is undertaken by women. The Kenya-

based African Women Agribusiness Network (AWAN) is working in 27 countries across the continent to give women access to credit to improve farms and raise production.

In Ghana, an organisation called Guzakusa is helping women farmers to create jobs and produce healthy food for their communities.

While in Tanzania, Nigeria and Ethiopia, the Oxfam-backed campaign Female Food Heroes is getting the message out with projects including a farming TV reality show that attracts millions of viewers.

Typical of the new generation of farmers is Richard Nunekpeku, founder of Ghana's Anyako Farms. He quit his highly-paid job with Samsung in 2013 to set up a farm cooperative that uses technology to manage irrigation and harvesting. "We have to make farming sexy," fellow Ghanaian agripreneur Emmanuel Anshah-Amprofi recently told The New York Times.

African agri-tech is booming, according to a report published last year, with more than \$19 million invested in the past two years and the number of start-ups more than doubling over the same period. Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana are the top three countries for agricultural innovation.

Among the firms making an impact are Farmcrowdy, which raises finance for African farmers to buy land and expand production. Kitovu is an app that helps farmers to analyse the soil in order to boost yields before targeting buyers for surplus crops. And farmers can get someone else to plough their land using TrotoTractor, which matches tractor owners with people who cannot afford to buy their own.

With populations in many African countries predicted to double by 2050, innovations like these are not only helping to change the perception of farming - they could prove crucial to the continent's future.

1 in 3 people globally do not have access to safe drinking water - UNICEF, WHO

By Guardian Reporter

BILLIONS of people around the world are continuing to suffer from poor access to water, sanitation and hygiene, according to a new report by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation.

Some 2.2 billion people around the world do not have safely managed drinking water services, 4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services, and 3 billion lack basic hand washing facilities.

The Joint Monitoring Programme report, Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene: 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities finds that, while significant progress has been made toward achieving universal access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene, there are huge gaps in the quality of services provided.

"Mere access is not enough. If the water isn't clean, isn't safe to drink or is far away, and if toilet access is unsafe or limited, then we're not delivering for the world's children," said Kelly Ann Naylor, Associate Director of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, UNICEF.

"Children and their families in poor and rural communities are most at risk of being left behind. Governments must invest in their communities if we are going to bridge these economic and geographic divides and deliver this essential human right."

The report reveals that 1.8 billion people have gained access to basic drinking water services since 2000, but there are vast inequalities in the accessibility, availability and quality of these services. It is estimated that 1 in 10 people (785 million) still lack basic services, including the 144 million who drink untreated surface water.

The data shows that 8 in 10 people living in rural areas lacked access to these services and one in four countries with estimates for different wealth groups, coverage of basic services among the richest was at least twice as high as among the poorest.

"Countries must double their efforts on sanitation or we will not reach universal access by 2030," said Dr Maria Neira, WHO Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health.

"If countries fail to step up efforts on sanitation, safe water and hygiene, we

will continue to live with diseases that should have been long ago consigned to the history books: diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and neglected tropical diseases including trachoma, intestinal worms and schistosomiasis. Investing in water, sanitation and hygiene is cost-effective and good for society in so many ways. It is an essential foundation for good health."

The report also says that 2.1 billion people have gained access to basic sanitation services since 2000 but in many parts of the world the wastes produced are not safely managed. It also reveals that 2 billion people still lack basic sanitation, among whom 7 out of 10 live in rural areas and one third live in the Least Developed Countries.

Since 2000, the proportion of the population practicing open defecation has been halved, from 21 per cent to 9 per cent, and 23 countries have achieved near elimination, meaning less than 1 per cent of the population is practicing open defecation. Yet, 673 million people still practice open defecation, and they are increasingly concentrated in 'high burden' countries. Worse, in 39 countries, the number of people practicing open defecation actually increased, the majority of which are in sub-Saharan Africa where many countries have experienced strong population growth over this period.

Finally, the report highlights new data showing 3 billion people lack basic hand washing facilities with soap and water at home in 2017. It also shows that nearly three quarters of the population of the Least Developed Countries did not have basic hand washing facilities. Every year, 297 000 children under 5 years die due to diarrhea linked to inadequate WASH. Poor sanitation and contaminated water are also linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A, and typhoid. "Closing inequality gaps in the accessibility, quality and availability of water, sanitation and hygiene should be at the heart of government funding and planning strategies. To relent on investment plans for universal coverage is to undermine decades worth of progress at the expense of coming generations," said Kelly Ann Naylor.

Songea schoolchildren joins peace drawing competition to mark the day of African child

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Songea

HUNDREDS of children in Songea District, Ruvuma Region took part in this year's commemoration of the day of the African child by participating in a competition aimed at promoting peace.

The Peace Loving Art Competition, supported by International Women's Peace Group (IWPG) of Korea in collaboration with Challenge AIDS and Malaria in Africa (CHAMA) Tanzania, took place on Sunday at Namihoro Secondary School.

The event was graced by then Songea District Council Chairperson Rashid Mtuiwa who later on presented the certificates to all participants and five winners respectively.

According to the CHAMA Tanzania Country Coordinator Kasper Mtotomwema, IWPG has had invited both primary and secondary students to participate in the event to get an understanding about the culture of a peaceful world expressed through Art, drawing and painting.

He said that through that event, students were able to get a chance to think about how important peace is for our nation and how we can help to create a peaceful world.

The Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 every year since 1991, when it was first initiated by the OAU Organisation of African Unity.

It honours those who participated in the Soweto Uprising in 1976 on that day. It also raises awareness of the continuing need for improvement of the education provided to African children.

In Soweto, South Africa, on June 16, 1976, about ten thousand black school children marched in a column more than half a mile long, protesting the poor quality of their education and demanding their right to be taught in their own language.

Mtotomwema, an art teacher at Goodness Academy Tanzania said that about 143 students attended the event, including Goodness Academy Tanzania, Mnyonga Special Primary School, Peremiho A Primary school, Kilimani Primary School, Namihoro Secondary School, Maposeni Secondary School, Mapinduzi Primary

School and Morogoro Primary School.

He said they have decided to celebrate the African child day in a special way by conducting drawing competition because it is very meaningful to give children a desire for peace. "Through this event, students will be able to get a chance to think about how important peace is for our nation and how we can help to create a peaceful world," he said.

Not only that, all participants was awarded with certificates of participation and for those who created outstanding artwork was awarded prizes and scholarships.

Mtotomwema further said that in future CHAMA Tanzania and its partner will work closely in children field as a way of fulfil UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

He said that in order to make sure children were safe all the time there must be some children protection committee from family, village, ward, District, region and national levels.

Tanzania IWPG of Korea, CHAMA Tanzania, SHEEO Tanzania, RESA Tanzania and Songea District Council use this day to commemorate and mark peace of mind to children in long way by hosting Peace drawing competition to children as a way to commemorate this children day. "Thank you IWPG Korea for the great donation and support, so on behalf of CHAMA Tanzania I'm proud to be a peace maker and ambassador in Tanzania," said Kasper Mtotomwema.

The winners in the competition will have the opportunity to participate in the international art competition in Korea on 16th September this year.

The things that they look t to evaluate in the art works includes interpretation ability of the picture, drawing skills, photo voice of the picture, colour mixing, rainbow sky, content of the picture, quality of picture, time of finishing, trees and cleanliness.

However, the participants and the Songea District Council Chairperson Rashid Hassan Mtuiwa thanked IWPG Korea for the great donation and support for hosting Peace Drawing Competition to children as a way to commemorate the children's day and to raise peace awareness to children through peace drawing competition for sustainable development of Tanzania and world.



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda (L) inspects temporary construction of a bridge that will link Agha Khan to Coco Beach along the Indian Ocean yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

Global campaign to advocate for a world free of GBV for the next generation of children launches in Africa

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

IN commemoration of the International Day of the African Child, a global social media campaign has been launched across Africa to advocate for a world free of Gender Based Violence (GBV) for the next generation of young people and children.

Not Our Story, Change It! is an eight-country led campaign that aims to raise awareness on the need to create a world free of GBV for the next generation of children. The initiative was conceptualised through a multi-stakeholder initiative across several institutions and countries that have come together with the aim to contribute towards increasing discussions and action around creating a world safer for children by working towards eliminating GBV.

The launch on the Day of the African Child with the theme "Children's Rights First" is an appropriate time to join the fight to safeguard the future of children around the world and forefront the topic of the effect of GBV on children.

The campaign kicked off at the Tunis Forum For Gender Equality in Tunisia in April 2019 and today the eight member

countries - Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Somaliland, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia and Sweden - will launch the campaign on social media simultaneously across the continent with a pledge to fight for children's rights under the campaign's "Ambassador Programme". The campaign managers are collaborating with social change influencers across the eight countries and the globe to engage the world in the discussion and stimulate action and change.

"The Not Our Story, Change it! campaign is unique in the sense that it is putting the children's rights in the forefront of the discussion on gender-based violence and that it provides an inspiring vision to work for - a world free from gender-based violence. Everyone need to play their part for this to happen. Our wonderful team from Africa and Sweden is dedicated to work for such a transformation through this campaign and through our organisations who are affiliated to this partnership," says Ingvar Ronnback on behalf of the initiating team.

The genesis of the project was conceived through Yvonne Anyango from Kenya and Ingvar Ronnback from Sweden whom have worked together

since 2007 in a number of projects funded by Swedish governmental agencies and other partners. Yvonne Anyango is the director of CASDA - Cooperation Arena for Sustainable development in Africa. Ingvar Rönnbäck is the founder of the company ADEP - Another Development Perspective Ltd and the non-profit think tank Another Development Foundation.

I am delighted to be part of this exciting Campaign. It speaks to my life aspiration of having a generation where all children both girls and boys are free from all forms of violence and enjoy their childhood and rights. As we continue to encourage a positive response to ending Gender Based Violence I would like to challenge humanity from all walks of life to rise up and be a part of this," said co-initiator Yvonne Anyango from Kenya.

The unique approach to create a collective of partners with diverse background for one social change cause will allow the campaign to have an organic far reach and impact.

Secondary messaging has also been created to further define and target the reach. Depending on what applies, the "Change It" tagline could be modified

to contextualise the message that include: Change our laws, Change our mindset, Change a life, Change our choices, Change our action.

"We can't ignore it anymore, gender based violence against children has become a major problem due to negative cultural beliefs and practices, existing gender norms, and economic, social, and gender inequalities. It was important for me to lend my voice to the Not My Story campaign because as a mother and woman of influence I feel its my duty to advocate and ensure that our children feel safe and live in a GBV free world", said Lulu Wood, who is one of the Zambia Campaign Ambassadors.

The ambassadors have been selected across the eight countries and will collaborate to promote the campaign.

"The campaign is designed in a simple but impactful way to allow organisations and individuals with common goals to easily adapt and adopt the campaign. Toolkits for media and action information will be available on the website for people to use should they choose to be a part of this great cause", said Samba Yonga media strategist and Zambia country partner representative for the campaign.



A representative of Tarime District Commissioner Jonathan Machango cuts a ribbon to officially open the upgraded 4G site in Tarime town, Mara region yesterday. Left is a representative from Tarime District executive director Emmanuel Sizo, Tigo territory manager for Lake North Daniel Mainoya (2nd L) and sales manager for Lake Zone Abdillahi Luhorela. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

KAMPALA

Health workers in Uganda cleared to use experimental Ebola treatments

UGANDA'S health minister yesterday said that health workers have now been authorised to use three experimental Ebola treatments in the country, a week after the deadly disease spread over the border from Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Happy to inform you all that we got clearance from both Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and National Drug Authority to bring in the Therapeutic treatment for #Ebola patients in the country," Uganda's Health Minister, Jane Ruth Aceng, said on Twitter.

The treatments approved for shipment

to Uganda were Mapp Biopharmaceutical's ZMapp, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc's Regeneron and Remdesivir, made by Gilead Sciences, said WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic.

This is the first confirmed case in Uganda during the Ebola outbreak on-going in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. "The protocols for the fourth being submitted. Logistics underway with MSF support for importation of a few courses

about 10 each," he added in an email.

The U.N. health agency has said there have so far been no known cases of Ebola spreading between people in Uganda, all recorded patients had travelled in from Congo.

Four experimental therapeutic treatments are already being used in Congo, it added.

Health workers and people who came in contact with infected people began receiving a Merck experimental vaccine in Uganda on Saturday.

Integrated approach needed to aid conservation and health

By Guardian Reporter

THERE is no doubt that Africa is grappling with numerous challenges such as climate change, low agricultural productivity, poor health standards, rapid growing population and poverty.

But has Africa made any significant deliberate moves aimed at reducing these scourges that are ravaging many, especially the vulnerable groups such as the poor? Whereas many attempts have been made by governments and non-governmental organisation on these and many other problems, not much has been achieved.

The World Bank report estimates that 42.3 per cent of the population in Sub-Saharan Africa live below US\$1 dollar per day. Most countries in Africa are still far from realising the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A two-day visit in Buhingu village, Kigoma region in Tanzania early this month (1 - 2 June) revealed to me that governments and non-governmental organisations need to change their ways of handling Africa's challenges and adopt integrated approaches if they hope to meet the SDGs, especially those to do with health, environment and poverty alleviation.

A project known as Tuungane - a Kiswahili word for let us come together - is a joint initiative of The Nature Conservancy and Pathfinder in the western part of Tanzania to conserve the Greater Mahale Ecosystem that is home to indigenous chimpanzees, savanna elephants and over one million people. The project uses an interdisciplinary conservation approach focusing on population, health and environment.

My interaction with some of the people managing the project made me believe that it is not possible to address human health without taking into consideration environmental conservation and the rapid growing population - an aspect of reproductive health.

The Tuungane project is an outpost of success in training volunteer community health workers

who reach out to the community to educate them on the importance of pregnancy spacing, sanitation and immunisation, training fish farmers on more sustainable fishing practices such as using the recommended fishing gears, and protecting the forests from human encroachment for agricultural activities.

"Our focus lies on the conservation of environment for the benefit of people's livelihoods," said Lucy Magembe, the country director for The Nature Conservancy. "We hope that by conserving the environment and creating awareness, our community will stand to benefit not only economically through tourism but also improve their lives through healthy living standards."

In communities where the main economic activities are farming and fishing, you cannot address the need to use the recommended fishing gears without focusing on climate-smart agriculture around the lakes and river beds. Climate-smart agriculture is an approach that aids the transformation and reorientation of agricultural systems to boost development and food security in a changing climate, according to the FAO.

During the tour, Lagosa Mixed Secondary School in Uvinza District gave us clear insights on some of the projects initiatives and I wondered why an international conservation non-governmental organisation concerned with land and water conservation would build a dormitory for female students.

But Teresa Gabriel, a 15-year old student of the school, made me know why. "This dormitory is making me stay longer hours in the school as our home is 12 kilometres away and I used to cover that long distance walking to school," she said. "Being in school has helped [us] form groups in which we discuss so many issues with the guidance of our teachers among them our health, early pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and even environmental conservation and their impact on our lives and livelihoods."

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

THURSDAY 20 JUNE 2019

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Manager Sales and Marketing: KAUTHAR DSOUZA
0767223311
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com

International Day of Yoga: It embodies unity of mind and body

INTERNATIONAL Day of Yoga, or commonly and unofficially referred to as Yoga Day, is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015. An international day for yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly. Yoga is a physical, mental and spiritual practice originated in India. The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of 21 June, as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world.

The proposal by Narendra Modi during his speech on 27 September 2014. He stated:

Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness with yourself, the world and the nature. By changing our lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help in well being. Let us work towards adopting an International Yoga Day.

The origins of yoga are shrouded in mystery and mythology while some historians find many clues in the practices of Himalayan Shamans as still be seen in Tibet and Nepal. The Lord Shiva is considered the father of ancient yoga while some historian claims that Patanjali is the father of modern yoga.

By the 5th century, BC yoga was becoming well known and begun to appear in Vedic Scripture. The word Yoga is a Sanskrit word and it comes from the root word Yuja which basically means to bind to align to hold.

Following this initial proposal, the United Nations held informal

consultations on the draft resolution entitled International Day of Yoga, on 14 October 2014. The consultations were convened by the delegation of India. In 2015 Reserve Bank of India issued a 10 rupees commemorative coin to mark the International Day of Yoga.

On 11 December 2014, India's Permanent Representative Asoke Mukherji introduced the draft resolution in the United Nations General Assembly. The draft text received broad support from 177 member states who sponsored the text, which was adopted without a vote. This initiative found support from many global leaders. A total of 177 nations co-sponsored the resolution, which is the highest number of co-sponsors ever for any UN resolution of such nature.

When proposing 21 June as the date, Modi said that the date was the longest day of the year in the northern hemisphere (shortest in the southern hemisphere), having special significance in many parts of the world. From the perspective of yoga, the summer solstice marks the transition to Dakshinayana. The second full moon after summer solstice is known as Guru Purnima. Shiva, the first yogi (Adi Yogi), is said to have begun imparting the knowledge of yoga to the rest of mankind on this day, and became the first guru (Adi Guru). Dakshinayana is also considered a time when there is natural support for those pursuing spiritual practices.

Following the adoption of the UN resolution, several leaders of the spiritual movement in India voiced their support for the initiative. The founder of Isha Foundation, Sadhguru, stated, this could be a kind of a foundation stone to make scientific approach to the inner well-being of the human being, a worldwide thing... It's a tremendous step for the world.

Why education is the key to helping refugees build new lives

A refugee, generally speaking, is a displaced person who has been forced to cross national boundaries and who cannot return home safely. Such a person may be called an asylum seeker until granted refugee status by the contracting state or the UNHCR if they formally make a claim for asylum. The lead international agency coordinating refugee protection is the United Nations Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The United Nations have a second Office for refugees, the UNRWA, which is solely responsible for supporting the large majority of Palestinian refugees.

Although similar terms in other languages have described an event marking large scale migration of a specific population from a place of origin, such as the biblical account of Israelites fleeing from Assyrian conquest (circa 740 BCE), in English, the term refugee derives from the root word refuge, from Old French refuge, meaning hiding place. It refers to shelter or protection from danger or distress, from Latin fugere, to flee, and refugium, a taking [of] refuge, place to flee back to. In Western history, the term was first applied to French Huguenots, after the Edict of Fontainebleau (1540), who again migrated from France after the Edict of Nantes revocation (1685). The word meant one seeking asylum, until around 1914, when it evolved to mean one fleeing home, applied in this instance to civilians in Flanders heading west to escape fighting in World War I.

The first modern definition of international refugee status came about under the League of Nations in 1921 from the Commission for Refugees. Following World War II, and in response to the large numbers of people fleeing Eastern Europe, the UN 1951 Refugee Convention adopted the following definition of refugee to apply to any person who: "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership

of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

In 1967, this legal concept was expanded by the UN Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.

The Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa expanded the 1951 definition, which the Organization of African Unity adopted in 1969:

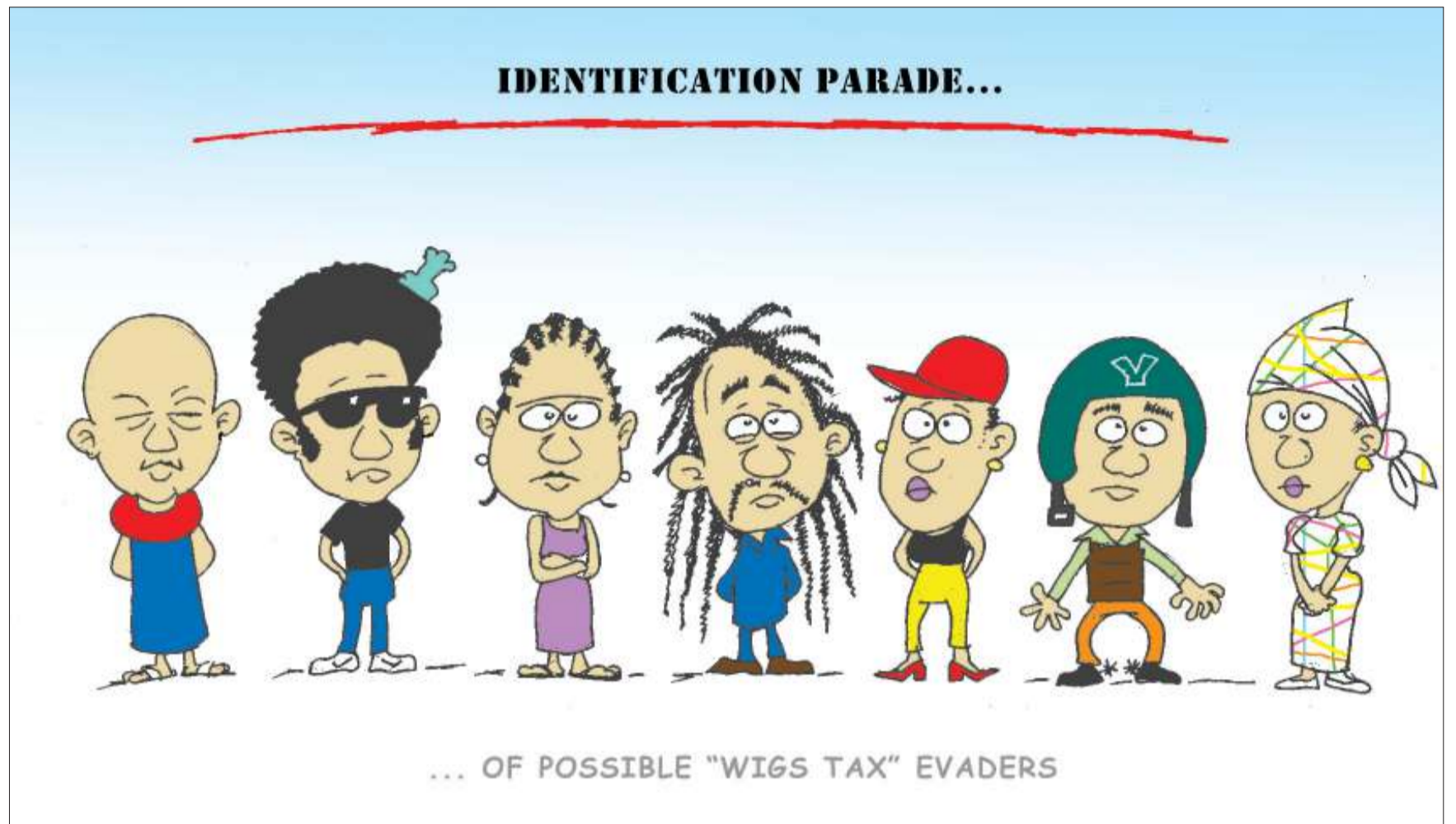
"Every person who, owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality."

As of 2011, the UNHCR itself, in addition to the 1951 definition, recognises persons as refugees:

"who are outside their country of nationality or habitual residence and unable to return there owing to serious and indiscriminate threats to life, physical integrity or freedom resulting from generalized violence or events seriously disturbing public order."

The idea that a person who sought sanctuary in a holy place could not be harmed without inviting divine retribution was familiar to the ancient Greeks and ancient Egyptians. However, the right to seek asylum in a church or other holy place was first codified in law by King Æthelberht of Kent in about AD 600.

The first international co-ordination of refugee affairs came with the creation by the League of Nations in 1921 of the High Commission for Refugees and the appointment of Fridtjof Nansen as its head.



Rolling blackout pinches cement industry

By Kalesyesus Bekele

THE power rationing programme that started in April is thwarting the productivity of the cement industry. The local cement manufacturing industry, which has been facing a myriad of challenges, has been hard hit by the power shedding program the state power monopoly, Ethiopian Electric and the Ministry of Water and Energy recently introduced.

As part of the power shedding program, the cement manufacturers are allowed to operate only 15 days in a month. The manufacturers are lamenting that their production capacity is slashed by 50 percent. Though their fixed costs have surged, the government has advised them not to make price adjustments. Even though the cement manufacturers did not make price adjustment the price of cement has gone up in the local market. The price of a quintal of cement which was 260 birr before the introduction of the power shedding program has jumped by a whopping 60 percent to 410 birr. Last week a quintal of cement was sold at 350 birr-360 birr and this has increased to 410 birr this week.

Danilo Trugillo, Country Manager of Dangote Cement Ethiopia PLC, told The Reporter that his plant is working only 15 days. "We work for 15 days and stop for 15 days. The direct impact is we have cut our production by 50 percent," Trugillo said.

Trugillo explains that as cement production is a continuous process when plant resumes production it cannot reach the high performance immediately. "When you stop you have to stop it gradually. The impact on our company is 60 percent meaning we are utilizing only 40 percent of the plant production capacity," Trugillo said. "This is really a big challenge for me," he added.

According to him, the Dangote Cement plant was producing 200,000 tons of cement every month but this has dropped to 103,000 tons in the aftermath of the power crisis. "We have a huge fixed cost. We have to pay back loan from our mother company in Nigeria. In addition, here, we have 2,000 workers. It really hurts us," he lamented.

Trugillo's biggest worry is the fate of the employees. Looking at some of his staff members who gathered to celebrate Dangote Industries International Safety week on Thursday he said: "If the plant does not run for 15 days especially the daily laborers will not have anything to do. I do not want to tell them to go. So I tell them to clean the area. I do not want to lay off but if

the power rationing continues for long we may be forced to do so."

Dangoet Cement at the moment is selling a quintal of cement for 235 birr at the factory located 80 km west of Addis in Adaberga wereda near Mughher town. "We did not make price adjustment though our cost of production has gone up. We fully respect the government's call not to increase the price."

The Ministry of Trade has told all the cement manufacturers not to surge the price of cement in spite of the increasing production cost. Transport cost has increased. The price of fuel has also increased. The price of imported coal that the cement factories abundantly use has also escalated.

In the wake of the power rationing, the price of retail price of cement has been galloping. "I do not want to blame the retailers because they are not getting enough cement. In addition they have fixed costs like ware house rent, labor and the transport cost has increased significantly."

Transporters spend up to seven days at the cement factories waiting for adequate cement cargo. And they include this cost on the transport price. Shortage of trucks has exuberated the problem.

The government has instructed transporters to transport bulk fertilizer products from Djibouti as the rainy season has started. Previously transporters used to charge 20 birr per quintal to transport a quintal of cement from Mughher town to Addis Ababa. This has escalated to 100 birr per quintal.

"I do not blame the retailers because they are paying high transport cost," Trugillo said. "The retailers will put on the price and the end users will suffer," he added.

The CEO of Habesha Cement SC Mesfine Abi (Eng.) told The Reporter that the power shedding program is costing the cement industry dearly. Mesfine said the production of Habesha Cement has dropped below fifty percent. "There is a huge waste of resources when we start up and stop running our plant. Continuous production has cost benefit. We spend 24 hours warming up the plant. There is wastage of coal and electric power," Mesfine said.

According to him the biggest challenge Habesha Cement facing now is machine break down. He said due to the power cuts our machines are failing frequently and we are facing unforeseen maintenance cost."

Mesfine furiously protested the decision made by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. "Even though our fixed cost has doubled the Ministry instructed us not to make price adjustment. The cement industry

in general is heading to bankruptcy. When we reach at the situation where we no longer can produce they may realize that their decision was wrong," Mesfine said.

According to him, Habesha Cement, which has an installed production capacity of 90,000 tons of cement per month, used to produce 80,000 tons on a monthly basis. Following the introduction of power rationing the output has nosedived to 30,000 tons per month. "It is not only Habesha Cement but the industry at large is in big trouble but the Ministry of Trade and Industry has failed to understand the grave situation we are facing."

Hebesha Cement is selling a quintal of cement for 234 birr for customers who buy up to 400 quintals and 220 birr for those who buy more than 400 birr.

President of the Ethiopian Cement Producers Association and CEO of Derba Cement Haile Assegidie told The Reporter that the situation is worrisome. Haile poised that the power rationing is not affecting the cement industry only but it is harming the economy in general.

Haile confirmed that the cement factories did not make any price adjustment even if their production has plummeted by 50 percent. "Labor is a small cost but the trunk cost (capital cost) of cement factories is huge. Weather we produce or not the fixed costs are there," he said.

According to Haile, the giant cement factories trunk cost is more than 10 billion birr. "Even when the factories are not producing they should service their loans, pay salaries and cover other indirect costs. Due to the prevailing situation the cement factories would incur losses so they would be forced to make price increment," he said.

Haile pointed out that the government is losing money that it was collecting from the cement factories. "If you look at the big cement factories, they pay 5-7 million birr VAT daily. Since our production has dropped by 50 percent the government is losing half of the daily VAT it collects from us," he said.

The impact of the power shedding would go much deeper than this. Due to the surge in the price of cement the construction sector would seriously be affected. The sector is already suffering from shortage of foreign currency and increasing price of steel. Shortage of cement is like adding salt to the wound. "Unlike cement factories contractors have temporary workers when there is shortage of cement they would lay off a large number of them and this would have a serious repercussion," Haile said.

According to Haile, a reduction in power supply would affect the GDP. "When you reduce one megawatts of electric supply you would lose 10 million birr from the GDP. Now EEP reduced 470MW of electric power that means the economy is losing close five billion birr," he said.

Even if the current power rationing comes to an end soon there is a fear among cement manufacturers that there will be power shortage in the coming two years. "There is no guarantee that there will not be power shedding next year because there is a forecast that indicates that enough rain may not be harvested during the current rainy season."

Derba Cement has a daily production capacity of 8,000 tons of cement. Prior to the rolling blackout it was producing and supplying 6,000-7,000 tons of cement daily. However, this has dwindled to 3,000-4,000 tons in the wake of the power rationing program.

Haile recommends that the government should sit down and think of a way out. "The ongoing hydro and geothermal power projects should be expatiated and they must start production at least partially. Otherwise there will be a grave consequence on the overall economy."

Gemechu Waketolla (PhD), Managing Director of I-Capital Africa, a private consulting firm that closely monitors the cement industry blames the cement manufacturers. "They are reactive. They do not work together proactively to deliberate on the industry challenge and formulate a strategy. Pointing a figure at the government is a not a practical solution. They all have to come together and work with the government on strategic issues that can address the industry challenges."

With regards to the abrupt cement price surge in the retail market Gemechu said it is an opportunistic act by distributors and retailers. "The factories did not make price adjustment but the retailers have made a large amount of price increment. There is no logical reason why they should make a 100 percent profit," he added.

What frustrated the cement manufacturers most is that EEP did not consult with them before making the announcement of the power rationing. "If they did," Trugillo said "We may have forwarded a better alternative solution."

The Minister of Water and Energy Sleshi Bekele (PhD) yesterday told a press conference that rain water has started flowing into the water dams. However, he said since the water levels have not reached to the required level the power shedding will continue until July 7, 2019.

Journalists come together, sharing strategies to overcome news crisis

By Ana Luisa González

THE urgency surrounding the future of journalism has sparked off many debates over the past year. While some digital media outlets have survived the worst of the issues facing news media today, others have responded to the financial crunch with massive layoffs.

At a time when journalism is experiencing a diverse array of threats, independent media requires not only more funding but also encouragement and guidance from other media organisations that have implemented successful strategies to survive.

For three days in late March, editors and newsroom directors from media outlets across Latin America, the US, the Caribbean and Europe gathered in Cartagena, Colombia, for the biannual Inter American Press Association (IAPA) meeting to discuss these very threats to their industry.

One of the conference's discussion panels saw three media experts discuss new strategies for journalism to resist the technological and sustainability challenges facing journalism today.

These gurus were Jean François Fogel, the director of the Media Management Master's programme at Sciences Po in Paris; María Teresa Ronderos, Open Society Foundations' former director of their independent journalism programme; and Carlos Fernando Chamorro, the director of Confidential in Nicaragua.

One of the strategies recommended was made by Ronderos and had to do with the need to

develop a connection with the audience.

It was argued that teams of journalists - even small ones - are capable of producing journalism that can have a significant impact on their communities and beyond. Key to this is that journalism must connect with its audience.

"Journalism has to work differently, and should not pretend to have all the truths. It has to be a journalism that connects with the citizenship and works with them," Ronderos explained.

Two: Adding value. As audiences are overwhelmed with information, journalists should think about how to get the public to pay attention to their stories - to make them not only truthful, but also credible and attractive, Ronderos.

"Traditional journalism in the past cared about the story and how to improve upon it - now, journalists need to strategically tailor stories to their target audiences," she said.

Three: Building trust through transparency. Newsrooms in every corner of the world are facing significant challenges when it comes to trust. "The media have fallen from their privileged perch and are in a very difficult situation," Jean François Fogel noted, adding: "Especially when readers have the possibility to criticise the media in real time."

Ronderos added that the loss of trust in the mass media today has brought with it significant attention to editorial teams. Given this development, she said, media outlets should be transparent about their processes.

"The most successful journalism is the kind that shows a lot of transparency, showing how



the stories are made, and where documents and sources came from," she argued.

She pointed to Malaysia, in Malaysia, which became one of the country's primary media outlets by using its transparency to generate confidence among readers.

Four: Using technology both to understand your audience and to better investigate. It's important for the media to take advantage of technology to connect with users.

"It is key to understand how users think, and to include them in your story, as well as know who they are. That's where algorithms are very important in order to have quick access to data," Ronderos said.

In addition, while anyone might be able to report on current events on social media, regular citizens can't carry out effective investigative journalism. Utilising technology, such as programming algorithms to track down information, conduct research and contrast sources and data, is left to organisations with greater bandwidth than regular

citizens have.

"Ordinary citizens cannot contrast sources and investigate or obtain documents by themselves. As there is so much information and confusion, investigative journalism is very important because it adds value, explains why and tries to understand," Ronderos explained.

Fogel, for his part, submitted that the journalism that is surviving is the type that works with local community groups and uses technology to tell its stories.

He cited sites like El Pitazo in Ven-

ezuela, Efecto Cocuyo in Venezuela and El Mostrador in Chile as examples that embody this approach in Latin America, in addition to outlets like De Correspondent in the Netherlands and Krautreporter in Germany.

Fogel added that podcasting is on the rise in many countries and that the podcasts that are becoming successful are not about breaking news but those that go in-depth into issues to shed light on a person or a topic that might otherwise be left untouched.

Five: Collaborating. Freedom of speech has deteriorated in Nicaragua since police violently suppressed protests against the Ortega regime in the spring of 2018.

National Police raided Confidential, one of the country's foremost news outlets; Carlos Fernando Chamorro, Confidential's Editor, is one of the more than 60 Nicaraguan journalists who have been forced to flee the country in recent months for security reasons.

"When this rebellion started in Nicaragua, I realised that there was no way to do journalism if we didn't connect with the empowerment of the citizens who covered the repression, the protests, and the national scope that it held," Chamorro said.

These collaborations with citizens also extend to working closely with other news media. "I have seen a lot of collaborations among Venezuelan press in its own crisis. It is very important for us, too, to work with others," he noted.

A prime example: Fogel pointed to PODER 360 as one example of media outlets experiencing success today. Headed by Fernando Rodrigues and based in Brasilia, Brazil, PODER 360 began as a political blog in 2000.

By 2016, Rodrigues had transformed it into one of the country's most popular news sites, thanks to the quality journalism it produces and its investment in independent, serious and extensive coverage of power and politics in Brazil. Run by roughly 20 journalists, the operation is sustained through its production of a political newsletter called Drive Premium, which delivers exclusive news and analyses in advance to paid subscribers.

The PODER 360 team also recently worked on a collaboration with COMPROVA on a fact-checking project that verified information during Brazil's latest presidential campaigns - in 2018.

-An IJNet dispatch.

CAPE TOWN

ANTHONY Ginsberg, Managing Director of GinsGlobal Index Fund and Chairman of YPO Financial Services Network, says a common trait of leaders is a strong desire to give back and positively impact society.

He said as much at the 2019 YPO EDGE, noting that the trait was evident in the latest Global Leadership survey conducted by YPO among CEOs.

Each year, business leaders from around the world gather for the YPO EDGE, the organisation's premier visionary showcase of thought leadership and innovation.

For two days, members, convene with world-renowned thought leaders to address key issues in business, politics, science, technology, philanthropy and the humanities.

The event, hosted on a different continent each year, offers exceptional educational opportunities for attendees while helping the global leaders of today shape the world of tomorrow.

The latest host city to YPO EDGE, Cape Town, was the recipient of much of this generosity, some of it in the form of a donation to iKhaya Le Langa - a movement to sustainably uplift the city's oldest township.

In recent years, Langa had undergone a considerable revival - in particular, the Langa Quarter (LQ) which hosted 13 streets, 500 homes and 7000 people. Now, it is a hub of cultural activity, jazz, street art, dance, and a top-rated place to stay for tourists and locals alike.

LQ is one of South Africa's foremost success stories so far, forming part of the greater iKhaya Le Langa (the house of sun) not-for-profit organisation (NPO), which is meant to reviv-

talise the region as a social enterprise precinct and cleaner, greener, safer area of the township.

The NPO has accomplished much to date, showing how powerful community-NPO partnerships can be. Founded by Tony Elvin of Tony Elvin Associates SA, iKhaya Le Langa uses people, planet, profit (PPP) principles and sustainable business tourism to regenerate region, with the ambition to create a multi-racial social destination.

The most recent development for the NPO is InSTED: The Institute for Sustainable Township Enterprise Development. This initiative will operate from converted containers donated by YPO, following the recent YPO EDGE.

YPO EDGE host city chair Paul Berman says: "Collaborating with Tony on the INSTED project is a way to sustainably entrench the inspiration, hope and energy of YPO EDGE in a way that will bring lasting benefits to the community of Langa and South Africa as a whole."

He adds: "We believe that as a research and development facility, InSTED will promote the partnerships and insights that could create real solutions to the deep problems perpetuating from poverty. Langa Quarter is an excellent example of how much can be achieved when we all work together."

InSTED will be an important way to communicate and implement all the NPO's aspirations and lessons from the last ten years.

This will be done through, among other things, developing LQ into a prototype Social Enterprise Precinct (SEP) through proactively zoning homes for hospitality, and organising the Langa Quarter neighbourhood watch for a cleaner, greener and

Lessons from Langa: The South African success story

safer area.

It will also be done by running the Ambassador Programme, which assists community members with job readiness and personal development to help divert unemployed youth away from gangs into full-time training and community-building activities.

