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COVID-19 ruins Tanzanian student's New Year plans

People with albinism cling to hope as next elections near

By Aisia Rweyemamu

PEOPLE living with Albinism (PWA) in the country say there have been impressive improvements in their welfare in the last decade, expressing hope that things remain the same this election year.

This is informed by the past situation whereby there have been incidents of attacks including killings or chopping of body parts of PWA during election years, associated with superstitious beliefs.

Speaking to this paper in Dar es Salaam yesterday, a lawyer for PWA advocacy organization Under The Same Sun (UTSS) for Tanzania, Maduhu William said sensitization efforts that have been going on for 11 years,

“There has been a tendency by some electoral stakeholders to stigmatize and make abusive remarks on people with albinism

seeing a decline of cases of attacks against PWA. “Civic elections late last year took place without any incident of attack. We hope that the general elections slated for October this year will also pass without attacks,” he said.

He called on various election stakeholders in the country, including political parties, to provide equal opportunities to PWA when they contest various positions during election.

UTSS asked the National Electoral Commission (NEC) to put in place guidelines that would provide equal treatment for all candidates to avoid humiliation for people with albinism.

“There has been a tendency by some electoral stakeholders to stigmatize and make abusive remarks on people with albinism, a factor that is demoralizing,” William explained.

He said there was tremendous success in education for the PWA, with the number of who joined higher level education having increased than ever before.

The lawyer said, for the past 11 years a total of 420 students have been benefited with education support from UTSS at various levels of education, and some of them are now graduates.

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Oysterbay Parish Padre Dr. Alister Makubi places ashes on the forehead of President Dr John Magufuli during the Ash Wednesday homily at St Peter's church in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Ash Wednesday is observed by most Christians to start the Lent period towards Passover. Left is First Lady Janeth Magufuli. Photo: State House.

VP: Take up 'Agenda 50-50' for next polls

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan has urged women to ensure they insert 'Agenda 50-50' in election manifestos of the various political parties for this year's general elections.

She gave the statement here yesterday when launching the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Tanzania, coordinated by UN Women.

She said women should insert the agenda in party election manifestos for election campaigns.

“Let me tell you a secret - as of now political parties are in the process of

Research shows that having more women in political leadership has been contributed by improvements in policy, laws and the budget

formulating their election manifestos so it is better for women to stand firm to ensure they insert the 50-50 agenda,” the VP declared.

She appealed to women to step up in big numbers to seek leadership posts in various fields - including politics, business, social services and civil societies. Many countries have not attained gender equality in many fields including top leadership of public organizations, she told participants.

“This situation also touches Tanzania even though to a large extent we are doing better compared to many other countries in the African continent - we have 126 women MPs out of 393 or 36.7 percent, while in the Zanzibar House of Representatives it is 38 per cent, higher than the 30 percent average

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Our mentors have been acting like parents - making phone calls and sending us messages to check on us, providing reassurance and reminding us to adhere to preventive measures

By Emmanuel Sumari in Beijing

BEFORE news of coronavirus epidemic in China spread in January this year, I and other international students were having a great time alongside Chinese students.

But after the authorities began taking measures to control the spread of the disease, things took an upside-down turn, ruining all plans we had to make the most of the country.

This is how it happened: in October 2019, I went to China to pursue a Master's Degree at Xiangya Nursing School of Central South University under scholarship from the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of

We all pray and hope that China will defeat the current epidemic at the soonest and stay strong always

China.

Later after the semester was over a few classmates went back home to meet their families. I was among 40 international students who remained at the university planning to explore different parts of China including Beijing, and other commercial cities like Guangzhou that we were seeing on the map and hearing about in stories.

We really wished to celebrate the Spring

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TAWA readies game meat hunting blocks auctions

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

AUCTION of hunting blocks for game meat has been set for early next month following the recent release of regulations to guide the business.

The Deputy Commissioner for Tourism and Business Services for the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Imani Nkuwi told reporters here yesterday that prospective hunters will be able to bid for up to six blocks.

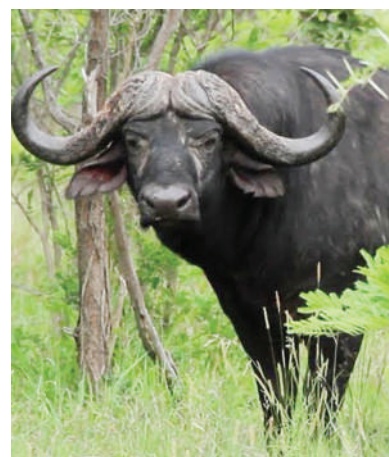
The bidders will pay a single bid

fee of USD 5,000 for each of the three categories of the block on auction, he said.

“The first auction will take place on 5 March and we hope many Tanzanians will grab this opportunity and get into this business legally,” he affirmed.

Presently, experts from the health sector and authoritative institutions such as the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) will be advising the ministry on how best the business will be conducted.

The focus is to ensure consumer



safety, he said, noting that everything will be done to ensure that the business is conducted in a safe environment by putting in place hygienic conditions.

“A committee of experts in health and wildlife will advise the minister as required by regulations to ensure that consumer safety is taken into account,” he further noted.

Under new regulations published recently, it is illegal to sell game meat without a valid licence issued by the TAWA conservation commis-

sioner.

Contravening this requirement carries a fine of up to 5m/- or a five-year jail sentence or both.

The provisions, contained in the Wildlife Conservation (Game Meat Selling) Regulations of 2020 put the minimum penalty for offenders at 2m/-, while the minimum jail term is one year.

The regulations were published early February as Government Notice Number 84, stating that at least 51 percent of shares in companies dealing in game meat should be owned by Tanzanian citizens.



VP: Take up 'Agenda 50-50' for next polls

FROM PAGE 1

set by SADC countries. In the Judiciary the percentage of women judges in the High Court is 30 while in the Court of Appeal it is 38. In the cabinet of ministers, women make up 18 percent while for women deputy ministers it is 33 percent.

"For the first time the post of Union Vice President is held by a woman. From the given statistics, you will see that we have not been able to attain gender equality to a large measure," she stated.

The population census shows that the women population is bigger than men, therefore if women cooperate well and trust each other, they can uplift the gender ratio, she emphasized.

Research shows that having more women in political leadership has been contributed by improvements in policy, laws and the budget, she said.

"It has also been found that having more women in managing corporations in the private sector has assisted in business growth owing to a combination of special expertise, trustworthiness and diligence," the VP intoned.

She called upon the network to enable young women to learn to work hard to bring positive

changes in their areas of responsibility, urging men to be tolerant to women.

"We are women. Our lives are surrounded by many issues - children, husband, mother and leader. The truth is we cannot do all those on our own - we cannot do justice and be accountable to everyone depending on us. As the victims are men, be tolerant and kind," she told the gathering.

Dr John Jingu, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health said the government has implemented various programmes to enable women.

Conveying greetings from the embassy of Germany, the head of Zonal Cooperation Norzin Grigoleit-Dagyab said Tanzania has made great strides in gender equality. Establishing the network will bring positive achievements, she stated.

Norwegian Ambassador Elizabeth Jacobsen said on her part that she believes the network will be a voice for women, adding an aspect of Norwegian assistance to Tanzania on women issues.

Swedish Ambassador Anders Sjoberg said the issue of gender equality is a war that needs cooperation to tackle and remove obstacles to arrive at gender equality.



Tourists from various countries and tour guides celebrate after reaching the summit (Uhuru Peak) of Mount Kilimanjaro recently. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

People with albinism cling to hope as elections near

FROM PAGE 1

He said previously the stigma on PWA was so high as public awareness was low, but now the situation has changed. The stigma has decreased dramatically and public awareness is high, he stated.

"Cases of child abandonment have decreased compared to previous years

when the centers were flooded, but now the situation is calm and many children have returned to their parents," he stated.

He said there has been great success in employment as many people with albinism have been identified and given good positions in different institutions. "We applaud appointments

of our colleagues to top government positions, including as envoy to foreign capitals and as permanent secretary for the ministry," he said, expressing gratitude to the fifth phase government for "recognizing the potential of PWA and protecting our rights."

UTSS has also thanked President John Magufuli

for expressing his touching concern for people with albinism and refusing to grant pardon to those convicted of murdering PWA.

The organization has also expressed their concern over the delay of cases, saying that there is a pending case since 2008 to the present without judgment being delivered.

Despite the successes there are still minor challenges including the excavation of graves and take out body parts, he pointed out.

However, in 2015 four people were sentenced to death after being found guilty of murdering an albino woman, and in 2016 16 people were sentenced to death on conviction of killing albinos.

In 2017, the High Court sentenced six men to 20 years in jail each for chopping off the hand of an albino boy in the hope of selling it as a witchcraft charm.

Then in 2018 the court sentenced four people to life imprisonment after they were convicted of chopping off the arm of a person with albinism.



Commissioner for Human Rights and Good Governance chairman Judge (rtd) Mathew Mwaumu (L) presents THBUB work plan for five years to Women Wake Up (Wowap) representative who is also Special Seat MP Fatma Toufiq after a brief meeting held at Wowap offices in Dodoma yesterday. Photo: Mbaraka Kambona

Dodoma city council searches for investors to boost grapes farming

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

DODOMA city council is searching for potential investors to chip in and invest in diverse larger grapes projects.

The targeted projects will include production of grapes, support services to producers, value addition in both, primary and secondary processing as well as marketing.

According to Dodoma Investment Guide Document made avail-

able to the reporter, an investor is invited on grapes plantation and establishment of grape juice extraction plant at Gawaye village, in Chamwino district.

"The total size of the farm area is 367.5 hectares where 49 hectares of land are already under grapes cultivation.

Ground water is available to provide a year round irrigation. The farm area is about 43 Kilometres from Dodoma City Centre," the document reads in part.

The farm is owned by GAWAYE

AMCOS which consists of 100 members from Chinanga, Hombolo, Gawaye, Zanka and Veyula Villages.

However, according to the document in question which was blessed by Dodoma regional commissioner, Dr Binilith Mahenge, another project that need an investor is grapes production project including irrigation farming where 343 hectares of land is set aside at Chinangali II and Nagawai Jiji.

"An investor is needed to support services to producers as well as en-

suring reliable markets."

"Land allocated for this industry is 3 hectares; and output volume is 7,000 tonnes per year," the key document detailed.

Moreover, in Bahi district council, an investor is needed to develop grapes processing industry at LUBALA Grape Farm project.

LUBALA Grape Farm is located at Lamaiti Village in Lamaiti ward. The total size of the farm area is 83.3 hectares with a possibility of expansion. The farm area is about 25 Kilometres.

COVID-19 ruins Tanzanian student's New Year plans

FROM PAGE 1

Festival and experience the rich culture of China. We could only imagine the great moments that lied ahead of us, making dumplings, posting spring couplets, having New Year's Eve dinner, and so on we were very excited.

But great enemy of the nation called Coronavirus emerged and turned all the winter vacation plans and dreams to nothing. The start of the epidemic brought us a huge disappointment accompanied by a lot of anxieties and fears. We realized that this situation was getting serious when we saw news showing that the number of people being affected was increasing each day. The government was taking serious measures including building two special hospitals for this epidemic, restricting movement of people especially in the source place of the country. It was restricting public transport in different zones to make sure that the epidemic does not affect larger numbers of people. For us, things changed when we were asked to go out with a mask on and only when we had serious needs could we go outside.

To be honest this period has been frustrating and exhausting socially, emotionally and academically which was difficult to cope with. However, this has also given us experience on how China is able to deal with these difficult situations. It seems a very expensive and resource consuming process -

restricting movement, conducting quarantine, hospital construction, stopping business and taking care of its people in all important aspects. Not every nation could manage to do this. The government seems so organized and focused on preventing further spread of the infection inside China and around the world. This has been one of the biggest reasons that made us believe China will conquer this epidemic, which reduced our anxieties to some degree. Furthermore, we have learnt that people in China are very cooperative with the government in containing the epidemic. Most of them followed the government's instructions by staying at home and not visiting relatives and friends during the Spring Festival holiday.

Being students of medical science, we have learnt so much seeing news on how healthcare workers have been devoting themselves to saving people who are suffering from the coronavirus disease. This is putting their lives at risk for others to live. They work tirelessly day and night away from their beloved ones, which is more than solidarity and loyalty. Nevertheless, with all the challenges being faced, we are still surviving and we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to the Chinese government and Central South University, especially the School of International Education and the School of Nursing.

The university has kept

us updated with new developments about the epidemic and the school curriculum calendar, which gave us more confidence. We have been receiving a lot of reminders about preventive measures against the spread of the virus and what we should do to protect ourselves. We shared this information with our families so that they know how to protect themselves too.

The university has been providing three meals every day for us and these meals have been adequate and always on time. The university has also been supplying masks for all international students on campus and checking our body temperatures at least twice a day to ensure early detection of any symptoms related to the coronavirus infection.

Our mentors have been acting like parents - making phone calls and sending us messages to check on us, providing reassurance and reminding us to adhere to preventive measures. Our personal needs have also been met through our group coordinators who have gone an extra mile in sourcing for our groceries and other necessities upon request during the time we stayed in dormitories. She and her assistant even created a platform on which international students get to know each student and report on their health status, etc.

This may seem little but trust me, it has made us more able to cope with the epidemic and develop a positive feeling of being valued and loved.



A Good Samaritan offers a helping hand to a motorcycle rider who slipped down from his bike while transporting bags of charcoal at Chanika in the outskirts of Dar es Salaam region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

Muhimbili embarks on programme to train referral hospitals' surgeons on latest breast cancer procedure

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH) has embarked on a programme to train surgeons from referral hospitals across the country on a new operation procedure that eliminates the deadly breast cancer cells without removing the infected organ as it was case in the past.

MNH started offering the advanced treatment services last year which experts say is a milestone because the previous procedure that required the removal of the infected breast caused trauma to patients due to consequent changes in the looks that came with the removal of the organ that is crucial part of a woman's beauty.

Speaking when he addressed journalists yesterday, Dr Caspar Haule a general surgeon at MNH said since the services were established at the hospital 152 patients had received the treatment and the plan was to extend it to regional hospitals.

"The good thing is that awareness is increasing and we have seen a number of people who are going for early checkup increasing overtime, we believe if the services can be offered by various other hospitals, it will help reduce the challenges," he said.

According to Dr Haule here in Tanzania the surgeries are conducted by general surgeons while in developed countries it is conducted by special experts who have received training on the matter.

The technology known as breast conserving surgery was being launched as an alternative to mastectomy surgery following the recent procurement of state-of-the-art cancer care and treatment machines at the Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI).

Breast cancer incidence rates are higher in high-income countries than in low- and middle-income countries but deaths are higher in low and middle income countries, due to limited capacity to implement prevention, early detection and treatment programmes saying in Tanzania, breast cancer represents 14.4 per cent of new cancers among women.

It is the second most common cancer and second leading cause of cancer mortality among women in Tanzania but also the most common cause of cancer deaths among women worldwide, representing 25-35 per cent of all female cancer cases.

The lifetime risk for developing breast cancer in Tanzania is approximately 1 in 20, and approximately half of all women diagnosed with breast cancer die of the disease because approximately 80 per cent of women diagnosed with breast cancer in Tanzania are diagnosed at advanced stages (III or IV), when treatment is less effective hence poor outcomes.

Successful breast cancer control demands integrating early detection programmes with accurate diagnosis and timely, accessible and effective treatments in multidisciplinary approach.

'Neglected Tropical Diseases affect 30 million Tanzanians'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame,

Arusha

HALF of the country's population suffer from Neglected Tropical Diseases, a figure accounting for nearly 30 million Tanzanians suffering from Neglected Tropical Diseases, according to health experts.

Health experts are meeting in Dar es Salaam today to set agenda regarding the future strategies in combating the NTDs.

In collaboration with the World Health Organisation, the United to combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), the experts are hosting the event in Dar es Salaam today to discuss neglected tropical diseases such as

trachoma, leprosy and bilharzia.

According to Dr Okito Vanessa Wedi the senior policy and advocacy consultant for the United to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases, the meeting is also specifically going to set agenda for the World Health Organization's road map for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030.

Neglected Tropical Diseases in

Tanzania include onchocerciasis, lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis), soil-transmitted helminths, schistosomiasis, trachoma and leprosy. In 2018, according to WHO, more than 37 million people in Tanzania were treated for elephantiasis, accounting for 77 per cent in the country.

The event is a global campaign to raise awareness on NTDs; and

introduce Youth Combatting NTDs, the first-ever global NTD youth movement.

Dynamic speakers at the gathering include the director of the department of control of NTDs from World Health Organization in Geneva, Dr Mwelecele Ntuli Malecela; the Director of United to Combat NTDs, Thoko Elphick-Pooley; Founder of the Future

Africa Forum, Gerald Chirinda; youth representatives and NTD experts from Tanzania.

A press statement from the organizers indicates that Dr Malecela is expected to discuss the new WHO road map for Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030, which will set the global NTD agenda for the next decade.

"As one of the top 10 highest

burden countries for Neglected Tropical Diseases, Tanzania has a significant role to play in ending these devastating diseases that affect 1.5 billion of the world's poorest people. NTDs disable, disfigure and sometimes kill, trapping communities in endless cycles of poverty and costing countries billions of dollars every year.

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Heavy rains, floods destroy over 100 houses in Kahama

By Guardian Correspondent, Kahama

TORRENTIAL rains and floods have destroyed more than 100 houses and left hundreds of people homeless in Bugarama ward in Msalala Council, Kahama district.

Bugarama ward disaster management secretary Benjamin Ngamba made the remarks here when presenting a report to a meeting which brought together various disaster management groups organized by a non-profit organization 'Capacity Building Initiative for Poverty Alleviation (CABUIPA).'

According to him, since the 'masika rains' commenced this year, 117 houses have been destroyed thus leaving hundreds of people homeless.

"Most of the victims are living with

their relatives. So we are calling for disaster management groups and other people to extend their support for the families," he said.

CABUIPA-disaster risk reduction project officer Projestus Bakenga said that the organization will continue working closely with the community to reduce disaster risks.

According to him, the disaster risk reduction project is funded by Oxfam whereby among other things, works to support communities engage in modern agriculture to boost productivity and their incomes.

Agnes Kalumina from Tupendane group said that majority of the people had little knowledge on how to respond and overcome disaster risks so he government and stakeholders have an important role in disaster risk reduction by contributing to the

enhanced awareness and preparedness of their communities.

In his remarks, Msalala acting district executive director (DED) Ezedia Solomoni said that the government has been educating the public on measures to reduce risks of disasters and it will continue strengthening efforts to ensure that every community is reached.



Most of the victims are living with their relatives. So we are calling for disaster management groups and other people to extend their support for the families,



Tanga district council director Daudi Maheji (2nd R) shakes hands with NBC business director Elvis Ndunguru moments after the inauguration of Tanga business club recently. Looking on are head of small and medium customers, Evance Luhimbo (R) and Tanga branch manager Asia Chambega. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt finalises plans for construction of medical equipment factory in Simiyu

By Guardian Reporter, Simiyu

THE government has finalised plans for the construction of a big factory for the manufacture of medical equipment and cotton processing in Simiyu region to increase crop production.

The Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angela Kairuki revealed this here yesterday and added that the medical equipment factory whose foundation stone will be laid in May, this year will solve the challenges of importing medical equipment from abroad.

"The government has been incurring big costs to import pesticides. However after the construction of a cotton processing plant this problem will be solved," she said.

Speaking at the forum that brought together the government, investors and business people in Simiyu region aimed to evaluate various challenges and proposals thereof that will help to improve investment and

business environment, Kairuki said the government has given priority to the production of strategic crops including cotton.

"The government's aim is to reduce imports of goods including raw materials from abroad something which robbed the country of appropriate incomes and reducing local investors' ability to enhance their investment capitals," she said.

She also called upon the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) to see how best it can extend its services countrywide to enable many people invest in shares to increase their capitals.

On his part, the Simiyu Regional Commissioner Anthony Mtaka said his region is prepared to ensure the existing businesses and investment opportunities in the region are worked upon in order to drive speedy development strides and called upon the government authorities to assist in solving challenges facing the business people and investors.

"It is important for government authorities to have special inspection procedures on investors and business people so that factories continue production timely," said RC Mtaka.

On his part, the Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism Constantine Kanyasu said Simiyu region has many opportunities in tourism sector hence it is the responsibility for the authorities to work together with stakeholders and the ministry to advertise its attractions in the region, especially for being close to Serengeti National Park. He said in improving the environment of tourism business, the government has removed the 'single entry' levy so as to attract tourists to visit wildlife areas in Simiyu region.

In the same vein, the Deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) Mussa Sima urged business people to use the existing opportunities to invest while adhering to the country's laws and regulations for sustainable investment.

Government is doing well, says Mara TCCIA chairman

By Guardian Correspondent, Musoma

THE government is doing well as a facilitator of investments and doing businesses in an easy and orderly way, Mara Regional chairman of the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Boniphace Ndengo, declared here yesterday.

Commenting on the outcome of the joint meeting of public and private sector representatives which ended here recently, Ndengo said that it was his first time to witness a minister and two deputy ministers participating devotedly in a meeting of that nature and at that level.

"This was a meeting that discussed issues openly and in depth. We discussed complexities, problems and challenges that have always stood in the way of attracting investments and doing business in our region. There was vivid sincerity in having all the issues cleared," he reported, adding: "we have faith in this government and in its determination to create conducive environment to doing business and attracting investments into this region."

The chairman said he had never seen ministers sharing a common table and jointly finding solutions to problems and challenges put before the meeting.

"The (just-ended) meeting was sufficient proof of the sincerity of the government when it addresses issues about promoting investments and an enabling environment for doing businesses. We shall cooperate with the government in implementing socio-economic development objectives," he pledged.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki, Deputy Finance Minister Ashatu Kijaji and Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry Stella Manyanya. The meeting adopted guidelines for attracting investments into the region and for doing of business that looks orderly. Kairuki ordered the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) to work closely with the region in implementing the guidelines.

Mara Regional Commissioner Adam Malima said the meeting presented members of the business community a good opportunity to present their grievances so that they could be solved by the government.

The RC also identified key and potential sectors of economy, saying that they needed to be fully utilized and stimulate economic growth and development of the region.

"It is the high time now to create wealth and wellbeing of our people if all these investment and business opportunities are fully exploited. I am confident that through these consultative meetings we can move ahead," Malima explained.

TIC Lake Zone Manager Pendo Gondwe promised to ensure identified investment and business opportunities in Mara Re-

Minister irked by TRC procurement delay of locomotive spare parts

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

TANZANIA Railways Corporation (TRC) has been directed to procure spare parts to rehabilitate locomotives in time in order to improve the country's rail transport system.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications eng Atahasta Ndiye issued the directives yesterday during his visit at the Morogoro TRC workshop and saw ongoing repair work of locomotives.

He also visited assembly workshop of seven new locomotives being performed by SMH Rail from Malaysia in collaboration of Tanzanian engineers.

During his visit the minister discovered that TRC normally takes a long time to make purchases of spare parts and oil for completion of repair work of locomotives

"You have to stop that habit. If there are challenges of payments for spare parts, the TRC management must work on that," he said.

He said there was no reason for taking over three months to obtain locomotive spare parts after which engineers take two month to repair one locomotive.

"We are thankful at this workshop we have experts who are ready to work hard

to ensure our trains run smoothly and are also ready to train the youth so that they can later take over the job," he said.

On his part, the TRC Morogoro workshop manager Eng. Edgar Bakuza admitted over the existence of challenges facing the procurement of spare parts for locomotives at the workshop, saying they were working hard in collaboration of the TRC management and other stakeholders to solve the challenges and "we believe soon the issue will be history," he explained.

He said they are continuing renovating seven shunting locomotives at the railways yards and added that after the arrival of vital spare parts that are on their way, the work will be completed within the timeframe.

He said the seven shunting locomotives will relieve ordinary locomotives from shunting to be used for normal hauling of trains to up-country.

TRC director for administration and human resources Halima Lumuli also admitted the existence of challenges facing procurement of spare parts but promised they will work hard to ensure TRC runs smoothly.

