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MSCL to strive for quality services



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TPA to revive MV Liemba services



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WMO: More investments in weather services



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Former PM Sumaye back in ruling CCM

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye (pictured) yesterday returned to the CCM fold, saying he has taken the step to have a platform to air his views and advice.

It is two months after he announced that he was no longer a member of the leading opposition party, Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Chadema).

On December 4 Sumaye who served ten years as prime minister during the third phase government quit Chadema three days after his failed bid to be elected chairman for the party's Coastal Zone.

In the election he garnered 48 "no" votes out of 76.

Sumaye explained that due to what transpired in the election and as regards his earlier bid to collect forms to vie for the party's national chairmanship against Freeman Mbowe, there was no longer need for him to remain in the party.

But yesterday he reverted to the dominant party, announcing his decision before CCM Secretary General Dr Bashiru Ally at a Board of Trustees meeting that started early yesterday.

"I have been prime Minister for 10 years and leader for many years, hence I will not be doing justice if I remain at some place



Personally I have unquestionable patriotism and I always look ahead for the country's interest

without giving my advice and contribution to the nation.

"You cannot contribute anything if you do not have a platform, since if you give it on the roadside people may attack you," he said, noting that he agonized about whether he had "reached a level to be despised," and judged against it, thus opting to "return to the party reared me and I am proud that I still have something to contribute to this nation," said Sumaye amid applause from the audience.

Interrupting his speech by saying "CCM Oyee" several times Sumaye said he has returned to CCM so that he joins fellow members and other wananchi to build the ruling party.

"Without wasting your time I have decided to return because of this reason. It is my hope of assisting the country; my problem was only the country. Personally I have unquestionable patriotism and I always look ahead for the country's interest.

"I have come here to build our party and country and if there are any shortcomings here and there I will have a platform to speak from. I will give my advice to party leaders including the Secretary General. Being inside the party I will have a big opportunity to offer my contribution, so I

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DPP hands Treasury, BoT 70bn/- in ex-crime assets

■12bn/- tied to plea bargaining initial payments



Bank of Tanzania deputy governor Dr Bernard Kibesse (2nd-L), and Absa Bank Tanzania Limited board chairman Simon Mponji (5th-L) officiate at the launch of Absa Bank Tanzania, formerly known as Barclays Bank Tanzania. The others include Emmanuel Kakwezi of the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela), Absa Bank Tanzania managing director Abdi Mohamed and Tanzania Bankers Association director Tufe Jembe. Story on Page 11. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

The DPP described the submission of the money collected and the properties nationalised as historic as it is the first time this has happened

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) yesterday handed over to the state assets worth over 70bn/- nationalised from criminal businesses across the country.

The assets in the form of various types of minerals, cash and cars, including the 12bn/- that has already been paid through plea bargaining by about 300 suspects in money laundering, tax evasion and economic sabotage cases.

Handing over the assets at the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), DPP Biswalo Mganga said the asset recovery was done in the past three to four years.

The nationalised properties include minerals like gold, diamond and tanzanite.

"The assets are also part of the others recovered in the past, stored in a special Asset Recovery Account at the BoT," he said.

Authorities have also nationalized 24 residential houses, nine land plots, 65 vehicles, two plantations, 6,894 pieces of timber and one boat.

The press briefing was attended by Finance and Planning minister Dr Philip Mpango, Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Augustine Mahiga and Minerals minister Doto Biteko.

Others included Treasury Permanent Secretary



Authorities have also nationalized 24 residential houses, nine land plots, 65 vehicles, two plantations, 6,894 pieces of timber and one boat

Dotto James, Constitutional and Legal Affairs Permanent Secretary Prof Sifuni Mchome, Prevention and Combating of Corruption director general Brig. Gen. John Mbugo and various other senior government officials.

The DPP said the assets value does not include plots and houses because their valuation is yet to be conducted, as they were being handed over to the Treasury PS.

The DPP described the submission of the money collected and the properties nationalized a historic as it is the first time this has happened.

He urged all defendants who entered plea-bargaining agreements to make sure that they pay the money as agreed. Failure to honor the agreement will result into the enforcement of court orders, he cautioned.

The assets include the gold that was seized and returned from Kenya.

In his remarks, Dr Mpango commended the DPP and his team for a job well done, saying the government will do all it can to ensure the country's resources are protected.

"This country is very rich, and I commend the DPP and his team for a job well done. Keep it up, do not get frightened by threats that you receive, for it is better you die protecting your country than live in peace whole letting people sabotage it," he remarked.

Samia: Work harder to end Africa's interminable wars

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has appealed to the African Union (AU) and the wider international community to increase efforts in ensuring peace is obtained in the continent's conflict areas, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

This would be helpful for Tanzania to offload its long time refugees burden, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said at the opening session of the 33rd Ordinary Conference for AU heads of state and governments at its Addis Ababa headquarters.

This year's conference slogan 'Silencing the gun' has come at an opportune moment since conflicts and the absence of peace in some African countries delay the continent's economic development, she said.



The Vice President also issued a pledge to the AU that Tanzania will speedily implement the AU plan in the war against malaria, as the country aims to completely eradicate the disease by 2030

If the AU and the international community double their efforts in silencing those guns and peace and harmony prevail, Africa's leaders will direct their efforts to the sustainable development of their people, to cut down poverty, she further stated.

The Vice President also issued a pledge to the AU that Tanzania will speedily implement the AU plan in the war against malaria, as the country aims to completely eradicate the disease by 2030.

At the conference African Heads of State and Government saw outgoing chairman, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi handing over the chair to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who will be at the helm for one year.

Netherlands hands 76.5bn/- for city modern dumpsite

By Guardian Reporter

THE Netherlands Embassy in Tanzania has disbursed 76.5bn/- for construction of a modern dumpsite at Pugu on the outskirts of Dar es Salaam to facilitate management of solid waste in the country's commercial capital.

Mussa Hassan Zungu (pictured), the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union matters and Environment), said the Netherlands agreed to finance improvement of outlays infrastructure at



the Pugu dump site and paving the road to the site to ease waste delivery.

"We had a successful conversation with Ambassador Jeroen Verheul of the Netherlands. They will provide 1.5bn/- for the feasibility study and research before disbursing 75bn/- for the project which will see Dar es Salaam residents getting a modern dump site," he told journalists shortly after talks with Ambassador Verheul.

Zungu noted that completion of the project will enhance the city's environment conservation efforts, cutting health risks to people residing near the dump site. Waste generated in the city is massive whereas the current Pugu dump handles 5,000 tonnes per

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Minister urges new board to strive for quality services

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

WORK, Transport and Communication, minister Isack Kamwelwe has urged the new board of directors of Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) to ensure improved marine services as well as purchasing quality vessels.

Kamwelwe made the remarks yesterday at the inauguration of the board which was recently formed by President John Magufuli. The board is chaired by Prof Zacharia Mganilwa.

"We believe that MSCL will grow to a strong company as the government has heavily invested in it. We want you to ensure quality and reliable services to the people", said the minister urging board members to also make sure MSCL operates profitably and give dividend to the government.

He said during the period of the outgoing board the company's services were deteriorating with most of its ships not functioning properly. He said the company was solely depending on subsidy from the government to operate.

"The President took measures to revive MSCL to make it operate independently, but also provide better

services to Tanzanians. You have all the three ships rehabilitated and a new one at Lake Victoria", he added.

According to him, the President also paid 10 months' salary arrears to workers.

The minister hailed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MSCL, Eric Hamisi for managing well the company as it was about to collapse. He said new CEO has managed to control theft of spare parts and enhanced revenue collections from fares and cargo charges.

Meanwhile, Hamisi noted that the outgoing board managed to revive cargo services from Dar es Salaam to Kampala in Uganda through both, ship and railway services.



We believe that MSCL will grow to a strong company as the government has heavily invested in it. We want you to ensure quality and reliable services to the people



Rukwa regional commissioner Joachim Wangabo (R) pictured yesterday inspecting progress in the expansion of Kasanga harbour dock on the Tanzanian side of Lake Tanganyika, work meant to enable two ships to anchor at the facility at a go. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Former PM Sumaye back in ruling CCM

FROM PAGE 1

ask you to receive me," he said.

Earlier Dr Bashiru asked CCM members to welcome back Sumaye

and he will be handed his party card at party headquarters in Dodoma. A great reception is being planned for him, the CCM top official intoned.

FROM PAGE 1
day, he asserted.

"Completion of the project will improve the dump's waste recycling capacity thus reduce health risks to people living near the dump."

Wastes generated at the dump will be used to produce electricity to be connected to the national grid and benefit more people, he said.

Netherlands Ambassador Jeroen

Verheul praised Zungu for being appointed minister, noting that the embassy has been working with private institutions to improve environment conservation in the country.

"We are grateful for the successful discussions aiming at protecting the environment. We have been promoting tree planting as well as the use of solar power in rural areas," he explained.

The Vice-President's Office (Union

matters and Environment) has been working closely with the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to ensure that the public is not affected by generated solid waste, along with managing contaminated water with considerable chemical residues from different industries.

"For the next two years the city's population is slated to reach eight to nine million and the dump is the

same as the day I visited it. The dump situation is bad - we must admit the infrastructure is bad, and steps are being taken about the matter," the minister said earlier in the legislature.

The Vice President's Office through a public education program provides tips on waste management at the community level for civic leaders and other stakeholders, especially in solid waste recycling, he added.

Netherlands hands 76.5bn/- for city modern dumpsite



Outgoing Tanzania Private Sector Foundation executive director Godfrey Simbeye (R) speaks at a joint press conference with Songwe regional commissioner Brig Gen (rt) Nicodemus Mwangela (L) on the three-day investment symposium expected to be held in Songwe at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

ADDIS ABABA

AfDB's African Economic Outlook 2020 praised at 33rd AU summit

THE African Development Bank's (AfDB) African Economic Outlook 2020 was praised at the 33rd African Union Summit in Addis Ababa for being an effective blueprint for addressing the continent's human capacity gap.

The 2020 edition of the flagship report, under the theme, "Developing Africa's workforce of the future," was presented at a side event attended by policymakers, global and regional development organizations, civil society, the media and academia.

The Commissioner for Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission, Victor Harison, observed that the report tackled the challenges

of human capital development "from a different perspective and focusing on the development of Africa's workforce for the future through the prism of education, skills and infrastructure."

"The facts mentioned in the second part of this report are striking. It reminds us of the size of the investment that must be made in the development of human capital in Africa, an essential component for achieving productive transformation," the Commissioner

told the high-level meeting.

Vincent Nmeielle, Secretary General of the African Development Bank, said the African Economic Outlook had become the blueprint for planning and for sound economic research about the continent.

"The question then is: why are we presenting the report at the African Union? This is where Africa's socio-economic policy and political decisions are made. It is therefore important that

heads of state know the key policy recommendations for the year," he said.

The Ethiopian Commissioner for job creation, Ephrem Lemango, highlighted a key part of the report on the importance of expanding education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). "In Ethiopia STEM represents 70% of graduates. Still, jobs need to be created for these graduates."

Discovery paves path forward in fight against the deadliest form of malaria

UTAH, US

SCIENTISTS have identified a key molecule involved in the development of cerebral malaria, a deadly form of the tropical disease. The study identifies a potential drug target and way forward toward alleviating this condition for which few targeted treatments are available.

In studies with mice, investigators discovered that the EphA2 protein is important for onset of leaky brain, a hallmark symptom of cerebral malaria. The team also demonstrated that blocking EphA2 with different drugs prevented this dangerous symptom from occurring. According to the researchers, the findings indicate that a similar therapeutic strategy could potentially prevent the disease in humans.

"The advance is really significant," says Tracey Lamb, Ph.D., senior author of the study and associate professor in Pathology at University of Utah Health. "New targets to block a leaky brain in malaria are urgently needed to prevent mortality from cerebral malaria."

The research, led by scientists at U of U Health in collaboration with Centre Pasteur du Cameroun in Cameroon, appears online in the journal PLOS Pathogens.

Cerebral malaria strikes more than 575,000 each year, disproportionately affecting young children in sub-Saharan Africa. The tropical disease causes fluids to leak from the brain, and coma, eventually killing 20% of those who are infected. Among survivors, 80% develop long-term neurodevelopmental symptoms including seizures and mental health disorders.

Disruption of the blood brain barrier is a critical step in the pathogenesis of cerebral malaria that makes the disease so deadly. True to its name, the blood brain barrier is made up of cells that line blood vessels and fit together tightly, assembling into a barricade. The semi-permeable cell wall keeps fluids from the nervous system from mixing with the bloodstream while allowing essential metabolites to pass through.

Researchers took note of EphA2

when they saw that the molecule became activated at the site of the breakdown. Further investigation showed that EphA2 disrupts the blood brain barrier by loosening the tight junctions between cells, removing the glue that keeps these cells bound to each other.

With a key player identified, the scientists wondered whether blocking EphA2 would protect the blood brain barrier during infection. Treating infected mice with two different agents showed this seems to be the case. One agent was a repurposed cancer drug, Nilotinib, that inhibits several molecules including EphA2. The second was an engineered protein that specifically blocked molecules called ephrin ligands that will interact with EphA2 and prevent its activation.

According to the study's first author Thayer Darling, Ph.D., it is notable that both therapeutics were effective when given four days after infection. They did not need to be administered as a preventive prior to infection which can be difficult to do in a real-world situation.

"Usually children are not brought in to the clinic until they're already experiencing symptoms of malaria," says Darling, who carried out the research as a graduate student with Lamb. "We're hopeful that therapeutics that target EphA2 may be able to prevent cerebral malaria in children after the onset of those initial symptoms."

The work was primarily conducted in laboratory mice but additional results show clinical relevance. Blood from children with symptoms of cerebral malaria have elevated levels of an Ephrin protein that binds EphA2. Finding the marker in these children suggests the same pathway mediates the disease in both mice and humans.

"Understanding how infection with malaria parasites can lead to deleterious neurological conditions is key to discovering new therapeutic means to curb malaria-associated deaths globally," says co-author Lawrence Ayong, Ph.D., a professor at Centre Pasteur du Cameroun.



Newly appointed Fire and Rescue Force commissioner general John Masunga (L) in tête-à-tête with Administrative and Finance Commissioner Baraka Semwanza at the force's headquarters in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Rising prices of vegetables to go down soon, says NBS

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

FOOD prices in the country are likely to decrease if all factors remain the same, the move that is likely to end public outcry of escalating price of vegetables, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said yesterday.

Announcing the annual headline inflation rate for the month of January 2020, the bureau's acting director of population census and social statistics, Ruth Davison said there are all indications that food prices are likely to go down as farmers are nearer the harvesting season.

She said the annual headline for the month of January 2020 has decreased to 3.7 percent from 3.8 percent recorded in December 2019.

"The decrease of the headline inflation explains that, the speed of price change for commodities for the year ended January 2020 has decreased compared to the speed of price change recorded for the year ended December 2019," she said.

She noted that the overall index went up to 117.60 in January 2020 from 113.38 recorded in January 2019, adding that food and non-alcoholic beverages inflation rate for the same month has also decreased to 5.7 percent from 6.3 percent recorded in December 2019.

Annual inflation rate for food consumed at home and away for the month of January, according to the acting director, has also decreased to 6.4 percent from 6.9 percent recorded in December 2019.

On the other hand, the 12-month index

change for non-food products in January 2020 has slightly increased to 2.4 percent from 2.3 percent recorded in December 2019.

The annual inflation rate, which excludes food and energy for the month of January 2020, she said, has stagnated at 2.1 percent as it was recorded in December 2019.

At the same time, the national consumer price index from December 2019 to January 2020 has increased by 0.4 percent compared to increase of 0.6 percent recorded from November 2019 to December 2019.

"The overall index has increased to 117.60 in January 2020 from 117.10 recorded in December 2019" she said, adding that the increase in overall index is attributed to the price increase for food and non-food items.

Some of the food items that contributed to such increase include fish by 1.7 percent, vegetables (4.1), beans (2.2), cassava (2.4) and cooking bananas (1.7).

On the other hand, some of the non-food items that contributed to such increase includes, actual rental paid by tenants by 2.3 percent, petrol (1.4) and school fee for private primary and secondary schools by 1.9 and 1.8 percents respectively.

In comparison with other East African countries of Kenya and Uganda, all the three countries have experienced decreased annual headline inflation rate with Uganda having 3.4 percent compared to 3.6 percent recorded in December as Kenya also move down from 5.82 percent recorded in December 2019 to 5.78 percent in January.

Mining town appeals for banking services

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

MINERAL traders in Makongolosi town in Chunya District, Mbeya Region are forced to travel more than 35 kms for banking services as the town lacks these facilities.

They claim they get the service at Mkwajuni, headquarters of Songwe District or Chunya town, the situation

that poses hazards to them when carrying huge amounts of cash to and from the banks.

Speaking during the visit by the Chunya District Commissioner to inspect the area's gold markets established at the mining sites, the traders appealed to the government to bring banking services closer to them.

One gold trader, Juma Solomon, said

Makongolosi town has many people engaged in mining activities - miners, sellers and buyers.

He said apart from the minerals business, there are also tobacco farmers who also need banking services and Makongolosi is nearer to tobacco farming zone. "A miner who has just received a lot of cash has no peace especially when carrying the cash to

the bank as every time you think of the possibility of being attacked," he said.

The Chairman of Chunya District Council Bosco Mwanginde said the town has a huge circulation of cash due to minerals trade, and added that long distances to areas with banks pose great danger to the traders.

He said some of the traders use mobile services to store their money,

but mobile money agents in the area fail to offer adequate services because often traders need huge amounts of cash for minerals purchases.

"One person can hold up to 100m/ in cash and it becomes too risky for him to travel to Chunya or Mkwajuni for banking services," Mwanginde said.

Speaking on the issue, Chunya District Commissioner Maryprisca

Mahundi said there is one bank agent in Makongolosi town whose agency serves two banks but he also cannot cope with the huge number of people needing banking services.

She called upon banks in the country to grab the opportunity to open branches in the area to assist the wananchi, while also expanding their own banking business.

By Correspondent James

Lanka, Moshi

Kilimanjaro regional commissioner Anna Mghwira said her office has dispatched a number of officials and experts to the villages where the desert locust are said to be spreading further to other areas.

Moshi Rural residents went into panic yesterday following information that desert locusts from Kenya are swarming across the district and likely to spread further posing significant threat to food security.

The desert locusts have wreaked havoc in Somalia and Ethiopia. Reports show that, the first swarm of locusts crossed the border in to Kenya from Somalia on 28th December 2019.

Speaking in separate interviews, the residents expressed worries since most of them cannot differentiate between desert locust and hoppers.

Aurelia Francis from Kishumundu village, Uru East ward in Moshi rural district said: "We were informed by our leaders on the invasion of desert locust in our area spreading from Kenya through Korini in Old Moshi ward and Mwasi South village located near the Tanzania/Kenya border".

Anna Ngowi from Mwasi South village said villagers are worried of the insects as they are likely to cause hunger. She said in 1960s when the 'dangerous hoppers' invaded the area, people experienced hunger, calling upon Kilimanjaro region authorities to take measures to control them from spreading further into the country.

Kilimanjaro regional commissioner, Anna Mghwira said her office has

Kilimanjaro deploys team to monitor movements of deadly desert locusts

dispatched a number of officials and experts to the villages where the desert locust are said to be spreading. "In Mwasi South village, our experts found some hoppers which they are yet to be confirmed as desert locust from neighbouring Kenya", affirmed that Regional Commissioner.


The locusts - part of the grasshopper family - have led to what the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has termed the "worst situation in 25 years" in the Horn of Africa as the region is suffering its worst

invasion for decades.

Swarms formed in Eastern Ethiopia and Northern Somalia and have moved through the region, possibly still threatening South Sudan and Uganda.

Locusts can cover as much as 150 kilometers (93 miles) a day and an average swarm will destroy crops sufficient to feed 2,500 people for a year, according to the UN.

A single swarm can contain up to 150 million locusts per square km of farmland, an area the size of almost 250 football fields.



SHIRIKA LA UMEME TANZANIA

TAARIFA KWA UMMA:

FEBRUARI 10, 2020

TAHADHARI KWA WANANCHI WANA OISHI PEMBEZONI MWA MKONDO WA MAJI YATOKAYO KWENYE VYANZO VYA KUFUA UMEME KWA MAJI VYA MTERA NA KIDATU

Shirika la Umeme Tanzania (TANESCO) linatoa tahadhari kwa Wananchi wanaofanya shughuli za kibinadamu pembezoni mwa mkondo wa maji yatokayo katika mabwawa ya kufua umeme kutokana na mvua zinaoendelea kunyesha.

Kufuatia taarifa iliyotolewa na Mamlaka ya Hali ya Hewa Nchini (TMA) kuwa mvua bado zinaendelea na zipo juu ya wastani, TANESCO inafanya tathmini iwapo siku za usoni maji yahamie upande wa pili kwa ajili ya usalama wa Mabwawa na Mitambo.

TANESCO inatoa tahadhari hii muhimu kwa Wananchi hususani wale wanaojishughulisha na shughuli mbalimbali za kiuchumi kama vile Uvuvi, kulisha Mifugo, Kilimo na shughuli nyingine kwenye mkondo wa mto, vidimbwi au pembezoni mwa bwawa kuacha kufanya shughuli za kibinadamu, kijamii na kiuchumi kwa kipindi hiki ambacho mvua za Vuli zikiwa zinaendelea kunyesha.


Hali ya Ufuaji umeme katika mabwawa ya Mtera na Kidatu unaendelea vizuri kwa asilimia mia moja (100%) na kiwango cha maji kimeongezeka kutokana na mvua zinaoendelea kunyesha kuanzia mita 691.22 juu ya usawa wa bahari kuanzia Desemba 01, 2019 hadi kufikia mita 698.40 juu ya usawa wa bahari Februari 10, 2020 katika bwawa la Mtera.

Shirika litaendelea kuhamasisha na kutoa elimu kwa wananchi wote waishio maeneo ya pembezoni mwa mkondo wa maji na mabwawa ya Mtera na Kidatu kwa ushirikiano na Viongozi wa Wananchi wa maeneo hayo.

TANESCO itaendelea kutoa taarifa mara kwa mara kadri hali ya mvua itakavyokuwa inaendelea.

Imetolewa na: Ofisi ya Uhusiano
TANESCO-Makao Makuu

215637701



ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY
Dar es Salaam

Employment opportunity – Head of Admin

Denmark has a long-standing and strong partnership with Tanzania. Development cooperation continues to be a major element of the partnership, which also includes other areas, such as commercial relations and political cooperation, regional as well as global. Find more information about the Danish Embassy at <http://tanzania.um.dk>

The Embassy is seeking to recruit a highly motivated, energetic and experienced **Head of Admin**, on a 3 year contract.

Role:

The Head of Admin is responsible for the overall day-to-day management of the administrative activities at the Embassy, IT and Human Resource Management of local staff.

Mode of Work:

The Head of Admin refers to the Management and works closely with the other team members in the administration. He/she directly supervises drivers, handyman, residence staff and the gardeners.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

Administration

1. Provide updates on new administrative issues by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
2. Ensure that administrative systems are current and updated and that process descriptions exist for all relevant administrative tasks.
3. Ensure that staff are informed about changes in administrative procedures and trained when relevant.
4. Manage providers of outsourced services for the chancellery and residences and keep updated overview.
5. Maintain physical and digital employment and service contracts and including inventory list for the chancellery.
6. Payroll control and pension management.

Human Resource Management

- Keep policies, rules, regulations current and updated.
- Keep updated, interpret and inform changes in local labour laws.
- Manage staff benefits.
- Manage and assist in the recruitment process of local staff, incl. trainees.
- Focal person for coordinating performance reviews, staff development and training.

IT

- Troubleshoot and provide general assistance to staff on IT and computer related matters incl. maintenance and procurement as per approved plan.