Additionally, continuing Community-based Tourism (CBT) innovation will be sought by developing the LQ Homestay Hotel, a 40-bed 'homestay' hotel consisting of 18 homes, with Airbnb endorsement for accelerated growth, and running the Inter Community Tourism Agency, which advocates tourism in a township, not township tourism.

InSTED will meanwhile house

the Academic Partnership Centre as a resource centre for interns, researchers and students, later growing into a tech innovation hub.

The hub will support Project UBU, which looks at digital currency opportunities; YeboFresh, which assists with low-cost township home food delivery; Micro Investing, which seeks opportunities to use blockchain as a way to invest in Africa; and Quantum Economics, which applies quantum physics principles to economics.

The take out from this success story is that South African townships have all the potential to become social enterprise precinct hubs of industry and activity. This requires strong private-public partnerships, with continued community buy-in.

Elvin says: "The tipping-point principle applies here. If we can create cleaner, greener and safer neighbour-

hoods, with vibrant art and music that celebrates the history and culture of our communities, we can catalyse ongoing job creation through sustained tourism."

He adds: "Partnering with Airbnb has helped bring credibility to accelerate the growth of our Homestay Hotel. Working with community ambassadors has been critical to making Langa safer. Joining forces with the Inter Community Tourism Agency has been essential to making sure tourism is 'done' respectfully and sustainably."

The big lesson? It will take all of us collectively joining hands to really make a sustainable difference to our country and its most vulnerable communities.

YPO is a premier global leadership organisation for more than 27,000 chief executives in over 130 countries and a global platform of choice for them to engage, learn and grow.

YPO members harness the knowledge, influence and trust of the world's most influential and innovative business leaders to inspire business, personal, family and community impact.



Kenya must do more than just find the money

BY DUNCAN E OMONDI GUMBA

KENYAN President Uhuru Kenyatta has maintained a tough stance on the fight against corruption, setting no limits on a campaign to recover the proceeds of graft. The most recent step is the Central Bank of Kenya's announcement on 1 June that it would demonetise the country's Ksh1 000 (equivalent to US\$10) notes from circulation by 1 October.

If it survives legal challenges and goes according to plan, this move will disrupt a multibillion-shilling illicit industry of financial flows fed by massive looting and hoarding of public funds in private homes. Central Bank governor Patrick Njoroge said the decision aimed to curb illicit financial flows, money laundering and terrorism financing.

However several factors undermine Kenyatta's anti-graft campaign, which continues to create political realignments within his ruling Jubilee coalition. These include insufficient state control over the circulation of illicit cash - exacerbated by official corruption and a long tradition of political patronage.

The current system makes it possible for corrupt officials to launder their money by investing it domestically, or illicitly sending it abroad. This often occurs through investments in cash-generating businesses and real-estate projects, or by stashing it in foreign banks. Jason Braganza, Tax Justice Network Africa executive director, told the ENACT project that Kenya had been losing 'US\$400 million every year, since 2011, through illicit financial flows'.

One of Kenyatta's strategies has been



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta

to integrate the anti-graft campaign into Kenya's foreign relations. The United States (US) has declined to grant visas to individuals implicated in corruption cases after signing an agreement with Kenya in May. This follows a US Department of State announcement in March including Kenya on a list of global hotspots for money laundering.

Kenya also signed agreements with the United Kingdom (UK), Jersey and Switzerland between March and December 2018. The aim of Kenyatta's diplomatic move was to recover proceeds of crime, worth billions of Kenyan shillings, that have been kept illegally in tax havens. However proper checks and balances will be crucial to ensure that repatriated funds are not again di-

verted.

In July 2018, Kenyatta and Swiss President Alain Berset signed a declaration of intent on the return of illegally acquired funds amounting to millions of dollars stashed in Swiss banks. A month later, Kenyatta signed a similar agreement with British Prime Minister Theresa May. In March, a deal between Kenya and Jersey facilitated the repatriation of funds confiscated by a Jersey court in February 2016.

Among the targeted stolen assets are the proceeds of the multimillion-dollar Anglo-Leasing scandal, the Goldenberg scandal and more recent ones such as the

so-called Chickengate and National Youth Service scandals.

In some cases, the foreign accomplices of Kenyan suspects have faced justice in the UK and Jersey, and paid fines for their involvement in illegal activities. A Jersey firm that traded with former cabinet minister Chris Okemo, and former Kenya Power managing director Samuel Gichuru, pleaded guilty in 2016 to four counts of laundering the proceeds of crime between July 1999 and October 2001. Over US\$3.8m is set to be recovered.

Slow or reluctant to comply with the law, Kenyan authorities are yet to extradite Okemo and

Gichuru to Jersey to stand trial - even after Kenya's High Court endorsed the extradition process following a formal request from Jersey. Kenyan courts are yet to deliver a single high-profile conviction, despite many arrests and prosecutions - some of which involve top government officials.

In the Chickengate scandal, the UK's Serious Fraud Office carried out investigations that led to sanctions against British firms. These included Smith & Ouzman, a ballot printing company, which was found guilty of paying out bribes - codenamed 'chicken' - to Kenyan officials to secure election-related deals.

No Kenyan officials have been sanctioned. The key suspects remain at large, some in top positions. A politician allegedly involved in the National Youth Service scandal is now an elected governor.

On another front in Kenyatta's diplomatic offensive, top security officials travelled to London in 2018 in a bid to repatriate unexplained wealth held in the UK by Kenyans. 'Kenya wants to exploit the UK's "unexplained wealth" legislation to recover the money,' said Kenya's Director of Public Prosecution Noordin Haji.

British law requires individuals to reveal the source of their assets. It allows for seizure of property worth more than £50 000 held by a politically exposed person involved in or connected to an entity involved in serious crime.

In 2018 Nigeria pursued a similar strategy, recovering US\$322m from the Swiss government that had been stolen by former military ruler Sani Abacha. Nigerian

President Muhammadu Buhari obtained support from the US, UK, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, world security agencies and friendly nations in his fight against corruption.

A report calling for a rethink of Nigeria's redistribution programme said strict conditions signed with Switzerland and the World Bank could halt a Nigerian government redistribution programme. This prompted a motion in the Nigerian House of Representatives requiring the exercise to respect the country's revenue-sharing formula for disbursing money among all 36 states.

The motion followed complaints of recovered funds being looted by officials within the very agencies that carried out investigations and retrieved the funds. These funds appeared to end up in the accounts of 'ghost beneficiaries'.

Kenya's latest attempt to address money laundering through recovering stolen cash and assets is laudable. But it needs effective and transparent mechanisms to manage the funds and prevent recovered money from being recycled and returned to overseas bank accounts in tax havens.

In order to exorcise the business-as-usual ghost, the government also needs to revamp the prosecution of corruption cases. A conviction would send a strong signal to those state officials who engage in money laundering and corruption with impunity.

Duncan E Omondi Gumba, Regional Coordinator for East and Horn of Africa, ENACT project, ISS Nairobi

How China's foreign policy enhances international cooperation and contributes to global economic development

By George Muntu

OVER the past seven decades, China has been making reforms in its foreign policy to ensure that it is beneficial and diplomatic. China's foreign policy has been found and coordinated by the strong leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for the purpose of turning the world into a multi-polar, peaceful and secure place.

Currently, China is one of the countries that have a good foreign policy that is trusted by other nations in resolving international conflicts and bringing about global economic development.

China's foreign policy has great advantages and has achieved many successes in resolving international conflicts, controlling confrontation and generating economic growth for the whole world.

The benefits derived from China's foreign policy include win-win cooperation, non-conditional aid, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and many others. China's foreign policy is based on equality, mutual respect, win-win approach and justice.

It is against all forms of protectionism and unilateralism, such as US "America First" policy and the imposing of economic sanctions on Iran when the Iranian nuclear deal is still there.

The Western nations, especially the US, view China as a non-democratic country which undermines freedom of information, freedom of speech and violates human rights. Indeed, these are baseless accusations designed to damage China's reputation internationally.

The fact is that China's human rights record is by no means worse than that of the US and it is still improving. China's foreign policy is better received by the international community than that of the US due to its adherence to such principles as non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, full respect for other countries' sovereignty and seeking win-win outcomes.

China prefers to employ diplomatic means in resolving international conflicts and frictions, and has been in the forefront of the countries that oppose the use of military forces without the mandate of the UN Security Council.

It expects all international conflicts to be resolved through negotiations and consultations rather than by economic sanctions or the use of military forces. This diplomacy-based approach has greatly helped resolve the Iranian nuclear crisis and mitigate the risks associated with the Korean Peninsula



The storage yard of the Hambantota port, which remains in the ownership of the Sri Lankan government. Photo: Xinhua

nuclear issue.

China calls for all other conflicts, those relating to Ukraine, Syria, Yemen, Chinese Taiwan, South China Sea, East China Sea and Venezuela, to be resolved through diplomatic talks and political dialogue.

In face of the current global security situation, with the increase of terrorist attacks, military operations, economic sanctions and commercial warfare, the world needs a new system and alternative foreign policies like that of China to help resolve conflicts and restore peace, harmony and unity of the world.

China's foreign policy provides an good opportunity for other countries in the world to do business with it without the need to worry about exploitation or bullying. Due to the peaceful nature of China's foreign policy, almost every country in the world wants to strengthen its relationship, especially economic ties, with China.

A recent example is Italy signing a MoU with China on jointly advancing the construction of the Belt and Road, which makes the country the first nation in the G7 group to formally join the BRI.

The world peace and strong economic growth requires good foreign policy and a conducive environment for international cooperation. Having recognized this, China has developed a unique foreign policy and system that focuses on the needs and interests of all nations in the world, and this unique

policy has provided an opportunity for every country to benefit from it.

China's foreign policy advocates equality, mutual benefit, non-interference, multilateralism and other universal norms governing international relations. It is good for the whole world to know that China's foreign policy is actually protecting the integrity of the multilateral trade system and the stability of global industrial and supply chains.

Citing the current China-US trade war as an example, if China gave in to the exorbitant demands of the US, the US will apply the same method of intimidation and coercion to other countries and ultimately the international trade rules would be rewritten by the US to the detriment of all other countries. This is certainly against such international norms as equality of sovereignty and not conducive to world peace and common development.

Trumpeting "America First", the current US administration has been pursuing a selfish and beggar-thy-neighbor unilateralist foreign policy, which is not only harmful to its major trading partners like China, India and Mexico, but also detrimental to its own interests and the interests of the entire world.

According to a research report released by Trade Partnership, an American think-tank, in February 2019, if the US imposes 25 percent additional tariffs on all imported Chinese goods, US GDP will decrease by 1.01 percent, with 2.16 million job losses and an additional annual burden of US\$2,294 on a family of four.

The International Monetary Fund has marked down its projection of world economic growth for 2019 to 3.3 percent from the 2018 estimate of 3.6 percent in its World Economic Outlook report published in April 2019, suggesting that economic and trade friction could further depress global economic growth and weaken already anemic investment.

In contrast, initiated by China, the BRI has never been labeled "China First". Upholding the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, the BRI has attracted over 150 countries and international organizations to join, making it a global development initiative.

Africa is one of the regions that have greatly benefited from the BRI. For instance, China provided 70 percent of the funds for the construction of the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, the first standard-gauge electrified railroad in

Africa.

This 756-kilometer track has shortened the journeys between Addis Ababa and Djibouti from 10 days via the old meter-gauge railway built by the French 100 years ago, and two days by road to 14 hours.

In Tanzania, though there is no project labeled "BRI project", many infrastructural works and connectivity initiatives, like the China-aid Terminal 2 of Zanzibar airport, the upgrading of Dar es Salaam port undertaken by a Chinese company and the opening of direct flights between Dar es Salaam and Guangzhou will contribute to enhanced connectivity, which is a key objective of the BRI. Therefore, there is a possibility to include such projects into BRI's development plan.

Despite of the great actual and potential benefits of the BRI, there are also some noises about it. One of the accusations mentioned repeatedly is that the BRI is creating "debt trap" for poor countries, and the most cited example is the Hambantota Port project in Sri Lanka.

They blame China for using infrastructure loans that cannot be repaid to take over borrowing countries' valuable assets. But it is certainly not true, even in the case of Hambantota port project.

It is true that the Hong Kong-based China Merchants Port got a lease of 99 years for Hambantota port in 2017, but the funds received by the Sri Lanka Government for the lease were not used to repay port-related debt, but to pay off some expensive loans, mostly from Western financial institutions.

The interest rate of the international sovereign bonds that the Sri Lanka Government borrowed is 6.3 percent on average and they must be fully repaid within seven years in general, while more than two-thirds of the value of Chinese state funds lent to Sri Lanka from 2001-2017 (including two-thirds of the Hambantota port loans) were at 2 percent interest, and mostly repayable over 20 years.

And payments of the principal and interest for the Hambantota port loans comprised only about 1.5 percent of Sri Lanka's external debt repayment obligations due then. Therefore, it is unreasonable

to say that China laid a "debt trap" for Sri Lanka by offering loans to its government for building infrastructures.

Moreover, the Hambantota port lease was not a result of any inability to service the loans, nor was it a debt-for-equity swap - the Sri Lankan government still owns the port. What the Chinese investor got is just a franchise to operate and manage the port for 99 years.

The lease agreement signed by the Sri Lankan government and the China Merchants Port is mutually beneficial one, because the funds the former received help it repay the expensive international loans, thereby avoiding default and damage to its state credit, while the latter gained the rights to operate a port with good geographical location. This win-win result is just what China's foreign policy advocates.

In fact, many BRI projects have such win-win features. We should keep in mind that the BRI is not a foreign aid project with clearly defined objects like the Marshall Plan, but an initiative of international economic cooperation participated by countries on a voluntary basis with no clearly demarcated boundaries.

The BRI is compatible to other international and regional cooperation initiatives such as the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to its openness and flexibility. It is not only open to countries along the land and maritime silk roads, but open to countries far from these roads, like the US and Latin American countries.

China actually regards the BRI as a platform to build a global community with a shared future. Ambitious as it is, it is natural to hear some baseless accusations against the BRI from those countries who do not want to see an increasingly powerful China, which in their eyes will certainly challenge their dominant position in the world political and economic systems.

(The author is an independent writer based in Dar es Salaam. He can be reached at cleophaegeorge@gmail.com)

Land rights monitors: Taking land laws, rights, ownership to marginalised rural communities

By Guardian Correspondent

A lot has changed since 2009 when Richard Nehemia of Chita village in Kilombero District participated in a training workshop that gave him basic knowledge on land laws and land administration in Tanzania.

The workshop was conducted by Haki Ardhi, a Land Rights Research and Resources Institute based in Dar es Salaam.

Over the years he has participated in other workshops focusing on village land rights, good governance, conflict resolution and local climate change adaptation, among others, thanks to the continued support of Haki Ardhi.

Ten years down the road, Nehemia is not only a different person in terms of knowledge on land rights, but he has also helped many residents of Chita to know and understand issues about land ownership.

With this knowledge, men and women alike demand their rights to own land and know how to defend these rights whenever they are threatened.

Nehemia is one of more than 600 Land Rights Monitors (LRMs) located in 14 districts of Tanzania mainland.

"Out of these only 130 take part in implementation of Ardhi Yetu Plus (AYP+) project in Morogoro, Mufindi, Kilombero and Kilolo Districts.

The rest have participated in other projects and have continued to work as land rights monitors in their respective villages," explains Augustino Munuma, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at HakiArdhi.

Villagers conduct selection of potential monitors basing on the general knowledge and educational background of the applicants, their participation in village activities and their ability and willingness to assume leadership roles.

Selected young men and women undergo training and eventually become land rights monitors in villages where Haki Ardhi implement projects. Land rights monitors are volunteers in the strict sense of the word.

They are not paid either in cash or in kind when they sit for arbitration of conflicts or when they spend some time to educate villagers on land rights; their only reward being the satisfaction they get when they resolve a conflict and when villagers live in peace.

"When I started working as a land monitor, I had little support from the village government and tribal leaders because they thought I was taking their responsibly. However they later realized that I was actually helping the villagers and reducing the burden of the leaders to deal with conflicts which were numerous at that time," explains Nehemia.

He says that with the experience he has gained in arbitration and the support he gets from the leaders, he is able to resolve many conflicts that would otherwise have been dealt with by the village land council or referred to the ward land council.

Land rights monitors help villagers understand land issues through training and discussions.

"I have many responsibilities but there are two major ones. One is to educate people and raise their awareness on their right to own land and use it to meet their needs. The other is to conduct arbitration when disputes over land arise in the community for various reasons. When people have basic understanding of laws and realize the importance of land to their lives, there are few conflicts that require arbitration," he explains.

Among the objectives of AYP+ are to promote awareness of land laws and land rights among rural communities as well as promote the rights of women to own land. "In many villages women are marginalised and their right to own land and other property is often not recognized and upheld.

AYP+ seeks to raise the profile of rural women so that they own land and other property in order to reduce poverty in their families," explains Munuma.

Nehemia recalls that there were about 20 cases for arbitration that he had to deal with in 2009. However this year he has dealt with only two cases.

"Now that there is a small number of a conflict, I have included climate change adaptation awareness as an issue to be discussed in meetings. In the face of climate change



A group of women listening to land rights monitor during a training session (File photo)

it is not enough for people to own land; they must be able to protect it from impacts so that it continues to be productive by conserving the environment and making the ecosystem resilient general," explains Nehemia.

"The focus is on conservation of water sources and protection of forests. I also advise villagers to wetlands because these supply water during the dry season and enable them to grow vegetables. It makes life easy in the dry season when most water sources are dry," he adds.

Working with communities in issues of land might seem difficult because of traditions and culture of that particular area. Villagers have their own ways of land administration and anyone who tries to interfere with them is likely to be frowned upon.

However, land monitors have the advantage that they are part and parcel of the community; they were born and have grown up with the villagers so they are trusted by the communities.

"In the ten years that I have worked as a land rights monitor, I have gained a lot of knowledge and confidence that has enabled me to resolve many conflicts. The villagers trust me," he explains. "The Village Executive Officer is also a land monitor so the two of us work together to educate people and resolve land conflicts very easily," he notes.

According to Nehemia, residents of Chita have very high awareness of land laws and land rights due to the reading and discussion groups that were introduced with the advent of

AYP+. Haki Ardhi provides reading materials various issues of land. The land monitor spearheads discussions mainly focusing on land laws and village by-laws, land ownership, climate change and women's land rights. Currently there are 64 villagers who have formed four reading and discussion groups.

In executing his duties the land monitor faces some challenges and the major one is interference from politicians. "Very often politicians come to discussions or during meetings where issues of land are discussed with the purpose of gaining popularity and not to help people know their rights. But I have always stood firm and told participants that their right to own land and their right to demand protection of their property has nothing to do with politicians and they should shun politicians the law protects them, not politics" says Nehemia.

Haviishi Nyomolelo is a Land Rights Monitor in Iramba Village of Mufindi District. He was elected in 2012 and has since participated in several workshops on land issues. He says that in 2013 he resolved about ten conflicts but the figure has been going down. Currently there are only two disputes that require arbitration.

"Educating villagers and raising awareness about land issues, particularly about the right to own land, is the most important task. Sometimes conflicts happen because the parties are ignorant of existing laws. There are cases when people sell their land at giveaway prices or they are conned into relinquishing ownership of their land

because they do not know existing laws and procedures," explains Nyomolelo.