She also added that TRC will ensure workers' welfare is improved including training of mechanics at the workshop for better TRC operations.

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PROCUREMENT NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF VARIOUS SERVICES FOR ZAMBIA CARGO & LOGISTICS LIMITED ON A ONE YEAR RUNNING CONTRACT

- Zambia Cargo & Logistics is a wholly owned state enterprise of the Government of the Republic of Zambia, supervised by the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) based in Lusaka. The Company's current corporate head office and its main operations centre, Mukuba Depot, is located in Kurasini area, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania next to the Dock Yard.
- Zambia Cargo & Logistics Limited has made a provision in its 2020 Budget towards the Procurement for the Provision of the below listed services FY 2020 and it now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders.
- Bidding will be conducted through Open National Bidding procedures consistent with the Public Procurement Act No. 12 of 2008 of the Laws of Zambia and the Public Procurement Regulations of 2011.
- Qualifications requirements are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- Zambia Cargo & Logistics Ltd now invites sealed bids for the services from experienced and reputable service providers as follows:

S/n	Tender Number	Descriptions
1	ZCL/2020/G/01	Tender for Contract for Supply of Office Stationeries
2	ZCL/2020/SC/02	Tender for Contract for Provision of Electrical and Air Conditioning services and repairs
3	ZCL/2020/SC/03	Tender for Provision of General Maintenance and Plumbing Services
4	ZCL/2020/SC/04	Tender for Provision of Transportation of Empties/Full 20ft & 40ft Containers to and from Tanzania Ports Authority.

- Bidding documents may be obtained from the Procurement Department, Zambia Cargo & Logistics Ltd, Head office, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of TZS 150,000/= via online transfer to the below account details;

Account Name : ZAMBIA CARGO & LOGISTICS LIMITED
Account Number : 0010015403983601
Currency : (TZS)
Branch Name : PSPF
City : Dar es Salaam
Swift Code : ECOCTZTZ

- Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid closing and must be accompanied by a duly authorized bid securing declaration form duly signed by the Guarantor(s), and delivered together with the bidding documents. **HOWEVER TELEGRAPHIC AND/OR ELECTRONIC OFFERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

- The Bids must be appropriately bound, sealed and bold labeled **with the Tender Number & Descriptions applied** for and placed into the Tender Box on the Ground Floor of the main administration building, (Zambia Cargo & Logistics Ltd, Kurasini Area, Near Dock Yard, and P.O Box 105638, Dar es Salaam, at or before 10.00 hours local time on 20th March, 2020 and bid opening will follow afterwards on the same day at 10.30hrs. Electronic bids shall not be accepted and late bids will be rejected.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi shakes hand with Commonwealth Secretary-General, Patricia Scotland after having talks at the organization's Small States Office in Geneva, Switzerland yesterday. Photo: Foreign Affairs

Four Mwanza officials to appear in court over bribery allegations

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Mwanza Region is expected to drag to Court four officers one from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and three from the Mwanza Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MWAUWASA) over bribery allegations.

Addressing the media yesterday, PCCB boss for Mwanza Emanuel Stenga said the TRA officer Boniface Mwasamboma was arrested by PCCB after he was caught receiving 400,000/- from a 1m/- bribe that he requested which is against section 15(1)(a) of the anti-crime Act.

"The officer took a Tax Identification Number from a business man and ordered him to give 1m/- so that he does not take any further action but we received information where

we caught him through our traps, we have all the evidence and we will be taking him to court," he said.

In another development three MWAUWASA officers were caught by PCCB over document forgery allegations with an aim of stealing from their employer which is against section 22 (11) of the anti-corruption Act, 2007.

He said the suspects: Thobias Kabwalo who was the finance manager, Gadeni Chegele who was the technical manager and Marco Mkungu the assistant accountant were arrested for allegedly forging documents and stole money amounting to 26m/-.

The regional anti-corruption boss called upon civil servants to be law abiding citizens by being accountable saying all the suspects will appear in court soon to answer corruption charges.



The officer took a Tax Identification Number from a business man and ordered him to give 1m/- so that he does not take any further action but we received information where we caught him through our traps, we have all the evidence and we will be taking him to court,

Education officers demoted over allegedly failure to curb truancy

By Correspondent Michael Sikapunda, Morogoro

THREE ward education officers and ten school heads in Morogoro District Council have been demoted from their positions after failing to fight truancy in their respective areas.

Acting Morogoro Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Eng Joyce Baravuga said that the move came after a special task force, which was formed to investigate why the district performed poorly in the last year's

examinations.

The team, which carried out the investigation in almost all schools in the district, involved three regional education officials.

The official said that after performing the task, the team submitted the report, which among other things allegedly that officers have failed to fulfill their responsibilities of improving education in the district.

Bavaruga named the demoted officials as Rashidi Mziwanda from Bwakila juu ward, Lumbert

Mkinga, from Ngelengele ward and Mapambano Njayo education officer in Mkuyuni ward.

The heads of schools are from Kwamba, Matuli, Vuleni, Lugange, Mzozo, Bags, Milawiila, Lubasazi, Singisa and Kidunda primary schools.

"The demotion of three officials and ten head teachers will be a lesson for others who have such behaviours...since the government spends billions of money monthly to accommodate transport and fuel costs for all ward education officers

plus 200,000/- incentive provided to heads of school...thus funds should then be translated into good results which include supervising attendance and children performance in school and national examinations," she said.

Bavaruga noted that most of schools in the district have been performing poorly in the examinations something which is contributed by chronic truancy.

"National examinations results for Morogoro region re-

main a shame. For example five schools namely Malani located in Kolelo ward, Ukwama of Kasanga ward, Kumba located Bwakila Juu ward, Baga and Ng'weme located at Mkombozi ward are the schools emerged in the last five positions in the Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) 2019," she said.

"In district level, Kumba primary emerged the last out of 92 schools... this means that it scored zero in performance percentage as well as pupils' performance but since then

there is no further efforts taken by local ward and school leadership to curb the challenge," he added.

For his part, regional academic officer, Jackson Mpankuly, ordered the schools to work day and night and make sure that they improve performance in the future examinations.

"This will be achieved by completing topics at right time, empowering standard two children to master Arithmetic, reading and writing (ARW), conducting weekly test plus evalu-

ation, offer meals for pupils, remedial teaching, community and parental engagement in improving teaching and learning infrastructures," he said.

Head teacher at Dakawa Primary School, Subira Salum promised immediate changes saying that all the directives will be implemented on time for better results.

"We are however calling upon the government to improve teaching and learning infrastructures to support smooth learning," she said.

Coalition thumbs up Magufuli's decision to appoint CHRAGG top commissioners

By Guardian Correspondent

THE Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) have commended the decision made by President John Magufuli to appoint Commissioners of the Commission for Human rights and good governance (CHRAGG).

Onesmo Olungurumwa, the THRDC National Coordinator applauded the decision during the meeting with CHRAGG chairperson, retired Judge Mathew Mwaimu, at CHRAGG offices in Dodoma on Monday this week.

He said THRDC was among various stakeholders who advocated for the appointment of CHRAGG Commissioners saying Commission being without commissioners was not healthy and impeded the prosperity of human rights and good governance within the country.

Olungurumwa said the decision was received positively by many human rights stakeholders believing that the decision will foster easy implementation of CHRAGG services to local citizens.

He added that Commission as the National Human Rights Institution is their major stakeholder therefore they will continue to combine efforts towards making sure that the country is upholding the respect of human rights and principals of good governance.

"The commission is our constitutional institution which has huge support to local citizens, but also we understand that CHRAGG alone cannot do everything thus we partner to supplement where they cannot reach," Olungurumwa said.

He continued to say that CHRAGG being without decision makers for a long time caused the dwindling of its many activities, but now he believe that things will move.

He said the delay of appointment also led to deteriorating of cooperation between CHRAGG and other human rights stakeholders.

However, Olungurumwa assured close cooperation to CHRAGG saying they have to convene another meeting as soon as possible to explore areas of cooperation, but to begin with he promised to enhance capacity of CHRAGG officers on human rights defending skills.

Earlier, when welcoming the THRDC National Coordinator, the CHRAGG chairperson, Judge Mathew Mwaimu briefly explained about mandate of CHRAGG and plan's for this year.

Judge Mwaimu also pledged continuous cooperation to all stakeholders including THRDC insisting CHRAGG without other stakeholders can not fulfil its responsibilities properly.

President John Magufuli appointed CHRAGG commissioners late last year after CHRAGG operations for almost three years without its top officials.



Government officers, investors and business community attend consultative meeting held in Simiyu region to discuss challenges and present recommendations to improve business environment in the country yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UDSM mulls building grand innovation hub

By Getrude Mbago

THE University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) is planning to build grand innovation hub, which is aimed at boosting a national knowledge and produce more competent and innovative experts who will be able to transform their communities through innovation.

Deputy Director of Innovation, Dr Amelia Buriyo said that the varsity through its Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre (UDIEC) is mulling to ensure that it equips more young people with essential innovative skills to enable them establish their own businesses and

thus fight employment crisis in the country.

Dr Buriyo said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday when briefing journalists on various successes achieved by the centre.

According to her, the hub will among other things, offer workshops, local lectures and thus becoming a local centre for innovation, contributing to enhanced cross-sector partnerships with private sector, academic institutions and entrepreneurship hubs.

"Since its establishment in 2015, the UDIEC has supported a number of young people in the area of innovation and employment. We expect that in the two coming years,

we will have the hub to support the population with skills needed to drive innovation and develop solutions that accelerate development," she said.

She said that in the current 2019/20 financial year the varsity set aside 1.4bn/- to support research and innovation at the UDSM main campus, the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) and Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE).

Dr Buriyo further urged young people to be creative by producing innovative ideas which will enable them employ themselves and trans-

form their communities.

The deputy director cited 'SmartClass' as among the newly established local innovative company which has been incubated and nurtured under UDIEC and is now doing better while serving thousands of Tanzanians.

She said that 'SmartClass' is an online platform that connects learners/students to qualified and certified private tutors/experts both online and offline.

She said that due to its innovative service, SmartClass has been short-listed among top 16 innovators for this year's Commonwealth Youth Awards scheduled for March 11, this

year.

Speaking, Salvatory Kessy, the founder of 'SmartClass' expressed his joy for emerging among top 16 extraordinary innovators and vowed to continue producing best work.

Kessy said the firm links low-cost qualified and vetted tutors and students interested in learning basic skills such as numeracy, literacy, computing, agriculture and languages thus contributing to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number four which works to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

PASS to launch magazine to further boost communication within agribusiness sector

By Guardian Reporter

THE private Agricultural Sector Support - Pass (Trust) is today expected to launch special magazine aimed at enhancing communication among stakeholders in the country's agribusiness industry.

The new magazine dubbed "The Agribusiness" is one of its kind in Tanzania targeting to link stakeholders in the agribusiness sector for purposes of promoting communication among investors in the sector.

"The Agribusiness Magazine enters Tanzania's press market as a unique communications platform targeting the agribusiness sector and stakeholders who have invested in the agribusiness sector thus supporting the country's industrialisation agenda," said PASS managing director, Nicomed Bohay.

The agricultural sector in Tanzania is the major driver of Tanzania's economy. It accounts for 25% of the national

GDP, contributing an average of 95% of the national food requirement as well as 65% employment to its population. Bohay says there is need for a proper platform where stakeholders in the sector can communicate, share opportunities as well as learn best practices.

"The aim is also to rally stakeholders in the agribusiness sector in Tanzania into propelling this sector towards contributing towards the country's economic development through identification of challenges and opportunities," said Bohay.

There exist hundreds of institutions working to promote and support the agribusiness sector in Tanzania.

The government has announced plans to make Tanzania a middle-income country by 2025 and the country is opening up to many new investors. Bohay believes that with this expansion, comes the demand for more communication platforms.

"In view of this, there is need for these investors to access not only infor-

mation but quality, timely and reliable agribusiness information, useful for agribusiness to thrive in Tanzania.

The Private Agricultural Sector Support TRUST who are the producers and publishers of the magazine envisages a magazine that will be a one-stop shop for all agribusiness information needs that include professionally done articles, feature stories, commentaries, opinions, opportunities in the agribusiness sector among many other sections.

According to the PASS MD, the magazine (that will be produced twice a year) provides insights into agribusiness entrepreneurship in Tanzania and beyond and outlines potential pathways for support that bolsters such enterprise development. It explores four topical themes that are at the core of agribusiness in this context - achieving success at scale through financial linkages, women's entrepreneurship, youth entrepreneurship, and agribusiness in challenging environments.



Chief of Defence Forces General Venance Mabeyo (R) and Chief of National Service Brigadier General Charles Mbugu unveil the curtain to inaugurate the National Service headquarters at Chamwino- Buigiri in Dodoma region yesterday, Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

VACANCY



People are the business...Our business is people!

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

Position:	Security Superintendent - Technology
Job Number:	GGM-2020-XAP-02.
Number of Positions:	01.
Works For:	Manager - Security UG & Production
Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High School, Diploma or equivalent; Tertiary qualification or equivalent in electronics is required! No criminal record As required by in-country specific legislative requirements
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five (5) years Security Systems experience Project management would be an advantage; Experience in risk management functions; Solid knowledge and experience of Security Technology Systems; Knowledge and experience in IT Networks, including security IP and Radio communication systems.
Purpose of the Role:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assist the Security Manager in the efficient and optimization of all security systems, maintenance of system infrastructures and operation of these systems.
Main or Key Accountabilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Model behavior that is consistent with the AngloGold Ashanti Safety Vision and Values Contribute to the identification of safety risks and resolve and escalating emerging issues that impact on area of accountability. Maintain processes to provide a safe workplace e.g. leading safety toolbox talks, inspecting planned task observations, reviewing job safety analysis documentation and conducting work inspections to all employees and external service providers undertaking work within your area of accountability to reduce the number of significant hazards towards zero lost time injuries. Set safety goals annually for area of accountability Ensure that all systems and equipment required to perform duties is in good working order. Implement and maintain a work schedule for Maintenance work (planned maintenance schedules), regular inspections, daily repairs and services, task assignments. Analyze the efficiency of the system by continuously evaluating the systems availability and additional requirements for optimization. Define, develop, synergies and optimize system and administrative procedures Develop, implement and maintain a recovery procedure to cope with emergency conditions such as severe work overload, hardware breakdown, and software failure, reduced operations and defunct operations. Maintain work schedules as required for the configuration / setup / maintenance of surveillance equipment, access control, intruder alarms and information management systems for Metallurgy, Operations & Services. Ensure the installation, maintenance, reconfiguration, upgrade of software and record keeping of alarm configuration of all Alarm and Satellite Tracking Systems Ensure the allocation and implementation (where applicable) of CCTV network and cameras, access systems, alarms, radios / repeated and ad hoc / new installations Co-ordinate special installations on request when and where needed Co-ordinate the availability of effective radio/repeater communications Co-ordinate effective issuing of access badges only after the route on the routing form is completed to employees, contractors, visitors and representatives ensuring that it is done in strict accordance with the access profile as specified on the routing form. Ensure adherence to the procedure on access badge administration. Ensure the issue of temporary passwords in cases of emergency Conduct realistic threat evaluations on software, data documentation, supplies and effectiveness of Control Room operation and procedures. Assist in the forecasting of next budget cycle requirements Continuously identify and maintain cost savings initiatives Monitor and control overtime The results of the work and the results of the working behaviors of Subordinates Effectively modelling values-based behaviors and applying all managerial leadership practices in relation to Subordinates Build and maintaining a team of Subordinates capable of doing the necessary work Conduct risk assessment / audits as required concerning plant and system issues and provide management reports and update AURISK accordingly Co-ordinate inventories and listing of all equipment and materials in control rooms / plants, equipment rooms, technician offices, workshops and storerooms Implement and maintain relevant logbooks and registers pertaining to the job Submit monthly reports on Control Room operations, systems, equipment and material utilization as well as repairs, maintenance and relocations Ensure daily checks on equipment faults and actions and update maintenance schedule if required Define, develop, synergies and optimize administrative procedures for the department Ensure developing and implementing of back-up procedures on all relevant systems and databases Ensure confidentiality is maintained on all systems i.e. regular changing of passwords, all system passwords to be available sealed and secured in a lockable safe and integrity of data etc
Additional Requirements:	<p>Technical Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate effective knowledge & understanding of operational safety and health policies, procedures and principles in and around workplace Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of budgeting principles Demonstrated knowledge & application of managerial leadership Demonstrated knowledge & application of ethical conduct and compliance with corporate governance, principles Demonstrate solid knowledge and experience in Security Technology Systems <p>Leadership Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering a team environment - Promoting Collaboration and Team work, Develop Others; Manage Self - Taking ownership of one's personal development; Building Effective Working Relationships - The ability to build and maintain effective collateral and cross functional working Building Trust & Accountability - Displays high levels of integrity and honesty; Maximising Performance Results - Solve Problems and Analysing Issues, Taking Initiative
Mode of Application:	Application cover letter (Subject should be: Security Superintendent - Technology and/or quote the job number), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address. You will be required to bring original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
Contact Address:	Senior Human Resources Manager, Geita Gold Mining Ltd, P.O.Box 532, Geita, Email: jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com
Application Deadline:	Application letters should reach the above on or before 10th March 2020 at 17hr30 . Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24chonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com.

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Position:	Manager - Security Surface.
Job Number:	GGM-2020-XAP-03.
Number of Positions:	01.
Works For:	Senior Manager Security.
Qualifications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant tertiary qualification in security or risk management No criminal record As required by in-country specific legislative requirements!
Experience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of 15 years' experience in Security of which 5 years should have been at a Management level. Able to understand the nature of the gold mining industry and to identify business risks.
Purpose of the Role:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage security for Surface Operations through leading the Compliance & Assurance, GGM Operations and Star & Comet sub functions.
Main or Key Accountabilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy initiatives and plans gather analysis and exercise security management within surface mining operations and Compliance & Assurance function. Manage the Rapid Response Protocol, policies and standards for GGM that is based on Minimum use of Force and AGA Global Security performance requirements. Manage the Integrated Security Response and Simulation Program that will lead to the development of security staff responding to security related emergencies. Engage with internal and external stakeholders in developing the ISSP. Develop a work program and action plan for each Security Risk with a view to identifying and implementing improvement strategies. Ensure the development of a proactive maintenance and problem-solving work process and the continuity and system stability remain consistent. Develop plans for GGM and Star & Comet, ensuring the recording and reporting of security events to the Senior Security Manager occurs in a timely and accurate manner. Provide a secure environment for the conduct of mining activities and security of its assets within the tenement by monitoring and applying security standards and procedures. The Operations (Surface) Manager will engage with internal and external stakeholders ensuring compliance with security standards when transporting mineralised material, controlled chemicals and explosives. Recommend and implement procedures after evaluating conditions (against security standards) and monitoring these procedures to ensure the protection of gold/company assets within the tenement of Geita Gold Mine. Oversee the processing of criminal and disciplinary cases relating to all security surface related non conformities Manage system and implementation of technologies during and after covert operations or when relocation of surveillance equipment is deemed necessary Oversee the security accountability of fuel management monitoring and reporting system Ensure the development and expansion of the CCTV control room function to optimize performance output of technologies deployed in the surface mining operation and areas of accountability. Manage legal compliance to securing of dormant pits and PL's Oversee the coordination of incident reviews and feedback sessions as required and monitor improvement opportunities via WMRS, AuRisk and through active engagement with the relevant Department. Oversee the integration of the CCTV control room detection capability and coordination of Rapid Response Units Identify and report security risks within your area of accountability and report to the Senior Security Manager such risks in order to assist him in developing strategies to counter/mitigate the risks. Promote the Integrated Security Sector Program and drive behavioural change through the development of an internal communications plan targeting all employees and contractors. Collaborate and engage with peers in mining, environment and auxiliary services Ensure preparation of annual budget for the surface security function and audit plan versus budget Compliance Accountabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19.1 Awareness/management of declaration of conflict of interest of direct reports 19.2 Awareness/management of SOX control accountabilities 19.3 Awareness/management of Delegation of Authority 19.4 Awareness/management of reporting (weekly/monthly/quarterly/annual) requirements
Additional Requirements:	<p>Technical Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate effective knowledge & understanding of Safety, Health & Environment Management policies and procedures, OSH legislation and principles in and around workplace (PPE requirements, housekeeping standards); Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of good financial management practices including principles of budgeting and financial management; Demonstrate an understanding of business model, structure and knowledge of the roles and accountabilities of collateral and cross functional team members; Demonstrate the knowledge & application of managerial leadership; Demonstrate the knowledge & application of ethical conduct and compliance with corporate governance, principles and social responsibility; Demonstrate knowledge and techniques to execute projects effectively and efficiently; Demonstrate knowledge & application of the appropriate policies and procedures for recruiting, selecting, developing, counselling, disciplining, and evaluation performance of subordinates to retain a diverse workforce; Demonstrate knowledge within security field e.g. crime trends, country or site risk profile and keep current with developments and trends in area(s) of expertise. <p>Leadership Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fostering a team environment – Inspiring and Motivating Others, promoting Collaboration and Team work, Developing Others, Communicating powerfully and prolifically; Managing oneself - Taking ownership of one's personal development; Building Effective Working Relationships - The ability to build and maintain effective collateral and cross functional working relationship; Building Trust & Accountability – Displaying high levels of integrity and honesty; Creating Organizational Transformation - Displaying strategic perspectives in adapting plans for achieving organizational objectives; Maximizing Performance Results – Solving Problems and Analyzing Issues, Driving for Results, Displaying Technical and Professional expertise, Innovating, Taking Initiative, Championing Change, Establishing Stretch Goals.
Mode of Application:	Application cover letter (Subject should be: Manager - Security Surface and/or quote the job number), detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees, to be forwarded to below address. You will be required to bring original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
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THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

We should step up efforts to tackle smuggling of wildlife

WILDLIFE smuggling or trafficking involves the illegal gathering, transportation, and distribution of animals and their derivatives. This can be done either internationally or domestically. Estimates of the money generated by wildlife smuggling vary, in part because of its illegal nature. Wildlife smuggling is estimated at \$7.8bn to \$10bn a year, according to the U.S. State Department.

The U.S. State Department also lists wildlife trafficking as the third most valuable illicit commerce in the world. The illegal nature of such activities makes determining the amount of money involved incredibly difficult. When considered with illegal timber and fisheries, wildlife trafficking is a major illegal trade along with narcotics, human trafficking, and counterfeit products.

Products demanded by the trade include exotic pets, food, traditional medicine, clothing, and jewelry made from animals' tusks, fins, skins, shells, horns, and internal organs.

Smuggled wildlife is an increasing global demand; it is estimated that the US, China, and the European Union are the places with the highest demand.

In many parts of Africa, the main demand for illegal wildlife comes from the consumption of bushmeat. Wild animals are a preferred source of protein and primates are considered a delicacy.

It is believed that up to 40,000 monkeys are killed and eventually consumed each year in Africa alone via smuggling.

Last year fifty-seven representatives of key port stakeholder groups have agreed on a collective way forward to tackle wildlife trafficking through Tanzania's sea ports.

Specific actions discussed include improvement of risk profiling systems as well as mechanisms to strengthen inter-agency and public-private sector col-

laboration, investigative capacity and information exchange.

The measures were discussed during a port stakeholders workshop hosted by the Traffic, UNDP and UNODC, in partnership with the Wildlife Division of Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Tanzania Ports Authority and the Tanzania Revenue Authority.

Wildlife resources are economically important and critical natural heritage in Tanzania. The country dedicates over 25 per cent of its land surface to wildlife protected area networks (National Parks, Conservation Areas, Game Reserves, and Game Controlled Areas). Despite various efforts to conserve wildlife, iconic species such as the African elephant and rhinoceros are being poached to near extinction.

Tanzania has previously been called "the epicenter of Africa's elephant poaching crisis" after a government census revealed loss of 60 per cent of its elephants between 2009-2014. Each year, Tanzania attracts global tourists to view the seasonal migration of wild animals across the Serengeti grasslands, home to over 20 migratory species, including the African elephant. Tanzania is also a major gateway to the interior of East Africa.

Dar es Salaam is one of the key African port cities on China's 'Ocean Silk Road,' and about 95 per cent of Tanzania's international trade is handled by the port of Dar es Salaam.

As a biodiversity hotspot with reliable and efficient international transport chains, Tanzania's seaports are highly vulnerable to illegal wildlife trade. In recent years, Tanzanian ports have been on the front lines of large-scale illegal wildlife seizures, intercepting shipments of ivory, leopard skins and shark fins, among other commonly-traded wildlife products.

How agroforestry schemes can improve food security in developing countries

AGROFORESTRY is a land use management system in which trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pastureland. This intentional combination of agriculture and forestry has varied benefits, including increased biodiversity and reduced erosion. Agroforestry practices have been successful in sub-Saharan Africa and in parts of the United States.

Agroforestry shares principles with intercropping. Both may place two or more plant species (such as nitrogen-fixing plants) in proximity. Agroforestry systems can be advantageous over conventional agricultural and forest production methods. They can offer increased productivity, economic benefits, and more diversity in the ecological goods and services provided.

Depleted soil can be protected from soil erosion by groundcover plants such as naturally growing grasses in agroforestry systems. These help to stabilise the soil as they increase cover compared to short-cycle cropping systems. Soil cover is a crucial factor in preventing erosion.

In the same vein, a new study reports that agroforestry—a method integrating trees with crops and livestock—is linked with more benefits for human and planetary health than previously thought.

The study, conducted by a team of 21 researchers from World Agroforestry (ICRAF) and London's School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, reveals agroforestry's impacts on food and nutrition security in sub-Saharan Africa. The findings also highlight the impacts of growing trees along with crops on migration, non-communicable diseases, and infectious diseases.

According to the research agroforestry provides stability in food production. Specifically, it increases the avail-

ability of micronutrient-rich fruits, seeds, and nuts during lean growing periods. Agroforestry influences "the growth and production of companion crops and animals...affect[ing] food security by generating cash from sales of tree products that enable the purchase of other products. Tree products make up 6 to 17 percent of annual incomes in Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.

According to the study, agroforestry's effects on disease vary. Findings show that effects on non-communicable diseases are advantageous, while effects on infectious diseases are both beneficial and harmful. The diversity of fruit and nut-bearing trees helps to improve diets and mitigate chronic diseases, which are reportedly on the rise in sub-Saharan Africa—where 237 million people were food insecure in 2017, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. The study reports that agroforestry provides an opportunity to combat disease, due to the antioxidant-rich, disease-fighting benefits of fruits—70 percent of which come from trees. Added benefits include prevention of both air pollution and heat exposure for farmworkers, and regulation of solar radiation and wind. Studies also report considerable improvements in water permeating through soil by up to 81 percent; an increase in crop and livestock production 68 percent of the time; and a reduction of air temperatures by up to six degrees.

Despite some increased risks of infectious disease with agroforestry—due to tree-induced changes in habitats and disease transmission—the researchers predict the benefits to outweigh the risks. Rosenstock informs Food Tank that "this will depend on the location, goals and health risks of those using agroforestry, and

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

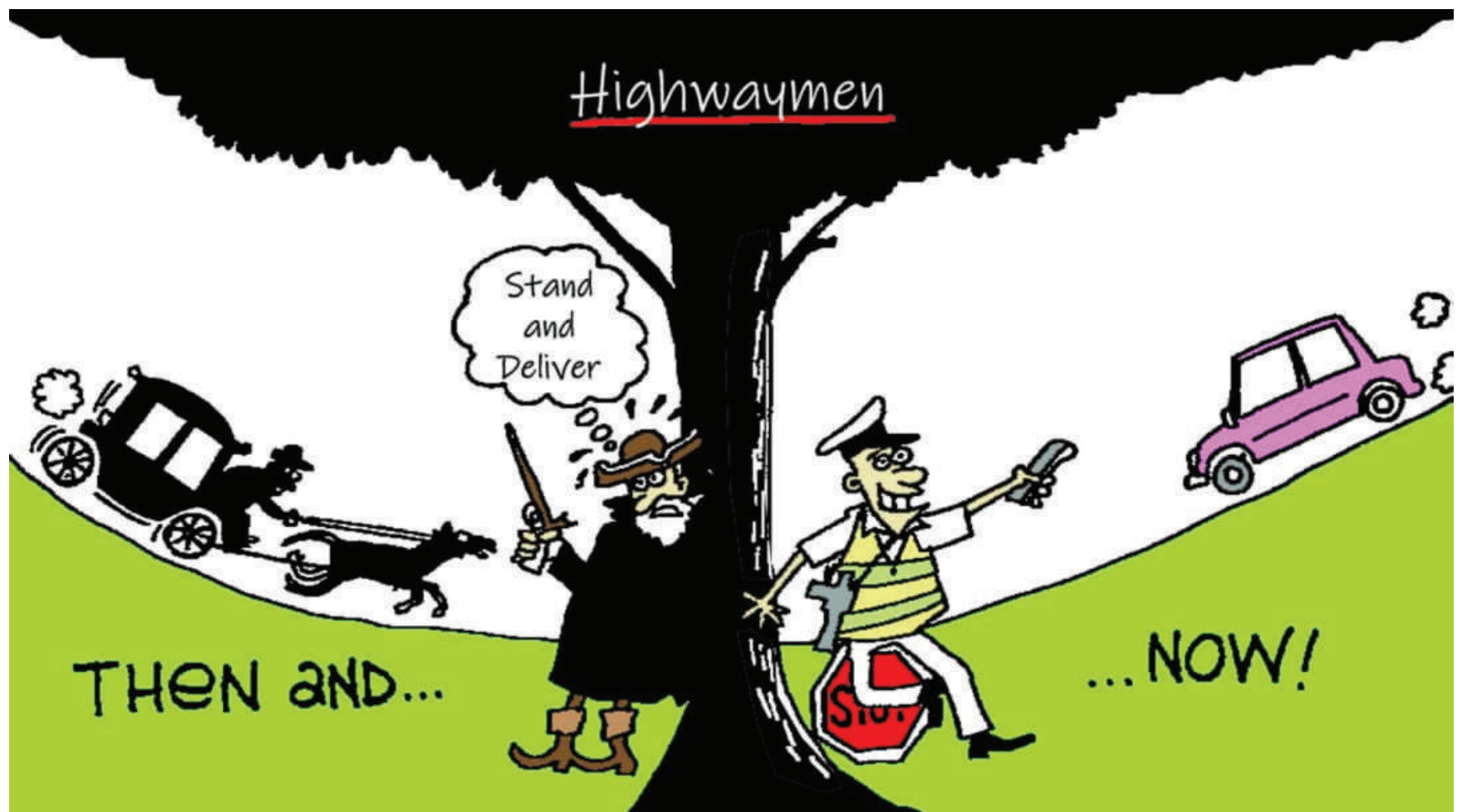
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Why are the Riotous Assembly Act and other apartheid-era laws still in place?

BY PIERRE DEVOS

NOT for the first time, the constitutional court has been asked to consider the constitutionality of legislation that directly advanced apartheid.

Recently the Constitutional Court heard arguments on the possible unconstitutionality of a provision in the Riotous Assembly Act of 1956 that criminalises incitement to commit a crime.

Julius Malema and the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) had originally challenged the constitutionality of this provision in the high court on the basis that it unlawfully infringed on the right to freedom of expression, but that court dismissed the challenge.

Whatever the outcome in the case, the larger question raised by it is why parts of this act (and several other pieces of legislation used to enforce apartheid) are still on the statute books 25 years after the transition.

The lawyer representing the EFF, advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi, made a telling point during oral argument in the Constitutional Court this week.

Ngcukaitobi pointed out that the Riotous Assembly Act was not "just" law passed in the era of apartheid, it was law that was specifically passed to enforce apartheid — "to deal with Mandela" and the other political leaders agitating to fight the system. (This is according to a report in the Mail & Guardian written by the always excellent Franny Rabkin.)

While most of the provisions of the act have been repealed, it is troubling that the act was not repealed in its entirety after 1994. (As incitement is also a crime at common law, this would have allowed the Constitutional Court to develop the common law to promote the spirit, purport and objects of the Bill of Rights as required by section 39(2) of the Constitution.) More troubling still, is the fact that parts of other apartheid legislation also remain on the statute books (more about that later).

The EFF and Malema are challenging the constitutionality of section 18(2) of the Riotous Assembly Act. This section prohibits any person from inciting, instigating, commanding, or procuring any other person to commit any offence, whether in



South Africa's firebrand opposition party leader Julius Malema lost a court bid to have an apartheid-era anti-riot law, under which he has been charged with incitement, declared unconstitutional

common law or against a statute or statutory regulation.

The high court held — correctly in my view — that this provision does infringe on the right to freedom of expression. However, the court further held that section 18(2) of the act justifiably limited the right and was therefore constitutionally compliant. The Constitutional Court is now being asked to hold that section 18(2) is overbroad because it criminalises incitement of even the most trivial criminal offences.

This is not the first time that the Constitutional Court has been asked to consider the constitutionality of legislation that directly advanced apartheid.

When the Constitutional Court was confronted with a case in which the North West provincial legislature had attempted to repeal a Proclamation which was issued in terms of the Native Administration Act of 1927 (in the case of Western Cape Provincial Government and Others In Re: DVB Behuising (Pty) Limited v North West Provincial Government and Another), Justice Sandile Ngcobo expressed concern that the act had not been repealed, describing this act as an "egregious apartheid law which anachronistically has survived our transition to a non-racial democracy".

A year later, the Constitutional Court was again asked to consider the constitutionality of a regulation made in terms of the Black Administration Act (as the Native Administration Act came to be called) in the case of Mosenke and Others v Master of the High Court. In his judgment, Justice Albie Sachs endorsed pre-

vious criticism by the court, and complained:

"It is painful that the act still survives at all. The concepts on which it was based, the memories it evokes, the language it continues to employ, and the division it still enforces, are antithetical to the society envisaged by the Constitution.

"It is an affront to all of us that people are still treated as 'blacks' rather than as ordinary persons seeking to wind up a deceased estate, and it is in conflict with the establishment of a non-racial society where rights and duties are no longer determined by origin or skin colour."

There are other pieces of oppressive and/or racist apartheid legislation that remain on the statute books. The most famous of these must be the National Key Points Act of 1980. This act was passed at a time when Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress, was stepping up attacks against infrastructure considered "strategic" by the apartheid regime. The attack in 1980 on the Sasol refinery, organised by Solomon Mahlangu of the Umkhonto we Sizwe Special Operations, is a case in point.

The aim of the National Key Points Act was to secretly arrange protection primarily for privately owned strategic sites. It enabled the apartheid government to compel private owners, as well as state-owned corporations, to safeguard such sites owned by them at their own cost.

The act became famous when it transpired that then-president Jacob Zuma's Nkandla home had been declared a national key

point.

To be fair, last year Parliament passed the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act which will repeal the National Key Points Act when President Cyril Ramaphosa finally decides to bring the act into operation.

But given the historical origins of the act, it is odd, to say the least, that the act has remained on the statute books for more than 25 years after the 1994 election. Odder, still, is that the act has been invoked by government officials in an attempt to justify the expenditure on the Nkandla homestead, to withhold information about it, and to prevent anyone from taking or publishing photographs of the homestead. At the very least, relying on legislation passed by the apartheid government with the explicit aim of foiling attacks on apartheid infrastructure by Umkhonto we Sizwe cannot be said to be "on brand" for Zuma.

Last week, my colleague Afton Titus alerted me to another piece of legislation whose continued presence on the statute book can only be described as shocking. This is the Coloured Persons Education Act of 1963. According to the preamble of the act, its main aim is to "to provide for the control of education for Coloured Persons by the Department of Internal Affairs".

Several of its provisions remain in force. Why, is impossible to say. Section 1 (containing the definitions for phrases used in the act) remains in force and contains the following definition:

"'Coloured person' means a person classified under the Population Registration Act, 1950 (Act No. 30 of 1950), as a member of the Cape Coloured, Malay, Griqua or Other Coloured Group and includes any South African citizen having his home in an independent State and who would have been so classified had the provisions of the Population Registration Act, 1950, been applicable to him."

It is difficult to imagine what might have gone through the mind of the officials, government ministers, and members of Parliament who proposed and passed amendments to this act in 1996, but did not think that it was necessary to repeal the entire damn act.

Why retain parts of the act when the very reason it was first passed was to promote and facilitate racial segregation in schools. This is evident when you look through the parts of the act which were not repealed. For example, section 3 of the act reads in part:

"3. Establishment, erection and maintenance of schools for Coloured persons —(1) The Minister may after consultation with the Minister of State Expenditure and out of moneys appropriated by Parliament for the purpose (a) establish, erect and maintain colleges of education, secondary schools, primary schools, pre-primary schools, agricultural schools, vocational schools, schools of industries, reform schools, special schools and homes; establish and maintain part-time classes for the education of Coloured persons."

Yet another particularly egregious example of why there is no place for this act in post-1994 South Africa can be found in section 23 of the act which reads in part:

"23. Compulsory school attendance — (1) (a) If the Minister is satisfied that sufficient and suitable school accommodation is available he may by notice in the Gazette declare that regular attendance at such kind of school as may be specified in such notice shall, to such extent and under such circumstances as may be so specified, be compulsory for every Coloured person belonging to a category or class so specified. (b) Every Coloured person enrolled in a school contemplated in paragraph (a) shall attend that school regularly until the end of the school year for which he is so enrolled or, if he is transferred to any other school during that school year, he shall attend that other school regularly until the end of the said school year."

All this makes me wonder: what other egregious apartheid-era legislation explicitly passed by the apartheid regime to advance the apartheid project remains on the statute books?

Preserving world's biodiversity: Negotiations convene at FAO headquarters

ROME

“THE world out there is watching and waiting for results,” Elizabeth Maruma Mrema warns while talking to IPS regarding the preservation of biodiversity of our planet.

The acting Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, is referring to a worrying report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) which paints a grim picture of the planet.

“Many key components of biodiversity for food and agriculture at genetic, species and ecosystem levels are in decline and evidence suggests that the proportion of livestock breeds at risk of extinction is increasing,” the report says.

The FAO also warns that “nearly a third of fish stocks are overfished, and a third of freshwater fish species assessed are considered threatened”.

These are just some of the critical issues being debated during the open-ended working group on the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This round of negotiations is taking place at FAO headquarters from 24 to 29 February. In the run-up to October's historic UN Biodiversity Conference, government officials, experts and activists from around the world gathered today at FAO headquarters, Rome, to forge ahead with negotiations. This round of talks was supposed to take place in Kunming, China, on the same dates. Due to the ongoing situation following the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), it was moved to Rome, Italy.

Background

The fourteenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) had its meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2018. It was here



‘Delegates gather at FAO headquarters to advance negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. File photo

that the working group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was appointed. The working group's mandate was to prepare the text of a framework that would guide the work of the Convention after the year 2020. At the working group's first meeting held in Nairobi in August 2019, the Open-ended Working Group (WG2020) requested the Co-Chairs and the Executive Secretary to prepare a zero-draft text of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This framework is under consideration at its second meeting, which is currently taking place in Rome. The aim of the second meeting of the Working

Group is to significantly advance the negotiation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, discussing the different aspects of the whole ambitious project.

Negotiations in Rome: Promoting a bi-directional approach

In the coming days, the working groups will be divided on a regional basis. They will discuss a wide variety of concerns including biodiversity, food, agriculture and fishing systems, to the importance of promoting an approach that leaves no one outside of this circuit.

Civil society, the private sector, indigenous people, local communities, women and youth are all represented to create a functional framework for the whole society and at all levels. Many organisations, like Bioversity International, supported by a host of international agencies, have submitted research reports on biodiversity and food systems. It has also made representations on alternative models for access and benefit-sharing rules, practices and impacts in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The voice of indigenous people

Key to the discussions is the role of indigenous people in biodiversity and Aslak Holmberg, the representative of the indigenous people, is convinced that policymakers can learn from these groups.

“There is a key message we want to share with other groups here during these negotiations,” he told IPS. “Indigenous peoples and local communities' management of natural resources is (in fact) conserving biodiversity. (This is) because these management practices are built on a balanced relationship with the respective environment.

“Biological and cultural diversity are linked, and by this, I mean that (for indigenous communities) culture plays a fundamental role in the process of preserving biodiversity: it is in our culture to use our areas in a sustainable way. That is the message we want to share with others”.

The voice of the business sector

Representatives of the private sector too, in particular of the business world, wish to be part of the framework that will result from the negotiations and officially approved in October, in China.

Eva Zabey, Executive Director of the Business for Nature Coalition, told IPS she was grateful to the CBD secretariat for giving business and opportunity to engage and contribute to the zero draft of the post-2020 framework.

This coalition is a unique global group of influential business and conservation organisations participating in the negotiations.

“Forward-thinking businesses are starting to change the way they operate, based on their understanding of the value of nature - but this is still the exception, not the norm,” she told IPS.

“Therefore,” said Zabey, “Political leadership is needed now to transform our economic and financial systems in a way that places nature at the heart of global decision-making. It needs to create a level playing field and a stable operating environment for business.”

Zabey is looking forward to an ambitious post-2020 framework which will facilitate businesses' involvement and create and positive “policy-business feedback loop,” she said.

Perspectives

Audrey Azoulay, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General, perfectly summarised urgency at the negotiation. Commenting on the global assessment report, she said: “The present generations have the responsibility to bequeath to future generations a planet that is not irreversibly damaged by human activity.”

“Our local, indigenous and scientific knowledge are proving that we have solutions and so no more excuses: we must live on earth differently”.

Zabey echoes Azoulay. She said entrepreneurs are increasingly aware that the profit-sustainability ‘conflict’ is no longer feasible or conceivable.

“Companies planning on being successful in the future are starting to realise that financial performance is irrelevant on a dead planet.”

Agencies

‘I wish I was a boy’: Kenyan girls fighting period poverty

By Abdullahi Mire

REGINA Nthambi, 16, attends Damascus primary school in the Nairobi slum of Kogochi. She has to share sanitary products with friends - a practice that endangers her health

For Mary Asigi, a 17-year-old pupil at Damascus primary school in the slums of Dandora on the outskirts of Nairobi, it is usual to miss a few days of school each month because she has no sanitary towels to use when she has her period.

“This affects my performance in class,” she says.

Like many others in her community, Mary's education has already been disrupted by poverty, which is why she is still at primary school at the age of 17. Many children here drop out of school intermittently, for one or two years at a time, because their families cannot afford to send them. According to UNICEF, more than 1.2 million primary school-age children in Kenya, which has a population of 50 million, do not attend school at all.

Period poverty - being unable to work or attend school because of lack of funds for sanitary products - makes life even harder for girls.

Mary has tried to find solutions, but improvising is not always ideal.

“When I was 15 in class 6, I used to share used pads with fellow classmates before my class teacher warned against it because it was unhygienic,” she says. Sharing pads is particularly dangerous - research shows that some 12 percent of people living in the slums on the outskirts of Nairobi have HIV, compared with about 5 percent of the general population.

Not only that, but girls going to school while they have their periods risk severe teasing and taunting by the boys, Mary explains.

Like the other girls in her community, Mary faces a stark choice - risk her health or risk her education.

“The boys mock them”

In an area where a packet of sanitary pads costs \$1, and the average family has to manage on less than that per day, poverty means access to sanitary products is near-impossible for the majority of girls, particularly if they have to travel from remote rural areas to buy them in towns.

Mary's school is in the Korogochi slum in Dandora, which is situated in



Children play at the Damascus primary school in the Nairobi slum of Korogochi. File photo

Nairobi's Eastlands. Open drains and sewers are dotted about the settlement. Damascus primary school is in a two-storey building with overcrowded classrooms. The ground floor is used by children in the lower primary, while the older students take their classes on the upper floor. Hundreds of pupils play in tight spaces and in the corridors between classrooms.

Regina Nthambi, 16, a student of class 7 at the same school, passes for privileged among her fellow female classmates. Her father, a tailor who barely makes ends meet, tries to buy her sanitary pads every month. When there is no money to buy them he improvises with scraps from discarded pieces of clothing at his shop.

“I share with my friends,” says Regina as she nervously chews on her nails. “They are new and unused. Our teacher warned us against sharing used pads because it's unhealthy. Some of my classmates get their periods in class and the boys mock them, which is a reason some students do not attend class during this time.”

Lack of sanitary pads has led to an estimated one million girls missing school every month.

Research by Menstrual Hygiene Day, a global advocacy platform for non-profit organisations and government agencies to promote menstrual health, shows that 65 percent of women and girls in Kenya are unable to afford sanitary pads.

According to research by Kenya's Ministry of Education, girls lose on average four school days every month, which translates to two weeks of learning each term. Over four years of high school, they lose on average 165 learning days.

Failure to change

The Kenyan government has taken steps to counter this problem. Ten years ago, Kenya became the first country in the world to drop taxes on imports of sanitary products for women and girls. The government also committed \$3m to help distribute sanitary pads to low-income communities.

This is despite a government-funded programme, which was implemented in April 2018, to distribute 140 million free sanitary

pads to 4.2 million girls across the country. The programme, which distributed supplies directly to schools, ran for four months before it fizzled out as supplies ran out and girls started missing classes again.

There were several reasons for the failure of the programme. In some cases, distributors appointed by the government failed to deliver and new contractors had to be found, causing a delay. In others, too few supplies were delivered, meaning that girls received fewer pads than they needed, and some went without any at all. Yet another reason was corruption.

In one case, Nairobi News reported that a supply of 300,000 sanitary towels intended for schools had been stolen and repackaged, with the intention of reselling them.

“The cartels in this country are hijacking government projects,” says Emmie Eronanga, director of the Miss Koch women's advocacy NGO, which is based in the low-income neighbourhood of Kar-

iohangi North, close to Korogochi. “And now most girls in the slums are at risk of not going to school or skipping classes every month for a couple of days.”

Miss Koch aims to promote awareness of women's issues in Kenya and provides free pads to young girls in the slums when it can. In reality, the NGO's funds only stretch to helping a few of the girls at a few of the schools each month, including the Damascus primary school.

“I have just bought some sanitary towels myself for the daughter of one of the women I train so she can return to school,” she explains.

At her third-floor office, Eronanga and her team provide reproductive health education services with the aim of reducing the stigma and shame felt by girls about their periods and their bodies in general.

Under the government distribution scheme, no sanitary pads were ever received at all at the Damascus primary school in Korogochi. “The government gave us a framework sometime back to provide and distribute pads but they never implemented anything,” says Eronanga.

The team's small budget is partially funded by organisations from the United Kingdom, such as Faith Charity, which send cash to enable 150 girls to buy sanitary pads each year. But this help is just a drop in the ocean considering on average each school in Kenya is attended by between 400 and 500 girls.

Two years ago Kenya's President, Uhuru Kenyatta, assented to the Basic Education Amendment Act that would have seen girls who have reached puberty across the country provided with free, quality sanitary towels in sufficient quantities, all funded by the state. But so far little has happened on the ground.

“They can't even afford food for their families”

Esther Moraa, 25, a social sciences teacher at Damascus primary, says poverty in the slum is the real problem.

“All parents here are very poor. They can't even afford to buy food for their families. Why should you

even talk of sanitary pads?” she says as she points in the direction of the nearby Dandora rubbish site which serves as the city's largest dump.

“Only NGOs distribute pads once in a while despite the fact some girls start menstruating early,” she says. “I teach them how to alter old clothes to use as pads. As a teacher, sometimes I am forced to go into my pocket to buy a box or two for the girls.”

Mary, who lives with her single mother and is the youngest of three sisters, dreams of a career with the Kenyan navy but is not sure she will make the cut if she keeps missing classes.

Still, she is determined to overcome this obstacle.

“I know girls in my class who have left school for good because of pads. Nowadays I use old clothes because my mother doesn't have the money and I don't want to skip classes.”

Yvonne Waweru is a local member of parliament at the County Assembly of Kiambu who is calling for greater transparency and accountability when it comes to aid programmes like the government's programme to distribute sanitary pads.

In order to overcome corruption, she says: “The government should invest more funds in monitoring and surveillance to ensure that sanitary towels reach those who need them the most.”

“Social empowerment for girls plays a central role in eradicating poverty and the wellbeing of our communities. Denial of adequate social protection leaves girls vulnerable to long-term poverty and the opportunity to further their education.”

In the meantime, back at the Damascus primary school, Mary sits on a school desk. “I wish I could be a boy,” she says. “I'd have never missed a class or school. I could play freely with my friends like boys in my class do and do well in the exams to join the navy thereafter, so that I can help my mother and my country.”

AGENCIES

Shocking levels of child hunger in rural S. Africa

By Kathryn Cleary

THABANI is nine years old and doesn't have a pair of shoes. His feet are calloused and dirty from walking to and from school and doing house work. He lives alone with his 13-year-old brother in a rural village on the outskirts of Jozini, in the Umkhanyakude district in the far north of KwaZulu-Natal.

Their house is a small rondavel with an ageing roof that leaks when it rains, which is often. But inside, there is little for the water to damage.

The biggest thing in the house is a 25kg bright orange bag of maize meal. "It fills you!!!", it states in bold lettering on the front of the bag. An old red bicycle lays overturned on one side of the room, next to a table cluttered with Doom, toothbrushes, a few body cream containers and clothes hangers. Thabani's older sister, Zanele, stays with extended family in another part of the village, but her school achievement award is placed next to these other items on the table.

The focal point of the house is the black cauldron at the centre of the room, atop a thick pile of ashes and a few pieces of firewood. Food is scarce for this child-headed family, living off only the basics of maize meal, sugar beans, potatoes and onions. They have a refrigerator which lies empty save for a few remaining beans still in last night's pot.

The two boys are dependent on social grants that add up to less than R1,000 per month. To supplement this, Thabani's older brother pushes trolleys for customers at the shopping centre on the main road.

Thabani and his brother's daily struggle against poverty and malnutrition is quite common in the part of the world where they find themselves growing up. Umkhanyakude has some of the worst child malnutrition numbers in all of KZN's districts, while KZN fares worst among South Africa's provinces.

While things are particularly bad in places like Umkhanyakude, even in 2020 child hunger remains a global problem. A landmark report of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and The Lancet medical journal published last week found that "even in rich countries, many children go hungry or live in conditions of absolute poverty".

Disturbing numbers

Children in around 753,000 households went hungry in KZN in 2018, according to the 2019 Child Gauge (an annual publication tracking child health in South Africa). This accounts for over a third of child hunger in South Africa and is two to four times higher than in any other province. The high numbers are only partially explained by the fact that KZN is South Africa's second most populous province.

In the worst cases, hunger or malnutrition turns into so-called severe acute malnutrition. This occurs when a child's weight for their height is below a certain threshold or when a child has a MUAC (mid-upper arm circumference) of less than 11.5 cm (See a more detailed definition here).

Currently around 7.5% of children admitted to hospital with severe acute malnutrition in KZN do not survive (a number referred to as the severe acute malnutrition fatality rate). This is an improvement on the 7.8% in the province's 2018/19 annual report, but still well behind the target of 6%. According to the annual report, 2,289 children

were admitted to hospitals in the province for severe acute malnutrition in 2018/2019, of which 179 died. It is not known how many children died of severe acute malnutrition outside of hospital or how many children died of other diseases like tuberculosis while also suffering severe acute malnutrition.

The Umkhanyakude District has a severe acute malnutrition fatality rate of 11.4%, the highest in the province. In other words, around one in 10 children admitted to hospital in the district with severe acute malnutrition do not survive.

Life in Jozini

Umkhanyakude's district health office is in Jozini, the town where Thabani and his brother live. With unemployment at over 80%, and a quarter of the district's child-headed households, Jozini is home to some of the country's most vulnerable people.

Poverty is a driving factor of malnutrition, and contributes to issues like poor dietary diversity and small quantities of food. While Statistics SA's 2019 estimate for the extreme food poverty line is R561 per month per person, the child support grant falls R131 short, forcing children and families to live well below this extreme line of poverty.

Light rain beats a steady pitter patter on zinc roofs of shops and fish and chips stalls in the centre of Jozini, while women carefully arrange large mangoes on colourful platters and bananas fresh from the trees.

The traffic moves constantly, both by car and by foot. Taxis own the road, along with the goats.

For most people the closest clinic is in the middle of town, while the newly opened Community Healthcare Centre is about 6kms away across the Pongolapoort Dam bridge. Bethesda Hospital is a 40-minute drive, and Mosvold Hospital is over an hour away in Ingwavuma. Bethesda and Mosvold Hospitals are severely underutilised according to the District's 2018/19 health plan.

While Spotlight was refused permission to visit any clinics or hospitals in the area, our team spoke with three community-based organisations who are leading the fight against child hunger and HIV/AIDS in the area.

Siyaphambili Qondile Siyaphambili Qondile has been providing care to communities in Jozini since 2000.

"We help people who are infected by HIV/AIDS; taking them to hospital, referring them to Sassa to apply for grants. It's very difficult and we've been working [with] a bad situation because a lot of people were dying and leaving their children alone," says Nokuthula Dladla, one of the organisation's managers.

Siyaphambili has 15 community care workers and 19 child and youth care workers that work with families in Jozini and surrounding areas.

The organisation used to run a food parcel programme to support 30 families per month, but since 2015 hasn't received funding for this programme. Most of these food parcels went to child-headed households such as that of Thabani and his brother.

Siyaphambili social worker, Nonkululeko Buthelezi, says that often children between the ages of 10 and 13 spoke to her about facing hunger.

"The challenge we have now is for people to get food parcels. In the community we are living [in] people are suffering and others are taking treatment. They have no food, and closing the food parcel pro-



gramme in our community is a challenge," says Siyaphambili founder Musa Ndlovu.

"[Community members] come with their treatment and put it in front of you, what are you going to do? They even tell you, 'I'm leaving this treatment because I don't have food'," says Ndlovu. "If I take this treatment, where am I going to get food because it makes me sick"

Headless chickens

Care workers of Siyaphambili accompanied Spotlight on house visits in the community where poverty, hunger and malnutrition were severe issues.

In one household, feathered chicken heads soak in a bowl of water next to a pot of maize meal as two children, Njabulo and Busisiwe, wait for their mother to return home.

Siyaphambili care workers are concerned that Njabulo (7) may be malnourished, and needs to go to the clinic. Photos: Black Star/Spotlight

Njabulo, 7, and Busisiwe, 13, are just two of five children in this one-room house, with another one on the way. The children sleep on woven mats on the floor with only a few blankets to share. Their mother is out collecting firewood with two of the other children, one an infant, and the other a girl around Njabulo's age.

The girl walks barefoot back up to the house in a sleeveless orange vest and shorts, her arms and legs worryingly thin. There's a slight breeze in the air. She shivers, rubbing her hands up and down her sides as she walks into the house. Her mother and the infant follow shortly after.

The mother receives a disability grant of R1,700 per month for a mental health condition, but we are told she gives most of the money to her boyfriend. The neighbours told Spotlight that because of this, the children do not get enough to eat nor personal hygiene items or clothing. One of Siyaphambili's care workers is concerned that Njabulo was malnourished and needed to go to the clinic for supplements. But the mother said that the children were always satisfied.

Thabani (9) lives with his older brother (13) in one of Jozini's villages. His sister, Zanele, stays with extended family in another part of the village. Jozini is home to over a quarter of Umkhanyakude's child-headed households. File photo

Smile

Bubbly Nomandla, 19, is the head of the household while her older sister of 23 attends extra schooling in the evenings. In 2019, all of the children dropped out of school due to hunger, and have only started again in 2020 after receiving support from Siyaphambili. The family depends on child support grants that come to just over R2,000 per month to support seven people.

Ubombo Drop-In Centre

The Ubombo Drop-In Centre works with orphaned and vulnerable children as well as families who have been affected by HIV. They run an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme for 66 children, and provide meals to another 25 during after-school hours. They also have 17 community care-givers who reach over 1,000 families.

Ubombo Project Manager Bheki Wilson Dube, tells Spotlight that community members struggle to take treatment for HIV and TB without food. He says that in prior years protein porridge was distributed by the Department of Health, but this is no longer the case.

The department says that this project ended in 2017, but is currently under review.

"The issue of hunger is widespread throughout all the wards," says Dube.

"That 66 [children in the ECD-programme], most of them are identified as undernourished, not that severely because we are supplying them with food like corn flakes and Nespray [a powdered milk supplement], but come January you can see they are struggling," he adds.

"I'll never go hungry because of 'ububazi'

The breathtaking views from the home of the family of 11 are probably worth millions of rand, but instead the vistas of Lake Jozini are overshadowed by the family's struggle for food.

Snindile Nyawo and a handful of her children are busy washing dishes and clothes with water they bought from the car wash just across the main road. The communal taps are all dry.

In between orchestrating the morning's chores, Nyawo tells Spotlight that feeding 11 people every month without employment is almost impossible. The family receives grants for six of the children. It amounts to just over R2,500 per month.

Nyawo says they buy maize meal, rice, potatoes, beans, cooking oil,

soup powder and some chicken each month, but by month's end, all that is left is maize and "ububazi".

"I'll never go hungry because of this plant," she says, laughing. The traditional herb, otherwise known as stinging nettles, grows on a bush between the family's houses and despite its tiny thorns, can be cooked and eaten like spinach. The family only has one meal per day.

Zisize Educational Trust

Zisize Educational Trust in Ingwavuma is another organisation working with children in the area as well as those affected by HIV/AIDS. Ingwavuma is about an hour from Jozini, and a mere 6km from the Eswatini border. Be careful of the three "stop and go" roadblocks that either permanently say 'stop' or 'go' as you wind your way up through the Lebombo Mountains.

Zisize works with 14 schools in the greater Ingwavuma area, covering a near 60km radius. The organisation provides educational and health outreach services to schools, and has 20 community care workers that visit families each month. Zisize also runs a food parcel programme that provides for over 50 families each month, and counsels them on food security and nutrition. As part of this programme, Zisize teaches community members how to grow their own food, which is a challenge in both Ingwavuma and Jozini as a result of water issues.

A shining light in the organisation is their orange Starfish Wellness Wagon, a child-friendly mobile clinic that visits primary schools four days a week for health screening. The wagon is run by the organisation's professional nurse, Nomsa Myeni and auxiliary nurse, Sizakele Dlamini.

"At schools it's rare to get children with malnutrition," says Myeni, "because even at schools they have feeding schemes."

To test for malnutrition, Myeni and Dlamini take the child's body mass index (BMI) and perform a MUAC test. If a child's BMI and MUAC are below a certain level, the child is referred to the clinic for nutritional supplements. The child's family is also evaluated by care workers for Zisize's food parcel programme.

But Ingwavuma's nutritional crisis only turned around in the last five years. "It was really difficult, because the conditions were really bad," says Dlamini. "They were admitting, now and then, the malnourished children to hospital, it was so bad," added Myeni.

Initiatives like the Wellness Wagon and Zisize's food parcel programme have worked to improve nutrition in the area. Unlike Jozini, there are six boreholes spread throughout villages in Ingwavuma and surrounds, making it easier for people to grow food and manage personal hygiene. There are also community gardens and seed distribution programmes.

Government response
KZN Department of Health spokesperson Agiza Hlongwane, says that severe acute malnutrition is a complex problem stemming from both social and health issues.

"The health measures put in place to try to address this problem have focused on three core actions: the promotion of breastfeeding, community based profiling for early detection of malnutrition and intersectoral support, and the implementation of WHO 10 steps for the inpatient management of severe acute malnutrition," says Hlongwane.

According to the department, two thirds of severe acute malnutrition fatalities occurred within the first year of life, and were attributed to poor infant feeding, poverty and food insecurity and comorbidity with HIV/AIDS, TB or other conditions.

"Inadequate household food security results in undernutrition," says Hlongwane. "The role of the health sector here is to identify children with or at risk of undernutrition, treat the acute issues and link affected children and families to appropriate support systems especially the Department of Social Development and SASSA. We have a well-established referral system via hospital based social workers."

To address child health concerns, the department established so-called Phila Mntwana centres to conduct early screening for health and nutritional issues. There are 54 of these centres in Umkhanyakude, but the District's 2018/19 health plan states that their performance is poor.

The department notes the importance of the first 1000 days, stating it "clearly highlights the urgency with which optimal nutrition practices should be implemented to achieve developmental goals and economic growth".

Further, Hlongwane cites the National Integrated Nutrition Programme, which includes new ways of improving health through nutrition.

"This can be seen through the achievements in reducing the provincial severe acute malnutrition case fatality rate at hospital level, increasing Vitamin A coverage at community level and improvement in exclusive breastfeeding rates at all levels," he says.

Triple burden

Spotlight previously published an article arguing that hunger, stunting and obesity were among the top issues to watch in children's health for 2020, and experts are calling them the "triple burden".

The new WHO/Lancet report states that "the so-called double burden of malnutrition means that overweight and obesity can coexist with undernourishment and micronutrient deficiencies within a single population". Put another way, the bright orange bag of maize meal in Thabani and his brother's house might help fill their tummies, but does not meet their nutritional needs.

It seems clear that the levels of malnutrition seen in KZN, and in the Umkhanyakude district in particular, will have long-lasting consequences both for the community and the individuals impacted directly, and it is the youngest who will be most severely affected.

"Poor foetal growth or stunting in the first two years of life leads to irreversible damage, including reduced adult height, lower attained schooling, and lower adult income," states the new WHO/Lancet report. "Children who are undernourished in the first 2 years of life and who put on weight rapidly later in childhood or in adolescence are at high risk of obesity and later chronic diseases."

The Umkhanyakude District health office was approached for comment but did not respond by the time of publication. This article will be updated should they give a response.

Agencies

TASAF digitises operations to curb ghost heirs as programme enters new phase

By Getrude Mbago

TWENTY years ago, the government in collaboration with various development stakeholders established the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) as one of its initiatives to address poverty in the country.

It's a long journey with hills and valleys. It wasn't easy task, but now the fund has relieved over five million people out of poverty trap across Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar.

A recent joint study carried out by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the World Bank found that if TASAF had not been there, the rate of poverty in Tanzania would be at least 2 percentage points higher. To put it differently, Tanzania would have one million more poor individuals if it were not for the TASAF's programme.

TASAF executive director Ladislaus Mwamanga said that TASAF programmes, which have been implemented in three phases for about twenty years, now embarks on a second part of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN II) project in the third phase, which will go until 2023.

Mwamanga said after successful completion of the PSSN I, the Fund is now

moving to the implementation of the second phase commenced this February this year.

In this second part of the 3rd phase, the fund focuses on supporting and empowering vulnerable Tanzanians fight poverty in their households.

"In the last phases, 1.1 million households with over five million poor people were covered. In the new phase we are expecting reach 1.4 million households which have over seven million poor people in all the 185 district councils in Tanzania," Mwamanga said.

He admitted that in the past phases there were some households which were enrolled in the programme illegally including registration of phantom beneficiaries.

"To fight the vice, TASAF has come up with new technology to register the beneficiaries biometrically to fight the challenges raised in the previous phase. We have strengthened our systems to ensure that the identification of poor people and households is conducted smoothly without loopholes, we have purchased more than 800 tablets which will simplify the identification and registration exercise across the country," he said.



One of the TASAF's beneficiaries at Burugo village in Kagera region sharing her story on how the fund has been a great aid to them when the Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office responsible for Good Governance Dr Mary Mwanjelwa visited some of the poor households.

He said that the TASAF's third phase involve the implementation of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) Project. The programme is implemented for two periods whereby the first one (PSSN I) was implemented from February 2013 and ended on December 31, 2019 spending a total of 1.46tr/-.

Mwamanga said that in the implementation of the PSSN II, the government aims to spend 2.032tr/- with major focus in providing poor households with prerequisite entrepreneurship skills and income-earning opportunities to enable them establish small-scale business and projects for poverty alleviation

During the implementation of PSSN I, Mwamanga said that the programme reached at least

1.1 million poor households of more than five million people were reached.

"The programme also supported at least 1.8 million secondary school children whereby most of them completed their basic and advanced education and later joined higher education in various universities. In 2019 at least 277 joined various university colleges in the country," he said.

The TASAF's head further said that apart from benefiting by getting grants, the beneficiaries also benefited from 8,809 projects worth 130bn/- where they reaped additional income.

"The projects ranged from various sectors such as water 4,341, environment and conservation (2550 projects), road infrastructures (784 projects), agriculture and irrigation (776 pro-

jects) and land conservation 583 projects among others," he said.

He also said that the programme has contributed to the formation of 22,303 saving groups in 54 district councils in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar collecting a total of 2.5bn/-.

"We also witnessed beneficiaries engaging in various income generating activities such as livestock keeping, poultry and other small-scale businesses. During the implantation of the programme, the beneficiaries managed to keep at least 11,120 cattle, 2.7 million goats, 12 million chicks and 781,400 sheep as well as initiated small-scale business and agricultural projects totaling 91,745," he explained.

The beneficiaries also managed to improve and construct at least 43,280 decent houses.

In that regard, Mwamanga said that the implementation of the programme in has shown remarkable and demonstrated to be the most innovative way of reaching and assisting poorest to meet their needs and overcome poverty. Mwamanga cited enrollment of ghost beneficiaries as among the major challenges which spoiled the programme.

He however said that to address the challenge, the government directed for countrywide verification exercise which later removed all the illegible beneficiaries in the programme.

"We were also receiving complaints from other poor beneficiaries who were not enrolled in the programme because the first phase covered only 70 percent of villages in the country, so the second phase of PSSN will cover all villages thus not hping to receive

the complaints anymore," he noted.

Launching the programme in Dar es Salaam recently, President Magufuli directed authorities to make sure that they supervise well and control enrolment of 'phantom' beneficiaries.

Dr Magufuli said that in the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghost and illegible households being enrolled in the programme.

"The involved people who are not poor and leaders being enrolled in the programmes, this should be addressed, the next phase has to ensure that all these challenges do not exist," he said. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), basic needs poverty has dropped to 26.4 percent in 2017/18 from 39 percent in 1990/91.

"Food poverty is among the major challenge in the universe. As per WB, a total of 736 million people are living in extreme poverty globally, and these are the ones living below poverty line. And 55 percent of all poor people are living in the African continent which translates that in every three people in Africa, one is poor. It is estimated that if serious measures will not be taken, 90 percent of all poor people will be living Africa by 2030," President Magufuli noted.

The Head of State said that in efforts to fight poverty in the country, the government has been implementing with a number of projects naming TASAF as one of the pioneer projects in ending poverty in the country.

President Magufuli commended donors and development partners for their continued support in implementing the programme.

Young women called to grab training opportunities for capacity building in entrepreneurship

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

TANZANIANS, young women in particular are advised to come out to grab various projects, training and other opportunities that aim to build capacity for entrepreneurs since the area is important in job creation, community development and national economic growth.

The call was made by the President of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Dr Samuel Kabote during the training for the development of young entrepreneurs and inventors - especially young women.

The training was conducted at the University by bringing together young men who were un-

dergoing entrepreneurship from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and the United States.

The project is being implemented by SUA in partnership with other universities from the State of Michigan in the US, Nairobi in Kenya and the University of Kyambogo from Uganda and has brought together young entrepreneurs to share experiences among themselves.

Dr Kabote said the report issued by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2017 shows that 12.7 percent of Tanzanians had no employment hence SUA has come up with own efforts to establish co-operation with other institutions of higher learning globally.

Dr Kabote said apart from the curricula which incorporate cross-cutting issues related to gender and entrepreneurship, SUA has

also continued to have modal farms which he said they have been of great assistance to students to study practically in the production of commodities from agricultural crops including juice, and bread through the Department of Nutrition Science and Technology.

On his part the coordinator of the project in Tanzania Dr John Jeckoniah said the plan incorpo-

rates all young women entrepreneurs aged between 25 and 40 who are either employed or self employed.

He said apart from the big challenge on unemployment confronting many young people in the country, many existing obstacles thereof afflict young women. The Kilosa District Agricultural Officer in Morogoro Region, Theresia Jacob said it's not necessary for a

farmer to sell his farm products direct from the farm, he can also sell a processed farm product.

Theresia is among the entrepreneurs who received training in the US last year said she has benefited a lot by that training as she has been able to add value to the crops that enabled her to make business within and outside the country, increasing her income in the process.

Roads damaged by rains under repair in Dodoma Region - RC

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

REPAIR work has begun on the roads infrastructures damaged by rains in various areas of Dodoma region to restore communication that had been severed.

Severed road communication had caused a sharp rise in transportation costs while other areas failed to get social services.

Speaking early this week during the inspection of the damaged roads Dodoma Regional Commissioner Dr Binilith Mahenge said the government will ensure all roads that were damaged by rains are repaired and communication restored.

"The aim is to restore communication in areas affected by rains to

enable wananchi conduct their development and economic activities without hindrance," he said.

Dr Mahenge said the government is making all efforts to ensure all areas are reachable in Chemba, Dodoma, Bahi and Kongwa districts.

He said for those roads that were extensively damaged, short time diversions will be made to give room for major repairs of the main roads.

Dodoma Region TANROADS manager Eng Leonard Chimagu said many roads were damaged due to changes of water courses.

"We are currently improving those areas that were cut hence the wananchi are assured of restoration of road communication very soon," he added.



Kawe B primary school student look at the volunteers from Time To Help Netherlands when they were decorating his school with new paint. The school was in bad condition before the renovation. (Photo: Guardian Correspondent)

The aim is to restore communication in areas affected by rains to enable wananchi conduct their development and economic activities without hindrance

Dar school in dare need of teaching, learning facilities

By Guardian Reporter

KAWE B primary school in Dar es Salaam is in dare need of teaching and learning facilities such as photocopy machines that would help to scale up education at the school.

School head teacher, Venance

Mwasamakwela made the plea yesterday soon after receiving refurbished classrooms by the charity organization - "Time To Help" and Feza schools.

He said that photocopy machines would help the school to print different examination test papers which currently cost

them a lot of money to print at the book stores.

He said his school has been doing better academically so the renovation by Time To Help and Feza schools would encourage them to continue with their spirit of doing better and better. He said in the last year's

Standard Seven examinations all the students passed for secondary education adding that they expect good results also in this year's exams.

"We appreciate the donation by Time To Help and Feza Schools and you are good friend of this school because our class-

rooms were in very bad condition but now they look good," he said

On her side, Fatma Qz from Time To Help Netherlands said she feels proud to be part of people who renovated the school adding that she would continue encouraging col-

leagues to contribute more for the needy.

"This is my second time to come to Tanzania I thank God that we have made it and the school is looking good what I can promise is that this will be not my last time to visit Tanzania to do charity works," she

said Time To Help is global charity organization found by Feza school's to help the community in the areas of safe and clean water, school desks, orphanage centre and other social services.



Thursday 27 February 2020

Nsekela promises disciplined Zanzibar lawmakers rate cut on loans in future

By The Banker Reporter

SEEKING to return a bigger part of Zanzibar House of Representatives members as borrowers from CRDB Bank Plc after general elections later this year, Managing Director Abdulmajid Nsekela has promised to negotiate with Speaker, Zuberi Ali Maulid an amicable interest rate to be charged on such loans.

Nsekela and his top management team descended on the Spice Islands last weekend to mobilise the lawmakers and senior government officials on CRDB's new found inertia to grow its business presence by lending more both to individuals and the state.

Responding to concerns raised by the House of Representatives members and cabinet ministers during the stakeholders meeting hosted by the bank, Nsekela said, CRDB is, 'The bank that listens' hence after this year's elections scheduled for October, the bank's credit experts will consult with the Speaker's office to agree on a reasonable rate.

He said as the bank seeks to expand its presence in Zanzibar through lending both to the state and individuals, the lawmakers are an important constituency to deal with. "I understand your concerns regarding interest rates but I can assure you that we will sit down and discuss this with the Speaker's office," he said to the relief of the legislators.