Knowledge, Skills and experience:

- First degree in office management, business administration, general management, human resources or related field.
- At least 3 years relevant work experience.
- Flair for IT systems plus excellent knowledge of computer applications.
- Knowledge of office management, solid organizational skills and familiarity with HR functions and labour legislation.
- Excellent interpersonal and team building skills.
- Effective time management and organisational skills.
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- Effective verbal, listening and communication skills.
- Fluent in English and good knowledge of Kiswahili.

How to apply:

To apply, please send your application with your Curriculum Vitae to daramb@um.dk, with the word "Head of Admin" as subject. Do not attach certificates.

Deadline: **24th February 2020**. Expected start date is **1st April 2020** or soonest possible thereafter.

Only successful candidates will be contacted by the Embassy.

215637701

TIC to train administrators in southern highlands regions

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) in southern highlands has come up with special approach to train and capacitate regional commissioners, stakeholders and other local government officials with essential skills and knowledge to enable them participate effectively in investment promotion.

Venance Mshiba, TIC manager for southern highlands zone said this yesterday that government leaders and stakeholders have enough opportunity and power to promote investment opportunities available in the country.

"The training will bring together regional commissioners and local government officials, experts from the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) and Tanzania Horticulture Association (TAHA) from the regions of Mbeya, Iringa, Songwe and Njombe... this also involve mobilising councils to allocate potential areas for investments," he noted.

He said that TIC will continue working closely the authorities in southern highland zone to ensure that they intensely promote investment and thus attract investors to grab the investment opportunities available in the area.

Mshiba said that the sessions will enable participants learn, discuss and share experiences on investment matters.

"We want to make this group good ambassadors of investment, this is why we have invested much effort to capacitate them with essential skills," Mshiba noted.

He said that southern highlands regions have been blessed with plenty fertile land suitable for establishing investments in the area of agriculture, minerals, fish and milk processing.

The Tanzania Investment Center (TIC) was established in 1997 by the Tanzania Investment Act as the main State institution to coordinate, encourage, promote and facilitate investment in Tanzania and advise the government on investment policy and investment related issues.

The Centre's vision is to become a premier Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) capable of creating and sustaining ever-increasing investment flows and create competitive investment environment that promotes Tanzania as the prime investment destination of choice in Africa.

The Centre's has the task to contribute to the sustainable economic development of the country through attraction of new investment and maximizing its impact to the economy.



Civic United Front national chairman Prof Ibrahim Lipumba briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on what he said was the party's intention to participate fully in the General Election lined up for later this year. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Three students drown while bathing in pond

By Guardian Correspondent, Igunga

THREE students of one family from Makomelo primary school in Igunga district, Tabora region have drowned in a pond in which they were bathing.

Confirming the tragic incident, Igunga ward secretary Robert Mwangala mentioned the deceased as Standard

VI students Dotto Joshua and Kulwa Joshua (both 13 old twins) and Veronica Joshua (8), Standard II student from the same school.

Mweagala explained that the incident occurred last Saturday at around 5.00 pm when the three were bathing at the pond in the vicinity of their home when one of them stumbled into deep

water.

He said after the other two saw their kin not emerging from the water, they decided to go after him to try save him, but they too stumbled into deep water and started screaming for help.

The wananchi rushed to the scene and managed to bring the three children out but their condition was

bad.

He said they were rushed to the Igunga district hospital for treatment but at around 7.00 pm all of them were pronounced dead.

The father of the deceased, Joshua Said said he was told by neighbours via phone that his three children drowned in the pond and were rushed to the

hospital and added when he arrived at the hospital to only to be told all were all dead.

Ag Igunga district medical officer Mashaka Lunyilija confirmed to have received the three children at the hospital and that as they were receiving treatment all of them were pronounced dead.

Tabora Regional Police Commander ACP Barnabas Mwakuluka said he has yet to receive the report from OCD Igunga but called upon the wananchi to be careful when allowing their children to bathe in water ponds and rivers as more than 20 children have been reported to have drowned in Tabora region.

Vacancy Announcement

POSITION: Principal Marian University College
LOCATION: Bagamoyo, Tanzania

Date: 10 February 2020

Marian University College is located in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, and it was accredited by Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) in 2015. In its infancy stage the college has achieved its role of promoting knowledge and skills coupled with critical and independent thinking, integrity and self-respect, and ingenuity to the students. Marian University College is among the few higher learning institutions in Tanzania with the state-of-the-art learning and teaching facilities in science subjects and for doing research and consultancy.

Job description

Principal is the most senior management position in the University College. The office bearer is responsible for the overall leadership and administrative roles at the University College.

The Principal is the Chief Executive Officer who oversees both academic and administrative functions of the University College and is accountable to the University College Governing Board. The Principal bears the responsibility of promoting and maintaining academic excellence, management efficiency and good order of the University College.

Tenure

The Principal is appointed to hold office for a term of four years, renewable.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

The ideal candidate should possess the following attributes:

- Be an Associate Professor and above.
- Having fundraising, business and marketing skills.
- Visionary, creative, good at networking, passionate about transformation and keen to leave a legacy.
- Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability.
- Excellent in negotiation and communication skills, including demonstrated ability to handle sensitive

negotiations with the Government.

- Proven experience in managing complex financial matters and management systems.
- Five years of relevant experience, two years of which must be at the senior management level in local/international organizations, government or higher learning institutions with proven initiatives, flexibility and enthusiasm in managing complex roles.
- Demonstrable experience in leading complex change processes including proven ability to lead and develop capacities of multi and inter-disciplinary professional teams.

Salary
Negotiable

Mode of application

Interested individuals should submit application letters accompanied with Curriculum Vitae, copies of relevant Academic Credentials and names of three referees with their contacts as one PDF document.

Marian University College is an equal opportunity employer; people from all backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

Applications should be addressed to:
Chairperson,
Search Committee,
Marian University College,
Bagamoyo, Tanzania

The qualified candidates should submit their applications to the above person via email search@maruco.ac.tz.

Closing date of receiving the applications is 7th March 2020 at 5:00pm East African time.

www.maruco.ac.tz

RC appeals to TPA to revive MV Liemba services in L.Tanyanyika

By Guardian Correspondent, Sumbawanga

RUKWA Regional Commissioner Joachim Wangabo has called upon Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) to consider the revival of MV Liemba that used to provide passenger and cargo

services in Lake Tanganyika.

He said that as of now there isn't even a single ship that is providing similar service in the lake that adjoins Rukwa, Katavi and Kigoma regions as well as Congo DRC.

Wangabo said the situation of transport in Lake Tanganyika is not good since MV Liemba has been out

of service for a long time as wananchi now use dhows, boats and even canoes and often these vessels are overloaded, posing safety hazards. "This issue, PTA and other relevant authorities should be treated as urgent, as MV Liemba was a savior in this Lake because there isn't another

vessel therein big enough to assist the wananchi in the transportation of their own selves and goods," he said.

Wangabo was speaking during his visit to Kasanga Division to inspect construction of 107 km Sumbawanga-Matiti-Kasanga road that is 97 percent complete, as well as the Kasanga port that is 50 percent complete.

Wangabo was accompanied by the Region's Defense and Security Committee including TPA and TANROADS officials.

Speaking on behalf of Lake Tanganyika Ports Manager TPA official Yudas Suwanyi said there are several vessels that serve the lake the carry goods only including MV Malagarasi owned by a Tanzanian that sail only on the availability of cargo.

The Ag Lake Tanganyika Ports Engineer Nyakato Lwamnana said Kasanga port development includes staff houses, passengers' waiting room, several offices and deepening of the berth to 20 metres and can accommodate one large ship but can be extended to accommodate two ships.

"The project will cost over 4bn/- and the one-year work began in April last year and is currently 50 percent complete," he said.

On his part Rukwa Region TANROADS Manager Eng. Masuka Mkina said only one small challenge remains - a recent landslide - in the completion of Sumbawanga - Kasanga road.

He said work on the project started January 2010 and up to the end of last year the work was 97 percent complete, and added that in the Financial Year 2019/20 the government allocated 5.8bn/- to the project that is expected to end June this year.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



IN THE FAIR COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF TANZANIA
AT DAR ES SALAAM

APPEAL NO. 18 OF 2019

BETWEEN

HAPPINESS PHILLOMBELE (AS THE NEXT FRIEND OF
IBRAHIM SWEDI ZAKARIA)..... APPELLANT

AND

TANZANIA ELECTRIC SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED 1ST RESPONDENT

ENERGY AND WATER UTILITIES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY (EWURA) 2ND RESPONDENT

(Notice pursuant to Rule 16 of the Fair Competition Tribunal Rules, 2012)

TAKE NOTICE THAT an appeal has been lodged in the Tribunal against the whole decision of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), the 2nd Respondent herein, dated 28th September, 2019 in respect of a claim for damages following a fire incident allegedly to have been caused by the 1st Respondent. EWURA decided that the Appellant failed to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the 1st Respondent was responsible for the fire that destroyed the Appellant's house and household items.

The Appellant contends, amongst other things, that the 2nd Respondent erred in law and fact by not considering facts and evidence presented by the Appellant and dismissing the claim for damages. Thus, the Appellant prays that the decision of the 2nd Respondent be quashed and set aside with costs.

BY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE any person who considers that he has sufficient interest in the outcome of the appeal may apply to intervene in the proceedings within seven days of first publication of this notice to the Fair Competition Tribunal, 2nd Floor, Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications Building, Jamhuri Street, P.O. Box 79650, Dar es Salaam.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of the Tribunal this 11th day of February, 2020.

REGISTRAR

115623901



PREPARED: Natural Resources and Tourism deputy minister Constantine Kanyasu (L), Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro (R) and tourism stakeholder Michael Mbano travel by boat to Sinda Island in Kigamboni District, Dar es Salaam, yesterday. Photo courtesy of MoNT

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa is expected to be the chief guest at a three-day Songwe Investment Forum to be held at CCM Grounds in Mbozi District Council between February 15 and 17, 2020.

Speaking to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday in joint press conference with Tanzania Private Sector Foundation's (TPSF), Executive Director Godfrey Simbeye, the Songwe Regional Commissioner, Brigadier General (rtd), Nicodemus Mwangela said the forum meant a lot for promoting and attracting investment opportunities available in the region to prospective local and foreign investors.

"We are rich of opportunities cutting across all the sectors of economy starting with agriculture, livestock, tourism and transport, mining and manufacturing to mention a few," General Mwangela said, calling for investors across the country and beyond the borders to rush for Songwe.

He said Songwe Region was proud of itself for being the gateway to 16 SADC countries and also a major route for 70 per cent of goods and commodities

Majaliwa to be chief guest at Songwe investment forum

going to and from the Dar es Salaam Port.

"The region is also home to major infrastructures of TANZAM, Tanzania Zambia Railways Authority (TAZARA) and the headquarters of the region are located only 80 kilometres from Songwe Airport," the RC said.

According to General Mwangela, the regional administration is working very closely with the private sector through Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA) to ensure that investment opportunities are promoted and marketed to investors.

"Preparations for the important event were ready in which his office in collaboration with the Institute of Home of Events work hand in hand to ensure that everything goes on well," the Songwe RC explained.

Earlier, TPSF Boss, Simbeye said the private sector was always behind the investment forums and such events were very instrumental for stimulating

business and investment growth in Tanzania.

"We in the private sector see and appreciate the measures being taken by the fifth phase government under stewardship of Dr John Pombe Magufuli in creating a conducive environment to attract more investments," Simbeye said.

He said Songwe was the unique region in Tanzania where its investment opportunities were yet to be touched and fully exploited hence needed more investors to go and make a fully use of them for the betterment of the economy.

"I take this opportunity to call on youth and women to utilize the forum so that they can venture into those investment opportunities to spur their business," he said, commending the regional authority for the good job.

The former Premier Mizengo Peter Pinda is also expected to be the guest of honour during the closing ceremony on February 17, 2020.

Floods pose danger to rice harvests in Mbarali District

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbarali

FARMERS in some areas of Mbarali District in Mbeya Region claim that there is the danger for them to delay in rice farming due to floods that sweep away seeds each time they plant.

Speaking to this paper at different times on Monday, they said the ongoing rains bring benefits to some areas, but in others they are a big loss due to floods.

One farmer Hohm Mjwanga, a resident of Chimala Ward said each time he plants rice seeds in the fields, floods come to sweep them away while in other fields the seeds rot due to high water levels at all times.

He said even though rice needs a lot of water, but not on the levels at present, many farmers are not well conversant on how to cope with floods in their paddy farms.

"I prepared a rice field to reap one bag of rice, but what I harvested was only quarter of the bag which is of low quality due to flood water," said Mjwanga.

He said for big farmers including investors of big farms flood water is beneficial as they have the technology in controlling the quantity of water in their farms.

Another farmer Toros Magoha, said there are areas where irrigations scheme are employed but even there floods have swept away the seedlings and have no hope of replacement in time.

He said as of now they plant depending on the rains and in case the rains cease even for a week, they stop until it rains again.

WMO appeals for more investments in weather services

By Guardian Reporter

THE World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has urged the World Bank (WB) and other development partners to capacitate member countries to invest on Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) for best provision of weather services.

WMO vice president Dr Agness Kijazi who is also the Director General of the Tanzania Metrological Authority (TMA) and the WMO Capacity Building Pannel chairperson made the appeal during the World Weather Services Workshop held recently in Boston, USA.

"The WB is a great partner of climate and weather issues; it is high time now for it and other stakeholders to invest in educating governments in members countries on the importance of partnerships, this will improve weather service provision for sustainable development," she noted.

Organised by the WMO in collaborations with the World Bank's Disaster Management Fund (DMF) and the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the forum brought together weather stakeholders from various parts as part of implementation of the WMO strategic plan and resolutions reached during the organisation's general meeting held in June, 2019.

The symposium aimed to discuss areas of cooperation to strengthen weather service provision.

The event was opened by the assistant director of AMS, Bill Hooke, who said that due to increased demand for climate and weather services caused by the climate change impacts and weather patterns, it is essential to discuss the key areas of collaborations with private sector.

Hooke said engaging private sector is key in the production and provision of high-quality and reliable climate and weather services.

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Former PM Pinda praises stakeholders for engaging in efforts meant to bolster pyrethrum farming in southern regions

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Mufindi

FORMER Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda has praised the efforts made by the Pyrethrum Company of Tanzania (PCT) to revitalize the pyrethrum farming in Southern regions which is key in addressing poverty and improving the economy in the country.

According to Pinda, the revamp of the crop came after PCT improved its factory in Mafinga Town, Mufindi District, Iringa Region to serve more farmers.

The former Prime Minister said this when he visited the PCT factory yesterday as part of celebrations of the 43rd years of CCM.

Pinda applauded the company saying that efforts have come at the right time as the fifth-phase government struggles to industrialise the country's economy.

"My plea is for the government to back these efforts and make sure that investors operate smoothly with farming and selling of their produce at favourable market price...investors also have to ensure that they invest in farmers by providing necessary education and support to improving farming," he said.

He further called on Iringa regional leadership to invest in educative programmes, work on encouraging more farmers to embark on the pyrethrum farming thus lift the economy of the farmers and the region at large.

"Authorities this is your time now to promote pyrethrum farming, as it is one of the crops that can boost your region's revenue collection because you have a factory that adds value to this," he said.

For his part, PCT production manager Benedict Kafyulilo said the factory produces more than two thousand tonnes per year, and it is likely to increase production to at least four thousand tonnes that will enable the factory to operate consistently

throughout the year.

During the visit to inspect the production in some industries in the district, Pinda, who is the CCM patron for Iringa region, was accompanied by government and party leaders, including Iringa regional CCM Chairman Dr Abel Nyamahanga, Iringa RC Ally Hapi, a member of the CCM national executive committee (M NEC) Salim Abri popularly known as ASAS, CCM Mufindi district chairman David Yasini, Iringa DC Richard Kasesela and Mufindi DC Jamhuri William as well as leaders of the CCM Party at Iringa region.

The Pyrethrum Company of Tanzania is leading a multi-year expansion programme to revitalize pyrethrum growing in the Southern Highlands as well as the Arusha region. PCT is also investing in its extraction plant in Mafinga so as to be able to process the expanded harvest of pyrethrum flowers now growing across Tanzania.



Authorities this is your time now to promote pyrethrum farming, as it is one of the crops that can boost your region's revenue collection because you have a factory that adds value to this



China Railway Seventh Group workers lay the groundwork for the construction of a sewage system at Chang'ombe in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumaine Juma

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Singida Region has arraigned a volunteer worker of the National Identification Authority (NIDA) Meshack Wilfred Myemba for soliciting and receiving 15,000/- bribe from one mwananchi as an inducement to provide him with a NIDA number.

Myemba, a University of Dodoma (UDOM) graduate is facing two counts - soliciting and receiving bribe.

Before Singida Resident Magistrate

NIDA volunteer appears in court charged with bribery

Robert Oguda, Singida Region PCCB Attorney Edson Mapalala claimed that if the accused will be found guilty in both counts he will fined 500,000/- or three years imprisonment or both.

Mapalala alleged that on February 5 this year at former Singida District

Council grounds, the accused solicited 15,000/- as inducement so that he could provide the said person with his NIDA number, the money which he received.

Mapalala said the accused committed the transaction while he knew he was

committing a crime under Section 15(1) (9) and (2) of the POCCB Act of 2007.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the offence and was released on 1m/- bail with two sureties up to February 17 this year when the case will come up for mention.



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Beware of scams implying association with FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has become aware of false communications purporting to be issued by or associated with FAO and/or its officials. This has included persons pretending to be FAO officials to fraudulently obtain payments from hotels and other service providers, saying they are making arrangements for conference services.

The correspondence and documents, e-mail addresses and websites used for scams of this nature are made to look like they originate from FAO. For example, they may contain official-looking FAO stationery, including FAO's logo, emblem or name, and e-mail or Web site addresses which include the words "Food and Agriculture" or "FAO" or some similar name, or the name of a real or fictitious FAO official. These are frauds and FAO assumes no responsibility for any consequences, including but not limited to, financial loss and identity theft or other loss or damage, that may derive from such scams.

PLEASE NOTE:

- FAO never charges registration fees for conferences or meetings, nor seeks payments for conference reservations or for other services.
- FAO never charges a fee or asks for payments at any stage of its procurement process (supplier registration, bids submission or other fee).
- FAO never charges a fee at any stage of its recruitment process (application, interview, processing, training, visa or other fee).
- FAO does not conduct lotteries, or offer prizes or awards through e-mail and any other forms of communication.

Please report any suspicious communication to abuse@fao.org and to the local authorities

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TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY (TPA)

BANDARI COLLEGE - DAR ES SALAAM



18TH GRADUATION CEREMONY

The Management of Bandari College (BC) wishes to inform all graduands of Basic Certificate and Ordinary Diploma that the graduation ceremony will be held on **Friday 14th February 2020**. The Ceremony will start from 10:00 am at the College's Campus, along Mahunda Street, near Mwembeyanga – Tandika, Temeke.

Since this is an important event, you are invited to attend and witness the pinnacle of your academic pursuit at Bandari College.

- Graduands intending to participate in the ceremony should confirm their participation by paying a non-refundable amount of **Tshs. 20,000/=** only as a cost for hiring graduation gowns. The money should be paid through the Government e-Payment Gateway (GePG) System where the Control Number is obtained from CollegeBursar's office not later than **Wednesday 12th February, 2020** and a payment receipt should be submitted to the College Bursar's office for registration. The collection of gowns will take place on **Thursday 13th February, 2020**.
- The hired graduation gown should be returned from **17th- 21st February 2020**. Any gown that will not be returned on time will attract a penalty of **TZS 10,000 per day** for the period of delay.
- Graduands should report at the College's Campus for rehearsal on **Thursday 13th February, 2020 from 10:00 am**. Only the names of the candidates appearing on the Graduation book shall be conferred by the Guest of honour during the ceremony.
- All participants are expected to bear their own transport, food and accommodation costs.

You are all invited to attend

Principal
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21564201



Zanzibar House of Representatives Speaker Zuberi Ali Maulid (L) has a word with Sayed Ammar Nakshawani of Zanzibar's Golden Tulip Hotel, who paid him a courtesy call at the House yesterday. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

LITA's incubator programme set to commence from April

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

TANZANIA Livestock Training Agency (LITA) has said the eagerly-awaited incubators programme which targets to capacitate young livestock graduates towards self employment will commence from April this year. With an eye to create expanded employment opportunities among local youth, the envisaged programme will see establishment of at least five incubators centers at LITA's campuses. An occupational incubator is an organization which accelerates and systematizes the process of creating successful enterprises by providing them with a comprehensive and integrated range of support, including space, business support services, clustering and networking opportunities to address their needs and develop their business ideas.

Giving an exclusive interview to The Guardian, Production Acting Director for LITA, Balija Luyombya, said as a pilot project, the programme will start by attracting at least 100 livestock graduates. "We have decided to establish the incubation centres after conducting a special survey which established that from 2011 to 2017, out of 4000 livestock graduates in the country, it was only 1.6 percent that managed to employ themselves in different livestock projects," he expressed. According to him, in efforts to overcome a grim statistic in the livestock sector, LITA through its campuses will extend the formal entrepreneurship courses by linking the graduates with the incubation centers as comprehensive entrepreneurship practical training and give more exposure to make them successful entrepreneurs.

Moreover, he stated that in implementing the envisaged programme, the state-owned agency will be selecting best livestock graduates at its campuses and then put them in the incubation centers for at least 18 months. "At the centers, the incubatees will be equipped with employability skills as an additional 'softer' skills as part of efforts to compliment their academic achievement towards self-employment, including practical experience," he added. He however added that LITA incubators process will be linked into three stages, namely, pre-incubation stage, incubation and post-incubation stages. "Upon completion of incubation programme, it's our expectations that the incubatee graduates with accumulated entrepreneurship competencies.

Dodoma leads the nation in high percentage of stunting

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

DODOMA leads other regions in the country for having high prevalence and percentage of stunting among under-five year children, a situation which attributes to poor performance in education sector within the region. According to the regional medical officer (RMO), Dr Best Magoma, currently, the region's stunting average stands at 37.2 percent, which is more than the national stunting rate of 31.8 percent. Speaking during the Regional Nutrition Committee convened in capital city under chairmanship of Dodoma regional commissioner (RC) Dr Binilith Mahenge; Dr Magoma expressed the need for authorities in all districts within the region to embark on fresh strategies to counter the situation. "The effects of stunting are usually irreversible and are mainly delayed motor and cognitive development (impaired mental processes of perception, memory, decision making and reasoning). However, stunted girls are likely to experience obstructed labour during childbirth hence highly exposed in developing fistulas and even maternal and/or newborn deaths," he observed. He added, stunting also predisposes an individual to overweight, obesity and related adulthood consequences such as cardio-vascular heart diseases, hypertension and diabetes.