"But awareness has created new problems. People now know the importance of land and therefore lay claim on parcels of land that are not theirs or they had log forfeited. A land rights monitor has to help people out of these problems and thus reduce conflicts in the village."

Most of the conflicts are between families, over farm boundaries. There are also conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, with the latter often accused of grazing their herds in farms.

"But there are also conflicts within families; these are based on distribution of clan land, inheritance of family land and the right of divorced women and widows to inherit land which they owned together with the deceased. Girls have also been denied the right to own land as fathers always give the family land to boys. This has largely to do with the traditions and culture of the tribe," he explains.

The introduction of reading and discussion groups plays a big role in educating villagers and raising awareness about land rights. However, many of the participants in Iramba are women and girls. "Very few men and boys take part in these groups. They say we should pay them but I have tried to make it clear that the issues discussed relate to the rights to own land which is the only property they have," says the land rights monitor.

And the problem is not confined to Iramba or Mufindi District only. "I have spoken to some of colleagues in Kilolo and Morogoro District, they face a simi-

lar problem," noted Nyomolelo.

The LRMs have discussed the problem and agreed to draw the young men into discussions by introducing sports activities. "We know they like football and other games so we could hold discussions before such activities begin," he says.

In 2018 Haki Ardhi conducted training in Morogoro town to several new land rights monitors during which participants learned about women's rights and gender issues, gender violence and how to reduce it in communities as well as the right of women to own land.

They were also enlightened on conservation and protection of the environment.

"We were trained on how to conduct arbitration and resolve disputes related to land ownership," explains Khadija Kigoda, a Land Rights Monitor of Lulindi village in Morogoro District. She is one of the participants in the 2018 training workshop.

The village is rife with land related disputes, ranging from conflicts between farmers and pastoralists, parents selling land without the knowledge of their children to men selling land without the knowledge of their wives.

"I resolved a recent dispute in which a widow and her children were about to lose their land because the deceased's brother was going to sell it without their knowledge," explains Ms Kigoda, adding that there were no documents for the purported sale and the agreement was verbal. "I informed the widow about the sale and told the man that what he was doing was illegal. I also informed the village government about the issue and the sale was aborted."

According to Ms Kigoda there is no one in the village and the entire Lundi Ward who has a Customary Certificate of Right of Occupancy (CCRO), an equivalent of land title deed. This situation complicates matters because no one has proof of ownership of land or right to occupy of the said piece of land.

"I believe there would be few conflicts if the village land was surveyed and issued with a certificate of ownership. If land owned by individual villagers is surveyed and certificates are issued everyone would be comfortable," she explains.

The Tanzania Natural Resources Forum (TNRF) is one of the implementing partners of AYP+. They too appreciate the important role played by LRMs in educating rural communities on land issue.

A coordinator for land issues at TNRF, Masalu Luhula, says that the success of the AYP+ is greatly hinged on LRMs because they work with communities at the grassroots level.

The fact that they were born and have lived in the villages in which they work gives them an added advantage because they know the customs and traditions of the areas and they are well trusted by the communities.

"They are volunteers in the strict sense of the word and they help villagers because they know the importance of land to community members.

They educate members on land laws and land rights as well as provide legal assistance to villagers who have problems with their land rights and ownership.

It would take decades for communities to get this knowledge and many would lose their land and their property out of ignorance," he explains.

LRMs don't follow a timetable when it comes to resolving land conflicts; this makes them the first port of call for a community member who has a problem with their land, instead of reporting the case to the village land tribunal who work on a specific timetable and their meetings could be rescheduled if some members are absent.

Justice would be delayed and thus denied. There have also been cases when the tribunals have rushed through cases as a matter of routine and made wrong decisions. Sometimes a member of the tribunal could have a stake in the case brought to them and thus influence the decision of the tribunal. Such a situation only fuels conflicts instead of resolving them.

"Conflicts should be resolved as soon as they erupt because the longer it takes to address them the more they become complicated. LRMs begin the process to resolve conflicts as soon as they are reported; that is why they make a great contribution to the positive impacts of AYP+" he says.

UN agency launches report spotlighting benefits of investing in better migration data analysis

DAVOS

INVESTING in value-based migration data that squarely focuses on impact can benefit the world to the tune of \$35 billion dollars, according to a new report launched recently in Davos, Switzerland, by the United Nations migration agency.

A study by the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC), working with the McKinsey Centre for Government, found that better use of data will help turn human mobility into an asset worth tens of billions of dollars.

"Too often, data are seen as the abstract business of experts operating in backrooms," IOM Director General William Lacy Swing told the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos, draws

thousands of top business and global political leaders to discuss the most pressing issues facing the world.

"Yet data are essential to produce real-life results, such as protecting migrants in vulnerable situations, fill labour market shortages and improve integration, manage asylum procedures, ensure the humane return of migrants ordered to leave or increase remittance flows," he added.

The report, entitled More than Numbers: How migration data can deliver real-life benefits illuminates how investing in migration data can bring huge economic, social and humanitarian benefits.

Providing detailed calculations of benefits across a range of policy areas in both developed and developing countries, More than Numbers demonstrates clear examples of how better data can help manage migration more ef-

fectively.

The report also provides guidance to countries interested in realising these benefits and suggests ways in which they could develop their own strategies to improve data on migration.

For example, many European Union (EU) migrants have skills that do not match their jobs. The report calculates that using data to reduce over-qualification would increase their income by six billion Euro.

Better data can also save labour migrants \$6 billion in recruitment fees for jobs abroad, or increase the money that migrants send home by \$20 billion worldwide.

But it is not only about money. Smart use of data can double the success rate of identifying human trafficking cases, speed up asylum applications or promote humane, voluntary returns.

"We are at a crucial moment,"

said Mr. Swing.

UN Member States have started 2018 negotiations towards adopting a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Consultations leading up to them have highlighted the importance of improving evidence on migration.

UN countries have also committed to several migration-related targets linked to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Without better data, it will be hard to assess progress towards these common targets.

"The time to invest in better migration data is now," Mr. Swing underscored.

"Just looking at the examples we have illustrated in the report would see a boost in \$35 billion towards the opportunities and challenges that migration presents," he concluded.



Air pollution ranked as the number one environmental threat to human health

UNITED NATIONS

IN a world that is becoming more and more industrial by the day, air pollution appears to be on the rise. While there have been efforts in major cities to combat the grave effects that pollution can have on the overall health of its citizens, there is still more progress to be made.

Karen Beck Pooley, a Professor of Practice of Political Science and the Director of Lehigh University's Environmental Policy Design program, told IPS: "One thing that we've always known but we haven't paid as much attention to until fairly recently is the degree to which people's immediate environments affect their health."

The importance of recognising air pollution as a prevalent problem was emphasised by the theme of the recent 2019 World Environment Day, with official celebrations held in this year's host country, China.

Additionally, reports such as the one released recently in Sarajevo, and titled "Air Pollution and Human Health: The Case of the Western Balkans", highlighted the adverse effects on the public.

Talking on the implications of air pollution, Catriona Brady, Head of the World Green Building Council's Better Places for People campaign told IPS that, "air pollution is considered to be the biggest environmental threat to human health today".

"Research shows that over 90% of people across the world are exposed to unsafe levels of air pollution, which includes both the population in big cities and small communities. The effect this pollution has on citizen health is quite horrifying - studies suggest that almost

every organ of the human body can be affected by toxic airborne particles, and this is resulting in an approximate 7 million premature deaths each year."

Pooley notes that the actual planning of cities can have an impact on the amount of pollution produced, saying that, "The way we build our cities and the way people organise their lives in them, affect how much we need car travel or truck traffic. Or environmentally dirty things that we need like trash facilities and where these things are located and who's living in the midst of the effects of those things."

While there are positive plans, such as Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's decision to phase out coal usage in his country by 2030 or Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta's plan to ban single-use plastics from being used in the country's national parks, there are also efforts being made on both smaller and larger scales worldwide.

Pooley observes that, "At the moment, most of the environmental conservation work and attempts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and things of that nature are coming from cities."

Brady says that her organisation, "has embarked on a global 'Air Quality in Built Environment' campaign, in partnership with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

"With this work we've been raising awareness about the role of buildings and cities in generating emissions and air pollution, both inside and outside of buildings, and highlighting strategies that can be valuable to mitigate these. Step one is monitoring - as we can't reduce what we can't measure."

She also said: "We're advocating for the roll out of air quality monitors to provide detailed data on emissions



across the world. With this data we're equipped with the necessary information to lobby our policy makers to make changes needed to clean up our energy grid, buildings, and air quality."

Pooley states that citizens can make small changes that will be helpful as well. "Cutting down on car travel can be a big help, because so much pollution comes from cars. So, the more places that are walkable and bikeable and the more trips that are made

by something other than cars, the less pollution we'll have."

Day to day actions can be quite helpful but having policies put in place may also help deter the harmful effects that poor air quality is having on the lives of those who inhabit such areas.

Brady suggests something similar, while also maintaining that citizen action is important. Policy initiatives - such as the recent London Ultra Low Emission Zone - can help catalyse action towards

clean air. Policy enforcement around energy generation, building energy efficiency, construction practices, transport, waste and many other factors are vital to preserve citizen health.

"But the role of the citizen is also important; reducing the emissions from our lifestyle in terms of energy consumption and choices, diet, and transport methods are all achievable for the individual," said Brady.

"And if you're worried about

being exposed to pollution by cycling or walking to work, then it's worth knowing that you're generally exposed to far higher levels of pollutants in a car in traffic or in an underground system!"

With world leaders proposing plans to help deter ruinous environmental effects and with cities implementing new policies to help out, it is clear that progress is being made in helping to create cleaner environments to live in.

IPS

China vows openness, collaboration in 5G race

By Chen Qingqing

CHINA has shown its openness and strong willingness to cooperate with foreign companies in the 5G era, in contrast with narrow-minded and unilateral approaches of the US. While major companies embrace the spirit of free competition and worldwide cooperation in technological development, the US will continue losing stakes in the global 5G race, analysts said.

Major foreign telecoms vendors and 5G chipset markets welcomed the latest issuance of 5G licenses in China, vowing to play bigger roles in the country's 5G rollout.

"Ericsson hopes to become part of China's 5G innovative ecosystem, pushing forward the 5G development in the country and sharing our successful business experience in 5G with other countries," Zhao Juntao, president of Ericsson China, said in a statement sent to the Global Times on Monday, June 10.

Nokia will fully support China's ICT industry as it has been doing for the past 40 years, and cooperation with multinational companies is highly recognized by the Chinese government, which makes the company more confident in the healthy, steady and sustainable development of China's 5G industry, Markus Borchert, president of Nokia China, said in a statement sent to the Global Times on June 10.

As soon as the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology issued 5G licenses to major Chinese carriers on the morning of June 6, it also said in an online statement that the top regulator will continue welcoming foreign companies to take part in 5G deployment in the country and to share the dividends of 5G development.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also said during the plenary session of the 23rd St. Petersburg International Economic Forum that China is willing to share its latest scientific achievements, including 5G technology, with other countries.

Considering the current situation, China retains open attitude toward foreign companies in the 5G rollout, showing that the development of 5G is a result of global cooperation, and China's stance is in significant contrast

with that of the US, Li Zhen, an industry expert at Beijing-based CCID Consulting, told the Global Times on Monday, June 10.

"It's also part of greater efforts in helping boost the global telecoms industry. If the US continues to isolate itself from global cooperation, it's unlikely to maintain a leading position in the 5G race," Li said.

The Chinese companies are among top five suppliers of 5G equipment including radio hardware and systems. Huawei will lead with 24.8 percent in 5G subscriber shares for radio access network equipment by 2023, followed by Ericsson with 22.9 percent and Nokia with 22.7 percent, industry news site telecomlead.com reported in April, citing an industry analysis.

Fair competition

China welcoming foreign competitors into the 5G market has more significance considering the current situation. In particular, embracing Swedish and Finnish vendors reflects the importance of China-EU collaboration in the 5G era, analysts said.

"Europe has capabilities in taking part in the 5G rollout, and it remains an overall open attitude in working with China," Xiang Ligang, director-general of the Beijing-based Information Consumption Alliance, told the Global Times on Monday, June 10.

The US rejecting Huawei and ZTE in an unfair way dampens global collaboration, which will slow down the overall development of 5G in the country, he said. "Washington hinders cooperation because it also lacks 5G capabilities except 5G chipsets, which gives it little chance to collaborate with other countries," Xiang added.

The official release of 5G licenses is helping the country get into the fast lane in the 5G rollout. Three carriers - China Mobile, China Unicom and China Telecom - have been actively holding network trials while pushing forward commercial use.

Shenzhen, South China's Guangdong Province - which is considered as a new Silicon Valley - will accelerate 5G base construction. It expects to build about 8,500 base stations by the end of the year, media reports said on June 10. The next generation of wireless tech-



nologies will be used in different scenarios including healthcare, transportation, education, and technology.

Attendees at the upcoming WEF Dalian 2019 can also test

how fast 5G networks can be in few weeks. The venues for the forum are to be fully covered by 5G, and visitors will enjoy superfast internet, 5G-powered virtual reality and 4K videos, local authori-

ties said on June 10.

China Tower, which engages in telecoms power construction, said it has already completed about 4,400 large-scale 5G base stations in Beijing, and the net-

work will cover crowded areas such as Tiananmen Square, the financial district and the Palace Museum



Thursday 20 June 2019

Bankers counseled to finance dairy industry to help state save 30bn/- annually

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

COMMERCIAL banks in the country have been urged to soften lending conditions for pastoralists so that the country should save over 30bn/- spent on imported dairy products annually.

Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina said in Dodoma earlier this week during the first of its kind dairy industry show that pastoralists are producing over 2.7 billion liters of milk per annum of which only 70 million liters are processed.

Mpina said with domestic for dairy products standing at 11 billion liters per annum the country is forced to import the larger part of its needs hence depleting Treasury's foreign currency stocks but also exporting jobs.

The Livestock and Fisheries Minister further noted that although the country holds 11 percent of cattle which is only behind Ethiopia in Africa, there is little capacity to process milk into finished products but also preserve it.

"There are only 1.28million milk cows out of the 32.2 million in the country which produces 2.7billion liters a year but we only 70 million liters while Kenya processes up to 803 million liters and Uganda 600 million liters," Mpina lamented saying banks should support private investment in the lucrative industry which has largely been ignored for years. The country currently imports more than 20 million liters of processed milk a year.

"The government through Tanza-



Minister of Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina (L) awarding one of the dairy farmers, Emmanuel Nanyaro from Meru whose bull was among the selected as best for milk production during the climax of the African Dairy Genetic Gains project organized by Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) held in Dodoma earlier this week. Photo: Francis Kajubi.

nia Agricultural Development Bank is in the process to establishing special financing window targeting dairy farming and I call upon other commercial banks to also allocate funds for the industry," Mpina advised. Records show that the country has livestock industry also includes 20 million goats and 5.5million sheep.

He argued that a common pastoralist with over 200 herds of cattle deserves a trust by bankers to get a loan with their animals as collateral. "I'm grateful that some of the banks have started showing interest in supporting dairy farmers financially" he added naming NMB Bank Plc which has allocated over 500bn/- in financing targeting

the agriculture sector.

At the event, a three year project by Tanzania Livestock Research Institute (TALIRI) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) called 'African Dairy Genetic Gains (ADGG)' revealed that as the project ends 107,542 dairy animals have been registered in the Dairy Performance Record-

ing Center (DPRC). The animals are from two counterparts from 30,922 households.

ILRI's Director General, Dr Jimmy Smith said main challenges facing many developing countries could be an opportunity for Tanzania which has a huge number of livestock. Dr Smith said development of the dairy industry can contribute in transforming small scale livestock farmers into commercial producers.

He said through genetic improvement, dairy farmers can keep few herd of cattle which can produce excess milk which can feed industries as the government champions industrialization.

On his part TALIRI Director General, Dr. Eligi Shirima said that the ADGG project covered seven regions of Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Iringa, Mbeya, Njombe, Shinyanga and Tanga from which 24 district councils were picked.

"A sample of 6,786 cows and bulls from 22,000 households were picked in this research project to identify their genetic nature in relation to production of excess milk," Dr Shirima said pointing out that 530 bulls and 3,469 cows were proven fit in genetic improvement and production of excess milk respectively. "Then from that sample, a competition was held to get the best 20 milk cows and the best 20 genetic bulls that have come to the show," Dr Shirima added.

MultiChoice shares shrug off full-year loss

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S biggest pay-TV group MultiChoice swung to a loss in its first full-year results as a standalone company on Tuesday, but its shares rose anyway as solid subscriber growth, cost reductions and other positive developments took centre stage instead.

MultiChoice, which was spun off by South African e-commerce giant Naspers and listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in February, had already warned it expected to make a headline loss per share as a result of a one-off charge and unfavourable foreign exchange.

It had also already flagged strong growth in subscriptions and a reduction in losses in its businesses outside of its home market, South Africa, but nevertheless news it had grown subscribers by 12%, along with other developments,

helped push its share price up 1.37% by 1403 GMT. "Our growth is exceptionally pleasing, especially in the current economic climate, and a clear indication that our strategy is working," Calvo Mawela, MultiChoice chief executive, said in a statement.

Founded 30 years ago, MultiChoice now reaches 15.1 million households across 50 African countries with pay-TV products and a fledgling streaming service called Showmax it hopes can rival giants like Netflix on the continent.

Its subscriber numbers rose by 1.6 million people over the year, with its customer base across the rest of Africa exceeding its 7.4 million South Africa subscribers for the first time. Losses in its operation outside of South Africa, which analysts said had weighed on its market value during its JSE debut, were also reduced by R900 million.

While the company's stock rose 15% on the day of its much-anticipated listing, launching it immediately on to the bourse's blue-chip index, its closing market value remained well below some estimates for the underlying value of the company. Its share price has risen around 22% since then.

The company also reported cost savings of R1.3 billion and a doubling of free cash flow to R3.3 billion. However its headline earnings per share - the main profit measure in South Africa that strips out certain one-off items - fell from 410 cents in the prior year to a loss of 353 cents in the year to end-March.

This was due to the impact of a disposal of a 5% stake in its South African unit, and the depreciation of the rand against the US dollar, which meant it had to pay more for dollar-denominated leases for transponders.



Alex Manson, head of SC Ventures

Standard Chartered innovation fund eyes FinTech investments in the region

DUBAI

SC Ventures, a fully owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered, is currently in talks with potential partners to jointly invest about \$100 million each in three financial sector start-ups and is scouring Middle East and Africa for more co-investment options.

"We are now working on at least three ventures [start-ups] that could involve partnerships and third party investments," Alex Manson, the head of SC Ventures told The National, without specifying the geography of potential transactions.

The ticket size of the joint investments depends on the nature of the venture but the funds raised for the deals being negotiated will be less than \$100m, he said, adding that the bank is "resisting the urge to throw too much money" at any one company and wants to help scale the start-ups with the help of partners and co-investors.

