



National Pg 2 Climate change protesters



National Pg 3 Improving infrastructure in schools



National Pg 4 Cruelty against animals



National Pg 11 AFDB commissions value chain study



Commuter buses avoid a pond situated at Keko Magurumbasi along Chang'ombe Road in the partial flooding from ongoing rain in Dar es Salaam. The pond touches off long queues for vehicles especially at peak hours, as captured by our roving photographer yesterday. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Nyerere festival: JK stresses unity, good governance to fight poverty

This year's festival organised around the theme 'Pan-Africanism and the Quest for Unity, Democratization and Development: The State, Markets and Knowledge Society.'

By Henry Mwangonde

UNIVERSITY of Dar es Salaam Chancellor and former president Dr Jakaya Kikwete yesterday said efforts by African countries towards development will not bear fruit unless three hindrances namely poverty, lack of unity and good governance are addressed.

Dr Kikwete made the remarks yesterday when he addressed the 11th Mwalimu Nyerere Intellectual Festival which started yesterday in Dar es Salaam.

The former president said that after the liberation struggle the African Union saw that

there were major challenges facing the continent, hence seeking to ignite the development mechanism to address them.

"The African Union Charter is fostered on bringing about social and economic development as well as realize the whole concept of good governance," he said.

He however noted that despite initiatives taken by the continental organisation, steep challenges are still facing the continent even after nearly 60 years of independence.

These are the key issues for the continent to address, that about 90-percent of the poverty in

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Envoy: I didn't endorse firm in the botched cashew deal

By Guardian Reporter

CONTROVERSY surrounding the Kenyan firm involved in a botched 100,000-tonne cashewnut purchase deal with Tanzania has taken a new twist after the neighbouring country's envoy in the country said he did not endorse the firm.

Kenyan High Commissioner to Tanzania Dan Kazungu has dismissed reports by a section of the media that he endorsed Indo Power Solutions in the deal worth USD180.2 million (over 400bn/-).

On January 30, the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) director Dr Hussein Mansoor and Indo Power Chief Executive Officer Brian Mutembei signed the deal in Arusha in the presence of Kazungu and senior government officials.

The latter included the Minister for

Industries and Trade, Joseph Kakundi as well as the then minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi. The Deputy Minister for Agriculture Dr Innocent Bashungwa also attended.

But when the government announced early this month that the deal was called off because the firm had failed to implement provisions of the contract on time, its profile came under scrutiny both in Tanzania and in Kenya.

In his response to reports of endorsing the little-known company to clinch the deal, Kazungu said in a statement this week quoted by the Kenyan media that his office only helped Tanzanian authorities in ascertaining the legality, including the registration status of the firm.

"Ultimately though, the final decision to award or reject any bid rested with the buying entity, the cereals board," he is quoted as affirming.

He similarly noted that the Tanzanian High Commission in Nairobi confirmed registration of the company when the Minister for Trade and Industry directed the Tanzanian envoy to do a background check, in December 2018.

"When the minister wrote to Indo Power

RCs, DCs directed to cut out city sex workers, loud music

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

The MINISTER of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo has directed regional and district commissioners to take measures against sex workers "who have become a nuisance in big cities including the capital Dodoma which has recently seen a big influx after the government relocated here."

He also directed the DCs and RCs to ensure they also act against bars and restaurants that cause disturbance to residents by playing loud music.

The minister made the statement in response to a supplementary question by the Maryam Msabaha (Special Seats, Chadema) who said that



He also directed the DCs and RCs to ensure they also act against bars and restaurants that cause disturbance to residents by playing loud music

most bars in Dodoma play loud music and are bothersome to residents.

The number of sex workers is increasing in the city at an alarming rate and they operate carelessly in the political capital, irritating those not interested in their business, especially during this holy month, the MP declared.

"Why can't the government issue a statement condemning the business as well as closing bars that interrupt people at night with loud noise?" she demanded.

The lawmaker objected to loud music from bars in Dodoma and other major urban areas, saying "it is as if there are no law enforcers to tame rogue bar owners."

In response, minister Jafo acknowledged that

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UNICEF outlines 'tuwavushe' in neo-natal deaths reduction

By Correspondent James Kandoya

DESPITE government efforts to reduce mother and child mortality rates, figures shows that Tanzania is among top ten countries with high neonatal deaths globally.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) communication specialist, Usia Ledama disclosed this yesterday during an editors' workshop organized to publicize the 'Jiongeze Tuwavushe Salama' campaign.

Launched in November 31st year by Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the campaign



is geared to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and scaling up awareness about the community's responsibility to work towards alleviating dangers associated with maternal and newborn deaths. It was jointly organized by UNICEF, True Vision and the Ministry of Health.

Countries with high mortality rates are notably India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Indonesia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Bangladesh, implying that Tanzania was slightly above these countries in the ranking. In low-income countries, the average newborn mortality rate

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UNICEF outlines 'tuwavushe' in neo-natal deaths reduction

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is 27 deaths per 1,000 births while in Tanzania, around 312 children (under five) die everyday due to communicable diseases, including malaria and diarrhoea, the UNICEF official underlined.

At the same time, around 8,200 mothers die annually when giving birth in the country, on the basis of reports from health centres.

The number of infants diagnosed with HIV/AIDS has declined from 12 to 4.9 percent from 2011 to 2016, she said.

Ledema noted that the 'Jiongeze Tuwavushe Salama' campaign targets various groups of people in the community including women, government institutions and religious leaders.

"UNICEF works to address maternal and mortality issues in four regions, namely Mbeya, Songwe, Iringa and Njombe," she said.

To complement government efforts, UNICEF has trained health workers and midwives on essential newborn care.

The Acting Reproductive Child Health Coordinator at the Ministry for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and children, Agnes Mgaya said maternal and newborn deaths can be prevented.

She said that 27 percent of women get pregnant at early ages while the

mortality rate is 25 per 1000 live births and maternal deaths are still high at 556 per 100,000 live births.

To reduce maternal risks, government institutions should ensure provision of quality services, she emphasized, elaborating that the campaign will help reduce deaths since experience shows that 80 per cent of complications related to childbirth originate from within the communities.

Birth complications could be avoided if patients attend clinics at the right time and receive the right guidance from professional medical personnel, she pointed out.

In her presentation "The Situation of Maternal and Child in Tanzania," Mgaya cited factors contributing to maternal and child mortality as excessive bleeding (28 percent), abortion (19 percent), obstetric delivery (11 percent) and infection (11 percent).

"Under the campaign, we aim at ensuring that 80 percent of expectant mothers get services at health facilities located in their vicinity," she stated.

Giving an overview of the 'Jiongeze Tuwavushe Salama' campaign, Tahseen Alam of UNICEF Communication Department said that 80 percent of newborn deaths are caused by preventable and treatable conditions.

Stakeholders need to come together to provide affordable and quality healthcare services to stem the tragic situation, the specialist intoned.



President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli pays his last respects to the fallen retired Brigadier General Athuman Hassan Ngwilizi at the Tanzania Peoples Defence Force main hospital Lugalo in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The late Ngwilizi died on May 20th at the hospital. Photo: State House

RCs, DCs directed to cut out city sex workers, loud music

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there are bars and club businesses in residential areas but that the government has directed those operating them to abide by the Intoxicating Liquors Act, 1968.

"The government will not hesitate to take action on those who violate the law, causing trouble to residents" he declared.

Standing on a supplementary question, Special Seats MP Shalley Raymond (CCM) stated that former government estates like Uzunguni in

Dodoma and other towns like Moshi, Arusha among other areas that were sold to the public are being used as bars and become dens for some bad things, calling on the government to use existing laws to stop the habit since they make noise in residential areas.

"It is bad to see some houses in some of the former affluent estates being used for some bad businesses, making noise to residents" said the MP.

Jafo maintained that there is need for law enforcers to work on the matter to ensure people live peacefully.

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the world is based in Africa and that of the 30 poorest countries in the world, 27 are in Africa, he told the gathering.

This year's festival organised around the theme 'Pan-Africanism and the Quest for Unity, Democratization and Development: The State, Markets and Knowledge Society.'

It brings together various dignitaries from within and outside the country, and the UDSM Chancellor Dr Kikwete was designated the distinguished lecturer for this year's event.

The annual festival is taken as a

Nyerere festival: JK stresses unity, good governance to fight poverty

moment for reflecting and making candid deliberations on the future of Tanzania and the continent as a whole.

The UDSM Vice Chancellor Prof William Anangisye said the festival has always been a moment of self-realization, a place for re-union and serious reflections on the past and

future of Africa.

He said this year's focus is on Mwalimu Nyerere's key action points as he grappled with challenges of improving the wellbeing of Tanzania, Africa and humanity at large.

"The festival therefore gives us an opportunity to take a critical look at

Mwalimu's philosophical inclinations, policy initiatives and practical measures to bring about people-centered development," he asserted.

During the event, former VC Prof Rwekaza Mukandala was installed as Mwalimu Nyerere Professor in Pan-African studies.



Kioo Ltd employee William Bongo (R) and Richard Musumle hand over 45 desks and 45 chairs to Mkuranga District Commissioner Philbert Sanga (L) on behalf of Vianzi secondary school at the ceremony held in Mkuranga, Coast region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Dr Goodall urges climate change protesters to follow up marches with proactive action

By Mark Quinlivan

FAMED chimpanzee expert Dr Jane Goodall says people are too focussed on themselves, and not thinking about the next generation.

In an exclusive interview with The Project, she praised the younger generation for taking action against climate change. She also shared her frustration at US President Donald Trump.

Dr Goodall has a number of titles - Dame, Dr, scientist and activist. But she's most affectionately known as the Chimpanzee Lady, and for good reason.

Her groundbreaking work in the 1960s studying chimpanzees in Tanzania turned science on its head.

Dr Goodall told The Project's Jesse Mulligan Trump had done so much damage to the environment, due to his treatment of climate issues.

"But he's not alone - when you think that in the olden days the indigenous people, they used to make decisions in

their lives, asking 'how will this affect future generations?'

"Today, it's 'how will it affect me now; the next political campaign, or the next shareholder meeting?'"

"CEO's and government leaders who have children say 'I love my children', but do you realise what you're doing to them?"

While she praised the younger generation for taking action against climate change, Dr Goodall hoped protesters would go a step further.

"I hope they do more than just march and take a day off school," she told The Project.

"It needs to be followed by taking action themselves. You can't point at a government official and say 'you've got to do something' unless you too are doing something."

School Strike 4 Climate New Zealand announced on Wednesday more protests will be held across the country on May 24, which is the date of the next global school strike.



Envoy: I didn't endorse firm in the botched cashew deal

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Solutions in January, requesting our mission to present the company's documentation, we dutifully obliged and asked the company to furnish the mission with general 'Know-Your-

Customer' documentation for us to determine its legality," he is quoted as declaring.

The diplomatic mission's commercial division wrote to the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Kenya on January

22, confirming that Indo Power was registered and incorporated on October 6, 2016 under the Companies Act, 2015.

"The company had an import certificate number KRA201700650595

to operate in the business of importation and exportation of soya and pigeon beans, cashew nuts, wheat, sunflower and carola oils, black pepper, green mug and others," the envoy added.

Cruelty against animals on the rise in Tanzania - Mpina

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has been alarmed by increasing cases of cruelty to animals in the country, forcing it to come up with strict regulations by July this year, the House was told yesterday.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Luhaga Mpina said even government some officials who look after confiscated livestock in most cases violate animal rights.

"The ministry is coming up with regulations that will help stop cruelty to animals, especially those in government custody for one reason or the other," he said.

According to minister Luhaga in most cases where animals are confiscated for trespass into nation reserve areas, the authority in which they are under awaiting case judgments are always not keen on giving the animals the basic needs, like proper feeding and water.

The minister was responding to a supplementary question by Morogoro South MP, Prosper Mbena (CCM) who had wanted to know what the government is doing to end cruelty on animals.

Earlier in his basic question he argued that cases of animal cruelty are common among animals like cows,

goats and chicken, wondering if the government is working closely with the Tanzania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (TSPCA) to end the problem.

"How many cases of cruelty to animals were recorded between 2018 and 2019 and taken to court?" he asked.

In response the deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdalla Ulega said the government is working closely with non-governmental organization on animal rights like TSPCA to provide public education on cruelty to animals.

He said the education is always on how to transport animals, proper use of domestic animals among others, adding that at least 25 extension officers at the animal markets and 300 business people have been trained.

The deputy minister said that in accordance with section 60 of the regulations of animal welfare, those who violate animal rights are to pay h 50,000 in fine on the spot without appearing in court.

He said between 2018 and 2019 some 3,542 cases on cruelty to animals were recorded in courts whereby 847 were on cows while sheep and goats registered 1,578 as pigs, chicken and donkeys recorded 88,539 and 490 respectively.



Tigo Lake zone south territory manager Gwamaka Mwakilemba (L) explains a point to Ng'eshia Marenya who is one of the heads of Tigopesa agencies in Bariadi district, Simiyu region during the firm's launch of new 4G network service communication in the district yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

THE East African Community is targeting to restrict cross border spread of diseases that have affected livestock trade in the region.

Kenya and Tanzania have secured 100 million shillings from the World Health Organization and the German Cooperation, GIZ to support long term contingent strategy for disease outbreaks which Senior Livestock Officer, EAC, Dr. David Balikowa says

EAC to restrict cross border spread of livestock disease

will help determine the two countries' disease preparedness capacity, challenges and how to address them. Early last year, Tanzania incinerated at least 5000 chicks it said was imported illegally and carried the risk of spreading bird flu.

The move resulted in a diplomatic row between the two largest economies

in the region.

East Africa Community and other international stakeholders have identified cross border disease outbreaks such as Ebola, Rift Valley Fever and foot mouth as potential obstacle for intra-trade in the bloc.

The Kshs 100 million from the World Health Organization and the German

Cooperation GIZ will support frequent simulation exercise in which the experts will be carrying out fictitious disease outbreak management exercise across the region.


EAC Senior Livestock Officer Dr. David Balikowa says Kenya and Tanzania still lack sufficient preparedness capacity when disease

outbreaks strike and thus need to enhance capacity to boost the level of preparedness.

In the cross border simulation exercise, pandemic disease experts say it is important to use a multi-sectoral approach as the inter-border diseases have a significant impact on tourism, agriculture and

manufacturing.

Stakeholders believe that Cross Border Simulation Exercise on disease outbreaks could not have come at a better time considering that the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo is in the equation with the country struggling to contain the Ebola peril.


FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST
 UENDELEZAJI MISITU TANZANIA

INVITATION TO TENDER - RE ADVERTISED

Study on The Contribution of Commercial Forestry Sector to Employment Beyond Primary Production.

The Forestry Development Trust (FDT) is an independent institution established in 2013 by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation, with a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT). The Forestry Development Trust works to improve the livelihoods of small-scale tree farmers through support to the commercial forestry sector in Tanzania.

FDT has analysed contribution of commercial forestry sector to paid non-family employment at plantation establishment and management level and is currently looking for individuals/firms/institutions to perform further analysis to understand employment beyond plantation establishment and management.

Consultants required
FDT is looking for Consultant(s), or Institutions that has specialised in labour related studies or research and has links to government agencies that are managing labour matters locally.

Skills and experience
The consultant is required to demonstrate strong credentials in the following areas:

- Experience and understanding of labour laws, regulations, issues and practices in the context of Tanzania and East Africa in general.
- Experience in consulting, conducting economic impact studies and research
- Detailed understanding of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) labour standards and definitions and Labour law and regulations of the government of the united republic of Tanzania.
- Experience in stakeholder consultation and engagement in the context of market systems

Proposals content and Submission
All proposals should include the following

- An expression of interest letter which indicates applicants' availability, capacity and suitability for the assignment.
- Details of the composition of the team, CV's, experience and relevance of each proposed team member for the assignment.
- Provide summary of indicative budget for the assignment
- At-least two reference letters from reputable organizations stating how your organization has the capacity and experience on the assignment based on prior working relationship.
- A sample of report from the previous completed assignment will an added advantage

Proposal review and selection
Received proposal documents will be reviewed by the FDT procurement committee and one other consulted Gatsby Africa Monitoring and Evaluation Team Leader after the deadline of submission and only successful applicants will be contacted. Proposals will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

- Proven track record and experience of the institution in undertaking similar consulting assignments.
- Composition and qualification of the team members
- Financial feasibility based on the proposed budget submitted
- Completeness of the proposal documents as required especially with reference letters and previous sample report.

Please visit <http://forestry-trust.org/jobs-and-tenders/> for more information and to read the full terms of reference. Proposals must be submitted by Wednesday 5th June 2019 to nicodemus.msika@forestry-trust.org and william.mato@forestry-trust.org. Queries can also be directed to aforementioned addresses.

United Nations Development Programme



Invitation to Bid

Establishment of One UN LTA (Long term Agreement) related to Provision of Travel Management Services to UN Agencies in Tanzania (Multiple Vendors LTA)

UNDP Tanzania invites interested, reputable and competent travel agents to apply for the following ITB:

Provision of Travel Management Services to UN Agencies in Tanzania

ITB/UNDP/TZA/2019/001

To access the full package of ITB, interested bidders should visit

UNDP Procurement notice website

http://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=55915

UNGM website

<https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/90954>

Deadline for submission of application

1100AM (GMT+3HRS) on Tuesday 23rd July 2019.

The application must be written and submitted in accordance with ITB Solicitation document attached in the links above.



ZANZIBAR FISHERIES COMPANY
KILIMO HOUSE
P.O. BOX 1680
DARAJANI, ZANZIBAR
TEL NO: 024-2231101
FAX NO: 024-2231103

TENDER NO. MANRLF/ZAFICO/G02/2019/2020

For

Supply of one unit (1) of four wheel drive (4FWD) double cabin pickup and one unit (1) of 10 tons refrigerated truck

Invitation for Tenders

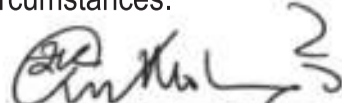
Date: 23rd May, 2019

- The Zanzibar Fisheries Company Limited has set aside funds for the operation of Zanzibar Fisheries Company Limited during the financial year 2019/2020 and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the money to cover eligible payments under the contract for Supply and delivery of one unit (1) of four wheel drive (4FWD) double cabin vehicle pickup and one unit (1) of 10 tons refrigerated truck.
- The Zanzibar Fisheries Company Limited through the Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, Zanzibar now invites sealed tenders from eligible National Suppliers for the supply of the following motor vehicles;

Lot	Description	Quantity
Lot 1	Four Wheel Drive (4FWD) Double Cabin Vehicle Pickup	One (1)
Lot 2	10 Tons Freezer Truck	One (1)

Tenderers may tender for a single lot or both lots.

- Tendering will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures specified in the Public Procurement Act No. 11 of 2016 (Goods, Works and Disposal of Public Assets by Tender).
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the office of Secretary (PDMU Office), Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, P.O. Box 159, Maruhubi – Nyangumi House, Ground Floor from 23rd May, 2019 from 8:00am to 02:30pm on Mondays to Fridays except on public holidays.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English Language and additional sets may be purchased by interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 4 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Thousand Tanzania shillings (TZS 200,000/=). Payment should either be by Cash, payable to Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, P.O. Box 159, Maruhubi – Nyangumi House, Zanzibar.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Security in an acceptable form in the amount of two percent (2%) of the quoted price or freely convertible currencies in case of foreign Tenderers.
- All tenders in one original plus two copies, properly filled in, and sealed enclosed in plain envelopes must be delivered to the Office of Secretary, Ministerial Tender Board, Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources Livestock and Fisheries, P.O. Box 159, Zanzibar, "before 02:00 pm on 13th June, 2019 and must be written "Supply of one unit (1) of four wheel drive (4FWD) double cabin vehicle pickup and one unit (1) of 10 tons refrigerated truck not to be opened until on 13th June, 2019".
- Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Conference Room No 1 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries, First Floor at Maruhubi - Nyangumi House P.O. Box 159, Zanzibar at 02:00 pm on 13th June, 2019.
- Late Tenders, Portion of Tenders, Electronic Tenders, Tenders not received, Tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.


Zahor Kassim Mohamed
El Kharouy
Managing Director
Zanzibar Fisheries Company (ZAFICO)
P.O. Box 1680,
ZANZIBAR
Tel: +255 24 2231101
Fax: +255 24 2231103

Relief as Singida rural district council gets new hospital

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa,

Singida

SINGIDA Rural District Council will soon inaugurate the newly built hospital, which will be a relief to thousands of villagers, who were walking more than 60 kms in search of health services in Singida municipality.

District executive director (DED), Rashid Mandoa said recently in an interview with "The Guardian".

Mandoa said the new health facilities once completed will provide surgery and maternal services to 260,008 residents in the district as well as neighbouring districts.

He said that district received 1.5bn/- from the central government for the construction of the hospital, which is being built in two phases, whereby the first phase started in January 2018.

The health facility is composed of seven buildings including administration block, medicine, outpatient department, paediatric and labour ward, radiology, laboratory and laundry.

For his part, district medical officer (DMO) Dr Lukas Kasingo assured residents that the new facility will also be equipped with good number of medical practitioners. "At this new hospital, all surgeries will be conducted," he said, commending the fifth-phase government for the support to Singida

region and Singida Rural District in particular.

Lukas said that the district has 34 clinical centres, one hospital, three government health centres, and 29 dispensaries.

Singida Rural District is one of the six districts of the Singida Region of Tanzania. It is bordered to the north by Mkalama District, to the east by Manyara Region and Dodoma Region, to the south by Ikungi District and to the west by Singida Urban District. Its administrative seat is the town of Singida.

According to the 2012 Tanzania National Census, the population of Singida Rural District was 225,521.



Deputy minister for Livestock and Fisheries Abdallah Ulega (R) looks at one of the milk packets produced by Dairies Ltd which were offered free of charge to the Members of Parliaments at Bunge grounds in Dodoma yesterday. Looking on is the firm's Dodoma representative Lupyana Chengula. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavilia

Unguja North region residents hail economic growth recorded by the Isles government

By Guardian Reporter

UNGUJA North region residents in Zanzibar have expressed satisfaction with development strides recorded by the government under President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein.

The residents are impressed with the government's efforts in improving social services including road infrastructures.

Unguja North Regional Commissioner, Vuai Mwinyi made the remarks when speaking during an Iftar event organized by President Shein for the residents during the month of Ramdhan. It

was held at the Mkokotoni vocational training centre.

Mwinyi noted that residents in the region have been witnessing a number of development projects implemented by the government. He said most of the villages in Unguja North region have tarmac roads, schools, electricity, reliable water services and health centres.

"Residents of Milile, Mgonjoni and Mbuyumaji villages are happy with improved social services including water and electricity which they missed for a long period", said the RC noting that people are optimistic that Zanzibar's economy will continue to grow follow-

ing on-going construction of the Bububu-Mkokotoni road.

He said that once completed, the road will help boost economic growth not only to the residents, but the nation. He challenged the residents to continue harness prevailing peace to ensure development.

Zanzibar First Lady, Mwanamwema Shein joined other women including top government officials at the special Iftar event which was organized by the President. In attendance were also Zanzibar's Second Vice President, Ambassador Seif Ali Idd, religious leaders and Unguja North residents.



Airtel Tanzania director of communication Beatrice Singano (R) the company's director of marketing Isaack Nchunda display a placard after the launch of a new campaign dubbed: TAMBA MITANDAO VOTE aimed at offering freedom and affordable communication services to all Airtel customers across the country. Under the TAMBA MITANDAO VOTE campaign, all existing and new Airtel pre-paid customers will enjoy a massive call reduction of 1Tshs per second to all networks. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

BY CORRESPONDENT CRISPIN GERALD

Global pressing problems and the Sustainable Development Goals

ACCESS to safe, reliable and sustainable energy is one of the world's pressing problems with around 3.02 billion people relying on biomass-based fuels including wood and charcoal for cooking their food.

In Tanzania, more than 85 per cent of the population depends on biomass energy for their cooking needs and more than 70 per cent of urban dwellers rely specifically on charcoal. Inefficient use of biomass fuels is associated with soot and smoke emissions of indoor air pollution with potential for lung and respiratory infections.

Over reliance on bio-mass fuels is also largely responsible for the rapid deforestation taking place in many parts of Tanzania.

Charcoal is unsustainable produced in rural areas and transported to urban centers, where it is sold through retail vendors. Deforestation is a serious challenge and is estimated to be around 372,000 hectares per annum in Tanzania.

Tanzania faces a number of key barriers towards the adoption of clean cooking practices using alternate clean fuels such as ethanol including lack of standards and families to check the quality of cook stoves and fuel, high cost of available clean cook stove options for most end users, inadequate technical capacity for clean cook stove manufacture and ethanol fuel production, lack of private sector confidence to invest in ethanol based clean cooking sector and absence of market enabling framework to develop clean cooking sector.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) in collaboration with the Vice President's Office Division of Environment is implementing a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project to promote the use of bio-ethanol as a clean alternate fuel for cooking in Tanzania together with partner institutions including TIB Development Bank and TBS with a target of distributing ethanol cook stove technology to half a million households over a five year period.

UNIDO has undertaken steps to sensitize key stakeholders including the private sector on the economic opportunities available through the roll-out strategy for bio-ethanol stoves and fuel.

The Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) has played a key role in



Some of staffs from United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) display one of the ethanol cook stoves expected to be distributed across Dar es Salaam city from next month to three districts under the support of UNIDO through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project.

reaching various groups within the private sector, including potential bio-ethanol producers, potential stove assemblers and distributors of ethanol fuel and stove.

Recently, the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and TIB Development Bank partnered to promote bio-ethanol as a clean, alternative fuel for cooking in the country at a cost of USD 1.2 million (2.75 bn/-).

A landmark agreement was reached between TIB Development Bank and Consumer's Choice Ltd to roll out 110,000 bio-ethanol cook stoves in Dar es Salaam under a UNIDO/GEF project for the promotion of Bio-ethanol as a clean alternate fuel for cooking in Tanzania.

Speaking at the signing ceremony,

UNIDO representative Stephen Kargbo emphasised that the project on clean cooking will not only create an industry based on assembly and eventual manufacturing of clean cook stoves in Tanzania, but will help to remove serious health hazards associated with indoor air pollution affecting women and children.

"It will also facilitate creation of decent jobs through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) along the stove and bio-ethanol value chains," he said.

"Reducing post-harvest losses through the production and distribution of the bio-ethanol from agricultural waste including sugar cane molasses, sisal, waste and cashew apple is also a major goal of this project," he added.

The project will also contribute to

the attainment of multiple sustainable development goals (SDGs), including goal number 9 on inclusive and sustainable industrial development, goal number 3 on good health and well being, goal number 5 on gender equality and goal number 7 on affordable and clean energy.

According to him, the initiative will enable households to shift from charcoal and other wood fuels into bio-ethanol, in order to complement the government goal of reducing deforestation in the country.

"It will also help to reduce health hazards associated with indoor air pollution that mostly affects women and children," Kargbo explained.

UNIDO contracted TIB Development Bank Ltd to establish and operationalize the financial incentive scheme fund for the project which entails providing fund

management services and contract management for the appointed with the distributor of cook stoves and ethanol.

According to Kargbo, UNIDO is undertaking various activities to promote cleaner production and resource efficiency in industry, build capacity for management of hazardous and toxic chemicals such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), promoting energy industries and renewable energy technologies.

The cook stoves will be distributed in several wards including Tabata, Kinyerezi, Segerea in Ilala district, Mbagala, Charambe, Mbagala kuu, Mtoni, Kijichi and Twagoma located in Temeke district and Sinza, Kijitonyama, Makumbusho, Magomeni and Hananasifu located in Kinondoni district.

According to UNIDO, in Tanzania, more than 85 per cent of the population, depends on biomass energy for their cooking needs and more than 70 per cent of urban dwellers

rely specifically on charcoal. Inefficient use of biomass fuels is associated with soot and smoke emissions of indoor air pollution with potential for lung and respiratory infections.

For his part managing director for TIB Development Bank Charles Singili welcomed their involvement in the project and called UNIDO to continue strengthening the capacity of the bank and that of other strategic private sector entities in Tanzania.

He added that TIB as a National Development Finance institution (DFI) is mandated to drive several initiatives to promote national economic growth and realize various national development policies and initiatives.

"As DFI we are ready to drive several initiatives to promote economic growth, including to managing funds on behalf of the government and other development partners like UNIDO," he said.

TIB is pleased to welcome all development partners with financial resources and developmental objectives to benefit TIB fund management services taking into account TIB's good reputation, experience of over 10 years in funds management.

For her part, chief executive officer for Consumer's Choice Ltd Frida Mlingi said the company is well arraigned to distribute the stoves in the prescribed wards in Dar es Salaam Region from next month.

She expressed their readiness and commitment to deliver all the components of the project in line with the terms and conditions of their signed contracts.

"We are happy to see that Tanzanians will now be able to overcome the impact of pollution associated with the use of charcoal and wood fuels with the replacement of bio-ethanol technology," she said.

She said the UNIDO has put a subsidy of USD 7 to the ethanol cook stoves in order to reduce the price of each stove to make it affordable to citizen.

This innovative project is expected to attract more development partners, including the EU, to accelerate the roll out of additional 390,000 households in Dar es Salaam and possibly in other cities in Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar).

UNIDO is currently in the process of scaling up the Market enabling framework developed and tested in Tanzania to another 20 countries.

"However, we are also in talk with the manufacture of ethanol cook stove to look on the possibility of reducing the price of stove mainly to enable local citizen to afford it," she said.

"We look forward to receive close collaboration from the local government leaders and citizen in general in order to facilitate the project that will help to reduce health problems, environmental pollution and destruction as well as economic impacts," Mlingi said.

Nigeria heading towards self-destruction, ex-president Obasanjo warns

BY SYLVESTER IDOWU

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo Saturday warned that Nigeria edged close to the precipice of destruction, saying urgent measures are needed to pull the country back.

Obasanjo said all the indices of political collapse were evident in the country, including corruption, insecurity, and lack of faith in the electoral system.

The former president spoke in a paper titled, "Mobilising Nigerian's human and natural resources for national development," which he delivered at the 2019 Synod of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, held at Oleh, in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State.

Obasanjo chronicled various efforts and policies by past administrations since independence to achieve national development, noting that nothing much can be seen as moving the country towards national development. He said nepotism, lack of continuity of policies by successive administrations, and corruption had hindered development, resulting in widespread insecurity, mistrust, nepotism, and electoral fraud.

He described electoral fraud as a killer of democracy, which undermined legitimacy, and destroyed democracy and hope. According to him, "We must all appreciate that democracy that fails to deliver dividends to the citizenry in terms of security, safety, freedoms and general enhancement of livelihood will lead to frustration and desperation and all other dangers that

can follow.

"Through division and alienation, wittingly and unwittingly encouraged by government, incipient factors of state destruction are observable everywhere in hate preaching and advocacy, upsurge in tribalism and sectionalism, silence and complacency among those who should care, and a dangerously rising feeling that your votes don't count and elections don't matter. And yet, we spend colossal amount of money on elections every four years with apparently not much to show for it.

"With other ills within our society, if these observable symptoms are not addressed, and speedily too, we are heading to self-destruction. It will not matter where the fire commences from, it will spread fast and widely, leaving no survivor on its trail.

"In the last three weeks, I have been close to two countries and learned how they self-destruct. I was in Somaliland to learn at first-hand the story of self-destruction of Somalia. And I was in Colombia to similarly learn the story of self-destruction of Venezuela. They both started with destruction of democracy.

"And Venezuela used democratic process to destroy democracy. Nigeria seems to be embarking on the path of Venezuela. With only a population of about 30 million, the Venezuela humanitarian situation today, heightened by drug trafficking, illegal mining, pervasive corruption and terrorism, is crying to the world. But the world can turn a blind eye and



it would be our funeral.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, commonly referred to as Nigeria is a federal republic in West Africa, bordering Niger in the north, Chad in the north-east, Cameroon in the south-east, and Benin in the west. Its coast in the south is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. The federation comprises 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory, where the capital, Abuja is located. Nigeria is officially a democratic secular country.

Nigeria has been home to a number of ancient and indigenous kingdoms and states over the millennia. The modern state originated from British colonial rule beginning in the 19th century, and took its present territorial shape with the merging of the Southern Nigeria Protectorate and Northern

Nigeria Protectorate in 1914. The British set up administrative and legal structures while practising indirect rule through traditional chiefdoms. Nigeria became a formally independent federation in 1960. It experienced a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It thereafter alternated between democratically elected civilian governments and military dictatorships until it achieved a stable democracy in 1999, with the 2011 presidential election considered the first to be reasonably free and fair.

Nigeria is often referred to as the "Giant of Africa", owing to its large population and economy. With 186 million inhabitants, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous country in the world. Nigeria has the third-largest youth population in the world, after India

and China, with more than 90 million of its population under age 18. The country is viewed as a multinational state as it is inhabited by 250 ethnic groups, of which the three largest are the Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba; these ethnic groups speak over 250 different languages and are identified with a wide variety of cultures. The official language is English. Nigeria is divided roughly in half between Christians, who live mostly in the southern part of the country, and Muslims, who live mostly in the north. A minority of the population practice religions indigenous to Nigeria, such as those native to the Igbo and Yoruba ethnicities.

As of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power

parity respectively. It overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014. The 2013 debt-to-GDP ratio was 11 percent. Nigeria is considered to be an emerging market by the World Bank; it has been identified as a regional power on the African continent, a middle power in international affairs, and has also been identified as an emerging global power. However, it currently has a "low" Human Development Index, ranking 152nd in the world. Nigeria is a member of the MINT group of countries, which are widely seen as the globe's next "BRIC-like" economies. It is also listed among the "Next Eleven" economies set to become among the biggest in the world. Nigeria is a founding member of the African Union and a member of many other international organizations, including the United Nations, the Commonwealth of Nations and OPEC.

The name Nigeria was taken from the Niger River running through the country. This name was coined in the late 19th century by British journalist Flora Shaw, who later married Lord Lugard, a British colonial administrator. The origin of the name Niger, which originally applied only to the middle reaches of the Niger River, is uncertain. The word is likely an alteration of the Tuareg name egerew n-igerewen used by inhabitants along the middle reaches of the river around Timbuktu prior to 19th-century European colonialism.

The Nok civilisation of Northern Nigeria flourished between 500 BC and AD 200, produc-

ing life-sized terracotta figures that are some of the earliest known sculptures in Sub-Saharan Africa. Further north, the cities Kano and Katsina have a recorded history dating to around 999 AD. Hausa kingdoms and the Kanem-Bornu Empire prospered as trade posts between North and West Africa.

The Kingdom of Nri of the Igbo people consolidated in the 10th century and continued until it lost its sovereignty to the British in 1911. Nri was ruled by the Eze Nri, and the city of Nri is considered to be the foundation of Igbo culture. Nri and Aguleri, where the Igbo creation myth originates, are in the territory of the Umeuri clan. Members of the clan trace their lineages back to the patriarchal king-figure Eri. In West Africa, the oldest bronzes made using the lost-wax process were from Igbo-Ukwu, a city under Nri influence.

The slave trade was engaged in by European state and non-state actors such as Great Britain, the Netherlands, Portugal and private companies, as well as various African states and non-state actors. With rising anti-slavery sentiment at home and changing economic realities, Great Britain outlawed the international slave trade in 1807. Following the Napoleonic Wars, Great Britain established the West Africa Squadron in an attempt to halt the international traffic in slaves. It stopped ships of other nations that were leaving the African coast with slaves; the seized slaves were taken to Freetown, a colony in West Africa originally estab-

lished for the resettlement of freed slaves from Britain. Britain intervened in the Lagos Kingship power struggle by bombarding Lagos in 1851, deposing the slave trade friendly Oba Kosoko, helping to install the amenable Oba Akitoye, and signing the Treaty between Great Britain and Lagos on 1 January 1852. Britain annexed Lagos as a Crown Colony in August 1861 with the Lagos Treaty of Cession. British missionaries expanded their operations and travelled further inland. In 1864, Samuel Ajayi Crowther became the first African bishop of the Anglican Church.

In 1885, British claims to a West African sphere of influence received recognition from other European nations at the Berlin Conference. The following year, it chartered the Royal Niger Company under the leadership of Sir George Taubman Goldie. In 1900 the company's territory came under the control of the British government, which moved to consolidate its hold over the area of modern Nigeria. On 1 January 1901, Nigeria became a British protectorate, and part of the British Empire, the foremost world power at the time. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries the independent kingdoms of what would become Nigeria fought a number of conflicts against the British Empire's efforts to expand its territory. By war, the British conquered Benin in 1897, and, in the Anglo-Aro War (1901-1902), defeated other opponents. The restraint or conquest of these states opened up the Niger area to British rule.



Deputy Minister Innocent Bashungwa addresses Tanzania Horticultural Association meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

ACT's intervention increases food crop production in western Tanzania regions

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THOUSANDS of smallholder farmers in Rukwa and Katavi regions have benefited from new intervention aimed at scaling up food crop production per acre. The agricultural project dubbed Sumbawanga and Rukwa (SUKA) is being spearheaded by the Agricultural Council of Tanzania (ACT) in partnership with other stakeholders such as Action for Development Programs (ADP) Mbozi, Nico Mbeya and Britain.

Sponsored by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the project is aimed at empowering farmers with modern farming skills as well as linking them with markets.

ACT's project manager, Ali-nanuswe Mwalwangwe said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the project is a continuation of the Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT)—a long term public private partnership designed to stimulate responsible and sustainable (green growth) transformation and commercialization of agriculture in the designated corridor ensuring clear and direct benefits to smallholder farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen.

Started since September 2017, the project was targeting to reach 122,000 farmers and strategic crops such as rice, maize and beans, which are both food and cash crops hence ensuring food security and boosting farmers' incomes.

The project all players in agricultural value chain—farmers, agro-dealers, traders and transporters, he said, adding that the idea is to

ensure that farmers get reliable markets and crops are transported to the markets.

Citing examples, Mwalwangwe said: "Recently there were complaints from farmers that there were traders from Zanzibar who wanted to buy 100,000 tonnes of maize from Rukwa Region. But, the challenge was how maize will be transported and at the end of the day, we ended transporting 400 tonnes, because of lack of transport companies."

"That's why we want to link all players in farming value chain in order to realize our dream," the official said. Commenting on success of the project, Mwalwangwe said that until March this year, they have reached 84,000 and "because this is a three-year project, we'll reach the 122,000 target."

In this project, farmers are empowered with better farming practices as well as setting up demonstration farms in their localities, where they learn easily, he said.

He added: "We're ensuring that farmers get improved seeds, agro-inputs such as fertiliser and pesticides. Farmers are also trained on cooperatives and education on entrepreneurship."

He however suggested the need for improving fertilisers transport logistics so as to reach farmers on time. Mwalwangwe also said: "We're encouraging farmers to form and operate in groups, where it easier for them to get loans and other services."

Apart from markets, the project has managed to revamp 25 godowns out of 40 available. The project has

also constructed three godowns in Rukwa and two godowns in Katavi.

All these interventions have increased maize and rice production in the two regions, the project manager said.

He said that in the two regions rice production has increased from between 7 and 14 bags to 25 bags per bag.

"We're encouraging farmers to venture into agri-business, which can relieve them from poverty trap," he said, adding that in Katavi farmers are also encouraged to grow cash crops such as cotton and cashew nuts.

One of the smallholder farmers from Sinde village in Rukwa Region, Eutropia Sangu said that before the project, farmers used to grow beans using traditional farming methods, which were unproductive.

"But, things changed to better. We're now using better farming practices, which has increased production per acre," she said.

Samson Fyura, another farmer from Mtapenda village in Rukwa Region also said that maize production has increased from between three and five bags per acre to between 20 and 25 per the same size of land.

An extension officer from Katavi Region, Edward Mwakagile said that the project has contributed a lot to people's livelihoods in the region.

ACT is an umbrella organization that promotes the agricultural best practices through effective policies and informed dialogues in the country. It is also aimed at pursuing a modern and commercial agriculture that will ultimately increase in job creation and the economy at large.

AfDB commissions value chain study to promote jobs for women, youth

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

THE African Development Bank has commissioned a study into the contribution of the jewelry manufacturing industry and its potential for job creation for women and youth in Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and the Republic of Guinea.

A statement released yesterday by the lender said the initial USD1.4 million project will entail a value chain analysis study examining the sector's contributions to value addition and job creation. It will be financed under the Bank's Transition Support Facility and implemented over 24 months, in coordination with the relevant ministries and agencies in all three countries.

The proposed project aims to create hundreds of jobs in each of the three pilot countries in addition to offering training in cutting, polishing and jewelry manufacturing for women and youth entrepreneurs

operating in the jewelry manufacturing value chain.

"The mining industry plays a critical role in many Sub-Saharan African economies and offers great potential for sustainable job creation, private sector development and women's empowerment. However, the resource boom has provided limited opportunities for the local population. With this project, the African Development Bank invests in downstream activities such as jewelry manufacturing, to stimulate local economies, foster inclusive growth and integrate African SMEs into global mineral value chains,

Bank Director for Gender, Women and Civil Society, Vanessa Mounzar, said. The overarching goal of the minerals value chain analysis is to address the capacity gaps in jewelry manufacturing and assess its impact on value addition, job creation, and the economic empowerment of youth and women. There is an identified opportunity

for jewelry manufacturing in the selected countries to be scaled up through the provision of skills transfer and required technology. The initial study will directly help to address the lack of skills and create a better understanding of adding value in the industry, with the ultimate goal of reducing fragility in all three countries and building resilience.

"Transforming semi-precious minerals and gemstones into jewelry, supported by training for value addition activities, holds the promise of creating more jobs and enhancing the lives of youth and women in the first three targeted African countries of the project," said Cosmas Ochieng, Director of the African Natural Resources Centre.

The study will also explore how to enhance the welfare of the vulnerable groups identified, how to stimulate private-sector growth in the targeted countries, while addressing the issue of illegal migration to the West.

Summons to an Accused Person (S.91) Crime Form No. 6 (Approved by the High Court under S: 352 of Cr. P.C)

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
IN THE RESIDENT /DISTRICT MAGISTRATE'S COURT OF SHINYANGA
(AT SHINYANGA)
CRIMINAL CASE NO. 17 OF 2019
REPUBLIC
VERSUS

ARVIND KUMAR MITTAL	1 ST ACCUSED PERSON
ATUL MITTAL.....	2 ND ACCUSED PERSON
SARVESH JAIN.....	3 RD ACCUSED PERSON
TARSEM AGGARWAL.....	4 TH ACCUSED PERSON

TO:

- ARVIND KUMAR MITTAL
MOUNT MERU PETROLEUM LIMITED
ARUSHA HQ
- ATUL MITAL
MOUNT PETROLEUM LIMITED
ARUSHA HQ
- SARVESH JAIN
MOUNT PETROLEUM LIMITED
ARUSHA HQ
- TARSEM AGGARWAL
MOUNT MERU PETROLEUM LIMITED
ARUSHA HQ

WHEREAS your attendance is necessary to answer to a charge of *Engaging unregistered contractors Contrary to Section 22(4) of the Contractors Registration Act No. 17/1997 as amended by Section 20 of the Contractors Registration (Amendments) Act No. 15 / 2008*

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED in the name of the Republic to appear in this Court on the 28th day of June, 2019 at 08:00a.m, or soon thereafter as the case can be heard.

GIVEN under my hand and the SEAL of the Court this 17th day of MAY, 2019

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE
SHINYANGA.

ISO 9001:2015 certified

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research | training | services

ANNOUNCEMENT

PREQUALIFICATION OF VENDORS FOR PROVISION OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO IHI FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020

- Institute overview**
Ifakara Health Institute (IHI) is a leading research organization in Africa with a strong track record in developing, testing and validating innovations for health. Driven by a core strategic mandate for research, training and services, the Institute's work now spans a wide spectrum, covering biomedical and ecological sciences, intervention studies, health-systems research and policy translation.
- Official Call**
IHI invites applications from eligible, competent and qualified companies for the prequalification to provide goods and services listed below for the 2019/2020 financial year:

Lot Number	Service	Description
1	Supply, repair and maintenance of laboratory equipment.	Various laboratory machines.
2	Supply of field materials.	List of frequently required field items is available.
3	Supply of office refreshments.	List of frequently required consumables is provided.
4	Supply of hardware materials.	Various hardware items.
5	Supply of motor cycles and motor cycle spare parts.	List of preferred brands is available.
6	Injector pump service and replacement of its parts and nozzles.	Description of current vehicles is available.
7	Sewage services (Bagamoyo)	N/A
8	Ford spare parts (Ford Ranger and Range Rover)	Description of current vehicles are available.
9	Maintenance of office printers.	Various brands.
10	Decoration service for special events (bag).	N/A
11	Supply of office furniture.	N/A
12	Supply of office ACs.	Various brands.
13	Service and maintenance of office ACs.	Various brands.
14	Consultancy services.	Transcription of audio/video records into text.
15		Translation of written scripts from Kiswahili to English.
	Supply, installation and maintenance of CCTV camera.	Various.

- Instructions**
3.1 The tender is open to all bidders. The whole bidding process will be conducted through competitive procurement procedures specified in the IHI's Administration Manual.
3.2 Interested eligible bidders may obtain additional information from the Secretary's Office or inquire the same from IHI's Tender Committee via email at procurement@ihi.or.tz from 09:00hrs to 16:00hrs local time, Monday to Friday, from the date of this announcement.
3.3 All applications and deposits must be enclosed in an envelope with a seal and addressed to: **Chief Executive Director, Ifakara Health Institute, P.O. Box 78373, Dar es Salaam**
3.4 Hand deliveries should be submitted at IHI Front Desk (reception) not later than **Thursday June 14, 2019 at 10:00 am local time.**
3.5 The deadline for all submissions is **June 14, 2019 at 10:00 am.** Thereafter, opening of the tenders will immediately start.
3.6 Applications should be submitted to: District Hospital; and Ifakara – Off Mlabani Passage.
- Applications**
4.1 Interested bidders must pay a non-refundable fee of Tshs 50,000/= to the following bank account: NMB bank account number BS 20103500224, Bank House.
4.2 Interested bidders must complete tendering documents which can be obtained after submission of a bank slip to IHI offices: Dar es Salaam – Mikochoeni; Bagamoyo –
- Important**
5.1 Please note that, late applications will not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of circumstances.
5.2 Other instructions and procedures for the bidding process will be found in the tender documents.

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TOURISM as the world's largest business is a complex system of integrated parts. At present tourism is recognized as the largest industry in the world considering gross output, value added, and employment and tax contributions. Tourism is undeniably a powerful tool for development and developing fraternity.

Changes in life style, technology, values and behavior are key driving forces impacting on tourism. Increasingly tourists are more knowledgeable, experienced, independent, discerning and more quality and value for money conscious. In recognition of the dynamic nature of tourism and the ever increasing new trends impacting on tourism, coupled with need for new packages to attract new market segments and satisfy consumer demand, there is a growing felt need for new holiday ideas in the travel and hospitality industry.

As such Gambia tourism and hospitality industry is also keen to follow suit and embrace this development by paying more attention to niche tourism, such as Muslim Friendly Tourism, which is trending in global holiday business.

Muslim Travelers refer to those travelers 'who do not wish to compromise their basic faith based needs while travelling for a purpose, which is permissible'. Given that 26% of the world's population is projected to be Muslim in 2030, Halal Tourism expenditure expected to soar around \$240 billion in five years, and buttressed by the fact that 50% of Muslims are under the age of 25 years, (young optimists) various destinations both with majority Muslim populations or not are racing to develop and tap the potentials of this emerging niche.

In view of the forgoing, Muslim Friendly Tourism is poised to become a major niche, and authoritative studies have pointed out that Muslim travelers are on the increase and a significant portion of those travelling for whatever motivation would like to have an element of halal tourism during their travels. This is informed by the fact that most Muslims view Islam as a way of life. But if the case of eco tourism, which made a lot of buzz, and eventually fizzled out, is any guide, we need to approach this new niche in a more serious and strategic fashion.



Muslim Friendly Tourism - A Gradual Approach

Initially certain aspects of Muslim friendly tourism will have to be developed within the context of a conventional tourism structure so as to cater to a specific segment of Muslim travelers. This is critical because our core product remains the conventional tourism products revolving around leisure tourism. In a nutshell, we need to create enclaves of MFT to complement, not upstage our existing products revolving around Sea, Sun and Sand. According to experts, "Muslim Tourism is not about changing or creating new products and services. Instead

destinations would only need to make adaptations and adjustments to fully accommodate the needs of Muslims" which according to authoritative studies, include amongst others, providing Halal food, appropriate prayer facilities and related faith based preferences such as water friendly facilities in hotel rooms.

The concept of Muslim Friendly Tourism is at its infancy but developed in certain countries, mainly destinations with majority Muslim populations and members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) except for few exceptions such as the UK and Singapore. However, it is generally recognized that

OIC member states are in different stages of development in terms of the availability of core and basic products - both demand and supply side of MFT. As such member states have been grouped in to 4 clusters in terms of their level and degree of development in terms of MFT. These clusters are group A- LEADERS such as Malaysia, Turkey UAE, and group B best positioned such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Indonesia, Oman, Jordan and Morocco. Group C potential for growth referring to markets that offer unique opportunities such as Kuwait or Iran and group D need to develop. In terms of awareness and level of product development - travel hos-

pitality services, destination Gambia is ranked amongst the last category/cluster (need to develop), and for this category studies have recommended training, awareness creation and capacity building targeting hospitality trainers, and, industry stakeholders such as hoteliers, ground tour operators, tourist guides to be able to build capacity and train more people on MFT.

Critical Success Factors

The next important and critical area is the demand and supply side aspects of MFT. Given that tourists crave novel experiences in new destinations and in this regard the supply side which entails travel hospitality service, products and facilities such as transport services, transport terminals, accommodation services, attraction and activities, travel agents and tour operators, human capital and destinations as a whole - need to be adjusted and in certain instances make adaptations with Islamic touch at destination level.

CraHFT model or Crescent Rating Halal Friendly Travel Reference model is used to evaluate destinations supply side key themes. The objective is to enable a destination to better understand its positioning in terms of Muslim friendliness of its offerings of hotels, restaurants, shopping malls, transport, tourist attractions and the hospitality industry.

From the supply side, MFT has been mainly driven by the accommodation sector with hotels, resorts and other accommodation providers taking initiatives to ensure that Muslim visitors are comfortable.

According to authoritative studies, the following are the guidelines for hotels to cater to the need to have and good to have services:

- Need to have
- Halal Food availability
- Rooms marked with the Qibla direction

- Ability to provide temporary prayer rooms for meetings and events held at hotel

- Water friendly toilets
- Ramadan facilities offered
- Catering to the nice/good to have services will also require the following;
 - No non-halal activities (no alcohol, discotheque or casino)

- Swimming pools and gyms that are either segregated or provide different things for males and females

- For beach resorts, areas for males and females to enjoy in privacy

- Conference and event venues
- Catering to the business visitor segment for conferences and major events will require the event venue to be able to provide the following services.

- Halal food availability
- Prayer room with wudhu facilities
- Water friendly toilets

THE WAY FORWARD
- Raise awareness about MFT, targeting not only the tourism stakeholders in the private sector, but the public sector and the wider population.

- Given the growing Muslim population and their increasing clout in terms of disposable income, there is the need to underscore the urgency of developing MFT products and services in Gambia Tourism.
- Underscore the importance of increasing investment in MFT particularly through utilizing public - private partnership.
- Undertake more capacity building measures, initially targeting the tourism stakeholders, both public and private as well as all the key players in the tourism and hospitality industry including service providers at all levels on MFT.

CONCLUSION

In our quest to diversify and enrich our tourism offer, a gradual foray in to Muslim Friendly Tourism along the lines outlined above will not be farfetched. This will go a long way to make our destination more attractive to a brand new segment, which is growing in importance and is very lucrative. However, given that our existing tourism product is geared towards conventional tourism, we need to a more realistic approach and not take short cuts. MFT demand and supply side issues should be thoroughly studied and efforts should be made to ensure prior consultation and training of tourism stakeholders on the nitty gritty of Muslim Friendly Tourism for the evolution of informed decisions on the new product.

Open letter (with recommendations) to president George M. Weah

By Abednego Davis

May 21, 2019
E. Dr. George M. Weah
President,
Republic of Liberia
Your Excellency,

Please accept my highest compliments for your stewardship of the Republic and your ascendancy to the highest office.

Your Excellency, please allow me to draw your attention to some of the current issues and make my candid recommendation for your consideration. We are fully aware of the economic challenges your government inherited as well as the prevailing economic challenges which can be attributed to several factors, such as the drop in Liberia's major export commodities, as well as the mismanagement of the meager resources/revenue generated locally. It is also saddening to note that helping hands from friendly nations, worth billions of dollars over the years, have yielded very little outcome (comparing funding spent to tangibles achieved). This is mainly attributed to corruption and waste of donor resources and local revenue in all manner and forms, which is an age-old governance problem for Liberia. Vast majority of the population (intended target) are deprived of very basic needs, while those entrusted with stewardship are showered with gold.

Although Liberia is evidently blessed with abundant of natural and mineral resources, taking a lesson from our recent history, we saw the mismanagement and 'gold rush style' misuse of friendly nations' support and revenue from previous regimes. This led to many popular uprisings and rebellions that were climaxed by a senseless civil war. The slogan and axiom of the popular movement was and is ALWAYS "Freeing the masses". The revolution gave rise to many subsequent warring fictions and interim governments, "ALL" with no exception, did little or nothing for the much fought-for "masses". Inarguably, poverty is still shouting louder across the country.

Mr. President, recalling lessons from

our immediate past regime, PRIMARILY, due to the presence of UNMIL and other international partners / programs e.x. (GEMAP, TOKTEN, SES etc), progress was made in strengthening the governance structure / institutions, but again not without numerous proven and alleged corruption, gross mismanagement, impunity and countless number of blatant violations of the rule of law. Summarily, if one were to match monies spent by donors and revenues collected, overall achievement was below average.

Your Excellency, it is needless to say that you don't want to make the same mistakes made by previous governments because you were elected on a platform of change to change the lives of the masses. That being said, there are warning signs that your government is going down the same road and all the age-old menaces are becoming the order of the day resoundingly visible. Your Excellency, I can firmly attest that this is not a menace associated only with your government, but a systemic, lack of patriotism and love for country by fellow Liberians who have the opportunity to serve in public offices. If power is turned over to the current opposition and without major involvement from the international community (IC), we will experience the abuse of state power and resources in many other forms. Abuse of power is an inherent and entrenched governance issue in Liberia which did not start with your government and will not end with it. Without the involvement of the IC our age-old menaces will resurface in new forms. Your Excellency, I can go on providing more and more details, but I believe I'd be saying what you are fully aware of. Considering this background, I wish to recommend to your administration the following proposal which may save the administration, your legacy, the MASSES and, most importantly, preserve the peace and improve the wellbeing of all Liberians. Mr. President, after a quiet and soft survey and collecting views from many quarters outside of politics and government, there is an "OVERWHELMING" popular view, that our very best solution is an Extra-Constitutional full "International

Although Liberia is evidently blessed with abundant of natural and mineral resources, taking a lesson from our recent history, we saw the mismanagement and 'gold rush style' misuse of friendly nations' support and revenue from previous regimes.



Economic Management Program (IEMP)" or a Parallel International Governance Management System (PIGMS). As a reminder, during the early part of Madam Sirleaf's Presidency we had a low spectrum version (GEMAP) which lasted shorter than we the masses expected. The truth of the matter is "The Masses" are not benefitting from our natural resources.

Paradoxically, government heavily relies on our foreign partners to provide the basic, (Electricity, water, better health care etc) for its people. For example, Your Excellency, please pause for a moment and imagine our healthcare system without direct donors' budgetary support. Drawing on the example of current U.S.-governed Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, etc and past governed; Philippines, Marshall Islands, Micronesia

etc, we are recommending that you make some extra-constitutional shift by working with ambassadors accredited to this capital to work out the details of an IEMP or PIGMS. Your Excellency, please understand the primary underlying factor of these menaces is mainly because vast majority of Liberians in the political circle have little or no source of income outside of politics. They are using it as a "deceptive plow" to get wealth overnight at the expense of the "save the masses" syndrome. Until we can build a firm middle class outside of government and politics, reduce our illiteracy rate, etc., this is never going to change. Although there are very few exceptional individuals, however, we "Can Not" achieve the changes required under a self-governing structure to transform the lives of "The Masses". This is

because the few good are still going to work with the many bad.

Finally, Your Excellency, I am of the strongest conviction that if the lives of the people are not improved, there is a greater possibility of civil unrest and, most importantly, the risk of young men and women becoming susceptible to recruitment for terror and other dissident activities. Again, I wish to echo that our current economic, social and political situation have a very strong foreign / domestic security risk.

Your Excellency, I'd be glad were you to provide me an opportunity to hold a discussion around these issues, as I can provide more intriguing and fascinating reasons to support our argument.

Sincerely yours,
Boye-Doe Wleh, Jr.



Thursday 23 May 2019

EADB basks in stable Moody's rating despite shareholders poor showing

By The Banker Reporter

DESPITE having less banking activity with no annual report published since 2017, East African Development Bank was given a stable (Baa3) credit profile by ranking agency, Moody's last year.

In a statement, the London based credit rating agency said the EADB's credit profile reflects its strong capital and liquidity, balanced against its shareholders' low average credit quality and concentration risks in its loan portfolio.

The research is an update to the markets and does not constitute a rating action, Moody's said in its annual report dated July 2018. "The bank's credit strengths include strong liquidity and capital buffers that are among the strongest of the multilateral development banks we rate," said Aurelien Mali, a Moody's Vice President and Senior Credit Officer who is also the report's author.

"EADB's main credit weaknesses are its borrowers' low credit quality and the high geographic concentration of its assets," the report stated. Although the bank's level of non-performing loans decreased significantly during its restructuring period from 2009 to 2012 after the NPL ratio climbed to 7.0 percent in 2016 and rose further to 9.1 percent in 2017.

This increase reflects the low average quality of the bank's loan portfolio due to East Africa's difficult operating environment, and the high concentration of its loan book. Moody's expects EADB to remain profitable, supported by the expansion in its investment activities, even though the full provision and write-off of NPLs in 2018 could weaken profitability for the year.

The Moody's report further noted that Kampala based troubled regional bank has strong liquidity, reinforced by low levels of borrowing relative to liquid assets, moderate funding costs and a relatively long-dated debt maturity structure. "Poor credit quality constrains the strength of shareholder support for the bank. Its weighted median shareholder rating of B2 in 2017 is among the lowest of all the multilateral development banks that Moody's rates," it



noted.

Returning to a low NPL ratio as the bank continues to expand its balance sheet in the coming years would be credit positive. Additional support from higher-rated shareholders could also result in a positive reassessment of the credit rating, the report added.

In contrast, a further deterioration in asset quality would put downward pressure on the rating. It could also come under pressure if the bank's rapid asset growth were to result in a disproportionate increase in credit risk, undermining recent improvements in governance and risk management.

The regional lender has been in management crisis since 2016 when a group of junior staff and African Development Bank directors sought the removal of its Director General, Vivienne Yeda (pictured) from Kenya on mismanagement allegations.



NMB's Head of Payments and Accounts, Michael Mungure (L) in conversation with Jubilee Insurance Head of Sales, Rogation Selengia (C) and CEO of Milembe Insurance Munganyizi Tibaijuka during the launch of Banc Assurance regulations at a ceremony organized by Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA) in Dar es Salaam last week. NMB was one of the main sponsors of the event. Photo: courtesy of NMB.

African Bank makes entry-level bank account play

JOHANNESBURG

African Bank has become the latest financial services provider to enter the increasingly competitive entry-level transactional bank account space. With no monthly fee, it is clear the bank is competing very strongly on price, and it contends that its new MyWorld account is the "cheapest transactional account" in the country (based on the same methodology used in Solidarity's bank charges report).

The other differentiator is that MyWorld allows account holders to transact and save together with family and friends through a concept it calls "shared banking." This serves a need the bank identified by researching the market. Up to five additional accounts can be opened under the main account, with no monthly fees on any of them.

The account also has two types of pockets: a power pocket and a savings pocket. The former is a pocket account (similar to the 'wallet'-type 'accounts' being offered by some banks, although African Bank says this is the first such account in SA "to offer full transaction capability"). The savings pocket is similar to the one offered by Old Mutual on its Money Account.

Targeting stokvels

The primary account holder can also add people to each of the pockets, which allows them full access. In other words, they can then transact and/or save along with the account holder. Fees can be allocated to either the pocket's user or primary account holder.

It also allows primary account holders to add an

additional 10 members to any pocket. These members will only be able to deposit funds. African Bank included this functionality with "informal savings clubs, church groups and any collection of people wishing to save together for a shared trip or activity" in mind.

The bank is positioning saving as a big driver behind the account, with interest of 5.5% per annum paid on positive balances, and 6.5% per annum on the savings pocket. Capitec, for example, pays 5% on balances up to R24 999, 5.4% on balances up to R99 999 and 5.65% on those above R100 000. Fees are largely comparable to those of similar accounts offered by rivals.

Opening an account can be done on any of the bank's digital platforms, with account holders only needing to visit a branch to collect their debit card. African Bank has made its entry into an already crowded and competitive transactional banking market, particularly at the lower end.

Capitec has had runaway success with its Global One account, leading the four other major banks that are attempting to compete on both cost and simplicity. At R5 a month, this is among the cheapest bank accounts in the country. At the end of February, Capitec had 11.39 million active customers.

Old Mutual launched its Money Account in 2015, using Bidvest Bank's licence, and has opened more than a million accounts to date, of which 211 000 are active. TymeBank officially went live with its product – which has no monthly fees – in February, and has already opened over 250 000 accounts. Bank Zero is expected to launch later in 2019.

Airtel reignites price wars as it massively slashes calling, data rates

By The Banker Reporter

SUBSCRIBERS of Airtel Tanzania Limited can now make voice calls across any network for as low as 1/- per second (60/- per minutes) as the mobile phone services company reignites price wars in a crowded market.

Introducing the rates this week through a campaign, 'Tamba mitandao yote' Airtel's Director of Marketing, Isaac Nchunda in Dar es Salaam this week that the price slash does not force anyone to buy the company's bundle.

"The move is aimed at offering freedom and affordable communication services to all Airtel customers across the country," Nchunda said in line with Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's 2020 deadline for the

price per minute across networks to fall to 15.6/-.

TCRA has since 2014 lowered voice rates from 32/- and 40/- per minute to 30/58 in 2015; 28/57 in 2016 and 26/96 last year with a target to lower them to 15.6/- per minute across networks from January next year.

"We are excited to introduce this new tariff plan of 1/- per second across all networks that guarantees our customers value and freedom to talk," he added noting that Airtel customers will also enjoy reduced rates on data from 172/- per megabyte to 40/- per Mb while price of short text message fell from 69/- to 10/-.

"Tamba mitandao yote campaign promises Airtel customers quality affordable services, in essence even when a customer has not subscribed to any bundle, they can still enjoy calling all networks for as little as 1/-," the

Marketing Director stressed.

Seconding her peer, Airtel Director of Communications, Beatrice Singano said according to TCRA statistics, the number of customers using voice calls between 2017 and 2018 increased from 40 million to 43 million.

"Our customer base has steadily grown in the last two quarters, thanks to our state of the art network and innovative products and services. We believe our offer will help customers to talk more, save money and utilize the same in other economic activities," Singano said.

She said the campaign is a hassle free because customers don't have to worry which network they are calling to because the rates are across networks.

Airtel continues to grow its distribution network which has over 650 Airtel Money Branches that allow



its customers to easily access its unique range of products and services offered on its high quality network offering Mobile Money, voice, competitive data for internet browsing and connectivity.

Airtel Tanzania Director of Communication Beatrice Singano and the company's Marketing Director, Isaac Nchunda display a placard with a 1/- per second price of voice across networks during the launch of a new campaign dubbed 'Tamba mitandao yote,' in Dar es Salaam this week. Photo: Guardian Photographer.

Kenyans wire back Sh1trn in offshore bank accounts

NAIROBI

WEALTHY Kenyans have wired back an estimated Sh1 trillion from offshore accounts in the past three years, taking advantage of a tax amnesty offered by the Treasury.

The Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) in a response to Business Daily queries said the amount was repatriated by some 16,000 applicants who took advantage of the amnesty window during which they were not required to declare the source of their wealth or even account for previous years' tax arrears.

The amnesty, which was announced by Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich in 2016, is set to close next month. "We have received over 16,000 applicants with the amount repatriated so far at Sh1,014,058,103,551. The incentive was meant to encourage Kenyans to repatriate their wealth back to the country for purposes of development," said KRA in a statement. The amount wired back is more than one third of Kenya's annual Budget.

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

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

Another international report released in 2007 detailed how a corrupt network in the Moi administration looted at least Sh130 billion and stashed it abroad, including in the United Kingdom and South Africa.

The report by risk advisers Kroll and Associates was commissioned by the then President Mwai Kibaki's administration. The 110-page report published online detailed how people close to Mr Moi set up shell companies, fronts and secret trusts to siphon away Kenyan taxpayers' money, which they stashed in banks, real estate and companies in an estimated 30 countries around the world.

With the return into the country of the over Sh1 trillion, the owners of the cash have effectively 'cleaned' their wealth and evaded any questions on the source of the money or any tax liabilities that may have been due in the years before



Treasury Secretary Henry Rotich.

they made the declaration.

The colossal amount has, however, not made a visible impact in the economy, raising questions on where the cash has been kept. Kenyan laws have a narrow scope on taxation of wealth earned abroad, but the amnesty offered a golden opportunity for those who had stashed cash offshore to bring it back without scrutiny. Deloitte East Africa Tax Partner Fred Omondi said in an interview yesterday that most tax audit firms had not received any significant enquiries from Kenyans willing to repatriate wealth back home. "We haven't seen a lot of uptake of this amnesty given that most income earned abroad is not subject to taxation in Kenya. Until the money is invested here and taxable income generated, there is no tax revenue to expect," said Mr Omondi.

Mr Rotich, who yesterday did not respond to our queries on the impact that the Sh1 trillion has had on the economy, at the time of the announcement said the amnesty would make the environment

more conducive for those willing to reinvest back home.

"Mr Speaker, taxpayers who take up this amnesty shall have all principal taxes, interests and penalties for the year of income, 2016 and the prior year's automatically remitted in total. In addition, the government shall not follow up on the sources of such income and assets declared," said the Treasury CS in his 2016 annual Budget Speech.

The incentive has since been extended twice to allow more uptake after potential applicants failed to take advantage fearing they would be subjected to provisions of Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Mr Rotich last year amended the law to exempt them from the requirement to declare the source of their wealth to the Financial Reporting Centre. He urged taxpayers to take advantage of the amnesty and "clean up their records with KRA."

KRA then issued guidelines on the repatriation and signed certificates for

those who successfully applied for the repatriation during the period. The tax forgiveness applied only to those who declared income from their wealth abroad, including homes, for the period up to December 2018.

File returns

They were expected to file their returns with KRA. Audit firm Ernst and Young, in its analysis of the amnesty in March 2016, warned that the process was prone to abuse. "The amnesty should be undertaken with precaution as there is the potential for abuse with respect to money laundering under the pretext of repatriating assets," the firm wrote a day after KRA held a stakeholders meeting to get feedback on the guidelines provided for the amnesty.

Deloitte's Fred Omondi also said the amnesty could have been used by those seeking to clean their funds before taking them back to the offshore havens with the needed legitimacy granted through the repatriation.

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe in trouble over US\$27.5m debt

HARARE

London-based grain and fertiliser exporter, Holbud Limited, has approached the High Court seeking a court order to register a US\$27.5 million arbitral award granted against the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) in November 2018.

According to Holbud's chief executive officer Hasnain Merali, the company received two Treasury Bills totalling US\$40 246 217, which matured on March 25, 2017 and February 24, 2017, respectively, and the proceeds of the Treasury Bills were to be paid to Holbud Limited's bankers in the United Kingdom (UK).

"As a paying agent of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the RBZ faced certain challenges to repatriate the proceeds of the Treasury Bill maturities into offshore accounts of Holbud Limited as instructed," he said. The RBZ and Holbud then entered into an arrangement whereby Holbud availed to the RBZ part of the proceeds of the Treasury Bills amounting to US\$26 million.

The RBZ would in turn avail the funds for lending to eligible entities under a Pre- and Post-Export Finance Facility on condition that 50% of the export proceeds shall be credited to the RBZ's nominated nostro account for subsequent payment of its obligations towards Holbud.

The RBZ agreed to settle the debt by paying four instalments of US\$6 500 000 each between January and September 2018, but failed to fulfil its contractual obligations leading to the matter being referred to an arbitrator.

Retired judge Justice George Smith presided over the matter and ruled in favour of the London-based company, ordering the RBZ to settle the debt. "This is an application for registration of an award awarded on November 26, 2018 in favour of the applicant (Holbud) by the arbitrator retired judge Justice George Smith," Merali said.

"The respondent (RBZ) has since paid the arbitrator's fees which means that the respondent is not disputing the award ... it will be seen from the letter of claim that this is a claim for a loan advanced with interest at the instance of the RBZ. Respondent did not oppose the claim, however, they offered a payment plan."

Merali also said at the beginning of February 2019, his firm and the RBZ met to discuss the proposed payment plan, which Holbud had initially refused to accept.

"In the meeting, (RBZ deputy director for financial markets, William) Manimanzi, on behalf of the respondent, undertook to immediately pay US\$500 000 from the interest amount of US\$1 516 667; if applicant accepted the proposed payment plan. Applicant accepted the payment plan and the US\$500 000 immediately became due and payable," he said. The matter is set to be heard today.

Last week, Africa-focused gold miner Metallon Corporation sued the central bank for nearly US\$132 million accrued from gold sales. Metallon said the RBZ had, since 2016, breached its own policy of paying a portion of value of the purchased gold in dollars. But the central bank denied it was in arrears.



Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor John Mangudya.

Tigo's 4G communications extends to Shinyanga, Simiyu regions

By The Banker Reporter

TIGO's fourth generation communication services have been extended to Shinyanga and Simiyu regions as the mobile phone services company seeks to dominate the market with faster data, voice and mobile money products.

Speaking during the launch in Bariadi town, Tigo's Territory Manager for Lake Zone, Gwamaka Mwakilembe said by upgrading its network site from 3G to 4G it means customers in the two regions will have faster and easier access to the its services.

"It is the company's priority to ensure that our customers get access to state of the art technology including fourth generation communication," Mwakilembe said.

"It is worth mentioning that, 4G technology has increased accessibility to mobile broadband, opening the rural communities to previously elusive services such as e-commerce, e-health, e-education and e-government which will eventually transform the way people learn and do business," he added.

Mwakilembe said the site's launch also goes hand-in-hand with offers, whereas customers (in the 4G site) who swap their SIM cards to 4G will be awarded with 4GB free internet which they can use within 7 days.

Mwakilembe also reiterated Tigo's commitment to support the National ICT policy and government's industrialization efforts by investing in network expansion and improvement to enable the entire country to experience the wide array of economic, educational and social advantages that result from digital connectivity.

The site launched in Bariadi is the second upgraded site to take place in a countrywide campaign where 52 new and revamped network sites of Tigo will be launched in Coast, South, North and Lake Zones.

Other sites from the Lake Zone that have been upgraded and will launch soon apart from Bariadi include those in Butiama, Musoma and Kagera.



Tigo's Managing Director Simon Karikari. File photo.

French taxi app raises US\$38-million for Africa expansion

PARIS

Paris-based Uber competitor Heetch has raised a US\$38-million Series B funding round to expand its operations across Francophone Africa.

Founded in 2013 by Teddy Pellerin and Jacob Matthieu, Heetch initially differentiated itself from Uber by focusing on helping young people move around at night, using non-professional drivers. It was forced to adapt this model in 2017 due to regulatory pressure, but still continues to serve young users and take smaller fees from drivers.

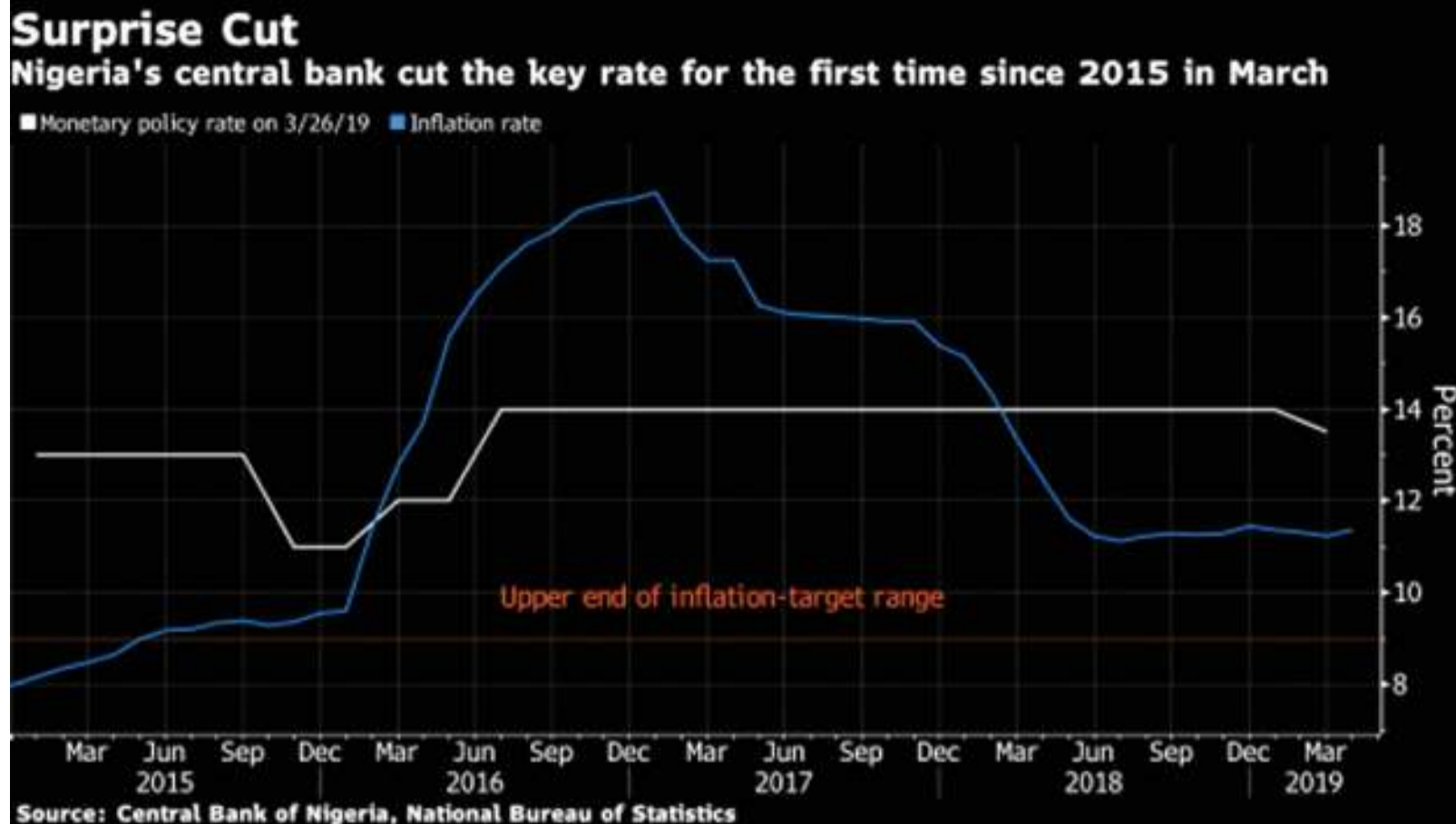
Heetch has seen strong growth in France, and become the second biggest taxi app after Uber in Belgium, and has already expanded to Morocco and Ivory Coast. It has now secured a US\$38-million Series B round to expand into other French-speaking African markets.

Heetch will launch in Cameroon, Algeria and Senegal in 2019, and double the size of its engineering team. The round is led by Cathay Innovation and Total Ventures, with participation from existing shareholders Idinvest Partners, Innov'Allianz, Alven, Felix Capital, and Via-ID, and brings the total raised by the company to around US\$70-million.

Pellerin said competition in French-speaking markets was less intense than elsewhere, though Uber and Bolt are its main competitors. "We want to create a safe, simple, friendly and still affordable mobility solution, usually a bit more expensive than solutions available in the streets but safer and easier to access," he added.

Heetch charges users and drivers less than its competitors, and is not yet profitable as it is focused on growing its operations and team. Pellerin said finding the right people and dealing with regulators were the most difficult things associated with running the business.

"Regulation is tricky. We are always trying to find the best model with the authorities to create something positive for both the existing drivers and our future passengers but it's sometimes a bit complicated to make it happen fast enough," he said.



What African central bankers may decide in the next two weeks

JOHANNESBURG

CENTRAL banks in sub-Saharan Africa's largest economies could start diverging on policy when they make interest-rate calls in the next two weeks after oil prices pushed up inflation.

Since the Monetary Policy Committees last met, inflation in Ghana and Kenya accelerated and analysts flagged that the South African economy probably contracted in the first quarter. Oil is adding to cost pressures and countering the positive effects of portfolio inflows and the support to African countries' currencies that came from the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank's recent dovish tone, said Cobus de Hart, chief economist for West, Central and North Africa at NKC African Economics.

Here is a round-up of what the central banks may do over the fortnight:

Nigeria, May 21
Monetary policy rate: 13.5%
Inflation rate: 11.4% (April). Nigeria surprised the market with its first rate cut in more than three years in March in a bid to boost economic growth. With central bank Governor Godwin Emefiele's second term secure, inflation still well above the target range of 6% to 9% and possible price pressure coming from the 67% increase in the national minimum wage that lawmakers recently approved, all but one economist in a

Bloomberg survey forecast the rate will be kept unchanged on Tuesday.

"The MPC would want to be careful" after inflation accelerated in April, said Ifedayo Olowoporoku, an analyst at Vetiva Capital Management Ltd. "It will be impudent to cut at this time."

Zambia, May 22
Policy rate: 9.75%
Inflation rate: 7.7% (April). The Bank of Zambia may raise its policy rate to support the kwacha, Africa's worst performing currency against the dollar this year, and counter price growth that is edging toward 8%, the top of its target band.

"An upward adjustment will certainly hurt the real economy," Chibamba Kanyama, a Lusaka-based economist, said by email. "We are, however, better off hurting the economy via high policy rate than waiting for inflationary pressure to frustrate long-term investment."

South Africa, May 23
Repurchase rate: 6.75%
Inflation rate: 4.5% (March). Estimates showing that Africa's most-industrialized economy may have contracted in the first quarter are unlikely to be enough to sway the Reserve Bank into reversing its unexpected November rate increase because inflation forecasts still hover close to 5%. All 22 economists in a Bloomberg survey predict no change.

The central bank will hold its key rate as it seeks to anchor

inflation expectations close to 4.5%, but will deliver a "more balanced statement," said Gina Schoeman, an economist at Citibank South Africa. "For the Reserve Bank to swoop in and help growth, it means that inflation has to allow them to, inflation expectations have to allow them to and growth has to look pretty awful."

Kenya, May 27
Central bank rate: 9%
Inflation rate: 6.6% (April). Kenya's inflation rate jumped to a 19-month high in April as a drought, which has left more than a million people in need of food aid, pushed up costs. Price growth is likely to remain elevated until June or July, when the country is scheduled to receive duty-free maize imports, said Jibran Qureishi, an economist at Stanbic Holdings Plc.

"The MPC will not be in a rush to change its policy stance because they will be assessing whether there are any demand-driven pressures on inflation," he said. "Currently there is no evidence on that."

Ghana, May 27
Policy rate: 16%
Inflation rate: 9.5% (April). Ghana's central bank faces a choice between contending with inflation that has quickened to a six-month high and countering price growth by reversing its January rate cut.

"Although inflation has started going up, I don't expect the monetary policy committee to start increasing the rate so

quickly, if they do it will confirm the suspicion that the last rate cut was indeed a mistake," Patrick Asuming, an economist at the finance department of the University of Ghana Business School, said. Given that the currency has stabilised somewhat, the MPC may opt to "wait and see," he said.

Angola, May 30
BNA rate: 15.75%
Inflation rate: 17.43% (Luanda, April). While price growth in Angola is forecast to continue slowing, policymakers will probably leave the BNA rate on hold as a worsening drought and fuel shortages skew inflation risks to the upside, said Samantha Singh, a strategist at Absa Bank.

What Bloomberg's economist says
"We expect monetary policy divergence to increase in Africa and could possibly start as early as this week, although later in the year appears more likely. The Central Bank of Nigeria and the South African Reserve Bank have both turned more dovish since the start of the year, but we expect both to hold next week."

Ghana looks more likely to cut, despite inflation ticking up in April. The Bank of Zambia will be the one to watch as to whether it will switch to a more active support of the weakening kwacha. Zambia is also subject to dry regional weather conditions pushing up food prices, which is likely to see East African central banks hiking rates going forward."

EU hits big banks with 1bn euros fines in FX inquiry

BRUSSELS

A group of major banks including Citigroup, Royal Bank of Scotland and Barclays have been fined more than €1 billion for allegedly colluding in the trade of large sums in foreign-exchange markets, the European Commission announced Thursday.

The three plus JP Morgan and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group agreed to pay European Union fines totalling €1.07bn. Citigroup was hit hardest with a €310.8 million penalty, followed by fines of €249.2m and €228.8m for RBS and JP Morgan, the European Commission said on Thursday.

Barclays was fined €210.3m and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group must pay nearly €70m as part of the settlement with the EU's anti-trust regulator, Bloomberg reported.

Traders ran two cartels on online chatrooms, swapping sensitive information and trading plans that allowed them make informed decisions to buy or sell currencies, the regulator said. Many of them knew each other, calling one chatroom on the Bloomberg terminal the "Essex Express n' the Jimmy" because all of the traders but one met on a commuter train from Essex to London. Other rooms were called the "Three Way Banana Split" and "Semi Grumpy Old Men."

"Foreign exchange spot trading activities are one of the largest markets in the world, worth billions of euros every day," EU Competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager said. "These cartel decisions send a clear message that the commission will not tolerate collusive behaviour in any sector of the financial markets." While large, the cartel fines are lower than a €1.3bn penalty for banks for rigging Euribor rates and below a record €3.8bn penalty for collusion between truck makers. UBS escaped a fine because it was the first to tell regulators about the collusion. The five other banks won reduced penalties by striking a settlement with the commission that won't

allow them to challenge the EU's findings.

Credit

Suisse was separately charged by the EU over FX collusion last year and a fine may come at a later date. Traders' manipulation of benchmark foreign-exchange rates was exposed in 2013 Bloomberg articles, triggering regulatory probes in the US, the UK and Switzerland. More than a dozen financial institutions have paid about \$11.8bn in fines and penalties globally, with another \$2.3bn spent to compensate customers and investors. Former US attorney general Loretta Lynch in 2015 said the banks engaged in a "brazen display of collusion" to game markets.

"We are pleased to resolve this historical matter, which relates to the conduct of one former employee. We have since made significant control improvements," a spokesman for JPMorgan said.

MUFG said it is "committed to ensuring integrity and compliance with the regulatory authorities in every jurisdiction in which we operate, and have taken a number of measures to prevent this occurring again." Citigroup declined to comment. Tom Hoskin, a spokesman for Barclays in London, didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. RBS had no immediate comment.

Traders exchanged information about outstanding customers' orders, bid-ask spreads, their open-risk positions and details of current or planned trading activities. They would sometimes agree to "stand down" or stop a trading activity to avoid interfering with another trader in the group. They traded 11 currencies, including the euro, the US dollar, the British pound and the Japanese yen.

While the US has won guilty pleas from JP Morgan, Citigroup, RBS and Barclays, three British traders in a group known as "The Cartel" were acquitted by a US federal court last year of using a chatroom to coordinate trades and manipulate prices on the spot exchange rate for euros and US dollars.

INDEPTHREPORT



EU Competition commissioner Margrethe Vestager.



Sahara Energy's lawyer, Chief Wole Olanipekun.

UBA vs Sahara Energy legal battle drags on

LAGOS

UNITED Bank for Africa (UBA) has asked Justice Mohammed Liman, presiding over a Federal High Court in Lagos to dismiss a motion filed by a Petroleum Resources firm, Sahara Energy Limited, seeking a discharge of an ex-parte order allowing the bank to advertise a petition it filed to wind-up the firm over alleged N15 billion debt.

The bank is currently locked in a legal battle with Sahara Energy over a N15 billion debt owed by KEPCO Energy Resources Limited (KEPCO). Sahara Energy was said to have stood as a guarantor to

KEPCO to obtain.

Justice Liman had on 21st April, 2019, granted UBA's ex-parte application seeking to advertise the petition to wind-up Sahara Energy over the alleged debt. However, at the resumed hearing of the matter, Sahara Energy's lawyer, Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN) drew the court's attention to a motion he filed on behalf of his client to vacate the order.

He argued that the ex-parte order was expected to have lapsed at the expiration of the period allowed by the court's rule. In his reaction, UBA's lawyer, Temilolu Adamolekun, opposed Olanipekun's submissions on the ground

that the rule of court was not applicable in the instant case.

He argued that the order was just a condition precedent to the hearing of the petition and was not targeted at anyone. The lawyer further told the court that granting the Sahara Energy's request would prevent the bank from advertising the petition thereby shutting out other interested parties.

Justice Liman has adjourned till Friday 24th May, 2019 to rule on the contentious issue. Prior to the court's hearing of arguments on the ex-parte motion, Olanipekun had withdrawn another motion filed by him asking the judge to recuse himself from the case.

Justice Liman in a bench ruling declared that no other motion would be heard until the motion asking him to withdraw from the case is determined. In an affidavit in support of the petition, UBA disclosed that it granted KEPCO a loan to the tune of \$35 million in August 2013, to fund the acquisition of Egbin Power Plant, which Sahara Energy guaranteed.

The bank said KEPCO subsequently failed to meet its obligations even after restructuring the loan on two different occasions. The interest on the rescheduled debt is said to have increased the facility to \$42,282,430.49

or N15,221,674,976.40 as of December 31, 2018.

UBA added that Sahara Energy was notified several times to fulfill its obligation as a guarantor but had not done so, hence the need to file a winding up suit. "The company herein is insolvent and unable to pay its debt. In the circumstances, it is just and equitable that the company should be wound up," the petition read.

The petitioner also sought "an order that the company, Sahara Energy Resources Ltd, be wound up by the court under the provisions of Companies and Allied Matters Act."

WORLD

Theresa May's Brexit gambit fails as her premiership fades

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May's final Brexit gambit was in tatters yesterday just hours after her offer of a vote on a second referendum and closer trading arrangements failed to win over either opposition lawmakers or many in her own party.

Nearly three years since Britain voted 52% to 48% to leave the European Union, May is trying one last time to get her divorce deal approved by the British parliament before her crisis-riven premiership ends.

May on Tuesday appealed to lawmakers to get behind her deal, offering the prospect of a possible second referendum on the agreement and closer trading arrangements with the EU as incentives.

Conservative and Labour lawmakers lined up to criticise May's Withdrawal Agreement Bill, or WAB, legislation which implements the terms of Britain's departure. Some upped efforts to oust her.

"We are being asked to vote for a customs union and a second referendum," Boris Johnson, the bookies favourite to be Britain's next prime minister, said.

"The Bill is directly against our manifesto - and I will not vote for it. We can and must do better - and deliver what the people voted for," he said.

The deadlock in London means it is unclear how, when or even if Britain will leave the European club it joined in 1973. The current deadline to leave is Oct 31.

Britain's labyrinthine crisis over Brexit has stunned allies and foes alike, and with deadlock in London, the world's fifth largest economy faces an array of options including an exit with a deal to smooth the transition, a no-deal exit, an election or a second referendum.

The pound weakened 0.2 percent to a 4-month low at US\$1.2681.

As Britain headed again into Brexit turmoil, US investment bank JPMorgan raised its probability of a no-deal Brexit to 25% from 15%, saying its base case was that Johnson would become prime minister followed by a general election.

JPMorgan raised the probability of an Article 50 extension to 60% versus 50% before and cut the probability of exit on the terms of May's Withdrawal Agreement to 15% from 35%.

"Admit defeat"



British Prime Minister Theresa May

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said his party could not vote for the Withdrawal Bill, describing May's new offer as "largely a rehash of the government's position" in talks with the opposition that broke down last week.

"It's far too weak. It doesn't really offer anything new or anything bold," Labor's Brexit spokesman Kier Starmer said.

"It's already pretty clear that it's heading for a pretty big loss and I think frankly the prime minister would do well to just admit defeat and I think she should announce today that she's not going to put the vote because it's clearly heading in the wrong direction."

May wrote to Corbyn, asking him to compromise so that Brexit could take place.

"I have shown today that I am willing to compromise to deliver Brexit for the British people,"

May wrote. "The WA is our last chance to do so," May said.

"I ask you to compromise too so that we can deliver what both our parties promised in our manifestos and restore faith in our politics," she said.

Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, which props up May's minority government, said the "fatal flaws" of her original deal remained. They fear the divorce deal could see Northern Ireland split from the rest of the United Kingdom.

Such is the discord that some Conservative Party lawmakers have begun a new push to oust her even earlier so that she doesn't have the chance to put her Brexit plan to a vote in parliament, the BBC's political editor Laura Kuenssberg said.

Agencies

Nigerian govt condemns former president Obasanjo's comments on Boko Haram

LAGOS

THE Nigerian government has described former President Olusegun Obasanjo's comments imputing ethno-religious motive to Boko Haram as deeply offensive and patently divisive, saying such indiscreet comments are far below the status of an elder statesman.

Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed, in a statement made available to Xinhua on Tuesday said it was particularly tragic that a man who fought to keep Nigeria one is the same one seeking to exploit the country's fault lines to divide it in the twilight of his life.

He said Boko Haram and ISWAP are terrorist organizations pure and simple, adding that they care

little about ethnicity or religion when perpetrating their senseless killings and destruction.

"Since the Boko Haram crisis, which has been simmering under the watch of Obasanjo (pictured), boiled over in 2009, the terrorist organization has killed more Muslims than adherents of any other religion, blown up more mosques than any other houses of worship and is not known to have spared any victim on the basis of their ethnicity," the minister said.

"It is therefore absurd to say that Boko Haram and its ISWAP variant have as their goal the 'Fulaniisation and Islamisation' of Nigeria, West Africa or Africa," Mohammed added.

He said President Buhari put to rest the mis-characterization of Boko Haram as an Islamic organi-



zation when he said, in his inaugural speech in 2015, that "Boko Haram is a mindless, godless group who are as far away from

Islam as one can think of".

The minister said Obasanjo's comments are therefore as insensitive and mischievous as they are as offensive and divisive in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country like Nigeria.

He said Obasanjo's prescriptions for ending the Boko Haram/ISWAP crisis, which include seeking assistance outside the shores of Nigeria, are coming several years late, as President Buhari has done that and more since assuming office, hence the phenomenal success he has recorded in tackling the terrorists.

"Shortly after assuming office in 2015, President Buhari's first trips outside the country were to rally the support of Nigeria's neighbours - Benin, Cameroon, Chad and Niger - for the efforts to

battle the terrorists.

The President also rallied the support of the international community, starting with the G7, and then the US, France and the UN," he added.

That explains the massive degrading of Boko Haram, which has since lost its capacity to carry out the kind of spectacular attacks for which it became infamous, and the recovery of every inch of captured Nigerian territory from the terrorists," Mohammed said.

The minister called on the former President not to allow personal animosity to override his love for a united Nigeria, saying it will not be out of place if he withdraws his unfortunate statement and apologizes to Nigerians.

Xinhua

UN envoy warns Libya is on verge of descending to civil war

UNITED NATIONS

THE UN envoy for Libya warned Tuesday that the oil-rich nation "is on the verge of descending into a civil war" that could divide the country and imperil the security of its neighbors and the wider Mediterranean region.

Ghassan Salame told the Security Council that extremists from the Islamic State and al-Qaida are already exploiting the security vacuum sparked by the offensive to take the capital Tripoli launched April 4 by the self-styled Libyan National Army led by Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter (pictured).

He said the black flags of the Islamic State extremist group are

appearing in southern Libya and there have been four attacks by its fighters in the south since April 4 that together have killed 17 people, wounded more than 10 and led to eight kidnappings.

"Libyan forces that had in the past courageously defended their country against these terrorist groups are now busy fighting each other," Salame said.

Besides innocent Libyans being increasingly subjected to the increasing wrath of Islamic State extremists, he said, "there will be spillover of this violence to Libya's immediate neighbors."

Civil war in Libya in 2011 toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, and the chaos



that followed resulted in a divided country, with a UN-aligned, but weak, administration in Tripoli overseeing the country's west and a government in the east aligned with Hifter. Each is backed by an array of militias and armed groups fighting over resources and territory.

Salame lamented that when Hifter launched the offensive on April 4 "the capital was enjoying a measure of increased security, the

population a much more stable currency and an improved economic outlook, and the political process, despite many obstacles, was moving forward" with a national conference 10 days away to chart a roadmap to elections and a united future for Libya.

But 48 days into Hifter's offensive, he said, more than 460 people have died, including 29 civilians, over 2,400 mainly civilians have been wounded, and over 75,000 civilians have been forced from their homes.

Humanitarian officials estimate that "over 100,000 men, women and children remain trapped in immediate frontline areas, with over 400,000 more in areas di-

rectly impacted by the clashes, he said. And "nearly 3,400 refugees and migrants are trapped in detention centers exposed to, or in close proximity to, the fighting."

Salame said there are also numerous reports of extremists, people on UN sanctions blacklists, and people wanted by the International Criminal Court "appearing on the battlefield on all sides."

He called on the Security Council to support the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry "to determine who has taken up arms and support the establishment of mechanisms to ensure the exclusion of unwanted elements." And he urged all parties to hand over those sought by the ICC. Xinhua

Kremlin views US ultimatum to Turkey over S-400 purchase as unacceptable

MOSCOW

MOSCOW considers the US demands that Turkey give up the purchase of Russian S-400 surface-to-air missile systems as unacceptable and views the deal as a fait accompli, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

The Russian presidential spokesman thus commented on the reports of CNBC TV Channel that Washington had given Ankara two weeks to give up the S-400 deal.

"In general, we perceive ultimatums extremely negatively and consider such ultimatums as unacceptable," Peskov said.

The Kremlin proceeds from the fact that the Turkish leadership, including Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has stated on many occasions that this deal is a fait accompli, the Kremlin spokesman stressed.

"We proceed from this and this deal is being implemented," the Russian presidential spokesman said.

The US-based CNBC reported on Tuesday, citing sources in the US Department of State that Turkey has a little more than two weeks to decide on whether to complete an arms deal with the United States on the purchase of F-35 fighter jets or go through an agreement to buy S-400 air defense missile systems from Russia. Otherwise, Ankara will face extremely negative consequences, Washington warned.

The United States demands that Ankara cancel the S-400 deal by the end of the first week of June. This US offer is final and there will be no other postponements, CNBC's sources stressed.

The first reports about the talks between Russia and Turkey on the deliveries of S-400 air defense missile systems emerged in November 2016. Russia confirmed in September 2017 that the relevant contract had been signed.

Turkey's Defense Minister Hulusi Akar earlier said that the deployment of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems would begin in October 2019. Rostec CEO Chemezov said in December 2017 that the S-400 deal was worth \$2.5 billion.

The S-400 Triumf is the most advanced long-range air defense missile system that went into service in Russia in 2007. It is designed to destroy aircraft, cruise and ballistic missiles, including medium-range missiles, and can also be used against ground installations.

The S-400 can engage targets at a distance of 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km. Agencies



China Southern Airlines asks Boeing for compensation over 737 Max grounding

GUANGZHOU

CHINA Southern Airlines has filed a claim for compensation against the Boeing Company after the grounding and delayed delivery of the 737 Max aircraft, according to the airline yesterday.

The Guangzhou-based airline said it has suspended commercial flights of 24 737 Max aircraft since March 11 and requested a negotiation with Boeing over the compensation plan as soon as possible.

China became the first to halt the commercial

operations of all Boeing 737 Max 8 airplanes after a fatal Ethiopian Airlines plane crash on March 10.

It was the second crash of the new aircraft after one operated by Indonesia's Lion Air crashed in October last year, triggering global scrutiny and bans on operating Boeing 737 Max aircraft.

On Tuesday, China Eastern Airlines said it formally requested compensation from Boeing for the grounding of its 14 737 Max aircraft and delayed delivery of the aircraft. Xinhua



Do not let strategic miscalculations ruin future of China-US ties

BEIJING

EVER since the moment of launching the trade war with China, the US side has started a path along a series of strategic miscalculations regarding China's resolve in front of hardship and the global trend of development.

Crushing the Chinese people's determination with heavy pressure is doomed to fail.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the country has never yielded to any powerful

adversary. The ongoing trade tensions will be another long and hard-fought struggle in Chinese history, but China is ready, and determined to win.

The confidence comes from the resilience and vitality of the Chinese economy and a vast market with a 1.4 billion population.

The Chinese economy got off to a good start in 2019, as the world's largest developing economy beat market expectations with 6.4 percent year-on-year GDP growth in the first quarter. China is the only major economy

whose growth forecast was raised by the IMF in its recent global economic prospects report.

The trade battles cost the US economy 7.8 billion US dollars in lost GDP in 2018, and the annual consumer and producer losses from higher costs of imports totaled 68.8 billion US dollars, according to a study by a team of economists at leading American universities.

It is estimated that China-US trade helped save up to 850 US dollars for every American household on average

in 2015, accounting for 1.5 percent of their family income.

Trade bullying also goes against world development. The IMF said trade issues had become the biggest uncertainty in the world economy, while the World Trade Organization lowered its forecast for global trade growth this year from 3.7 percent to 2.6 percent, due to economic uncertainties.

The history of world trade has made it clear that openness is key to development and cooperation brings mutual benefits, a universally-acknowledged

truth that seems to be denied by the United States, which embraces unilateralist America First policies, trade protectionism and trade bullying.

As the two largest economies of the world, both countries have extensive common interests.

Every 17 minutes, a flight between China and the United States takes off or lands. Cherries from Washington, beef from Montana and fish from Alaska are making their way to Chinese tables, while China-made electric cars, shared bicycles and e-commerce platforms

have become part of the daily lives of Americans.

Both countries shoulder major responsibilities for global issues including addressing climate change, eliminating poverty, ensuring the security of energy and resources, guarding against epidemics and cracking down on international terrorism.

Only by joining hands in trade and adopting a rational and pragmatic attitude in solving problems can the two countries benefit their peoples and people in the rest of the world. Xinhua

Duterte's allies dominate Senate race, shut out opposition

MANILA

THE Philippine president's allies won a majority of the 12 Senate seats at stake in the midterm elections, official results showed yesterday, while the opposition's shutout heralds a stronger grip on power by a leader accused of massive human rights violations.

Elections officials proclaimed the winners after finishing the official count of the May 13 elections overnight. The tally had been delayed by glitches in automated counting machines.

President Rodrigo Duterte backed eight winning aspirants to half of the seats in the 24-member Senate, including his former national police chief, Ronald dela Rosa, who enforced the president's crackdown on illegal drugs in a campaign that left thousands of suspects dead and drew international condemnation.

Last week's vote has been seen as a gauge of public support for Duterte, who is midway through the single six-year term Philippine presidents are allowed under the constitution. His anti-drug crackdown, unorthodox leadership style, combative and sexist joke-laden outbursts, and contentious embrace of China have been the hallmarks of his presidency.

"Do I look like a rubberstamp?" Senator-elect Bong Go, a longtime Duterte aide, replied when reporters asked him about concerns that the new Senate would be beholden to Duterte.

But he stressed he would back the president's war against criminality, corruption and illegal drugs and would support a bill to reimpose the

death penalty for heinous crimes and drug trafficking. Go said Duterte has not given any illegal orders to him or anyone he supervised.

Duterte's three children also won races for mayor, vice mayor and a congressional seat representing their southern home region of Davao city. Voters also decided congressional, gubernatorial, mayoral and city and township races. Nearly 75 percent of more than 63 million registered Filipinos cast their votes in a strong turnout.

Analysts say many Filipinos seem more open to authoritarianism due to failures of past liberal leaders. Such a mindset has helped the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos make a political comeback, the latest example being his daughter, Imee Marcos, one of the winning Senate candidates who was endorsed by Duterte.

The president has aimed for stronger leverage in the traditionally more independent Senate to bolster his legislative agenda. That includes the return of the death penalty, lowering the age for criminal liability below the current 15, and revising the 1987 constitution primarily to allow a shift to a federal form of government, a proposal some critics fear may be a cover to remove term limits.

During the campaign, Go said he felt Filipinos were not ready yet to support a shift to a federal form of government partly because of a lack of adequate information campaign about its benefits. "It's a longshot and it'll be difficult for us to work for the approval of federalism at this time," Go said.

"My no. 1 agenda is the reimposition of the death penalty for drug traffick-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

ing," dela Rosa said in a separate news conference, adding the drug menace remains troubling despite Duterte's crackdown.

The handful of opposition senators whose seats were not up for election and the independents who won office last week could potentially offset the

strong majority Duterte's allies hold in the new upper chamber. At least seven senators are needed to block amendments to the constitution, which was passed with safeguards against dictatorship in 1987, a year after Marcos was ousted by an army-backed "people power" revolt.

Opposition aspirants, who were set back by a lack of funding and other campaign issues, considered the Senate the last bastion of checks and balances in the Philippine national government given the solid dominance of Duterte's loyalists in the lower House of Representatives. **Agencies**

Malawi's electoral body calls for calm ahead of election results

BLANTYRE

MALAWI'S electoral body yesterday called for calm and patience from citizens as results from Tuesday's tripartite elections are being awaited.

Justice Jane Ansah, chairperson of the electoral body, said results from constituencies have started arriving at the main tally center but have to be verified before official announcements could be made.

"There is no shortcut to results counting and we urge the Malawi nation to exercise patience as the results are being counted," she said during a press briefing.

She also urged people to exercise caution over unofficial results being posted on social media sites.

"While some results reflect how people have voted and help shape the expectations, some are outright falsehood which can incite violence. Please check for the source of the information before acting on it," she said.

The electoral chief commended voters for turning up in large numbers to vote peacefully, expressing hope that peace will continue till the results come out.

Malawians voted in a tripartite election on Tuesday to choose a president, lawmakers and ward councilors. **Xinhua**

'Free trade deal to benefit Chinese companies in Egypt, Africa'

CAIRO

THE African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) is very important for Chinese companies in Africa, particularly in Egypt, an Egyptian economic expert said in an interview on Tuesday.

"Certainly, Chinese companies, especially those located in the Suez Canal's economic zone, will benefit from the AfCFTA that will be enforced in few days," Waleed Gab-Allah, professor of financial and economic jurisdictions at Cairo University, told Xinhua.

The agreement is a basic tool for attracting more Chinese investment into Egypt, he added. Gab-Allah said that China's industrial developer Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA) is currently developing a total area of 7.23 square km in Egypt's Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) in Ain Sokhna district of Suez province east of the capital Cairo.

The professor described TEDA as a good example for the Chinese mega projects that could market its products to African countries

via the AfCFTA.

TEDA attracted many enterprises to the SCZone, including China's fiberglass giant manufacturer Jushi, which helped Egypt become one of the largest fiberglass producers and exporters in the world over the past years.

He forecasted a 50-percent increase in the Chinese exports to the African countries when the agreement comes into force.

"The African free trade agreement will encourage more Chinese companies to work and invest in Egypt's economic zone to benefit from the Suez Canal passage to Africa with reduced tariffs," he said.

Gab-Allah added that the new Egyptian investment law will improve the investment climate in the country.

In a statement on Tuesday, Egyptian Trade and Industry Ministry said that it will elevate the relations among the member states to the level of comprehensive strategic partnership and will put Africa on the global economy map. "The agreement will contribute to the development of the intra-Africa trade movements,

increasing the industrial growth rates and achieving technological development," the statement added.

The agreement will also contribute to the development of the infrastructure, the movement of people and the transfer of technical expertise, energy, IT and communication which are important for the sustainable development in Africa, Gab-Allah said.

During the meeting with a delegation from the African Union Commission on Monday, Egyptian Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouli said that President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi gave priority to the AfCFTA agreement under Egypt's current chairmanship of the African Union.

The prime minister stressed that Egypt's capabilities, including logistic and infrastructure, enable it to be the seat of the head office of the agreement.

He added that Egypt was one of the first countries that signed the agreement which is due to take effect within days after 22 countries have ratified it so far.

The agreement seeks to eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers

to the member countries' trade in goods and services with the aim of reducing prices and achieving sustainable development on the continent, Madbouli said.

For their part, members of the delegation praised Sisi's support for the African Union and issues of cooperation and development on the continent.

Gab-Allah, also a member of the Political Economy, emphasized that enhancing the trade exchange among the African countries will bring its fruits for the Chinese long-term projects in Africa.

The agreement that includes 55 countries under the umbrella of the African Union aims at cancelling the tariffs and establishing a common African market by 2022, Gab-Allah said.

He expected Egypt to face harsh competition in winning the host of the executive headquarters of the AfCFTA.

Egypt's large economy volume and regional strength will help the north African country to exercise a great role in activating the agreement, Gab-Allah added. **Xinhua**

Kremlin hopes Europe will sway Kiev on language law

MOSCOW

THE Kremlin hopes that Europe will put pressure on Kiev to make it restore the rights of Ukrainians violated by the controversial language law, Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media yesterday.

"Russia has repeatedly raised the issue vigorously and proactively in its contacts with the European leaders," he said. "We hope that they will be able to use their influence on the Ukrainian side to promote the observance of these rights."

"We would like to see the rights of ethnic minorities guaranteed in Ukraine," Peskov said. "We know how many peo-



Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov

ple speak Russian in Ukraine and, of course, we would like to see the rights of these people respected. Regrettably, the situation leaves much to be desired for now."

On May 15, Ukraine's then President Pyotr Poroshenko

signed a law obliging all of the country's citizens to use Ukrainian in all spheres of life. The founder of the Ukrainian party Opposition Platform - For Life, Yuri Boiko, said the law contradicted international law and promised that the opposition would demand the law's cancellation by the Constitutional Court.

The United States, France, Britain, Poland, Belgium and Germany on March 20 blocked Russia-initiated emergency meeting over the adoption of this law in Ukraine. Russia, China, South African the Dominican Republic and Equatorial Guinea were for such a meeting. **Agencies**

US not seeking war with Iran, says top defence official

WASHINGTON

U.S. Acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan said on Tuesday that America's actions so far had been deterring Iran rather than seeking a war.

"This is about deterrence, not about war. We're not about going to war," the acting Pentagon chief told reporters after attending a briefing at the U.S. Congress.

"Our biggest focus at this point is to prevent Iranian miscalculation, we do not want the situation to escalate," Shanahan added.

Washington and Tehran have been trading words of war over the past two weeks, escalating tension that had been stoked

up following America's increasing military buildup in the Middle East citing a threat of Iranian attack.

On Tuesday, senior U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford and Shanahan, held the briefing at the Congress, informing the lawmakers about recent developments concerning Iran.

Mike McCaul, the ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told reporters after attending the briefing that the officials made it clear that the Trump administration has no intention to "go to war in the region."

"This is a deterrent operation

to stop Iran's escalation and aggression," McCaul said.

Over recent weeks, Washington has ratcheted up pressure against Tehran with a series of sanctions, designations and military threats, following Washington's year-long campaign against Iran after the U.S. exit from the landmark Iran nuclear deal in May last year.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that his country will never bow to the pressures exerted by the United States.

Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi on Tuesday said that Iraq will send delegations to the United States and Iran to ease the tension in the Middle East. **Xinhua**



African Union Member States after signing the African Continental Free Trade Area (File photo)

China, Kenya relations have developed with deep roots, says Chinese envoy

NAIROBI

CHINA and Kenya have deepened mutual political trust and expanded cooperation over the years, pushing their relations to the level of a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, Chinese Ambassador to Kenya Wu Peng said on Tuesday.

Wu said increased cooperation has seen China's non-

financial direct investment in Kenya record double-fold increase to about 520 million U.S. dollars in 2018.

"Now we have over 400 Chinese companies in Kenya, creating thousands of jobs for local community," Wu said.

"Both sides enjoy frequent exchanges in education, science and culture. The China-Africa Joint Research Center and China-Kenya Joint Laboratory

for Crop Molecular Biology have been operating smoothly in Kenya," Wu said during the sixth press club meeting in Nairobi.

Since 2015, he said, China has provided over 67,000 training opportunities for Kenyans.

"Currently, over 2,400 Kenyan students are studying in China. In 2018, over 81,000 Chinese tourists traveled to Kenya for leisure and adventure,"

he said.

Wu observed that China's funding to Kenya and other developing countries is aimed at development.

"China always attaches high importance to debt sustainability. Before making decisions, Chinese companies and banks, even the third party, go through rigorous feasibility studies, evaluation, and review of a country's credit rating," said

Wu, who used the occasion to discuss some hot topics about the China-Kenya partnership.

Huge infrastructural projects like the standard gauge railway (SGR) may take long to yield returns, but they are solid and valid assets, whose value will grow in time, he stressed.

The SGR, according to Wu, is a flagship project that showcases the fast speed and high quality of China-Kenya coopera-

tion. The building of Mombasa-Nairobi SGR has driven the Kenya's economic growth by 1.5 percent and created 46,000 jobs for local residents.

He said the train shortened the Nairobi-Mombasa trip from over 10 hours to five hours. Since its launch in May 2017, with an average booking rate of 99 percent, over 2.77 million passengers have traveled by the SGR, and around 4.2 million

tonnes of goods have been transported, said Wu.

In the first full year of operation, SGR earned nearly 10.33 billion Kenyan shillings (about 103 million dollars, which is very close to the operation cost of 120 million dollars a year, he said, adding that for an infrastructural project of SGR's magnitude, it is not easy to achieve near break-even in one year. **Xinhua**

The
Guardian

SPORT



This image released by Disney shows Mena Massoud as Aladdin, left, and Will Smith as Genie in Disney's live-action adaptation of the 1992 animated classic "Aladdin." (AP)

Recreating 'Aladdin's' magic with Will Smith and fresh faces

LOS ANGELES

IN 1992, Disney transported audiences to the mythical land of Agrabah, where they met a street rat with a heart of gold, a flying carpet, a headstrong princess and a magical genie with some oddly current pop culture references. With the music and lyrics of Alan Menken, Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, "Aladdin" would go on to win the hearts of millions and become the highest-grossing picture of the year.

It was an ambitious animation project that paid off and generated decades of fan goodwill, not to mention the two Oscars and a future Broadway musical. Now, following in the lucrative footsteps of "Beauty and the Beast" and others, the studio is taking another shot at "Aladdin," this time in live-action. The film, from director Guy Ritchie, opens nationwide Friday.

But how do you recreate the magic of "Aladdin" without the help of a genie's lamp?

Well, getting a movie star like Will Smith on board doesn't hurt. Smith agreed to play the Genie. The part was originated by the late Robin Williams, who brought his signature irreverence and wit and modern references to the role. But even with Smith's bona fides, he was nervous. Williams' performance has become iconic in the past 27 years. In other words, it would be a tough act to follow.

"It was not a no-brainer," Smith said. "I was really terrified at first. You know, you have to be careful with these types of films that mark people's childhoods."

Smith and the filmmakers knew that remaking "Aladdin" would inevitably involve a delicate dance of paying homage to the original while also modernizing some aspects of the story, including casting ethnically appropriate leads, who could sing and dance and carry a large scale production, and giving a character like Princess Jasmine more agency.

They found Egyptian-born and Canada-raised actor Mena Massoud to play Aladdin and British actress Naomi Scott, who is of half South Asian descent, to play Jasmine.

"She was one of my favorite princesses," Scott said. "I think I gravitated toward her because of her strength and because I felt like I saw myself in her."

In this film, she's fighting for equality and the opportunity to succeed her father as Sultan.

"It's just about her being human and more well-rounded," said Scott.

She even gets her own empowerment anthem in a new original song called "Speechless," written by Menken, and fellow Oscar-winning songwriters Benj Pasek and Justin Paul ("The Greatest Showman," "La Land").

Menken was the bridge between past and present for the production, and said he had to be both the "keeper of the flame of the

original" and "part of a new team."

"When you're working at Disney you have a lot of people keeping an eye, a very careful eye, on the legacy," Menken said. "So I am very protective."

Naturally, the filmmakers wanted to give the production an epic feeling fitting of an overseas action-adventure musical.

"Aladdin" was shot on a massive soundstage outside of London, where the Agrabah set spanned the size of two football fields, and on location in Jordan, including at Wadi Rum. It was not lost on Ritchie that "Lawrence of Arabia" was also filmed there. Since there's no real city of Agrabah, production designer Gemma Jackson ("Game of Thrones") used elements of Moroccan, Persian and Turkish architecture as inspiration.

As far as musical numbers go, the biggest production of the film by far is the "Prince Ali" sequence, where Aladdin, with the Genie's help, enters the city as they think royalty would, boasting of his great wealth, bravery and an assortment of animals including 75 golden camels, 53 peacocks and 95 white Persian monkeys.

Ritchie employed 250 dancers and 200 extras to flesh out the world and commissioned a 30-foot high camel made of 37,000 flower heads for "Ali" to ride in on.

"It's one of the biggest dance sequences you'll ever see in a movie. It's the sequence I'm most proud of," Smith said. "You got to go check it out. It's hot."

While there will be many, many familiar touchstones for audiences from the songs to the score to even some of the dialogue, there are some ways the live-action film had to deviate from the original.

"You cannot have a parrot talking paragraphs in live-action, where you can actually in animation," Ritchie said. "The mind's eye seems to tolerate certain exotic indulgences, for example, genies coming out of lamps and flying carpets, but it doesn't seem to tolerate talking animals, right? So a parrot is allowed to have short sentences but once it turns into paragraphs you go, hold on, what is this?"

With a runtime of over two hours, compared to the animated film's 90 minutes, there are also additional story elements and a new character in Jasmine's handmaiden (played by "Saturday Night Live" alum Nasim Pedrad). And it leans into the diversity you'd expect from a story set in the Middle East, which was personally important to Massoud.

"Coming from the Middle East and Egypt we're just really ecstatic any time we see positive representation coming from Hollywood," Massoud said. "This is certainly positive representation."

But, like all films, its primary goal is to entertain.

"It's a fun film," said Massoud. "You should leave feeling good and happy."

AP



Diamond Trust Bank (DTB) FC players celebrate after qualifying for the Second Division League (SDL) as the first runners-up in this season's Regional Champions League that ended in Simiyu over the weekend. PHOTO: Correspondent

Lowry has 25, Raptors rout Bucks 120-102 to even East finals

TORONTO

WITH a weary Kawhi Leonard fighting through fatigue, the Toronto Raptors found enough energy to pull away from the Milwaukee Bucks.

Kyle Lowry led the way. Lowry scored 25 points, Leonard had 19 and the Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks 120-102 on Tuesday night to even the Eastern Conference finals at two games apiece.

"This was one of the nights that we knew Kawhi was a little bit limited and we had to come out and be aggressive for him," Lowry said.

Leonard played 52 minutes in a double-overtime win in Game 3 on Sunday despite dealing with leg soreness. He limped away from the basket following a third-quarter dunk in Game 4, but still toughed it out for 34

minutes.

"I feel good," Leonard insisted. "I'm going to keep going and keep fighting. We have a chance to make history."

Raptors coach Nick Nurse said he's not worried about Leonard's health.

"He's certainly tired, like a lot of guys in this series are," Nurse said. "He looks OK to me. There was one time I was trying to give him an extended rest and he didn't really want it so he must be OK."

Serge Ibaka had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Raptors, who improved to 7-2 at home this postseason. Reserve Norm Powell scored 18 points, and Marc Gasol had 17 points and a team-high seven assists.

"The first two games, they really brought the intensity to us," Powell said. "They really came out and were more physical, more active. We wanted to change that narrative coming home."

The home team has won all four games in the series so far. Game 5 is Thursday night in Milwaukee.

"We need to take this challenge of playing in a hostile environment," Nurse said. "We're going into a tough, loud place to play. Let's see if those guys can bring that same pop and focus and determination on the road."

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the top-seeded Bucks. Khris Middleton scored 30 points, but no one else had more than 11.

Milwaukee lost its second straight following a six-game winning streak. It dropped consecutive games just once during the regular season, at Utah on March 2 and at Phoenix on March 4.

"This is probably the first night defensively where I don't feel like we were close to where you need to be," coach Mike Budenholzer said. "We got punched. They

played really well."

Toronto's Fred VanVleet, who missed 16 of 20 shot attempts through the first three games of the series, went 5 for 6 from the field in Game 4. He made each of his three 3-point tries and finished with 13 points.

"He needed one of those games," Lowry said. "He played well and made some great plays tonight."

Ahead 94-81 to start the fourth, the Raptors extended their lead with a 10-3 spurt, including seven points from VanVleet. Powell's fast-break layup with 8:35 left put Toronto up 104-84.

"We've got to guard better," Middleton said. "Everybody on their team, I feel like they got pretty much whatever they wanted. Everything was easy." Antetokounmpo shot 5 for 8 in the opening frame, matching the number of made baskets he had during Game 3. However, the Bucks star went 4 for 9 the rest of the way.

"We just came out in the third quarter flat," Antetokounmpo said. "Ilyasova missed a 3 with 3:50 remaining in the third that could have cut the deficit to four points. Powell replied with a 3 and, following miss by Malcolm Brogdon, Leonard drained a jumper to push Toronto's lead to 86-74."

AP



Toronto Raptors forward Norman Powell (24) celebrates his basket with Fred VanVleet (23) during the second half of Game 4 of the team's NBA basketball playoffs Eastern Conference finals against the Milwaukee Bucks, Tuesday, May 21, 2019, in Toronto. (AP)

Man City's Sterling wants to meet FA, league about racism

NEW YORK

MANCHESTER City forward Raheem Sterling, who is leading the fight against racism in soccer, said on Tuesday he hoped to talk to officials at England's Football Association and the Premier League about combating the menace.

Sterling told a conference in New York that the hectic nature of a footballer's schedule was the only thing that had kept him from meeting them already.

"In football you can get caught up with training every day and games every two, three days so you don't really have a lot of time to be out and speaking to people," Sterling said during a moderated discussion at the Wall Street Journal's Future of Everything conference.

"But for sure on my off time and holidays if I can get around and speak to the FA and the people in the Premier League and see how we can go about doing things better in the future for sure I'll be there in person to try and do that."

Sterling, named Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association last month, scored two goals on Saturday as City crushed Watford 6-0 to become the first team to win the English domestic treble of league championship and both domestic cups on Saturday.

He re-iterated his hope to see clubs slapped with automatic nine-point deductions if their supporters indulged in

racist behaviour.

"If I go to a football game and I support Manchester United, for example, I don't want to be the person that lets my team down by saying silly remarks in a stadium," said Sterling.

"If you know your team is going to get deducted nine points from them winning the league you are not going to say these racist remarks even though you shouldn't have it in your head."

Last season, Sterling accused sections of the British media of fuelling racism with negative portrayals of young black players.

Sterling also encountered racist abuse during England's Euro 2020 qualifier in Montenegro in March, while there have been many other cases in European soccer in recent months.

Despite that, Sterling felt there had been some encouraging signs with regard to fan behaviour.

"Ten years ago it was a lot, lot worse than it is now. It's starting to get better and people are understanding that they can't say certain things," he said.

"But I think it's partly English culture on a Saturday to go out early and get ready for the game and start drinking. So a lot of these people are kind of drunk by the time they get (to the stadium). But it's getting lot better than it used to be."

REUTERS

The real reason why Allegri left Juventus

BY GABRIELE MARCOTTI, SENIOR WRITER, ESPN FC

EVEN the most frigid of Juventus haters could not help but be moved. Juve president Andrea Agnelli and outgoing manager Max Allegri sat up on stage together following their Allianz Arena season finale – a 1-1 draw with Atalanta.

Just before the news conference, the entire Juventus squad trooped in and took their places around their outgoing coach. It was the polar opposite to how the previous boss left, when Antonio Conte, who had won three-straight Serie A titles, resigned abruptly on a torrid day in mid-July.

If you're going to part ways, this is the way to do it.



Massimiliano Allegri

that was important on a team filled with veterans, many of whom had enjoyed success elsewhere. Players liked him, he had an innate ability to defuse situations and, just as important, Ronaldo – on whom the club had invested nearly \$350 million in wages and fees – liked him.

Despite what Agnelli said that night about Juventus being "relatively young," this was an ageing veteran-filled side. By the end of the 2019-20 season, Ronaldo and Giorgio Chiellini would be 35, Leonardo Bonucci, Mario Mandzukic, Blaise Matuidi and Sami Khedira would be 33, while Miralem Pjanic, Juan Cuadrado and Wojciech Szczesny would all be 30. Every club has a "window of opportunity," and Juventus' was beginning to close. Changing managers could be disruptive.

As for Allegri, he had reflected on what went wrong against Ajax and in the previous round against Atletico Madrid. He had long been talking about the need for Juventus to learn how to impose themselves on opposing teams, particularly in Europe. Clearly, this had not happened.

Some of it was his responsibility, of course, but some of it came down to the skill sets of the players and the mentality, particularly in midfield. He had a year remaining on his contract and was confident the club would extend it.

In his mind, continuing for another season with a deal winding down was unthinkable. He would take the opportunity to ask for a

raise, as well, since he felt it would cement his authority – plus, let's face it, he felt he deserved it. And he would ask for more input – he was always consulted on transfers, but he wasn't the driving force – in terms of reinforcing the squad.