Nsekela also promised to give counsel-



Zanzibar House of Representatives chairman, Hamza Hassan Juma making his contribution while CRDB managing director, Abdulmajid Nsekela looks on during the bank's hosted meeting last weekend. Photo courtesy of CRDB.

ling on financial management and how to invest borrowed money by the lawmakers many of who had complained that banks are behaving like loan sharks which give them loans and eagerly wait for a default to auction collateral.

CRDB which commands 20 percent of the market's loan portfolio and 24 percent of deposits is targeting to give

loans to the House of Representative members once they get re-elected, a tradition which dates back several years.

The CRDB boss who described Zanzibar clients as the best ever because of their discipline in repaying their loans, noted that because of such an outstanding credit history, reducing interest

rates is inevitable as the risk is low.

"We have so far given out over Itrn/- in loans including to Zanzibar civil servants and House of Representative members," he added saying over the past year, CRDB managed to reduce non performing loans from 9 to 5.5 percent which is slightly up the central bank ceiling of 5

percent.

In his contribution, House of Representatives Chairman, Hamza Hassan Juma said many lawmakers take loans and use them for recurrent expenditure which sometimes makes them suffer during repayment because they did not invest.

"We call upon the bank to give the members some financial counselling before lending them so that the money which comes in big amounts is invested," Juma said while noting that CRDB should also help finance the government's development projects some of which have the potential to repay the loans on schedule.

He also requested CRDB management to shift this year's annual meeting to the Isles so that shareholders from other parts of the country should also have contact with the Spice Islands as part of diversification.

Legislator Tauhida Galos concurred with Juma's observation on the need to provide counselling to borrowers saying many suffer because the loans are used to finance consumables. "But the issue of interest rates needs serious consideration because we as House of Representative members we can't default, why charge as the usual market rates?" Galos queried.

She also suggested that bankers monitor the spending styles of borrowers to ensure that such money is not wasted hence paving the way for smooth repayment. The prevailing loan interest rates in the market range between 16 and 18 percent.



France's Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire.

No global digital tax by end-2020 would mean chaos - France

RIYADH

Failure to reach a global deal on where and how much to tax digital giants such as Google, Amazon or Facebook would result in many digital tax regimes emerging all over the world, France's Finance Minister said on Sunday.

It would also likely trigger U.S. retaliatory tariffs, U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told reporters, underscoring Washington's determination to thwart tax rules planned by France and other countries if no global deal is reached.

Speaking to Reuters on the sidelines of a meeting of world financial leaders, Bruno Le Maire said the gathering had been very useful in establishing consensus on such global tax rules. Finance ministers and central bankers from the world's 20 biggest economies, the G20, met in Riyadh for talks on economic issues, with digital taxation topping their two-day agenda.

Mnuchin said the issue was being addressed in negotiations with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and he hoped it could be resolved by the end of the year. But he said Washington would strike back at the digital taxes passed by France and others if those efforts failed.

"We've been very consistent in saying we think the digital services tax is discriminatory in nature against digital companies, and specifically a handful of U.S. companies," he said. "The president was clear that we were proceeding with ... reciprocal tariffs."

France and the United States have declared a truce to allow the multilateral talks to reach a conclusion by year-end. "For the first time there is wide consensus among the G20 members on the necessity of having a new international taxation system," Le Maire said.

"We have to address the issue of digital companies making profits in many countries without any physical presence, which means without paying the due level of taxes," he said. "And we also have to address the key question of minimum taxation and the risk of having a race to the bottom on taxation," he said. The OECD wants to agree on technical details of such a tax by July. "There is a consensus to build a solution by the end of 2020," Le Maire said, noting the alternative - no agreement - would create a proliferation of different tax systems making life more difficult for companies.

"Let's be clear - either we have at the end of 2020 an international solution... clearly in the interest of all countries and digital companies, or there is no solution and ... then it will be up the national taxes to enter into force," Le Maire said.

"Instead of having one single, simple solution, we would have many different digital taxes, all over the world." The United States, home to most of the digital giants, has been wary of committing to a solution on taxing them before a presidential election later this year.

FNB 'aggressively' repositions for platform-based future

JOHANNESBURG

Popularly regarded as one of the banks at the forefront of digital innovation, First National Bank (FNB) says it is now "deliberately" stepping up its game into a data-driven, platform-based future.

This is the word from CEO Jacques Celliers, who says this is part of a process to ensure each customer's experience is individualised according to their financial needs. "Our strategy is simple; we want to help our customers with contextual solutions through a trusted platform," the CEO told ITWeb.

"The journey sees us integrate our rich and ever-expanding ecosystems and value propositions in transacting, lending, investing and insuring into our enterprise digital platform," he says. "This will increasingly allow customers across retail and commercial segments to experience various helpful financial solutions, each tailored to their specific individual contexts."

He believes this "simple strategy" will also give FNB the competitive edge over digital entrants currently making inroads in SA's banking space. In the past year, the local retail banking space saw financial service providers such as TymeBank and Discovery Bank disrupt the traditional banking model with branchless and



FNB CEO Jacques Celliers.

digital-only offerings.

According to Celliers, FNB's approach is to always respect competition because the industry will always go through phases of it. However, FNB remains resolute in its commitment to build a trusted platform for customers, he states.

"In the same way Spotify is able to individualise recommended playlists for users of their platform, we need to help our retail and commercial customers navigate their financial contexts with appropriate financial solutions to support them in dealing with their respective challenges and opportunities."

"Overall, most of the reconfiguration we've seen amongst our competitors is something we've already done in our business - whether you're looking at rewards or the digitisation of services. That said, competition is great for our sector because it removes any possibility of complacency."

Brick-and-mortar advocate

While competitors announced branch closures, FNB stated the brick-and-mortar bank branch is still very much part of its future. Celliers says his bank has been on a journey to modernise points-of-presence infrastructure, which includes campuses, branches, suites and ATMs, all the way to the bank's speed-point terminals.

"The manner in which we are responding to the step-change in our customers' needs is to enhance our physical environments in such a way that customers experience our cool digital platforms not only when they are on their own but also when they visit us, which is when they need human interaction and support.

"Our branch personnel, for instance, continue to play an important role in offering adequate product advice to customers and they are enabled through our powerful interfaces to increasingly use technology to understand each customer's context, and to ultimately become money managers. In the same way Uber drivers are enabled through their platform to wow their customers, so too our frontline teams are able to bring exponential helpfulness to life."

In the same breath, Celliers points out the bank has made significant improvements in managing queues in branches. This, he says, is enabled by allowing customers to perform most

banking functions across a broad range of interfaces and alternative payment options.

"ATM queues are typically influenced by customers' cash needs, especially around month-end, and to a great extent, we are able to solve cash needs by enabling customers to use solutions such as Cash@till, eWallet, and cash-accepting ATMs, to make cash deposits or withdrawals." The CEO reveals the FNB app is still a popular digital solution that resonates with customers.

"As at June 2019, we were in the region of three million active users on our app and we believe richer functionality will enable us to attract more eyeballs and interactions. "Similarly, we continue to see progress around the use of digital capabilities in branch, which is partly due to customers being able to use our multi-purpose banking interfaces and others connecting to our free branch WiFi to quickly and efficiently perform transactions."

Commenting on the future of the local bank scene, Celliers says FNB remains energised by the buzz in the sector without being oblivious to the economic pressures on customers, especially those in vulnerable positions. "Despite the tough operating environment, our customers can look forward to a decade of industry-leading solutions from us as we embark on a platform future," he concludes.

Global growth could shrink by more than \$1.1 trillion if coronavirus turns global pandemic

LONDON

Analysts are rushing to quantify the fallout of an intensified coronavirus outbreak, and Oxford Economics believes the virus turning pandemic could wipe out \$1.1 trillion from the world economy.

A spate of new coronavirus deaths in Italy, Iran, and South Korea fuelled new fears of a prolonged global outbreak on Monday. US stocks tumbled the most in two years as investors fled risk assets and piled into gold and gov-

ernment debt.

All eyes are now on the virus' death toll outside of China, a key metric for predicting the outbreak's future containment. While the rate of infection in China has slowed, new outbreaks in Asia and Europe could escalate coronavirus into a global pandemic.

Economists at Oxford Economics split their outlook toward the virus' economic fallout into two scenarios. Their baseline assumes "a large but short-lived economic impact" focused in China, before the outbreak rises to

the level of a pandemic. Global gross domestic product growth would slow by 0.2% from January to February before a quick upswing.

Should coronavirus become a pandemic contained within Asia, global gross domestic product growth in 2020 will fall 0.5%, or \$400 billion below the firm's baseline estimate, according to the note. A slowdown in world trade and consumer spending would hit most severely during the first half of the year before a sharp recovery lasts through 2021.

The projected hit to global GDP nearly triples if infection rates spike around the globe, economists Adam Slater and Neil Walker wrote. Economic growth around the world would slump to nearly zero in the first half of the year as the US and advanced European economies enter technical recessions in the first half of the year. Full-year GDP would fall 1.3% below Oxford Economics' baseline, erasing \$1.1 trillion in previously expected economic growth.

Even in the more ominous case, the global economy would exhibit a rapid

recovery following the pandemic's containment, the team added. The virus would inflict "a short but very sharp shock" to world GDP, recover during the end of 2020 and into 2021, and normalise around pre-outbreak levels through the end of next year, Oxford Economics projected.

The economists looked to 2003's SARS outbreak and past swine flu epidemics to support their estimates. Oxford Economics anticipates a pandemic-level outbreak would impact economies through several channels,

including discretionary spending, a shock to nations' labour supplies, plummeting tourism and travel behaviour, and lower capital investment.

Financial sectors around the world would suffer from falling equities prices and growing money market spreads, the firm added. Coronavirus has killed more than 2,700 people and infected more than 80,000 as of Tuesday. At least 40 deaths have been reported outside of mainland China, and cases have been confirmed in at least 37 countries.

Bankers, insurers seek review of BoT regulations to invest in agriculture

By Francis Kajubi

BANKERS and insurers have called on Bank of Tanzania to review some regulations relating to debt servicing in order to encourage them invest in agriculture.

Speaking at a stakeholders' meeting convened by Ministry of Agriculture in Dar es Salaam earlier this week, the banking and insurance experts said BoT's strict regulations relating to non performing loans are a major obstacle in their quest to invest heavily in the agriculture sector whose means of production remain archaic.

They gave an example of the sector relying on season rains which remain unpredictable as unreliable weather data supplied by Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) and frequency policy changes.

Head of Credit at CRDB Bank Plc, Musa Lwila blamed BoT's regulatory treatment of agriculture related loans that may take more than a season to get paid but are subject to similar rules as other businesses when it comes to non-performing loans (NPLs).

"The central bank's regulations treats agriculture loans as other business loans when it comes to classification of NPLs. Defaulted loans by farmers and peasants should be treated separately and special but on the contrary regulations generalize the issue posing fear to our customers who are owners of the money we invest," said Lwila.

According to him, BoT need to revisit the regulations classifying and provisioning for agriculture related loans for them to offer long term credit that can take a minimum of three year before the payback period commences.

Speaking on reluctance to finance some crops that the ministry see them as having potential such as avocado, spices and sunflowers, NMB Bank Plc's Senior Relationship Agribusiness Manager John Machunda said the sector is not much organized for lenders to invest their money.

"Even the price discovery mechanism of the cash crop is yet not proper, there are double standards in pricing from one area to another in the same country," Machunda said.



Deputy minister for agriculture and cooperatives, Hussein Bashe.

He further cited competition between small and large scale producers of seeds and edible oil as another setback for the lenders to venture into the sub-sector, noting that large producers are liable to value added tax while small ones are exempted which poses inflexibility on the market hence pose doubts to lenders seeking to issue long term loans.

Deputy Managing Director MGen Insurance Tanzania Limited, Ernest Kilumbi, blamed the ministry and TMA for unreliable data provided on weather index, unreliable agro-production costs and yields.

"Regardless of the risks in the market, we have been offering insurance cover to farmers and peasants since 2013 for a number of cash crops including paddy rice, sunflower, grain and millet in Mbeya, Manyara, Dodoma, Singida, Njombe, Iringa and Morogoro. About 13,000 farmers from these regions have benefited from services to date," said Kilumbi.

On his part, Jabir Kigoda who is

Head Business Development UAP Insurance Tanzania, said the firm started offering insurance cover for crops in 2013 but admitted that it could have invested much more if the government addressed all identified hurdles.

"In 2019 we reached a total of 44,000 farmers especially from the Southern Highland regions with an insurance cover on crops worth 600m/-. We call upon policy review for us to invest more," Kigoda said.

Responding to issues raised, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Hussein Bashe admitted that concerns raised by the insurers and bankers were genuine and that the ministry will work on them before tabling of the 2020/21 budget to parliament.

"Financial institutions have invested only 9 percent in the last financial year in agriculture which is way too low to for the estimated 65 percent of Tanzanians working in the sector. We need heavy investments, in fact, long term loans and insurance cover to facilitate farming," Bashe noted.

African edtech start-ups selected for Mastercard accelerator

JOHANNESBURG

The Mastercard Foundation Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning in Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) has announced the first cohort of 12 edtech fellows that will benefit from its 12-month acceleration programme.

According to the Mastercard Foundation, the centre was established in 2018 to spark innovation and promote promising practices in the use of ICT in teaching and learning, and thereby catalyse significant improvement in access, quality and relevance of education.

One of the centre's objectives is to identify demand-driven edtech innovations that close the gap in education and learning outcomes for the most disadvantaged students, in line with the Mastercard Foundation's Young Africa Works strategy. Two of the 12 fellows are from SA: online learning platform Siyavula Education, and mobile teacher-training platform Instill Education.

The fellows were selected after an Africa-wide request for proposals in October last year. Innovators were invited to submit proposals that either enhance and increase accessibility and affordability of professional development for in-service teachers, which also minimise their out-of-classroom time; or create and deliver enriched learning content that improves quality, relevance and accessibility to both in-school and out-of-school secondary school learners.

"The announcement of these first fellows at the Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning is a milestone moment in the work we are carrying out in Africa," says Peter Materu, chief programme officer at the Mastercard Foundation. "Bringing together these talented entrepreneurs and supporting them as they innovate to drive excellence in teaching and learning offers new opportunities with great potential to raise the bar in African education and benefit tens of millions of students."

The companies will receive a package over the next year that includes customised mentorship, financial support, the opportunity to test, validate and scale their business,

and a \$40 000 grant to aid in the development of their solutions.

"We're very proud and excited to have this first group of leading African innovators in edtech with us," says Joseph Nsengimana, head of the Mastercard Foundation Centre for Innovative Teaching and Learning in ICT.

"These companies are working to expand the use of ICT to address some of the most pressing issues facing education in Africa today. We will give them access to the customised mentoring and financial support they need over the next year, so that they can test, refine and validate their products. With that, they can grow their businesses and help to improve learning outcomes throughout Africa."

The selected edtech companies are: O'Genius Priority, Rwanda: An educational platform where students use computers to perform laboratory experiments, equipping them with

experiential and practical science knowledge.

iCog Labs, Ethiopia: Provides coding and soft skills training to young people in 15 Ethiopian cities. M-Shule, Kenya: A mobile learning platform that connects learners with tailored tutoring, training, assessments and data through SMS. The Dr CL Smith Foundation, Kenya: Technology that enables students to access short and engaging curriculum content in text, audio and video formats through a mobile application.

Litmore, Kenya: A mobile-first data management platform that allows students to access Kenya's best instructors anywhere, at any time. Chalkboard Education, Ghana: Offers software and services for institutions to create and track training programmes on mobile, without Internet access.

HITCH, Nigeria: An educational video platform that provides underserved African schools with curated, high-

quality educational content. Siyavula Education, South Africa: A customised online learning platform that uses the latest research on motivation, sequencing and cognitive science to optimise student study habits and improve test scores.

Instill Education, South Africa: A mobile teacher-training platform that provides educators with bite-sized and practical content using an approach that reinforces learning and deepens retention. AkooBooks Audio, Ghana: A platform and ICT solutions provider that transforms African books into engaging audio books that are accessible on mobile phones.

Eneza Education, Ghana: Provides learning and revision materials via SMS/USDD on basic feature phones. Kytabu Co, Kenya: Technology that enables students to access short and engaging curriculum content in text, audio and video formats through a mobile application.



Peter Materu, chief programme officer at the Mastercard Foundation.

Development Bank's R3.5bn bailout of SAA may be depleted by early March

CAPE TOWN

Minister of Public Enterprises Pravin Gordhan has said that the R3.5bn in emergency funding that SAA received from the state-owned Development Bank of Southern Africa earlier in the year may be depleted by early March.

Gordhan was addressing a joint sitting of Parliament's Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Public Enterprises on Wednesday morning, where he stressed that the need to provide financial assistance to the beleaguered flag carrier would be a reality until the business rescue process is finalised.

The admission from Gordhan regarding the bailout money came in response to questions from SCOPA member Alf Lees. While the minister talked about the importance of the provision of finance, he did not make any definitive announcements about emergency funding.

SAA was placed under voluntary business rescue in December, and received R3.5bn of emergency funding from the DBSA in early January. Earlier this month its business rescue practitioners, Siviwe Dongwana and Les Matuson, made the decision to cancel all the airline's domestic routes except for the popular Johannesburg-Cape Town flight to save cash. Some regional and international flights were also cancelled. Their business rescue plan is expected to be finalised by the end of the February.

Dongwana and Matuson attended the joint sitting on Wednesday along with other members of the business rescue team and officials from the Department of Public Enterprises, but Gordhan took the lead in updating Parliament.

Asked whether a private partner could be brought into the fold, Gordhan said while details were still being determined, the airline needed "the right kind of combination" between public and private ownership. "Nobody is going to offer you anything for SAA now. You could pick it up for R1. You would probably have to pay someone to come in and take SAA off our hands," said Gordhan.

The minister, who had a touch of laryngitis, told MPs that the airline's business rescue practitioners must consult with unions and creditors during the process of developing their plan. The plan must be published within 10 days of its finalisation. Parliament will then have an opportunity to study it, he said.

"The key issue going forward is the provision of finance. There is money coming from lenders and DFIs (development finance institutions) and the way we want to handle this is as a process that allows us to create a viable airline that can go into the future," said Gordhan.

After the meeting, Dongwana told Fin24 that he was pleased with the meeting and Scopa chair, Mkhuleko Hlengwa's appreciation of the delicate business rescue process. "The chair put it well that everyone should give the business rescue practitioners the time to finalise the plan and publish the plan and then come back to Scopa in context of a business rescue plan to answer all of the questions," said Dongwana.

MPs did, however, express misgivings about the department arguing that a provision in the Public Finance Management Act allowed the airline to abstain from tabling financial statements. Gordhan said there was no deliberate attempt to flout PFMA requirements. It was merely a consequence of the business' financial realities, the minister insisted.

Bond investors signal SA to lose investment grade

JOHANNESBURG

Many investors expect South Africa to lose its last investment-grade rating. Their only question is when. Finance Minister Hard-currency bond investors have already downgraded South Africa to junk.

The premium investors demand to the country's dollar debt rather than US Treasuries climbed above the emerging-

market average in October, shortly before Moody's Investors Service cut the country's credit outlook to negative. It has now been above the mean for the longest period since Bloomberg started tracking the data in 1997. Previously, South Africa's sovereign spread crossed above the average for brief periods only during times of stress.

Many investors expect South Africa to lose its last investment-grade rating.

Their only question is when. Moody's is scheduled to review the assessment shortly after Finance Minister Tito Mboweni's key budget statement. To escape a downgrade, Mboweni would have to convince Moody's that the government is on track to restructure ailing state-owned companies, and has credible plans to curb the budget shortfall and fuel growth.

"We are sceptical the government

will make sufficient progress on fiscal consolidation in time for the 2020 budget," analysts at RBC Securities wrote in a note. "We expect Moody's to downgrade South Africa to non-investment grade in March, though the decision is likely to be a close call." Others, including Morgan Stanley's Johannesburg-based Andrea Masia, expect the downgrade to be delayed until November.

Mechanization is essential for Tanzania's agricultural development

Farm mechanization is the magic behind increased productivity and transformation of the agriculture sector; shifting from muscle-powered crop cultivation to a mechanized mode of production.

Mechanization leads to increased output of higher value products, which culminate to improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers. In fact, the routes to agricultural mechanization in Asia, for example, Vietnam rice production mechanization plan, enabled farmers to shift from a small and unplanned farming form to large-scale production. Their approach provides interesting insights, experience, and knowledge of how Tanzania can mechanize its agricultural sector.

By Victor Mwakapusya

Stanbic Bank Relationship Manager - Commercial Banking



Farming in Tanzania is still unquestionably, the leading economic activity for over 65 percent of the population. However, it is faced with major constraints such as unskilled labour, poor

technology and dependence on unreliable and irregular weather conditions, that hinders its development.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, the country has a total of 44 mil-

lion hectares of land suitable for agricultural production, only 10.8 million hectares are currently being cultivated. Therefore, the use and availability of modern farming technologies will be a driving force towards improving land productivity through establishment of projects such as horticulture, modern irrigation, modern livestock and poultry production.

Additionally, mechanised agriculture practices will increase access of raw materials to feed the country's industrial demand, as well as support the agenda to eliminate malnutrition and hunger in Africa by 2025.

The government recognises the pivotal role of the agricultural sector, both in terms of economic growth and poverty reduction and has created differ-

ent strategies and policies to support the sector, such as; Tanzania Agriculture Mechanization strategy (2006) and second phase of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP II). Among other things, the latter highlights the importance of mechanization in increasing rural labour productivity and attracting young entrepreneurs to the sector.

Despite the government's efforts, the level of farm machinery use by smallholder farmers in Tanzania is still low. Some of the major challenges include: lack of coordination in linking farmers demand and supply of machineries and their services, the sunk cost nature of farm machinery investments, and lack of machinery maintenance services in rural areas.

In order to address these challenges and increase access to agriculture equipment, Stanbic Bank rolled out Vehicle and Asset Finance (VAF) facility, to help smallholder farmers access short- to medium-term funding to finance the purchase of equipment, processing machinery and movable assets.

Stanbic Bank Tanzania is busy implementing the strategy to grow its agribusiness market share to double digits in the next 5 years. Recognizing the importance of public-private partnership to transform the agriculture sector, it is paramount for financial institutions and other reputable development stakeholders to implement strategies and solutions to help mechanize agriculture.

Monese – the UK digital bank serving clients shunned by traditional lenders

LONDON

Among Britain's digital app-based banks that are attracting monied urban millennials is Monese, which also courts customers neglected by the country's established lenders.

In early 2000, Estonia-born entrepreneur Norris Koppel arrived in Britain and spotted a major gap in UK banking for newly-arrived foreigners who had trouble opening traditional accounts. Mr Koppel was snubbed by banks owing to a lack of address documents and no credit history – and vowed to help those in a similar predicament.

In the nation's booming financial technology or FinTech sector, mobile phone app-based "neo-banks" such as Revolut, Monzo and Starling have established themselves as plucky upstarts. Mr Koppel's lender Monese joined them, expanding to 31 nations in Europe with two million customers in only five years of operation.

"Investor trust in FinTechs and the amount of investment being poured into neo-banks is actually very significant; it hasn't really slowed down. 2019 was definitely a peak point so let's see how 2020 goes," Mr Koppel says.

"It's very clear that banking is going through fundamental changes ... and there are a group of neo-banks including Monese who are on top of that wave." The company describes itself as an electronic money institution that provides banking facilities but it does not currently offer credit.

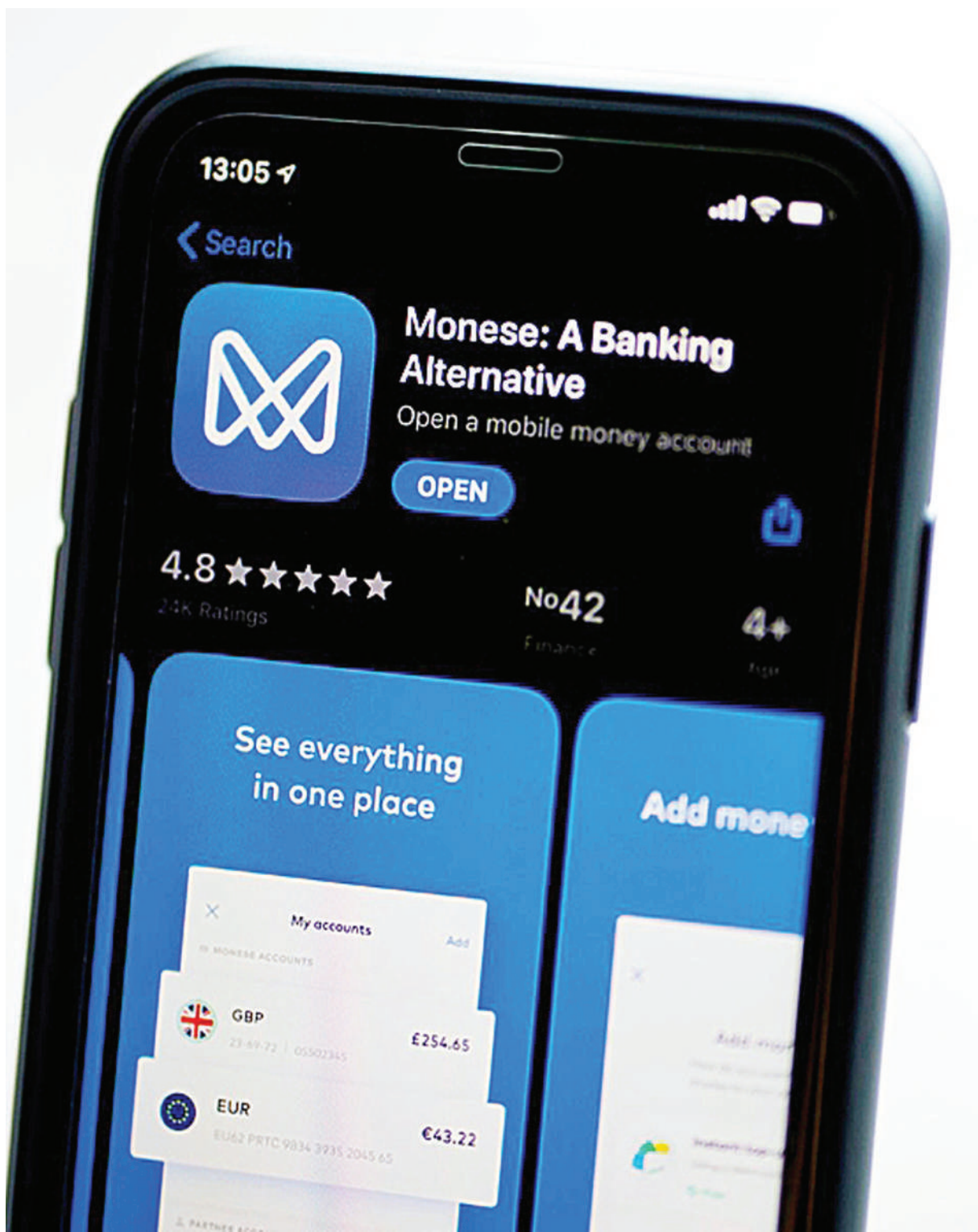
"Monese was born from my own very personal frustration," Mr Koppel explains. "When I moved to the country I couldn't open a simple account and I thought maybe that is something that can be done."

"Monese is built for people who are moving to a different country, starting a new life, finding a better job, retiring, going for studies, or getting married somewhere else." In Britain, around 80 per cent of Monese customers are foreigners whose salary goes directly into their account.

Groups like Monese that only operate online carry out checks to verify the identity of new applicants to help fight money laundering. The app aims to compete with Revolut and Monzo, which have eight million and three million customers respectively in a fiercely competitive market. Starling Bank, a smaller rival, reached one million accounts in November.

On Tuesday Revolut said it had raised \$500 million in a funding round that values the London financial-technology firm at \$5.5bn, making it one of Europe's most valuable FinTech start-ups despite still being loss-making.

The company will use the cash



Monese is among Britain's digital app-based challenger banks that increasingly attract city-dwelling rich millennials.

for product development and to increase banking operations across Europe. Revolut said it plans to begin making loans for retail and business banking customers, expand its savings accounts beyond the UK and improve its customer service.

The competition with European players is also heating up. German mobile bank N26 GmbH said earlier this month it would close all UK mobile banking accounts in April. The firm, backed by billionaires Peter Thiel and Li Ka-Shing, blamed Brexit for the withdrawal.

Swedish payments and banking firm Klarna became the most valuable European FinTech start-up in August after new funding pushed its post-money valuation to \$5.5bn. Monese, meanwhile, expects to turn a profit by 2021.

The company, which has a global workforce of roughly 400 people, describes itself as the "Uber of banking," in reference to the popular ride-hailing app. "It's a good com-

parison," Mr Koppel says, noting that it was used by a lot of gig-economy workers at Uber and takeaway delivery service Deliveroo.

Britain's traditional banking sector, which is still reeling from the 2008 global financial crisis and a string of product mis-selling scandals, retains a strong grip on personal banking, experts say. However, Warwick University's Andreas Kokkinis, who specialises in corporate law and financial regulation, says FinTech is managing to gain a foothold.

"The six biggest UK banks have 87 per cent of the market share for current accounts so the remaining 13 per cent is split among smaller conventional banks and building societies, and challenger banks," he says.

"In that sense large universal banks – HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds Banking Group, Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Santander UK – retain their dominance over UK retail banking market," says Mr Kokkinis.

"However, challenger banks, which operate exclusively online and thus offer cheaper services, are popular among customers below the age of 37."

If current trends persist, "the market share of challenger banks will grow significantly in the near future", adds Mr Kokkinis, which could lead to takeovers. "This does not necessarily mean that large banks will lose their dominant position in retail banking markets. What is more likely to happen is that large banks will acquire successful challenger banks."

Monese is now in fund-raising talks that could give it coveted unicorn status, meaning that the business would be valued at more than £1bn. The company is seeking £100m in additional funds from new and existing shareholders, which include US online payments specialist PayPal and British Airways parent group.

Trends that will shape East African oil and gas industry in 2020 and beyond

By Hussein Bofu

There have been some significant oil and gas discoveries across East Africa, primarily in Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda and have propelled East Africa from the minor league to a global leader in hydrocarbon discoveries for the running ten years.

But the simple truth is that, the East African oil and gas industry has changed in the last few years. And understanding these changes is crucial for redirecting your business to match the new reality. Here are six trends in the East African oil and gas industry worth watching this year and throughout the decade.

Competitive regulatory reforms

With oil prices being low for a while, everyone is competing for investment. In 2020, you are going to see East African countries continuing to review their regulatory frameworks to ensure they serve domestic development priorities, remain attractive to investors and ensure a faster-approved permit in your hand so you keep your drilling rig moving and your project on track.

Oil and gas skills shortage

Even as oil prices began to recover in 2017 and 2018, the industry remained focused and now place a huge premium on productivity, innovation and high performance of the workforce. And that is expected to continue in 2020 and beyond. The key shortage in East African oil and gas is one of the qualified personnel with skills and expertise to deliver productivity and high performance needed.

There are simply not enough skills and expertise to supply all the demand. You will not be able to hire skills quickly enough or insufficient volume to deliver the innovation and high performance required. However, following technological advances in the oil and gas industry, training your youth team and experienced workers is the answer.

The challenges and opportunities in East African oil and gas industries can be addressed developing local experiences. We have seen what happened during the oil price slump of 2014 to 2016. Neither finance nor the technology is saving the industry. But the people, their performance and their productivity have been addressed both challenges and opportunities

Enhanced regional co-operation

East Africa has realized that collaboration is their future. They understand if they want to maintain future business, they have to collaborate. You have seen what happened in East Africa since 2016. Uganda and Tanzania are planning to build a 1445 kilometre pipeline that will transport crude oil from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga port in

Tanzania. A plan to export Tanzanian gas to Kenya is also being explored.

Growth of East African content

Following the successful implementation of oil and gas projects, it's encouraging to see now, East African operators are moving forward, to replicate the success of these projects elsewhere in Africa.

For example, Canada based company, Orca exploration which operates the Songo Songo gas field in Tanzania under its subsidiary, Pan African energy Tanzania (PAET) is seeking to expand company's integrated gas business elsewhere in Africa. As the East African region to strengthen its local content. This trend will accelerate in 2020 and beyond.

Expect high gas demand

East Africa's gas demand is expected to grow in the coming years. This is driven by increasing industrialization and power demand in the region. In its latest operational update released on January 28, Pan African Energy operators of the Songo Songo gas field see the Tanzanian gas demand rising this year and beyond. This is driven by the expansion of gas-fired power generation, industrial users and expected start dates for new gas-fired generation.

Technology transformation to drive efficiency

Oil and gas companies are adopting new technologies to lower cost, increase productivity and improve operational efficiency. Increased use of measurement-while-drilling (MWD) and logging-while-drilling (LWD) tools which collect data during the drilling process could improve drilling accuracy.

In addition to that, following the latest technology in geophysical services (also known as seismic and data acquisition) such as pre-stack depth migration algorithm like Kirchhoff, Beam, Kirchhoff least square migration or RTM (Reversed Time Migration) could help increasing the East African reserves volumetric calculations. Developing and training the users of these up-to-date technology in the industry is the best way to save time in saving money in the East African oil and gas industry.

Downstream market is going to be a huge market for everyone

As the upstream sub sector of the oil and gas industry is recovering gradually from a major slump of 2014 to 2016, the downstream petroleum products sub sector of the oil and gas industry, which cover everything from lubricants, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), diesel, Jet-fuel is growing at a rapid pace in East Africa. The demand is driven by continued economic growth in the region. The downstream petroleum products sub sector is expected to remain stable over the next decade to come.

WORLD

Can Sanders beat Trump? A growing number of Democratic voters say yes

NEW YORK

BERNIE Sanders' Democratic presidential rivals warn that nominating the self-described democratic socialist will ensure President Donald Trump's re-election, but a growing number of the party's voters see the senator as their best chance of winning in November.

Sanders' dominating performance in last week's Nevada caucuses, powered by growing support across age, race and ideology, has set off alarm bells among Democratic Party officials who believe putting the progressive stalwart at the top of the ticket will harm the party's chances up and down the ballot.

Sanders' electability was a prime topic at Tuesday's Democratic presidential debate in South Carolina. Rivals contended his ambitious liberal policy ideas, such as Medicare for All, which would replace private health insurance, would be an electoral "catastrophe," costing the party the White House and control of Congress.

But the latest Reuters/Ipsos polling shows Sanders' rising momentum in the race - a near win in Iowa, a narrow victory in New Hampshire and a decisive win in Nevada - has given him more credibility with Democratic voters.

Some 26% of Democrats and inde-

pendents polled Feb. 17-25 said they believed Sanders was the strongest Democrat in a head-to-head matchup with Trump, compared with 20% who picked billionaire businessman Michael Bloomberg and 17% who named former Vice President Joe Biden.

That was a big change from a month earlier, when 27% of respondents gave Biden the edge, and just 17% thought Sanders could beat Trump.

In the Nevada caucuses, Sanders won the support of a majority of Latino voters and led among most demographic groups broken out by gender, income and political leanings in Nevada. Notable exceptions were those aged 65 years and older, as well as black voters, more of whom supported Biden.

That too could be changing. The same Reuters/Ipsos polling showed that Sanders had overtaken Biden in support among black voters nationally for the first time.

Saturday's South Carolina primary will be the first major test of Sanders' appeal among African-American voters, who represent about 60% of that state's Democratic electorate.

Three days later, 14 states will cast ballots on Super Tuesday, when Sanders could build an overwhelming advantage if he captures the lion's share of the available delegates.

His path has been smoothed by the



Bernie Sanders

fragmentation among the moderate candidates. Biden, former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg and Senator Amy Klobuchar - all of whom say Sanders' policies are too radical to win in November, have each recorded at least one top-three finish thus far, while Bloomberg's name will appear on ballots for the first time on Super Tuesday.

'NOT RADICAL'

Sanders argues the enthusiasm powering his campaign will lead to record turnout in November, particularly among young and infrequent voters, making up for any deficiency among swing voters or Republicans.

"A large voter turnout would mean that down-ballot Democrats will ... do better than they have in the past," Sanders told Reuters on Saturday in El Paso, Texas. "Our campaign is the campaign to do that: We have the energy, we have the excitement, we have the grassroots movement."

At Tuesday's debate, he said the biggest misconception about him, "and you're hearing it here tonight, is that the ideas I'm talking about are radical."

"They're not. In one form or another, they exist in countries all over the world," he added. "Healthcare is a human right. We have the necessity, the moral imperative, to address the existential threat of climate change. Other countries are doing that."

The results in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada have not provided evidence of a massive turnout surge, but Sanders' fortunes have improved with each succeeding state contest.

"If you want to win in red and purple places, the most important thing you need is people who like you or who are willing to fight for you," Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, who ended her own presidential bid last year, told MSNBC on Tuesday.

"You need passion, and what Bernie showed so far is that he's got a lot of passion in his campaign."

'MAJOR CONCERNS' AMONG MODERATES

After gaining a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2018, dozens of Democrats will be defending seats in Republican-leaning areas. In recent weeks, several moderate Democrats openly fretted that Sanders at the top of the ticket would risk flipping those seats.

"I hear from constituents that they are afraid they are going to have to make a choice between a self-described socialist and an aspiring dictator," said U.S. Representative Stephanie Murphy of Florida, co-chair of the congressional Blue Dog Coalition of moderate Democrats, referring to Sanders and Trump.

"That's not a choice any American should make."

Polling released by Bloomberg's campaign on Tuesday showed voters in 42 of the most vulnerable House Democrats' districts preferring Trump to Sanders.

Guy Cecil, chairman of Democratic super PAC Priorities USA, said Sanders "has some capacity to expand the Democratic vote among younger voters," adding: "At the same time, he'll need to make sure he's doing more to reach out, in particular to those women - suburban women - that were really the benchmark of us taking over the House in 2018."

Cameron Brand, 24, a patient care adviser at a medicinal dispensary in Plymouth, New Hampshire, said he knew people who voted for Trump in 2016 because they disliked mainstream Democrats, but would vote for Sanders.

"Although he is being labeled as this radical leftist or whatever, he actually does have a lot of policies that the majority of Americans agree on that cross party lines," Brand said.

Entrance polls of Nevada caucus-goers from Edison Research showed more than 60% favored replacing private insurance with a government-run plan.

Agencies

Chinese envoy says coronavirus outbreak will be defeated, effective vaccine developed

MOSCOW

CHINESE authorities are confident that the novel coronavirus outbreak will be defeated soon and a normal life will resume in most regions across the country by the end of February.

A supposedly effective vaccine has been developed that helps mount an immune response against the infection, and it needs to be fine-tuned and tested, Chinese Ambassador to Russia Zhang Hanhui (pictured) told reporters on Monday.

"There is confidence in China that soon we will finally defeat this outbreak," the ambassador said. "Besides the epidemic center [in Wuhan] a normal life will be restored in most provinces and cities by the end of this month. Certainly, I believe this moment will happen later in the center of the outbreak, somewhere in March," he noted.

According to the diplomat, the vaccine developed in China has proven to be effective, but more tests need to be carried out. "China has developed a vaccine that shows immunity. But these are preliminary results and time is needed for further tests and fine-tuning [the vaccine]," he explained.

China has enhanced cooperation with the international community to fight the coronavirus spread. The World Health Organization has sent a delegation to the country to conduct a study on the novel coronavirus.

"This delegation includes two specialists from Russia. Earlier, Russia sent a delegation of medical specialists and our specialists exchanged views. This is a very good start of cooperation between China and Russia in healthcare sector," he said. China is ready to step up cooperation with Russia in this field, the envoy noted. "We are very thankful for the support of the Russian leadership and Russian citizens. We see a sign of a good will," the ambassador said.

On December 31, Chinese authorities informed the World Health Organization (WHO) about an outbreak of an unknown pneumonia in the city of Wuhan - a large trade and industrial center in central China populated by 12 million people.

The source of the outbreak is the COVID-19 coronavirus. Besides China, the cases of COVID-19 have been detected in 30 countries, including Russia. The WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak in China a global health emergency.

Currently, the total number of people infected with the novel coronavirus has exceeded 77,000 in China, with nearly 2,600 deaths. Some 25,000 people have recovered to date.

Agencies

Putin outraged over calls to kill children of Russia's National Guardsmen

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin is fuming over calls to murder the children of servicemen from Russia's National Guard. This may throw the country off balance, he warned.

Speaking in an interview to TASS for the project entitled "20 Questions to Vladimir Putin" he expressed his outrage over incitement being spread across Internet to kill the children of personnel from Russia's National Guard.

"What in the world is that? This

is being said about those who, if the Motherland calls, have to put themselves in the line of fire to protect the interests of the state, society and of our individual citizens? Do you know to what extent is it possible to disrupt the country's balance? There will be hell to pay, we can't risk it."

Asked by TASS interviewer Andrei Vandenko if it was true that law enforcement officers who were involved as plaintiffs in criminal cases after the rallies in Moscow in 2019 were "so vulnerable and timid," Putin replied, "They are both



vulnerable and timid, they are doing their jobs. And they must do it.

Moreover, here they're dealing with protesters, tomorrow they'll face a barrage of bullets, and what's more they take part in combat operations."

Commenting on the measures

taken by Russia's National Guard at the rallies Putin said, "Nobody resorts to swinging a nightstick without a reason." "If people act within the existing rules and laws, who's going to even swing a nightstick? On the contrary, they would be protected," he added.

The head of state believes that demonstrators must act in strict conformity with the law and things must not get out of hand nor should any rioting be allowed. "Today somebody throws a bottle, tomorrow - a chair, then cars are smashed to pieces. It cannot be

allowed, things mustn't get out of hand, it has to be within the law," Putin emphasized.

In the wake of 2019 rallies in Moscow, there have been threats on the Internet addressed to the children of police and Russian National Guard personnel, who were involved in maintaining law and order at these events and prevented illegal demonstrations. Blogger Vladislav Sinita was convicted of such extremist statements, and sentenced to five years in a penitentiary.

Agencies

Pentagon sees a US\$9b surge in nuclear spending by 2025

WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon's five-year nuclear weapons plan calls for requesting at least US\$167 billion through 2025 -- building from the US\$29 billion sought for next year to US\$38 billion, according to previously undisclosed figures.

The commitment includes research, development, procurement, sustainment and operations. It reflects a major boost to an effort started under US President Barack Obama to replace aging nuclear systems, such as Minuteman III missiles and command and control systems.

It doesn't include funding for the Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration, which is requesting US\$19.8

billion for fiscal 2021, including US\$15.6 billion for nuclear weapons activities.

Congressional Democrats have been generally supportive of increased nuclear weapons spending, but Defense Secretary Mark Esper is likely to be questioned about the size and scope of the five-year plan when he testifies Wednesday before the House Armed Services Committee.

Esper is also likely to face bipartisan opposition from the defense-focused committee on President Donald Trump's plan to shift US\$3.8 billion from Pentagon programs to his wall on the Mexican border.

The Defense Department's five-year plan on nuclear programs calls for US\$29 billion for fiscal



2021, US\$30 billion in 2022 and US\$33 billion in 2023, before jumping to US\$37 billion in 2024 and US\$38 billion in 2025.

The plan includes US\$25 billion for research and procurement -- but not support and operations for -- the new Columbia-class intercontinental ballistic missile submarine that begins construc-

tion this year, US\$24 billion for improved nuclear command and control and US\$23 billion for the Air Force's B-21 bomber.

"What you are seeing here is the beginning of a long overdue modernization of the US nuclear triad," Tim Morrison, a former National Security Council deputy assistant who followed nuclear issues and

is now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. "At approximately 6 percent of the US defense budget, this is a modest investment in the ultimate guarantee of American and allied security."

Still, "most experts believe the DOD budget will be fairly flat over the next several years" so "if spending on the nuclear weapons enterprise increases by US\$9 billion over that time, and totals US\$167 billion, what are the trade-offs in other procurement programs?" asked Amy Woolf, a senior nuclear weapons specialist for the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. "What will the Pentagon have to give up to support this increase" in funding for nuclear weapons.

Agencies

Pompeo: Afghan talks, troops pullout timeline in Taliban deal

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday that a possible US-Taliban peace deal will include a timetable for conditions-based US troop withdrawals and the start of the intra-Afghan negotiations.

Washington will sign a deal with Afghan Taliban "on or about February 29th" only after a successful implementation of a week-long violence reduction beginning Saturday in Afghanistan, Pompeo (pictured) told reporters at a State Department press conference.

The agreement "includes a timeline for both a conditions-based and phased troop withdrawal, and for the commencement of intra-Afghan negotiations," the top US diplomat noted.

These negotiations, if taking place, will be "the first time that Afghans representing all sides of the conflict will sit down together and begin the hard work of reconciliation," Pompeo added.

Under the plan, US military presence in Afghanistan, which began in 2001 and has been called "ridiculous" by President Donald Trump, will be reduced to 8,600 troops from the current 12,000 to 13,000 over the course of 135 days, reported the CNN news channel citing two sources familiar with the deal.

Washington announced last week that a deal with Taliban is expected to be signed on Feb. 29 without disclosing the location of the signing.

Peace talks between the two sides began in 2018 but were interrupted at least twice due to Taliban attacks on US military personnel in September and December last year.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a purported Taliban spokesman, tweeted Friday that the finalized accord is expected to be signed in the presence of "senior representatives of numerous countries and organizations."

Agencies

Epidemic won't change China's economic momentum for growth

SINCE the outbreak of the novel coronavirus pneumonia, China's governments at various levels have issued a package of emergency measures, which have guided expectations of the society and boosted people's confidence in the Chinese economy.

To cope with the epidemic, relevant authorities have unveiled supportive financial policies, and multiple local departments have promptly issued policies to support finance and taxation, customs, and social security so as to help small and micro businesses.

While inspecting epidemic prevention and control work in Beijing, Chinese President Xi Jinping demanded resolute efforts from Party committees and governments at all levels to win the people's war against

the epidemic and urged them to strive to achieve this year's economic and social development goals and tasks.

The President also required efforts to stabilize employment, the financial market, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations.

Epidemic prevention and control is not only a battle in the field of medicine and healthcare, but also an all-round battle associated with economic work.

Therefore, while doing a good job in prevention and control, the country must also coordinate the work of reform, development, and stability. It must make great efforts to finish key tasks for securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and winning the battle against poverty.

To cope with complex and severe risks and challenges, the country must not slow down or hesitate. Only by taking the initiative and making overall planning can it overcome difficulties and minimize the impact on economic development.

To be objective, the epidemic outbreak has exerted different degrees of impact on relevant industries and public consumption. But the influence is temporary and periodical.

As relevant supportive policies are gradually taking effect, China is fully confident in and capable of defeating the epidemic and boosting economy. Compared with 2003 when it fought against the SARS epidemic, the country's economy has improved significantly today in terms of size and quality, material basis, emer-

gency response capabilities, and macro-control system.

This is the source of the resilience and potential of China's economic development, as well as the country's the confidence in winning the battle against the epidemic.

To stabilize employment, the financial market, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations, the most urgent task on the supply side is to take concrete efforts to maintain normal economic operations and social order.

The supply of medical materials on the front line of epidemic prevention and control must be guaranteed, and urban and rural residents shall be provided with adequate supplies of daily necessities.

Besides, sufficient energy supply in urban and rural areas must be ensured so as to avoid secondary problems caused by anxiety over insufficient supply of living materials.

In addition, the country will also help enterprises resume production, as well as recommence and start projects while guaranteeing safety. It is suggested that the country properly handle labor-capital relationship, so as to ease corporate burden and safeguard the legitimate interests of the employees.