Standard Chartered has already partnered with PCCW, Hong Kong Telecom Trust and Ctrip Financial Management to launch a new digital-only retail bank in Hong Kong, which was among the first to receive a licence to operate from the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Standard Chartered holds 65.1 per cent in the joint venture, while PCCW, HKT and Ctrip Finance hold 10, 15 and 9.9 per cent, respectively.

Mr Manson has met some of the bank's strategic clients and investors in the UAE and sees potential investments in the second-biggest Arab economy. "This place is ready," he said.

"There's lots of ideas and energy behind financial innovation in this market... there are a number of things we want to follow up in the UAE" in terms of deals, he added. The lender, Mr Manson said, is looking to co-invest in start-ups across its footprint of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

"I anticipate that at any point in time we will have 10 to 15 ventures in our portfolio [in different stages of growth]... But we are at an early stage of building that portfolio," he said, declining to specify the total amount of funds earmarked for investments in ventures.

Banks are increasingly looking to establish dominance in digital services and next-generation technologies in a bid to simplify and speed up transactions. Conventional lenders are also looking to set up their own neo-banks - digital-only banks - or bring on board financial technology (FinTech) firms to incorporate their faster and cheaper solutions in their respective banking services.

SC Ventures, established in 2017, is also taking minority stakes in FinTech firms through its \$100m innovation investment fund, which Mr Manson said is on course to be fully invested by the end of 2020. Increasing the size of existing FinTech investments is an option, he said.

SC Ventures has already invested undisclosed amounts in FinTechs such as Ripple and Paxata. Its typical investment at an early stage FinTech is \$5m or less as it participates in follow-on funding rounds as well.

"In the FinTechs that we work with, we only take minority stakes and that is with the view to partner and help them scale," Mr Manson said. "Our objective is to rewire the DNA of banking and transform it... to bring the capabilities [of FinTech ventures] to the main [Standard Chartered] bank," he noted.



Calvo Mawela, MultiChoice chief executive officer

Bank opens forex trading shop in Dar CBD to heed BoT directive

By The Banker Reporter

IN a bid to heed Bank of Tanzania directive for commercial banks to invest in foreign currency trading shops to cover the vacuum left by over 80 private bureau de change shops closed earlier this year, Barclays Bank Tanzania has opened one such facility in Dar es Salaam's central business district.

In remarks to launch the shop in the commercial capital this week, Barclays Tanzania's Head of Global Markets, Esther Maruma said the shop will help fill the supply deficit created following closure of the bureaux

which failed to follow regulations.

Maruma said her bank's strategy direction is to support cash trading requirements of the public. "We have more than six currencies available for trading immediately," she noted while stating that investment is part of BBT expansion into the foreign exchange retail proposition.

"The bank is also evaluating other strategic locations, including ports of entry and other regions outside Dar to ensure the network grows

even further and deliver forex services closer to consumers," she added.

The bank's Head of Retail Banking, Oscar Mwamfwagasi seconded Maruma's statement by pointing out that as a business strategy, BBT's management had to review and improve its forex board rate pricing, in order to make services affordable across the clientele base trading in cash, online and through the bank's footprint.

"The forex trading service, which is an extension of our forex

portfolio, gives us opportunity to serve clients beyond the regular working hours," Mwamfwagasi said. He pledged that Barclays will continue to offer foreign exchange services in accordance with regulations laid down by Bank of Tanzania.

The bureau, which will be open seven days a week covering weekends and holidays, is the second to be opened in Dar es Salaam in Barclays' ambitious forex services provision having opened one last April.



Barclays Bank Tanzania Head of Retail Banking, Oscar Mwamfwagasi (R) shakes hands with Hyatt Regency Dar es Salaam Operations Director, Timothy Mlay during the official opening of the bank's second forex trading shop in Dar es Salaam this week. Others in the picture from left are: BBT City Mall Branch Manager, Winford Mwang'onda, bank's Head of Global Markets, Esther Maruma and its Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations, Aron Luhanga. Photo: courtesy of BBT.

US embassy now accepts new Kenyan bank notes

NAIROBI

IN a tweet Wednesday, the Embassy barred Kenyans from making payments using the new generation currency, arguing it needs to put in place new procedures to accept the notes.

"The Government of Kenya has introduced new currency with plans for withdrawing all old currency from circulation by October 1, 2019. We are currently developing procedures to accept the new Kenyan shillings.

"Until these procedures are in place, consular applicants will only be able to pay for services using the previous Kenyan shillings. You may also continue to pay by credit card," the embassy said on its Twitter

handle Wednesday.

However, in a subsequent tweet Wednesday, the Embassy announced that the Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) had provided it with equipment upgrades and training necessary to accept the new currency.

"After coordination with the Central Bank of Kenya, the U.S. Embassy has been provided the equipment upgrades and training necessary to accept the new Kenyan currency. We now accept the new currency as well as the legacy currency valid until October 1, 2019," said the Embassy on its twitter handle Wednesday.

Kenya gradually started replacing the old currencies on June 1. The older versions of smaller denominations are however in circulation alongside the new

ones launched, but after October 1, the older 1,000 shilling note will be invalid.

Banks will have to reconfigure their ATMs (automated teller machines), acquire new cash counting machines and upgrade their software to accommodate the new currencies introduced to the market on Saturday.

The new notes are smaller and have different features prompting the need for ATM upgrades and new money counting machines found in teller booths to verify cash amounts and capture counterfeiters.

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) redesigned 1, 5, 10 and 20 shilling coins in December 2018 and has begun releasing the new 50, 100, 200, 500, and 1,000 shilling notes in the second

phase of the country's transition to the new currency.

The introduction of new currencies are meant to tackle illicit financial flows, cash counterfeiting and nab tax cheats.

The CBK early unveiled the rules to guide the replacement of the Sh1,000 notes, which accounts for 83 percent of the Sh540 billion in circulation or Sh217 billion.

The 500 notes account for 5.9 percent, Sh200 (4.2 percent), Sh100 (4.8 percent) and Sh50 (1.9 percent). Tanzania and Uganda last week stopped the use of the Kenyan currency in an effort to curb laundering of stolen money back into Kenya. The Bank of Uganda advised banks to subject all flows to enhanced due diligence.



Central Bank governor Dr Patrick Njoroge holding the new banknotes at a press conference on May 3, 2019 in Nairobi.



Africa's FinTech sector grows by 60% in 2 years says Disrupt Africa

JOHANNESBURG

AFRICA'S FinTech sector is growing at a fast pace, with the number of start-ups operating in the space growing by more than 60% in the last two years, while funding has hit new records.

This is according to Disrupt Africa's Finnovating for Africa 2019: Reimagining the African financial services landscape report, which finds the number of active FinTech ventures across the continent has grown to 491 from 301 in 2017.

According to the report, South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya remain the main three markets, with 141, 101 and 78 active ventures respectively, accounting for 65.2% of Africa's FinTech start-ups.

"Yet the share of the overall total claimed by these three countries is in decline as the sector spreads across the continent, with FinTech start-ups tracked in 28 African nations.

Though the big three markets are growing, the biggest developments are occurring in other markets, with countries like Uganda, Ghana and Egypt in particular seeing their local FinTech spaces explode," according to Disrupt Africa.

A similar trend can be seen in terms of the type of platforms being rolled out by FinTech entrepreneurs, the company suggests. Though start-ups in the payments and lending spaces remain the most prevalent, the fastest growth is occurring elsewhere, with the number of start-ups active in areas such as investtech and insurtech, for example, more than doubling in the last few years.

Re-bundling services

"Meanwhile, there is a marked increase in the amount of companies focusing on two or more distinct types of financial services, as African FinTechs begin to 'rebundle' and we see moves

towards fully-fledged, all-service digital banks on the continent. This is a process that is quickening as the amount of funding coming into the sector grows. African FinTech companies have raised just shy of US\$320-million in funding since January 2015, and last year's total of US\$132.8-million was the best year yet," Disrupt Africa continues.

Gabriella Mulligan, co-founder of Disrupt Africa, said: "The financial services landscape in Africa is following a very unique trajectory, as compared to other geographies. Most remarkable about this trajectory, is that it is being driven by entrepreneurs and their home-grown innovations. We hope this report affords our readers an interesting insight into the FinTech revolution taking place across Africa."

Tom Jackson, co-founder of Disrupt Africa, added, "No space has quite the potential impact of the FinTech space when it comes to impact - and profits - in Africa, with start-ups operating such platforms able to significantly address the major issue of financial exclusion on the continent and thus promote development in all sorts of other areas. It is exciting to see the speed at which the sector is developing, therefore, but also heartening to see the signs of maturation and consolidation that will ensure its ultimate success and longevity."

Investment in Africa

Of Africa's general environment for investment, Darryl Bernstein, Head of Dispute Resolution at Baker McKenzie in Johannesburg, said tech companies should ensure that their compliance with local content law is legitimate and upholds the purpose of the framework, and that the local criminal offense of "fronting" is not committed (the feigned use of a black economic empowerment partner to obtain contracts without actual value-add by the partner).

Banks employ more contract staff as full staff time continue to dwindle

LAGOS

COMMERCIAL banks in Nigeria in a bid to cut down costs are hiring more contract staff and have been pruning down on the number of top executives which is down by 8.1 per cent.

As at the end of the first quarter of 2019, the number of top executives dropped to 193 from 210 in the first quarter of 2018. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) show that banks have continued to increase the number of contract staff in their employ whilst the number of full staff continue to dwindle. Selected Banking Sector data by the NBS show that the number contract staff in the industry had grown in the first quarter of the year by 2.2 per cent to 46,235.

The number of senior staff figures had decline slightly to 18,018 in the first quarter of the year. The data includes the staff strength of the 30 deposit money banks operating with commercial banking, merchant banking, holding company and non-interest banking licence in the country.

Selected Banking Sector data released by the NBS showed that compared to 21,837 contract staff in the employ of banks in the country as at June 2017, the figure rose to 43,955 as at the end of June 2018 before rising further to 46,235 as at March 2019.

Although the number of contract workers in the banks had declined slightly by 346 in the first quarter of 2018 to 32,013 from 32,359 which it was as at December 2017 it has been steadily rising since in then bringing its year on year growth to 44.43 per cent.

The number of executive staff and senior staff had been on the rise in the third quarter of 2018, the number of executive staff had been pruned in the last quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. The number of senior staff despite its reduction in the first three months of 2019 was however up by 6.36 per cent when compared to 16,941 figure that the banks had in the first quarter of 2018.

With a rising level of attempted fraud in the country, industry stakeholders believe the rising number of contract staff in the banking industry contribute largely to the level of insider fraud. The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had warned banks against giving sensitive banking roles to contract staff, as they may not have a stake in the banks.

The volume of fraud reported in 2018 had been the highest in the last four years with an increase of 55.1 per cent from 25,043 in 2017 to 38,852 in 2018. Also its attempted and actual loss value increased by 124.3 and 27.5 per cents respectively.

Attempted fraud value had risen from N4.03 billion in 2017 to N9.04 billion in 2018 while actual fraud value had risen to N2.08 billion in 2018 from N1.63 in 2017. This brings the total fraud value since 2014 to N14.35 billion

The increase in total fraud according to the Nigeria Electronic Fraud Forum (NeFF) 2018 Annual Report titled "Emerging Fraud Threats: An Evaluation of the Industry Cybersecurity Posture" had been due to the substantial rise in mobile fraud.

Investors have a month to buy into NMB bond at 10pc rate

By The Banker Reporter

INDIVIDUAL and corporate investors who are interested to earn up to 10 percent of interest rate from an NMB bank Plc's floated 25bn/- bond have a month to buy at least a minimum of 500,000/-.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week when the bond was officially placed in the market, NMB's acting Managing Director, Albert Jonkerougou said the bond which has a green shoe option of 15bn/-, is available to investors from all walks of life.

The bond, which is the second such product to be issued by NMB and is available at any of the bank's branches countrywide or from selected bond brokers, has been approved by Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA).

The CMSA approved first tranche of the NMB's Medium Term Note (MTN) Programme, will see investors earn the 10 percent interest rate paid quarterly for its entire three year term of maturity in June 2022. The interest rate paid is subject to withholding tax.

The NMB retail bond is tradable, so one can sell it to another buyer and receive the principal before the maturity date. Investors can sell the bond before maturity on the open market through a stockbroker in line

with the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange rules.

"NMB is principally funded by retail deposits but there are other attractive funding options, with the NMB Retail Bond we are looking to raise 25bn/- with a green shoe option of 15bn/-," said Jonkerougou.

He said many investors have shown interest about investing in high quality bonds and the bank considers such demand as a good opportunity to satisfy such a need which will help stimulate the development of the local capital market and diversify funding sources.

"An opportunity that allows us to mobilise funds that the bank can use to create new customer loans at favourable rates," the acting Managing Director said.

"The NMB Retail Bonds are special for they are open to the general public for buying and can be purchased from NMB's largest network of branches across the country," said the bank's Head of Consumer banking NMB, Omari Mtiga.

Mtiga said at a news conference to launch the bond that the type of bond floated provides opportunities to small investors to put their money in a product with lower denomination. "This bond allows them to diversify their investments and trade in the bonds market thus providing needed inclusion and access using the bank's easily accessible network,"



NMB Head of Consumer Banking, Omari Mtiga (C) listening to Senior Manager Consumer Liabilities Isaac Mgwassa during the unveiling of the bank's retail bond in Dar es Salaam last week. Left is Senior Manager Advisory Services, Sigifrida Joseph. File photo.

Mtiga noted.

The NMB Retail Bond which was launched on 10th June will be in the primary market till 8th July 2019 when interest will start accruing. "Applications for the NMB Bond may be made via any of the 229 NMB branches or appointed bond brokers," he stressed.

What exactly is the NMB Retail Bond?

A bond is a type of investment that allows investors to put their money in a typically corporate or governmental entity by lending their money for a fixed period inclusive of interest that

will not change over the bond tenure. When you buy an NMB bond, you have lent the bank your money. NMB guarantees to return your money (capital) within a fixed period until maturity which covers the time you invested until the bond matures.

NMB will also pay you the

agreed interest rate every quarter. Interest from your bond as per the law is eligible for withholding tax deduction. This is different from shares, since a bond does not give you ownership of the corporate entity and you are not allowed to vote and/or make a decision in the bank.

Betting companies query taxing of all accounts by Kenya's Treasury

NAIROBI

WITH just a basic phone and as little as Sh10, at least every day, somebody somewhere is trying to win something by betting on luck. And the gambling craze keeps gripping the economy.

However, the government is taking note. In the words of former US President Ronald Reagan, the government's view of the economy can be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidise it.

But for gambling, the Kenyan government, torn between chasing revenues and protecting children as well as vulnerable adults, wants to tax and regulate this new craze at the same time. The latest attempt at reining in gambling is the government move to restrict all gambling advertising to between 10pm and 6am as well as banning the use of billboards in promotions.

But at the same time, the government wants to tax the industry as much as it can, especially with prevailing falling tax revenues from traditional businesses. The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), having been allowed to collect withholding taxes from gamblers based on the recent ruling at Milimani Commercial Courts, estimates that the sector could be making Sh200 billion in annual revenue.

However, its interpretation of tax on winnings as was introduced by Finance Act 2018 could now see gamblers pay tax on all amounts of money deposited in their e-wallets



SportPesa chief executive officer, Ronald Karauri.

even before betting. This has seen leading betting firms in the country such as SportPesa slapped with tax penalties, forcing them into a series of explanations with the KRA.

The taxman is calculating a 20 percent withholding tax on all the money in punters' e-wallets, in the absence of a mechanism to differentiate between staked sum and the actual winnings. A letter from SportPesa last month to the KRA, a copy seen by the Business Daily, shows that the industry is wary that this will see punters pay taxes on the money loaded into their betting wallets, even before they actually play and win anything.

For instance, May 12 game between Brighton and Manchester City saw

one of the betting firms give 12.81 for a win in favour of Brighton and 1.13 in favour of Manchester City. This means if a gambler stakes Sh1,000 in favour of Man City and it actually wins, his or her e-wallet would reflect Sh1,130 made of Sh1,000 initial stake and Sh130 winning.

Using the KRA interpretation of tax on winnings means that the player will incur Sh226 in withholding tax, leaving them with Sh904 – a loss position despite winning. A player would incur Sh26 in tax at the rate of 20 percent of the winning and remain with Sh1,104 if the KRA was to interpret winning as Sh130.

Calculating tax on combined stake and winning sum, the industry wrote to the taxman, means that the player "has no reason even to play" and would rather resort to underground betting shops to get paid the entire sum. A net gain, even though lower, would still result in punters who correctly predict the game to end the other way.

"The current interpretation that is used by the authority has the effect of taxing a player's stake (investment) and therefore making our business completely unviable and

will surely lead to business closure," SportPesa chief executive Ronald Karauri wrote to the KRA last month.

It is this divided view on the interpretation of winning that has fuelled tax disputes between the betting industry and the taxman. This is not the first time the KRA is getting into tax tussle with firms over clauses contained in Finance Act. It once differed with cigarette companies on assessment when taxation basis shifted from production costs to retail selling price per 1,000 cigarettes.

Last year, banks had to go to court seeking an interpretation of the clause 'money transfer' as KRA demanded Robin Hood tax. Thanks to this divided interpretation, betting firms are staring at uncertain future with Interior CS Fred Matiang'i saying the industry owes the KRA Sh26 billion in tax arrears and that they should pay before their licences are renewed beyond July 1.

Many regimes in the world, which tax the gaming industry, only take a certain percentage of winnings, called gross gaming revenue (GGR), which does not include the staked sum. Most of them charge GGR of between 15 and 20 percent, based on winnings. Denmark, just like Kenya, has 20 percent withholding tax on winnings while England has 15 percent, Finland (8.5 percent), Sweden 18 percent and Italy at 24 percent.

The KRA dispute with betting firms confirms expectations of immediate former Commissioner General John Njraini in 2017 that e-commerce businesses are likely to run into tax disputes with the taxman as it tries to create a platform for taxation.

The KRA recently slapped SportPesa with a controversial tax penalty of Sh10.3 billion, deepening the interpretation dispute surrounding the term 'winnings.' According to Finance Act 2018, winnings include "winnings of any kind and a reference to the amount or payment of winnings shall be construed accordingly."

Through its auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Pevans East Africa operating as SportPesa – says that the KRA's tax assessment is based on a wrong definition of winnings likely to slice into punters' money.

"Pevans avers that the definition of winnings under the Betting, Lotteries and Gaming Act, is vague and ambiguous and difficult for a taxpayer to construe what payments were in the nature of winnings," PwC says in a letter to the KRA objecting the alleged tax arrears.

BANKING & FINANCE

African behemoth of 200m people awakens to retail banking

LAGOS

INCREASED technology use and urbanisation are opening up a market of almost 200 million people where less than half of adults are banked. Drawn by the vast potential of an untapped market, banks also have little choice as they face competition from wireless carriers with over 160 million users, and the central bank demands they lend more or risk punishment.

Banks are trying to entice consumers with free access to music on their mobile phones, payday loans, or shopping services to add

deposits and lower their funding costs. Another pressure point to change strategy is coming from a slump in crude prices that has weighed on their main customers in the oil and gas industry, and caused a surge in troubled loans.

Hurriedly expanding loans will drag banks into "risky" territory, said Tunde Abidoye, a banking analyst at Lagos-based FBNQuest, despite the attraction of retail banking.