"There's a need for all districts to conduct serious public awareness, especially among primary school pupils to impart them with key knowledge over how to cheat the dangerous ill disease from grass root levels," he urged. However, in her presentation during the round table meeting, Maria Machilu, Programme Officer (Nutrition) from Partnership for Nutrition in Tanzania (PANITA) through Lishe Endelevu USAID Activity, said poor diet, which includes lack of vitamin 'A' and nutrients stands among tall challenges facing many communities within the country, leading to stunting, malnutrition, blindness as well as open spine (Spina Bifida) and Big Head (Bran) diseases among children. "Apart from raising awareness over good and balanced diet, it is prudent to educate mothers on how to take good care for their children during the first 1000 days. These days (1000 days), play vital role of laying a lifelong foundation of children," she detailed. Faraja Kassim, Advocacy and Communication Officer from PANITA, in his brief presentation underscored the need to strengthen performance of nutrition committee in all district councils within the region. Moreover, he insisted, It was high time for authorities to mull how best to boost nutrition status in rural areas in order to counter prevalence of the ill disease. The forum, which attracted district

commissioners from all six districts of Dodoma, health experts and other stakeholders also saw launching of Dodoma Regional Multisectoral Nutrition Strategic Plan 2019-2026. "This Multisectoral Regional Strategic Plan for Nutrition has been developed as a guide for periodical plan and implementation to stakeholders, councils and Regional Secretariat for 2019-2026. In the process of developing the RMNSP, various methodologies were applied which included conducting stakeholders meeting, document review and presentations." "Improving nutritional status of population including vulnerable groups during the period 2019-2026 will be supported by the implementation of a multi-sectoral plan for nutrition, consisting of nutrition specific and sensitive interventions," expressed Dr Mahenge shortly after launching the plan. In Tanzania, malnutrition among children under five years has decreased since 1999. However, under nutrition is still highly prevalent in Tanzania. Even with a drop in the percentage of children stunted from 42% in 2010 to 34 percent (TDHS 2015/2016) in that still leaves more than a third of children. Despite striking improvement in many health indicators over the last decade, there has been poor progress in improving the nutritional status of children and women in Tanzania.

Expert stresses need for regular health screening


By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

TANZANIANS have been urged to cultivate the habit of doing regular medical check-ups to know their health status. This will help them identify any strange condition and seek early treatment to avoid sudden deaths which are becoming common in the Tanzanian society. Tunduru District Medical Officer (DMO), Dr Wendy Robert made the call yesterday here when speaking with this paper on the district's strategy to scale up medical services in the southern Tanzania's district. Dr Robert urged Tanzanians to prioritise health by undergoing regular check-ups into daily lives, saying some diseases do not necessarily portray

any symptoms at the onset stage and the only way for us to know our full health status is to attend check-ups in health facilities rather than relying on traditional healers. She said there is need to always know one's health status in order to be in a better position to deal with conditions that might prove fatal if unattended to. "Currently the district has 65 health centres and three hospitals, which provide better health services, the situation that doesn't provide a room for people to seek services to traditional healers," she said. According to her, authorities in the district have come up with a new strategy that compels health facilities to offer competitive services to all people irrespective of their socio-economical background, so that there is no room

for them to look for alternative services from traditional healers. The district has 57 dispensaries, whereby 52 are government-owned and five are owned by religious institutions and one is privately owned. Dr Robert revealed that the district is in need of 864 medical personnel, which is equivalent to 67 percent of the actual demand as currently health department has a total of 422 staff (33 percent). According to the DMO, in the last fiscal year the district received 1.3bn/- from World Bank for revamping three health centres. The centres will be fitted with lab for blood safety, X-ray room, morgue, as well as one residential house for staff, incinerator, building for surgery and maternity and children ward.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF WATER



Invitation for Bids
RE-ADVERTISED

COUNTRY: Tanzania

NAME OF PROJECT: Water Sector Support Project Phase Two (WSSP II)
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No IDA CR. 59490

Contract Title: SUPPLY OF DAM SAFETY WORKING TOOLS
EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE

Tender No.: ME-011/2019-2020/G/22

1. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Water (MoW) has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Water Sector Support Project (WSSP II) which is part of the Second Water Sector Development Program (WSSDP II), and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Procurement of Dam Safety Working Tools Equipment and Software.
2. The Ministry of Water (MoW) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for Procurement of Dam Safety Working Tools Equipment and Software. (Lot 2 & 3) as follows

Number	Description	Quantity
LOT 2: DAM SAFETY SOFTWARE IN DAM SAFETY EVALUATION/DESIGN		
i.	Geostudio Package (Slope/W, Seep/W, Sigma/W, Quake/W, Temp/W, Ctran/W, Air/W and Vadose/W)	3
ii.	Mod flow for ground water modeling Useful when investigating hydrogeology of the TSF dam sites and other related issues	2
iii.	3D AutoCAD for topo map development (Permanent License)	3
LOT 3: BOAT, ECO SOUNDER EQUIPMENT FOR BATHYMETRIC SURVEY AND TOTAL STATION		
i.	Complete set of Total station	3
ii.	Supply and train an echo sounder with GPS, PC, Program.	1
iii.	Fiber Glass Boat	1

Bidders may bid for a single lot, two lots or combination of all lots, but in any case bidders must quote for full quantity in each lot. The Purchaser shall evaluate the bids for each lot and award the contracts on a lot by lot basis or a combination of lots whichever is more economical. Partial Quoting of Lot 2 or Lot 3 will be non-responsive.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers January 2011, revised July 2014 ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Secretary Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Water**, Email: pmu@maji.go.tz and inspect the bidding documents during office hours **from 8.00 to 15:30 on Monday to Fridays** inclusive except on public holidays at the address given below **Ministry of Water, P. O. Box 456, Kolon Building Opposite DUWASA Head Office, PMU Office, 40473 Dodoma**.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Tanzania Shillings One Hundred Thousand (TZS. 100,000.00). The method of payment will be through Bank using Government Payment System.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **Tuesday 3rd March, 2020 at 11:00 hour's local time**. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on **Tuesday 3rd March, 2020 at 11:00 hour's local time**.
7. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an acceptable form as provided in the bidding document. Bid Security must be addressed to **Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water, P.O. Box 456, Dodoma**.
8. A pre-Bid meeting will be held on 19th February, 2020 at 11:00 Hours Local Time at Ministry of Water, Kolon Building PMU Offices, Chimwaga Road, Dodoma, Tanzania.
9. The address(es) referred to above is(are):

Post Address:
The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board
Ministry of Water,
Government City,
Maji Street,
P. O. Box 456,
Dodoma, Tanzania.
E-mail: pmu@maji.go.tz

Physical Address:
The Secretary Ministerial Tender Board
Ministry of Water,
Kolon Building PMU Offices,
Chimwaga Road,
Dodoma, Tanzania.

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF WATER

Equal opportunity to women benefits all

ECONOMIC opportunities for women matter not just because they can bring money home. They also matter because opportunities empower women more broadly in society and this can have a positive impact on others. If women have a bigger say in how household money is spent this can ensure more of it is spent on children.

Improvements in the education and health of women have been linked to better outcomes for their children in countries as African countries and Tanzania is no exception. Giving power to women at the local government level led to increases in public services, such as water and sanitation.

Just as the costs of inequality are huge, so is the challenge in overcoming it. The gaps in opportunity between men and women are the product of pervasive and stubborn social norms that privilege men's and boys' access to opportunities and resources over women's and girls'.

What is therefore required is a sustained, comprehensive drive to end inequality. This will require addressing multiple and reinforcing barriers to equality among families, job and product markets, as well as among formal and informal institutions.

A first step would be to improve the access for girls to education to reduce the in-built disadvantages that they have from birth onwards. This is recognized by many across South Asia and there has been a lot of progress, with initiatives such as Educate Girls in India tackling the root causes of gender inequality in education.

A second step would be to address market and institutional failures that lock women into low return, highly vulnerable forms of employment and of self-employment.

Much can be achieved by encouraging the creation of a large number of jobs that are seen as suitable and safe for women. A third step will be to address the violence against women and

girls. Violence has a multitude of negative effects, from poor education and health to discouraging women from commuting to better-paid jobs. Many countries have adopted progressive legislation. But many laws are not enforced, the public and law enforcement are largely unaware of them, and structural weaknesses in police and judicial systems deny women access to justice and render laws ineffective.

A woman is a female human being. The word woman is usually reserved for an adult, with girl being the usual term for a female child or adolescent. The plural women is also sometimes used for female humans, regardless of age, as in phrases such as women's rights. Women with typical genetic development are usually capable of giving birth from puberty until menopause. There are also trans women (those who have a male sex assignment that does not align with their gender identity), and intersex women (those born with sexual characteristics that do not fit typical notions of male or female).

In business school and in the workplace, women may face unique challenges and, therefore, must find unique ways to overcome those challenges. While each woman's experience is different, preparing for certain situations and knowing how to handle them can help women succeed academically and professionally.

Remedies will include improved legal systems, institutions, and services. Specific remedies could include using reproductive health personnel as a way of counselling women suffering this violence. It could also include sensitizing police officers so they no longer stereotype victims, building shelters for abused women, and appointing judges specialized in gender violence issues. Remedies will also require expenditure on infrastructure so that cities are well lit and women are safe on public transport.

Teenage pregnancies a global social and medical problem

TEEENAGE pregnancies and teenage motherhood are a cause for concern worldwide. From a historical point of view, teenage pregnancies are nothing new. For much of human history, it was absolutely common that girls married during their late adolescence and experienced first birth during their second decade of life.

This kind of reproductive behavior was socially desired and considered as normal. Nowadays, however, the prevention of teenage pregnancies and teenage motherhood is a priority for public health in nearly all developed and increasingly in developing countries. For a long time, teenage pregnancies were associated with severe medical problems; however, most of data supporting this viewpoint have been collected some decades ago and reflect mainly the situation of per se socially disadvantaged teenage mothers. According to more recent studies, teenage pregnancies are not per se risky ones.

A clear risk group are extremely young teenage mothers (younger than 15 years) who are confronted with various medical risks, such as preeclampsia, preterm labor, and small for gestational age newborns but also marked social disadvantage, such as poverty, unemployment, low educational level, and single parenting. In the present study, the prevalence and outcome of teenage pregnancies in Austria are focused on.

Teenage pregnancies and teenage motherhood are a cause for concern worldwide. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), about 16 million girls aging between 15 and 19 years and about one million girls younger than 15 years give birth every year. Nowadays, the vast majority of teenage pregnancies occur in low- and middle-income countries characterized

by poor health-care services; therefore, complications during pregnancy, birth, and postpartum phase (e.g., 42 days after birth) are the second cause of death among girls aging between 15 and 19 years worldwide. Additionally, it is estimated that some three million teenage girls undergo unsafe abortions, which may result in consecutive reproductive problems or even death. Fifteen years ago, The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) reported that worldwide every fifth child is born by an adolescent mother and 80 per cent of these so-called teenage pregnancies occur in third-world countries.

Although in traditional societies the majority of these pregnancies are socially desired, several studies have pointed out the enormous risks which are associated with teenage pregnancies such as anemia, preterm labor, urinary tract infections, preeclampsia, high rate of cesarean sections, preterm birth, and low birth weight infants and even maternal and newborn mortality.

Teenage pregnancies, however, still also occur in high-income countries and despite much better medical care teenage pregnancies are also considered as risky and policy tries to avoid too early motherhood. This is not only due to medical problems, but first of all the social consequences of teenage motherhood. Therefore, the analyses of causes and consequences of teenage pregnancies have been the topic of much research and debate.

Today, teenage pregnancies are a worldwide phenomenon. About 11 per cent of all births worldwide are still girls aged 15-19 years old. According to the World Health Statistics 2014, the average global birth rate among 15-19 year olds is 49 per 1000 girls, whereas country rates range from 1 to 299 births per 1000 girls. Rates were highest in sub-Saharan Africa.

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By Felix Agbor Nkongho and Rebecca

Tinsley

WHEN the 33rd African Union Summit began on Sunday, the conflict in Cameroon's Anglophone regions was on the agenda. Yet the violence is unlikely to be seriously discussed by African leaders.

If the African Union (AU) is to live up to its founding charter's high ideals, its members must confront the human rights abuses occurring in Cameroon, rather than sweeping them under the carpet.

Cameroon's historically English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions are home to 20% of the country's population. The UN-backed referendum following independence in 1960 failed to give the Anglophones the option to form an independent country.

Although they were promised a degree of autonomy under a federal system, power shifted to the Francophone-dominated capital, Yaounde, by 1972. There has been an 'Anglophone Problem' of marginalization in Cameroon ever since.

Peaceful protests began in 2016, when the government imposed French-speaking teachers and judges on Anglophone schools and courts, with a systematic process of eroding the common law.

Impartial international human rights groups believe the regime responded with disproportionate force. Escalation over the past three years has seen more than 200 villages burned, opposition leaders and journalists detained and tortured, civilians randomly fired upon and terrorized, causing 656,000 people to flee their homes for the bushes, Francophone regions, or next-door Nigeria where 50,000 people are currently living in refugee camps. More than 2,000 people are thought to have been killed.

In response, some of the more extreme Anglophone secessionists formed increasingly violent militias over time, forcing schools, clinics, markets, and businesses to stay closed.

Human rights organizations report atrocities on both the government and separatist sides. The economy is at a stand-still, and normal life is impossible for many of the 5 million residents of the Northwest and Southwest.

Reacting to international pressure, the Cameroonian government held a Major National Dialogue over several days in October 2019. These limited talks were boycotted by separatist groups and some members of civil society were unable to safely attend.

The government subsequently granted 'special status' to the two Anglophone regions. However, critics argue that the proposed level of autonomy remains loosely defined,

Why the African Union must not ignore Cameroon



People gather at the Congress Palace during the opening session of the National Dialogue called by President Paul Biya, in Yaounde, Cameroon on September 30, 2019

with power remaining in the centralized Francophone administration in Yaounde.

Even so, any implementation is uncertain, especially in light of the legislative and municipal elections set for Sunday February 9, in which few Anglophones are expected to participate or vote due to worsening violence and horrific threats.

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Switzerland has offered to facilitate peace talks, but the Cameroonian government has not consented to take part. Very recently, the Africa Forum announced a Symposium on Cameroon in April to support a peaceful resolution – a welcome development.

The African Union role

The AU is well aware of the violence suffered by unarmed civilians in the Anglophone regions. As recently as November 2019, a delegation including the chairperson of the AU Commission urged President Paul Biya to implement the conclusions of the Major National Dialogue, encouraging peace and stability through this nonviolent process.

Yet, in his New Year's message, Cameroon's leader reminded his citizens that the armed forces would carry out their duties "without weakness." Biya persists in believing a military solution will resolve the Anglophone issues.

In January 2020, Cameroon delivered a 190-page report to the AU, measuring its own performance against its obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The document, which amounts to a student

marking her own essay, boasted that Cameroon had ratified sundry protocols protecting human rights.

Its description of Cameroon is at odds with the findings of watchdog groups such as Transparency International and Freedom House, both of which give Cameroon the lowest ranking.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International would also struggle to recognize the country as it appears in its report to the AU.

The Cameroon government congratulates itself for creating a National Commission for the Promotion of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, aimed at "maintaining the peace," "consolidating national unity" and "maintaining social cohesion."

The report to the AU also justifies shutting down the internet in the Anglophone regions for four months in 2017, saying that people were using it to stir up "hatred, violence, insurrection and secession." Freedom of speech applies only if used in a "responsible manner."

Three months ago, 65 mainly African human rights groups wrote an open letter to the chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, calling on the AU to urgently take specific actions to address the deteriorating security situation in Cameroon. They received no response.

Among many observers, the AU has a poor reputation. Some criticize it for spending more time seeking to guarantee its leaders' immunity from prosecution than persuading its members not to persecute minorities or detain political opponents.

The African Commission on Human

and Peoples' Rights held its 2019 summit in Egypt under the leadership of current AU Chair and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi – US President Donald Trump's "favorite dictator," who is not known for respecting civil liberties.

If the AU is to gain legitimacy in the eyes of African citizens, it must prove it exists not for the well-padded political and business elite, but to speak the truth when one of its members violates the founding principles of the AU.

Cameroon deserves more than the slap on the wrist delivered in a 2018 AU resolution. Diplomats know there is a difference between hand-wringing resolutions urging Cameroon to respect human rights, and exerting genuine, sustained pressure on President Biya behind closed doors.

The only way forward for Cameroon is through inclusive peace negotiations between the government and both moderate and extremist Anglophone voices.

The AU summit – whose 2020 theme is "Silencing the Guns" for development – should make it clear to the Cameroonian government and the armed separatist groups that there will be consequences if they refuse to participate in the proposed Swiss-led peace talks, and the upcoming Africa Forum symposium as well.

If the AU's African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights is to mean anything, it must apply to a situation like Cameroon's.

Co-authored by Felix Agbor Nkongho from the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Africa and Rebecca Tinsley of Global Campaign for Peace and Justice in Cameroon, UK branch.

Clues on how to beat gender bias in immigration reporting

By Sherry Ricciardi

WOMEN make up nearly half the population of immigrants worldwide, yet when it comes to media coverage, their voices often are missing from the mix. An analysis by the Fuller Project for International Reporting sheds light on why this gender gap exists, and on what kinds of stories we tell - and don't tell - about immigration in general.

Fuller's review of 100 stories on immigration from various news media outlets found that coverage focused almost exclusively on national security, conflict and crisis. Issues impacting women specifically were sorely lacking. The sample was randomly drawn from the Migratory Notes' newsletter, which compiles articles on migration.

"The findings helped identify underreported stories that were important to the national conversation on immigration," said Fuller Project co-founder and executive director Xanthe Scharff. The Fuller Project reports globally and in the United States on issues that impact women.

"The absence of women's voices was striking," said Rikha Sharma Rani, a reporter who spearheaded a year-long reporting series on immigration and women for the Fuller Project in hopes of filling the gap identified by the study.

The results of the content analysis painted a dismal picture of how immigration reporting leaves out women. One of the findings was that only two out of the 100 stories focused on issues that directly affect women, such as reproductive health and domestic violence.

Women were quoted half as often as men in the 100 stories. Only one article focused on the accomplishments of women immigrants and their contributions to society.

Not only does the coverage fail to acknowledge that women face unique challenges as they migrate, but that they make meaningful contributions once they are settled.

A report by the National Business Women's Council noted 40 per cent of immigrant entrepreneurs in America are women, and 13 per cent of all women-owned companies are run by women born outside the US.

According to a report in New American Economy, immigrant women play critical roles as caregivers and service providers all across the country. As entrepreneurs and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) workers, they have helped spur economic growth and innovation.



Without consciously acknowledging women's economic role, and leaving their voices out of coverage, these stories go overlooked.

Besides the focus of stories, the team at the Fuller Project also identified gender bias in the sources quoted in stories. Male government and law enforcement officials who deal with immigration were three times as likely to be quoted as women immigration officials in the stories examined in the study.

Although government immigration workers tend to be disproportionately male - only 5 per cent of Customs and Border Patrol agents are women - there are women experts in a variety of fields capable of commenting for stories. Yet male voices predominated in the coverage.

The Fuller study concluded that journalists need to make a concerted effort to include the voices of women and girls in media coverage of immigration.

In a co-authored Columbia Journalism Review (CJR) article, Rani addresses questions about gender bias in immigration reporting: "The failure to tell a more representative range of stories about the immigrant experience helps push a largely derogatory and inaccurate narrative of immigrants. These narratives influence which policies are embraced by the public and endorsed by their representatives in government."

The first step to fairer coverage is

building awareness that women are underrepresented, as the Fuller study does. Then, reporters should go the extra mile to find their missing voices.

Rani offered the following advice for building the immigrant narrative, with an eye toward giving women fairer coverage: "Broaden the lens. Look at how immigration touches all aspects of society, from the economy to education and politics. Take a wider view of the impact immigrants make when they resettle - men and women."

In CJR, Rani writes: "How might our debate on immigration be different if more stories showed immigrants building flourishing businesses, working in public service, and contributing in a myriad of ways to the betterment of communities?"

Go beyond the border. Once people enter into a new country, there is a tendency for reporters to drop the story. Yet, for immigrants, this is the beginning of their dreams for the future. What transpires when they start a new life? Where do they live, what jobs do they take on and what are some of the biggest challenges they face? Ask these questions in general, then take a closer look at how immigrant women are settling in, specifically.

Explore root causes of immigration. Rani called the reasons people leave their home countries "a hugely underexplored piece of the immigrant conversation". Investigate why people are leaving their home countries, and explore potential policies or changes

that are working to address these root causes.

Investigate violence as the culprit. Women are largely the ones affected by domestic violence, which was accepted in the US as a reason for seeking asylum until 2018, when the 2014 decision was reversed.

To gain a greater understanding, Rani suggests the comparing and contrasting of countries in a single region to see how they handle violence within their borders. Which have been most successful at quelling domestic violence or attacks by criminal gangs? What policies are in place that work? Would these same strategies be effective in other places?

Look beyond crisis and failure. Rani admits that journalism's watchdog role in exposing wrongdoing and drawing attention to problems remains important. "But if that's all you're reporting, you're creating a very misleading picture of immigrants," she says.

"There are so many untapped human interest stories out there. The challenge is to make sure women's voices and their issues are included in the overall conversation," she adds. "Don't know where to begin? 'Men Kill Women Because They Can: Inside El Salvador's Devastating Femicide Crisis, is a story profiling strong female voices, both as main subjects and as sources. It was produced as part of a partnership between Fuller Project and ELLE UK."

Agencies

UNFPA highlights need to address sexual and reproductive health of women in crisis areas

UNITED NATIONS

It is a hot and cloudless morning, a sign that it will be sunny right through the afternoon. Joseph Mailu moves along rows of fruiting mango trees with a long pole in his hand, harvesting the mature fruits.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is appealing for \$683 million in their mission to address sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls in conflict areas in the world.

At the Humanitarian Action Overview 2020, launched on Thursday, the sexual and reproductive health agency highlighted the urgency with which the issue should be treated.

With more than 168 million people currently requiring humanitarian assistance in the world, UNFPA projects 45 million women, girls and young people will be affected by some kind of conflict this year.

For women and girls, sexual and health reproductive health rights have often come as secondary priority in crisis situations, but experts say it's time to make them a primary concern.

"[These] types of service have long time been forgotten," Arthur Erken, Director of UNFPA Division of Communications and Strategic Partnerships (DCS), told IPS. "It should not be an afterthought, it should be part and parcel of [the whole concern]."

"We're focusing on women and what they're going through because they're on the front lines," Ann Erb Leoncavallo of UNFPA told IPS. "They're trying to take care of their children, they're getting pregnant, they're having babies, they're getting bombed, they're suffering from floods, high waters, you name it."

Leoncavallo added that many of the women in areas of conflict might head single-parent households or have their own trauma. "They get depression, they get traumatised because they faced increased of gender-based violence," she said.

The \$683 million will be used for efforts towards women's reproductive and sexual health rights across 57 countries, of which about \$300 million will be directed towards UNFPA's projects in Arab state regions, including countries such as Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia.

In order to help women reach out for help, unlearn their shame and stigma, UNFPA is currently working with a "safe space" for many women to take a break from their everyday activities.

The "women and girl safe spaces" is dedicated space in the refugee camps where women can come and meet with other women, share notes, relax, and have a safe environment to discuss concerns and ask for help, Erken explained.

"It's safe, men are not allowed," Erken said, adding that the purpose of the space is to put a lot of attention to calming women, giving them breathing space, and often counselling services.



The \$683 million will be used for efforts towards women's reproductive and sexual health rights across 57 countries, of which about \$300 million will be directed towards UNFPA's projects in Arab state regions, including countries such as Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia. File photo

He says there doesn't seem to be any stigma about women coming into these spaces, pointing out refugee camps in Jordan that have the facility. He learned from some of the service providers the women do visit, when their kids are in school and their husband occupied.

Dr. Afrah Thabet Al-Ademi, a UNFPA medical doctor in Yemen who works with women who have escaped conflict, says education has a role to play in destigmatising these services for refugee population.

A staggering \$100.5 million is being requested specifically for the crisis in Yemen, the highest on the list provided by UNFPA.

"A lot of women who are not educated, who feel targeted, and feel stigma to talk about their needs or family

planning," Al-Ademi told IPS.

She recalls one time when she was meeting with a woman who had just given birth and who had covered her baby with a headscarf.

"When she exposed the baby, I found that she covered the baby with a newsletter, she didn't have clothes," Al-Ademi told IPS.

As a result, UNFPA in Yemen is now developing a kit specifically for mothers of new borns, to be put in "health facility for any woman who comes in for deliver".

"The clothes is like a dignity for her," said Al-Ademi.