Allegri also was annoyed at some of the criticism he received from some quarters. He blew up on television when challenged by former Italy international-turned-analyst Lele Adani, who asked him what he could do to get his team to be more attacking. "What can I do? I can work with the players individually and try to improve them. And if they improve as individuals, we'll play better as a group. It's obvious: The better players you have, the better you play."

"Playing well is one thing, winning is another."

He then railed about TV pundits who didn't understand that coaching wasn't about tactics. That one thing is the sort of football theory you learn from books, quite another is the practice of what happens on the pitch. Those words didn't necessarily prompt Juventus' choice, but they did cement the decision facing them.

Allegri was who he was and he wasn't going to pretend otherwise. Players are at the heart of his footballing vision, not schemes, not philosophies. The best way to win was to get better footballers or footballers who he could make better. And he wanted more of a role in picking them.

Agnelli prides himself in wanting to hear different views and not be surrounded by yes men. It's something he reiterated on Saturday. Within his inner sanctum – a group that includes sporting director Fabio Paratici and vice-chairman Pavel Nedved, among others – the possibility of making a 180-degree turn also was raised.

This would involve a philosophical shift and pursuing a "system manager," somebody more in line with the high-press, attacking football that most top European clubs play. It also would fit with the club's efforts on the marketing front, with Juventus continuing their transition from a traditional club to an avant-garde lifestyle brand, as evidenced by the changes to the club's crest and the radical redesign of the striped jersey.

Equally, though, it was felt that given the current squad's makeup and the Ronaldo window of opportunity, this only made sense if you could attract a top name – someone like a Pep Guardiola, a Jurgen Klopp or a Mauricio Pochettino – except none of them would be available this summer.

The inclination at that point was to continue with Allegri. Yet it became clear that if he was to continue, it would be on his terms. And the realization slowly dawned that the guarantees he was looking for in terms of influence on transfers in particular would be hard to meet. Maybe it was time to end this.

If you have to make a change, obviously, it's best to do so at the right time, even though you can never be sure when that is. But if you get it wrong, it's less damaging to do it a year early than a year late.

Allegri said the realisation that he would no longer be the Juventus manager only hit him when he walked out of his final meeting with Agnelli on Thursday night. Agnelli said it was the "most difficult decision" he has had to make in his time at the club.

By Sunday night, as Juventus celebrated their title in front of their supporters, it likely felt like the right decision. Gauging public opinion is always tricky, but the sentiment among the majority of fans appeared to be gratitude toward Allegri, rather than anger toward the club at his departure.

Now comes an equally difficult – though less painful – decision for Agnelli: figuring out what sort of club he wants Juventus to be and what sort of manager can take them there.

Chelsea won't axe Sarri, Juve to pay - sources

LONDON

JUVENTUS will be forced to pay up if they want to make Maurizio Sarri their next coach with Chelsea not minded to sack the Italian regardless of whether or not he wins the Europa League final, sources have told ESPN FC.

Sarri's future remains far from certain despite fulfilling his primary objective of securing Champions League qualification for Chelsea, and Roma have also been linked with a move to bring the former Napoli boss back to Serie A.

Sources have told ESPN FC that while Chelsea are prepared to negotiate a compensation package with any interested club if Sarri makes it clear that he wants to leave, they have no plans to dismiss him even if he fails to win a first piece of major silverware at Arsenal's expense in Baku.

Sarri was appointed Chelsea head coach on a two-year contract with an option for a third worth around £5 million per year last summer, and it is believed that any interested club would be required to meet this figure in order to release him early.

Chelsea have fired a succession of coaches at vast expense during Roman Abramovich's ownership, with a report in The Times claiming that Antonio

Conte is due £9m in severance pay after a Premier League arbitration panel ruled in his favour. There is no desire at the club to bankroll Sarri's departure.

Sarri has repeatedly insisted that he wants to remain in the Premier League, but numerous reports in Italy have claimed he is privately more open to the idea of going back to his homeland after a rollercoaster first season in English football.

Chelsea have struggled to replicate the swashbuckling style that earned Sarri gushing praise in his three seasons at Napoli, while relations between the Italian and a large section of match-going supporters have been toxic for some time.

There is hope at Chelsea that Sarri could yet oversee significant improvement if given a full preseason to implement his tactical system, but it is tempered by fear that many of his harshest critics at Stamford Bridge will never accept him.

Derby County manager Frank Lampard has been tipped as the front-runner to replace Sarri should the Italian leave this summer, though sources told ESPN FC that no talks have yet taken place between the clubs.

(AGENCIES)

'Pogba to be offered captaincy at United'

LONDON

MANCHESTER United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is ready to offer Paul Pogba a captaincy role at Old Trafford in an effort to convince the midfielder to stay at the club, sources have told ESPN FC.

Solskjaer is looking for a new captain with Antonio Valencia set to leave on a free transfer at the end of the month.

Ashley Young, who signed a new one-year deal in February, is in line to take over from Valencia as club captain but with Solskjaer looking to sign a new right-back this summer, the 33-year-old is likely to have to settle for a reduced role next season meaning on-pitch captain duties are up for grabs.

Sources have told ESPN FC that Pogba, who was stripped of captaincy duties by Jose Mourinho, is one of the names in the frame and Solskjaer is hopeful that handing the 26-year-old more responsibility will help end speculation over his future.

The Frenchman is open to a move away from United this summer after Solskjaer's side finished sixth in the Premier League table, missing out on a place in next season's Champions League and condemning themselves to a campaign in the Europa League.



Real Madrid are leading the race should Pogba leave, although sources have told ESPN FC that United are adamant the World Cup winner, who has a contract until 2022, will not be sold.

Solskjaer is already looking to sign at least one midfielder this summer after Ander Herrera turned down the offer of a new contract to join Paris Saint-Germain.

The Norwegian is keen to keep the extent of his rebuild to a minimum and does not want to lose one of his best players.

Solskjaer's first signing as United boss is likely to be Swansea winger Daniel James.

The 21-year-old Wales international is nearing a £15 million move to Old Trafford just four months after coming close to joining Leeds United.

(AGENCIES)

Arsenal boss Emery respects Mkhitarayan's decision to miss Europa League final

LONDON

ARSENAL manager Unai Emery says he respects midfielder Henrikh Mkhitarayan's decision to skip the Europa League final against Chelsea in Baku amid concerns over the player's safety, but host country Azerbaijan says such fears are unfounded.

Armenia international Mkhitarayan's participation in the match had been in doubt due to the ongoing conflict between Azerbaijan and his native country.

Arsenal had been working with UEFA over securing their player's welfare but the club said they agreed collectively with Mkhitarayan that he would not be in their squad for the May 29 final.

"It's bad news, but we cannot do anything for this issue," Emery told reporters on Tuesday.

"I spoke this morning with Mkhitarayan. It's a very personal decision. He wants to play and to help us, but they spoke, both family and him, and decided to not go... I cannot push him to come with us."

"I don't understand the political problems but I must respect (his decision)."

UEFA said a "comprehensive security plan" was in place to ensure Mkhitarayan's safety in Baku.

"Working alongside Arsenal FC, UEFA sought and received assurances regarding the player's safety in Azerbaijan from the highest authorities in the country," European soccer's governing body said in a statement.

"As a result of these guarantees, a comprehensive security plan was developed and given to the club. While the club acknowledges the efforts that UEFA and the Azeri government have gone to in this matter, we respect the

personal decision not to travel with the player."

'UNWARRANTED DECISION'

The Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan (AFFA) said in a statement that it saw no reason for the decision.

"We very much regret this unwarranted decision taken, as we understand, collectively by Arsenal, the player and his family," the AFFA said.

The statement added that Azerbaijan had provided all the necessary guarantees required by UEFA to ensure Mkhitarayan's safety.

"There is no reason whatsoever to put in question the seriousness of these guarantees provided by Azerbaijan. Over the past decade a large number of Armenian athletes have taken part in various international sports events in Azerbaijan without any issues," the AFFA said.

Mkhitarayan has made 39 appearances for Arsenal in all competitions this season, scoring six goals. The 30-year-old won the Europa League crown with Manchester United in 2017.

"It's the kind of game that doesn't come along very often for us players and I must admit, it hurts me a lot to miss it," he wrote on Instagram.

"I will be cheering my team mates on! Let's bring it home."

Mkhitarayan has played 11 games during Arsenal's Europa League campaign this season and his absence will be a blow for the club, who need to lift the trophy in Baku in order to qualify for next season's Champions League.

"He's a big miss for us of

course, because he is a really important player," Arsenal defender Stephan Lichtsteiner added. "But we understand his decision because it is dangerous for him. We'll miss him a lot because he is very important for our team."

Arsenal expressed their disappointment last week over the selection of Baku as the host city for the showpiece event, given the logistical problems faced by supporters for a near 6,000-mile round trip from London.

Meanwhile, Arsenal goalkeeper Petr Cech will return to his former club Chelsea as sporting director when he retires from playing after the teams meet in this month's Europa League final, Sky Sports News and other British media reported on Tuesday.

The 37-year-old Cech responded to the reports by tweeting: "Despite the news today as I had already said to everybody before, I'll make (a) decision about my future after the last game. Now my sole focus is to win the EL with @Arsenal".

Chelsea were not immediately available to comment on the media reports.

Former Czech Republic international Cech, who won 124 caps, spent 11 seasons at Stamford Bridge, winning the Champions League and Europa League, four FA Cups and three League Cups before moving to Arsenal in 2015.

Cech had previously announced that he would retire from playing at the end of this season.

REUTERS



Gwiji by David Chikoko

SPORT

The real reason why
Allegri left Juventus

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Simba overcome challenging hurdles to win 2018/19 Premier League trophy

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

AFTER walking on a long winding road through the 2018/19 Mainland Premier League season, Simba on Tuesday managed to defend the league's top honour by beating Singida United 2-0 at Namfua Stadium in Singida.

Simba have two matches left to finish this campaign, they have recorded 91 points that cannot be reached by any other team in the ongoing league.

This season's title is the 20th for the side.

Simba, with financial backing from the chairman of the board of directors, Mohamed Dewji, signed such players like Meddie Kagere, Paschal Wawa and Clatous Chama, who they thought was good for them to defend the championship which they won the previous season after many years of waiting.

However, the journey to defend the league was not that easy as they started too inconsistent, the team was weak in defense and upfront with few players showing form.

The Msimbazi Street based side started the league with 1-0 win against Prisons, the following match they beat Mbeya City 2-1.

A bad omen started in the team, as the squad's assistant coach, Masoud Djuma, was suspended for what was said indiscipline to head coach, Patrick Aussems. After Masoud suspension, the team with head coach Aussems went to Mtwara where they draw 0-0 against Ndanda FC then the following day lost 1-0 away to Mbao FC.

The two results were not good to the point that some supporters were calling for the dismissal of head coach Aussems.

However, the club management stood with the coach and Aussems himself was optimistic of good results, saying there is no need to panic, there is still along way to go and hope the team will recover in time and start recording the desired results.

"The team will start producing good results soon, there is no need to panic, keep on trusting the squad which we have," the squad's information officer, Haji Manara, was reported saying.

The team recovered from Mbao beating and managed to beat Mwadui FC 3-1, the following game they face their age rivals Yanga, the game ended in a goalless draw the other game Simba was at home and draw 0-0 against Lipuli FC.

Simba were then involved in Confederation of African Football (CAF) Champions League games, these games saw many of the Msimbazi Street outfit players sustain injuries.

However, because of the depth in quality of the squad, the team managed to withstand the pressure of playing the CAF Champions and mainland premier league.

In CAF, games the team managed to reach the quarterfinals of the continental biggest club event, on the way they met many top African football giants who included Al Ahly and TP Mazembe.

"We are out of the CAF games, am happy with the experience gained in the games, my thinking is that it's now time to concentrate on the domestic league so as we can defend the championship" the coach said after his side was booted out of the competition by TP Mazembe. After the team was knocked out of CAF games it concentrated all its efforts on domestic games and managed to beat all of their immediate league contenders like Yanga and Azam FC.

Although after the CAF matches, the team had some setbacks like losing to Kagere Sugar two times and drawing against Azam FC, they manage to withstand and won the league with two games in hand. The team has also in the past two month seen its head coach Aussems and Captain John Bocco win coach and player of the month presents twice in a row.

After the final whistler it was Christmas party for Simba family, which include players, technical panel, the executive and supporters.

The celebration was mainly because despite of all challenges in the campaign, the team showed great character throughout the season. On top of winning the top flight event, which has an undisclosed prize money, Simba striker Kagere is poised to win the league top goal scorer' present as so far he has 23 goals to his credit while his close contenders have less than 17 goals.

"We come here to collect all the three points so that we can emerge league champions, am happy that we have accomplished the mission," the tactician noted after the game against Singida United.

Winning the championship means the team has sealed its place for next season CAF Champions League.

Simba host Sevilla FC today

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA's football fans will watch an international friendly match between the country's soccer giants, Simba, and Spanish club, Sevilla FC, at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam today.

The match has been organized by leading betting firm, SportPesa Tanzania, in collaboration with La Liga World, and supervised by the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF).

SportPesa Tanzania has stated that they are committed to the development of sports in the country, which has resulted in Sevilla FC, which battles it out in La Liga, visiting the country for the first time.

SportPesa Tanzania Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, said: "It is our task to develop football in our country and teams from Tanzania can now look forward to being part of the SportPesa family that will allow them a chance to feature in major competitions."

SportPesa business, according to Abbas, is investing heavily in nurturing local talent to reach their potential as well as educating local coaches with skills to promote development and talent at grassroots level.

"Domestic clubs will benefit from training camps by renowned, international coaches and global sports-development experts," he disclosed.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakymbe, said the government is committed to the promotion of sports in Tanzania through a curriculum as well as programs supported by the government and such sports stakeholders like SportPesa Tanzania.

"SportPesa Tanzania is a major



SportPesa Tanzania Director of Administration and Compliance, Tarimba Abbas, (3rd L), speaks to the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday on an international friendly match, which will see Spanish club, Sevilla FC, lock horns with Simba of Tanzania in the city today. He is flanked by (L-R) Director of Sports in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Yusuf Singo, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia, and officials from Sevilla FC and La Liga. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SPORTPESA **

football stakeholder in the country and has facilitated global football showcasing on previous occasions. Sevilla FC is the second team from Europe to visit the nation after Everton FC visited the country in 2017," Mwakymbe noted.

"SportPesa has renovated the National Stadium and took responsibility of taking care of the facility for two years at a major cost of Sh1.4 billion," he said.

"We really feel proud of the support from the private sector in the country," he said.

"We are honoured to now be hosting the SportPesa La Liga World Challenge match in the impressive National Stadium."

Sevilla FC president, José Castro Carmona, said they are delighted to visit and play the first historical match in Tanzania since the club's establishment.

"Our club will continue to cooperate with SportPesa, La Liga World and other stakeholders who made the visit possible. It is a milestone for us and we are delighted to visit the beautiful country," Carmona

said. The TFF has urged Simba Sports Club players to display the best talent in the match to promote their talent. Karia commended SportPesa Tanzania for their efforts of stimulating the development of football in the country.

La Liga World organizes friendly matches between La Liga clubs and the most popular local teams around the world.

A spokesperson said the game is part of the 'La Liga World Challenge' project, which aims at boosting the image of Spanish

football internationally and promote the clubs outside our country.

Simba Sports Club Chief Executive Officer, Crescentius Magori, said all players were ready for the encounter and they are honoured to make history by playing Sevilla FC for the first time.

"Our club management feels proud to get this chance to play against a famous team in the world. We thank SportPesa Tanzania for promoting the game in the country," Magori said.

TACIP launched officially in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

A project aimed at recognizing craft artists in the country, known as Tanzania Arts and Crafts Identification Project (TACIP), has been officially launched in Dodoma Urban district.

Dodoma regional parliamentarians accompanied by the Tanzania Federation of Crafts & Arts (TAFCA) president Adrian Nyangamale and Godfrey Mwingereza from Tanzania Arts Council (BASATA) are supporting the project.

Representing the Speaker of Tanzania Parliament, Chairperson of Tanzania Parliament, Najma Giga said: "We are happy to receive this TACIP project in Dodoma which is also our capital city."

"It's a good idea that the project, which was designed by DataVision International Limited in collaboration with the Tanzania Federation of Crafts & Arts under



DataVision International's representative, Shaban Kiwanga (C), presents National assembly Chairperson, Najma Giga (L), with information on the importance of the Tanzania Arts and Crafts Identification Project (TACIP) card in Dodoma yesterday. The TACIP was launched in the region in the day. Looking on is the project's officials. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

supervision of the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports through BASATA," Najma added.

"This aims at creating an enabling environment for artists to use their skills and creativity to get rid of poverty while increasing their contribution to national income."

"Therefore, I take this opportunity to urge the government officials in Dodoma to provide enough support to help in informing the communities and even in resolving the challenges they will encounter while doing their work in the city."

Saul Mpoke, TACIP coordinator, noted the

project aim at reaching all artists in the art industry in the country for the main purpose of obtaining information on the artists by identifying, recognizing and integrating them into various opportunities and helping

to resolve the challenges they face.

"The exercise of identifying and registering artists started off in Dar es Salaam, where we have visited and we are still visiting all districts of the city," he disclosed.

"We are officially in Dodoma with the same goal of reaching every artist in all districts and the country as a whole."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

WHY DID ROBIN HOOD ROBBED ONLY THE RICH?

THE POOR HAD NO MONEY