Limited data is available on borrowers' spending habits, their income or how much other debt they owe. Companies also need to overcome the challenges of servicing

a market where many people don't have fixed addresses and 45% of the population live on less than \$1.90 a day. Mortgages and credit cards are pretty much unheard of, showing just how far retail banking in Nigeria still has to go.

For now, the country's biggest lenders, such as Access Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank Plc and Zenith Bank Plc, are focused on opportunities in retail banking, with their investments in new technology platforms already seeing big growth in transactions and the fees that come with it. An improvement in non-performing loans is also giving

them a little more courage.

"We also have the rapidly expanding and growing youth population with millions of new people entering the financial system each year," said Robert Giles, the head of retail banking at Lagos-based Access Bank. Businesses will also benefit as increased focus on consumers fuels commercial activity, he said.

Access Bank bought Carlyle Group-backed Diamond Bank this year to boost its retail presence, making it Nigeria's biggest bank by assets and giving it a total of 27 million customers. With the deal, it gained

a sizeable deposit base that gives it access to cheaper financing.

Guaranty Trust Bank in November launched its Habari app, which offers users access to Nigeria's biggest catalog of music, shopping as well as banking, attracting 100,000 customers less than a month after its release.

"The corporate market is probably a p p r o a c h i n g

somewhere between the end of growth and maturity," chief executive officer Segun Agbaje said. "The retail market is at a growth phase. We have 33 million unique retail accounts in the country, so we haven't even scratched the surface yet. We expect to maintain strong growth across these areas in the immediate, medium and long-term."

WORLD

Trump launches re-election campaign

ORLANDO

PRESIDENT Donald Trump formally launched his 2020 re-election campaign on Tuesday by presenting himself as the same political insurgent who shook up the Washington establishment four years ago and who is now a victim of an attempted ouster by Democrats.

At a packed rally at an arena in Orlando, Florida, Trump made clear he would run for re-election as an outsider, just as he did in 2016. Whether he can pull it off remains far from certain as Trump has been in office now for 2-1/2 years.

He revisited campaign themes from four years ago, decrying illegal immigration, the news media and his 2016 Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. "Together we stared down a broken political establishment and we restored government by and for the people," Trump said. "As long as you keep this team in place, we have a tremendous way to go. Our future has never looked brighter or sharper."

Trump said his Democratic challengers would radically change the United States and seek to legalize migrants coming across the southern border so

they could vote and boost the Democratic political base.

Democrats "want to destroy our country as we know it" and that it's "not going to happen," Trump said.

"We believe our country should be a sanctuary for law-abiding citizens, not for criminal aliens," he said.

Two dozen Democrats are competing for their party's nomination to face off against Trump in the November 2020 election. Many of the top Democrats lead Trump in opinion polls in battleground states.

Trump called his opponents a "radical left-wing mob" who would bring socialism to the United States.

"A vote for any Democrat in 2020 is a vote for the rise of radical socialism and the destruction of the American dream," he said.

AIRING GRIEVANCES

Trump made his re-election launch official at what was his 60th political rally since he took office in January 2017. He brought his wife, Melania, and a large contingent of senior White House staff.

"Tonight I stand before you to officially launch my campaign for a second term as president of the United States,"



US President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump stand with Vice President Mike Pence and Karen Pence during Trump's re-election kickoff rally at the Amway Center, on Tuesday, in Orlando. (AP)

Trump said. "I promise you I will never ever let you down."

Over the course of a speech that lasted an hour and 20 minutes, Trump blasted the news media as "fake news," took credit for a strong economy, said he was putting the heat on China on trade, promoted his proposal for a "space force," vowed to protect Americans' rights to own guns and said he wanted to launch a space mission to Mars.

Trump also declared himself a victim and aired his grievances.

He made an issue of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The probe found insufficient evidence to establish that the Trump campaign engaged in a criminal conspiracy with Moscow. It also described numerous attempts by Trump to impede Mueller's probe, but stopped short of declaring that he committed a crime.

"We went through the biggest witch hunt in political history," said Trump. "It was all an illegal attempt to overturn the results of the election."

Two-and-a-half years into his tenure, Trump sees plenty of positive factors, led by a growing

economy with low unemployment.

"If the economy stays strong, he is very likely to get re-elected," said Trump confidant Newt Gingrich, a former Republican speaker of the US House of Representatives.

But the lingering aftermath of the Russia probe, coupled with a presidential style marked by name-calling and eye-popping tweets, has undermined some Americans' confidence in Trump.

He also has stirred division with his hard-line policies on immigration and unsettled business and farm groups with his use of tariffs in trade disputes with China and some allies.

Democrats cite a string of broken promises in Trump's first term, from lowering drug prices to closing corporate tax loopholes and stopping plant closures.

"Donald Trump is launching his campaign for re-election tonight and the American people face a choice - we can make Trump an aberration or let him fundamentally and forever alter the character of this nation," said Kate Bedingfield, deputy campaign manager for Democratic front-runner Joe Biden.

Agencies

Africa's first ever Hepatitis summit opens in Uganda

KAMPALA

HEALTH experts from Africa and international organizations are meeting in Uganda's capital of Kampala for the first ever Africa Hepatitis Summit aimed at devising means of fighting the disease on the continent.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, while opening the three-day meeting on Tuesday, said African countries have the potential to address health challenges including ending the viral hepatitis diseases.

"I am glad to hear that the ministers of health from Africa, representatives of World Health Organization (WHO), World Hepatitis Alliance, African Union and the

pharmaceutical companies are here to address this important issue of viral hepatitis in Africa and globally," Museveni (pictured) said in a statement read for him by Vice President Edward Ssekandi.

Museveni said Uganda is one of the first countries in Africa to undertake the manufacture of Hepatitis B (HBV) medicines. He said the manufacturer Cipla Quality Chemical Industries Ltd is also embarking on manufacturing medicines for the treatment of Hepatitis C (HCV).

"These efforts showcase the role that public and private partnerships can play in increasing access to hepatitis medicines and ensuring affordable, quality phar-



maceuticals made in Africa for African patients."

Jane Ruth Aceng, Uganda's minister of health told the meeting held under the theme, "Eliminating Viral Hepatitis in Africa: Implementing the viral hepatitis strategy", said countries should borrow best practices and lessons learnt in the successful fight

against HIV. Aceng said the World Health Assembly made resolutions in 2010 and 2014 that recognized viral hepatitis as a public health problem and the need for governments and populations to take action to prevent, diagnose and treat it.

She said Uganda adopted the resolutions and set up a Hepatitis Technical Working Group, which has devised means of fighting the disease in the country. She said Uganda has made tremendous strides towards elimination of the viral disease.

Among the successes include among others introduction of routine childhood pentavalent vaccine against HBV, screening of all donated blood, introduction

of non-reusable injection devices and vaccinating populations in affected areas among others.

Aceng said government is prioritizing carrying out a nationwide sero-survey to ascertain the actual prevalence of HCV.

She said government plans to screen all pregnant women for HBV and HCV as well as introduce the HBV birth does in a bid to reduce new viral hepatitis infections.

According to WHO, viral hepatitis is highly endemic in the Africa, which contributes significantly to the global burden of the disease. Data by the global health body showed that an estimated 325 million people are living with chronic HBV or HCV infection. *Xinhua*

Iran's actions on nuclear deal can be reversed – Russian diplomat

MOSCOW

TEHERAN'S steps in relation to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear deal are of a forced and sporadic nature and can be reversed, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said on Tuesday.

"Russia fully understands that Tehran's actions are of a forced, sporadic, and, most importantly, reversible nature. We understand and in many ways share the disappointment of the Iranian side in relation to the lack of an adequate response to its urgent requests to take into account Tehran's concerns regarding the stalling of the JCPOA in terms of the practical impact of the nuclear deal," Ryab-

kov said.

"Iran is honoring all its obligations and even today, it technically remains within the framework set by the JCPOA. Russia consistently stresses the necessity of a responsible approach to the implementation of obligations by all parties to the nuclear deal."

He also noted the statements of various US officials who claim that Iran threatens the comprehensive agreements on the Iranian nuclear deal, the norms of international law and "even nearly attempts nuclear blackmail."

"The fact that Washington has remembered the existence of the norms of international law is a welcome development. Now we need to see who exactly is in viola-



tion of them.

It is clear to us that the US colleagues themselves have dealt a devastating blow to one of the most significant diplomatic achievements, renouncing all their obligations under the INF (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces) Treaty in May 2018 in violation of the UN Security Council

Resolution 2231 and Article 25 of the UN Charter, which states that all member states must comply with the decisions of the Security Council," the deputy foreign minister said.

"By doing this, the US has placed itself outside of the international community, virtually ignoring international law, which they are so keen on protecting right now," he added.

Threat of US sanctions

Washington's threats of sanctions regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear deal contradict logic, Ryabkov added.

"In accordance with international law, the US must immediately return to the implementation of all obligations under the JCPOA and the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, lifting all sanctions against Iran restored since May 2018 and ceasing to create obstacles to the systematic implementation of agreements by all other states," the senior diplomat stressed.

"The threats by the US to introduce sanctions in response to the implementation of the UN Security Council decisions are obviously lacking common sense." "We urge the American colleagues to consider which country's actions can be defined as "blackmail," he continued. *Agencies*

Investigation team to announce progress in MH17 probe

THE HAGUE

AN international team of investigators building a criminal case against those responsible in the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 is set to announce progress in the probe yesterday, nearly five years after the plane was blown out of the sky above conflict-torn eastern Ukraine.

All 298 passengers and crew on board the flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur were killed on July 17, 2014, when a missile shattered the Boeing 777 in midair sending debris and bodies raining down onto farms and fields of sunflowers.

Ukraine's deputy minister for foreign affairs, Olena Zerkal, told Interfax-Ukraine news agency Tuesday that the investigators will name four suspects. Prosecutors declined to comment on her statements.

The families of those killed will be informed of developments at a behind-closed-doors meeting ahead of a news conference by investigators.

Silene Fredriksz-Hoogzand, whose son Bryce and his girlfriend Daisy Oehlers were among the dead, said it is high time investigators named suspects and set a date for a trial. "We have been waiting for five years," she said in a telephone interview on the eve of the announcement. "It has to happen sometime."

The investigation team, made up of detectives and prosecutors from the Netherlands, Malaysia, Australia, Belgium and Ukraine, last year said that it was convinced that the Buk missile system used to shoot down flight MH17 came from the Russian army's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile brigade, based in the Russian city of Kursk.

Russia has always denied responsibility for shooting down the flight and claimed last year that the Buk missile came from Ukrainian army arsenals. The Netherlands and Australia have said they hold Moscow responsible for providing the Buk missile system used in the downing.

Progress in the criminal investigation has been slow. The Joint Investigation Team, or JIT, appealed in September 2016 for witnesses to provide evidence that could help identify two men heard speaking on intercepted communications discussing movements of a convoy in the days before the attack.

At the time, the JIT said "there is no evidence that these calls are directly related to the shooting down of MH17." The appeal said one man had the first name and patronymic Andrei Ivanovich and used the call sign "Orion" while communicating. The other communicated as "Delfin" and had the names Nikolai Fyodorovich. *Agencies*



A man walks amongst the debris at the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Hrabove, Ukraine. (File photo)

S. African president intervenes in efforts to salvage Africa's largest electricity producer

CAPE TOWN

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Tuesday met with board members of Eskom in his fresh bid to salvage the cash-strapped electricity utility.

At the meeting that took place in Cape Town, Ramaphosa reiterated to the board that the energy utility, Africa's largest producer of electricity and one of South Africa's most strategic assets, is critical to the country's growth and development, his spokesperson Khusela Diko said.

The meeting, which was also attended by the ministers of finance, mineral resources and energy and public enterprises, was called to establish alignment across the government on the actions to be undertaken to stabilize the energy utility in light of its financial and operational challenges, Diko said.

According to Diko, the board presented a report on the implementation of a nine-point plan, focusing on its key priorities including the need to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, cutting costs, driving efficiencies and increasing revenue through, amongst others, higher collection rates.

Ramaphosa will announce further measures to support Eskom's efforts at recovery and financial and operational sustainability, she said.

As a state-run parastatal, Eskom provides about 95 per cent of the electricity consumed in South Africa, but alleged corruption and poor management have brought the utility to the brink of bankruptcy, resulting in constant rolling blackouts that severely impede economic development. *Xinhua*

Asian countries go hand in hand toward common development

By Liu Zhonghua

THE fifth summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) was held on June 15 in Dushanbe, capital city of Tajikistan.

Participated by more than 10 heads of state, government delegations from 27 countries, and over 650 journalists, the event has drawn huge attention from the international society.

A photo exhibition opened to public in the Tajik capital on the same day alongside CICA.

More than 50 pictures from 27 CICA

member states were displayed, demonstrating from individualized perspectives the cultural diversity and colorful life of Asian countries, as well as Asian people's solidarity, openness, and inclusiveness.

In order to enhance media's understanding of Asian cultures, the Tajik side held a reception for journalists at Rokhat Teahouse in Dushanbe on the eve of CICA. The folk songs as well as classic music of other Asian countries played by local bands presented the beauty of traditional folk music and cultural diversity to the journalists. Rated as one of the most beautiful

teahouses in the world, the Rokhat Teahouse is decorated with traditional Tajik patterns on its walls and ceilings, with a spacious corridor outside offering shade for guests.

Early in the 10th century, Chinese tea and tea culture were introduced to Tajikistan through the ancient Silk Road. They gradually came into the daily life of the Tajik people and were developed with Central Asian characteristics.

Teahouse has developed into an important place for entertainment and social activities among the Tajik people who are proud of their tea culture. And the Chinese green tea still remains the

best drink for local people to treat their guests.

Besides tea, the papermaking technology, silk and ceramics were also spread to Central and Western Asia along the ancient Silk Road. Meanwhile, the vegetables and fruits, such as grapes, pomegranates, carrots and broad beans, were traded to the East.

With exchanges and cooperation, Asian countries went hand in hand toward common development over the past thousands of years. Mutual learning among different civilizations has enhanced communication among Asian countries, enriched people's life and

created a new chapter for the development of Asian civilizations.

Asian people have long been expecting security and prosperity since ancient times, while security plays a fundamental role in prosperity.

During the fifth CICA Summit, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech titled Working Together for New Progress of Security and Development in Asia, in which he reiterated the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security.

All Asian countries should respect and trust each other, co-exist in harmony, expand cross-border, cross-time-

and-space as well as cross-civilization exchanges. By doing so, the Asian civilizations will grow from strength to strength.

Development holds the master key to solving all problems, and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) provides new opportunities to Asian countries.

Remarkable progress has been made in promoting policy coordination, facilities connectivity, unimpeded trade, financial integration and people-to-people bonds in the past six years thanks to the joint efforts made by China and other countries along the route. *People's Daily*



Augustino Njoroge, interim chairperson of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission

Peace monitors note improvement in security situation in South Sudan

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan peace monitors said Tuesday the overall security situation has improved since the signing of the revitalized peace deal in September 2018.

Augustino Njoroge, interim chairperson of the Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (RJMEC), however, said that there is still violence and an unacceptable number of deaths linked to cattle rustling.

"I am pleased to note that the permanent ceasefire continues to hold across the country, while attention is turned to cantonment and the training of the Necessary Unified Forces," Njoroge told the seventh plenary of monthly meeting of RJMEC in Juba.

He called on authorities to probe deaths linked to cattle rustling which he said requires the urgent attention of the government.

Njoroge said increased revenues from the opening of oil fields previously closed during the conflict is another one of the benefits being derived from the permanent cease-fire. However, he said additional reforms in the financial management system are needed to achieve efficient use of resources and attract foreign direct investment.

"I call upon all parties to step up

joint confidence building measures, from the highest political level to the grassroots," said Njoroge.

He said the economy demonstrates relatively improved inflation rates and a fairly stable exchange rate. "Although inflation rates are still in double digits, it remains well below the very high levels experienced prior to the signing of the peace agreement," he said.

Njoroge urged the security mechanisms to open cantonment sites and ensure that forces report to the designated sites or barracks, as stipulated in the peace agreement which was inked in Ethiopia last year.

Njoroge said despite an apparent reduction in reported cases of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the country, it remains a concern.

"I urge the parties to the agreement to take steps to eradicate SGBV in their areas of responsibility, to ensure protection and safety of women and girls in areas under their control, and to continue accountability measures for those found culpable of SGBV violations," he said.

South Sudan descended into civil war in late 2013 and the conflict has created one of the fastest growing refugee crises in the world. The UN estimates that about 4 million South Sudanese have been displaced internally and externally.

Xinhua

Era of digital terrorism dawning, Russian Security Council says

UFA

An era of digital terrorism is dawning, which is fraught with consequences similar to those stemming from the possible use of weapons of mass destruction, Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Yuri Kokov said at the Tenth International Meeting of High-Level Representatives on Security Issues in the Russian city of Ufa.

"An era of technological and digital terrorism is dawning, fraught with consequences similar to those stemming from the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by mil-



itants," he pointed out.

"Today, the Internet is the main tool that terrorists use to control fragmented forces and equipment, as well as funds," Kokov added. "According to expert estimates, there are about 30,000 extremist and terrorist websites worldwide," he noted.

"As far as security goes, it is very important to join forces to combat the challenges of today, which are related to computerization, digitization, the development of artificial intelligence, quantum computers and other technologies," the Russian security official emphasized.

"In this situation, ongoing differences between countries, which concern approaches to the Internet's role and place in society, are unacceptable. I would like to point out that it is at least illogical to create a parallel universe free of laws and morals with our own hands," Kokov stressed.

Agencies

'Evidence suggests Saudi Crown Prince is liable for Jamal Khashoggi murder'

GENEVA

EVIDENCE suggests Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman and other senior Saudi officials are liable for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a U.N. rights investigator said yesterday.

There was no immediate reaction from Riyadh which was sent the 100-page report in advance - but the kingdom has regularly denied accusations that the prince was involved.

Agnes Callamard, the U.N. special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, called for countries to widen sanctions to include the Crown Prince and his personal assets, until and unless he can prove he has no responsibility.

Khashoggi, a critic of the prince and a Washington Post columnist, was last seen at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on Oct 2 where he was to receive papers ahead of his wedding.

His body was dismembered and removed from the building, the Saudi prosecutor has said, and his remains have not been found.

"It is the conclusion of the Special Rapporteur that Mr. Khashoggi has been the victim of a deliberate, premeditated execution, an extrajudicial killing for which the state of Saudi Arabia is responsible under international human rights law," Callamard said in



Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

her report based on a six-month investigation.

Callamard went to Turkey earlier this year with a team of forensic and legal experts and said she received evidence from Turkish authorities.

"There is credible evidence, warranting further investigation of high-level Saudi officials' individual liabil-

ity, including the Crown Prince's", she said.

"Indeed, this human rights inquiry has shown that there is sufficient evidence regarding the responsibility of the Crown Prince demanding further investigation," she added, urging U.N. Secretary-General to establish an international probe.

Agencies

2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water globally - UN report

UNITED NATIONS

BILLIONS of people around the world did not have access to water, sanitation and hygiene services by 2017, according to a report released by the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization on Tuesday.