Only by taking the interests of all parties into consideration and motivating all sides can general stability of the industrial chain be maintained.

To contain the epidemic while promoting development, stable consumption

must be kept at the demand side, which is key to offsetting the impact of the epidemic.

During the Chinese New Year holiday, huge consumption potential has been accumulated by people across the country who stayed home to avoid massive infection, such as the demand for healthcare products and services and online services. Once this potential is released, a new driving force will be created for industrial development.

In addition, new driving forces will also be forged by the accomplishment of the key tasks in securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and winning the battle against poverty.

People's Daily



Two cargo aircraft carrying nearly 1.68 million pieces of masks purchased by Qingdao, east China's Shandong province arrive at Yantai International Airport, Shandong from Incheon, South Korea, Jan. 29, 2020. The masks were custom cleared before going through clearance formalities thanks to the green channel opened by Yantai customs. Photo by Tang Ke, People's Daily

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The President also required efforts to stabilize employment, the financial market, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations.

Epidemic prevention and control is not only a battle in the field of medicine and healthcare, but also an all-round battle associated with economic work.

Therefore, while doing a good job in prevention and control, the country must also coordinate the work of reform, development, and stability. It must make great efforts to finish key tasks for securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and winning the battle against poverty.

To cope with complex and severe risks and challenges, the country must not slow down or hesitate. Only by taking the initiative and making overall planning can it overcome difficulties and minimize the impact on economic development.

To be objective, the epidemic outbreak has exerted different degrees of impact on relevant industries and public consumption. But the influence is temporary and periodical.

As relevant supportive policies are gradually taking effect, China is fully confident in and capable of defeating the epidemic and boosting economy. Compared with 2003 when it fought against the SARS epidemic, the country's economy has improved significantly today in terms of size and quality, material basis, emergency response capabilities, and macro-control system.

This is the source of the resilience and potential of China's economic development, as well as the country's confidence in winning the battle

against the epidemic. To stabilize employment, the financial market, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment and expectations, the most urgent task on the supply side is to take concrete efforts to maintain normal economic operations and social order.

The supply of medical materials on the front line of epidemic prevention and control must be guaranteed, and urban and rural residents shall be provided with adequate supplies of daily necessities.

Besides, sufficient energy supply in urban and rural areas must be ensured so as to avoid secondary problems caused by anxiety over insufficient supply of living materials. In addition, the country will also help enterprises resume production, as well as recommence and start projects while guaranteeing safety. It is suggested that the country properly handle labor-capital relationship, so as to ease corporate burden and safeguard the legitimate interests of the employees.

Only by taking the interests of all parties into consideration and motivating all sides can general stability of the industrial chain be maintained.

To contain the epidemic while promoting development, stable consumption must be kept at the demand side, which is key to offsetting the impact of the epidemic.

During the Chinese New Year holiday, huge consumption potential has been accumulated by people across the country who stayed home to avoid massive infection, such as the demand for healthcare products and services and online services. Once this potential is released, a new driving force will be created for industrial development.

In addition, new driving forces will also be forged by the accomplishment of the key tasks in securing a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all aspects and winning the battle against poverty.

As a big consumer market, China has ample room of maneuver in economic development. The country is seeing an urgent demand of ideas and actions that are able to stimulate urban and rural consumption and turn crisis into opportunities.

China's momentum sustaining sound economic development remains unchanged. Amidst internal and external challenges and risks, the country must also do a good job of macroeconomic monitoring and early warning, so as to keep a close eye on economic operation and the possible impacts of the epidemic on the economy. **People's Daily**

Ukraine wants back only Crimea's territory without people, Russian diplomat says

MOSCOW

UKRAINE wants Crimea back only as an unpopulated territory, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said yesterday, commenting on the pronouncements by Secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council Alexei Danilov.

Danilov reportedly said that Kiev was refraining from a military campaign to win back Crimea only because it was afraid of large-scale casualties. He said that if Ukraine had "a possibility to take these territories," it would have done that. But Kiev, in his words, understands that it might entail "enormous casualties, first of all, among the civilian population."

"I would like to thank Alexei for being so straight," Zakharova wrote on her Facebook account. "This is it: Crimea is merely a territory for Kiev



and it wants it without people because 'civilian population' doesn't want it and will offer resistance, hence, it will be exterminated."

"Nevertheless, Ukrainian authorities care little about 'enormous casualties' when they try to implement their plan of 'taking back territories without population' in Donbass," she emphasized.

The Republic of Crimea and Sevastopol, a city with a special status on the Crimean Peninsula, where most residents are Russians, refused to recognize the legitimacy of authorities brought to power amid riots during a coup in Ukraine in February 2014.

Crimea and Sevastopol adopted declarations of independence on March 11, 2014. They held a referendum on March 16, 2014, in which 96.77% of Crimeans and 95.6% of Sevastopol voters chose to secede from Ukraine and join the Russian Federation.

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the reunification treaties on March 18, 2014. The documents were ratified by Russia's Federal Assembly, or bicameral parliament, on March 21.

Despite the absolutely convincing results of the referendum, Ukraine has been refusing to recognize Crimea as a part of Russia. **Agencies**

Israel heads to 3rd election within one year, deadlock to continue

JERUSALEM

AS Israel is heading to an unprecedented third election within a year on March 2, polls indicate that a fourth election in a few months seems increasingly realistic.

The two main opponents are Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing Likud party, and Benny Gantz, leader of the centrist Blue and White party.

Netanyahu is facing charges of corruption, fraud and breach of trust, but he has denied any wrongdoing. His trial is scheduled to begin two weeks after the election. Gantz remains steadfast in his refusal to sit in a coalition with an indicted leader.

Polls are showing no major change in the breakdown of power between the two blocs, and it looks like that there is no one acquiring the 61 seats needed to rule Israel's government. The 120-seat Israeli parliament, or Knesset, appears to remain fragmented beyond repair.

"It's difficult for me to see any real chance for a surprise of substantive change in the large picture ... Unfortunately, the most likely scenario is another election," said Assaf Shapira, researcher at the Israeli Democracy Institute.

Gantz has also said that he will not form a government with the Arab parties. With the two large parties currently tied, neither is capable of garnering a majority and the path to a fourth election seems clear.

Although there was an attempt to replace him within the party ahead of these elections, Netanyahu won the internal vote in the Likud.

His loyal supporters believe that he is innocent and since Israeli law does not bar him from remaining in power, they think that Netanyahu has the right to do so.

However, his opponents believe that his morals are crooked and he is holding on to his seat only to improve his legal position. If Netanyahu leads the next government, he could promote a law that exempts a sitting prime minister from being prosecuted during his term.

"I do think this is Netanyahu's last election but since he is probably the most experienced politician in Israel's history ... one can never count him out," said Jonathan Rynhold, professor from the political science department



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

at the Bar Ilan University.

"If there is even one chink of light, which gives him some kind of opportunity, he will take advantage of it," the professor added.

Israel has been under an interim government for over a year now. There is no updated budget and long-term projects are at a standstill. While most Israelis are not yet feeling the impact of the political impasse, the longer it persists, the more effects the country will suffer.

"This is an acute crisis of the Israeli political system and ... maybe the most acute crisis in the history of the country," Shapira told Xinhua.

The looming and realistic threat of a fourth election may be enough to motivate politicians to budge from their steadfast positions and compromise and form a government.

This depends largely on the Israeli kingmaker in the political arena, Avigdor Lieberman, head of the leader of the right-wing Israel Our Home party.

Lieberman was once a member of the right-wing bloc and made a surprise appearance in the last two elections, saying that he refuses to sit with

Orthodox Jewish parties who are in a solid pact with Netanyahu.

A few days ago, Lieberman explicitly stated that Netanyahu "could no longer lead." Since polling shows that his party will win between 7-10 mandates, neither Gantz or Netanyahu can gain the majority without Lieberman.

While the main issue of the current campaign remains Netanyahu's capability to continue governing, and it is the voters' turnout which will have a critical impact on the results.

Still, there is a concern that Israelis are tired of heading to the polls and might express their dismay by simply not showing up. In a race which is so tight, every vote counts.

"The public really doesn't want a fourth election and the politicians are aware of that and they do not want to be blamed for it," Rynhold told Xinhua.

"People are right when they think the deadlock will continue. Voters vote when they feel they can change the picture," said Shapira. "This increases voter fatigue and we will see a decline in voter turnout but not drastically."

Xinhua

Donors, aid groups plan to suspend Yemen aid to Houthi areas

WASHINGTON

DONORS and aid groups are planning to suspend humanitarian aid to areas of Yemen controlled by the Houthis in the coming months if the group does not stop hindering the delivery of assistance, a senior US State Department official said on Tuesday.

Aid agency sources told Reuters earlier this month that Houthi authorities in northern Yemen were obstructing efforts to get food and other help to those in need, to an extent that was no longer tolerable, and that operations would be scaled down.

The senior US State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed those plans.

"Each donor and implementer is drawing up plans on how to, what to do if the Houthis do not change their behavior on the ground," the official said. "The plans involve suspending a lot of assistance programs with exceptions for truly lifesaving programs feeding sick children and things like that."

"Everyone's looking at a timeline of a month or two ... That's the point at which different implementers will start to suspend some of the programs," the official said.

The United Nations describes Yemen as the world's biggest humanitarian crisis and says millions of people are on the verge of starvation. The world body did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether it was planning to suspend some operations to Houthi-controlled areas.

Aid agencies have for the past year publicly and privately complained of worsening operating conditions, lack of travel permits and other access restrictions.

"It can't be tolerated anymore," the State Department official said.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID), a major donor, said it was extremely concerned that the Houthis had worsened the effects of the crisis by interfering in aid operations.

"We are urgently working on a way forward that allows US aid to continue uninterrupted, but are taking steps to plan ahead with our partners so they can safely and responsibly adjust programming should we be forced to reduce aid," said acting USAID spokesperson Pooja Jhunjhunwala.

Yemen has been mired in conflict since the Iran-aligned Houthis ousted the government of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi from the capital Sanaa in late 2014. A Saudi-led military coalition has fought to restore Hadi.

At the United Nations on Tuesday, the Security Council adopted a resolution to extend targeted sanctions and an arms embargo on the Houthis for another year. Thirteen countries voted in favor and Russia and China abstained because they said the text was not balanced.

In the resolution the council expressed "serious concern at the devastating humanitarian situation in Yemen and all instances of undue hindrances to the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance, including the recent interference in aid operations in Houthi-controlled areas."

The United States and other Western powers have long accused Iran of supplying weapons to the Houthis. Iran has repeatedly denied the accusations.

Agencies

'On-lookers' in novel coronavirus epidemic shall stop their calculations

The unhealthy attitude of certain Americans amid the public health emergency of the novel coronavirus pneumonia is becoming more and more annoying for the international society.

A recent message posted on social media by Ho Ching, wife of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore, drew wide public attention. Forwarding a report by U.S. media that made irresponsible remarks on China's political system, Ho questioned that "And what about the influenza B deaths in the USA?"

To contain the spread of the novel coronavirus as soon as possible, China has launched a people's war against the epidemic, adopting the strictest and most thorough measures. Foreign governments and peo-

ple across the world are also joining China's efforts to combat the epidemic in different ways. The World Health Organization (WHO) and global public health experts contributed constructive suggestions.

However, some U.S. politicians and media outlets have been making tart and even vicious remarks on China's efforts to contain the epidemic. Their irresponsible attitude presented a sharp contrast with the global efforts to support China.

They acted as "on-lookers" who gloated over China's misfortune. Some even took the "opportunity" to seek political gains, smelling blood in the epidemic regardless of their loss of morality.

The arrogance of these Americans is ridiculous, as if they

had forgotten how their own country was coping with public health emergencies.

When the Zika virus spread over the American continent in 2016, the U.S. was one of the major afflicted areas. The White House requested the Congress to allocate \$1.9 billion in February, but encountered a party conflict which was quite "American Style". Because of the dispute over legislation strategies, the allocation was postponed by 7 months, and only \$1.1 billion was available, even though the Democrats and Republicans both understood the importance of the matter.

At that time, there were over 23,000 infections in the U.S. and its Commonwealth Puerto Rico, including 2,000 women in pregnancy, the most vulnerable

group to the virus. Besides, over 20 infants were found to have congenital defects because of the Zika virus.

The actions taken at the critical moment in the battle against epidemics are a mirror that reflects countries' governance capability. National governance shall take people's needs as a priority, and the government must spare no effort to meet people's expectations. The delayed response of the U.S. in the epidemic control caused by party conflict is by no means reasonable.

In 2009, when facing the influenza A (H1N1) virus, the U.S. government first said there was no need for alarm, then suddenly declared it a national emergency, which many experts believed to be a misguided

stance for the world. As a result, the flu ended up spreading to 214 countries and regions.

What's more, the U.S. government also paid lip service in its promise to offer vaccines for the public. It promised to have 160 million doses of injectable vaccine on hand by October that year, but only less than 30 million doses had been prepared. According to a report issued later, the downsizing and expenditure cut of public health departments weakened the country's prevention and control work of the flu.

Some people in the U.S. can always wax lyrical when they point fingers at other countries, but turn their backs on the vulnerability of their own country's system in coping with epidemics.

America is not a perfect country, just as many American public health experts stressed that the country is not ready for the challenges posed by major infectious diseases. Director of Harvard Global Health Institute Ashish Jha warned that epidemic is the most possible cause that can rapidly and accidentally kill millions of Americans, but also one that sees the least preparation.

Countries across the world should help each other and rely on complementary advantages in public health emergencies. The successful practices of a country may serve as a reference for others. American author Mario Cavolo recently published an article that compares the 2009 H1N1 virus in the U.S. and the 2019 novel coronavi-

rus in China on social media LinkedIn. He pointed out that it took six months for the U.S. to declare a national emergency in 2009, and the death toll was vastly underestimated and updated not until three years later.

In the article, Cavolo said the forces attacking China's efforts are bizarrely negative, and the world should be applauding China's unprecedented, broad and aggressive response.

When these Americans are trying to blame China's endeavor in an arrogant and indifferent manner, what they really care about is not how to contain the epidemic in an early date or the lives of the people across the world. What's in the mind of these "on-lookers" is indeed unrepresentable calculations.

People's Daily



National Micro-finance Bank (NMB) Senior Manager Banc Assurance, Martine Massawe (R), hands over a dummy cheque of 35m/- to African Digital Banking Summit Ltd Chief Executive officer, Baraka Mtarangu, in Dar es Salaam yesterday. NMB has offered platinum sponsorship totaling 35m/- for the upcoming NMB BIMA Marathon 2020 scheduled for March 28 in the city. Looking on (C) is NMB Jogging Club captain Elifadhili Mramba. PHOTO: GUARDIANCORRESPONDENT

LeBron's 40 bests Zion, sends Lakers past Pelicans 118-109

LOS ANGELES

LeBRON James sees a long, prosperous future ahead of Zion Williamson and the up-tempo New Orleans Pelicans.

In the immediate present, James and Anthony Davis are a whole lot closer to basketball's ultimate goal, as they proved in their first meeting with their fellow No. 1 overall draft pick.

James had 40 points and eight rebounds in his first career meeting with Williamson while leading the Los Angeles Lakers to their sixth straight victory, 118-109 over New Orleans on Tuesday night.

Williamson had 29 points and six rebounds in his first showdown with James and Davis, his predecessor as the Pelicans' centerpiece.

James and Williamson still haven't talked, but the 35-year-old James sees greatness in the teenager.

"He's playing exceptional basketball," James said. "I think his game is going to get better and better, just having that experience. I think today's game is the perfect fit for his game. The high pace, the way they play, it fits his game. ... It works perfectly, and our game is so many possessions now, so much space, it's perfect for his game, so he's doing exceptionally well with that."

Williamson was still injured for the Pelicans' first two meetings of the season with the Lakers, but his delayed debut in Hollywood was as entertaining as everyone hoped. In his 13th NBA game, Williamson scored at least 20 points for the ninth consecutive time, but managed only one field goal in the fourth quarter.

"It was a great experience," Williamson said. "He's an incredible player. His resume speaks for himself. ... He handled business. He came out here and did what he had to do to help his team get the win."

The Lakers still haven't lost to the team with which they made the blockbuster summer trade that has appeared to benefit both teams. Davis has been just as good as the Lakers hoped in propelling them back to NBA championship contention, while the Pelicans are getting an All-Star season from Brandon Ingram alongside Williamson in an increasingly potent core.

Davis had 21 points, 14 rebounds and six blocked shots while improving to 3-0 against New Orleans. Davis and Williamson briefly were theoretical teammates during the time between the draft and Davis' departure for the Lakers, and Williamson admitted he entertained the idea they might play together, even though Davis had requested a trade.

"He's a great player," Davis said of Williamson. "He's got a quick first step. Very explosive. He's going to continue to get better and better as he goes on."

Although Davis missed 15 of his 21 shots and failed to score 40 points against New Orleans for the first time, James picked him up with a masterfully efficient, 17-for-27 performance that included five 3-pointers.

In the Lakers' first game after an emotional memorial service for Kobe Bryant at Staples Center on Monday, James opened up a close contest with back-to-back buckets at the rim with about three minutes left. Danny Green sealed it for Los Angeles with his fifth

3-pointer with 51 seconds to play.

Ingram had 34 points against his former team, but just six in the final period as New Orleans lost for only the second time in seven games.

Williamson had several impressive dunks in his usual fearsome floor game, and only six missed free throws kept him from surpassing his career high of 32 points.

"(James) might see himself a little bit in Zion, the way they both came in with all the hype," Lonzo Ball said of his former and current teammates. "I think Bron goes out there and plays his game every night no matter who's the opponent."

Meanwhile, in Toronto, Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks took down Toronto, wiping away some of the bad memories from a painful trip north of the border in last year's playoffs.

Antetokounmpo had 19 points and 19 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 22 points and the Bucks beat the Raptors 108-97 on Tuesday night in a matchup between the top teams in the Eastern Conference.

Eric Bledsoe scored 17 points and Brook Lopez had 15 as the NBA-leading Bucks won their fourth straight and 18th of 20. Milwaukee (50-8) was playing the second game of a back-to-back after winning in overtime at Washington Monday.

Behind by 12 points late in the second quarter, the Bucks rallied to beat the Raptors in their first game in Toronto since losing Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals last May, completing a disappointing collapse after winning the first two games of that series at home.

"You always remember the last time you played here, the feelings you had," Antetokounmpo said. "It was definitely on my mind."

Antetokounmpo finished with eight assists, narrowly missing a triple-double. The reigning NBA MVP said Tuesday's game had a playoff feel to it.

"You expect that," Antetokounmpo said.

The Bucks beat the Raptors 115-105 when the teams met in Milwaukee on Nov. 2. They'll face each other again in consecutive games on April 1 and 3.

Pascal Siakam scored 22 points and Fred VanVleet had 14 as the defending NBA champion Raptors lost for the second time in 19 games. Toronto was beaten at home for the first time since Jan. 12 against San Antonio, ending a nine-game run.

It was a rough night for Raptors starters Serge Ibaka and Kyle Lowry. Ibaka made 2 of 15 shots and Lowry shot 2 for 12. Ibaka went 1 for 10 from 3-point range while Lowry was 1 for 7.

"Tonight it just didn't go in," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "Serga had like 21 straight great games. You're going to have that one once in a while and tonight wasn't his night."

Lowry, Terence Davis and Chris Boucher all scored 10 points for the Raptors.

Toronto trailed 84-71 to begin the fourth, but Davis scored five points as the Raptors closed the gap with a 7-0 spurt over the first 90 seconds of the final quarter.

Why Yanga failure isn't leadership or coaching but losing Makambo

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SOCCER pundits and numerous fans of city giants Dar Young Africans SC have spent the better part of three years debating what to do about the club's league performance and financial fortunes generally. It is hard to say if this debate has any specific lessons that have been learned but it has passed through a number of stages, which in part are also learning stages. For instance there was a phase where the principal issue being discussed was the leadership, which now looks quite old.

It is not easy to say if the leadership debate reached any acknowledged conclusions but that isn't entirely up for debate is that sports professionals took over at the club, notably veteran sports educator, Mshindo Msolla, and exquisite trainer and club insider, Charles Boniface Mkwasa. The latter has served as secretary general (or executive secretary) and for a while managed the team, and the mood under his caretaker coaching was much better than in the past two months after recruiting a new head coach. Nor is everyone sure that sacking Mwynyi Zahera was really right.

At the same time, the leadership question is tied up with the perennial dispute about sponsorship versus investment purchasing shares, and here the principal example being offered is Simba SC, their next street rivals. Still the point is now becoming clearer that even the Msimbazi Street outfit has but camouflaged some sponsorship as there is no environment where different club sympathizers actually purchase shares. There is an accord between the club and a specific individual, and no effort of staggering shareholding across several individuals can work at present.

Another sphere where some lessons may have been learnt but it is taking time to actually say which lessons is in the sphere of player



Yanga

recruitment or registration, as the current spate of doldrums in the side's scoring capacity can be pinned down to losing Heritier Makambo to Horoya AC of Guinea, as no one with sharp scoring ability has filled the gap. The question there is if the recruitment was in a sense erroneous as it didn't target any individual with special abilities, or it was up to the club coach to use the players such that the techniques applied produce results. It is an area where doubt shall always prevail as player performance isn't just coaching.

When it comes to performance, interpretation is perhaps what is more difficult rather than the data, and this has to do with a wider psychological mechanism in Premier League matches. Club fans are confused by a series of drawn matches against a stretch of clubs that have little significance compared to the Jangwani Street outfit, but they can't really shout about that. The reason is that these drawn matches include the city derby at the start of the year, where the Jangwani Street fans sounded victorious after the match, having proved that Msimbazi Street sheer pecu-

niary advantage was a non-issue, and that includes their ability to recruit, etc.

The trouble is that it is this same phenomenon which is befalling Yanga when it now encounters the other Premier League sides which can't compare to it in terms of money and ability to recruit, and obtain drawn results as well. What wasn't sufficiently underlined in the reactions is that Yanga obtained a drawn result with Simba partly because the latter was likely to be more relaxed in comparison, even if the coach kept insisting that the match must be taken with utmost seriousness, and indeed the players know this well enough. But the heart knows things that the mind often doesn't, and thus an inner certainty prevailed while Yanga were intent on fighting every inch of the way in the city derby, hence getting a positive result.

That is precisely where the loss of an expert striker makes a difference - that any player who simply fits the local level could score well if he played for the other premier league sides playing against themselves. For this way the psychological as-

pect is balanced, that if Lipuli FC encounter Mtwara Sugar there is no adrenalin boost on either side of the centre circle as the teams are comparable, which isn't what happens when either side meets Yanga or Simba. In that case Simba failed to obtain a good result in the derby because the Yanga team - which is above average for the league recruitment capacity - was on an adrenalin boost, unlike themselves.

But then Simba has been obtaining good results with other Premier League sides because it has players who - singularly or in combination - can score goals even if the other side enhances its adrenalin psychological condition on that day. In that context the failure to obtain good results comes from a single source - losing Makambo - without getting anyone as capable. Whether this is a leadership failure that players are picked by different sponsors or impressed upon the coach or it was a problem of coaching not to foresee this particular situation is a different matter, but it definitely has to be rectified. That means it is an issue for another season. n and heal." AP



Botswana model, Kemmony Keraetswe (L), winner of a world beauty pageant for persons with hearing impairment, known as Miss Deaf World, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday on preparations for a continental beauty pageant for persons with hearing impairment, slated for April. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tokyo organizers, IOC going ahead as planned with Olympics

TOKYO

A SPOKESMAN for the Japanese government on Wednesday said the International Olympic Committee and local organizers are going ahead as planned with the Tokyo Olympics despite the threat of the spreading coronavirus.

The comments from spokesman Yoshihide Suga follow the assertion by former IOC vice-president Dick Pound that organizers face a three-month window to decide the fate of the games.

The Olympics are set to open on July 24 with 11,000 athletes. The Paralympics open Aug. 25

with 4,400.

Pound told the Associated Press that the fast-spreading virus could cancel the Olympics. Suga says Pound's opinion does not reflect the official view of the IOC, which has repeatedly said there are no plans to cancel or postpone the Tokyo Games.

The viral outbreak that began in China has infected more than 80,000 people and killed more than 2,700 globally. China has reported 2,715 deaths among 78,064 cases on the mainland. Five deaths in Japan have been attributed to the virus and the COVID-19 illness it causes.

"With regard to this member's comment, the IOC has responded

that this is not their official position, and that the IOC is proceeding with preparations toward the games as scheduled," Suga said, speaking in Japanese at his daily news conference.

Pound has been a member of the IOC since 1978, serving two terms as vice-president, and was the founding president of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

He also represented Canada as a swimmer at the Olympics.

In a telephone interview from Montreal, Pound said the IOC has a three-month window to decide, and suggested other options like moving events or postponing seemed less likely.

"In and around that time,"

he said, "I'd say folks are going to have to ask: 'Is this under sufficient control that we can be confident about going to Tokyo or now?'"

If the IOC decides the games cannot go forward as scheduled in Tokyo, "you're probably looking at a cancellation," said Pound, who repeated the IOC's stance that as of now the games are on.

The three-month window also goes for sponsors and television broadcasters who need to firm up planning. Not to mention travelers, athletes and fans with 7.8 million tickets available for the Olympics and 2.3 million for the Paralympics. AP

Griezmann rescues Barca first-leg draw at Napoli

NAPLES, ITALY

ANTOINE Griezmann rescued a 1-1 draw for Barcelona at Napoli in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday.

Frenchman Griezmann struck just before the hour mark in Naples after Dries Mertens had put the hosts ahead in the 30th minute with his 121st Napoli goal, drawing level with Marek Hamsik as the club's all-time top scorer.

Barcelona ended the game with 10 men after Arturo Vidal was sent off with two minutes to go after picking up two yellow cards, following an angry clash with Napoli defender Mario Rui.

"In the end it's a draw that is a good result considering that we have another home game," said Barcelona coach Quique Setien, with his side in a strong position ahead of the second leg at the Camp Nou on March 18.

The clash was the first between the two teams and also a Champions League debut for both Setien and Napoli counterpart Gennaro Gattuso, who took over after the group stage.

"They didn't hurt us, they tickled us," said Gattuso. "It went wrong in one moment and they punished us."

Napoli captain Lorenzo Insigne added: "We could have won, so we're a bit disappointed. It was emotional to face players like (Lionel) Messi."

Messi failed to score on his first appearance at the Stadio San Paolo, where Napoli legend Diego Maradona reigned supreme three decades ago.

The 32-year-old Messi scored four goals at the weekend in Barcelona's 5-0 win over Eibar that put the Spaniards back top of La Liga, but could not add to his 114 Champions League goals.

"If Barca didn't do today what they did three days ago (against Eibar) it's to Napoli's credit," said Gattuso.

"I hope that no one thinks it's over. We know it will be very hard but nothing is finished yet.

"But when on your back you have Messi or Griezmann, you want to play with a little security. This is where we can try to do better on the way back."

- Napoli pressure -

Messi fired over on nine minutes after combining well with Frenkie de Jong but Gattuso's side piled the pressure on the Catalans.

Their pressing paid off on the half-hour mark, with Piotr Zielinski breaking free down the right before finding Mertens, who curled a magnificent finish past Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

He equalled Hamsik's record and is now six goals clear of Maradona, but was forced off early in the second half after a Sergio Busquets tackle for which the Spaniard will be suspended for the second leg.

Barcelona did not waste much time in getting on level terms, as Messi and Busquets combined to send Semedo into the box in the 57th minute.

The Portuguese full-back crossed low for Griezmann to power home right-footed.

"At first we found it hard to find space, or create space or get shots on goal," said Griezmann.

"But the more we saw that they were tiring, the more we were able to push forward and make chances."

Ter Stegen denied Insigne with Jose Callejon also missing a chance for a second, as did Messi with eight minutes to go.

Vidal was sent off after a sliding tackle on Rui before appearing to headbutt the Napoli defender.

The Chilean will also miss the return leg in Spain, with defender Gerard Pique a doubt after going off late on with an ankle injury.

"We will not be able to count on Sergio Busquets or Vidal for the return, but we will find solutions to compensate," said Setien.

Too much sex: Club chief explains poor form

BUCHAREST

GIGI Becali, the flamboyant owner of Bucharest football club FCSB, formerly known as Steaua Bucharest, thinks he knows what is to blame for his team's recent poor run in the Romanian league: too much sex.

The 1986 European Cup winners, Romania's most successful club with 26 league titles, have failed to win their last three games, and Becali said after FCSB's 1-1 home draw against lowly Chindia Targoviste: "My players are making love with their girlfriends too often, that's why they aren't playing football so well lately."

The result left them fourth in the

table, eight points behind leaders CFR Cluj.

Becali, who made his fortune in real estate after the fall of communism in 1989 and served as a member of the European Parliament, praised CFR Cluj coach Dan Petrescu, a former Chelsea and Southampton right-back, for restoring discipline at the club.

"Look at Dan Petrescu," Becali said. "CFR players have sex only once a week. They meet with women only once a week."

CFR officials could not be reached for comment.

"If [FCSB striker] Florinel Coman would have rested too ... but he is doing other things," Becali added.

(Agencies)

Gnabry to Chelsea: No Liverpool-style rally for you

LONDON

SERGE Gnabry has warned Chelsea that Bayern Munich won't allow them to mount a Liverpool-style comeback in their Champions League round-of-16 second leg.

Bayern were dominant against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, winning 3-0 thanks to two goals from Gnabry and a third from Robert Lewandowski.

But after seeing Liverpool fight back from the same scoreline to beat Barcelona 4-3 on aggregate last season, former Arsenal player Gnabry said postmatch that Bayern won't let up.

"Three goals should give us a lot of confidence," he said. "We need to be prepared for the second leg and we can't take it serious enough.

"We saw last season with Liverpool beating Barcelona, we know we have to be careful and focus."

The German champions, clearly a class apart from their hosts, piled on the pressure from the start of the match and bossed Stamford Bridge with flair and 63% possession.

"It was a really good result for us," Bayern coach Hansi Flick said. "The team performed exactly how we

planned and we were very focused how we played."

A smiling Flick said he was very happy Gnabry was now plying his trade in Germany rather than England.

"I saw how he played at Arsenal and I followed his career intently," Flick said.

"You could tell what he could do for the first Champions League match I saw him... he really impressed me and with Bayern Munich he's really developing well. So I'm very happy that he's playing with us."

Despite the daunting challenge, Chelsea manager Frank Lampard said his team will vow to fight on March 18 at Allianz Arena.

"In the bigger picture we saw there is a lot of quality in their team," Lampard said after the match. "There is a lot to them. But we can't look back on anything.

"We are fighting for the top four [in the Premier League] and we have to go to Munich and show a lot of pride. I will keep working."

Lampard added that his players need to use the loss as "positive effect."

(Agencies)

Rampant Bayern gave Chelsea a 'reality check', says Lampard

LONDON

FRANK Lampard admitted Chelsea were given a "reality check" by Bayern Munich as the Germans pushed his team to the brink of Champions League elimination with a 3-0 victory in the last 16 first leg on Tuesday.

Serge Gnabry scored twice in three minutes early in the second half and Robert Lewandowski bagged Bayern's third goal to complete a masterful display from Hansi Flick's side at Stamford Bridge.

Bayern are odds-on to finish off Chelsea in the second leg in Munich on March 18 after inflicting the Blues' heaviest European home defeat.

Lampard conceded Chelsea had been outclassed from start to finish and urged his players to learn from the chastening experience.

"That's football at this level, the levels of Bayern were fantastic. It was a harsh lesson for the players. It's the reality of the Champions League," Lampard said.

"If you give people of that quality enough chances they will score goals.

"There is a lot to their team, players that have been there a long time. We have to respect that.

- Needless cards -

"But we weren't confident on the ball, that was my biggest disappointment, from start to finish."

It was a night when all of the problems that have dogged Chelsea at times during Lampard's first season were on display.

Chelsea were toothless up front with Lampard's decision to start Olivier Giroud instead of Tammy Abraham backfiring.

They lacked organisation at the back and drive and creativity in midfield, with a lack of leadership also notable as they lost their heads with the tie slipping away. Jorginho will miss the second leg after earning a needless booking for arguing with the referee, while Marcos Alonso will also be suspended following his late red card for whacking Lewandowski.

Lampard could not hide his frustration and made it clear few of his players came out of the match with



Frank Lampard

any credit.

"I learned about the players. We have to show character. They need to use it to positive effect," Lampard said.

"When you have an eye-opener like tonight, the

only answer is to say 'I'm not going to look at anyone else in the team but myself. Who was my direct opponent and how did I do?'

"I thought the only player who showed that personality who looked like he

could play in any team was (Mateo) Kovacic."

Lampard's side have now lost eight matches at Stamford Bridge in all competitions this season, their most in a single campaign since 1985-86.

They have often been better away from home, but it would take a miracle, at the venue where they beat Bayern in the 2012 Champions League final, to make the quarter-finals now.

- 'Bad position' -

"We have to go and play with pride and not consider the scoreline too much. It's pretty clear we are in a very bad position going into the second leg," Lampard said.

"I'm more concerned about the big picture and how quickly we can recover in the Premier League." Bayern are the third team in Champions League history to win their first seven games.

By their high standards, this group had endured a troubled season domestically, but they have rounded into form since Flick replaced Niko Kovac as manager.

Gnabry's second superb performance in London this season, following his four-goal haul in the thrashing of Tottenham, showcased the poise and precision flowing through Bayern's play at present.

Asked if he was surprised Gnabry hadn't made the grade at Arsenal at the start of his career, Flick said: "I'm happy about this!

"I've known Gnabry quite a long time. I saw how he played at Arsenal and you could just tell what he could do.

"Playing in Germany he's now just doing fantastically well and with Bayern he's really developing well.

"It was a really good result for us. The team performed exactly as we had planned."

AFP

Five ties to watch in the Europa League

PARIS

THREE English clubs and both Celtic and Rangers are hoping to secure places in the last 16 of the Europa League this week, while former European Cup winners Ajax and Inter Milan are bidding to qualify in adversity, for different reasons.

AFP Sport picks five last-32, second-leg games to watch:

- Manchester United v Club Brugge -

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side hold the upper hand following last week's 1-1 draw in Belgium, but all is not lost for the visitors given the problems goal-scorer Emmanuel Dennis repeatedly caused the United defence.

United's latest financial results revealed revenues fell by almost 12 percent in the six months to December, underlining the club's need for a return to Champions League football next season.

The arrival of Bruno Fernandes could provide just the spark required. The Portugal international scored his first United goal in a 3-0 win over Watford at the weekend. He also impressed in a brief cameo in the first leg.

- Ajax v Getafe -

After their memorable run to the Champions League semi-finals last year, Ajax are in serious danger of making a limp exit from Europe this season as they welcome Getafe to Amsterdam trailing 2-0 from the first leg.

Only five members of the team that started last season's second-leg loss to Tottenham Hotspur in the Champions League were in the team for the defeat in the Madrid suburbs last week. One of those, midfielder Hakim Ziyech, has already agreed a transfer to Chelsea.

Also beaten in the Dutch league by Heracles at the weekend, Erik ten Hag's team are in the process of being broken up and overturning such a deficit against a Getafe side currently sitting fifth in La Liga is a big ask.

In any case, the match may not even be the priority this week for Ajax, as



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's



Mikel Arteta

they face AZ Alkmaar in a top-of-the-table clash in the Eredivisie on Sunday.

- Porto v Bayer Leverkusen -

A precious away goal by the Colombian Luis Diaz kept alive Porto's hopes of progressing to the last 16 as they lost 2-1 to Bayer Leverkusen in Germany in the first leg last week.

The Portuguese side have otherwise been in good form recently and will be hopeful of turning the tie around back at the Estadio do Dragao, especially as the Bundesliga outfit have lost top scorer Kevin Volland to an ankle injury which could rule him out for the rest of the season.

The tie is a meeting of two former winners of the competition or its fore-runner, the UEFA Cup --

Leverkusen won it in 1988, while Porto lifted the trophy under Jose Mourinho in 2003 and again under Andre Villas-Boas in 2011. Both sides started the season in the Champions League, but Porto went out to Krasnodar in the third qualifying round and Leverkusen finished behind Juventus and Atletico Madrid in a difficult group.

- Inter Milan v Ludogorets -

The rising panic over coronavirus is overshadowing Inter's simple looking second-leg clash with Ludogorets, who have little chance at the San Siro following their 2-0 defeat in Razgrad, as Italy grapples with an outbreak that has left 10 dead and over 300 people infected.

The chaos caused to the country's sporting calen-

dar has hit Inter hard, with the weekend's postponed Serie A match against Sampdoria set to be played at the end of the season and Thursday's meeting to be played in front of empty stands.

The lack of home support is another problem for Antonio Conte's side as they try to bounce back from a defeat at Lazio 10 days ago that has left them six points off the pace at home.

Conte still has to deal with the absence of goalkeeper Samir Handanovic, out since the start of the month with a little finger fracture.

- Arsenal v Olympiakos -

Mikel Arteta's Arsenal host Olympiakos looking to extend a 10-match unbeaten run which has seen

them unexpectedly launch bids to reach next season's Champions League on two fronts.

The Gunners started the year languishing 12th in the Premier League, 11 points off the top four.

But they now sit just four points adrift of fifth-placed Manchester United, with a top-five finish potentially enough to qualify for the Champions League after Manchester City were handed a two-year ban by UEFA for financial fair-play breaches.

A 1-0 victory over Olympiakos in Greece has also put last season's Europa League runners-up in pole position to reach the last 16 as they bid for a first European trophy since lifting the Cup Winners' Cup in 1994.

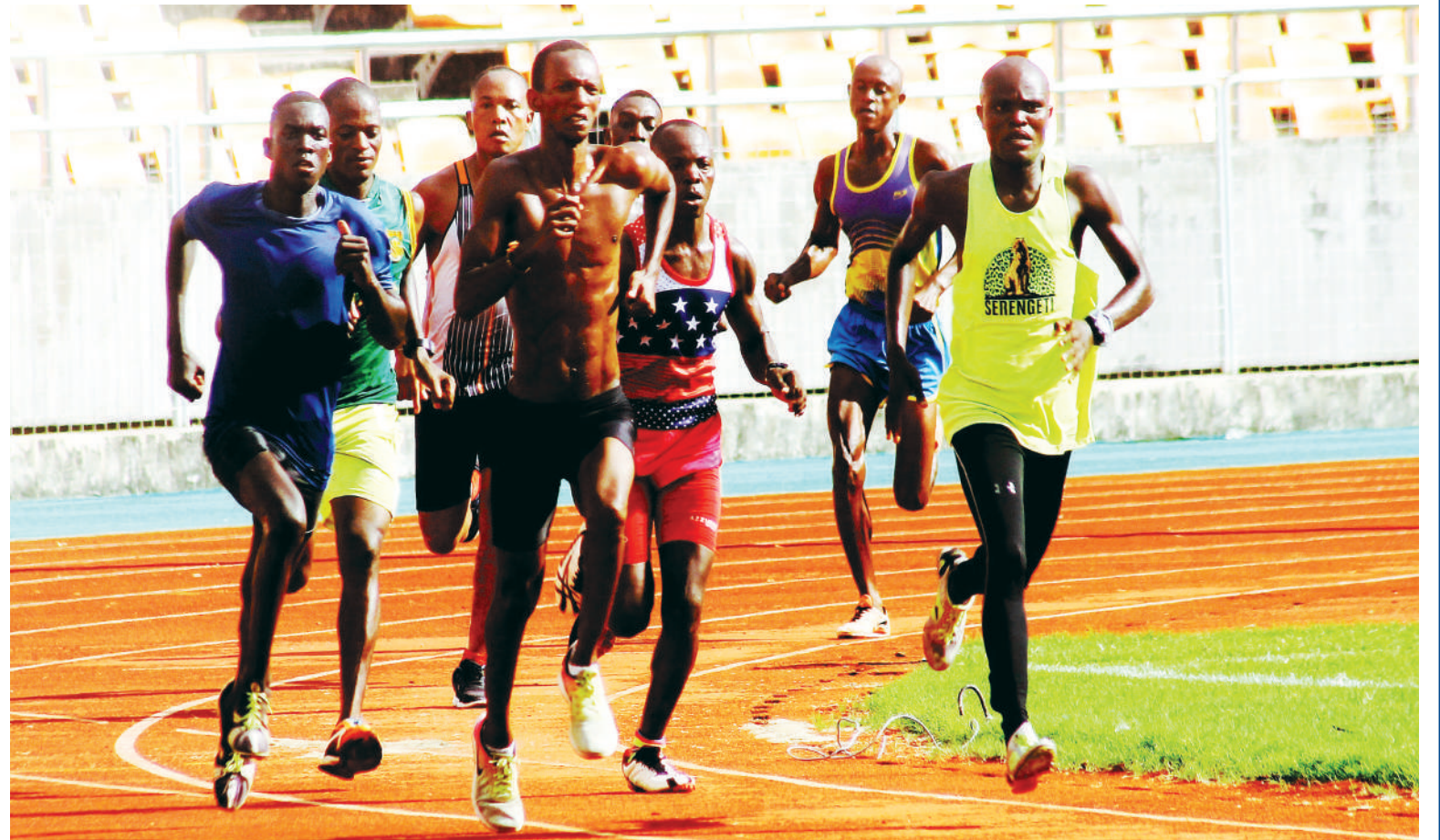
AFP

TOC hails companies for boosting Dar preps for 2020 Olympics

SPORT

Rampant Bayern gave Chelsea a 'reality check', says Lampard

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



A section of domestic athletes take part in training session at National Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently to prepare for the National Relay Championships, which took place at the venue last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) has hailed Japanese companies based in the country for their support to national athletes, who will take part in Tokyo Olympics.

Gulam Rashid, TOC president, issued the statement in Dar es Salaam yesterday when the committee received financial support from Japanese companies based in the country and individuals.

The financial support is aimed at supporting national athletes to prepare for the Tokyo Games which are slated for mid this year.

The financial support came from the Japanese Society of Tanzania's Committee on Commerce and Industry, Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania,

and Japanese Women Society in the country.

He said the financial support from the Japanese companies has demonstrated their enthusiasm, pride and duty which Japan's people have in hosting the Olympic Games.

"This donation has come at a good time, we really thank the Japanese for this support and we are sure that they will come again with more financial support," Rashid disclosed.

"Let me assure you all that the money will be used for its intended purpose," he said.

Gulam also disclosed that discussions are underway between TOC and Japan city of Nagai so as national athletes and judo players can camp in the city to prepare for their respective qualifying competitions.

"We have a good relationship with the city of Nagai, discussions are underway so that our athletes should camp in that city to prepare for their qualifying events," he said.

On his remarks, Japan's Ambassador to Tanzania, Shinichi Goto, said they are happy to be involved in the

national athletes' preparations for the Tokyo Olympics.

He also promised more support to the TOC so as they can have smooth preparations for the national athletes ahead of the games.

"This is just the beginning of good things to come, as everybody knows that my embassy worked hard to secure the relationship between Tanzania and the City of Nagai and I promise to continue supporting Tanzania's preparations for the Olympics," he said.

Minoro Takao who represented

the Japanese Committee on Commerce and Industry promised more support to Tanzania so as to see to it national athletes undergo smooth preparations for the Olympics.

He said the support falls under one of the purposes of the committee, contributing to the enhancement of the Japanese society in Tanzania.

The committee moreover aims at providing opportunities for discussing common challenges facing Japanese companies and enhancing their activities in the country.

5 EATV THURSDAY
 11:00 DADAZ LIVE
 12:00 MPYA
 12:30 Bongo Hits
 13:00 Msosi Kitaani (r)
 13:30 Kuli Za Wana
 14:00 Ujenzi (r)
 14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
 15:00 Funguka
 15:30 Waganga Ulimbo (r)
 16:00 Ubongo Kids (r)
 16:30 #HSHTAG
 17:00 SSELECT
 17:55 Kurosa
 18:00 eNews
 18:30 Music/Soap
 19:30 EATV SAA I
 19:45 MJADALA
 20:00 DADAZ (r)
 21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

MORNING @ 11:00
 DADAZ

DADAZ A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

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 boxers fare poorly in Olympic qualifiers

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

NATIONAL amateur boxers have put their chances to qualify for the 2020 Olympics in jeopardy, given they fared poorly in the qualifiers, which came to an end on Tuesday night in Senegal.

National Light Heavyweight pugilist Yusufu Changalawe, that was the remaining hope in the event lost to Ghanaian boxer Samed Shakul in quarterfinals.

Open Boxing Federation of Tanzania (OBFT) secretary general, Lukelo Wililo, yesterday said Changalawe lost to Shakul by points in the quarterfinal stage.

The national boxing team is expected to make its way back to Dar es Salaam on Saturday.

Changalawe beat Mauricio Martinis of Guinea Bissau by points to progress to the quarterfinals.

The Senegal event involved 221 boxers from 39 African countries. It was used as qualifiers for Tokyo Olympics, with 33 boxers getting qualification for the Olympics.

Tanzania was represented by four boxers, Changalawe (Light Heavyweight), Haruna Swanga (Super Heavyweight), Boniface Mlingwa (Featherweight), and Alex Isendi (Lightweight).

Two boxers Isendi and Changalawe reached the quarterfinals of the qualifiers. Isendi who is also Tanzania team captain failed to qualify for the semifinals after losing to Ghanaian John John.

Commenting on the national boxing team performance, Wililo hailed the boxers for putting spirited showing, but said failing to qualify does not mean the local boxers are incompetent.

He attributed the poor performance of the boxers to lack of experience and chance to participate in fights on regular basis.

"The Senegal event, which was also the African Championships, has exposed some of the technical hitches that our boxers face on the international stage," he disclosed.

"Our boxers performed well only that they were facing equally best boxers, I think it is time now we prepare our boxers well and arrange more trials for them, this will help them gain more experience," he said.

He said OBFT would embark on a program aimed at developing the country's best boxing talent so that the boxers should be ready for other future international bouts.

Wililo stopped short of unveiling boxers set to compete at the last qualifiers which are expected to be held in France in May.

However, when handing over the national flag to the team, Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) through the body's secretary general Filbert Bayi had asked the boxers to make use of the Senegal event to qualify for Tokyo Olympics.

He maintained that it is expensive to send a team to France and the event will be very competitive as it will involve boxers from all over the world.

David Yomba Yomba was the team's head coach, Samuel Mwera was leader of delegation.

National Chess Championships set for next month



Chess players that are participating in the ongoing Tanzania Chess League, in action in one of the league's round one matches played at the Russia Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TANZANIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

By Correspondent Joseph

Mchekadona

THE National Chess Championships has been scheduled for next month at the Russia Cultural Center in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania Chess Association (TCA) announced.

Nurdin Hassuji, TCA secretary general, said the championships which will use 8 round swiss format pairing shall be held for four days at the venue.

Hassuji said the ongoing National Chess League, which is taking place in the city, has been put on hold so as to give room for the National Championships.

He said National Championships will be held on March, 4, 8, 14 and 15 and the event will be used to select players who will represent the country at this year's Olympiad which is slated for August in Russia.

Hassuji asked all domestic chess players to prepare for the National Championships, saying it will be a FIDE rated event.

"The National Chess League games will continue on March 29, 2020 for rounds five and six," he noted.

"Meanwhile, during this break there will be a major chess event which is Tanzania National Championships to be played for four days, March 7, March, 8, March 14 and 15 for 8 rounds battle."

"This tournament will also be used as a qualifier that will help us get players for national men's team and national women's team."

"The men and women national teams will have five players apiece and will represent Tanzania in the upcoming 44th Chess Olympiad, which will take place in Moscow, Russia in August, 2020."

The Russia Olympiad will be the second in a row for Tanzania chess players to compete in.

The last time the event was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, and Tanzania was represented by five players in it.