The "Mama Kit" has clothes for the baby, pads for the mother, blankets, and diapers, among other things for the newborn.

Agencies



But the Kenyan precedent cautions that it's still too early to declare lasting victory for democracy. File photo

Malawi court gives electoral justice in Africa a much-needed boost

BY PETER FABRICIUS

WILL this week's Malawi Constitutional Court ruling to annul last year's presidential election set a precedent for more bravely independent judicial rulings on other African elections? Or will Malawi instead follow Kenya's discouraging example, which showed a spark of judicial independence on elections three years ago before relapsing into the familiar pattern of incumbent presidential predominance?

The Malawi court found this week that so many voting documents had been altered - many of them with Tipp-Ex correcting fluid - that it had to declare null and void the re-election of President Peter Mutharika in last May's polls.

In a unanimous decision five judges, with Judge Healey Potani presiding, said 'it has been our finding that the irregularities and anomalies have been so widespread, systematic and grave such that the integrity of the results has been seriously compromised.' So the results declared by the Malawi Electoral Commission 'cannot be trusted as a true reflection of the will of the voters as expressed through their votes duly cast.' The court called for fresh elections within 150 days.

The court's judgment, coming almost a year after the vote, was also a victory for civil society which had mounted unprecedented and sustained mass mobilisation in Malawi. Mutharika's political opponents and judicial activists in Malawi and elsewhere have hailed Judge Potani's ruling.

Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh, Executive Director of the Southern Africa Litigation Centre (SALC), said: 'SALC was encouraged to observe the independence and integrity displayed by the High Court sitting as the Constitutional Court in the decision handed down earlier this week. This served as affirmation of the civic protests which were ongoing since May.'

"It is a concern however that the electoral challenge result has only been handed down now some nine months after the election. It is also significant that this is the first time in the history of Malawi that the validity of presidential elections [has] been subjected to a full trial process."

It was indeed a huge triumph that the courts stamped the imprimatur of judicial authority and credibility on one complaint at least.

This on a continent where countless elections are rigged by incumbents, where courts have invariably thrown out such challenges received, and where it is probably true to say that sham democracy might become the norm.

The Constitutional Court also sternly rebuked the electoral commission for having violated Malawi's constitution by tampering with the results. The court ordered the Public Appointments Committee of the National Assembly to 'inquire into the capacity and competence of the current [electoral commissioners] to conduct fresh elections.'

The court gave Parliament 21 days to amend the elec-

toral legislation to provide for run-off elections in the event that no single candidate secures a majority of votes. This arose from the fact that the court also ruled that Mutharika had been re-elected unconstitutionally because he had not secured 50% plus one vote.

He had won only some 38.5% of the votes, while second-placed Lazarus Chakwera of the Malawi Congress Party garnered 36% and United Transformation Movement leader Saulos Chilima came third with 20%. These two contenders brought the results challenge to the court.

Despite winning only a plurality and not a majority of the votes, Mutharika was declared duly elected because the electoral act doesn't prescribe a majority. Judge Potani ruled that the electoral act thereby violated the constitution which is specific that a presidential candidate must secure a majority of votes to be duly elected.

As far as can be established, the Malawi court's annulment of last year's election was unprecedented in Africa - except, significantly, for one previous ruling. That was of the Kenyan Supreme Court throwing out the re-election of President Uhuru Kenyatta in the August 2017 elections, also because of irregularities in vote tallying.

Grant Masterson of the Johannesburg-based Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa told Daily Maverick that the Malawi court ruling would have far-reaching consequences for democracy in Africa. Masterson, who observed both the overturned Kenyan and Malawi elections, said the annulling of elections through judicial review should encourage voters everywhere to pursue legal redress 'with an elevated expectation of success.'

The Constitutional Court's judgment is probably causing some embarrassment to election observers, as did the Kenyan court's overturn of the election there. Observers from the African Union, Southern African Development Community, Commonwealth and European Union all praised the Malawi Electoral Commission for its conduct of the elections in their interim reports immediately after the voting.

The Kenyan precedent is generally not very encouraging for what might happen next in Malawi. Masterson told Daily Maverick that the Kenyan experience suggested it would be a massive challenge to organise fresh elections in such a short time. But the most dismaying precedent from Kenya is that the re-run elections plunged into chaos for a variety of judicial and political reasons.

Kenyatta's main presidential rival Raila Odinga demanded deep reforms to the electoral commission to ensure the re-run was truly free and fair. Kenyatta never allowed these reforms and when Odinga went back to the Supreme Court just before the October 2017 re-run to demand a delay, the court couldn't muster a quorum of judges.

Kenyatta's main presidential rival Raila Odinga demanded deep reforms to the electoral commission to ensure the re-run was truly free and fair. Kenyatta never allowed these reforms and when Odinga went back to the Supreme Court just before the October 2017 re-run to demand a delay, the court couldn't muster a quorum of judges.

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Peter Fabricius, ISS Consultant

Chinese society unites together to battle against novel coronavirus

CHINA has mobilized all resources available to battle against the novel coronavirus. In the race against the virus, all society members are united as one, supporting the country's epidemic prevention and control so as to finally overcome the difficulties with concerted efforts.

At present, finance departments at various levels are strengthening financial support for epidemic prevention and control. Governments are supporting local enterprises to deliver assistance to places in need of help. Medical corporations are working day and night to produce medical materials and develop anti-virus drugs. The whole society is donating supplies and money for epidemic control with strong enthusiasm.

As of Feb. 3, finance departments at various levels have allocated a total of 47 billion yuan in subsidies for the prevention and control of the epidemic. The money has been mainly used for treating patients, subsidizing medical staffs and epidemic prevention workers, and purchasing equipment needed for epidemic prevention and control and rapid diagnostic reagents.

In addition to the financial support, customs and civil aviation departments have also acted to ensure the curbing of the virus.

According to customs statistics, from Jan. 24 to Feb. 2, customs across the country imported 240 million pieces of epidemic prevention and control materials in 94,000 batches with a total value of 810 million yuan. Protective equipment including 220 million pieces of masks, 2.529 million pieces of protective suits, and 279,000 pairs of goggles, which was worth 610



million yuan, accounted for 74.9 percent of the imports.

As the forefront of the battle against the epidemic, customs of Wuhan Tianhe International Airport inspected and released 7.77 million pieces of imported epidemic prevention and control materials in 22 batches by Feb. 1.

At present, Chinese customs have set up special service counters and green channels at customs clearance sites across the country to provide convenient and efficient customs clearance services for epidemic prevention and

Hubei Province started using helicopters to ensure smooth and timely transportation of emergency supplies since Feb. 1, 2020.

control materials, so as to help the country get through the difficulty.

By Feb. 2, a total of 4,330 flights have delivered 604,563 pieces of protective materials such as masks, protective suits and disinfectants weighing 4,671.54 tons. Among them, 138 flights headed to Hubei, delivering 192,475 pieces of prevention and control materials weighing 1,213.62 tons.

At the same time, the civil aviation authority actively coordinat-

ed various airlines, transporting 7,558 medics and bringing 399 Chinese stranded overseas back home by charter flights.

Affected by the epidemic, some enterprises encountered temporary difficulties in production and operation.

To solve the issue, various provinces and cities in China have successively introduced relevant measures to support the healthy development of these enterprises and those engaged in

the production of anti-epidemic materials.

On Feb. 3, the Beijing municipal government issued relevant measures to assist enterprises to guarantee the supply of protective materials and raw materials, as well as logistics and transportation. The measures are also expected to supervise and guide enterprises to ensure smooth operation and safety.

Binzhou, east China's Shandong Province, formulated twelve policies to support the development of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The municipal finance department raised 30 million yuan to establish a financial stability fund for the SMEs to get through the epidemic, and provided bridging funds for enterprises that see short-term difficulties of capital turnover to repay and renew loans on time.

North China's Hebei Province has coordinated and organized a total of 142 key logistics parks and enterprises to guarantee the supply of daily necessities. All of them are actively preparing and transporting materials to guarantee market supply.

In addition, people from all walks of life have been donating materials and money to support the fight against the virus with rising enthusiasm.

As of 7:00 a.m. Feb. 3, the Red Cross Society of northwest China's Qinghai Province received donations totaling 37.58 million yuan, including 35.08 million

yuan of monetary donations and materials worth 2.5 million yuan. On the same day, Liuzhou Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. based in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region announced to donate 30 million yuan to support the autonomous region, as well as Liuzhou, Fangchenggang, and Yulin under its administration.

Pharmaceutical companies across China also gave a quick response in a united manner.

Up to now, more than 40 biomedical companies in the Beijing Economic-Technological Development Area have participated in the fight against the novel coronavirus, and the products developed by more than 20 companies have been directly used for epidemic prevention and control.

Four antiviral drug production enterprises in Shijiazhuang, Hebei Province, including Shijiazhuang Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd., Shijiazhuang No.4 Pharmaceutical, Yiling Pharmaceutical, and Shineway Pharmaceutical have been running at full capacity to produce medical materials. They have expanded their daily output by 2 to 3 times.

As of Feb. 2, 15 medical and health material manufacturing companies in the city produced 36,600 pieces of surgical masks, 4.4 million pieces of protective masks, and 95,000 pieces of isolation suits.

These medical supplies have offered strong support for national epidemic prevention

People's Daily

Insecurity in the Sahel won't be solved at high-level summits

BY AKINOLA OLOJO, BABA DAKONO AND IBRAHIM MAÏGA

TERROR attacks in the Sahel have increased five-fold since 2016. In addition to civilian casualties, attacks on military personnel in the Sahelian states, as well as those of the international forces in the region, have risen.

The 2019 Global Terrorism Index lists countries like Mali and Niger among the top 10 states affected by terrorism in Africa. During the last quarter of 2019, nearly 200 soldiers, including 100 Nigeriens and over 90 Malians, were killed by extremists. On 26 November 2019 France, which has 4,500 soldiers engaged in the Sahel region, lost 13 in Mali during a counter-terrorism operation.

It was in this context of increasing insecurity that a high-level summit involving the affected countries - Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger - was convened in Pau, France, on 13 January. Officially, the main aim of the summit was to strengthen counter-terrorism operations under the auspices of the G5 Sahel. In another sense, it was centred around France's foreign policy objectives.

French President Emmanuel Macron wished to defuse criticisms following the death of French soldiers in a helicopter crash in Mali, and to show that his country intervened at the request of governments in the Sahel countries concerned (see map). The summit also appeared to be an opportunity for France to get clarification from the Sahelian leaders on recent protests against the French military presence in countries like Mali.

The crisis in the Sahel has reached an impasse, with states unable to achieve total military victory.

The final declaration of the G5 Sahel summit marks a continuity with the existing doctrine which focuses on hard security to the detriment of other issues such as development and accountable leadership. Part of the failure of the G5 Sahel's current strategy is the imbalance between these different pillars, poor sequencing of actions and insufficient consideration of the issue of governance.

Mali and Burkina Faso have experienced successive attacks in the Liptako-Gourma area, a rural trans-border zone connecting Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, which offers favourable conditions for terrorist activities.

The inability of states to integrate these border regions into their national policies and to promote their development has led to disinterest or even the



rejection of state authority. This rejection is linked to both the actions and inactions of government, and has made the work of the entrepreneurs of violence easier.

Public demonstrations in several Sahelian states, especially Mali, show a loss of legitimacy of France in the eyes of local communities after being greeted almost as 'liberators' in 2013.

On 10 January - three days before the summit - these demonstrations aimed to send a strong message to both France and the Malian delegation to Pau. Hundreds of Malians gathered around the Independence Monument in the capital Bamako, where the French flag was burnt and banners displayed with slogans such as 'Down with France'.

In this context, the G5 Sahel summit is a reminder that since 2012, when the crisis in Mali and then more generally in the Sahel escalated, partner states have failed to take full responsibility for their

As a transnational problem, terrorism can benefit from external support, but lasting solutions must come from affected communities. File photo

territorial security. Furthermore, leaders in the Sahel need to recognise that heavy-handed responses often worsen the security situation. G5 Sahel summit focused on hard security to the detriment of development and accountable leadership.

The counter-terrorism toolkit should be broadened to include non-military approaches. It is clear that the crisis in the Sahel has reached an impasse, with states unable to achieve total military victory.

States such as Mali could test the possibility of talks with militants, potentially aiming for local ceasefires before broadening the scope for dialogue. Or at the least, facilitate discussions among local communities to achieve a clearer understanding of the root causes of violent extremism.

Mali has already taken a step in this direction with the recent initiative of the Malian president's High Representative for the Centre, Dioncounda Traoré, to establish dialogue with two leaders of the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims. Until such new approaches are tested, leaders will continue opting for short-term and coercive strategies that can deliver quick political gains.

Although the transnational nature of terrorism can benefit from external support, the inspiration for lasting solutions should be located where the problem exists. The decision to convene the G5 Sahel summit in France, far from the realities of those affected by terrorist violence, reinforces the notion of a paternalistic former colonial power taking action in Sahel states. This does little to build trust between Sahelian governments and their

citizens - something that is essential to stabilise the affected countries. Increased violence in the Sahel is mainly a consequence of decades of weak governance.

For example, establishing or strengthening inclusive exchange networks that highlight the needs of a locality and obligations of its state representatives would create conditions for fruitful dialogue. Beyond preventing and moderating tensions, these networks enable communities to get more involved in security discussions.

Building trust also depends on improved governance, especially when it comes to access to social services and justice. Evidence has shown that some communities resort to protection offered by terror groups in areas where government security services are weak.

The intensification of violence

in the Sahel, as a result of terrorism but also the resurgence of local conflicts, is above all the consequence of decades of weak governance in affected countries. Longstanding neglect of communities in remote rural areas and the failure to constructively engage the rising youth population have also enabled terror groups to exploit leadership gaps.

Military action can have only a limited impact in the absence of coherent political responses at the local, national and regional levels. Governments need to engage affected communities about how to better tackle the structural challenges they face. Looking inwards and acting on the concerns of local communities would reduce the inclination to constantly seek solutions from outside.

Agencies

Next East Africa locust swarms airborne in 3 to 4 weeks, UN warns

ROME

THE UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned Sunday that nymph (baby) desert locusts maturing in Somalia's rebel-held backcountry, where aerial spraying is next to unrealizable, will develop wings in the "next three or four weeks" and threaten millions of people already short of food.

Once in flight and hungry, the swarm could be the "most devastating plague of locusts in any of our living memories if we don't reduce the problem faster than we are doing at the moment," said UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock.

The locusts were now "very hungry teenagers," but once mature, their progeny would hatch, generating "about a 20-fold increase" in numbers, warned Keith Cressman, FAO locust forecasting officer.

"Mother Nature" alone would not solve the crisis, said Dominique Burgeon, resilience director of the FAO, which has urged international donors to give \$76 million (€69.4 million) immediately.

Swarms, which left damage across parts of Ethiopia and Kenya in December, could also put Uganda, South Sudan, Eritrea and Djibouti at risk, making it the worst such situation in 25 years, the FAO said.

East Africa already has 19 million people facing acute food insecurity, according to the regional inter-agency Food Security and Nutrition Working Group (FSNWG).



An Ethiopian girl fending off locusts

'Huge' consumption of foodstuffs and fodder
Somalia last week declared a locust emergency, with its agriculture minister, Said Hussein Iid, warning that "food sources for people and their livestock are at risk."

Desert locusts, normally solitary but triggered to swarm by certain conditions, could consume "huge amounts of crops and forage" when present in large numbers, said Iid.

Experts say aerial pesticide spraying is the only effective control, but that the current hotspot for maturing locusts is in an inaccessible swathe of Somalia held by or under threat by the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group.

"This is where it begins," FAO spokesman

Alberto Trillo Barca said at a police-guarded press briefing in northern Somalia attended by The Associated Press news agency.

"In the next three or four weeks, these nymphs, as we call them, will develop wings," Barca said on Thursday.

Pest-control officials spraying bushes in So-

malia. These officials in Puntland, Somalia, are spraying by hand, but only aerial spraying is really effective, say experts

'Unprecedented locust crisis'
UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres,

speaking in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, as an African Union (AU) summit kicked off, said Saturday: "There is a link between climate change and the unprecedented locust crisis plaguing Ethiopia and East Africa."

"Warmer seas mean more cyclones generating the perfect breeding ground for locusts. This is getting worse by the day," said Guterres.

Climate experts point to a rain-bearing cyclone that reached Somali waters in December. Its winds had carried locusts from the Arabian Peninsula. Last week, the FAO said swarms had also been sighted in Oman and Yemen.

The locust density in East Africa was so high that even normal drier weather would still fail to inhibit another breeding generation, said Burgeon.

Replacement crop unrealistic

A farmer in Kenya's eastern Kitui County, Esther Kithuka, told the Reuters news agency last Monday that she was worried about crop destruction. Another growing season due to start in April would be too short for any meaningful production.

Since last century, six desert locust plagues or what experts called region-wide "upsurges" have occurred. One of the worst occurred in 2003-2005 in North and West Africa.

BoT blesses Barclays Bank Tanzania Ltd's switching of name to Absa Bank Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

ABSA Bank Tanzania Limited, a subsidiary of Absa Group Limited, yesterday received the licence to operate and trade under its new name from the Bank of Tanzania, switching from its former name of Barclays Bank Tanzania Limited, a makeover that marks the start of a new era for the bank's operations and signals the realization of its ambition of becoming an independent African Bank.

"Today we begin a new chapter as Absa Bank Tanzania Limited, adopting out parent company's name and brand while retaining our indelible commitment to Tanzania and its people.

Our new brand is a commitment to Tanzania and to the wider continent: Absa is a truly African bank, with global scalability and reach, said Abdi Mohamed, managing director of Absa Tanzania Limited.

The company, which has been operating in Tanzania close to 19 years and boasts a network of 15 branches and 62 ATMs strategically located countrywide 21 being in branches and 49 offsite, recapped its devotion to the country's growth and economic progress under the Absa brand.

"We have invested in crucial sectors of development of the national economy, including trade, agriculture, SMEs, infrastructure and investments. We will continue to play a critical role by investing in these sectors without

neglecting the ordinary citizens who seek quality financial services and safe investment for their hard-earned money," said Mohamed.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Governor of Bank of Tanzania, Dr. Bernard Kibesse, while congratulating Absa Tanzania for showing a spirit of patriotism and tolerance during the change-over, saying it indicated the bank's readiness to invest in Tanzania, improve services and increase customer base, nevertheless stressed the fact that the central bank had trust in Absa and that is why it had issued the license to trade under the new name.

"I call on Absa to use this opportunity to consolidate its corporate integrity embracing innovation and come up with services and products that are attractive and will boost the economic well-being of both your small and big customers," said Dr. Kibesse, speaking on behalf of BoT Governor, Professor Florens Luoga.

Tanzania was among seven countries in Africa to switch to Absa yesterday, marking an important milestone for the group, which has footprint in 12 countries, employs approximately 40,000 employees, operates over 100-branches and 10,000 ATMs.

Absa Tanzania Board Chairman, Simon Mponji, said: "We shall remain focused to see to it that the rebranding journey that we have embarked on so far contributes to enabling Tanzania reach its ambitions goal of becoming a middle income industrial economy."



I call on Absa to use this opportunity to consolidate its corporate integrity embracing innovation



Delegates at the AU Summit on Food and Nutrition

AU Summit: African leaders call for action to end malnutrition by 2025

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN countries have made progress toward eradicating malnutrition and stunting but need to do more to hit United Nations malnutrition targets by 2025. This was the main message of a meeting that took place during the 33rd African Union Summit.

Speakers at a meeting of the African Leaders for Nutrition (ALN) included the heads of state of Madagascar, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, national ministers of health as well as African Development Bank (AfDB.org) President Akinwumi Adesina, head of the African Development Bank.

Leaders acknowledged the scope of

the challenge but sounded a note of optimism. "We can conquer hunger in Africa," said Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina, one of five African Leaders for Nutrition champions. "I call on all our partners to continue to work with us to address hunger and malnutrition." Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara said leaders should take it a step further. "I have proposed for the AU to focus on tackling malnutrition as a theme for 2021," he said.

Stunting has declined by eight percentage points across Africa since 2000, an advance on one of the UN's 2025 targets. African countries have also shown strong progress toward achieving the target of 50% of the

world's children being exclusively breastfed for the first six months of life. The other targets are: halting the epidemic of obesity; reducing anemia in women of reproductive age; reducing low birth weight and reducing wasting.

The ALN, a partnership of the African Union and African Development Bank, brings together heads of state, Finance Ministers and other leaders to raise awareness and accountability, and reinforce investment by African governments to end malnutrition among children.

The ALN meeting, held in Addis Ababa on Saturday, offered an opportunity to take stock of achievements ahead

of the Nutrition for Growth Summit to be held in Tokyo in December.

Adesina outlined initiatives by the Bank and African Union to reduce malnutrition, such as the Continental Nutrition Accountability Scorecard, which offers African leaders a snapshot of nutrition-related progress and gaps.

During his opening remarks, Adesina emphasized the paradox of African malnutrition.

"We have 65 percent of the world's remaining uncultivated arable land. We have an abundance of freshwater and about 300 days of sunshine a year. There's no reason for anyone to go hungry," the Bank chief said.

Bahati Group: Inspire teenagers to go for reproductive health education

By Correspondent Devota Mwachang'a

THE public has been called upon to come up with impressive teaching methodologies including drama to inspire teenagers to get reproductive health education and help students walk away from temptations likely to put them at risks of early pregnancy.

Statistics indicates that girls aged between 13 and 18 years old are engaging into premarital sex which results into them becoming mothers, mainly due to lack of awareness on how to abstain

it. Bahati Arts Group with the support from Netherlands embassy has started to provide education to students through a drama named "Bahati".

Speaking in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, co-director Bahati Arts Group, Paulo Gomez said they have decided to come up with a drama teaching style that uses musical theater play and dance to add emotions among students.

"We have started with 450 students from Kambangwa secondary school in Kinondoni district,

Dar es Salaam region. They were invited to the National Museums theater to learn through a special drama-Bahati. We aimed at showing them reality and let them not make similar mistakes that the main character in the play committed," said Gomez.

Director of Bahati Arts Group, Pili Maguzo said they choose to teach girls and boys by taking them to the auditorium to enjoy and learn by seeing.

"We are teaching and educating girls on the right path to adulthood. They should know how to avoid temptations especially at

the age of adolescence", said Maguzo.

She added: "We emphasize more on self-protection than dealing with the results occurred after being tempted. Our intention is not to tell girls what to do after getting pregnancy but to educate them on why they should not engage into premarital sexual".

Maguzo said they have started with Dar es Salaam schools as a pilot but future plans are to reach other secondary schools across the country.

Deputy ambassador at the

embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Lianne Houben said they have been supporting women issues as well as those related to gender equality. She said the musical play is an education program of its kind that empowers youth to make positive life decisions.

Houben said the Embassy is engaging in challenging practices and traditions that affect young girls and women including early child marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM).

"We are proud this musical play will be performed to a

large group of secondary school children which is mostly affected by the early pregnancies the issue that force them to drop out of school", she noted.

Baraka Makongo, a teacher at Kambangwa secondary school thanked the embassy and organizers noting the education has come at the right time since there are some students who are engaged in premarital sexual thus ending up dropping from school due to pregnancy.

A Form One student, Mussa Said Kassim said early pregnancies ruin girls, urging them to

avoid temptations from men.

"This Play has wakened our minds, we have learnt the consequences of engaging into premarital sexual practices", she said.

Nsame Nkwabi is a main character of a story 'Bahati Play' mentioned poverty, cultural practices, and peer group as among the factors contributing into girls early pregnancies.

According to her some girls fall into temptations over parents' failure to provide them with some needs.

Walking hard, getting nowhere – but Cyril Ramaphosa still enjoys a 62% approval level

By Ferial Haffajee

OUT of 20 key pledges, President Cyril Ramaphosa has made progress on only four and the two major areas of his focus, economic growth and unemployment, have worsened in the past year. Yet, new research by Ipsos shows that Ramaphosa has consistently high popularity rankings as people trust he will get it right.

He measures 62% popularity, only slightly down on the measurement of 2018 when he became president when he enjoyed the approval of 70% of South Africans. Among ANC members, he enjoys an approval rating of 82%, giving him enormous party support for his reform project.

In previous years, Daily Maverick has measured progress on the state of the nation (SONA) addresses on processes, but this year, it chose to measure by impact and completion.

On those outcomes-based measures, Ramaphosa has not done well, but that may be because reform takes longer than a year and can take up to a decade to be effected. The trouble is that Ramaphosa may not have a decade in office because of the factions that lace the ANC.

Projections for growth in South Africa 2020 by the SA Reserve Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are all at under 1%.

Unemployment is at its highest ever levels and youth unemployment is particularly impervious to any statistical improvement although South Africa is not short of great ideas, and social entrepreneurs to fix the vexing problem.

Pundits say an investment-grade downgrade to junk when Moody's makes its decision later this year is almost certain. That will see between US\$5-bn to US\$8-billion leave the country, according to modelling by the SA Reserve Bank.

Yet, the reform project is struggling. While he has made important inroads in rebuilding the National Prosecuting Authority under national director Shamila Batohi, the rate of investigation and prosecution of state capture cases has been slow. Ramaphosa promulgated an NPA investigative directorate led by Hermione Cronje and she has initiated the first major state capture-led investigation into Regiments and Trillian, but the NPA seems light years away from prosecuting the political big-wigs who enabled grand corruption.

At Eskom, incoming CEO André de Ruyter is off to a galloping start, but not before the utility has racked up debts so high that they are now likely to be sovereign – that is, they threaten the country.



President Cyril Ramaphosa

A new deal is being inked to get the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) to take over the lion's share of Eskom debt, but the utility has been impervious to improvement in the year under measure. Regular power cuts have become a way of life while tariffs are going up, adding to the burden of all South Africans.

A blistering row Earlier this year, Ramaphosa and Business Unity SA's president Sipho Pityana had a blistering and uncharacteristic row at a Nedlac meeting as the private sector took public its longstanding complaint that reforms are too slow.

Not a single element of the economic stimulus package the president announced in September 2018 when the economy tanked to its worst levels in decades has been successful at scale.

This includes a youth employment plan, the finalisation of the land reform programme (notably expropriation without compensation), a new visa regime to allow skilled emigration and tourism, the restructuring of Eskom and the allocation of spectrum to allow for data prices to come down.

The Youth Employment Service (YES), which aims to secure internships for 2-million young people over the medium-term depends on a growing economy, but the outcomes for spectrum allocation and an e-visa system illustrate the problem. Both plans are running way behind target.

A pilot e-visa project is being tested in Kenya because East Africa is a big feeder market into South Africa, and there is finally a policy paper on spectrum allocation.

But the regulator, Icasa, is a long time away from allocation. The telco industry has also said it will go to court if the spectrum auction plans are implemented as set out.

In numerous interviews, officials say Ramaphosa has made good progress in eight areas.

These are on youth employment (responsibility lies in the presidency), an infrastructure fund (it has a CEO, Sean Phillips and an infrastructure official in the presidency, Kgosientso Spatla Ramakgopa), tourism, the private sector investment drive and the move toward a capable state.

Officials say the reforms at the NPA and at the SA Revenue Service (SARS) are evidence of capability being restored. But all of these are process improvements (a policy paper, an appointment of a new person, a new budget to follow a political commitment), not scaled at impact.

Cutting Ramaphosa some slack "I'm not disappointed at the clean-up agenda," says a leading businessperson who requested anonymity. Momentum to fix institutions including the NPA, SARS and the intelligence services had been good. "It's unrealistic to expect big prosecutions," he said. He is impressed by the commitment to undo capture at Eskom and Transnet.

"There is a clear agenda to roll back state capture. I cut him [Ramaphosa] some slack." Business, he said, is looking with great interest at the recommendations that come out of the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture including the reduction of powers of the president and also clarity on the appointment of a Public Protector.

"The August [2019] xenophobic attacks showed up that the police are a complete mess. The business forums who hijack construction sites for rents reveal a [shocking] degree of lawlessness. [The] fixing of the police has not happened," he said.

"[The president] has not managed the [business] confidence-sapping issues of expropriation without compensation and the National Health Insurance. These would be the ones people regard as a disincentive to investment," said the businessman. The idea that Ramaphosa should be cut slack is common and it shows up in the Ipsos research.

Just over six in 10 South Africans surveyed said Ramaphosa is doing fairly to very well and he

Reformers struggling



Judge Raymond Zondo

Deputy chief justice and chair of the Commission of Inquiry into state capture

Mandate too large; delayed findings

President Jacob Zuma game-playing



Pravin Gordhan

Minister of Public Enterprises

Load-shedding up

SAA in business rescue

Transnet – no major shift to rail



Shamila Batohi

National Prosecuting Authority

Burning platform

Slow rate of prosecutions

High vacancies

has a 62% approval rating compared to 42% for that of deputy president David Mabuza.

He is much more popular than his government, which only has an approval rating of 51% revealing that people trust Ramaphosa to pull South Africa out of its doldrums. "There's trust in him."

He's popular. They want him to take action. They want him to get a move on. Ramaphosa has the support of the population," says Ipsos director Mari Harris, who leads research that has just come out of the field.

"Since the election [of May 2019], his support levels have not come down. People look up to him as a stabilising person," says Harris to explain why Ramaphosa's ratings are so high even as those surveyed said they were very worried about unemployment, crime and corruption, all three of which have grown under his administration.

Globally, a 62% approval ranking is considered very high.

What does Ramaphosa think?

He is disappointed, but also upbeat and confident that things will turn. There is a view that the economy tracks the commodity cycle and that SA is caught in those problems and that policy reforms can only enhance growth to some extent.

In two successive years of investment summits, Ramaphosa has bagged billions of rands in investment promises from the private sector, many of which are in motion – these investments should impact on growth and jobs over the second half of his first term.

The presidency counts as plus the passage of regulations to

end the child visa red tape, which sent tourism into a tailspin while several big feeder countries now have visa-free access.

But it has been tough to get the home affairs department to think of itself as a growth driver rather than a security department, say government officials to explain why Ramaphosa's promises on e-visas, skills and easier tourist access has been slow.

Eskom is regarded as the Achilles Heel of the Ramaphosa presidency and it has impacted how much he was able to deliver between the SONA 2019 and the SONA 2020.

Ramaphosa's slow and considered style is bearing fruit, say some political analysts who point out that the most recent ANC legkotla early in February 2020 delivered far greater consensus around issues.

Cosatu, for example, had agreed to strategic equity partners at state-owned enterprises while the union federation is also at the forefront of finding a way to deal with Eskom's debt by creating a special purpose vehicle utilising a small percentage of PIC funds.

Last week, Business Day reported that Ramaphosa had attended two meetings to put flesh on the bones of the proposal. "Eskom and Sasol were built from workers' funds."

Current investment (in developmental projects), is at 2% and not the allowable 10% of funds," says spokesperson Khusela Diko, who says consideration is being given to amending the Pensions Fund Act to boost development.

Ramaphosa is not likely to give in to the temptation to do things differently, or more quickly as he is increasingly being chided into. He trusts his own pace and be-

lieves that it is bearing fruit.

Tablets, bullet trains and smart cities

Last year, Ramaphosa got poetic and visionary about connected schools where every learner had a tablet loaded with lessons, a country of bullet trains creating a crisscrossing network of fast trains getting commuters across the country and to work, and then he floated the idea of smart cities where tech enables a good life.

He is unlikely to repeat that this year as the three ideas were so very far from the reality of ordinary South African life. It felt then like Ramaphosa had retreated into the echo chamber of power where leaders lose a sense of real life.

In the year we've looked at, all those ideas receded as the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa went from bad to worse. The Khayelitsha line, for example, is out until September 2020 and trains get torched by criminal networks the cops can't get a handle on.

Mud schools and poorly equipped schools continue to pockmark the education system even as the department of education's Asidi school-building programme racks up some success.

Across the country, the idea of smart cities seems a faraway dream as municipalities collapse – the Makhanda judgement obtained in the Eastern Cape High Court by the Unemployed Peoples' Movement where the presiding judge ordered the province to dissolve the council is likely to tell a bigger truth of local government than the conceptualisation of the smart city.

DM

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD =046=

WORD FIT

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

S Q U I R R E L

E T A

CROSSWORD

10 is totally in favour and 0 is totally against

Party leaders

7

4.2

4

3.3

3

Cyril Ramaphosa

Julius Malema

Patricia de Lille

Velenkosini Hlabisa

Pieter Groenewald

3 letter word: LAY, GET, RAY, CAT, ETA, TOE, MOT, NET

4 letter word: BEST, FLEE, CUTE, OTES,

5 letter word: ROUGH, BINGO, MASON, PLAIT, AEGIS

6 letter word: SQUARE, NATIVE, ENCOMP, PLASMA

7 letter word: HORIZON, ZEALOUS,

8 letter word: SQUIRREL, UBIQUITY, UNICYCLE

9 letter word: ENTERTAIN, ENACTMENT

Comments: 0789 43 73 09

Clues: Across

1 a girl who marries a member of the armed forces from a different country (3,5)

2 Collecting and amassing (10)

3 Largest country in the World (6)

4 Garden of Adam and Eve (4)

5 Madagascan monkey active at night

6 a hormone produced by a body when you are frightened (9)

9 Entertain someone with stories (7)

13 Metal box containing gears (7)

14 Wooden frame with a picture (5)

16 Helper and accomplice (4)

20 Spoken (4)

21 Animal like a frog (4)

24 Possess (3)

Down:

11 Moving quickly (7)

12 Time spent alive (3)

15 Mother (4) 17 Insect (4) 18 amount (3)

19 Final and finally (5)

20 From the past (3) 21 Tire (4)

22 Tall plant with a woody trunk (4)

23 Send out air (4) 25 Back in the past (3)

26 Connected by a military agreement (6)

27 Type of gas which has no colour (5)



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TBL's director with ample knowledge of local beer market

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VIEW FROM THE TOP

Egypt's population juggernaut approaches 100 million mark

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Shanta Gold acquires Acacia Kenya's assets in new deal

By Smart Money Reporter

IN a new deal, Shanta Gold has entered into a definitive agreement through which it will acquire 100 percent of the shares of Barrick Gold Corporation's subsidiary, Acacia Exploration (Kenya) Limited.

In its latest report, the London Stock Exchange listed company said through the deal which is valued at US\$15.5 million (over...) it takes over interests in Barrick's AEKL whose primary asset is a 100 percent interest in licences held by Afriore in West Kenya.

"With US\$7 million cash and US\$7.5 million shares, Barrick becomes Shanta's fifth largest shareholder with 6.4 percent interest," the company stated while noting that Shanta will also inherit certain liabilities but also adjust for certain working capital items, for up to an additional US\$4 million in cash consideration to settle third party liabilities.

Shanta which owns and operates New Luika Gold Mine in Chunya district of Mbeya region, said it however required regulatory approvals in Kenya which include standard consents from the mining authorities to the assignment of interests and the transfer of prospecting licences-approval of the transaction by Competition Authority of Kenya. The company further noted that the transaction is expected to close around mid-2020.

Among other highlights, the company has acquired high-quality gold project with high grade gold resource of 1,182,000 ounces gold grading 12.6 grams per ton; long term exploration potential; major presence in a geologi-



Acacia Exploration Kenya Limited's Kakamega gold mine.

cally rich and underexplored greenstone gold region; which expands Shanta's operating presence in East Africa across Tanzania and Kenya.

"Underground mining specialist with a diversified portfolio of assets delivering growth; increases Shanta's gold resource inventory and an established centre of excellence at the New Luika Gold Mine to advance the West Kenya Project and complement the project team based in Kisumu, Kenya," the statement noted.

In addition to its Lake Victoria greenstone gold fields located in Tanzania and Kenya, Shanta has acquired the West Kenya Project which is nine kilometres from main site in Liranda Corridor

Scoping Study hence the company is focusing on unlocking value and progressing project.

Shanta cash and available liquidity was US\$13.7 million as at 31 Dec 2019 which was derived as unrestricted cash, restricted cash and the sale value of bullion available for sale at the end of the period.

"Net of royalties and expected selling costs and including 2,841 oz gold delivered to Switzerland for refining prior to 31 December 2019, for which proceeds remained unremitted at the end of December 2019," the company stated in the statement.

Zambia regulator digs in heels over bundles of non-expiring data

LUSAKA

MOBILE industry stakeholders, including the country's telecommunications industry regulator ZICTA, are confident the introduction of non-expiry data bundles by 12 February 2020 will improve the country's internet penetration rating.

According to recent ZICTA statistics, there are 10,893,183 internet users in Zambia representing 62.7% penetration, while the number of mobile phone users currently stands at 16,889,138, representing 97.2% penetration.

In August 2019 lawmakers passed a motion in Parliament that prevents ISPs from prescribing expiry dates on internet bundles purchased by customers. The lawmakers argued that forcing expiry dates is tantamount to stealing from subscribers because expired bundles benefit the service provider rather than the end users.

To date, MTN Zambia and Airtel Zambia have introduced non-expiry bundles. Airtel Zambia managing director Apoorva Mehro-

tra said, "With the introduction of non-expiry bundles, more customers will now be able to browse."

MTN Zambia chief executive officer Bart Hofker said, "The introduction of the non-expiry bundles is in line with the changing needs of our diverse customer base." ZICTA director general Patrick Mutimunshi said while service providers' point out that non-expiry bundles slow down business because of having to wait for consumers to exhaust their bundles, the regulator remains adamant that it had little choice in the matter.

Consumer Unity Trust Society (CUTS) Zambia centre coordinator Chenai Makumba said the issue of bundles expiring had been one that many consumers have complained about over the past couple of years - at times consumers' bundles expired before they had been depleted! "We therefore encourage other mobile phone networks to follow suit and provide consumers with the option to buy non-expiring data bundles," Makumba said.

Vodacom to launch 5G services in SA this year

JOHANNESBURG

VODACOM said on Tuesday that, thanks to its recently concluded roaming agreement with Liquid Telecom, it will launch next-generation 5G services in South Africa in 2020.

"Having been the first network to commercially launch 5G in Africa through Vodacom Lesotho, we expect to be able to launch 5G services in South Africa this year," it said alongside a trading update for the three months ended 31 December 2019. "This is possible thanks to a recent roaming agreement with Liquid Telecom, as 5G spectrum is largely unassigned in South Africa."

TechCentral reported in December that Vodacom and Liquid Telecom had signed an agreement which would, in effect, give the country's biggest mobile operator access to a key spectrum band, allowing it to offer 5G services nationally, potentially piping its nearest rivals to the post in deploying the super-fast next-generation technology.

The two companies signed the deal to exploit Liquid's legacy spectrum assignment in the 3.5GHz band. Vodacom said on Tuesday that it has also revised its roaming agreement with Rain for 4G/LTE coverage. This, it said, will "further expand our 4G capacity in an environment

where delays in assigning available spectrum will constrain capacity for all networks." Vodacom Group increased its revenue by 6.6% (6.1% normalised) in the fourth quarter of the 2019 calendar year on the back of a successful summer campaign in South Africa and good growth in its international operations. It added almost half a million customers in South Africa on the back of the campaign. In its other markets, it added 1.7 million customers.

Increased data uptake

South Africa revenue and service revenue growth rates improved to 5.9% and 4.6% respectively, supported by increased data uptake, it said. International operations delivered service revenue growth of 9% (7.1% normalised), with strong growth in data and M-Pesa mobile money revenues.

"Our sustained investment programme, aimed at delivering a better experience for customers in each of the countries where we operate, continues to yield results," said group CEO Shameel Joosub in remarks alongside the trading update. "As expected, growth trends improved across a number of metrics in South Africa following the significant impacts over the past year from our ongoing pricing transformation strategy. These included substantial cuts in out-of-bundle tariffs and lower bundle prices, resulting in a circa 50% decline in effective data prices since March 2016."



Vodacom's group CEO, Shameel Joosub.



Minister of State in Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), Mussa Azzan Zungu, (kneeling), officially launching a tree-planting campaign at Swaswa area in Dodoma city last week as part of National Bank of Commerce's 'Kijanja Dodoma' campaign sponsored by the bank. Others are the bank's Central Zone manager, James Ndimbo (3rd L), sales executive Zacharia Lema and head of customer care Anne Mwasaka. Photo courtesy of NBC.

Bitcoin breaches \$10 000 to hit highest level since October

NEW YORK

THE largest cryptocurrency's recent upward momentum carried it past that psychologically significant level on Sunday for the first time since October, according to Bitstamp pricing. It rose as much as 2.6% to \$10 179, capping a gain of about 40% so far this year.

Its breach of five figures comes amid an equi-

ties rally that's seen the S&P 500 Index reach new highs as fears abate that the coronavirus will dent global growth. "The rally is a part of a broader appeal for risky assets as optimism grows that the coronavirus impact might be limited to the first quarter and on optimism that China will play nice with the US on phase-two trade talks," said Ed Moya, senior market analyst at Oanda.

Cryptocurrencies have been on an upward

trend all year, with some analysts and digital-asset enthusiasts suggesting they've benefited as safe-haven plays amid ongoing geopolitical concerns around the globe.

"There's certainly a narrative in the investment community that Bitcoin is solidifying its place as a store of value, a flight to safety, inflation hedge," Michael Sonnenshein, managing director at Grayscale Investments, said in an interview at

Bloomberg's New York headquarters. If history is any guide, the upcoming halving, which is set to happen in May, could also have an impact on the token's price, he said. Some Bitcoin enthusiasts are predicting further gains. Fundstrat Global Advisors' Rob Sluymer, for one, sees it rising through the second quarter this year to trade in a range of \$10 000 to \$11 000. Mike McGlone, an analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence, says the

2020 outlook for the largest digital token remains favourable. "Similar to gold, positive fundamentals should extend Bitcoin's price appreciation," he wrote in a Feb. 5 note.

Bitcoin peaked at almost \$20,000 in December 2017 and finished that year up about 1 400% as the cryptocurrency burst into the mainstream. It plunged 74% the next year, before rebounding almost 100% in 2019.

Tanzanian Gold Corporation reviewing bidders for Geita Buckreef mine project

By Smart Money Reporter

BIDS for mining works to be done at Buckreef Gold Project in Geita district of Geita region are currently being reviewed by Tanzanian Gold Corporation.

In a statement last week, the Toronto Stock Exchange and New York Stock Exchange listed company said that it has advertised, issued, received and is reviewing the qualified bid responses for the Buckreef Gold Project's request for proposal for its mining process.

"The RFP included as part of its requirements a thorough and working understanding of current laws and regulations for mining processes and operations which are located in the United Republic of Tanzania, including, but not limited to 'The Mining Local Content Regulation, 2018', and compliance with this regulation," TGC's executive chairman James Sinclair said.

Sinclair further stated that in short, the company has accepted and is reviewing bids for work necessary for mining processes which include, but are not limited to, advising and taking an active role in final feasibility with particular emphasis on developing processing solutions for the recovery of gold.

To be considered, bidders were required to offer and qualify as independent third parties to the company for transparency, technical expertise and soundness, unbiased expertise to execute process testing, provide engineering services to develop and verify the process plant proposed by the company.

"Additional transparency requirements are to meet with company's authorized persons; engage in conversations about the process testing and project engineering; engage in discussions and respond to inquiries. Outstanding references were required and have been received among qualified bidders," he added.

Sinclair's statement further noted that a qualified bidder is required to develop project resources and involve consultants and subcontractors to the extent authorized by the company, and add value to the project.

"Qualified bidders are also required to visit the project site to establish equipment and infrastructure and evaluate what is available on site; identify the available feedstock and discuss representative sam-



Tanzanian Gold Corporation's executive chairman, James Sinclair.

ple requirements for further mineralogical and metallurgical test work required to verify a required flow sheet and equipment sizing for the proposed plant," the TGC executive chairman stated.

Qualified bidders are also required to provide engineering, procurement and construction management services as appropriate to facilitate implementation of the processing plant.

The foregoing are the simplified and general requirements of qualified bidders, the statement noted.

The company will choose among the field of qualified bidders, an organization

which will ensure the path and process forward, including team objectives, and local legal requirements. The company will also choose an organization with a history of success and one which will be flexible in the event the understandings of the company and bidder require supplementation in our agreement for a smooth process forward, the statement explained.

The finalization process includes a review by State Mining Corporation technical team with subsequent review for clearance with the Tanzanian Mining Commission. The Buckreef Gold Project is jointly developed by Stamico and TGC.

London bank sells Sh600m Kenya shilling-linked notes

NAIROBI

LONDON-BASED ICBC Standard Bank has raised \$6 million (Sh600 million) from international investors betting on the future performance of the Kenyan shilling.

The debt instruments, known as currency-linked notes, were listed on the Irish securities market, Euronext Dublin, on Wednesday. Investors in such securities are usually paid back their principal upon maturity.

They could also receive an extra payment if the reference currency (the Kenyan Shilling) appreciates relative to the US dollar on the maturity date compared to when the contract started. If the local currency depreciates or remains flat, investors are entitled to their principal only.

Currency-linked notes are among the tools used by global banks to raise funds for their operations and investments. "Euronext Dublin approves the admission of the under-mentioned securities to listing on the Official List and trading on the regulated market of Euronext Dublin," the exchange said of the ICBC Standard Bank debt issue.

The notes, which are now tradable, are set to be redeemed on January 27, 2025.

The latest securities high-light global banks' increased use of derivatives based on Kenya's debt and currency movements. Citigroup and ICBC Standard Bank Plc, for



A man holds new Kenyan shilling bills.

instance, sold debt instruments worth Sh1.5 billion to international investors based on Kenyan government bonds in the three months to December 2019.

The global banks purchased debt of the same value issued by Kenya and repackaged them for investors in transactions aimed at protecting the companies from the risk of default. Investors buying the securities—known as credit-linked notes—from the

banks are seeking exposure to Kenya's debt market but don't want to buy the bonds directly. In case of Kenya's default or another adverse development, the banks will pay investors amounts reflecting the losses. This ensures that the banks can hold Kenyan bonds while avoiding credit risks at all times.

Institutions and wealthy individuals are the major buyers of credit-linked notes. Banks are

barred from marketing them to retail investors who are presumed to be ill-suited to handle the potential risks in the assets.

Global investors can use the notes to diversify and gain exposure to countries that rarely issue bonds in the international markets. Kenya has, however, in recent years opted to issue a series of Eurobonds to support its increased spending on infrastructure and other programmes.

Nigeria sets ambitious target for growth in mining industry

CAPE TOWN

NIGERIA expects its mining sector to grow to 3% of GDP within the next five years from just 0.3% currently as the government seeks to diversify the economy away from oil, the minister for mines and steel development said on Wednesday.

Nigeria has been trying to boost the sector as part of efforts to diversify its economy. Gold, lead, zinc, limestone and coal are among seven strategic minerals Nigeria has identified for investment. "We've seen steady growth ... and we're now poised for exponential growth as investments start crystallising," Olamilekan Adegbite told Reuters on the sidelines of the Mining Indaba in Cape Town.

But insufficient geo-spatial data, weak infrastructure and limited enforcement of regulations have held the industry back. The government's aim is unrealistic, said Alexandre Raymakers, senior Africa analyst at risk consultancy Verisk Maplecroft.

"Nigeria's national infrastructure network is currently ill-equipped to sustain major industrial mining operations that would be needed to raise mining's GDP contribution to that extent," he said. Most mining of gold, tin and zinc in Africa's largest economy is carried out on an artisanal basis.

Gold in the northwestern state of Zamfara is routinely smuggled to neighbouring Niger and Togo. The government banned mining in Zamfara last April due to banditry, but aims to lift the ban by end-March.

Foreign miners investing in the country include Australia's Symbol Mining, developing lead and zinc projects in the Benue Trough region, and Toronto-listed Thor Explorations which owns the Segilola gold project north of Lagos.

Drumming up enthusiasm for the country at the conference, Adegbite emphasised companies operating in Nigeria can wholly own their projects, unlike in other African countries where the state must hold a stake. He said he expects 50 active mines by the end of his tenure, in 2023.

Adegbite said the government would require mining companies to sign agreements with local communities, who remain unhappy with a perceived lack of development and benefits, before investing. "We've learnt our lessons from the oil industry and we're not repeating that mistake, so one of the major fundamental requirements before you can do anything in Nigeria is local community agreements," he said.



Nigerian mining minister, Olamilekan Adegbite.

Cosatu wants workers to have R104bn up to equity in Eskom

JOHANNESBURG

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions, the country's biggest labour federation and a key ally of the ruling party, said it wants the R104 billion of Eskom's debt held by the state pension fund manager to be converted into equity owned by workers.

The proposal, made in an opinion piece in Business Day newspaper by Cosatu's General Secretary Bheki Ntshalintshali, is part of a deal the labour federation is trying to reach with business and government to rescue Eskom. The utility can't supply sufficient power to the country and has R454 billion in debt. "This will result in workers becoming shareholders in the power utility," he said, without giving further details.

Eskom is seen as key to South Africa's economic performance and the country's ability to hold onto its last investment grade credit rating. Regular power cuts are hindering output in Africa's most industrialised economy.

Ntshalintshali also recommended that at least 10% of all pension funds, whether private or government owned, be invested in government bonds geared toward social investment and employment creation.

"Workers believe that their retirement funds can contribute toward economic growth, socially desirable investments and employment creation," he said. The raising of the possibility of so-called prescribed assets is likely to anger investors who are opposed to having their investments dictated by government.



TBL's director with ample knowledge of local beer market



James Bokella doing what he loves best as TBL's director for Northern Zone: checking beers. Photo: Guardian Photographer

By Smart Money Reporter

ONE of the most competitive markets in the country is that of beer and hard liquor in which Tanzania Breweries Limited dominates it in every aspect.

Among TBL's prowess to control the domestic market is its rich list of experienced manpower like its northern zone director, James Bokella who is popularly known as JBG by his peers.

The personal achievements that he has registered during the past 18 years of his service at TBL have not turned him into a self centred chest thumping individual. As the English adage goes: 'Good wine needs no bush,' JBG will not easily issue a blurb of himself. At first blush, you may not easily notice that he is the man who takes care of business interests of TBL Group for an area that is equivalent to half the size of Tanzania.

All he will tell you is that he is happy to be among senior employees of the leading beer brewer at a time when the government is advocating industrialization. "I have registered a lot of achievements but the most important one is that I am happy to be one of those Tanzanians who are contributing massively towards industrialization of my country in accordance with aspirations of the fifth

phase administration of President John Magufuli," JBG, who is TBL Group's business director for the Northern Zone of Tanzania, said.

His story reveals of the kind of a person who believes in working hard as being the secret behind self-advancement and this is what he tells youths. "To those who are in colleges, my advice to them is that they must study hard. They must be creative and above all, they should always be mindful of what brought them there," he added.

JBG is candid. He believes that in life, short cuts are always wrong routes to take. Youths, who have just been employed, must always refrain from the allure of making quick economic gains at the expense of their employers' interests. "They must always observe the rules and regulations governing their jobs. They must implement their responsibilities honestly. They must be people of high integrity. Apart from working hard, employed youths must also work patiently," he said.

Apparently, these are the qualities that enabled him to climb the corporate ladder and reach the peak as director in the giant beer brewer. During the past 18 years, JBG had worked with different people in and outside the country, specifically, in South Africa. That was during the days when TBL Group was a subsidiary of SABMiller.

During the period, he occupied different position including worked as sales manager for Dar es Salaam and for the Southern Zone which comprises of Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Rukwa. JBG also held the positions of TBL's national sales manager; sales and distribution manager for the Northern Zone (comprising of Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Manyara and Singida regions) as well as

sales and distribution manager for the Southern Zone (Dar es Salaam, Coast, Zanzibar, Mtwara, Lindi, Morogoro, Dodoma, Iringa, Ruvuma, Mbeya and Rukwa regions). Prior to his current position, he held the position of business director for the North Eastern Zone. In appreciation of his roles in the growth of the company's business, JBG has received several awards from his employer, including: Masters Certificate 2012 (SABMiller Africa), MS&D MD Gold Award 2014 (SABMiller Africa) and ABI Partners Award 2017 (ABINBev-Global).

Despite such recognition, he remains steadfast in pursuit of further achievements: "From the community point of view, my plan is to play a key role in training youths so they can be active players in Tanzania's industrialisation process," he noted while stressing that in his professional capacity, after attaining a Master of Science Degree in Economics from Aberdeen University (UK), the task ahead is how to translate that theoretical knowledge from the university into practice.

Off his busy official schedule, JBG always finds time to be with his wife Yasinta and their children: Kenneth, who is doing his studies at Zhejiang University in China and Nicholas, who is a student at Saint Laureate International School.

When he gets time to chill with colleagues and relatives during weekends, he will happily take his bottle of Castle Lite, Ndovu or Budweiser. Like almost every other Tanzanian, watching football and listening to music are JBG's favourite hobbies.

For fear of being left behind with happenings across the world, JBG will also find time to watch news on Sky News, CNN, TBC, BBC, ITV, Citizen, SBC News and Aljazeera.

MTN's 'controversy-free' time in Nigeria may be short-lived

LAGOS

MTN has reduced the risk of a material regulatory penalty in Nigeria, but the telco is not off the hook, as it still has to overcome more hurdles in that country, according to analysts.

They say MTN is not yet off the hook in Nigeria, given the tax case has been referred to other parts of government and the central bank is still holding back on granting a mobile banking licence. The telco recently received a fresh lifeline in Nigeria, following the decision by the attorney-general to withdraw a \$2 billion tax claim.

At the time, MTN stock surged 5.3% on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on the news that the 16-month-long battle between Africa's largest mobile telephony company and authorities in its biggest market had ended. The development was viewed as a turning point for MTN's fortunes in Nigeria, a country where it has had long-running battles with authorities.

In August 2018, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) demanded MTN repatriate \$8.1 billion (R17 billion) to Nigeria, which the bank said the company had sent abroad in breach of foreign exchange regulations.

In December of the same year, MTN agreed to make an almost \$53 million payment to resolve the dispute. At the time, it was agreed MTN would pay a notional reversal amount of \$52.6 million, without admission of liability.

This was for a 2008 private placement remittance worth around \$1 billion that the CBN found was based on certificates that did not have final approval. Almost three years ago, MTN agreed to pay more than \$1 billion to settle a dispute over SIM cards in Nigeria. This was after the telco failed to meet a deadline to disconnect 5.1 million unregistered SIM cards on its Nigerian network.

However, last week, MTN senior executives, led by chairman Mcebisi Jonas and group CEO Rob Shuter, met with Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari and announced R23 billion fresh capital investment in the West African country. On the same day, MTN applied to have the tax legal action struck off and the request was granted by the court.

Penalty pause

Now, analysts say this new "controversy-free environment" for MTN in the West African country may be short-lived. "We believe the risk of a material regulatory penalty on MTN has reduced significantly given these improved relations. However, we believe it is still early to conclude that MTN is now off the hook in Nigeria, given the tax case has been referred to other parts of government and the central bank is still holding back on granting mobile banking licences to MTN and Airtel," says Peter Takaendesa, head of equities at Merger Investment Managers.

"The business has seen a good recovery operationally, with revenue growth in low double-digits and improved profitability, but investors remain concerned about the uncertain regulatory environment in Nigeria, given developments over the past few years."

Petri Redelinghuys, founder of Her-

nya Capital Advisors, believes there's still a long way to go for the company to enter a "controversy-free" phase.

"Surely you're not talking about the same MTN that stands accused by the US Justice Department of making payments to the Taliban terrorist organisations for the protection of their cell tower infrastructure, because if it's the same MTN, then I don't see this controversy-free MTN of which you speak," he says.

MTN stands accused of violating US anti-terrorism laws. The complaint alleges MTN paid bribes to al-Qaida and the Taliban to avoid having to invest in expensive security for its transmission towers. The alleged payments helped finance a Taliban-led insurgency that led to the attacks in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2017, the accusations say.

The telco responded to the allegation, saying: "MTN is reviewing the details of the report and is consulting its advisers but remains of the view that it conducts its business in a responsible and compliant manner in all its territories and so intends to defend its position where necessary."

Sabelo Dlamini, senior research and consulting manager at International Data Corporation South Africa, says the most important thing now "that MTN has been able to resolve its challenges with the Nigerian government, is for the telco to wholly focus on its core business of connecting people."

"Every business, either local or foreign, needs government backing to succeed, and in MTN's case, continue to succeed and break new ground. This 'new phase of controversy-free environment' enables MTN to do just that."

Mobile money bet

The analysts, however, believe new opportunities now exist for MTN with the "balanced relations" in Nigeria established. According to Dlamini, MTN will be able to focus on offering the best customer experience to subscribers.

"Even as mature as the Nigerian telecoms market is, excellent quality of service leading to excellent customer experience is still a key differentiator. This is a unique area MTN can focus on to maintain its position as market leader."

"The telco recently launched mobile money services. It's a step in the right direction and the market is ready for such products; however, MTN needs to strategically position mobile money to meet the needs of the different demographics that exist in the market," he explains.

Takaendesa agrees: "Mobile data revenue remains a big opportunity that requires a significant investment for the operators in Nigeria. The most attractive opportunity in terms of profitability is mobile money, but unfortunately, the authorities are holding back on granting full services licences that are required to fully extract value out of this segment."

"MTN Group has already connected close to 30 million mobile money customers in 14 countries and Nigeria remains the biggest potential mobile money market in its portfolio." He believes MTN can do a bit more to prevent further controversies in other countries where it has a footprint.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Egypt's population juggernaut approaches 100 million mark

CAIRO

RAGAB Gamal's wife is due to deliver their third child this month. Throughout her pregnancy, she had seen an obstetrician only once.

"Too expensive," said Mr Gamal, a street sweeper who supplements his monthly 1,200-pound income by working as a guard at an unused apartment block in Cairo's middle-class Abdeen district. "The doctor's visit cost us 150 pounds. She will deliver our baby wherever God chooses for her to do so."

Mr Gamal, his wife and children Ziad, 6, and Gamal, 2, live in the building's basement, in a space without doors or windows. To fend off the bitter Cairo winter, they light a fire every night. He went to Cairo six years ago, as one of the millions of Egyptians who have migrated to big cities in search of jobs.

But in a country where an exceptionally high birth rate has for decades offset economic growth, his plans belie his social status and his conservative background in Minya, a province south of Cairo. Like most rural citizens in Egypt, many Minyans hold to the notion that married couples can have as many children as

possible in the belief that God will provide for them.

"No more," Mr Gamal said when asked if he planned to have more children. "Three is enough." He is one of eight siblings whose father supported the family by doing odd jobs. "Three are enough because my dream is to buy a home back in Minya and we are saving for that," Mr Gamal said. "We need to have our own home there."

"When we do, I will send Umm Ziad and the children there to live. They have suffered enough with me here in Cairo." Mr Gamal's reference to his wife as Umm Ziad, or "mother of Ziad", is in keeping with the practice in rural Egypt to not give the name of an adult woman to an unrelated male.

His determination to have no more than three children would probably endear him to Egypt's government and its President, Abdel Fattah El Sisi, who does not mince his words when talking about the most serious challenges facing his country. "Terrorism and population growth," said Mr El Sisi, who has been in office since 2014. "We have equated the people who try to kill us with the population growth as our main challenge."



In this May 31, 2017 photo, Egyptian father Youssef Shaman Gumaa, center right, and his wife Sarah Hassan Shehata, pose for a photograph with their 4-year-old quintuplets and their 7-year-old sister, top left, at their home during the holy month of Ramadan, in Madinet el-Salam on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt.

Egypt's population is expected to hit the 100 million mark this week - a digital population counter mounted outside the State Statistics Bureau showed 99,991,439 at 10 am on Monday. Egyptians add 2.5 million to their

numbers each year.

Compounding the harm of such a high birth rate, 97 per cent of Egyptians live on less than 8 per cent of the land, and six out of every nine is under the age of 29. Such growth adds

nearly 1 million people to the workforce each year, a number that requires GDP growth of about 8 per cent to create jobs for all. At the current rate, Egypt's population will increase by almost 70 million in 2050.

"If you think the idea is just to feed your children, then you are improperly abbreviating the relationship between you and them," Mr El Sisi said recently. "This is the big challenge that's facing the future of Egypt."

Successive governments have made curbing population growth a key objective, with varying degrees of effectiveness. The problem has appeared again in recent years to coincide with the introduction of long-delayed and far-reaching economic reforms that have hit the middle class and poor the hardest. Under Mr El Sisi, Egypt has embarked on an ambitious and costly drive to build new cities and upgrade infrastructure.

Fourteen cities are under construction, including a new capital in the desert east of Cairo where ministries, Parliament and the presidency will move by next year. The new capital, which has yet to be named, is meant to ease the pressure on Cairo, which has a population of about 20 million.

WORLD

Stay calm, rest assured, be confident and stay patient

AS OF 9 February, in mainland China, 40,171 confirmed cases had been reported, among which 3,281 were cured and discharged from hospital, 908 died, and 35,982 still under treatment.

There was 23,589 suspected cases suspected cases pending test results. Official statistics show that between 4 and 9 February, the number of newly reported confirmed cases outside Hubei province kept declining for six consecutive days.

By 9 February, no confirmed or suspected cases had been reported among Tanzanian citizens in China and no such cases reported in Tanzania either.

By 5 February, leaders of 61 countries, including Tanzanian President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, and heads of eight international organizations wrote letters to President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang and other members of the Chinese leadership to ex-

press solidarity and support.

They spoke openly in support of China and commended China's epidemic control efforts. WHO will soon send experts to China to support China's fight against the epidemic.

The Chinese government has done a great deal to ensure the safety and health of foreign nationals. Hubei province has set up a 24-hour hotline for foreign nationals and students there, and provided updates in multiple languages regarding the outbreak and ways to prevent infections on its government website.

Provinces and municipalities including Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangdong, Jiangsu, Xinjiang have stepped up efforts to share information and provide services to foreigners, whose needs in terms of daily life, self-protection and medical treatment are ensured. Foreign nationals are safe in China.



WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

According to the professional evaluation of WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the safest way for foreign nationals in Wuhan is to stay put and ensure effective self-protection.

He has cautioned against hasty movement as it will add more uncertainties. In fact, confirmed cases have been detected among some foreign evacuees, which increase the risk of further spread.

There are some rumors circulating on the social media in Tanzania related to NCP. As Dr. Tedros rightly put it, the virus is fearful in itself,

but what is more fearful are rumors and panic.

The Chinese government is sharing information related to NCP in an open and transparent manner.

Please DO NOT believe those rumors and keep informed by official and reliable sources, including the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, the Elderly and Children and the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, etc.

The virus is unprecedented, so are the measures we have taken. In the face of the epidemic, there are four key words: stay calm, rest assured, be confident and stay patient.

Chinese couple sets record with a two-minute, no-guest wedding amid coronavirus outbreak

QINGDAO

A CHINESE couple has set the record with a two-minute long wedding attended by only six people, all wearing masks the entire time.

Zhang Long and Chen Xiao from eastern China's Shandong Province held a special wedding last Thursday in the bridegroom's courtyard, with the bride's father as the host and her mother as the photographer.

Answering the government call for staying at home and avoiding crowds amid the novel coronavirus outbreak, many Chinese couples have chosen to postpone weddings, but Zhang and Chen agreed to press on with their schedule but scrapped all the festive trappings.

"We're in a critical time of epidemic prevention and control, so we decided not to invite guests or hold a banquet," said Zhang, the bridegroom. "After all, a wedding is just a ceremony, and the most important thing is our happiness."

On the day of the wedding, Zhang, wearing a mask, followed the custom to drive to the bride's house in Licha Town, the city of Qingdao.

There, in a romantic ritual, he lifted the bride's red veil to see a mask on her face. "Because of the mask, I didn't even know the color of the lipstick she was wearing," the bridegroom recalled.

Presided by the bride's father, the wedding lasted no longer than two minutes. "My father in law spoke very quickly. Bow to heaven and earth, bow to parents, bow to each other, and the wedding was over. We didn't even have the chance to say our wedding vows," Zhang said.

Before the novel coronavirus swept the nation, Zhang's plan was to have a typical Chinese wedding complete with all the pompous rituals. He booked a 50-table feast, 20 wedding cars and invited four pairs of groomsmen and bridesmaids.

"Everything was canceled. He only spent several hundred yuan to marry me, but it doesn't matter, as long as he is the right man for me," said Chen Xiao, the bride. On the way back to the groom's house, they passed three checkpoints where their body temperature was measured.

"The volunteers there congratulated us during the checks," Chen said. "Although no relatives or friends came in-person to congratulate us, I believe more people blessed us from their hearts."

Many villagers gave them thumbs up in the WeChat group chat after Zhang Long's father announced the no-guest wedding. "We are in a critical time of novel coronavirus prevention.

The villagers support their decision," said Liu Jingming, party chief of the Licha Town. This is not the first no-guest wedding held amid China's anti-coronavirus fight.

On Jan. 27, Sun Wenlong and Liu Miaomiao also had a no-guest masked wedding in Qingdao. "When the epidemic is over, I will definitely make it up to her," said Sun. **Xinhua**



Zhang Long lifts Chen Xiao's red veil at their wedding, Feb. 6, 2020. (Xinhua)

World's happiest people seek road to financial literacy

By Bloomberg

THE most cheerful people on Earth are about to get some help managing their finances.

In Finland, which topped the most recent United Nations World Happiness Report, the central bank is drawing up a financial-literacy strategy for citizens.

The idea, conceived in a country that already outperforms much of the rich world in education, is to figure out whether a bit more financial acumen will help Finns borrow less.

Finnish household debt has doubled in the past two decades against a backdrop of falling interest rates and the gradual obsolescence of cash as a form of payment.

The people of Finland, home to companies like Nokia and Rovio of Angry Birds fame, are known for being more tech savvy than most. But their willingness to embrace digital payments over cash has co-



Contestants Simo Lahtinen and Maria Christensen dance during the knock-out round at Lumitango (snow tango) 2020 Championship in Tampere, Finland on Friday. (AFP)

incided with less discipline in their spending habits.

Now, a record 7% of Finland's 5.5 million citizens can't pay their bills, up by a third over the past decade. In recent years, the authorities have raised the alarm on growth in

consumer credit in particular.

Juha Pantzar, executive director of the Guarantee Foundation, which helps over-indebted people regain control of their finances, says the fact that "cash has vanished" has created a new reality

that's "obscuring people's feel for money."

"A lot of people have a hard time estimating where their money is spent, how much they will have left at the end of the month, and how much they can afford to borrow," he said.

About twenty years ago, cash was used in 70% of payment transactions at stores, with cards accounting for the rest. Now, those metrics have flipped: card, mobile and other digital modes of payment were used in more than 80% of the time in 2018, according to data compiled by the central bank.

Olli Rehn, the governor of the Bank of Finland, says, "Consumers have largely already moved to a digital world" when it comes to payments. "People no longer have such physical budget limitations as they used to do, and that makes it harder for people to manage their finances."

That's where the central bank

hopes to make a difference. Its first step will be to compile data and best practices from organizations already working in the field in a bid to scale up their work and ensure all groups in society are getting adequate assistance.

Then, it will set national targets for financial literacy, and work with third-party providers to coordinate the roll-out of the national plan. (The central bank is still working on the details of the program.)

Finland has already explored other ways to cut household debt. The financial regulator has capped home loans at 85% of a property's purchase price, and plans for further restrictions are in the works at the Finance Ministry.

By 2023, the government wants to have a credit registry with records of everyone's borrowing to help lenders assess whether to grant a new loan. Rules on consumer credit were tightened last autumn.

Agencies

Trump's \$4.8 trillion budget likely to get thumbs-down from Congress

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's \$4.8 trillion budget proposal for fiscal year 2021 was likely to get a chilly reception from lawmakers yesterday over its proposals to slash spending on foreign aid and social safety net programs.

The White House plans to unveil the budget blueprint for the fiscal year starting on October 1 at 12:30 p.m. eastern time, but administration officials confirmed key figures from the document over the weekend.

Democrats are expected to object to the deep spending cuts on domestic programs, while some Republicans may raise concerns over debt and deficits.

The budget calls for a 21 percent cut in foreign aid to \$44.1 billion,

down from \$55.7 billion enacted in fiscal year 2020. It would make savings in outlays to safety net programs including \$130 billion in Medicare through drug pricing reforms, \$292 billion to food stamp and Medicaid programs by enacting new work requirements for beneficiaries, and \$70 billion through a clamp-down on eligibility for federal disability benefits.

An administration official said the White House was making the proposals for substantial cuts despite an assumption that Congress, which controls U.S. purse strings, would allocate more money on spending than Trump wants. With forecasts for strong economic growth, the budget predicts some \$3.7 trillion in government receipts in the 2021 fiscal year.

Last year Trump signed a two-



year budget deal with Congress that increased federal spending on defense and several other domestic programs, adding to growing government debt. That legislation authorized \$2.75 trillion in new defense and non-defense spending through Sept. 30, 2021.

Trump's budget is largely a political document.

It includes spending on Trump's priorities as he seeks re-election later this year, including \$2 billion to fund further construction on a border wall with Mexico, a project that is especially popular with his

political base, and funding for an infrastructure bill that is unlikely to be passed by Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

Military spending would rise 0.3% to \$740.5 billion.

The budget forecasts \$4.6 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years and assumes economic growth at an annual rate of roughly 3 percent for years to come, officials said. Trump has taken credit for the strength of the U.S. economy thanks in part to tax cuts he championed and Congress passed earlier in his term. The budget funds an extension of those cuts over a 10-year period with \$1.4 trillion.

The White House proposes to slash spending by \$4.4 trillion over 10 years and reduce the deficit by \$4.6 trillion in that time period.

Agencies

S. African president takes over rotating chair of AU

ADDIS ABABA

SOUTH African President Cyril Ramaphosa on Sunday took over the rotating African Union (AU) chair at the opening of the 33rd AU summit of heads of state and government at the AU headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

The 33rd AU summit is being held in the East African country under the theme of the year, "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development."

Ramaphosa has taken over the one-year term chairmanship from the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

In his acceptance speech, Ramaphosa said he would dedicate efforts to enhancing the progress on Africa's priorities for development and prosperity, with focus on deepening collaboration among member states. **Xinhua**



2019-nCoV outbreak mirrors morality of international community

THE battle against the 2019 novel coronavirus is a trial of strength between human beings and virus. The Chinese government and Chinese people are rushing to the front line, composing a song of praise for the value of life.

The battle is also a test for morality and sense of justice. The international society, with its righteous strength, is joining the battle with China to contain the epidemic, illustrating "a friend in need is a friend indeed" with concrete actions and playing a symphony of the community with a shared future for mankind.

However, certain western country, with exaggerated response, has crossed the bottom line of morality

and started the daydreaming of kicking China down in the tribulation to seek their own private profits.

World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday, February 3, at the 146th session of the WHO Executive Board meeting that protection is necessary, but there's no need to overreact.

WHO is not recommending measures that "unnecessarily interfere with travel and commerce", the WHO chief said, calling on all countries to implement decisions that are "evidence-based and consistent".

He explained from a professional perspective that what should be done and what shouldn't, telling people not

to panic.

Deputies from dozens of countries to the meeting hailed that China's prevention and control measures have set an example, saying they are willing to join the battle with the Chinese people.

There's no doubt that the spreading of panic is more horrible than the spreading of virus, and only confidence is the way out.

According to media reports, the A/H1N1 swine flu that started in the U.S. in 2009 caused over 1.63 million infection cases and led to 284,500 deaths, leaving a fatality rate of 17.4 percent. Thanks to the unremitting efforts made by China, the fatality rate of the novel coronavirus has been restricted at around 2.1 percent in the country,

much lower than usual. Starting from Feb. 1, the number of cured cases has outrun that of the death cases, which indicates that the epidemic is totally controllable.

However, just after WHO said there's no reason to unnecessarily interfere with international travel and said it doesn't recommend and actually opposes any restrictions for travel or other measures against China, the U.S. took the initiative to announce a highest-level warning on not to travel to China, banning U.S. citizens from going to China, as well as the entry into the U.S. by any foreign national who has traveled to China in the past 14 days.

The U.S. was the first to evacuate personnel from its consulate in Wuhan,

the first to suggest partial withdrawal of its embassy staff, and the first to impose a travel ban on Chinese travelers.

The U.S. practices are obviously in lack of science- and fact-based foundation, and even officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security believe that the epidemic has generally low risk for U.S. citizens.

Relevant U.S. experts said that the U.S. is turning from overconfidence to fear and overreaction, pointing out such decision is not backed by science, and they suggest early cancellation.

The epidemic is a public enemy of the world, in which sympathy and justice shall never be absent. However, when the international community is joining hands to combat the virus,

some U.S. politicians are busy making private political gains. What they have done has crossed the bottom line of human civilization.

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said publicly that the coronavirus outbreak in China will help accelerate the return of jobs to America, and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo brazenly made mischief between China and its neighboring countries in name of the novel coronavirus outbreak during his trip to Central Asia in recent days. What's more, U.S. Senator Tom Cotton has been repeatedly slandering China, clamoring for a ban on the country and suggesting all Americans escape from the country.

People's Daily

AU, Arab League reject Trump's controversial Mideast peace plan

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) and the Arab League (AL) on Sunday voiced their rejection of the newly unveiled U.S. peace plan that has sparked growing tensions between Palestine and Israel.

African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat said the U.S. plan was devised without consulting Palestinians and violates existing AU and UN resolutions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"The case of Palestine is the most flagrant example of the fragility of the international situation. The American-Israeli plan which is called the 'deal of the century' has been prepared out of any consultations and also in the absence of those who are mainly concerned," Mahamat said at the opening of the 33rd AU summit held in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

It violates the UN resolution and those of the AU and is trampling on

the rights of the Palestinian people, he said, adding that the peace plan is heightening the tensions in the region and beyond.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Jan. 28 unveiled his controversial Middle East peace plan for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which would limit the sovereignty of a future Palestinian state.

He outlined the 80-page plan at the White House along with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's "undivided capital," while claiming that the Palestine capital will include areas of East Jerusalem.

The plan, described by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as the "slap of the century," allows Israel to claim sovereignty over certain areas of the occupied West Bank, including Israeli settlements and the Jordan Valley.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit, the AL secretary general, said "the Arab League highly and constantly appreciates the



The chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, addresses the 33rd Ordinary session of the assembly of the African heads of States at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa on Sunday. (AFP)

principled position of the AU in support of the Palestinian cause and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to end the Israeli occupation of their territory and their independent state" "I am confident that Africa will maintain its established commitment in standing with the struggle of the Palestinian people in their rejection of this unjust deal, as was articulated by the Palestinian leadership, the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation and the European Union," said Aboul Gheit.

In response to the U.S. plan, the Palestinian National Authority earlier this month informed Israel and the United States it will "cut all relations" with them.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh who is attending the AU summit here also called on the international community to reject the peace plan.

Josep Borrell, the high representative of the European Union (EU) for

foreign affairs and security policy, said last week that the U.S. Middle East peace plan has departed from "internationally agreed parameters."

To build a just and lasting peace, the unresolved final status issues, including issues related to borders, the status of Jerusalem, security and the refugee question, must be decided through direct negotiations between both parties, Borrell said in a statement.

"In line with international law and relevant UN Security Council resolutions, the EU does not recognise Israel's sovereignty over the territories occupied since 1967. Steps towards annexation, if implemented, could not pass unchallenged," Borrell said.

Meanwhile, Palestine is seeking a position from the UN Security Council in the wake of Trump's announcement. The U.S. peace plan intends to make illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land a done deal and wants to make Palestinians live under apartheid, Ishtayeh said. **Xinhua**



Merkel protegee won't run for chancellor - source

BERLIN

ANNEGRET Kramp-Karrenbauer, Chancellor Angela Merkel's protegee and leader of their conservative Christian Democrats (CDU), will not run for chancellor in Germany's federal election next year, a source in her party said yesterday.

Kramp-Karrenbauer, 57, won a vote in December 2018 to succeed Merkel as CDU leader, but then struggled to stamp her authority on the party. Last week, a regional branch defied her by backing a local leader helped into office by the far right.

Last year, she told delegates at a party conference to back her vision for Germany, or else "let's end it here and now". The delegates duly backed her - but many remained unconvinced by her leadership.

Her inability to impose discipline on the party in the eastern state of Thuringia further damaged her credibility.

Kramp-Karrenbauer's erstwhile rivals for the party leadership - Friedrich Merz and Jens Spahn - have been circling with intent.

Businessman Merz has quit asset manager Blackrock (BLKN) to focus more on politics and Spahn, now health minister, has cut a dynamic figure during the coronavirus crisis, jetting to Paris and London to coordinate the European and G7 response.

Kramp-Karrenbauer told CDU leaders on Monday she would give up the party chair as well as her ambitions of running for chancellor, as she believed one person should do both, the source said. She would organise a process to fill both roles in the summer.

'No major incidents' at close of general elections in Cameroon despite threats by separatists

YAOUNDE

POLLING at Cameroon legislative and municipal elections ended at 6 p.m. local time (7:00 GMT) on Sunday, with authorities expressing satisfaction with the conduct of the polls, despite threats from armed separatists in the country's restive English-speaking regions.

The polls were marked by "calm, order and discipline," Essoussie Erik, director general of national electoral body

Elections Cameroon (Elecam), told a press conference in the capital Yaounde on Sunday evening.

"No major incident likely to disturb conduct of the polls was reported nationwide. There was sufficient electoral material in all polling stations, and all the local polling committees with conducting the twin elections performed their tasks," Erik said.

Voter turnout was "massive" in the English-speaking south-

west and northwest regions where armed separatists had vowed to interrupt the elections, Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration Paul Atanga Nji told reporters.

"At the close of the polls, it is clear that the boycott calls made by ill-intentioned political parties and terrorists did not have any impact on the population," he said, referring to separatists in the Anglophone regions as terrorists.

At least two armed separat-

ists were killed Sunday in the northwest region as they tried to disrupt the vote, security sources told Xinhua under condition of anonymity, adding that a security member was also killed in the northwest region by separatists in a different incident.

However, separatists claimed on social media that five soldiers were killed in coordinated attacks in the two crisis-hit regions. "Terrorists are reduced to social media propaganda

and manipulation to influence weak minds," the minister said.

Sunday's vote was also boycotted by opposition leader Maurice Kamto and his Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM), citing insecurity in the English-speaking regions and "biased" electoral code.

The CRM has a single representative in the current National Assembly, which has 180 seats, with 148 of them occupied by the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Move-

ment.

After casting his ballots at a polling station in Yaounde, Cameroonian President Paul Biya called on Cameroonians to vote, "contrary to calls for boycott by some small political parties," Biya told reporters.

Over 6,800,000 voters were registered for Sunday's polling, including more than 970,000 from the English-speaking regions, representing 14 percent of the total registered electoral population. **Xinhua**

Russian diplomacy in Africa and beyond

RUSSIA is one of the few countries celebrating Diplomats' Day as a professional holiday on February 10. In 2002, a Presidential Decree established this date to commemorate the founding of the Russian Diplomatic Service in 1549.

The date itself is closely associated with the history of Russia's first foreign affairs agency - the Ambassadorial Department (or "Posolsky Prikaz") in Russian. It is in February 1549 that the Department, set up by Czar Ivan IV, was first mentioned in official chronicles.

At the same time, the traditions of Russian diplomacy are much deeper seated in history. In 860, Ancient Russia received international diplomatic recognition by striking the "Treaty of Peace and Love" with Byzantine Empire. Exchange of envoys between Russia and Medieval Europe was also quite intense.

As Russia became a strong and consolidated state in the 16th century, the need for a body to implement foreign policy decisions became increasingly apparent. In 1549, diplomatic service was made into an office of the State, receiving a special status.

The Ambassadorial Department successfully managed Russian foreign policy throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, with the first permanent Russian dip-

lomatic missions abroad opening in the 1600s. In 1718-1720, it was gradually transformed into the Collegium of Foreign Affairs by Emperor Peter the Great.

This marked the emergence of the Russian Empire and the establishment of Russia as a great European power, while a constellation of talented diplomats serving within the Collegium laid down the basic principles and methods of Russian diplomacy.

Finally, in 1802, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was created by the manifesto of Emperor Alexander I.

By 1914, Russia had a wide network of diplomatic and consular representations all over the world. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in 1917 - 1946 the Peoples Commissariat for Foreign Affairs) upheld state interests at every turning point of Russian history.

Russian diplomacy made crucial contributions to the strengthening of the anti-Hitler coalition during World War II and creation of the United Nations Organization, bolstered the UN authority in governing international relations, and most importantly, fought for peace.

Today, Russian diplomacy deals with a whole array of issues in cooperation with states, regional and international organizations, playing a key role in

the UN, G20, BRICS, and seeking comprehensive solutions to problems on a global scale that range from disarmament to global warming to preservation of cultural heritage.

With new political and humanitarian initiatives, as well as investment and infrastructure projects, Russia has shown major interest in engaging with Africa on a deeper and more comprehensive level.

This engagement builds upon the rich history of relations between the then Soviet Union and Africa, and the former's input to national liberation movements and their struggle against colonialism on the continent.

In the words of Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, "today Africa is an important factor for Russia, a participant in the emerging sustainable polycentric global architecture."

Our ties with the states on the continent have a value of their own and do not depend on fluctuations of the international situation. We know that our African friends adhere to the same stance."

Despite enormous pressure from some Western countries, most African states adhere to their principled positions in terms of foreign policy approaches, which are in line with Russia's. Respect for international law and human rights, recog-

nition of UN's pivotal role in the international arena, rejection of interference in internal affairs are just some of the values espoused by Russia and Africa, including Tanzania.

Russia never sought to ruthlessly exploit Africa's riches, nor to impose its own rules on African politics. It has always founded its relationship with the nations of Africa on the principle of free will.

There is a lot of potential in cooperation between Russia and Tanzania based on partnership, equality, and mutual respect, as Moscow is more than ready, willing and able to offer investment, energy projects and other benefits to Dar es Salaam.

2019 was a refreshing year of improved relations between Russia and African countries, also Tanzania, given the successful first ever Russia-Africa summit, that was held in October previous year in Sochi.

2020 looks to be even more productive, as it called for the implementation of all the initiatives and cost-effective projects identified between the partner parties, acknowledging the priority that Moscow gives to developing its relations with Africa.

All these accomplishments are due to laudable diplomatic efforts on both sides, and Diplomats' Day is a good date to praise and celebrate them. **Agencies**

On the 2020 trail: Sanders blasts Buttigieg for taking billionaire bucks

NASHUA/PLYMOUTH, N.H.

DEMOCRATIC presidential contenders Pete Buttigieg and Bernie Sanders traded jabs over money and message on Sunday, two days before New Hampshire voters pick their choice to take on Republican President Donald Trump in November.

The rivals, who were essentially tied for the top two spots in last week's Iowa caucuses, offer stark alternatives for the top of the Democratic ticket. Sanders, 78, is a U.S. senator and impassioned progressive who has spent almost three decades in Congress, while Buttigieg, 38 (pictured), is a moderate military veteran who served two terms as mayor of South Bend, Indiana.

The Iowa Democratic Party on Sunday released updated results showing that Buttigieg won 14 delegates and Sanders 12. While the numbers are low in terms of the total a candidate would need to secure the nomination, a win provides critical early momentum.

Tuesday's New Hampshire primary, the second in a state-by-state nominating contest, also will test the staying power of U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren, who finished third in Iowa, and former Vice President Joe Biden, who placed fourth. They



joined the field of 11 Democratic candidates campaigning in packed school gymnasiums and hotel ballrooms six days after the Iowa caucuses drew lower-than-expected numbers of voters.

Here is what is happening on the campaign trail on Sunday:

'VULNERABLE'

Buttigieg told a crowd of 1,800 in Nashua that Democrats needed a unifying voice to take on Trump.

"The idea that we've either got to wait for a revolution or wait for the status quo leaves most of us out," Buttigieg said in a thinly veiled references to Sanders and Biden. "We need a politics that brings all of us in."

Buttigieg, who would be the nation's first openly gay president, deflected attacks from his more well-known rivals as they jostled to dampen the momentum of a candidate who has

surged in New Hampshire opinion polls over the past few days.

Sanders, speaking in Plymouth, criticized Buttigieg for taking money from "40 billionaires."

The senator from Vermont touted his own small-dollar fundraising, saying: "Because we bring forth an agenda that doesn't ask for approval from Wall Street, or the drug companies, our agenda is the agenda that represents working families."

Buttigieg, who likes to note that he is the least wealthy of the Democratic candidates, countered that he had never hesitated to stand up to industry.

"Bernie's pretty rich, and I would happily accept a contribution from him," Buttigieg said on CNN.

Brian Sterner, 59, who works in the chemical industry, said he was leaning toward Buttigieg but had concerns whether a small-city former mayor could beat Trump.

"I like his moderate political views and the fact that he's trying to bring people together," Sterner said while standing in line at Buttigieg's Nashua rally. "I am concerned about his lack of experience. I do think that makes him vulnerable."

Agencies

China deserves our gratitude and respect - WHO chief

DIRECTOR-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and senior officials of the World Health Organization (WHO) gave high appraisal over China's strong measure to contain the outbreak of the novel coronavirus when briefing the WHO head's visit to China at a press conference held on Jan. 29 in Geneva, Switzerland.

They believe what China is doing has manifested the country's courage and responsibility.

The Director-General said he was impressed by China's serious measures to combat the novel coronavirus, and these

measures benefit both China and the world.

He said he was shocked by the resolution of the Chinese leadership and Chinese people to combat the virus, and paid respect to the country's courage and responsibility.

Tedros said the WHO had a series of very candid discussions with China focusing on continued collaboration based on mutual understanding. He introduced that both sides will conduct further studies on the severity and transmissibility of the virus, and share data and biological material, adding that

China's practice to combat the virus is of vital significance for the world.

The WHO chief said the Chinese government has taken extraordinary steps to prevent the export of cases. "For that China deserves our gratitude and respect," he noted.

China identified the pathogen in record time and shared it immediately, which led to the rapid development of diagnostic tools, Tedros noted, saying the country is completely committed to transparency.

Citing the quick identification and isolation of a novel corona-

virus case in Germany, Tedros illustrated the importance of China's efforts to actively carry out international cooperation. This example is a good illustration of how China is engaging with WHO and other countries based on the principles of solidarity and cooperation to address a global health emergency, he said.

The head of the WHO said China showed high transparency in combating the epidemic. He introduced that prior to his visit to China, he was in almost daily contact with China's National Health Commission to discuss

the response to the outbreak and how WHO can support.

China is doing the right thing, said Michael Ryan, Executive Director of WHO Health Emergencies Programme. "They are taking extraordinary measures in the face of what is an extraordinary challenge. I have never seen the scale and commitment of an epidemic response at this level," Ryan said.

According to him, the Chinese scientists probably made the most rapid characterization of a novel pathogen in history and that was shared immediately. Multiple sequences were shared

immediately on global platforms and that is what has allowed a lot of the diagnostics to be developed, he added.

WHO infectious disease expert Maria van Kerkhove believes China's active surveillance system was crucial in spotting the first infector of the novel coronavirus, and China's spirit of cooperation and openness played a critical role in the WHO's issuing of testing and treatment guidelines. She said through international cooperation, the WHO is building a knowledge base of the virus, which is playing a very important part in the current battle

against the epidemic.

A news release of the WHO said the National Health Commission presented China's strong public health capacities and resources to respond and manage respiratory disease outbreaks.

Stopping the spread of this virus both in China and globally is WHO's highest priority, and the WHO appreciates the seriousness with which China is taking this outbreak, especially the commitment from top leadership, and the transparency they have demonstrated, the news release said.

People's Daily



Stanbic Bank FC's striker (L) dribbles the ball past Tanzania Sports Writers Association (TASWA) FC player during a friendly match held at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club's venue over the weekend. Stanbic Bank FC's players Ally Masoud and Amray Mlawa were the goal scorers in their squad's 3-2 win over TASWA FC. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Ubungu resident wins SportPesa Jackpot prize

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM resident Yassin Ridhiwani Ally has won the SportPesa Jackpot game, held last weekend, and walked away with cash prize totaling 437m/-.

Ally, aged 35, had placed right bet on 13 matches in the week which ended on Sunday.

SportPesa Tanzania Chairman of Board of Directors, Tarimba Abbas, pointed out that Ally won the cash prize thanks to his ability to place right bet on the games.

Tarimba noted: "I would like to announce Yassin Ridhiwani Ally winner of the last week's SportPesa Jackpot, his dream has been fulfilled."

"I want to appeal to sports lovers to keep on betting via our company, given SportPesa helps people become millionaires every week."

He noted: "Ally, according to tax laws, will pay tax amounting to 87,526, 264/- which will be directed to the government."

"I would like to remind you the company had in August got two winners who were presented with cash prize totaling 414m/- apiece."

"In the following month we got the first female winner who received over 260m/- in cash prize. We, for that matter, welcome Ally in the winners' family."

"I moreover, thank every sports stakeholder for backing SportPesa since the company opened its office in Tanzania in 2017. The Tanzanians' efforts have helped us put our weight behind sports promotion in the country."

He added: "I appeal to Tanzanians to keep on betting via SportPesa as per their wish. Once a person wins our games, he will be presented with cash prize on the spot."



SportPesa Tanzania's Chairman of Board of Directors, Tarimba Abbas, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam recently after the official had announced one of winners of the Jackpot game, which is organized by the company. PHOTO: SPORTPESA

Sobriety and resolve needed

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

SEEING as we are already into the month of February it would appear that 2020 is firmly up and running.

Taking that into account, commonsense and logic dictate that we as a country should rapidly begin to prepare for the various sporting championships which our sportsmen and sportswomen are slated to compete in hopefully with distinction.

And, judging by this year's calendar of sporting competitions the championship which is set to commence the soonest are the African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals in Cameroon.

Indeed, the CHAN finals, that is strictly reserved for home-based football players on the continent, will kick-off on April 4th, this year, which is of course just a mere two months away.

The 2020 CHAN finals are directly germane to our national football team, the Taifa Stars because the Stars earned qualification for this massive continental football event only last year.

Thus, bearing this fact in mind, it is hoped that a Taifa Stars squad composed exclusively of players based on the domestic front will earnestly begin rigorous training for the CHAN finals in Cameroon, which as we have already established earlier kicks-off on April 4, this year in that traditional bastion of supremacy in continental football, Cameroon.

Let us now proceed onwards to deliberate upon the ever-weighty and interlinked issues of academies and grassroots football development.

Around early November last year I penned an article on the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s intentions to set up football academies in the country, which I described at the time as being a move deserving



National U-20 women soccer team, Tanzania. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

of much praise. However, in the present-day, there is just one snag of immense significance regarding the TFF's lauded plans last year.

And, the snag just alluded to is that there has been conspicuously little progress achieved vis-a-viz the TFF's plans which domestic football's governing body revealed last year.

Indeed, since last year to date, it is mightily hard for me to name even just one academy which has been established by the TFF somewhere in the country.

I would hastily like to add that I am NOT saying that the TFF has no football academies of its own - at all. This would be an utter falsehood.

What I am saying though is that since it proclaimed its lofty ambitions

last year, the TFF has failed to set up academies as promised.

To this writer, what makes this sobering matter especially important at this juncture in our country's football history is the fact that with the ascendancy of women's football over the years the subject of girls' football academies has also now got to be factored into the equation.

Whereas many a year ago, all that football administrators had to be worried about was men's football, which naturally means men's youth football development by the same token, the successes of the Twiga Stars and most immediately the overall triumph of the national women's U-20 team fondly dubbed 'Tanzanite' at the

inaugural COSAFA U-20 Women's Football Championship just last year means patently obviously that the considerations of upper echelon TFF administrators need to change and rather speedily at that.

Indeed, one hopes that the need for urgency on this matter (that is, the subject of boys' and girls' football academies) can be sensed by all quarters who are genuinely concerned with the progress of football on our shores.

Unquestionably then, few would dispute the contention that the sooner the TFF sets up football academies for boys and girls in the country, the much better off our prospects for blazing the glory trail will be.

Making Oscar history, 'Parasite' wins best picture

LOS ANGELES

IN a milestone win that instantly expanded the Oscars' horizons, Bong Joon Ho's masterfully devious class satire "Parasite" became the first non-English language film to win best picture in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards.

"Parasite" took Hollywood's top prize on Sunday night, along with awards for best director, best international film and best screenplay. In a year dominated by period epics - "1917," "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood," "The Irishman" - the film academy instead went overseas, to South Korea, to reward a contemporary and unsettling portrait of social inequality in "Parasite."

True to its name, "Parasite" simply got under the skin of Oscar voters, attaching itself to the American awards season and, ultimately, to history. The win was a watershed moment for the Academy Awards, which has long been content to relegate international films to their own category. But in recent years, to diversify its membership, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has invited many more overseas voters.

Multiple standing ovations greeted Bong's several wins. "I am ready to drink tonight," Bong said, prompting roars from the crowd. Unexpectedly called up again for best director, Bong saluted his fellow nominees, particularly Martin Scorsese, and concluded: "Now I'm ready to drink until tomorrow."

After the Dolby Theatre had emptied out, the "Parasite" team still remained on the stage, soaking in their win. Backstage, Bong was still gobsmacked. "It's really f---ing crazy," he told reporters, clutching his awards.

The victory for "Parasite" - which had echoes of the surprise win by "Moonlight" over "La La Land" three years ago - came in a year when many criticized the lack of diversity in the nominees and the absence of female filmmakers. But the triumph for "Parasite," the Palme d'Or-winner at last year's Cannes Film Festival, enabled Hollywood to flip the script and signal progress, nevertheless. No Korean film had ever won an Oscar



Brad Pitt accepts the award for best performance by an actor in a supporting role for "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" at the Oscars on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

before.

In doing so, the film academy turned away another history-making event, again denying Netflix its first best-picture win despite two contenders in "The Irishman" and "Marriage Story," and a big-spending awards campaign blitz.

Mendes' audaciously conceived World War I film "1917," made to seem one continuous shot, had been the clear favorite heading into Oscars, having won nearly all the precursor awards, including top honors from the Producers Guild, the Directors Guild, the Golden Globes and the BAFTAs. In the end, "1917" went home with three awards for its technical virtuosity: Roger Deakins' cinematography, visual effects and sound mixing.

All of the acting winners - Brad Pitt, Renée Zellweger, Joaquin Phoenix and Laura Dern - went as expected. While Pitt, notching his first acting Oscar, had regaled audiences with one-liners in the run-up to Sunday, he began his comments on a political note.

"They told me I have 45 seconds to speak, which is 45 seconds more than the Senate gave John Bolton this week," Pitt said, alluding to the impeachment hearings before mentioning director Quentin Tarantino. "I'm thinking maybe Quentin does a movie about it."

Pitt said the honor had given him reason to reflect on his fairy-tale journey in the film industry, going back

to when he moved to Los Angeles from Missouri. "Once upon a time in Hollywood," said Pitt. "Ain't that the truth?"

Zellweger completed a comeback, winning her second Academy Award for her fragile but indomitable Judy Garland in "Judy." Dern won for her performance as a divorce attorney in Noah Baumbach's "Marriage Story." Accepting her first Oscar, Dern thanked her in-attendance parents, "my legends, Diane Ladd and Bruce Dern."

Phoenix, long one of Hollywood's most respected actors, took best actor for his limber but morose Joker. In his acceptance speech, Phoenix spoke deliberately about a host of issues, including sexism and racism in the film industry, ecological disaster and vegetarianism.

"I've been a scoundrel in my life. I've been selfish, I've been cruel at times and hard to work with. But so many of you in this room have given me a second chance," Phoenix said. When people guide each other toward redemption, he added, "that is the best of humanity."

He concluded quoting a lyric of his deceased brother, River Phoenix: "Run to the rescue with love and peace will follow."

For the 87th time, no women were nominated for best director this year, a subject that was woven into

the entire ceremony - and even into some attendees' clothing. Natalie Portman wore a cape lined with the names of female filmmakers who weren't nominated for their direction, including Lulu Wang ("The Farewell"), Greta Gerwig ("Little Women") and Mati Diop ("Atlantics").

Coming on a rare rainy day in Los Angeles, the ceremony was soggy and song-heavy. Some performances, like Eminem's performance of "Lose Yourself," were unexpected (and drew a wan response from Scorsese). All of the song nominees performed, including Elton John who won with his longtime songwriting partner Bernie Taupin for their "Rocketman" tune.

The hostless ceremony opened on a note of inclusion, with Janelle Monae performing "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" and her own song, "Come Alive," with an assist from Billy Porter. "I'm so proud to be standing here as a black queer artist telling stories," Monae said. "Happy Black History Month."

Two former Oscar hosts, Chris Rock and Steve Martin, provided the opening monologue. "An incredible demotion," Martin called it. Martin also reminded that something was missing from this year's directing nominees. "Vaginas!" Rock replied.

There were milestones beyond "Parasite." In winning best adapted screenplay for his Nazi satire "Joker," the New Zealand filmmaker Taika Waititi became the first indigenous director ever to win an Oscar. He dedicated the award to "all the indigenous kids in the world who want to do art, dance and write stories."

"We are the original storytellers," Waititi said.

"Joker" composer Hildur Guðnadóttir became only the third woman to ever win best original score. "To the girls, to the women, to the mothers, to the daughters who hear the music opening within, please speak up," said Guðnadóttir. "We need to hear your voices."

Awards were spread around to all of the best picture nominees, with the lone exception being Scorsese's 10-time nominee "The Irishman." When Bong mentioned his admiration of Scorsese, an impromptu tribute broke out, with the Dolby Theatre giving Scorsese a standing ovation. AP

Guardiola set for Man City summer squad refresh

MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

MANCHESTER City manager Pep Guardiola admitted his side could be set for an overhaul in the summer after falling 22 points behind Liverpool at the top of the Premier League.

Guardiola will definitely lose David Silva, who has already announced he will leave the club after a decade at the end of the season.

However, the Catalan coach does not believe he needs the same degree of change as after a difficult first season in Manchester when the arrival of six new players inspired a romp to the title with a record 100 points.

"This group of players has done something unique - they have won the last six of the last seven domestic trophies in England. I admire them and I suffer with them when they don't get what they deserve," said Guardiola.

"Of course we have to do something because David Silva is leaving and in some other positions we are going to do it, but I don't know how many or how much because the market is always difficult.

"There are still are two or three months to go and things can change a lot in that time."

City could still turn a hitherto disappointing campaign into a glorious one as they face Aston Villa in the League Cup final in three weeks' time, have progressed into the fifth round of the FA Cup and are preparing for a blockbuster Champions League last 16 clash with Real Ma-

drid.

"There are still incredible nice things still to fight for," added Guardiola.

"We are in the EFL Cup final in three weeks, we are still in the FA Cup, we want to try and finish second in the league and we have two big games against Real Madrid in the Champions League."

One of those who could be sacrificed by City to make room and resources for summer signings is John Stones.

The England international has been scarcely used by Guardiola this season despite a lack of cover at centre-back due to the departure of Vincent Kompany and injury to Aymeric Laporte.

Stones could easily miss out on a place in Gareth Southgate's squad for Euro 2020 due to his lack of match practice, but Guardiola insisted his priority has to be doing what is best for City.

"He has good points and some have to improve. It is simple, he is a still a young central defender," said Guardiola.

"I have to think about every game and make decisions about tomorrow and day after day, not for the future.

"Of course, John, like everyone, has a chance to play more games in the rest of the season, but I have to decide whether to choose them.

"They have to play here as best as possible then after that go to the national team."

AFP

PSG aided by own goal for the ages in win over Lyon

PARIS

PARIS Saint-Germain survived the absence of Neymar and a Lyon fightback to win Sunday night's Ligue 1 clash 4-2 at a stormy Parc des Princes, helped by Fernando Marcal's truly stunning second-half own goal.

Runaway leaders and defending champions PSG were cruising at half-time with Angel Di Maria and Kylian Mbappe giving them a two-goal advantage against a Lyon side enduring a disappointing season.

Then Marcal comically blasted the ball into the roof of his own net just after the break, leaving Lyon looking at another heavy defeat in Paris, where they lost 5-0 in this fixture last season.

However, Martin Terrier and Moussa Dembele quickly pulled goals back, and PSG needed a late strike by substitute Edinson Cavani to secure the points.

"Normally after a goal like that the game is over," said coach Thomas Tuchel of the own goal. "But we were not disciplined enough and it was a lesson for us that it's never over."

PSG's performance showcased why they can ill afford to be complacent heading into their Champions League last 16, first leg match away to Borussia Dortmund on February 18, even if sporting director Leonardo insisted to Canal Plus that the tie was "not life or death" for the Qatar-owned club.

They will hope to have Neymar back by then. The world's most expensive player sat out a second consecutive match here due to a rib complaint.

"We play a lot of games and errors happen but I don't know if it's the time to be too critical," Tuchel added.

"The team was great and we can't forget we were without lots of key players."

Without Neymar -- as well as his injured compatriots, Thiago Silva and Marquinhos, in defence -- Tuchel's side made it eight straight wins and stretched their unbeaten run to 21 games in all competitions.

Lyon, meanwhile, have not won in three and this result leaves the seven-time former champions in ninth place.

They are eight points adrift of the Champions League qualify-

ing spots and their upcoming European double-header against Juventus looks certain to be a step too far for them.

- Cavani nears double-century

How Rudi Garcia's side must have wished this match had been postponed due to the swirling wind and rain caused by Storm Ciara -- which left ticker-tape from pre-match fan displays strewn all over the pitch -- as they struggled to keep up with PSG in the first half.

PSG broke forward to open the scoring midway through the first half as Idrissa Gueye fed Di Maria to cut in from the right and beat Lyon goalkeeper Anthony Lopes with a low strike at his near post.

Thomas Meunier then squared for Mbappe to score his 15th league goal of the season in the 38th minute after fine work by Mauro Icardi, and both Icardi and Mbappe also had goals disallowed for offside before the interval.

Then, two minutes after the break, came what looked like the coup de grace.

An attempted cutback by Julian Draxler was going nowhere before Thiago Mendes intervened, allowing Draxler to keep the ball in play and return it to the edge of the six-yard box, where the hapless Marcal slammed it into the roof of his own net.

Nevertheless, Lyon hit back with Terrier's shot squirming under the body of Keylor Navas before Karl Toko Ekambi teed up Dembele to convert his 13th in the league this season just prior to the hour mark.

Mbappe had another effort ruled out and then hit the woodwork, and it was not until the introduction of Cavani -- the fans' favourite reduced to role of bit-part player -- that the home side made sure of the points.

Di Maria set up the Uruguayan to complete the scoring 10 minutes from time with what was his 199th goal for PSG.

They are 12 points clear of Marseille, who beat Toulouse 1-0 on Saturday with a Dimitri Payet goal. Elsewhere on Sunday, Montpellier beat struggling Saint-Etienne 1-0 and Strasbourg won 3-0 against Reims, with both sides staying in touch with the European places.

AFP

Barca, Real Madrid rebound with wins after Copa eliminations

MADRID

REAL Madrid and Barcelona rebounded from disappointing Copa del Rey eliminations with away victories in the Spanish league on Sunday to continue their closely fought title race.

Three days after losing in the cup quarterfinals, Madrid routed Osasuna 4-1 and Barcelona edged Real Betis 3-2. The results kept leader Madrid three points ahead of second-place Barcelona.

Barcelona's victory relieved some of the pressure still surrounding the club since coach Ernesto Valverde was replaced by Quique Setien at the beginning of the year.

"We could have done some things better, but I'm happy with our performance," Setien said. "The team has been improving. It was a very important victory away from home, where we had been struggling."

In its previous four matches on the road this year, Barcelona's only win was at third-division club Ibiza in the Copa del Rey.

Setien was in charge of Betis the last time it had beaten Barcelona in 2018. That was the team's only win in its last 18 league matches against Barcelona.

The Catalan club trailed twice on Sunday, rallying with three assists by Lionel Messi in a tense match in which both teams finished with 10 men. Betis' Nabil Fekir was shown a second yellow card in the 76th minute and Barcelona's Clement Lenglet was sent off in the 79th, also with a second yellow.

Lenglet had scored the winner just seven minutes earlier with a header off Messi's free kick.

Betis opened the scoring just six minutes into the match with a penalty kick converted by Sergio Canales after video review saw a handball by Lenglet inside the area. Barcelona equalized three minutes later with Frenkie de Jong scoring from close range after a well-placed pass by Messi.

Betis went ahead again with a low shot by Fekir in the 26th after a blunder by Barcelona midfielder Arturo Vidal, but the visitors evened the match with Sergio Busquet's close-range goal off a set piece taken by Messi three minutes into first-half stoppage time.

Barcelona lost 1-0 to Athletic Bilbao in the Copa quarterfinals.

Betis, which has won only one of its last seven league matches, dropped to 13th place.

MADRID'S ROUT

Real Madrid came from behind at Osasuna to also rebound from its Copa del Rey elimination against Real Sociedad on Thursday.

Osasuna took an early lead but Francisco "Isco" Alarcon and Sergio Ramos scored goals five minutes apart late in the first half and substitutes Lucas Vazquez and Luka Jovic added a pair of late goals in



Barcelona's Junior Firpo plays against Betis' goalkeeper Joel Robles, left, Betis' Marc Bartra, center and bottom, and Betis' Alex Moreno, right, during La Liga soccer match between Betis and Barcelona at the Benito Villamarin stadium in Seville, Spain, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020. (AP Photo)

the second.

That home defeat to Sociedad in the Copa ended Madrid's 21-game unbeaten streak in all competitions and halted its eight-match winning streak.

"We had to win after what happened in the Copa," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "It's only three points, but they are very important three points."

SEVILLA FALLS

Sevilla threw away its lead late in the game with a 2-1 loss at Celta Vigo, again missing a chance to enter the Champions League qualification spots.

Youssef En-Nesyri put Sevilla ahead in the 23rd, but the hosts came back with goals from Iago Aspas in the 78th and Pion Sisto in stoppage time.

The victory ended Celta's eight-game winless streak in the league. It moved the Vigo team out of the relegation zone and dropped Sevilla to fifth.

BASQUE DERBY

Young Sweden striker Alexander Isak added to his impressive scoring run by netting an 83rd-minute winner in Real Sociedad's 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao in the Basque Country derby.

It was the eighth goal in the last six games for the 20-year-old Isak, who had a brace in the team's stunning 4-3 away win against Real Madrid in the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey on Thursday.

Athletic Bilbao was playing after its surprise win over Barcelona.

Cristian "Portu" Portugues put the hosts ahead in the Spanish league game in the 65th, with Inaki Williams equalizing for Athletic six minutes later.

Athletic's Iker Muniain was sent off with a straight red card for a hard foul in the 89th.

It was the fourth Sociedad win in the last five Basque Country derbies.

Both teams had struggled in the league

recently, with Athletic entering the weekend winless in seven consecutive games and Sociedad having lost three of its last four matches.

The victory moved Sociedad to sixth place, while Athletic stayed ninth.

ESPANYOL'S HOME WIN

Espanyol beat Mallorca 1-0 for its first home win of the season.

Striker Raül de Tomás netted a 58th-minute winner to end the team's winless run at RCDE Stadium, where it had lost seven matches and drawn four.

De Tomás, Espanyol's most expensive transfer after joining from Benfica in January, has scored in each of his first five matches with the Barcelona club.

The victory was not enough to move Espanyol off the bottom of the standings.

It was the fourth consecutive loss in all competitions for Mallorca, which sits just inside the relegation zone.

AP

Inter win thrilling Milan derby to move top of Serie A

MILAN

INTER Milan moved top of Serie A on Sunday after storming back from two goals down to snatch a 4-2 win over AC Milan in a pulsating derby at the San Siro.

Inter pull level on 54 points with Juventus, who lost 2-1 at Hellas Verona on Saturday, but are ahead of the champions on goal difference thanks to a thrilling second half turnaround after Ante Rebic and Zlatan Ibrahimovic had put Milan 2-0 up at the break.

Lazio are just a point behind in third after Felipe Caicedo scored the only goal in a hard-fought win at Parma earlier on Sunday.

"It's a special night because in the first half we were in great difficulty like we hadn't been this season. There was the risk of taking a hammering," said Inter boss Antonio Conte.

"Credit to these lads because they were able to resist the blows which means that we are ready for something good.

"It's absolutely too early to talk about things that we can still dream of today."

Milan had dominated the first half with Inter struggling to deal with Ibrahimovic, who soared above Diego Godin before knocking down for Rebic to tap the opener past Daniele Padelli.

Stefan De Vrij blocked another cross to deny Rebic a second tap in but Franck Kessie flicked on for a waiting Ibrahimovic to turn in the second.

The comeback began five minutes after the break when Brozovic lashed home a stunning volley and two minutes later Mattias Vecino finished off an Alexis Sanchez pass to level the scores.

De Vrij put Inter deservedly ahead with a superb diving header with 20 minutes to go, and after Ibrahimovic hit the post for Milan Romelu Lukaku then headed home substitute Victor Moses' cross three minutes into injury time to maintain Inter's charge for a first Serie A title in a decade.

Milan's collapse means they missed the chance to move into the Europa League places and sit 10th.

"It's difficult to explain. The first half was almost perfect, the second half the opposite," said Ibrahimovic.

"We conceded the first goal and the squad lost faith, then conceded a second and everything fell apart.

"Inter in the first half didn't look like a team who were second but then demonstrated why they were after the break."

- Lazio in the mix - Caicedo kept Lazio's own dream of a first 'Scudetto' in 20 years alive as a 1-0 win over Parma



Barcelona's Junior Firpo plays against Betis' goalkeeper Joel Robles, left, Betis' Marc Bartra, center and bottom, and Betis' Alex Moreno, right, during La Liga soccer match between Betis and Barcelona at the Benito Villamarin stadium in Seville, Spain, Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020. (AP Photo)

moved the Romans second in Serie A.

Simone Inzaghi's side are right in the title discussion after extending their unbeaten run to 18 league games.

Their last Serie A defeat was in September to Inter Milan, who they host

next weekend at the Stadio Olimpico.

"We are trying to stay in there, fighting against the battleships. With this spirit, we can advance very well," said Inzaghi.

"Sunday will be a great game against a great team."

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Barca, Real Madrid rebound with wins after Copa eliminations

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam visual artist, Athuman Hamis, who won a competition known as 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020', speaks to people who attended the competition's presentation ceremony, which took place in the city last weekend. Tanzania Breweries Company Limited (TBL), organized the competition through the company's brand, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

Singida United fans urged to set up branches

By Guardian Correspondent

SINGIDA United fans have been urged to set up branches in their respective areas in an effort to motivate the squad to excel in the remaining games in this season's Vodacom Premier League.

Yusuf Mwandami, Singida United's chairman, issued the appeal at a meeting hosted by the outfit at Liti Stadium in Singida recently.

Singida-based soccer followers and the squad's fans turned up at the meeting.

The official pointed out the formation of the Mughanga branch, which is among Singida United supporters' branches, has helped the team come out victorious in the league match against Ruvo Shooting.

Singida United that have endured torrid spell this season edged Ruvo Shooting 1-0 in the clash, which was played at Liti Stadium early last month.

Mwandami was adamant the formation of at least five more branches will motivate Singida United players to give their all and help the squad win matches.

He noted; "We can set up branches at such areas like Misuna bus stand and Gineri, they will prove crucial to the squad's success in matches."

"We don't want cash from you, we want to see you encourage players to give their all."

Singida United president, Mwigulu Nchemba, disclosed financial constraints have chiefly contributed to the outfit's torrid spell in the Vodacom Premier League.

The club took part in three home matches outside Singida in line with the directives by Tanzania Premier League Board that the team should not use the Liti Stadium because the venue was in poor state.

Taking part in the home matches outside Singida, Nchemba disclosed, also affected Singida United a lot.

Singida United went on to post 2-2 draw with Mwadui FC in a Premier League clash, which took place at Liti Stadium last weekend.

Venance Joseph and Rafael Alaba netted Mwadui FC goals on 24th and 41st minutes whereas fullback Muharram Issa notched a brace for Singida United on 61st and 90th minutes.



Athletes compete in a past Kilimanjaro Marathon in Moshi.

Kilimanjaro Marathon 2020 registration nears completion

By Guardian Reporter

WITH less than a month left for this year's edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon to take place, participants, who have not registered for the race, now have barely a week to register.

A statement issued by the organizers indicated that registration is likely to be closed on either February 16 or immediately when capacity is reached.

Registration, the organizers disclosed, has been going on from October last year through either the race's website HYPERLINK "http://www.kilimanjaramarathon.com/" \t "https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm&ogbl" \l "inbox/_blank" www.kilimanjaramarathon.com or TigoPesa by dialing "149*20#".

In the statement, the local Race Director, John Bayo, advised that numbers will be limited again across all three races, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager 42km, Tigo 21km and Grand Malt 5km Fun Run to ensure the event sticks within the official IAAF regulations of a safe carrying capacity.

This, according to Bayo, will ensure runners enjoy their time out on route without being overcrowded. The approach will also help

Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon organizers ensure they get all logistics in terms of the hydration and medical support needed on route and at the finish in line with the numbers expected.

"Entries will close at midnight on either February 16 or earlier, if capacity is reached," he said. He was moreover adamant there will be no registration after the exercise has been closed. The organizers also reminded runners to ensure they fetch their race numbers in advance of the event, at one of the collection points that will again be hosted in Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro.

The registration will, in Dar es Salaam, be held at Mlimani City from February 22-23, the exercise will later take place at Kibo Palace Hotel in Arusha from February 25-26.

Kilimanjaro will host the registration at Keys Hotel in Moshi from February 27-28.

"Proof of identity and confirmation of paid entries need to be brought to these points when collecting your race numbers," read the statement in part.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, called on participants to utilize the remaining time to register to avoid disappointment as the numbers are likely to

run out as it was the case in the previous years.

"The response is overwhelming and there are all indications that the event will be big as she called on Tanzanians to continue training hard in order to win most of the prizes," she disclosed. Tigo Corporate Communications Manager, Woinde Shisael, said Tigo Pesa has made the registration exercise easy as most Tanzanians have already registered via the mobile financial service.

She disclosed; "We are glad that the Tigo 21km race has become bigger and bigger since we took over sponsorship."

Official sponsors for next year's event include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, TIGO, Grand Malt, Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Simba Cement and Unilever Barclays Bank.

The event's official suppliers are Kibo Palace Hotel, Keys Hotel, GardaWorld Security, Precision Air, CMC Automobiles.

The race will be held at the Moshi Cooperatives University venue on March 1 and will play host to a IAAF route measured 42km, 21km and a 5km Fun Run.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is organized by Wild Frontiers and locally coordinated by Executive Solutions Limited.

Kili Canvas launched in Dar

Correspondent Joseph Mchekadono

TANZANIA Breweries Company Limited (TBL), through the company's brand, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, yesterday launched the Kili Canvas which will be used to sensitize runners from different suburbs in Dar es Salaam and Moshi to compete in this year's Kili Marathon scheduled for March 1 in Kilimanjaro.

The TBL through Kilimanjaro Premium Lager brand recently organized a drawing competition titled 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020', which took place Dar es Salaam.

The competition's participants were supposed to draw an image that portrays some features found on the Kilimanjaro beer, with the image being associated with the Kili Marathon.

Dar es Salaam-based visual artist, Athumani Hamis, emerged as the winner of the competition and was presented with cash prize totaling 2m/-.

He, in addition to getting the cash prize, was required to draw the Kili Canvas for a large scene.

The other winners, placed second to fifth, were also awarded cash prize of 200,000/- each.

They are Donath Kabonda (Gongo la Mboto), Moses Martin (Mwenge Vin-yago), August Tairo (Kijitonyama) and George Nyandiche from Morogoro Store Oysterbay.

Speaking during the competition's launch at the Coral Beach Hotel in Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Brand Manager, Pamela Kikuli, said that the Kili Canvas will be located in different areas in Dar es Salaam and Moshi to encourage different runners to feature in the Kili Marathon.

She pointed out that there would be a special chip that runners would need to have when they run and, when they pass the canvas, they will be photographed and the pictures would be sent directly to their phones.

According to Kikuli, the chip would be available at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam from February 8-9, it will also be available at Shoppers Mikocheni and Mbezi in the city from February 13-15.

The equipment will be available in Moshi from February 15-16.

"This chip is available starting today in Dar es Salaam at Mlimani City. Anyone who loves running can get it from us during this time that we are excited about heading to the top of the Kili Marathon," the official insisted.

According to Kikuli, the Kili Canvas will be located at Masaki, Goba, and Temeke in Dar es Salaam and will be moved to Moshi.

Kikuli moreover congratulated all artists who took part in the 'Jiachie na Kili Canvas 2020' competition for the first time this year, praising the excellence of their work.

She added; "All of the participants did well except at the end of the day we were supposed to get one winner due to the competition rules."

"I would like to advise our winner that, the little cash we have rewarded him should be used to develop his art along with the other artists around him."

Hamis said; "We have every reason to praise TBL, through their brand, Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, for their big support to visual artists."

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurosa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Dar junior soccer players set for Afrisoccer Cup

By Guardian Reporter

IN an effort to promote soccer in Tanzania, Dar es Salaam-based company, Afrisoccer, has organized a special competition, which has been scheduled to kick off on February 29 in the city.

The tournament's coordinator, Peter Simon, pointed out preparation for the competition, dubbed Afrisoccer Cup, have been completed. The tournaments, he added, aims at giving

domestic junior soccer players platform to showcase their prowess and gain experience. Simon disclosed 10 schools have already confirmed to battle it out in the two-day competition.

The official pointed out participating teams will be put in three age categories, U-18, U-15 and U-13.

"He disclosed; 'We expect the competition will turn into breeding ground for talented soc-

cer players that will in future play for the senior national team 'Taifa Stars.'"

"We believe it will be a place, which will put the talented youngsters to show."

He mentioned teams which have confirmed to feature in the tournament as Laureate Makonde, Mbezi Beach, Academic, Laureate International School, FK, Shamsiye Boys, Atlas, White Lake, Foundation and hosts Afrisoccer Academy.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



DON'T MAKE YOUR FRIEND BORED! DISTURB THEM ALL THE TIME.