Some 2.2 billion people around the world did not have safely managed drinking water services, 4.2 billion did not have safely managed sanitation services, and 3 billion lacked basic handwashing facilities, said the report.

The report, "Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, 2000-2017: Special focus on inequalities," revealed that 1.8 billion people had gained access to basic drinking water services since 2000, but there were vast inequalities in the accessibility, availability and quality of these services.

About 80 percent of people living in rural areas lacked access to these services. In a quarter of the countries with estimates for different wealth groups, coverage of basic services among the richest was at least twice as high as among the poorest, according to the report.

Some 2.1 billion people had gained access to basic sanitation services since 2000. But in many parts of the world, waste management services were still lacking.

Some 2 billion people still lacked basic sanitation, among whom 7 out of 10 lived in rural areas and one-third lived in the least developed countries.

Since 2000, the proportion of the population practicing open defecation had more than halved, from 21 percent to 9 percent and 23 countries had achieved near elimination, meaning less than 1 percent of the population was practicing open defecation.

Globally, 673 million people still practiced open defecation in 2017. In 39 countries, the number of people practicing open defecation actually increased, the majority of which were in sub-Saharan Africa, where many countries had experienced strong population growth over this period.

The report showed that 3 billion people globally lacked basic handwashing facilities with soap and water at home in 2017.

It also showed that nearly three-quarters of the population of the least developed countries did not have basic handwashing facilities.

Every year, 297,000 children under 5 died due to diarrhea linked to inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene services. Poor sanitation and contaminated water were also linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A, and typhoid, said the report.

Xinhua

Trial drug dramatically increases growth rate of children with dwarfism

SYDNEY

A groundbreaking global drug trial has yielded promising results for children with achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism, making it possible for them to grow at close to the same rate as average height children.

Led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne, Australia, results for phase two of clinical trials of the drug vosoritide were published in the New England Journal of

Medicine on Tuesday.

The second component of the study, which is designed and funded by U.S. based biotechnology company BioMarin Pharmaceutical, saw 35 children aged five to 14 years administered vosoritide in varying doses.

Those that received the highest dose grew at a similar rate to average height children of the same age, a result which was sustained over three and a half years.

On average participants in the trial grew 50 percent faster than their baseline

rate with no adverse effects to body proportion.

"This study is the very first report of a possible disruptive, precision therapy for children with achondroplasia, which we hope will improve their health outcomes and functioning, as well as increase their height and access to their environment," lead author and MCRI clinical geneticist Professor Ravi Savarirayan said.

Savarirayan stopped short of calling the breakthrough a cure for achondroplasia, but said that the results could

have significant health outcomes for those born with the condition. "I wouldn't say a cure, but what I would say is that on the horizon we've got better options for families to avoid surgery, to keep their kids healthy and avoid them coming to hospital," he said.

Achondroplasia affects about one in every 25,000 infants and is caused by a mutation in the FGFR3 gene that impairs the growth of bones in the limbs, the spine, and base of the skull.

Xinhua

UNICEF flays use of teenagers as suicide bombers in Nigeria

ABUJA

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Tuesday called on all parties to the conflict in Nigeria's northeast region to immediately cease all attacks against civilians, stop using children in the conflict, and to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law.

"UNICEF appeals to all those involved in this terrible conflict to protect children at all times and to keep them out of harm's way," Peter Hawkins, the UNICEF representative in Nigeria, said in a statement reaching

Xinhua in Abuja.

The statement noted that since 2012, non-state armed groups in northeast Nigeria have recruited and used children as suicide bombers, combatants and non-combatants, raped and forced girls to marry, and committed other grave violations against children.

The latest violation against children's rights, according to the statement, was the use of teenagers as suicide bombers in Madarari community near Konduga area of the northern state of Borno late on Sunday.

At least 30 people were killed and

42 others wounded when they detonated their improvised explosive devices (IEDs) among a group of football fans at a public viewing center and bar in the area.

Two girls and a boy were used on that mission, according to several local media reports. UNICEF condemned the act in strongest terms, appealing all those involved in the conflict to protect children at all times.

The UN agency said according to its own data, the Sunday night incident brought the number of children who have been reported as having been



German govt calls official's killing 'attack on all of us'

BERLIN

THE killing of a politician who supported refugees, allegedly carried out by a man with a record of violent hate crimes, is an "alarm signal" that highlights the threat posed by far-right extremism, Germany's top security official said Tuesday.

The motive of the 45-year-old German man accused in the slaying has yet to be conclusively confirmed, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said. However, federal prosecutors were put in charge of the case because "there is sufficient evidence for a far-right background to the crime," he said.

"A far-right attack on a leading representative of the state is an alarm signal, and it's directed at all of us," Seehofer said during a news conference in Berlin.

Walter Luebecke, a long-time member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right party, was found June 2 outside his home, killed with a short-range pistol shot to the head. The 65-year-old led a regional government office in the central German city of Kassel.

Luebecke was known for taking a strong stance in favour of the welcoming refugee policy Merkel adopted during an immigration influx in 2015, when hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war and persecution sought shelter in Germany.

The suspect detained in Luebecke's death was known to police as a far-right extremist with convictions for violent crimes dating from the late 1980s to 2009, German media reported. They include a 1993 pipe bomb attack on a refugee shelter in Germany's Hesse state.

Thomas Haldenwang, the head of Germany's domestic intelligence service BfV, said the suspect hadn't been on the agency's radar for the past decade. He said authorities can't monitor all of Germany's estimated 12,700 violent far-right extremists around the clock.

"Just as we had the category of 'sleepers' with Islamists, we have to consider such a scenario a possibility in the area of right-wing extremism," said Haldenwang.

Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper published a photo of the suspect it said was taken at a 2002 rally of the neo-Nazi NPD party in Kassel. Authorities said it was not clear if the suspect, identified only as Stephan E., was a member of the party.

Agencies

China fulfills responsibility by observing Asian security concept

By Ren Huanyu

Chinese President Xi Jinping on June 15 attended the 5th summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and delivered a speech titled Working Together for New Progress of Security and Development in Asia.

In the speech, Xi responded to profound topics such as the building of Asia and China's future ef-

forts, pointing a clear direction for the future development of CICA, as well as the peace and development of Asia and the world under current circumstances.

China, a founding member of CICA, has always taken an active part in forwarding the CICA process.

When the 4th summit of CICA was held in Shanghai in May 2014, President Xi articulated a new vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable secu-

rity and called for a security and development path that suits Asia and serves the common interests of all, receiving active response from relevant parties.

China assumed the chairmanship of CICA from 2014 to 2018, during which it broadened the approach and content of cooperation, set up a Non-governmental Forum, Youth Council and Business Council under the CICA framework, and enhanced CICA's interaction with other multilater-

al institutions such as the UN and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, giving a considerable boost to CICA's global standing.

Under joint efforts, CICA released its cooperation potential and gradually deepened general cooperation, prominently improving its participation and existence in global and regional affairs. It has become Asia's largest and most representative security forum with the greatest number of participants, playing an active

and constructive role in advancing regional stability and prosperity.

Asia is one of the most dynamic regions with great development potential. Asian countries also face some common challenges such as inadequate political trust, uneven economic development and prominent security and governance impediments. Its journey to lasting peace and common prosperity will be a long and arduous one.

How will Asian countries stay true to their goal, embrace the opportunities and address the challenges together, and collectively work for new progress of security and development in Asia?

President Xi made statements at the Dushanbe summit that "Building an Asia where countries enjoy mutual respect and trust is our common aspiration", "Building a secure and stable Asia is our common objective", "Building a growing and prosperous Asia is

our common vision", "Building an open and inclusive Asia is our common pursuit", and "Building a cooperative and creative Asia is our common need".

His remarks reflected the strong desire and common aspiration of the Asian people for peace, stability and development, providing a guiding vision for the solutions to the common challenges faced by Asia.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Caster Semenya

IAAF claims Olympic champion Semenya is 'biologically male'

By GERALD IMRAY

THE governing body of track argued in court that Olympic champion Caster Semenya is "biologically male" and that is the reason she should reduce her natural testosterone to be allowed to compete in female competitions, according to documents released publicly for the first time on Tuesday and which provide new insight into a bitter legal battle.

The documents released by sport's highest court show that Semenya responded by telling the judges that being described as biologically male "hurts more than I can put in words." The 28-year-old South African runner said she was unable to express how insulted she felt at the IAAF "telling me that I am not a woman."

The IAAF's stance on Semenya and other female athletes affected by its new testosterone regulations – and Semenya's outrage at the biological male claim – was revealed in a 163-page decision published by the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport. It details parts of the courtroom exchanges that were held behind closed doors when Semenya challenged the IAAF over the highly contentious hormone rules in a five-day hearing in February. CAS had previously released only short excerpts of the final verdict when it was announced last month.

Tuesday's fuller court records, which were still redacted, show the IAAF referred to the two-time Olympic and three-time world champion as one of a number of "biologically male athletes with female gender identities."

Arguing that Semenya and others like her should be subject to its hormone limits to ensure fairness in female competitions, the IAAF stated: "There are some contexts where biology has to trump identity."

Semenya vs. the IAAF is one of the most difficult issues sport has faced.

Semenya was legally identified as female at birth and has identified as female her whole life. But the IAAF says she is one of a number of female runners in elite athletics who have medical conditions known as "differences of

sex development" and who were born with the typical male XY chromosome pattern. That gives them some male biological characteristics, male levels of the hormone testosterone after puberty, and an unfair athletic advantage over other female athletes, the IAAF says.

Semenya, who has been fighting the IAAF ever since she was embroiled in a gender verification test at the world championships 10 years ago, says the rules should be discarded and she should be allowed to run in her natural form. She disputes that she has a significant performance advantage.

The IAAF won the recent case at CAS by a 2-1 majority of the panel of judges, allowing it to implement the testosterone limits.

But in the latest legal twist, Semenya appealed the CAS verdict to Switzerland's supreme court on human rights grounds. She won an interim ruling to temporarily suspend the hormone regulations and the Swiss supreme court will hear her full appeal.

The rules only apply to certain races, from 400 meters to one mile, but they include Semenya's specialist two-lap event. To be allowed to compete under the rules, Semenya and other affected athletes must medically reduce their testosterone to below a specific threshold set by the IAAF. The IAAF gives three options to do that: A daily contraceptive pill, a monthly hormone-blocking injection, or surgery.

The medical process has been criticized as unethical by experts and Semenya has refused to take medication to alter what she calls her genetic gifts. At least two other runners, Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi and Margaret Wambui of Kenya, who are both Olympic medalists, say they are also affected by the rules. They have also rallied against the regulations and criticized the IAAF.

Tuesday's CAS documents shone a light on some of the details of the battle between Semenya and the IAAF over the last decade, much of which Semenya hadn't publicly spoken about despite her story making headline news across the world. **AP**



Barclays Bank Tanzania Head of Cards, Deogratius Moshy, hands over television set, music set and a sofa set to Coast Region resident, Majid Omari, one of the winners of the bank's ongoing English Premier League promotion in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The lucky winner will travel to the UK, to spend time to watch one of the English Premier League matches live. Looking on is Barclays Marketing and Corporate Relationship Officer, Esther Ndazi. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Bluefins swimmers to participate in Mombasa event

Correspondent Renatha Msungu

TWENTY young swimmers from Bluefins Swim Club of Dar es Salaam will be traveling to Mombasa, Kenya to take part in the Coast Amateur Swimming Association (CASA) Invitational gala which will be held at the Bandari College pool in Mombasa at the end of this week.

The team will be made up of 10 girls and as many boys and will include three swimmers who are seven-year-olds.

The club's founder and head trainer, Rahim Alidina said the team will include the 11-year-old Tanzania national swimming team member, Sahal Harunani, who will be part of the team that will represent the country at the CANA Zone 3 swimming championships in Nairobi later this year.

Another notable swimmer is 15-year-old Aaron Akwenda who has also represented Tanzania in various regional meets in the past few years.

Other strong swimmers making the team are 10 years old Isaac Mukani and nine-year-old Aminaz Kachra who have broken and set quite a few new records in many swimming events in and around the country, including the recent Tanzania national swimming championships held in Dar es

Salaam.

Swimmers who will represent Bluefins at the CASA Invitational gala in Mombasa are (Girls) Viva Pujari, Zainab Moosajee, Maryam Ipilinga, Aaliyah Takim, Alexis Misabo, Filbertha Demello, Aliyana Kachra, Fatema Manji, Lina Goyayi and Aminaz Kachra.

Boys in the team are Sahal Harunani, Enrico Barretto, Christian Fernandes, Hassan Harunani, Isaac Mukani, Zac Okumu, Salman Yasser, Burhanuddin Gulamhussein, Idris Zavery, and Aaron Akwenda.

"This will be the second time that we will be participating in this gala as we had taken part there last year with a smaller group of swimmers and our swimmers had done very well," he noted.

"This time we are going with a bigger group since the event is well organised and extremely competitive, and it will give our young swimmers a great experience of swimming outside the country, and also

swimming against different swimmers than the normal ones that they swim with here in Tanzania in various galas," said the Club's founder and head trainer, Rahim Alidina.

Alidina thanked Tanzania Swimming Association (TSA) for forwarding the invitation to all local clubs and giving their blessings to participate in the event.

"Our team of swimmers comprises of three swimmers aged just seven years, and with the exception of one 15 years old, all the rest of the swimmers are only aged 11 years and under," he disclosed.

"We believe in nurturing kids with potential from a very young age and providing them with the much-needed experience of participating in various championships in and outside the country."

"With such an experience at a young age, these kids will hopefully go a long way in representing our country one day in international events," he said.



Some of the Bluefins swimmers who will participate in the CASA Invitational swimming Gala which will be held at the Bandari College swimming pool in Mombasa, Kenya. PHOTO: COURTESY OF BLUEFIN CLUB

England's Morgan surprises himself with lightning century

MANCHESTER, England

ENGLAND captain Eoin Morgan said he never thought he could shatter a six-hitting record or blast a century with a strike rate of over 200 after pulling off both in Tuesday's World Cup romp against Afghanistan.

Morgan (pictured) clobbered 17 sixes, one more than the previous record shared by India's Rohit Sharma, West Indies' Chris Gayle and South African AB de Villiers, in an audacious display of ball-striking at Old Trafford.

"Never, never have I ever thought I could play a knock like that. I'm delighted that I have," Morgan told a news conference after his career-best 148 earned him the man-of-the-match award.

"I think coming in at the time where it was a 50-50 shout whether myself or Jos (Buttler) went in probably helped that, because after I faced a few balls, I had no choice.

"I had to start taking risks because of him coming in next, and then after

I got dropped, it was a matter of just keep going. Yeah, one of those days."

Morgan was on 28 when Dawlat Zadran dropped him in the deep, a mistake Afghanistan were left to rue as the southpaw tore into them during his 71-ball blitzkrieg.

"To be fair, the last four years, I've probably played the best in my career, but that hasn't involved a 50 or 60-ball 100.

"I scored one in Middlesex...So I thought I would have it in the locker somewhere, but it's never happened. So I sort of gave up on it a little bit."

Morgan was particularly harsh on Afghanistan's spin spearhead Rashid Khan whose 9-0-110-0 is the worst bowling figures in the history of World Cup.

Asked how it felt to possess the new six-hitting record, Morgan said, "Honestly, I don't know. It's weird. Like I mentioned, along with the innings, it's something I never thought I'd do. It's a nice place to be."

Morgan was not even certain to play the game after suffering back spasm in last week's victory against



West Indies but assured it was holding up.

"Absolutely delighted with the way it's come through that, particularly with the fielding. That was one of the bigger worries, turning and diving and all sorts," he said.

England rode on Morgan's innings to plunder nearly 200 of the last 15 overs and the captain admitted they exceeded their own expectations.

"We were on target for 280, 290, maybe 300," Morgan said.

"I thought it was quite cagey. I thought the wicket was a little bit tacky and we were always talking about getting a late 200 score, and we thought that would have been enough to be competitive."

Meanwhile, Afghanistan captain Gulbadin Naib defended spin spearhead Rashid Khan after the 20-year-old bore the brunt of Eoin Morgan's record-breaking assault in their World Cup loss to England on Tuesday.

The spin-heavy Asians pinned their hopes on Rashid, the poster boy of Afghan cricket, who tops the list of T20 bowlers and is ranked third in the ODI list, to contain England's formidable batting order.

But as he embarked on the job, the spunky leg-spinner soon found himself in the firing line of Morgan's six-hitting spree and eventually logged the worst bowling figures in World Cup history – 110 runs off nine overs without a single wicket.

Naib said he had not seen a knock like Morgan's and what Rashid endured could happen to any player.

"Not really," Naib told a news conference when asked if Rashid had disappointed him at Old Trafford.

"He's one of the best spinners, he's a star player in world cricket. It can happen with any player, not just Rashid.

"Everyone knows how good he is and how he bowls. I think it was not his day today. "But it's cricket, sometimes you do well, sometimes this kind of stuff happens. I'm happy with him. I don't think it's a big deal."

Rashid did create an opportunity when he induced Morgan, then on 28, into a slog-sweep but Dawlat Zadran misjudged the skier and spilled it near deep midwicket

boundary.

Morgan went on to blast a career-best 148, which included a record-shattering 17 sixes, including seven off Rashid's bowling.

Naib felt it was the turning point in the match.

"We missed a catch of Morgan, maybe we lost the game there," said the Afghan captain who claimed 3-68.

England were 164-2 after 30 overs before Morgan exploded, with the hosts plundering 142 runs in the last 10 overs.

"Had we taken that catch, they would not have scored this much. They are a strong side, they did not give us any chance in the match," Naib said.

"Credit goes to Morgan. He showed his class. I've never seen this kind of batting," Naib said.

Afghanistan stay rooted to the bottom of the points table after their five defeats in as many matches but their 247-8 was their highest total in World Cup and also the first time they batted out full 50 overs.

"We're improving everyday, we trying to do well every day. It's a good thing for the team that we played 50 overs today. I think it's a positive sign."

REUTERS

Michel Platini released after being questioned over Qatar World Cup

PARIS

MICHEL Platini, the former head of European soccer association UEFA, was released in the early hours of Wednesday after having been questioned over the awarding of the 2022 World Cup soccer tournament to Qatar.

Platini's lawyer, William Bourdon, said his client was innocent of all charges and that he had been questioned on "technical grounds." "It was very long, given the number of questions, it was obviously always going to be long, since they asked me questions over Euro 2016, the World Cup in Russia, the World Cup in Qatar, Paris Saint Germain, FIFA," Platini told reporters on Wednesday as he left the police station where he had been detained. "I replied to all the questions calmly, whilst still not knowing why I was there," he added.

The French national financial prosecutor's office, which specialises in investigating economic crimes and corruption, has been leading a probe into the awarding of the 2022 tournament to Qatar.

It is looking into possible offences including private corruption, conspiracy and influence peddling. The decision in December 2010 to award the World Cup to Qatar surprised many given the lack of potential local audiences for the games, the extremely hot summer weather, and the poor performance of the country's national squad. It will be the first Arab state to host the competition.

Platini is one of France's most famous sportsmen and soccer stars. He led France to victory in the 1984 European Championship and played in two World Cup semi-finals.

REUTERS

'Viva el VAR,' sing Venezuela after draw with Brazil

SALVADOR, Brazil

THE Video Assistant Referee (VAR) rode to Venezuela's rescue once again at the Copa America on Tuesday, denying hosts Brazil two goals in a surprise 0-0 draw in Group A.

Brazil, who had another goal chopped off by the referee, were left to rue a series of missed chances in another sub-par performance that did little to excite the home fans.

Roberto Firmino had a goal disallowed late in the first half after the referee awarded a foul against the hosts, before substitute Gabriel Jesus found the net on the hour mark only for a VAR review to deem Firmino offside in the build-up.

Phillipe Coutinho looked to have found the winner when he netted from close range but VAR intervened again, this time for Firmino appearing to handle the ball before it dropped to Coutinho.

After the game, Venezuela coach Rafael Dudamel sang the praises of the technology, which has saved his side on four occasions so far. Peru were also denied two goals by VAR in their opening 0-0 draw

with the Venezuelans.

"Long live VAR," Dudamel said. "We played an almost perfect game against a team of brilliant individuals. Brazil put us to the test but the team understood what needed to be done and remembered what tactics we needed to deploy," he told reporters.

"This is a historic result for us." Brazil lead the group on four points ahead of Peru, who beat Bolivia 3-1 earlier in the day and also have four points.

Brazil meet Peru in their final group game on Saturday with both sides needing only a draw to seal their place in the quarter-finals. Venezuela have two points while Bolivia are without a point, with the two facing each other on Saturday.

The top two in each group are guaranteed a place in the last eight, along with the two highest-ranked teams finishing third.

Brazil had faced criticism from fans for their slow start to their opening game against Bolivia, which they went on to win 3-0, and while they made a stronger start here they failed to take the numerous chances that came their way.

REUTERS

Rodrygo ready to wait for his chance to shine at Real Madrid

MADRID

REAL Madrid's new 45 million euro (\$50.40 million) signing Rodrygo is aware of the huge competition for places and said on Tuesday that he was prepared to spend time in the reserves as he beds into his new surroundings.

Rodrygo, 18, agreed to join Madrid last year shortly after breaking into the first team at Santos, the Brazilian club that produced Pele and Neymar.

Last year he became the youngest player to score in the Copa Libertadores, South America's equivalent of Europe's Champions League, missing school to net for Santos against Uruguayan side Nacional.

Rodrygo joins Madrid a year after fellow Brazilian teenager Vinicius Jr moved to the Spanish capital, storming into the first team after spending his first few months with Real's reserve side Castilla in the third tier of Spanish football.

Madrid's latest arrival said he was prepared to do the same.

"Madrid will always have the best players in the world and I'm ready to do whatever the club wants, to play in the first team or Castilla," Rodrygo said at his presentation at Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

"Here the pressure is bigger than anywhere else and Vinicius has told me that I have to be patient. But I'm young and I will be. Things are going to develop naturally."

SQUAD REBUILD

Rodrygo is the fifth player to



join Madrid in the close season as part of an ambitious squad rebuild that has already cost more than 300 million euros.

Real are looking to make amends for a woeful last campaign in which they finished an unprecedented 19 points adrift of La Liga champions Barcelona. Coach Zinedine Zidane has signed Brazilian defender Eder Militao for 50 million euros, Serbian striker Luka Jovic for 60 million, French right back Ferland Mendy for 48 million and Belgian forward Eden Hazard for 100 million.

Rodrygo said he did not expect his first season at Madrid to be plain sailing but was excited to be joining the 13-times European champions.

"I'm in my first season in Europe and there might be difficult moments but I'm prepared for that and I'm sure I'm going to have a lot of happy moments," he added.

"I always told my dad that one day I was going to play for Madrid, I told my agents this and the deal was completed in 20 minutes." (\$1 = 0.8928 euros)

REUTERS

2019 Africa Cup of Nations ultimate preview: Salah, Mane & Co. ready to put on a show

By ESPN staff

THE sense in recent years has been that, whenever African football takes a step forward, it quickly takes two back. The 2017 Africa Cup of Nations was a watchable, enjoyable tournament that was settled in thrilling style and showcased the best of what the continent has to offer. In 2018, that reputation took a hit as none of Africa's five representatives made it out of the World Cup's group stage.

The prevailing cliché is that without any truly world-class side, standards in Africa don't come close to those in Europe or South America but this time around, the script is flipped. With Egypt hosting, the field has been expanded to 24 teams and there are arguably more familiar faces in this edition than in any of the previous four.

The decision to move the Africa Cup of Nations to the summer (June 21-July 19), with no competing club interests and no other major international tournament running alongside it from the quarterfinal stage onward, means there will be a captive global audience of casual football fans and more than enough big-name players capable of attracting them. It is a huge opportunity for Africa to put on a show.

ESPN FC's Nick Ames runs through the biggest storylines of the tournament and what to watch for in Egypt over the next month.

Key storyline: Star power has never been stronger in 2019

Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane just completed a stunning club season at Liverpool, winning the Champions League together and hauling their team to within one point of the Premier League title. In the process they finished joint-top scorers in the world's least forgiving league. Now they top the bill at this summer's tournament, carrying the hopes of the two leading contenders.

Salah, who holds something akin to deity status in Egypt, will be expected to guide the home nation to glory, while Mane, who missed a decisive penalty in the last eight of the 2017 competition, surely holds the key to success for second-favourites Senegal. Both players are at the peak of their careers and may have no better chance of victory. If Egypt and Senegal win their respective groups, the pair would be on course to meet in a potentially classic semifinal.

Of course, Egypt's home advantage, impressive depth and history as hosts, winning the past two times they've staged the event in 1986 and 2006, means they're hotly tipped to do it again. The pressure will be intense and the excitement almost overwhelming, but Javier Aguirre's squad is packed with experience and, with Salah likely to be in far better shape than during last summer's ill-fated World Cup campaign, looks equipped to handle to the weight of expectation again.

Beyond the hosts are Senegal. It seems impossible that a country producing such a steady flow of talent has never won an Africa Cup of Nations. Yet there is a reason why



The Africa Nations Cup has max star power this summer as several Premier League giants do battle for continental supremacy in Egypt. (Agencies)

many feel this could, at long last, be Senegal's moment. Mane is their star but his supporting cast is enviable, including the exciting forwards Keita Balde and Ismaila Sarr.

Morocco last won this competition 43 years ago but look well placed to contend. Hakim Ziyech will pull the strings but is far from the only creative force, while defenders Medhi Benatia and Romain Saiss will add experience behind. Managed by two-time champion Herve Renard, Morocco should be well suited to the northern conditions and they arrive on the back of a decent 12-month span in which they've beaten Cameroon and Tunisia as well as drawing, in thrilling fashion, with Spain at the World Cup.

Adding to the excitement is the sheer scope of the competition. There has never been an Africa Cup of Nations this vast. Its expansion to 24 teams mirrors that of the European Championship and means a number of new faces are joining the party. Mauritania, Madagascar and Burundi are the three first-timers and each will bring its own unique stories over the next few weeks.

Players to watch beyond Mohamed Salah

Riyad Mahrez: Much of his first season at Manchester City was played under the radar but he delivered when it mattered, most notably when he scored a brilliant goal on the day they clinched the title at Brighton. Can he do the same for his country? Algeria are a continental powerhouse but have not won this competition since 1990, failing to even reach the last four since. They have a wealth of attacking talent, and a tournament in north Africa, the first since Egypt last hosted in 2006, could be to their liking both in terms of climate and travelling support. If he sparkles

this summer, perhaps Algeria will finally get the shot at glory they crave.

Hakim Ziyech: The 2018-19 season elevated the Ajax forward to football's elite tier. A series of marvelous performances helped the Dutch champions to the brink of the Champions League final and it's already confirmed that he will be sold this summer, with a price tag of €30 million or better quoted to suitors in England, Spain or Germany. Morocco are among the five or six most realistic contenders, and as they showed at the World Cup in Russia, are capable of some devastating attacking football. It's safe to say Ziyech will dictate all their best moves.

Nicolas Pepe: The Lille forward arrives in Egypt on the back of a phenomenal season in Ligue 1. Pepe scored 22 times in 38 appearances for the French runners-up and weighed in with 11 assists, too; it's no surprise that the 24-year-old is being tipped for great things, with Manchester United and Arsenal chasing his signature. Before any big summer move, he has a chance to put Ivory Coast back on Africa's summit. They've struggled in the post-Didier Drogba and Yaya Toure era, but an exciting younger generation looks ready to step up.

Must-see matches

June 22, Nigeria vs. Burundi: Nigeria, the three-time champions and continental giants, didn't qualify for the past two Africa Cup of Nations and so their return to the fray, with a multitalented young team that is rightly among the favourites, is something to savour. The match in Alexandria will be Burundi's debut in the competition and they've got enough big wins to be taken seriously.

June 27, Senegal vs. Algeria: The first genuine heavyweight clash of the tournament takes place on matchday 2 of the group stage, when the pair of front-runners size each other up and, perhaps, lay down an early marker to their rivals. The result matters, too: whoever wins Group C would probably see hosts and favourites Egypt in its half of the knockout draw, with a possible meeting in the semi-finals. Weirdly, finishing second in the group could prove to be a better bet.

June 28, Morocco vs. Ivory Coast: In 2017, on a wild night in the Gabonese town of Oyem, Morocco's Rachid Alioui scored a stunning winner to knock out Ivory Coast, then-defending champions, in the group stage. Ten months later, Morocco inflicted an even heavier blow by winning 2-0 in Abidjan and beating the Elephants to a World Cup place. What will happen this time around? It should also be one of the most watchable games in this phase: with the likes of Ziyech, Pepe and Wilfried Zaha on show, expect an open, attack-minded encounter.



Expanded Cup of Nations has new look but clouded by concerns

CAIRO

THE African Cup of Nations gets underway in Egypt on Friday sporting a fresh new look but the 32nd edition is clouded like none before by security concerns and the foibles of the game's administrators.

A switch to mid-year hosting and an expansion to 24 teams hold out high hopes that the continent's showcase sports event will continue to enjoy growing international attention.

However, the changes come hot on the heels of a crisis of confidence for the game in Africa, where leading officials stand accused of corruption.

Controversy raged for years over the event's previous timing in January, when top African players were forced to leave their European clubs mid-season to play in the tournament, and the change to mid-year has been universally welcomed.

The decision to expand to 24 teams produced a more sceptical reaction given that many of the past tournaments have been characterised by the poor standard of matches and further dilution of the field might exacerbate that problem.

But the success of UEFA's expanded European Championship in France three years ago emboldened the Confederation of African Football to follow suit.

It means three new faces in this year's lineup although Burundi, Mauritania and Madagascar are not expected to make much impact.

NO FAVOURITES

But this is not a tournament with any clear favourites.

Hosts Egypt are seeking a record-extending eighth title but much of their hopes rest on the form of Liverpool's Champions League winner Mohamed Salah.

He has been given time off to go on holiday after a long season, only joining up with his team mates last Wednesday, but there will be questions over whether mental and physical fatigue will affect his potential

for another talismanic performance.

The same is true for club mate Sadio Mane, who leads a credible challenge from Senegal.

Mane will miss his country's first Group C game against Tanzania in Cairo on Sunday as he is suspended because of an accumulation of yellow cards in the qualifiers.

Nigeria return after missing the last two finals and are always contenders, while Ghana continue their quest for a first title since 1982.

Ghana have reached at least the semifinals in the previous six Cup of Nations finals, going back to 2008, but have fallen short of the winners' podium - losing the 2010 and 2015 finals.

Cameroon were surprise champions at the last Nations Cup in 2017, when they beat Egypt 2-1 in the final in Gabon, and they are in a similar position this time with mediocre form since that triumph leaving

them as outsiders to retain the title.

STRICT CONTROL

Egypt get the tournament underway on Friday against Zimbabwe at the Cairo International Stadium, rarely used over the last seven years since strict controls were imposed on football crowds in the country.

Most games have been played either behind closed doors or with restricted attendance to forestall any political dissent that might flow from the terraces.

Supporters of Cairo's top clubs were prominent in the Tahir Square demonstrations during the Arab Spring of 2011 when Egyptians launched a historic uprising for democracy.

But since the military resumed control in 2013 when Mohamed Mursi was deposed, a tight lid has been placed on dissent.

Mursi, who was briefly the first democratically elected head of state in Egypt's

modern history, died on Monday from a heart attack after collapsing in a Cairo court while on trial on espionage charges.

Heavy security is expected around the tournament, which follows quickly on the heels of turmoil in the ranks of the continent's Confederation of African Football (CAF).

The president of African soccer's governing body Ahmad Ahmad has been accused of corruption by his own general secretary Amr Fahmy, who has since been fired after his whistleblowing.

Ahmad was briefly detained in France earlier this month and is now the subject of an ethics investigation by world soccer's governing body FIFA.

Ahmad, who is also a FIFA vice-president, did not respond to requests by Reuters for comment on the allegations against him.

REUTERS

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

2019 Africa Cup of Nations

ultimate preview

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Rafiki Foundation tennis team coach Charles Laizer (R) poses for a photo with some of his team's players in Kilimanjaro recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF RAFIKI FOUNDATION

Dar team wins chess league

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AHEAD of Africa Solutions chess team has won the Tanzania National League which was held in Dar es Salaam last weekend.

The champions collected 14 points while runners-up were Don Bosco Rising Stars which had 12 points and Flashnet emerged third with 10 points.

Ten corporate teams competed in the maiden tournament which was recognized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

Bekertilly team took the fourth position, Kamal Steel came fifth, Specialised and New Africa hotel teams took fifth and sixth positions respectively.

My World Pre-school team and Lake Oil team took eighth and ninth spots respectively.

Head of Don Bosco Rising Stars Kala Louis said he is impressed with his team performance.

"It was one of the good tournament am very happy that my team which is made of young and upcoming players has finished second at this tournament I am very sure that this will be a stepping stone for our team to perform well at local and international events," he said.



Taifa Stars' players Gadiel Michael (R) and Farid Mussa train in Egypt to shape up for the AFCON finals which are set to start in Egypt this weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

The underrated strengths of never-say-die spirit

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AFTER the many agonizing years of missing out on the whole spectacle, Taifa Stars will be part of the elite assemblage of teams who will vie for top honors in this year's AFCON finals in the host country Egypt.

This year's AFCON finals will mark the very first time since 1980 that our national team will be jostling with their counterparts in a bid to produce an overall credible display on continental football's grandest stage.

And lo and behold, the prestigious AFCON finals are no longer one year away, or even six months away or two months away but the fantastical tournament is in fact due to kick-off in Cairo, Egypt this Friday.

Naturally, as our moment of reckoning draws nearer and nearer, it is to be expected that legions of Tanzanians will feel a complex mix of contrasting emotions all at the same time.

This mixture of emotions will likely include pure excitement, that originates from the fact that the Stars will be returning to the AFCON Finals tournament after an especially long sojourn in the wilderness;

shaky hope, which stems from the country's belief in the unique talent of our boys and, of course, trepidation.

Indeed, one hardly needs to be a pro-

fessor of nuclear physics to figure out just why a fair number of us will be harboring real fear within our hearts.

The fear, naturally, will stem from one worrying question which is: after so many decades observing proceedings from the sidelines, can our Taifa Stars really return to African football's most pre-eminent stage and confidently turn on the style against familiar colossuses of the continent such as Egypt, the Black Stars of Ghana and those ferocious Lions of Teranga of Senegal?

Like it or loathe it, we shall all simply have to accustom ourselves to somehow living with fear because in case some of you did not get the memo, our participation in this year's AFCON Finals IS a really big deal.

However, let us end all the talk of the unquestionably pressure-cooker atmosphere that the Taifa Stars will be trying to forge ahead under once this unfurling riveting competition actually kicks-off.

Instead, I would like us to home in on an internationally renowned positive attribute which perhaps should be distinctly more in the forefront as one of the lethally dangerous arrows in the Taifa Stars' quiver of arrows.

Indeed, the commendable attribute being alluded to is a 'never say die' spirit. Quite rightly, the lot of us, which includes fans, football scribes and sponsors alike opine for ages about the top quality of our

defenders and the deadly finishing skills of our forwards in this particular context or say like in other contexts when it would be perhaps our heavyweight football clubs who would be acting as the country's flag-bearers in the CAF Continental championships.

Nevertheless, despite being widely recognized as a major strength, a team's steely resolve not just to give up but to actually triumph over an opposition has doubtlessly been rather underrated in the world of sports and yet can work miracles when effectively made use of.

There are numerous examples in sporting history which vividly illustrate this point.

Some ideal cases in point include Cameroon's 1-0 triumph over the then world champions, Argentina in the 1990 world cup in Italy, Simba's jaw-slackening win against mighty Zamalek in 2003 and of course,

Leicester's memorable EPL title triumph a few seasons ago when precious few believed that they could actually and successfully pull off 'Mission Impossible'.

Thus, with our nail-biting likely expected to approach unprecedented levels once the tournament kicks-off this Friday, I, for my part, will be fervently praying that the football gods bestow large quantities of an iron-will on our boys, which will stand them in good stead throughout the competition.

Moshi school unveils players for Dar tournament

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

MOSHI-based Rafiki Foundation has named four players who will represent the school at the coming seniors' open tennis tournament slated for this weekend at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC).

The team's coach, Charles Laizer, said the four were selected due to their outstanding performance at previous events and experience.

He named the players as Beatrice Kimaro, John Kimaro, Naitoti Singo and Victoria Singo.

"The team is ready and I am sure my players will perform well at the event, the players were selected due to their outstanding performance during the previous events both local and international," he said.

The DGC Open elders' tournament is sponsored by SBC Tanzania, Alliance Insurance and Oryx Energies and winners will be presented with cash and trophies.

This is the first time in recent years for the country to have elders' tournament as previously there had so far been tournaments for juniors.

Organizers of the tournament said there will be various categories and the open veteran category will involve only players who are below 35 years of age and it is not open to coaches and practice partners.

Guerrero leads Peru over Bolivia in key Copa America match

RIO DE JANEIRO

STRIKER Paolo Guerrero led Peru to a key 3-1 win against Bolivia on Tuesday that improved the team's chances of advancing to the knockout stage of Copa America.

Guerrero scored a goal and had an assist that allowed Peru to recover against a week Bolivia side.

Nearly 25,000 noisy fans at the Maracana Stadium, mostly Peruvian, watched a low-quality match in an arena that was only one-third filled.

Bolivia opened the scoring at 28 minutes after a penalty awarded after video review, with striker Marcelo Martins scoring to the right of Peru's Pedro Galles.

Despite holding 60% of ball possession until the break, Peru only leveled the score at 45 minutes with the team's most recognizable player.

Christian Cueva found target man Guerrero in the middle of the Bolivian defense. The veteran ran to the right past goalkeeper Carlos Lampe and gently pulled the ball past the goal line.

Peru didn't change much after the break, playing with a slow flow that created few opportunities.

Still, the Peruvians quickly found a second goal, once again thanks to Guerrero.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



EATV **TODAY @ 18:00**

THURSDAY

11:00 DADA2 (live)
12:00 Mpya
15:00 FUNGUKA
16:00 Bonga Hits
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:30 MJADALA
21:00 Bonga Hits

eNewz 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.

eastafrica RADIO

05:00 EA Breakfast
09:00 Supamix
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bonga
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM