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## A TASTE OF MAASAI CULTURE

Foreign tourist agents have a feel of Maasai culture from these women whom they found in Hai District, Kilimanjaro Region, yesterday making an assortment of bead-based items for sale. Photo: Correspondent Asraj Mvungi



## 'After child marriage win, shift the battle to child pregnancy'

By Guardian Reporter, Dodoma

CELEBRATIONS by child rights stakeholders following the Court of Appeal verdict early in the week that outlawed marriage before 18 years need to be restrained as there is an even bigger war to be fought—child pregnancy, a top stakeholder has observed.

Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson has warned that child marriage has a twin called child pregnancy, meaning that only a battle has been won but not the war.

Speaking here on Wednesday while officiating at the Tanzania Planned Parenthood Association (UMATI) - a national NGO providing sexual and reproductive health information, education and services - Dr Ackson said girls may not enjoy their childhood and rights such as education to the fullest if the equally dangerous monster that is child pregnancy is not eliminated.

Tanzania has the 17th highest adolescent fertility rate (the number of births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19) in Africa. The rate increased from 116 to 132 from 2010 to 2015/16 Demographic Health Surveys (TDHS).

"Some people think that the war is over because of the Court of Appeals verdict, it is not. You (UMATI) and other child rights stakeholders have the duty to keep on the fight because it is a fact that at 18 years is when someone should start thinking of and

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## VP calls for conservation of Indian Ocean coastline

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

VICE President Samia Suluhu Hassan has implored Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries that share the Indian Ocean shoreline to ensure that the coastline falling under their precincts is well taken care of.

Suluhu was speaking during the summit of the week-long meeting of ministers responsible for Environment, Natural resources and Tourism from the 16 SADC member states in Arusha on Friday.

She called for trans-frontier conservation of the Indian Ocean especially among countries striding the sea such as Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and South-Africa, as well as Islands like Zanzibar, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and the Comoros.

"Such oceanic resources do not have visible borderlines and therefore joint protection strategies are vital in order to ensure sustainable tourism," the Vice President noted.

The coastline striding the SADC region stretches 2,515 kilometres of the Indian Ocean. Reports of massive destruction of coral reefs, irresponsible real estate development and water pollution along the beaches abound, she said.

All sessions of the SADC ministerial meeting addressed mostly issues of trans-territory joint conservation. The ministers will eventually come up with resolutions on the way forward in protecting, conserving and nurturing natural resources and wildlife in the zone.

The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hamisi Kigwangalla who chaired the ministerial meeting, stated that the sessions worked on proper

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## Three arraigned over State House peacocks

By Guardian Reporter

THREE people were yesterday charged with economic sabotage at the Kisumu Resident Magistrate's court including possession of government trophies namely three peacocks, property of State House.

The trio David Graha, Mohammed Hatibu and Mohammed Mahamoud was also charged with organizing a criminal gang, participating in organized crime and money laundering.

Principal State Attorney Faraja Nchimbi alongside Senior State Attorney Wankyo Simon told Resident Magistrate Vicky Mwaikambo that between June 1 2015 and October 14 this year, the accused persons conspired to trade in the birds worth USD 1,500 (over 3m/-).

Nchimbi alleged in the second charge that the trio was found in possession of the three peacocks illegally.

Simon proceeded to tell the court that on October 14 this year within Mikocheni suburb in Dar es Salaam Region, the third accused Mahamoud was found with the birds.

In another count, the attorneys told the court that between June 1 2015 and October 14 this



year, within Dar es Salaam, the first and second accused persons received a total of 300,000/- in proceeds from money laundering.

Resident Magistrate Mwaikambo said the accused persons could not enter a plea because the court has no power to hear and determine economic sabotage cases.

Nchimbi said investigations into the case were

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## DC, BoT battling to remove fake 10,000/- notes from circulation

"The problem is beginning to reemerge. It's our hope that police will come to the bottom of it; our part is to provide education"

By Guardian Reporter, Moshi

AUTHORITIES in the Northern Zone are collecting fake notes that were put into circulation recently while providing education on how to identify the banknotes.

Hai District Commissioner Lengai ole Sabaya said yesterday that he had received 740,000/- worth of fake notes from residents after officials from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) Northern Zone started conducting education on identifying those notes.

This follows reports earlier in the week that an unknown amount of fake notes was in the hands of unsuspecting people while the counterfeiters were trading 1m/- fake notes at

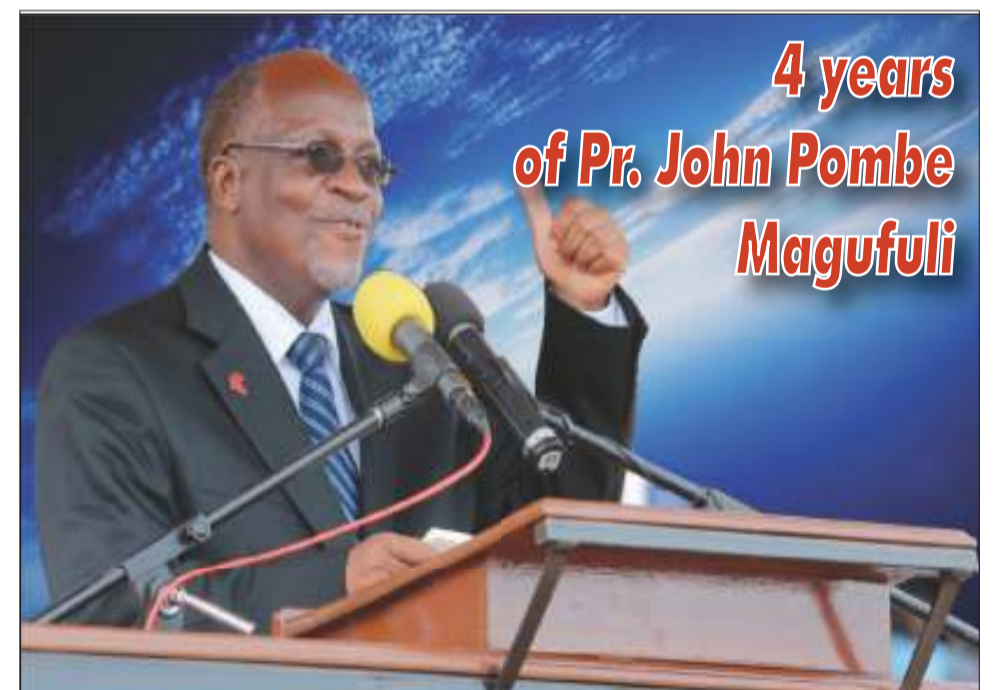
250,000/- to 300,000/- in legal tender.

The bad money was being pumped into circulation through mobile money agents who give the same to unsuspecting customers.

Officials of the BoT Northern Zone office are sensitizing people in Hai District, Kilimanjaro region where one dealer was caught trying to sell 11m/- worth of fake notes in a trap set by authorities.

"We held a meeting with BoT officials and decided that they (BoT) provide public education on how to identify fake notes and give people a grace period of three days to bring the bad money to my

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4 years of Pr. John Pombe Magufuli

## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

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Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan opens week-long summit of ministers overseeing the environment, natural resources and tourism docket from the 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member-states in Arusha yesterday. Photo: VPO

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benchmarks in measuring how each member state was executing agreed efforts in conservation.

Prof Dosantos Silayo, the Commissioner Conservator for the Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), noted that the SADC region is covered by forests by over 40 percent, forming yet another area of trans-frontier conservation among the 16 member states.

## VP calls for conservation of Indian Ocean coastline

The SADC region envelops some 420,000 square kilometres of communal land, 188,000 square kilometres of commercial land, and some 420,089 square kilometres of

state land for sport hunting, he said.

Tanzania itself has set aside over 35 percent of its total area for conservation.

The newly established Tanzania

Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) runs 28 game reserves and 46 Game Controlled Areas, that so far cover over 200,000 square kilometres of land, he added.

## DC, BoT battling to remove fake 10,000/- notes from circulation

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office," ole Sabaya explained.

The 740,000/- that the DC had collected by yesterday came from unsuspecting people who realized the notes they had were fake ones, while security organs sought to unravel the syndicate especially as to where the fake notes are being printed and individuals involved.

After the three days which elapsed at midweek, anybody caught with fake banknotes will be regarded as an economic saboteur and face legal action, the DC emphasized.

Speaking at a public education meeting in Hai District, an official from BoT Northern Zone Robert Mathew said the problem of counterfeit money in Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara had been contained in recent years.

"The problem is beginning to reemerge. It's our hope that police will come to the bottom of it; our part is to provide education," he stated.

Mathew said fake money destroys businesses because traders who accept the same later realize that they possess coloured paper which they have exchanged for goods or services.

"The national economy is also affected because transactions take place by using a medium of exchange that does not exist," he said.

In September 2013, police in Korogwe District, Tanga Region caught

12,300 forged banknotes of 10,000/- denominations amounting to over 120m/- in fraudulent cash potential. The man who was held with the notes was also found in possession of fake 60,000 euro banknotes (120m/-).

Some of the ill-effects that counterfeit money has on society include a reduction in the value of real money and increase in prices (inflation) due to more money getting circulated in the economy, while it is an unauthorized artificial increase in the money supply.

There is also a decrease in the acceptability of paper money and losses to businesses, the BoT official noted.



**We held a meeting with BoT officials and decided that they (BoT) provide public education on how to identify fake notes and give people a grace period of three days to bring the bad money to my office**

## Three arraigned over State House peacocks

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not complete, asking the court to adjourn the case.

In July, President John Magufuli gifted the ornamental birds to his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta who came to his residence in Chato, Geita Region for a two day private visit.

President Kenyatta received the

birds delivered by Tanzania High Commissioner to Kenya Dr Pindi Chana on August 2 at State House, Nairobi.

Speaking while receiving the four birds, the president expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for President Magufuli saying the birds signify values of love, unity and brotherhood between the people of the two countries.

## Makerere students file petition protesting army raid, beatings

KAMPALA

MAKERERE University students have petitioned Buganda Road Magistrates Court seeking the unconditional release of their colleagues who are currently in police custody at Wandegaya station.

There are about 46 students who have been arrested since the strike at the university started on Tuesday. Students are opposing the cumulative 15% tuition increment by the university administration.

The students led by the Vice Guild President Judith Naluwago stated that the students are being held illegally by police beyond the mandatory 48 hours within which they ought to be brought before a competent court of law.

"The police have not produced the detained students before court yet the mandatory 48 hours have passed. They have even suppressed our efforts to secure bond for our colleagues. That's why we have decided to petition the court through our human rights lawyer Eron Kiiza to have them released as soon as possible and unconditionally," Naluwago said.

In the application, the Attorney General, OC Wandegaya Police Station Samuel Obwang and DPC Godwin Ochaki have been named as respondents.

Meanwhile, at least 11 students have been hospitalised following army and police raid on Thursday night. Students accuse the army and police of raiding their halls of residences and beating whoever they found in addition to destroying their property.

Naluwago told journalists that some students are in the university hospital while others have been admitted in private hospitals outside.

She condemned the brutalization of the students, breaking of halls of residences by security operatives who also arrested several of their colleagues.

The students are now demanding for the release of their colleagues.

Meanwhile, over 15 journalists who were on Friday covering the students' press conference at the university were also teargassed, beaten on the directive of the vice chancellor, Professor Barnabas Nawangwe's personnel assistant Gordon Murangira.

Murangira was also seen taking pictures and videos of journalists who attended the press conference.

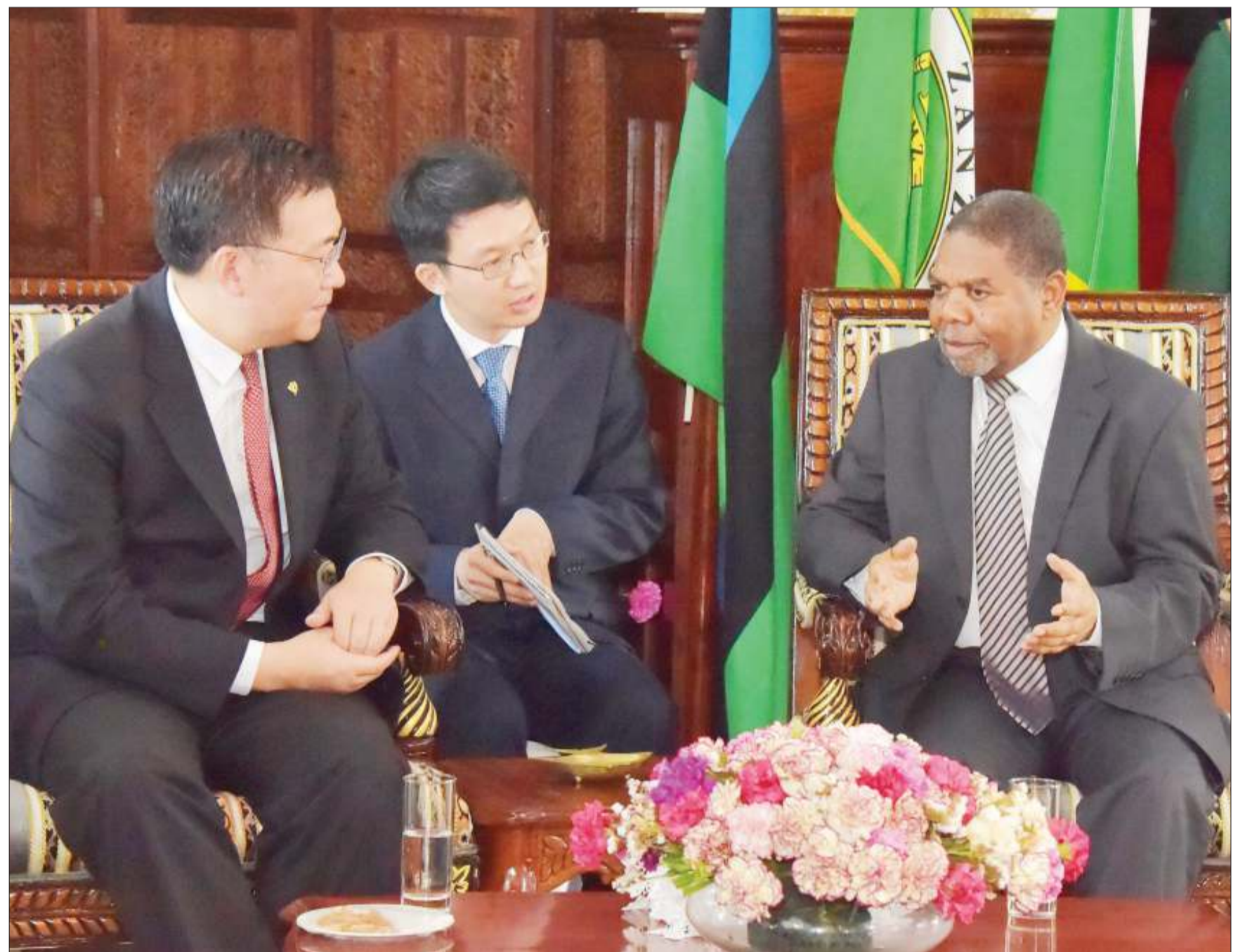
The journalists were forced out of the press conference by security personnel and ordered to delete what they had recorded.

There have been reports circulating indicating that one of the soldiers died at the university as he pursued students last night.

However, the army dismissed the reports as fake news.

"This is fake. No military police soldier has been injured or stoned to death at Makerere University," the Uganda People's Defence Forces spokesman, Brigadier Richard Karemire tweeted on Friday.

Brig Karemire said that the Uganda Police Force will continue to be supported by other security agencies to enforce law and order.



Zanzibar President Dr Ali Mohamed Shein in talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday with a visiting delegation of Chinese officials led by Guo Yezhou (L), Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. Photo: Zanzibar State House

## 'After child marriage win, shift the battle to child pregnancy'

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planning for marriage and not being in one," she said.

The Deputy Speaker opposed the idea of young Tanzanians getting into marital union at the now legal age of 18, saying that responsibilities that come with marriage need preparations including education and secure income that dictate that people go well beyond 18.

She appealed to rights bodies and relevant government ministries and agencies to finish the remaining battle of the war by sensitizing Tanzanians about the dangers of child pregnancy.

"The government has done its part by building and equipping health facilities in most parts of the country. It is now the duty of other stakeholders to spread the sexual and reproductive health information and education

effectively," she said.

Experts say that women who become pregnant during their teens are at increased risk of medical complications, such as premature labour whereas babies born as result of a repeat teen pregnancy are even more likely to be born premature—early and at a low birth weight.

The World Bank's 11th Tanzania Economic Update released in January, 'The Power of Investing in Girls'

showed that educating girls and ending child marriage could accelerate development progress and reduce poverty tremendously.

In contrast, the perpetuation of child marriage and the lack of education for girls would lead to lower earnings for women, substantial health risks, higher intimate partner violence, higher population growth and higher poverty among other impacts, it cautioned.



Yawning potholes make movement across this Mnazi Mmoja section of Dar es Salaam's Lindi Street extremely difficult for all manner of road users, as found yesterday. Photo: John Badi

# Improved sorghum variety now attracts Shinyanga villagers

By Felister Peter, recently in Shinyanga

MORE farmers are engaging in sorghum cultivation in Kishapu district, Shinyanga region after introduction of a new improved local variety—'Jidapandwanoni' that cannot be damaged by grain-eating birds.

Introducing the new seed variety is part of a program for climate resilience implemented in the region by Relief to Development Society (REDESO) and Oxfam Tanzania which includes empowering farmers to cultivate drought resistant crops to enhance food security and improve their livelihoods.

A farmer, Elias Mbuga (60) from Ngofila ward in the district said that with the use of drought varieties he can now harvest 15 sacks of sorghum per acre compared to 10 sacks per acre in previous years.

Most villagers were experiencing food shortage due to poor harvests associated with minimum annual rains as Shinyanga receives less than 400mm of rain per year, he said.

"I have a family of 25 people. We now have food throughout the year and we are food sufficient. Last year, I planted the drought resistant seed variety in all the 10 acres and harvested enough sorghum for food and commerce," said Mbuga, noting that his family needs upwards of 25 sacks of the crop per year.

He advised farmers in the region to cultivate the improved local variety since it cannot be damaged by grain eating birds. The 'Jidapandwanoni' sorghum is delicious compared to other cereal grain varieties, including red sorghum, he asserted.

"Most households prefer cultivating cotton and maize, but I shifted to sorghum after consultations with agricultural experts. I will cultivate the crop in my 20 acres this farming season," he said. At present a 20 kilos bucket of sorghum is sold at 20,000/-.

Ngofila Village Extension Officer, Mathias Nyanda said more villagers

are now opting for the crop which, apart from being drought resistant, it matures within a short period. He said that nearly half of the village residents (200 people) are cultivating the crop.

Nyanda said: "We are well prepared to ensure all interested households are provided with three kilograms of the seeds. We have a stock of seeds in metal silos where they are protected from insect pests, rodents and rot. The storage facilities were donated by REDESO."

He however noted that the organization donated storage facilities (silos and Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) to the villagers. The PICS technology consists of a triple layer sealed plastic bag that cuts off the oxygen supply to create hermetic conditions, thereby eliminating insect damage in storage of dry grain.

With PICS bags farmers are allowed to store their grain without the use of insecticides, he stated.

Oxfam Tanzania Program Manager in Lake Zone, Bonaventure Kagayo said the organization works to assist farmers mitigate the negative impacts of climate change to improve their livelihood as well as ensuring food security.

"We are glad that farmers are now changing their mindset towards agriculture, most of them cultivate commercially. They can also negotiate price according to production cost," he said.

Sorghum is among the most important cereal crops and legumes cultivated in the region. Other crops are maize, cassava, sweet potatoes, beans, chick pea and ground nuts.

*"I have a family of 25 people. We now have food throughout the year and we are food sufficient. Last year, I planted the drought resistant seed variety in all the 10 acres and harvested enough sorghum for food and commerce"*

# Minister hints at DIT revamping, expansion

By Henry Mwangonde

The government is in the process of making changes to the law that established the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) to make it match with global changes in technology.

The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Prof Joyce Ndalichako directed experts at the institute yesterday to draft changes for a bill to be presented in the coming year in the legislature.

Prof Ndalichako was closing basic five days Basic Information Communication

Technology Devices training to primary and secondary teachers in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Among other things the law is expected to allow the institute to establish independent constituent colleges which will facilitate admission of more students into various courses.

"The institute was established as a department in the ministry but now things have changed, for example a country with little or no natural resources can become a super power just because of technology," said DIT

Principal Prof Preksedis Ndomba when asked to give details on the matter.

He said if changed the law will also facilitate the inclusion of industrialists in governing boards of such institutions who are currently believed to operate apart.

Prof Ndomba said the institute has been working on developing its people by sending them to industrial attachment.

A total of 534 participants who included primary and secondary school teachers graduated in the training, focusing on maintenance and repair

(troubleshooting ICT devices).

Commenting on the just ended training, Prof Ndalichako said the current world is dominated by technology and there is no way teachers can be left out.

"Technology is an important element in the teaching profession and it is a must now to have technology in schools," she said.

The government has been improving the teaching environment and was grateful to the Indian government for its support in constructing the ICT center at DIT, the minister added.

By Guardian Reporter

# EAC explores potential for Russo-EAC cooperation

THE Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Liberat Mfumukeko, has highlighted key potential areas of cooperation between Russia and EAC, insisting on the need for both parties to and optimize what each party can produce for each other's market.

He made the remarks when speaking at the inaugural session of the Russia-Africa Economic Summit recently held in Sochi, Russia. EAC partner states

participated in the forum led by Heads of State.

He said: "One potential area where the EAC is deficient is the provision of critical services for business and investment in areas like transport, logistics and technicians. Both parties need to explore existing gaps."

The EAC chief executive said that EAC economies are still green and quite endowed with massive natural

resources, thus Russian investors coming to the EAC can explore how to exploit this potential.

"There is need to organize periodic bilateral traders and investor interactions through visits or trade and investment fairs," he said, noting that EAC partner states and Russia can explore the possibility of removing travel restrictions such as visas to enhance the movement of persons

between both parties.

Ambassador Mfumukeko said that there is a need for the EAC to develop education and youth exchange programmes in addition to exploring the development of the respective languages of each party in the education curricula of the other party.

He informed the forum that EAC has a population of 168.2 million and a

combined GDP of \$ 155.2 billion making it one of Africa's fastest growing regional blocs.

The forum was the first where the rich history of cooperation between Africa and Russia was re-examined. It was attended by government officials and members of the business community from Russia and Africa.

Delegates discussed the current status and prospects of cooperation

and a wide range of topical issues of the world economy.

Russia acknowledges the fact that today African countries are well on their way towards social, economic, scientific and technological development and are playing a significant role in international affairs.

Russia further appreciates that African countries are strengthening mutually beneficial integration processes within the African Union which has eight regional economic blocs, among them the EAC.

# Lift Zim sanctions to boost ties with region, SADC tells US, EU

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) reiterated its call for the removal of all forms of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe to pave the way for socio-economic transformation and economic development of the country.

A statement released yesterday by SADC Executive Secretary Stergomena Tax said the removal of sanctions will benefit Zimbabweans and the SADC Region, as well as enhance cooperation of the bloc with the European Union (EU) and the United States.

"The SADC Region is deeply concerned about the prevailing sanctions imposed by the EU and the US on the Republic of Zimbabwe, and is mindful of the impact of these sanctions," the statement noted.

Tax said the sanctions have proved to be directly affecting entities beyond the so-called targeted individuals, and have a negative impact on the credibility of Zimbabwe and serious trickle-down effects on the economy and people of Zimbabwe, and by extension the SADC Region.

In recognizing the socio-economic impact of the sanctions on Zimbabwe, the 39th SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Dar es Salaam in August expressed solidarity with Zimbabwe, and called for the immediate lifting of the sanctions to facilitate socio-economic recovery in the country.

The EU sanctions on Zimbabwe comprise of an arms embargo, as well as an assets freeze and travel ban on targeted people and entities.

US sanctions are tied to the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA), and the "targeted sanctions

programme," which comprises a list of individuals and entities, and specifically instructs US nationals not to do business with these designated entities or their affiliated entities.

The current list as of October 2019 includes 13 state owned enterprises, 13 other enterprises, 25 farms, three ZANU-PF owned enterprises, and some 100 individuals.


"State owned enterprises traditionally contribute significantly to SADC economies including that of Zimbabwe, and that at the peak of the Zimbabwean economy, state owned enterprises contributed close to 40 percent of the Zimbabwean economy, and as at now, is estimated to contribute about 14 percent of Zimbabwe's GDP, making these entities a key part of the economy. The prevailing sanctions on Zimbabwe, including the unlawful restrictions on multilateral financing and business dealings with US companies, have negatively impacted on the strategic economic sectors of Zimbabwe and presents barriers to innovation, investment and growth," reads the statement.

It underlines that sanctions on these entities directly impact on employment and income generation opportunities, and thus the livelihoods of ordinary Zimbabweans. The imposition of sanctions therefore have had significant spillover effects on a number of sectors that have had serious ramifications on the growth and development, and therefore on the livelihoods and social well-being of ordinary Zimbabwean citizens.

"Since 2001, International Financing Institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank are barred from extending financial support to Zimbabwe and have instituted a number of suspensions

on balance of payments and technical assistance support, including declaring Zimbabwe as ineligible to access fund resources. Despite the accumulation of arrears on the part of Zimbabwe, the IFIs have deliberately avoided to enrol Zimbabwe on special recovery programmes (like other countries in similar circumstances). The suspension of multilateral financing support is more linked to sanctions than failure by Zimbabwe to honour loan servicing obligations."

**IN LOVING MEMORY**



Wilneza Mathew Mrema our dear Father, today marks three years since God put your beautiful soul to rest; no one knows how much we miss you; no one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you; life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, sweetly tender, fond and true; there is not a day dear Father that we do not think of you. You dearly missed by your loving wife Eva, your children Lucy, Goodie, Irene, Denis, Monica, Sia, David, Walter, your sweet grandchildren, brothers and sisters, friends and Network Freight Forwarders Ltd management and staff.



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## UNICEF executive happy with improvement of vital services targeting children

By Getrude Mbago

THE United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has hailed efforts made by the government and stakeholders in improving services to children including in education and health sectors.

Rene van Dongen, the UNICEF Deputy Country Representative, said that despite various exiting gaps the country has done a lot especially in offering free education and health services to under-five children thus reducing mortality rate for the group.

He made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at the youth and media practitioners meeting to discuss various challenges facing children and how to promote and supervise their rights ahead of the 30th anniversary of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child slated for next month.

"We still have some things that need to be addressed including the issue of curriculums in schools. This is one area that needs more improvement to ensure that our children get the right skills that would help them achieve their dreams," he said.

The deputy representative noted that the government's implementation of high-impact health programmes such as routine immunization, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and improved management of common childhood illnesses, has saved the lives of thousands of children across the country.

He said in assurance that UNICEF will continue to support the government in undertaking a number of programmes to fight maternal and child deaths as well as Gender Based Violence (GBV), among other ills.

"As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of

the Child (CRC 30), we need collective efforts to ending child poverty and enhancing child survival, ending child marriages and increasing the number of children enrolled in schools," he emphasized.

On her part, UNICEF communications specialist Usia Ledema said that the Convention was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989.

She said that the anniversary creates a momentum for the international community to step up efforts to make children thrive, and to renew their commitment to protect and promote all their human rights.

Ledema further underscored the need for the media to continue championing and promoting children rights to ensure their fulfillment.

Geoffrey Macheba, a youth and children champion urged the government to review and improve curriculum in schools so as to produce competent professionals catering for current market needs.

"Nowadays graduates are being encouraged to employ themselves after completing their studies, but we have been asking ourselves whether our curriculums lead us to self-employment or entrepreneurship," he queried.

He also called on the government and stakeholders to strengthen reproductive health education and services to adolescents so as to enable them grow being well informed, hence bolster economies and contribute to sustainable development.

*"We still have some things that need to be addressed including the issue of curriculums in schools. This is one area that needs more improvement to ensure that our children get the right skills that would help them achieve their dreams."*



Rene Van Dongen, UNICEF's acting Representative in Tanzania, addresses editors and youths at a meeting on challenges experienced in efforts to protect and promote children's rights. It was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: John Badi

## RC hits out at officers misusing state assets

By Guardian Correspondent, Tanga

TANGA Regional Commissioner Martine Shigela has formed a special committee to investigate public officials and individuals alleged to misuse government properties.

Speaking yesterday at a rally held at Tangamano grounds here, Shigela said there are some public servants and individuals who have been using government properties contrary to the

law. He said days are numbered for the officials as stringent measures will be taken against them. He said: "I formed the committee after realizing that some civil servants are misusing government assets. The committee will go through all the contracts to check whether the officials own the properties in accordance with the law."

Shigela noted that the move is part of efforts to enhance the region's internal revenue to be able to offer quality

social services to the people as well as capital loans to women and youth. He said some officials are alleged to collect rental fees and gate collections at state-owned recreation centers, but they never remit the monies to specific offices.

He however directed authorities at Tanga city council to submit at his office a list of people who are illegally conducting business at the TangaBethen Club located at

Raskazone are along the sea shore.

He said it wasn't proper for private individuals to conduct business at the area since it is fully owned by the government. He said once convicted of illegal business operation at the area, they will be required to pay the cost/rental fees for all the years of operation.

"I have directed city authorities to collect fees from every trader conducting business at the TangaBethen Club," he reiterated.



Roast meat and bananas on sale at a popular Chalinze-Segera roadside spot at Mkata in Handeni District on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

## Community, civil society NGOs train Arusha youth

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

A total of 28,000 youth in Arusha city have benefited from entrepreneurship training offered jointly by the Arusha Municipal Community Foundation (AMCF) and the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS).

The training was offered to youth from three wards in the city aimed at enabling them think out of the box and be able to set up income generating activities.

Speaking during an event to showcase various products by the young entrepreneurs, AMCF assistant administrative officer Anna Mushi said that the training which brought together young entrepreneurs from Lemara, Unga Limited and Sokoni One wards to capacitate them with essential skills and knowledge to enable them produce quality products and grab local and international markets.

The training also aimed at unchaining youth mindsets and encouraging them to opt for self employment to improve income and fight poverty. It also involved training on good governance, leadership and exposure to recognition of various economic opportunities, she said.

Investing in youth and entrepreneurial education was important as the group has much potential of contributing to the nation's development pace, she stated.

She called upon graduates and other

sections of youth to stop waiting for employment while sitting at home but should wake up and start engaging in entrepreneurship as it pays.

She said that the country needs to undergo youth mindset transformation to change their negative perceptions towards self-employment in a bid to attract more youths in agro-based undertakings, a move that will curb the current unemployment challenge.

On her part, Arusha city community development officer Hanifa Ramadhan said that the council has been setting aside loans for youth, women and People with Disabilities (PWDs) thus calling on youth groups to utilize the opportunity.

"In the year 2018/19, the city council provided 665m/- to 118 entrepreneurship groups from 25 wards of the city...so this is another area youth and other entrepreneurs can use to grow their businesses," she said.

She also urged young people to learn to transform their challenges into opportunities by working much harder in realising their dream.

Sara Moses, one of the participants hailed the organizers for providing the training as the skills acquired are going to help them transform their businesses.

"We have got new skills on how to improve our products. The government should also support us by setting an enabling environment for us to operate and earn income," she added.

NAIROBI

WESTERN region politicians who are allied to Deputy President William Ruto have pledged to rally their supporters to reject the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI) if the report does not address issues affecting ordinary Kenyans.

During the DP's tour of Mumias East constituency in Kakamega County on Friday, they said they will ensure the report is shot down if the portion of funds allocated to counties is not increased.

Among the politicians were MPs Benjamin Washiali, John Waluke (Sirisia), Enock Kibung'uchi (Likutani), Geoffrey Omuse (Teso South) and former Kakamega Senator Boni Khalwale.

## Ruto allies vow to shoot down Raila-Uhuru initiative

They noted the need for the report to address inclusivity and equitable distribution of national resources.

The report by the BBI task force is ready for handing over to President Uhuru Kenyatta and Orange Democratic Movement leader Raila Odinga, who on March 9, 2018 announced that they had agreed to bury the hatchet and work together for the sake of unity, development, national healing and reconciliation as well as development.

Washiali said it would be unacceptable for Parliament to nominate the President as the public is accustomed to electing one.

He added, "The BBI report is still a rumour because it is yet to be presented to the President and the ODM leader, but the rumours indicate the initiative seeks for MPs to nominate the President. We will not accept this and Kenyans will reject the initiative."

Dr Khalwale said majority of Kenyans do not understand the origins of the BBI idea came up and that it is being imposed on them.

He promised to lead a national campaign to sensitise the public on the initiative once the report is released.

"We will support the initiative to the end because it has cost the country

over Sh10 billion. We shall read the report at market places and define it to Kenyans so that everyone understands the contents."

However, the politician also said he will lead an onslaught against the report should it propose to expand the Executive by creating more offices.

Waluke said BBI is the brainchild of an individual who wants to remain relevant in politics after wasting his last shot in the 2017 general election. This person, he said, wants to reserve a position for himself in the government that will take over after the 2022 vote.

Waluke and his Teso South

counterpart claimed that the DP's lieutenants were ready to resist proposals for creation of the position of a strong prime minister and deputies as well as a ceremonial President.

"We shall not allow one person to take the country round in circles after every election period to make himself remain relevant," Waluke said.

"It is high time he accepted that he has run out of his time and let others occupy the space," he also said, adding that the agreement for the next government was reached in 2013 through a memorandum between President Kenyatta and DP Ruto.

"The next government is already in place. We don't want guests of President Kenyatta to mess with the formation of the 20-year rule of the Jubilee administration," Waluke said.

Omuse said even though he was elected in 2017 on an ODM party ticket, his support for Ruto's 2022 presidency bid is unwavering.

DP Ruto, who commissioned Wanga Technical and Vocational College in Mumias East, steered clear of the BBI subject, focusing instead on the importance of technical education, in line with the government's industrialisation agenda.

He said the government has constructed 150 institutes across the country to equip youths with skills required in the competitive job market.

## 'African nations frustrate continental bodies determined to protect, promote basic rights'

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN rights bodies are frustrated at every turn by the lack of cooperation and support from African Union (AU) member states who desperately try to undermine their independence and autonomy, according to a new report published by Amnesty International. The report, The State of African Regional Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms, found that the continent's rights bodies are working in harsh conditions whereby their decisions are blatantly ignored and their pleas for proper funding and human resources persistently fall on deaf ears.

"Africa's human rights bodies are being willfully subverted. The African Union's Executive Council must resist these efforts and take its responsibility to monitor and enforce compliance with the decisions of the human rights mechanisms seriously," said Netsanet Belay, Amnesty International's Director for Research and Advocacy.

The report offers an assessment of the performance of three of Africa's regional human rights institutions between January 2018 and June 2019: the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Commission); the African Child Rights Committee; and the African Court.

It found that out of the continent's 54 countries, five (Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Somalia) have not submitted a single report on the human rights situation in their countries since they ratified the Africa Charter for Human and People's Rights.

Many countries that submitted their human rights reports to the African Commission during the reporting period did so after delays in excess of a decade. Gambia and Eritrea set records by submitting their reports 21 and 19 years late respectively.

In the timeframe in review, the African Commission sent 83 urgent appeals to states over concerns of human rights violations. Of these only 26 (31 percent) received a written response. The African Commission further requested 27 country visits, of which only 13 were authorized in principle, and just five materialized.

Despite facing many stubborn challenges, African human rights bodies registered a relatively impressive

record in developing new norms and standards including developing a draft treaty on the rights to social protection and social security. The African Commission also published seminal studies on transitional justice and on human rights in conflicts.

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Court) issued 25 decisions. However, only Burkina Faso had fully complied with the court's decisions by the end of the reporting period. Some countries, including Tanzania, partially complied, while Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Libya and Rwanda didn't comply at all.

Both the African Commission and the African Court performed dismally in clearing a backlog of complaints, with 240 and 143 cases pending respectively by June 2019. On the other hand, the African Child Rights Committee remained grossly under-utilized, having received only 11 cases from its inception.

"Both the African Commission and the African Court face a chronic backlog problem because of a slow pace in determining cases. They must urgently develop plans to speed up determinations and ensure strict adherence to time limits for parties, especially state parties," said Netsanet Belay.

The report also highlights an onslaught on human rights defenders (HRDs) in Africa. Between January 2018 and June 2019, appeals for protection of HRDs accounted for 71 percent of all appeals issued to state parties by the African Commission.

HRDs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Egypt were the worst hit, the Africa Commission issuing 11 and 10 urgent appeals respectively to their governments. These were closely followed by Burundi with seven urgent appeals, Cameroon and Algeria each with six, and Uganda and Sudan, each with five appeals.

"It is extremely alarming that governments across Africa have singled out human rights defenders to try to silence them and bring an end to their activism through brutal attacks, harassment, unlawful arrest and detention," said Netsanet Belay.

"Attacks on human rights defenders are an attack on the rights of all the people whose freedoms they are fighting for."



Dodoma Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto (R) shows journalists yesterday an elephant tusk which he said police officers seized at Mkoka village in the region's Kongwa District on Thursday. He said they were holding two people for questioning in connection with the incident. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

By Francis Kajubi

At least 45 per cent of graduates in the telecommunication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry lack skills and experience to grab employment opportunities in the growing competitive sector.

According to the findings by Ruse Telecom Learning Centre, the fastest growth in technology is leaving behind graduates of the two professions hence making them uncompetitive and thus calling for potential initiatives to be employed if jobs are to be secured for the indigenous graduates and employed experts.

Chief Executive Officer and Founder of the center, Halima Idd, told journalists yesterday in Dar es Salaam that to overcome the skills gap of professionals among expected experts in universities, there should be a plan to come up with a membership programme that aims at grooming the

## ICT graduates lack skills, experience to grab employment opportunities - report

graduates in the telecommunication and ICT professions.

"There are graduates in the market who lack appropriate skills for their profession due to the fast growing technology. We have experts who are already at work with telecommunication and ICT companies but their skills and knowledge are limited to 3G at the time where the world is moving to 5G technologies.

We don't expect such people to go back to universities to start afresh but they can be enrolled in short term courses to brush their knowledge. Most employers prefer experienced employees. We are in the world of internet of things, whereby data, artificial intelligence and cyber security is crucial topics of discussion," said Idd.

She said the center will launch short term courses next November purposely for providing specific knowledge to professions whom are interested in grabbing new technology knowledge.

"We have opened enrollment of members whom will be liable to pay a membership fee for every 12 months. We expect to enroll 200 members at the starting point. All members will study four different short courses in three months freely. One will continue with any course of their choice in the second year by paying affordable fees," she asserted.

The center's marketing manager, Doris Luvanda, said that in line with the government's industrialisation agenda, the membership course will help in shaping professionals whom will in

turn play actively in industrialising the country.

"This programme is intended to add value to the lessons learned and taught in universities and colleges while minimising the hands-on experience gap. The other benefits of the programme includes an opportunity to attend various seminars and events, access to use Ruse facilities for free, and receiving discounts to other training programmes offered," said Luvanda.

Ruse Telecom Learning Centre was founded early last year, based on the founder vast experience of 14 years in the telecommunication and ICT industry, vision and passion in taking the industry to the next level while minimising the hands-on skills gap.



Pupils literally run across a section of Dar es Salaam's Sinza-Tandale road extra-cautiously, the "assurance" they would normally expect at a zebra crossing notwithstanding. Staff photographer John Badi captured this scene yesterday.

## Govt calls on PWDs to refrain from acts likely to boost HIV infections

By Guardian Correspondent, Kigoma

TANZANIA celebrated the White Cane Safety Day yesterday with Deputy Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office responsible for the Disabled, Stella Ikupa calling for people with disabilities and the visually impaired to refrain from new HIV/Aids infections.

Speaking during the celebrations which were held at Mwangi Community Centre in Kigoma, the Deputy Minister said: "It is my responsibility to remind you to take caution against HIV/Aids new infections and those living with the disease to continue using the Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs.

Ikupa encouraged those tested HIV positive to continue pursuing their life dreams since there are many people who have lived with the disease for several years. He said the government is also working to ensure that no Tanzanian die over lack of the Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs.

She called for collective efforts to continue scaling up comprehensive HIV prevention programmes with a specific focus of sensitizing and reaching more people with education and testing to fight new infections.

The deputy minister further encouraged PWDs to continue being faithful by ensuring that they take their routine doses for best results.

"We have witnessed that those people who faithfully take their ARVs doses right, are living a happier life. It is the responsibility of every one of us, individually and collectively, to prevent new HIV infections. We therefore emphasise the country as whole to ensure that the next generation is free from HIV, through prevention measures, regular testing and treatment in the case of infection to eliminate mother to child transmission," she added.

The deputy minister further commended the Tanzania Deaf Association and various stakeholders for supporting the preparations of the White Cane Safety Day celebrations.

She challenged PWDs who attended the celebrations to be good ambassadors to others by educating communities and their fellows on HIV/Aids.

Statistics show that about 1.4 million people are currently living with HIV, and approximately 11 percent of them are children under 15. Among young people aged 15 to 24 years, the average HIV prevalence is 3.6 percent and is significantly higher among females than males.

Studies also show that, even though HIV prevalence has slightly decreased in the country, many challenges still exist that thwarts effort to achieve reduction in new HIV infections.

## TBS gathers agricultural, food products exporters for new procedures training

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

EXPORTERS of agricultural and food products in the Coastal zone have been trained on formal procedures to follow when processing and exporting their goods.

Earlier, such services were delivered by the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TDMA) but has now been shifted to the Tanzania Bureau of

Standards (TBS).

Representing TBS Director General, Yohanes Maganga the Director of Calibration, said they convened the seminar with exporters to inform them on the new procedures and export requirements.

He said TBS provides assistant to local manufacturers who want to export their goods abroad.

"We have launched a customer

service centre specifically for exporters where they are provided with all necessary information including recommended product standards before exporting them," he said.

Eng Maganga noted that the bureau tests the quality of the products and provide a certificate of mark of quality for particular products to facilitate exportation. He said some of the exports were not aware of the proper

procedures and standard requirements for exportation. "When you follow proper procedures it becomes ease for you to take your goods to international markets. We want you to contact the bureau whenever you face difficulties since we are here to assist you," he said.

He said the East Africa Community (EAC) partner states have already standardised some requirements to allow manufacturers in the region to

smoothly sell their products within the countries. He challenged them to utilize business opportunities under the EAC Common Market Protocol.

He insisted that testing of the products locally is crucial to ensure its quality. He said the bureau has all the standard requirement information required in each of the countries.

Acting Director for Quality Control, Gervas Kaisi said the main objective of

the seminar was to inform exporters on the changes of the Financial Services Act of 2019 which has added roles to TBS.

He mentioned some of the added roles as that of food safety and cosmetics which was earlier under TDMA. According to Kaisi some local manufacturers have been confusing the roles of the two authorities hence the need to educate them.

## Kamwele silences rumours about Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner coming

By Getrude Mbago

THE Minister for Works, Transport and Communications, Isack Kamwelwe, has refuted reports that the country is set to receive its second Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner today.

He said the information is not true and the government is now hunting the person who circulated the information for further measures.

Minister Kamwele made the announcement yesterday when officiating the 3rd Tanzania annual ICT Conference.

"I was also shocked to receive the information on the coming of the

plane because I and my ministry are not aware of the statement...this is very bad and the government will make sure that we search and deal with those responsible of this," he said.

He urged the public to ignore the information saying that the government would make official announcement when the time comes.

Early this week, a statement went viral on social media saying that Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) had announced that the new aircraft would arrive at Terminal 1 of the Julius Nyerere International Airport; around 11.00 am on Saturday (today).

## USAID project benefits over 500 residents of Morogoro

By Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MORE than 500 people living with HIV/Aids in Morogoro municipality have benefited from a five-year USAID funded project - 'Sauti Yetu'.

The project, executed by the national council of people living with HIV/Aids (NACOPHA) focuses on increasing HIV testing services through referrals, linkages to health services as well as retention and adherence to antiretroviral treatment.

Sauti Yetu project engages HIV positive individuals and groups in service delivery.

Through the project, twenty entrepreneurship groups were established whereby eight of them are engaging in economic projects to help improve the livelihood of members.

The projects also target to empower individuals economically and encouraging people to go for HIV test. It also works to search for HIV positive individuals who have abandoned medication and enroll them for antiretroviral treatment.

Director of policy and business department in the Prime Minister's Office, Paul Sangawe said the entrepreneur-

ship projects are useful calling for the sustainability of the projects in the municipal.

He urged regional medical officers to schedule regular visits to HIV/Aids patients especially those who cannot attend to hospital due to various factors including aging and those with disabilities.

Sangawe said it was crucial to ensure the particular groups of people get medication at home as part of efforts to reduce new infections.

He mentioned Amina Hashimu, one of the HIV/Aids patients who is currently not getting medical treatment due to expiry of her health insurance card.

He said: "It is important that Sauti Yetu project starts supporting HIV positive individuals whose insurance cards have expired".

Sauti Yetu project Chairperson, Kallen Mpesa said despite the entrepreneurship groups doing better, they still face a number of challenges including lack of office furniture and transport to reach people in remote areas.

The project is implemented in Mbuyuni, Mjimikuu, Mzinga, Sabasaba and Mwembesongo wards.



Donkeys come in handy as draught animals, easing this water vendor's burden of transporting the precious liquid to customers at Vijibweni in Dar es Salaam's Kigamboni municipality yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

## Aga Khan Hospital joins licensed international training centres

By Aisia Rweyemamu

THE number of local health care providers with knowledge and skills on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is said to be low and inconsistent, hence the need to routinely teach it in medical and nursing colleges.

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is an emergency lifesaving procedure performed to restore spontaneous blood circulation and breathing to a person who is in cardiac arrest.

Head of Business and Quality at the

Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA), Denis Godbless said this recently when speaking during a press conference to announce that the Aga Khan Hospital has been certified as an American Heart Association (AHA) International Training Centre (ITC).

Only two institutions in East Africa have been certified by AHA as international training center this year.

He said there is a danger of some health workers to forget the skills if trainings are not conducted regularly.

He said colleges should introduce short courses on CPR to sharpen the skills of health care providers.

Dr Sherin Kassamali, Head of Accident and Emergency department at the Aga Khan hospital said that cardiac arrest can occur anywhere, anytime and to anyone. He added that for the hospital to be certified as an AHA international training centre it has to train its workers on lifesaving skills and establish international training sites to reach a larger population.

Dr Kassamali said the hospital has

undergone certification to become AHA Basic Life Support (BLS) Heart Saver and First Aid Instructors.

He said heart saver and first aid courses can also be taught to anyone in the community who is interested to learn the basics of saving a life and what to do during an emergency.

He noted that the training center's goal is to spread the lifesaving skills beyond the Aga Khan hospital and reach out many people in East Africa with purposes to improve survival in the region.



Porters in business at Dar es Salaam's Tandale foodstuff and general supplies market yesterday. Photo: John Badi

By Guardian Reporter

THE Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in collaboration with three other organisations have organised workshops on visual story-telling and collaborative journalism as part of the beginning of the World Press Photo Exhibition 2019.

The exhibition which will run concurrently with two workshops on photo journalism which will be held on 24-25 October and 11-12 November 2019 has been co-organised by the European Journalism Centre, Tanzania Media Foundation and Noor Images.

During the workshops, participants will have a chance to interact and receive constructive feedback and guidance from award winning journalists such as Kadir van Lohuizen,

## Tanzanian photojournalists encouraged to join the African Photojournalism Database

an acclaimed master of visual narrative and storytelling from Noor Images.

The workshops will also give an opportunity to the selected photo journalists to discuss and reflect on photojournalism and opportunities available in the country on collaborative journalism.

Jeroen Verheul, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Tanzania said: "The main aim of these workshops is to stimulate creativity and encourage dialogue on global issues, including the role of the media as a platform where people can share

information".

The annual World Press photo contest is the world's biggest contest for professional press photographers, photojournalists and documentary photographers.

The images are judged in terms of their accuracy, fairness and visually compelling insights about our world.

The 2019 photo contest received submissions from all around the world: more than 78,801 photographs by 4,738 photographers from 129 countries.

The prize-winning photos are presented via the exhibition visiting

over 100 cities and 45 countries. From Amsterdam to Dar es Salaam and from Jakarta to Montreal, stories and issues happening around the world are shown to over four million people, to make them reflect, feel, discuss and act.

The World Press Photo Foundation would also like to invite Tanzanian photojournalists to join the African Photojournalism Database. It was created to help photographers and visual journalists who are based in Africa to better connect with other photojournalists across Africa and with the international media.

## Africans face most expensive internet charges in the world, says new report

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

CONSUMERS in African countries are paying some of the highest rates in the world for internet access as a proportion of income, according to a report released early this week.

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) assessed 136 low and middle-income countries for their annual affordability report.

The A4AI is an initiative of The Web Foundation, founded by inventor of the Web Tim Berners-Lee, with partner organizations that include Google and Facebook.

The A4AI defines affordability as IGB of mobile broadband data costing no more than 2 percent of average monthly income. But the average across the African continent is 7.12 percent, and in some cases IGB costs more than a fifth of average earnings.

Such prices are 'too expensive for all but the wealthiest few,' the report states, citing cost as the primary reason why an estimated 49% of the global population remains offline.

The report authors argue that sluggish markets and monopolies are a primary cause of high prices and offer several policy prescriptions to address the issue.

Competition is core to success

African countries are subject to the least affordable internet prices in the world, according to A4AI data.

Citizens of Chad, DR Congo, and the Central African Republic must all pay more than 20 percent of average earnings for IGB of mobile broadband data. By contrast, the most affordable rates in the continent are in Egypt at 0.5 percent and Mauritius at 0.59 percent.

Overall, the report found that costs are falling faster in low-income countries than middle-income counterparts, but in many cases prices remain prohibitive.

A4AI's primary recommendation is for greater liberalization of markets and measures to increase competitiveness. "Competition is core to successful broadband markets," the report states.

The authors' estimate that moving from 'consolidated markets', monopolies to multi-operator markets could drastically reduce costs of mobile

broadband data.

"Our research estimates that IGB data in a monopoly mobile market could be as much as \$ 7.33 more expensive than if it were a two-operator market," the authors said.

Recommended measures to increase competition include "fair rules for market entry and incentives to encourage new competitors," such as a liberal and transparent licensing regime.

A4AI has also created a Good Practices Database with case studies of low and middle-income countries improving access, such as Namibia, which has allowed new service providers to enter the market and seen costs decline. Kenya was also cited for making internet access available for millions of its citizens by eliminating a tax on handsets.

Restricting access

The A4AI also recommends that the public sector step in where for-profit models fall short.

The report suggests provision of "public access options such as free public Wi-Fi and telecentres to fill gaps in the market." Such steps are particularly applicable to rural areas, and to ensure marginalized demographics can access the economic and social benefits of the Web.

"What is required here is a combination of strategies and government role", said Dhanaraj Thakur, research director of The Web Foundation.

"Government can make better use of universal service funds to provide access in areas that are under served and there should be room for communities and local municipalities to also engage in service provision that they feel is most appropriate for their localities".

Thakur also acknowledges the problem of lobbying governments to improve access when in several cases, such as Cameroon and Egypt, governments have done the opposite by severely restricting citizens' internet use. "We try to reiterate the importance and economic benefits of internet access and conversely the cost of shutting down the internet or specific applications," says Thakur.

## Textile manufacturers calls on EAC to promote local industries

By Guardian Reporter

THE setting up of fully serviced industrial parks with plug and production facilities to attract investments is one of the proposed actions to gain quick wins in the promotion of the cotton, textiles and apparels (CTA) manufacturing industries in East Africa.

The 1st forum of owners of cotton, textiles and apparels (CTA) manufacturing industries was held in Kigali mid this week with Rwanda proposing for sustainable procurement of all institutional uniforms, beddings, draperies by state institutions from textiles and fabric industries in the region.

Another resolution of the forum was to carry out campaigns on 'Buy East Africa, Wear East Africa including implementation of the declaration of Fridays as 'Afrika Mashariki Fashion Day' and organising the Annual 'Afrika Mashariki Fashion Week' exhibition to precede the EAC Heads of States Summit Meetings normally held on 30th November every year.

Opening the Forum, Rwanda's Permanent Secretary of Trade and Industry, Michel Minega Sebera, noted that CTA has the potential to create employment, improve economic well-being and widen the tax base in the region.

Sebera called on EAC partner states to fast track the phasing out of the second hand clothes in order to reap the benefits of the sector. He informed the meeting that in 2016, Rwanda started implementing the Summit directives and embarked on the phase out of second hand clothes.

The PS disclosed that the phasing out of second hand clothes in Rwanda had attracted new investments in the sector and led to more than 15 new companies investing in apparels.

He further revealed that the country had also developed enabling infrastructure in the exports processing zones. He said the region's efforts to promote the sector comes at a good time as the region stands to benefit with the larger market as part of the Africa continental free trade area.

Christophe Bazivamo, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, said the Secretariat had begun implementing the Sectorial Council on Trade,

Industry, Finance and Investment SCTIFI directives on promoting local manufactured textiles and is in the process of encouraging East Africans to wear clothes made in East Africa.

Bazivamo invoked patriotism and national pride in the region whenever it came to consuming products made in the EAC and called for a change of attitude, mindsets and perception with regard to locally manufactured products.

He said the region needs to take advantage of this support to undertake rapid development, adding that the Heads of State Summit was keen on rapid implementation of the strategies.

He urged partner states to put their energies together to implement the decisions through quick wins saying that the region has the potential to generate the raw material required to keep the CTA sector running at full capacity.

On how to avail quality cotton seeds, the forum agreed on partner states launching mass campaigns to empower cotton farmers, cotton farmers associations and cooperatives besides raising awareness on the recommended seeds and modern farm practices.

The forum also resolved to designate/ establish and upgrade Centers of Excellence in seed multiplication and dissemination.

On ginning, spinning, weaving and knitting, the forum agreed, among other things, to develop financing models in partnership with East African Development Bank for the financing of the manufacturing sector.

Themed 'Promoting Local Production and Consumption of Cotton, Textile and Apparels (CTA) Made in the EAC Region' the two-day forum was attended by participants from ministries responsible for industry, trade, agriculture and EAC, private sector, CTA industry associations, private sector associations, industry associations and development partners, among other stakeholders.

The objective of the forum was to ensure that the owners of CTA industries meet to discuss pertinent issues within the sector and make useful and practical recommendations to the EAC Policy Organs especially the Heads of State Summit for purposes of promoting the sector.



Dr Mary Mwanjelwa (with microphone), Deputy Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), speaks when receiving 600 bags of cement from NBC southern zone manager Salema Kileo (2nd-L) and his assistants in Mbeya yesterday. The donation - by the bank - goes into supporting the construction of health and education infrastructure in the city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

## Chinese tour operators pledge support to TTB

By Beatrice Philemon

TOUR operators from China have pledged to market Tanzania's historical sites to lure more Chinese tourists.

This was said recently by the Founder and Chairman of the Touchroad International Holdings Group based in Shanghai, He Liehui who is in the country to see the available tourist attractions.

Touchroad International Holdings Group which was established in 2000 operates in 30 African countries including Ghana where it was founded.

Liehui who is accompanied by six tour operators from Hangzhou city in china said there are many Chinese tourists willing to visit Tanzania to see the site and history that holds the

earliest evidence of the existence of human ancestors and other tourist attractions.

He said: "We are going to visit the Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park and other tourist attractions as part of our mission towards marketing destination Tanzania in Hangzhou and China as well."

He said that Touchroad International Holdings Group has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Tanzania Tourists Board (TTB) to promote destination Tanzania. He said that Chinese travel and tour conglomerate will bring 10,000 tourists to Tanzania before end of this year.

Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) Managing Director, Devota Mdachi said she believes that the Hangzhou

delegation will form partnership with Tanzanian tour operators.

She called on them to be good ambassadors while in Hangzhou city by telling the world that Tanzania is the best tourism destination in the world.

"Next month, our delegation will visit Hangzhou city to market the history of the mankind's evolution (Zinjanthropus), cultures with more than 120 different tribes, business and investment opportunities available in Tanzania," she noted adding the delegation will include officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Meanwhile, Cultural Counselor at the Chinese Embassy in Tanzania, Gao Wei added that Hangzhou is one of seven ancient capital cities of China

with rich cultural heritage and tourism resources.

Wei said the city is also vibrant for commerce, high tech, manufacturing, home to headquarters of Alibaba, Geely auto maker and it is the provincial capital of Zhejiang province, receiving 184 million tourists in 2018 including 4.2 million overseas travellers.

Air Tanzania Sales and Distributor Manager, Edward Nkwabi said that Air Tanzania will soon introduce weekly direct flight to China using its B787-8 Dreamliner.

"We have signed MoU with Touchroad International Holdings Group to bring tourists from China. This will be facilitated with introduction of direct flights to China," he noted.

## CSOs highlights importance of renewable energies for climate change mitigation

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

CIVIL Society Organisations (CSOs) have called for the government to invest in utilization of renewable energy to control the impact of climate change fuelled by emission of greenhouse gases.

Speaking to journalists on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam during a one-day stakeholders' session on renewable energy, project coordinator for Forum CC, Euphrasia Shayo said most of the donor funds are directed on development of non-renewable energy for economic purposes while little is kept for renewable energy.

"We need the government to see the need for outsourcing fund to invest in the renewable energy as part of obeying their commitment to mitigate climate change," she said.

The session prepared by Forum CC was meant to bring together CSOs from across the country to form an alliance that will work to influence the government to shift to the use of renewable source of energy instead of non-renewable.

Shayo said the alliance will also be responsible to lobby and to provide awareness on policies and legal issues in the renewable energy and create awareness and advocating for renewable energy to members of the parliament for the government to see the need of prioritizing it.

She noted that renewable energy is one of the best sources of dealing with climate change as it produces little amount of carbon gas compared to non-renewable energy like coal and fossil fuels.

A participant, Msololo Onditi said affordability of clean energy to most citizens in the country is still a challenge, calling for stakeholders to invest more in the renewable energy.

He said Tanzania lacks a clear policy for renewable energy that can help to influence its use, but also the institutional framework that administer the sector is characterised by a lot of challenges including lack of energy officers in rural areas where people use non-renewable energy.

Forum CC in partnership with Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) is implementing a project titled 'Deepening Civil Society Engagement in International Post-Paris Climate Change Dialogue and Response' funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

The project aims to enable civil society to catalyse change and ensure bottom-up, pro-poor and people-centered narratives form the basis for implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement, and more importantly the NDCs.

The Forum CC is also implementing other projects titled 'Green and Inclusive Energy funded by Hivos' to enhance the government accountability on climate finance for decentralized renewable energy.



A Tanzania Electric Supply Company (Tanesco) technician repairs a transformer at Mwananyamala kwa Mama Zakaria in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: John Badi

## Artificial intelligence helps rangers in protection of endangered wildlife

By Adam Zewe

AT the turn of the 20th century, more than 100,000 wild tigers roamed across Southeast Asia. Today, fewer than 4,000 remain, according to the World Wildlife Fund.

Poaching is one of the biggest threats to the survival of the species. The parts from a single tiger can fetch more than \$50,000 on the black market, and organised gangs of poachers kill dozens of the animals each year. At wildlife preserves throughout Africa and Asia, overstretched and under-resourced park rangers struggle to keep pace with this crisis.

A new tool being developed at the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences seeks to give rangers an edge in their battle against poachers. Protection Assistant for Wildlife Security (PAWS) is an artificial intelligence system that predicts poaching risk levels in different areas of a wildlife preserve and helps rangers patrol more efficiently.

Under development in the lab of Milind Tambe, Gordon McKay Professor of Computer Science, the system draws on reported poaching activities and environmental factors to identify the areas poachers are likely to target in the future, and to provide to park rangers suggested patrol routes. "I admire these rangers," Tambe said. "They are doing amazing work with little pay. They are staying away from their families for long periods, they are getting shot at by poachers and doing all kinds of dangerous work. But, essentially, data analysis is not something they are hired for. That is something that we can provide for them. Without data, they have to base their patrols mostly on intuition. This tool gives them evidence-based ideas of where to patrol."

The project, which Tambe launched in 2013, is now poised for implementation in wildlife preserves around the world.

PAWS will be integrated into SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool), a system used by the Wildlife Conservation Society and World Wildlife Fund at

thousands of parks and game preserves to gather data on poaching activities.

"SMART's own analysis looks at the past, and PAWS complements this analysis by providing predictions about what to do in the future," Tambe said.

SMART aggregates data gathered from foot patrols, tracking the movements of poachers and the locations of traps they set. The PAWS system makes machine-learning methods to that historical data. PAWS divides a park into 1 kilometer-by-1 kilometer segments and employs algorithms to make predictions on poaching hot spots, rating each segment as high-, medium-, or low-risk. The machine-learning models take into account factors like distance to roads and towns, tree cover, topography, and animal counts.

Tambe first piloted this tool at a park in Uganda in 2016. Using PAWS, his team identified a poaching hot spot that rangers hadn't previously patrolled; when a patrol arrived at the area, they found an elephant that had its tusks cut off. Nearby, they discovered and removed a whole elephant snare roll. In additional tests, PAWS helped rangers remove 10 antelope snares before any animals were caught.

Working with rangers on the ground was eye-opening for Tambe. During a trip to Malaysia, his team used PAWS to provide evidence-based patrol routes for rangers, but they refused to follow them.

"That was very frustrating, and we kept asking, why aren't you following these routes? There is point A and point B and you draw a straight line and just walk," he said. "But when you go to the park, you realize that you can't just walk between two points because there is dense forest, there are slopes, and the preferred paths follow riverbeds. From an AI side, now we had a completely different research problem: how do you plan paths when you can't just make a straight line, when you have to follow ridge lines and rivers?"

Tambe and his team continued to refine the tool as they piloted PAWS in more game preserves, in a second Ugandan park in 2017, and a park in Cambodia in 2019.

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## CCM push on Zimbabwe sanctions highly creditable, deserves support

HERE is something new from the CCM secretariat, the news that the party is determined to spearhead a regional and continental push for the lifting of the harsh sanctions Western countries have slapped on Zimbabwe.

No country in Africa has slapped any such sanctions or supported them in the first place, as the continent has some representation in organs like the UN Human Rights Commission or the UN Security Council.

The sanctions did not arise from those platforms. Rather, they were enacted in the European Union and eventually supported by the United States, where Africa is patently absent from decision-making processes.

That is the background to addressing that question on the basis of remarks by CCM Vice Chairman (Mainland) Philip Mangulla, to the effect that this effort is a continuation of the party's record of leading the struggle for the liberation of southern African countries from the 1960s to the early 1990s when apartheid ended in South Africa.

Mangulla is saying that diplomacy can work at present just as much as in the past, which must be true to an extent though with some difficulty.

Even during his time, President Julius Nyerere led the process as head of a sovereign state - and not of a frontline party with other leaders of liberation political parties. In other words, what the CCM secretariat is suggesting only rather indirectly relates to foreign policy.

Another difficulty is that the sanctions on Zimbabwe are seen from an economic point of view much like the US sanctions on Cuba, and not from a political viewpoint. It has to do with the post-1989 global consensus for multiparty democracy, which Tanzania embraces.

We definitely have reason to be proud of our record in leading the political struggle for independence, while reminding ourselves that the

defence of national independence goes in tandem with democratic practice.

The sanctions on Zimbabwe are in part associated with claims of differences of opinion largely between the ruling party and opposition parties - and failure by the two sides to meet halfway and move along without the need for violent demonstrations, rubber bullets and the like.

The West sees this as symptomatic of political mismanagement, which they equate with forceful defence of corruption by those in power, but the ruling party and indeed the government is far from impressed.

A meeting of liberation political parties last month in Zimbabwe resolved that each October 25 be set out as a special sub-regional day to call for an unconditional lifting of sanctions. It is widely hoped that this decision will go alongside making steady progress towards making the sanctions irrelevant.

Zimbabwe is as much a sovereign state as any other and surely deserves respect from outside, but many hope it is still possible for both the ruling party and the government to meet halfway the key demands with respect to governance and democratic practice.

Many observers wonder in what manner really the current Zimbabwean government 'poses an unusual and extraordinary threat to US foreign policy', for instance.

How precisely Harare will treat this tilted stance remains to be seen, but it is clear that accommodating the some demands by civil society and involving the opposition more in government as now practised in a number of other African countries will help.

Indeed, this might well be part of the "magic" Mangulla has hinted on about CCM planning to inject into efforts to spare Zimbabwe years of crippling economic and other sanctions. The road promises to be thorny, but the initiative is by all accounts laudable and worth supporting.

### ECONOMIC SANCTIONS



## Long-serving journalist advises on ways to improve journalism

BY DAVID MAAS

SPEED, accuracy and fairness. These are journalism's three core values, according to journalist and author Peter Copeland, who has just published his latest book, *Finding the News: Adventures of a Young Reporter*.

"Accuracy seems to me to be the minimal requirement for journalism. It's not just who gets it first, but who gets it right," Copeland told his audience at a recent book launch event in Washington, DC.

Copeland boiled his three core values down from 18 lessons he learned over the course of his career, the bulk of which he spent reporting for the Howard Scripps News Service, which today is the E.W. Scripps Company. He explained that, as journalists compete to master these values, the profession as a whole becomes better.

"Speed, because I think it is important that we have a competitive news environment so that it's not just one reporter out there covering a story," he said.

Copeland was based in Mexico City for five years as Scripps' Latin America correspondent in the 1980s. Thereafter, he became their Pentagon correspondent, a position he held through the mid-1990s when he assumed editorial and managerial roles in the newsroom.

"The third value is fairness. That's the one that's really the big, broad, difficult one. I went back and forth - is it objectivity, is it telling both sides of a story, or is it balance? What is it that we're really striving for?" he asked.

"I came down on fairness, because even a two-year-old understands what's fair and what's not fair, and so you try to be fair to everyone in the story and to the story itself," he said.

Nearly 40 years after Copeland broke his first story as a young reporter, he looks back on a career that took him to 30 countries across five world regions, all to find - and report - the news.

Copeland spoke with IJNet about "Finding the News", reflecting on his career in journalism and the state of the profession today. Along the way, he shares advice for reporters just getting their own careers off the ground.

On fairness: "It's easy to identify 'fair'. However, it's very difficult to apply that to journalism. There's no story I've written that I couldn't go back and improve and make more fair. So it's easy to say, but it's difficult to do in practice. Because you want to be fair to the people you're talking to, the people you're writing about, fair to the story



## We hope Sochi summit was good for world's socio-economic development

A two-day high-level conference bringing together scores of African leaders and Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Africa relations advisers has just ended in the Russian resort city of Sochi.

A leading theme for the summit, as appeared in international media, is that Putin was offering African countries aid without political conditions. It is unclear if this is a new initiative or it was just a moment of summarising the spirit of Russian foreign assistance.

International media reporting on President Putin's introductory remarks was clearly angled at showing the difference between Western designs on Africa and what Africa can expect from Russia. That may as well have been factually cogent in various areas but, given the limited degree of Russia's portion of global GDP, it must also be seeking mutually beneficial links.

Some of the issues Putin raised are close to what some leaders are still battling to realise, including Africa's ability to obtain and control the full benefits of its natural resources.

One question is whether the former eastern bloc was different for not wishing to make profits out of Africa's resources or merely for being absent from the international capital market. There is another set of remarks which will make some people remember the clarion call Mwalimu Nyerere made in 1966 to Tanzanian diplomats posted to various countries.

It was the case of losing bilateral aid from West Germany in the wake of Tanganyika's union with Zanzibar in 1964 and from Britain in the wake of UDI - the settlers' unilateral declaration

of independence in Southern Rhodesia. Mwalimu Nyerere declared thus: "We wish to be friendly with all, and we will never allow our friends to choose our enemies for us."

It is true that there is always pressure here and there that a country desist from engaging in too many purchases or contracts with this or that other country, which must be resisted.

Some erstwhile colonial powers in the West are associated with subtly resorting to pressure, intimidation and blackmail against sovereign African governments.

Be that as it may, the world has changed a lot the colonial era, and former colonial powers are middle powers or 'also-rans' in a strategic chess game of the world's biggest economic and military powers.

Still, the wish to embrace the principle of African solutions for scores of African problems understandably draws mixed reactions, considering that it has its share of pros and cons.

It's undeniable that African countries have some unique problems or challenges which would be best left to the countries themselves to solve or resolve.

Equally irrefutably, though, there are numerous exceptions - which is why we have the likes of the African Union and the United Nations and their various administrative organs.

So, it was also important for the Sochi summit to embrace global standards of democracy and human rights for governance to improve enough to guarantee the world and individual countries higher levels of harmony, peace and meaningful socio-economic development.

the News' for two reasons. One is that that's what we do - we find stories. And two is that I found the news as a calling and a purpose in life, and that was deeply satisfying to me."

His advice for early-career journalists: "The best advice I have is to go and do it - to just start writing. Even if it's on your own personal social media page, just start writing and start reporting. Look for part-time jobs, or strings, or a chance to tag along and meet other journalists. Try to insert yourself into the news business and see what happens because, depending on the country, it's difficult to get a full-time job that pays enough for you to live. But, if you really love journalism you have to go and do it - you can't wait."

"The same goes for if you're living in one country and you're fascinated by another country. Don't wait for someone to send you there. Save some money for yourself and go and just block out three months where you're going to go and explore and try to make connections. Sometimes it works - it doesn't always work - but if you go and have to come back home after three months, you've still learned a great deal and had a good adventure."

On what readers should take away from his book: "One: how much fun and how great journalism is. We get to travel around, meet new and interesting people, learn new things and then share that with everyone else - and we get paid. I could never get over that. The other thing is that it's a meaningful career. It matters. It's a force for good in the world. I called the book: *Finding*

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network (IJNet), a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists.



# SADC hunting issues: Tanzania now eyeing game meat industry

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

**G**AME meat, a rather uncanny thing among most Tanzanians where despite wildlife hunting being permitted few residents ever tasted the meat from wild beasts roaming the country's landscape.

That is among the issues that have come up in the ongoing meeting of Ministers responsible for Environment, Natural Resources and Tourism from the 16 Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states.

It started from the Tanzanian front with the Secretary General in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Prof Adolf Mkenda stating here that the country was preparing proper strategy that will form proper channels in hunting, distributing and selling game meat to local residents.

Mkenda said the draft to that effect has been submitted to the Minister for final consideration; "It follows the directive from President John Magufuli the SADC Chairperson, that in the precinct with abundant wildlife it is just fair for people to be treated to such delicacies.

Most of the countries making up the South African Development Community (SADC) are classified as 'developing' nations.

Many are characterized by high population growth, limited industrial and tertiary industry, high rate of unemployment, and in some cases Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per-capita clocking below the poverty level.

These countries are, however, blessed with an abundant natural resource base, including dynamic wildlife sector, things can be on other hand proved to be sources of wealth and richness yet to be tapped.

In fact, wildlife based land use and industry offers real potential throughout the region as a viable development option, especially for rural communities with few other competitive advantages in today's globalized world.

Traditionally, before the invasion of colonialists, Africa's natural resources including wildlife used to support the



**Zebras run across the road as tourist vehicles game drives in Serengeti. Most SADC countries use wildlife for tourism**

livelihoods of rural people throughout the region.

"There are communities living around game reserves and National Parks and are naturally inclined to use some wildlife species for food but can't do so due to existing laws," said Prof Mkenda.

"We are working to ensure that once we establish game meat outlets, those living near the reserves will enjoy benefits of helping to protect wildlife by getting game meat at low prices," said the PS.

At the moment, wildlife benefits in SADC region are derived either directly in the form of meat and hides or, more recently, indirectly through eco-tourism ventures or photographic safaris.

Expert reports made available in Arusha at the threshold of Ministerial Meeting, point fingers to the legacy of colonialism, which introduced socially unacceptable wildlife policies and land tenure regulations that still prevents local people from directly benefiting from the natural resources around them, yet expects them to accept any negative consequences without question.

Growing human populations and a host of development pressures, however, have resulted in many people resorting to methods considered illegal by some governments when accessing the natural resource base around them and this is what Dr Magufuli tried to address in Tanzania recently.

In an overview of the Research re-

port entitled 'Sporting Hunting in the Southern African Development Community region,' Rob Barnett and Claire Patterson write that SADC governments have increasingly come to realize that without the support of local communities, conservation efforts are bound to fail.

In the absence of benefits, people living in poverty are unwilling and unable to look after natural resources wisely.

In some cases, governments have initiated processes to transfer ownership of wildlife, land use rights and decision-making responsibilities to local communities.

The majority of such programmes have involved the integration of wildlife with other land use options, such as crop and livestock production. This strategy has allowed for multiple uses and the generation of maximum revenues.

For example, the rights to utilize certain animals could firstly be 'sold' for photographic safaris or wildlife viewing, secondly to a hunter as a trophy or for biltons and, thirdly, its meat and hide could be sold or utilized by local communities.

Significant successes have been achieved through such initiatives with multiplier effects, especially where sport hunting is a feature in the equation.

Sport hunting is the hunting of an animal, generally by a foreign tourist, and usually for its trophy value. Throughout the region, such hunters

typically come from the USA or Europe.

As sport hunting is primarily motivated by the thrill of the hunt and the subsequent acquisition of a take-away trophy, it can be carried out on land that is less scenic than that demanded for wildlife tourism.

Further, the standard of accommodation and other infrastructure offerings can usually be far more 'rustic' in keeping with the less intrusive requirements of a rugged 'bush' experience.

This allows for a greater diversity of land to be set aside for wildlife-based industries. Consequently, in 2000, southern Africa offered some 420,000 square kilometres of communal land, 188,000 square kilometres of commercial land, and some 420,089 square kilometres of state land for sport hunting.

And finally, sport hunters are also less influenced by political events than other tourists, allowing for greater reliability in terms of sustaining constant revenue generation.

Although sport hunting has the potential to raise significant sums of foreign income for a country, like anything else that involves money, in some countries the industry was seen to be subject to abuse, corruption and mismanagement.

In Africa, the very low salaries paid to wildlife personnel and the lack of transparent and accountable oversight processes exacerbate this vulnerability.

and others such as Morocco, Kenya and Sudan, have developed processes to rehabilitate, reintegrate or prosecute returnees from within and outside Africa. But the continent lacks a comprehensive framework that guides the extradition or prosecution of returnees deemed a security threat.

For African states to more effectively respond to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, the AU should enact policy frameworks that adopt the UN's Madrid Guiding Principles (2015) and the 2017 UN Security Council Resolution 2396 on how to respond to such challenges.

A compilation of lessons learnt from African countries can contribute to such policy frameworks. For example, Algeria has deployed a diverse and multifaceted response in dealing with returnees, including counter-terror measures as well as negotiation and national reconciliation processes.

The ideological nature of a caliphate advocated by IS sympathisers is incompatible with the global system of nation states. This means they pose a threat to all countries in Africa. The AU should lead the process of drawing together regional economic communities, governments and local communities to ensure that foreign fighters don't worsen the already formidable threat of terrorism on the continent.

Shewit Woldemichael, Researcher, PSC Report, ISS Addis Ababa



**More hunger is threatening in rural areas amid complaints that Zimbabweans who oppose President Mugabe's ruling party are being denied assistance. Photo/Thomson Reuters Foundation**

## Agro-tech offers answers to farmers in Africa

DES MOINES, United States

**E**XPERTS vaunted new strains of seeds, drone aircraft and other technological breakthroughs as solutions-in-the-making for farmers in Africa, where hunger, drought and food price hikes are continent-wide problems.

At the gathering of nutritionists in the 2019 Borlaug Dialogue International Symposium, held annually in Des Moines, Iowa, in the United States, hopes were pinned on a new generation of so-called 'agro-entrepreneurs' in Africa.

At the event, USAID administrator Mark Green announced \$70 million of investment into research for new seeds and methods to reduce the impact of droughts and disease on crops across the developing world.

"Humanitarian assistance, including food assistance, is treatment, not cure," said Green. "We must develop new technologies and partnerships that will not only assist displaced families in crisis settings, but offer them livelihood opportunities wherever they can find them."

The three-day gathering, which ended on Friday, saw some 1,200 experts, policy chiefs, executives and farmers from more than 65 countries tackle food scarcity and price hikes – blights that disproportionately hurt sub-Saharan Africa.

Jennifer Blanke, vice president for agriculture human and social development at the African Development Bank (AfDB) said Africa "missed out" on the green revolution that bumped up harvests across Asia and Latin America in the 1950s and 1960s.

But with new technologies – from unmanned "drone" aircraft to new strains of more resilient crop seeds – coming online, African farmers and policymakers have an opportunity to get agriculture back on track and boost harvests.

"You can do so many things with technology," said Blanke.

"With drones, you can survey your fields in a minute, which would have taken hours and hours previously. You can spray pesticides. Satellite technology allows you to see what's happening to weather systems. Ba-

sic mobile technology helps farmers in rural areas know what prices they can get for their food."

In the coming months, Blanke aims to bring together researchers, policymakers and investors to foster helpful policies and roll out schemes to buy and spread technology as well as training farmers and officials how to use it.

Dozens of young African entrepreneurs traveled to Des Moines to network, woo investors and brainstorm ideas for addressing Africa's worrying problem of producing enough food for a growing population.

They included Ifeoluwa Olatayo, from Nigeria, who was awarded a fellowship from the World Hunger Fighters Foundation, for building small hydroponic farms on rooftops in Ibadan, in Oyo State, for growing lettuce, cucumbers and other vegetables.

"Since we're planting in close proximity to consumers, we're able to create fast and easy access to nutritious foods while at the same time lessening the impact of transportation on the whole agricultural value chain," said Olatayo.

"It's important that people have access to nutritious foods, as affordable and as fresh as possible."

Other agro-entrepreneurs are tackling another problem for African farmers – the fact that, thanks to bad roads, poor transport and other woes, entire harvests rot beside the fields they were grown in and never reach market.

Other start-ups involve distributing new varieties of seeds that are more resilient to insects and disease, yield bigger harvests, provide more nutrients, and in some cases taste better than the crops they are replacing.

Lourena Arone Maxwell, from Mozambique, which has been ravaged by disease and droughts since cyclones Idai and Kenneth killed more than 600 people earlier this year, is focussed on fighting crop diseases.

"Plant diseases can reduce the amount of food that farmers have and the solution is a very affordable and environmentally-friendly method to control them," Maxwell said on the sidelines of an event to honour the first batch of fellows.

## Africa needs continental strategy on foreign terrorist fighters

BY SHEWIT WOLDEMICHAEL

**A**S terrorist groups such as Islamic State (IS) lose battles and strongholds, many of their foreign fighters return to their home countries, potentially posing serious risks to peace and security across Africa.

Some returnees are believed to have the basic field experience to plan and manage terror attacks. Others are able to give training in handling sophisticated artillery and manufacturing explosives and weapons.

Many also have a worldwide network of affiliates, simplifying the transfer of supplies and the logistics of executing and financing their terror operations. They get support for broadcasting their terror attacks and their social media campaigns. As part of a global network, they may also act as entry points and facilitators for terror groups in countries that traditionally haven't been terrorist strongholds.

Returnees may also move to other conflict zones, further destabilising those regions. When returnees join affiliates, they help create stronger networks and greater coordination among terrorist groups across the continent. Their association also means they take on IS's brand of brutal terror tactics.

The potential threat posed by unaffiliated terrorist fighters cannot be overstated, as IS has called on supporters to wage attacks wherever possible. Such uncoordinated and unsupervised terror tactics mean that lone terrorists can carry out attacks anytime, anywhere.

In 2018 the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council (PSC) expressed 'deep concern over the growing influx of foreign terrorist fighters from outside the continent and the threat they are increasingly posing to peace and security in Africa.'

The AU needs a continental strategy and response to this evolving transnational threat, and member states should urgently take action. Governments must grasp the extent of the phenomenon, and respond with appropriate policy and strategy. Collaboration will be needed with regional economic communities, AU specialised bodies working on terrorism, and local communities.

The return of terrorist fighters is nothing new in Africa. Many, especially from North Africa, joined the jihad against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan in the 1980s, alongside al-Qaeda. The 1990s saw these fighters coming back – mostly to Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Libya and Sudan.

Some of these returnees, such as Mokhtar Belmokhtar of Algeria and Ahmed Rafiki of Morocco, created affiliate terrorist organisations in their respective countries, intent on overthrowing governments. Both were also engaged in elaborate transnational criminal networks that smuggled goods, natural resources, people and drugs, and carried out kidnapping for ransom. Their criminal activities have financed terrorism across the Sahel.

More recently, according to a report by The Soufan Group, almost as many African fighters as those from the Middle East have joined IS. Many of them are from the Maghreb. The Combating Terrorism Center estimates that by mid-2018, the total number of fighters in IS-affiliated groups on the continent was around 6 050.

While this number is relatively small, their geographical reach is significant. Countries far removed from IS strongholds in Syria and Iraq, such as South Africa, saw their citizens travel to join the group. Their return could spread the threat of terrorism across Africa – including to places as yet unaffected.



According to a report to the United Nations Security Council in April, as well as an AU Peace and Security Council communiqué in November 2018, 'under-the-radar' countries such as Benin, Togo and other West African coastal states have become terrorist incubators, with a noted presence of returnees.

Although the AU has developed several legal and policy frameworks for preventing and countering terrorism since 1999, the terror threat has risen and the return of terrorist fighters compounds the risks.

Recognising this, the November 2018 PSC communiqué asked the AU Commission to 'urgently compile a continental list composed of a database of persons, groups and entities involved in terrorist acts, including [foreign terrorist fighters].'

This was to be done in collaboration with the AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, and the Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa.

However the database hasn't been put together, as many of these entities either lack the capacity to implement their mandates or face information-sharing gaps.

At the heart of the problem is the need for member states to coordinate and collaborate in sharing sensitive information from their intelligence agencies.

Countries in the Lake Chad Basin,

By Wandile Sihlobo and Tinashe Kapuya

## Brexit risks to SA agriculture are now minimal but far from eliminated

THE news cycle has mainly centred on Brexit this past week as talks between the United Kingdom and European Union culminated in a Brexit deal.

Heading into the weekend, the House of Commons was expected to vote on the Brexit deal from Prime Minister Boris Johnson. However, the House of Commons voted to seek an extension of the 31 October 2019 deadline for Brexit. The extension is meant to effectively prevent a possible no-deal situation by end of this month in the event that there is no agreement on Johnson's deal. The deal is now expected to be discussed early this week in the House of Commons, while the request for an extension is being considered by the European Union (EU) parliament.

As these developments unfold without a clear and predictable outcome, the question is, what are the implications of various possible outcomes for South Africa and the region's agriculture sector?

An important recent development has been the conclusion of an economic partnership agreement (EPA) between the UK, the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) and Mozambique in September 2019 (the SACU-Mozambique-UK Economic Partnership Agreement).

The purpose of this agreement is to ensure the continuity of uninterrupted flow of goods and services between the territories. In essence, the agreement maintains the same arrangements that exist with the UK while still being part of the EU.

While much has been written about Brexit over the past three years, there are two points which have been overlooked in the discussions as far as agriculture is concerned, in light of the SACU-Mozambique-UK EPA.

The first is the provisions the SACU-Mozambique-UK EPA offers, more specifically, in relation to safeguards, as well as import and export quotas of specific products.

For South Africa, the benefits of this trade arrangement will be new quotas on agricultural products such as wine, which will add to the ones that already exist with the EU. This is important because the UK is a major market for South African wine.

More generally, the UK is the second-biggest destination for South Africa's



agricultural products in the EU, and the world at large. The UK accounts for 8% of the value of South Africa's agricultural exports to the world, the latter which were estimated at \$10.6-billion in 2018, according to Trade Map data.

The second point is that for citrus - a leading agricultural export for South Africa - the sub-sector will expectedly no longer be bound by costly and unnecessary emergency measures for citrus black spot (CBS). This is mainly because the UK carries limited risk as-

**The UK is the second-biggest destination for South Africa's agricultural products in the EU, and the world at large. File photo.**

there are no commercial orchards in the country. Therefore, South Africa's market access in the UK will be enhanced.

Within the EU, Spain - the world's leading exporter of citrus - had consistently lobbied for restrictions of South Africa's citrus due to CBS, against scientific evidence that suggested the contrary. This effectively put South Africa's citrus industry at a competitive disadvantage, even in

low-risk CBS markets such as the UK, which have no orchards.

Regardless of the outcome of the Brexit negotiation process, South Africa's agricultural sector is now in a much better space due to the aforementioned SACU-Mozambique-UK Economic Partnership Agreement, which ensures continuity in trade. Credit to South Africa's Department of Trade, Industry and Competition for having the foresight and the

urgency to negotiate the agreement, and conclude it before the Brexit deadline.

Looking ahead, it will be important to now consider how to strengthen regional agricultural value chains between the EU, UK, SACU and Mozambique. The ongoing deliberations around Brexit, as well as future trade relations between the UK and the EU, will remain an important part of the architecture of global agricultural

value chains. For instance, the continuity of South Africa's bulk wine exports to the EU, which are further packaged within the EU territory for re-exports to the UK will largely depend on the outcome of the Brexit talks.

Hence, Brexit will still have implications for South Africa's agricultural sector, despite the conclusion of the SACU-Mozambique-UK Economic Partnership Agreement. **DM**

## Africa's investment drive gathers pace

ROME

HEADWINDS are blowing amid IMF warnings of a "synchronised slowdown" in global economic growth, yet Africa's investment drive is still gathering pace, supported by intense international competition in development finance.

Despite the global slowdown, 19 sub-Saharan countries are among nearly 40 emerging markets and developing economies forecast by the IMF to maintain GDP growth rates above 5 percent this year. Particularly encouraging for Africa is that its present growth leaders are richer in innovation than natural resources.

While Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank, admits to sleepless nights over the "headwinds" to African growth - primarily the US-China trade war - he remains excited over the continent's prospects as the AfDB gears up for its annual Africa Investment Forum.

The November 11-13 gathering in Johannesburg follows major milestones achieved in 2019, notably the coming into force of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, described by Adesina as a "phenomenal development".

In May, 54 of Africa's 55 countries became signatories to the initiative which aims to eliminate 90 percent of tariffs on goods and significantly reduce non-tariff barriers. The free trade area means to integrate Africa into a unified market with a population of over one billion and output of \$1.3 trillion.

The AfDB does not gloss over the enormous challenges ahead, however, noting that 120 million Africans remain out of work, 42 percent of the population live below the \$1.25 poverty line and about one in four in sub-Saharan Africa are undernourished. Africa is also most vulnerable to the global climate crisis, although it is the world's least contributor to carbon emissions.

Under Adesina, appointed in 2015 and backed by his native Nigeria for a second term, the AfDB has responded to such challenges by scaling up investment in five priority areas dubbed the High 5s: electricity and energy; food; industrialisation; integration, and improving the quality of life.

At the UN climate crisis summit in September, Adesina announced the AfDB would double its climate financing to emerging economies to \$25 billion from 2020-2025. Half would be aimed at helping governments adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as droughts and rising sea levels.

"Poor countries didn't cause climate change, they shouldn't be holding the short end of the stick," the AfDB president said.

The bank will invest \$20 million to help fund the Sahel's new Desert to Power solar scheme, with Adesina seeing renewable energy as a driver of economic development and replacing all of Africa's coal-fired power stations.

During his term the bank has increased the renewable power share of its energy portfolio to 95 percent from about 60 percent. Off-grid solar-powered energy is seen as key to connecting the 50 per cent of African households without access to electricity.

Last year's inaugural Africa Investment Forum generated \$38.7 billion in "investment interest" in infrastructure projects, and the multilateral lender is setting a target of \$60 billion this year to close what it sees as Africa's "infrastructure gap" amounting to \$108 billion. As an investment marketplace which attracts heads of state, the AfDB says it will work at the Forum in conjunction with all commercial banks across Africa, as well as development finance institutions, global sovereign wealth funds and pension funds.

China's presence at the Forum is sure to come under close scrutiny given Beijing's focus on Africa, with President Xi Jinping's flagship Belt and Road



**Africa Investment Forum 2018. File photo**

Initiative pledging \$60 billion in financing for projects across the continent.

China's trade with Africa has soared over the past 20 years from about \$10 billion to close to \$200 billion. In a reflection of shifting balances of power, an analysis by Quartz found that nearly twice as many African leaders attended the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing in September than the UN General Assembly in New York two weeks later.

Not to be outdone, Russia has invited over 50 African leaders to its first Russia-Africa summit in Sochi in late October, the culmination of a strategic push that marks Moscow's re-entry into the continent, with

its focus on military deals and oil and gas contracts. With trade and investment replacing aid, US and European multilateral lenders are also directing more funds towards Africa.

The Africa Investment Forum may also enjoy the glow of more favourable headlines for the continent in recent weeks: Mozambique held relatively peaceful presidential elections in mid-October, which followed the signing in August of a peace deal between the ruling Fretilimo party and former civil war rivals Renamo; and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his role in resolving the border conflict with Eritrea, as well as promoting peace

and reconciliation in Ethiopia and the wider East African region.

Mozambique sees itself on the brink of substantial investments following its discovery of huge gas reserves while, as commentators noted, Abiy's first official state visit outside Africa after coming to office last year was not to the traditional western capitals or even Beijing, but to Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, major investors in his ambitions to transform Addis Ababa.

With foreign investors and multilateral institutions gathering at the door, the AfDB's president is addressing fears that Africa is piling up debt and mortgaging its future.

"What's important is that African countries get into deals that

are transparent with terms of engagement that are clear," he told Bloomberg in September.

"If there were cases where some folks got away with deals in the past because others aren't around the table to help negotiate well - that's changing.

I don't think any African nation should trade away its future for immediate gains. We want fair and transparent transactions."

Farhana Haque Rahman is Senior Vice President of IPS Inter Press Service; a communications expert, she is a former senior official of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

# Energy firm in key partnerships to incentivise electronic payments

By Guardian Reporter

PUMA Energy Tanzania have partnered with Selcom Paytech Ltd and Mastercard to run a 11 weeks campaign to reward consumers with up to 5 percent cash-back when they fill up at company's stations and pay via Mastercard QR.

The campaign dubbed 'Bomba Weekends' will see customers who prefer to go cashless across Puma's countrywide network of 52 filling stations being rewarded on Sundays from 4 to 6 pm.

"Besides the consumer reward objective, we aim to bolster the government's efforts in formalizing payments and transforming the country's cash driven economy to a seamless and cashless industrial based economy while matching Tanzania's financial inclusion objectives", said Puma Energy Tanzania Managing Director, Dominic Dhanah when speaking at the launch of the campaign in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

Dhanah said 'Bomba Weekends' is positioned to drive consumers to purchase fuel at its locations using the easiest, quickest and most secure payment method available and in the process win 'Qwikrewards' from Puma. "With this partnership, it is evident that we are an industry leader when it



Selcom head of marketing and communication Baguma Ambari (L) briefs journalists in Dar es Salaam on Thursday when the firm, Puma Energy and Mastercard launched a campaign dubbed 'Bomba Weekends', under which customers will be rewarded up to 5 per cent in cash-back when refuelling at Puma filling stations and pay via Mastercard QR. Others (from R) are Puma staffer Khamis Ali, Puma managing director Dominic Dhanah and Selcom executive director Sameer Hirji. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

comes to adoption of innovative payment solutions that provide payment flexibility and an overall superior experience to our customers every time they visit our locations", he noted.

Selcom Executive Director, Sameer Hirji, was optimistic that the campaign will help boost a cashless economy as well as accelerating the adoption of digital payments.

He stated the campaign will see individuals who aspire to go cashless for their daily purchases rewarded a significant large proportion of their monthly spend.

"We believe that the more accessible and seamless cashless payments, the more confident customers become about leaving their homes without carrying cash", said Hirji noting there are 30,000 Mastercard QR accepting merchants countrywide.

Bomba Weekends with Puma Energy and Mastercard QR adds that value to all Puma esteemed customers who decide to cashless at the fuel pump.

With 'Qwikrewards' and 30,000 Mastercard QR accepting merchants nationally we believe we are leading the charge in the value addition and making significant strides toward the country's formalised payments and financial inclusion objectives."

Bomba Weekends cash-back me-

chanics run on 'Qwikrewards', an ingenious reward solution developed by Selcom Paytech Ltd that allows Mastercard QR users to accumulate points or cash-back rewards into a virtual account.

With the Qwikrewards account users can directly redeem their accumulated rewards at over 30,000 locations countrywide that accept Mastercard QR payments.

The Mastercard QR has made significant strides since its introduction into the Tanzanian market in mid-2018 to now accepting payments from all seven mobile networks and 15 banks in the country.

**Besides the consumer reward objective, we aim to bolster the government's efforts in formalizing payments and transforming the country's cash driven economy to a seamless and**

## The African boom in investment in communications infrastructure

LONDON

TMT Finance Africa 2019 returns to London on November 28 with a renewed agenda, investing in the next phase of digital infrastructure and leadership strategies for growth and cross-border investments in Africa.

With over 70 TMT C-Level key financial decision makers announced to speak from across telecoms, infrastructure, smart cities and fintech, sessions from MTN, Orange, Csquared, Seacom, Standard Bank, Vodacom, Africa Data Centres and Dark Fibre Africa make TMT Finance Africa 2019, the most influential event to discuss the future of mergers and acquisitions within TMT in Africa.

The increasing pressure on telcos to diversify revenue streams is expected to be one of the key driving factors for M&A transactions in Africa, according to Mohamed Dabbour, EVP, Head of Africa at Millicom. "As organic growth can be slower, we'll see telcos acquiring companies in other sectors such as fintech and digital services and technologies. The fintech industry remains very fragmented and keeps on attracting a large number of companies in Africa."

Telecom infrastructure is another

sector that has enjoyed a tremendous amount of activity over the past few years and it is expected to continue to do so due to the increasing demand for data.

"I believe we will continue to see infrastructure consolidation, as FTTH and FTTB gather more momentum in many African markets where fibre infrastructure is still developing, says Byron Clatterbuck, CEO of South African submarine cable and fibre company SEACOM. Datacentres, both large and small, will continue to attract investment."

A few select markets are underpinning the main bulk of transactions and investment activity across the region. South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya are among the most active, while Ethiopia is opening its telecom market and is expecting new investors to target the country.

Stephane Duproz, CEO of Africa Data Centres stated, "Research suggests that African private equity activity has remained stable over the past seven years, which indicates that investors are confident in the long-term feasibility of the continent."

TMT Finance Africa 2019 is limited to 350 attendees and will feature 75 speakers across 24 sessions. Panels include;



**I believe we will continue to see infrastructure consolidation, as FTTH and FTTB gather more momentum in many African markets where fibre infrastructure is still developing, says Byron Clatterbuck, CEO of South African submarine cable and fibre company SEACOM. Datacentres, both large and small, will continue to attract investment**



People demonstrate in Harare, Zimbabwe, against sanctions slapped on the country by the European Union and United States. PHOTO/Agencies.

## Zimbabweans march against EU and US sanctions

HARARE

THOUSANDS of people marched across Zimbabwe yesterday in government-organised protests against US and EU sanctions.

The demonstrators said the sanctions have ruined the Zimbabwean economy.

But the US and EU argue they have been imposed on individuals and companies and have no impact on the economy.

The government made the day a public holiday, provided buses for marches and President Emmerson Mnangagwa is expected to give an address at the National Sports Stadium. Critics say the government is trying to deflect anger about the worsening economic crisis which has seen increasing inflation and people's incomes falling.

Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has said the protests are part of a propaganda effort to mask the country's "failed leadership".

The US embassy in Zimbabwe tweeted that the fault for the failing economy lies with the government's "failed economic policies".

The US financial and travel restrictions currently apply to 85 individuals, including President Mnangagwa, and 56 companies or organisations.

The US also imposed a ban on arms exports to Zim-

bwe.

EU sanctions also target specific individuals both within the Zimbabwean government and associated with it.

Travel restrictions and a freeze on assets have been imposed, along with the sale of military hardware and equipment which might be used for internal repression.

Some of the sanctions started 20 years ago but in March the US government added to its list military officials involved in last year's deadly crackdown on protesters.

Southern African countries have joined calls from the Zimbabwe government for the sanctions to be lifted, saying they're damaging the region's economy.

So why are the sanctions in place and what impact are they having? The United States and the European Union (EU) have both maintained sanctions, citing a lack of progress in democratic and human rights reforms as well as restrictions on press freedoms.

They target both specific individuals and companies.

United States financial and travel restrictions currently apply to 85 individuals, including President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

There are also 56 companies or organisations facing restrictions. "We have sanctions against certain individuals and certain corporations... not against the country of Zimbabwe. There is nothing to stop US businesses from investing in Zimbabwe, from going to Zimbabwe," says US

Assistant Secretary of State on African Affairs Tibor Nagy.

Washington says the economic impact is mostly on farms and companies owned by these designated individuals.

The US also imposed a ban on arms exports to Zimbabwe.

EU sanctions also target specific individuals both within the Zimbabwean government and associated with it.

Travel restrictions and a freeze on assets have been imposed, along with the sale of military hardware and equipment which might be used for internal repression.

Originally imposed during the era of former President Robert Mugabe, these sanctions were reviewed earlier this year and have been extended until February 2020.

The EU says these restrictions have no impact on the economy of the country.

Zimbabwe's economy has faced deep economic crises over the past few years with periods of hyperinflation rendering the local currency worthless.

Once again this year Zimbabwe has been reeling from high levels of inflation as well as severe shortages of fuel, power and water.

Recent economic data suggests Zimbabwe's economy has recently been shrinking as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, the average economic output per person.

## Rwandan ed-tech startup BAG Innovation raises funds to expand internationally

By Tom Jackson

RWANDAN ed-tech startup BAG Innovation, which uses gamification and artificial intelligence (AI) to help young graduates secure job opportunities, has raised a US\$150,000 seed round to help it expand locally and internationally. Founded in 2017, BAG Innovation is a virtual internship system that develops, tracks and matches students with the right market

need upon graduation.

"We realised that career centres within universities were not developing fast enough, and that the student environment was not conducive to challenging students to be proactive with their career choices and passions," said Gabriel Ekman, managing director of BAG Innovation.

"The student needs to have individualised career guidance and

be challenged on their own terms, and this must be directly related to an actual market need, now or in the future."

That is what BAG Innovation provides, and the startup's platform - only made available to the public this year - is now used by more than five per cent of all Rwandan students and over 100 Kigali-based companies looking for interns. It has now raised a

US\$150,000 seed funding round from an as-yet-unnamed local VC firm to help it grow its local user base and expand into new markets.

Ekman said BAG was targeting entering three new countries in the coming year - Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Uganda - and added that securing the investment in the first place had been a challenge.

"The main challenge was to find the right match with the right in-

vestor. Many were interested, but it was never the right fit for us, mostly because the investor did not understand the regional context or ed-tech in general," he said.

"There are more opportunities for Series A, B and C in the country than with seed funding. The challenge as a new startup is to find the person or firm that is willing to be the first - and most brave - investor." BAG has now managed to find

that investor, and is readying its expansion plans. Ekman said it has a subscription model that allows companies to activate one or more of the tools on the BAG platform.

"The most commonly paid service is 'talent identification', which helps organisations proactively source the best talent in the country, and the 'crowdsourcing' tools, that help companies with data collection, market studies and the

ability to access up to 600 certified virtual interns," he said.

"However, we are offering free- premium subscriptions to both companies and students in our new expansion model, and working with new revenue systems by monetising the data from the two user sides. We are aiming at becoming the largest centralised forum of University students in East Africa by 2021."

# 'Putin fully committed to supporting Africa'

**Question:** The Sochi Summit is meant to open a new chapter in the relations between the Russian Federation and African countries. Its participants will bring to Sochi their ideas about ways to develop cooperation. What does Russia, in its turn, have to offer to the states of the African continent? What is Russia's biggest competitive advantage that you will present to the heads of delegations at the Summit? What volume of Russian investment in African economies do you expect to achieve, say, in the next five years?

**Putin:** Russia and African states have traditionally enjoyed friendly, time-tested relations. Our country has played a significant role in the liberation of the continent, supporting the struggle of its peoples against colonialism, racism and apartheid.

Later on, we helped the Africans to protect their independence and sovereignty, gain statehood, form the basis for national economies, and create capable armed forces. Important infrastructure facilities, hydroelectric power plants, roads, and industrial plants were built by Soviet - and subsequently Russian - specialists. Thousands of Africans received quality professional education at our universities. This is well remembered by many current African leaders, who value our support. We too keep the memory of those pages of history.

Today, the development and strengthening of mutually beneficial ties with African countries and their integration associations is one of Russia's foreign policy priorities. We will shortly be witnessing an unprecedented, benchmark event - on October 24, Sochi will host the Russia-Africa Summit. This will be the first full-scale top-level meeting, to which we have invited leaders of African states and heads of Africa's major regional associations. The idea to organise such an event emerged quite a long time ago; however, it has taken some time and considerable preparatory work to make this Summit a starting point for building fair partnership relations based on equality and mutual practical interest.

We expect that our African colleagues, representatives of the business community will come to Sochi with a solid package of proposals aimed at enhancing bilateral relations, while heads of Africa's regional organisations will share their ideas as to how we could jointly develop our multilateral cooperation. We will consider these initiatives with great interest and decide what could be launched right away and what will require further elaboration.

Russia also has its vision of how to ensure further development of its ties with the African continent. We intend to discuss relevant ideas with our partners, systematise and reflect them as concretely as possible in the final declaration. Besides, it is important to identify mechanisms for implementing agreements that would be reached at the top-level meeting in Sochi.

I am sure that the Summit will be a success since all the necessary prerequisites are there. Today, the Russian-African relations are on the rise. We maintain a close political dialogue, including on the issues of global and regional security. The ties between our parliaments are expanding. Our mutual trade is steadily growing and diversifying.

Russia, together with the international community, renders comprehensive assistance to Africa, inter alia, by way of reducing the debt burden of its states. With a number of countries we are carrying out debt-for-development swap programmes. Russia supports efforts aimed at controlling the spread of infectious diseases (including Ebola haemorrhagic fever), natural disaster relief, settlement of existing conflicts and prevention of new crises. Russian universities provide professional training for national specialists from African countries both free of charge and on a commercial basis. Our defence and law enforcement agencies are stepping up their cooperation as well.

However, these are by no means all the items on our cooperation agenda. Our African partners see and appreciate the fact that Russia's foreign policy, including in relation to their continent, is of constructive nature; that Russia, as one of the UN Security Council permanent members, advocates democratisation of international affairs, supports the legitimate aspiration of African states to pursue their own independent policy, to decide on their own future without imposed 'assistance' by third parties. When doing so, we do not make our support



and joint development projects which we offer contingent upon the fulfilment of political or any other preconditions or so-called 'exclusive', but in fact enslaving trade and economic preferences; we do not impose our views, respecting the principle of "African solutions to African problems" proposed by the Africans themselves.

As for the potential level of investment in Africa in the next five years, the figure is expected to be quite high, with a number of billion-dollar investment projects with Russia's participation currently in the pipeline. Both Russia and Russian companies have substantial resources. We hope that our partners, in turn, will create the necessary stable and predictable business environment and investment protection mechanisms and ensure favourable investment climate.

**Question:** Competition in today's world is extremely high. Is Russia ready for tough rivalry in Africa, say, with China or the US? Do you think there are risks of using protectionist policies, trade wars or unfair competition against Russia? What methods do you intend to apply to address them? Won't this rivalry adversely affect the African partners?

**Vladimir Putin:** Indeed, interest in developing the relations with African countries is currently visible not only on the part of Western Europe, the US and the PRC, but also on the part of India, Turkey, the Gulf states, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Israel, and Brazil. This is not accidental, as Africa increasingly becomes a continent of opportunities. It possesses vast resources and potential economic attractiveness. Africa's infrastructure needs are increasing, and African population is rapidly growing, as are its demands. All of this, in turn, calls for an expanded domestic market and greater consumption. Of course, where there are promising prospects for investment and profit, there is always competition, which, unfortunately, at times goes beyond the bounds of decency.

We see a number of western states resorting to pressure, intimidation and blackmail against governments of sovereign African countries. They hope it will help them win back their lost influence and dominant positions in former colonies and seek - this time in a "new wrapper" - to reap excess profits and exploit the continent's resources without any regard for its population, environmental or other risks. They are also hampering the establishment of closer relations between Russia and Africa - apparently, so that nobody would interfere with their plans.

We certainly take note of these factors and draw conclusions. We are not going to participate in a new "repartition" of the continent's wealth; rather, we are ready to engage in competition for cooperation with Africa, provided that this competition is civilised and develops in compliance with the law. We have a lot to offer to our African friends. This will be discussed, among other things, at the forthcoming Summit.

**President Cyril Ramaphosa welcomed by President Vladimir Putin at the official dinner in honour of Heads of State and Government attending the Russia-Africa Summit in Sochi. Photo: Flickr/GovernmentZA**

And, most certainly, we, together with our African partners, are committed to protecting our common economic interests and defending them against unilateral sanctions, including by reducing our dollar dependency and switching to other currencies in mutual settlements.

I am confident that the Africans are by no means interested in the escalation of confrontation between the major powers in the continent. On the contrary, they would like the rivalry to give way to cooperation in addressing urgent challenges for Africa, such as terrorism, crime, drug trafficking, uncontrolled migration, poverty, highly infectious diseases. I would like to reiterate that this is the kind of work Russia is willing to participate in.

Our African agenda is positive and future-oriented. We do not ally with someone against someone else; and we strongly oppose any geopolitical "games" involving Africa.

**Question:** The Soviet model of cooperation with African countries often involved the lending mechanism. Did this policy prove effective? Does Russia plan to resume the practice of providing loans to African countries? What other mechanisms for offering support to African countries are you prepared to discuss?

**Vladimir Putin:** Indeed, the Soviet-era model - with its pros and cons - proved quite effective at the stage of the development of statehood in African countries. We still continue rendering financial assistance to African states. While in the past, these decisions were primarily politically motivated, now they are part of the humanitarian assistance.

As far as granting loans is concerned, today these loans are market-oriented. For example, a deci-

sion was made to grant a loan to Egypt in the amount of \$25 billion for the construction of four power units for El Dabaa NPP. This is specifically market-oriented lending.

Let me point out that in the post-Soviet period, at the end of the 20th century, Russia cancelled \$20 billion of African countries' debts to the Soviet Union. This was both an act of generosity and a pragmatic step, because many of the African states were unable to service those debts. We therefore decided that it would be best for everyone just to start our cooperation from scratch.

There are other schemes that are currently applied to some of the remaining debts. For instance, intergovernmental agreements with Madagascar, Mozambique and Tanzania are being implemented in the framework of the debt-for-development swap programme. We expect that Ethiopia's remaining debt to Russia (\$163.6 million) will be settled under similar conditions. The relevant draft agreement is currently being elaborated.

Let me also remind you that Russia makes contributions to international programmes of assistance to Africa in the framework of the UN Development Programme, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Civil Defence Organisation. Sometimes in-kind support is provided. Since 2011, WFP offices in Africa have received 258 KAMAZ trucks. Another batch of 75 trucks has been shipped most recently.

At the same time, the use of new financial mechanisms does not rule out the practice of granting loans, but rather provides for a wider and more diversified toolkit in support of development. It contributes to establishing mutually beneficial cooperation between Russia and African countries.

All these issues will be examined at the Economic Forum on October 23-24. We are ready to hear propos-

als from our African partners and share our considerations.

**Question:** Earlier, military technical cooperation was among the areas of interaction between Moscow and African countries. Are there any plans to enhance it? Are you going to discuss any specific projects or contracts with the Summit participants?

**Vladimir Putin:** Indeed, the traditions of our military technical cooperation are deeply rooted. It was developed back at a nascent stage of establishment of African states and played its role in the fight of peoples of the continent for their independence. And our African partners highly appreciate it.

Today, we have agreements on military technical cooperation with more than thirty African countries which we supply with a wide range of military equipment. Of course, part of it is being transferred at no charge. But this is common practice followed by all leading world countries.

It is encouraging that military technical partnership continues to evolve vigorously. What's more, African countries often initiate such cooperation themselves, because they understand that one should be able to protect its independence and sovereignty, including from extremist and terrorist groups. It is yet another incentive to cooperate with Russia, which has abundant experience in fighting terrorism, including in Syria.

Our African partners actively participate in military-technical fora and military exercises organised by Russia, in the framework of which they get acquainted with Russian advanced weapons, military hardware and experience of its use. For our part, we will further contribute to training military personnel of African states and take part in training African peacekeepers.

**Question:** Social and humanitarian cooperation is declared as a theme of the Summit. Why does Russia help Africa if far from all its own social problems are resolved?

**Vladimir Putin:** Humanitarian assistance is being provided to Africa by many world countries, yet none of them - be it the US, France, China or any other country - has fully resolved all of its social problems, including in healthcare, education and culture.

Russia too provides humanitarian assistance to African states, but not by reducing the amount of funding for its own programmes. After all, good traditions of charity and support in times of need are a hallmark of our people.

I will give a recent example. Russia, as many other states, provided aid to the African countries affected by tropical cyclone Idai in April 2019. Russia sent humanitarian supplies to Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique, i.e. large tents, blankets and food products weighing about 30 tonnes for each country.

We continue to take an active part in efforts to provide comprehensive assistance to Africa. Russia is involved in the UN World Food Programme's school meals project valued at \$40 million, which has been implemented in Mozambique since October 2017, and in the project to introduce modern technol-

ogy and equipment for disinfection worth up to \$15 million in Madagascar.

We also provide assistance to our African friends in healthcare development, as dangerous communicable diseases respect no borders. Russia was among the first to react to Ebola haemorrhagic fever outbreak, having allocated \$60 million to combat it. There is now a microbiology and epidemiology research centre in Guinea. Russia contributed \$20 million to the World Bank programme to implement the global malaria control initiative.

And such examples are plenty. I would like to emphasise that Russia's participation in fighting poverty, dangerous illnesses and other global threats, as well as reduction of potential risks "at distant approaches" are fully in line with our national interests.

**Question:** Security issues are particularly acute in some African countries. This affects the operation of Russian companies there. Are you going to raise issues of security at the Summit and propose measures to strengthen it? What help is Russia ready to provide to settle conflicts across the continent?

**Vladimir Putin:** An important element of Russia's interaction with African countries is regional security cooperation. Our Summit's slogan - For Peace, Security and Development - is not accidental. Steady progress is not possible without resolving these problems.

The situation in many parts of Africa is unstable: inter-ethnic conflicts and acute political and socio-economic crises remain unsettled. Numerous terrorist organisations, such as ISIL, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, are highly active in North Africa, the Sahara-Sahel region, Lake Chad area and the Horn of Africa. Armed forces and law enforcement bodies of African countries cannot oppose militants alone and need significant aid.

We will further increase contacts between special services and law enforcement agencies of Russia and African countries in the field of countering terrorism, organised crime, drug trafficking, money-laundering, illegal migration and piracy.

In demand is the practice of training military and law enforcement personnel of African countries, including at a reduced cost and free of charge. For example in the past five years alone, more than 2,500 service personnel from African countries completed studies at the military educational institutions of the Russian Defence Ministry.

Our African partners take an active part in Russia-organised events, such as the International Military-Technical Forum and meetings of high representatives for security issues. Eleven African countries participated in the 2019 International Army Games. And the number of those willing to join them is growing.

Ultimately, all those programmes have the same goal - to help Africans solve existing security issues themselves, as it will strengthen African states, their sovereignty and independence. And hence, the world will be more stable and more predictable. **AGENCIES**



**South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Russian President Vladimir Putin and delegates at the official dinner in honour of Heads of State and Government attending the Russia-Africa Summit which is being held in Sochi, Russia. (Photo: GCIS/Flickr)**

## PROTEST

# Nigeria's young tech workers under threat

LAGOS

BUSINESS leaders from CcHUB, IROKO, Future Africa and Printivo have launched the #StopRobbingUs campaign to try to end ongoing harassment by law enforcement officials of young tech workers.

Led by Bosun Tijani of CcHUB, Jason Njoku of IROKO, Iyin "E" Aboyeji of Future Africa and Oluyomi Ojo of Printivo, amongst others, the campaign is calling for

the Federal Government of Nigeria to intervene in the continued practice of illegally arresting and extorting young people in Nigeria who work in the technology sector.

A fundraiser has been launched by Flutterwave to raise money for a legal intervention and public awareness programme. Organisers say the #StopRobbingUs campaign was initiated after Toni Astro, a Lagos-based software engineer, posted on Twitter a harrowing account of

his encounter with Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) officers in Ketu, Lagos. The campaigners claim that on 28 September, Astro was allegedly publicly intimidated, arrested, beaten and extorted, in order to secure his freedom.

"News of SARS officers (Nigeria Police and all tactical units) targeting software engineers is a frequent occurrence in Lagos and this is the latest in a string of attacks. Today's news builds on the larger #EndSARS movement that has rocked Nigeria over the last year, which has used social media to appeal for an end to the frequent robberies of Nigerians, by security operatives who are supposed to protect them," they state.

Tijani adds: "They are mostly young people who carry expensive equipment such as MacBooks (provided by their companies) and smartphones. It seems SARS officers assume that anyone young carrying such expensive equipment must be up to fraudulent activities, therefore they approach them. Second to that, the SARS operatives often also assume that if these young people have access to such expensive equipment, they also have the funds to pay bribes, hence their attempts to extort hundreds of thousands of Naira from them."

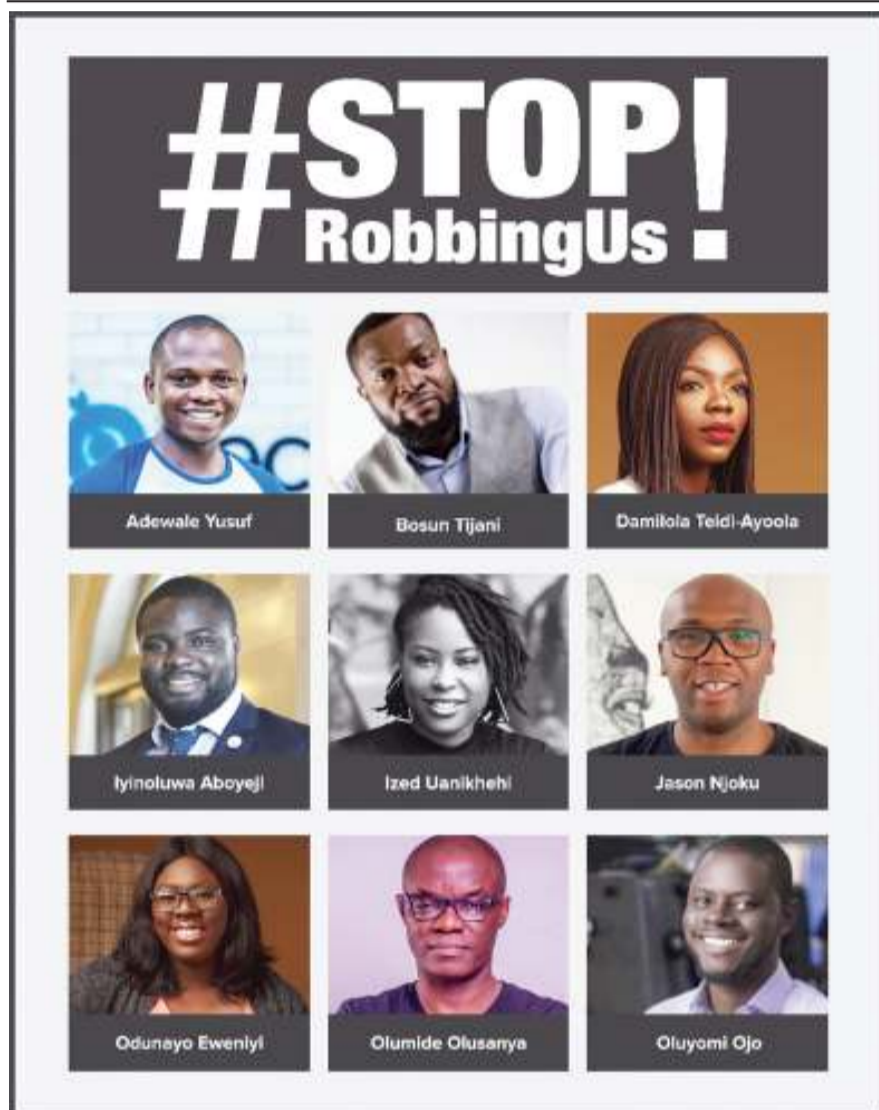
Tijani and other business leaders want the campaign to result in a culture

shift, a policy shift, underpinned by legislation and "swift legal action for perpetrators." He says: "We have a growing young population that is fast running out of patience with a society that does not represent them and that does nothing to support or protect them. The consistent lack of support from those who should fix this challenge will ultimately discourage our young tech talent from contributing to our economic prosperity."

"... tech particularly is susceptible to this exodus, because engineers' skills are coveted around the world. Everywhere, it seems, except for Nigeria, where our government stands by and

allows them to be persecuted as they go about their daily commute. Why would a professional in any sector want to stay in a country that doesn't value them or protect them from extortion and physical attacks?"

This is why we are mobilising - to ensure we create a safer place for our tech talent. We want them to stay here in Nigeria and contribute to the sector and the wider economy." According to Tijani business leaders are volunteering their resources in support of the campaign and their request is for people to collectively put pressure on the government to end the attacks.



#StopRobbingUs campaign poster

## HURDLE

## Internet access too costly for most in Africa

ABUJA

INTERNET access is still expensive and beyond the reach of many Africans, says the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) in its 2019 Affordability Index report released this week.

According to the report, the cost of accessing 1GB of data in the region costs about 7.12% of the average monthly salary. "Across Africa, the average cost for just 1GB data is 7.12% of the average monthly salary. In some countries, 1GB costs as much as 20% of the average salary - too expensive for all but the wealthiest few," says the report.

Internet access is considered key in unlocking economic possibilities, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion in a continent that is largely rural and poorly covered by traditional banks. Other experts say government taxation of data access and airtime top ups is also making internet access beyond the reach of many. A4AI says as much as 50% of the world population still do not have access to the internet because of high costs.

However, policy changes in some African countries and infrastructure investments have led to improvements in internet affordability and access. Kenya has been a front-runner in this, after the government eliminated taxes on handset purchases in the country.

"New National broadband plans in Cameroon and Mali led both to the top of the list of most improved countries," says the report. The index ranks Cameroon in 44th place after it moved six places, while Mali is ranked in 40th position after jumping five places. The two African countries are the top two upward movers on the rankings. Benin (29th), Rwanda (31), Tanzania (32) and Uganda in 36th position are ranked in the top 10 for low income countries.

Market growth for mobile internet also helped move some countries up the Index, with large expansions of 3G coverage in Mali, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania as well as "overall internet use in Namibia" emerging as "influential factors in this year's assessment" of internet affordability across the continent.

"Markets with companies that hold



African tech savvy youths at an internet café.

combined private and public capital can create dynamics that undermine fair competition. This is demonstrated in Namibia and Angola, where government investment in private operators

has created a tension between the public good of a market with affordable prices and the governments' desire for larger returns on investment," the report continues.



Safari Tour Tournament Director, Patrick Obath.

## INTEGRATION

## Safari Tour grows into an East Africa tourney

NAIROBI

THE Safari Tour, East Africa's professional golf tour, will be heading to Uganda for the next two weeks for a double header. Launched in 2018, the first season of the tour was played exclusively in Kenya but it included pro golfers from East Africa.

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Commenting on the double-header in Uganda, the Safari Tour Tournament Director, Patrick Obath, said the two back to back events in Uganda presented a great opportunity for the pros. "We are working very closely with the Uganda Golf Union in staging the Safari Tour events in Uganda and we are encouraged with the enthusiasm that they have shown," he said. "Having four events in Uganda in only our second season of the

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The time slot taken by the Lake Victoria Serena was previously slotted for an event in Rwanda: "The Rwanda Open at the Kigali Golf Club was cancelled to pave way for extensive redevelopment of the course into a fully-fledged championship 18-hole course," Obath adding, "once the course is ready, we are confident that the Rwanda Open will be played as part of the Safari Tour."

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of the statement, Nshinka said: "There were reasonable grounds to believe that his presence in Zambia and conduct were likely to be a danger to peace and good order. Jian was deported to his country of origin."

At a media event last month, Jian said it was not true that Zambian workers were being mistreated by their Chinese counterparts but that "the conflict between management and employees were as a result of some staff who contribute value to the company while others waste time during work."

The company also revealed that it was struggling to raise enough revenue to repay the controversial US\$273-million loan secured from China for the country's digital migration project due to competition in the local digital television market.

TopStar has to date not responded to requests for comment. TopStar is a joint venture between China's Star-

Times (60% shareholder) and the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) (40% shareholder).



**According to a statement from the Immigration Department, via its public relations officer Namati Nshinka, Jian was deported for "allegedly conducting himself in a manner that warranted deportation under the Zambian laws"**



**The Kenyan professionals will be travelling across to Uganda where they will face tough opposition from their Ugandan counterparts**

## PROTEST

# Nigeria's young tech workers under threat

LAGOS

BUSINESS leaders from CcHUB, IROKO, Future Africa and Printivo have launched the #StopRobbingUs campaign to try to end ongoing harassment by law enforcement officials of young tech workers.

Led by Bosun Tijani of CcHUB, Jason Njoku of IROKO, Iyin "E" Aboyeji of Future Africa and Oluyomi Ojo of Printivo, amongst others, the campaign is calling for

the Federal Government of Nigeria to intervene in the continued practice of illegally arresting and extorting young people in Nigeria who work in the technology sector.

A fundraiser has been launched by Flutterwave to raise money for a legal intervention and public awareness programme. Organisers say the #StopRobbingUs campaign was initiated after Toni Astro, a Lagos-based software engineer, posted on Twitter a harrowing account of

his encounter with Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) officers in Ketu, Lagos. The campaigners claim that on 28 September, Astro was allegedly publicly intimidated, arrested, beaten and extorted, in order to secure his freedom.

"News of SARS officers (Nigeria Police and all tactical units) targeting software engineers is a frequent occurrence in Lagos and this is the latest in a string of attacks. Today's news builds on the larger #EndSARS movement that has rocked Nigeria over the last year, which has used social media to appeal for an end to the frequent robberies of Nigerians, by security operatives who are supposed to protect them," they state.

Tijani adds: "They are mostly young people who carry expensive equipment such as MacBooks (provided by their companies) and smartphones. It seems SARS officers assume that anyone young carrying such expensive equipment must be up to fraudulent activities, therefore they approach them. Second to that, the SARS operatives often also assume that if these young people have access to such expensive equipment, they also have the funds to pay bribes, hence their attempts to extort hundreds of thousands of Naira from them."

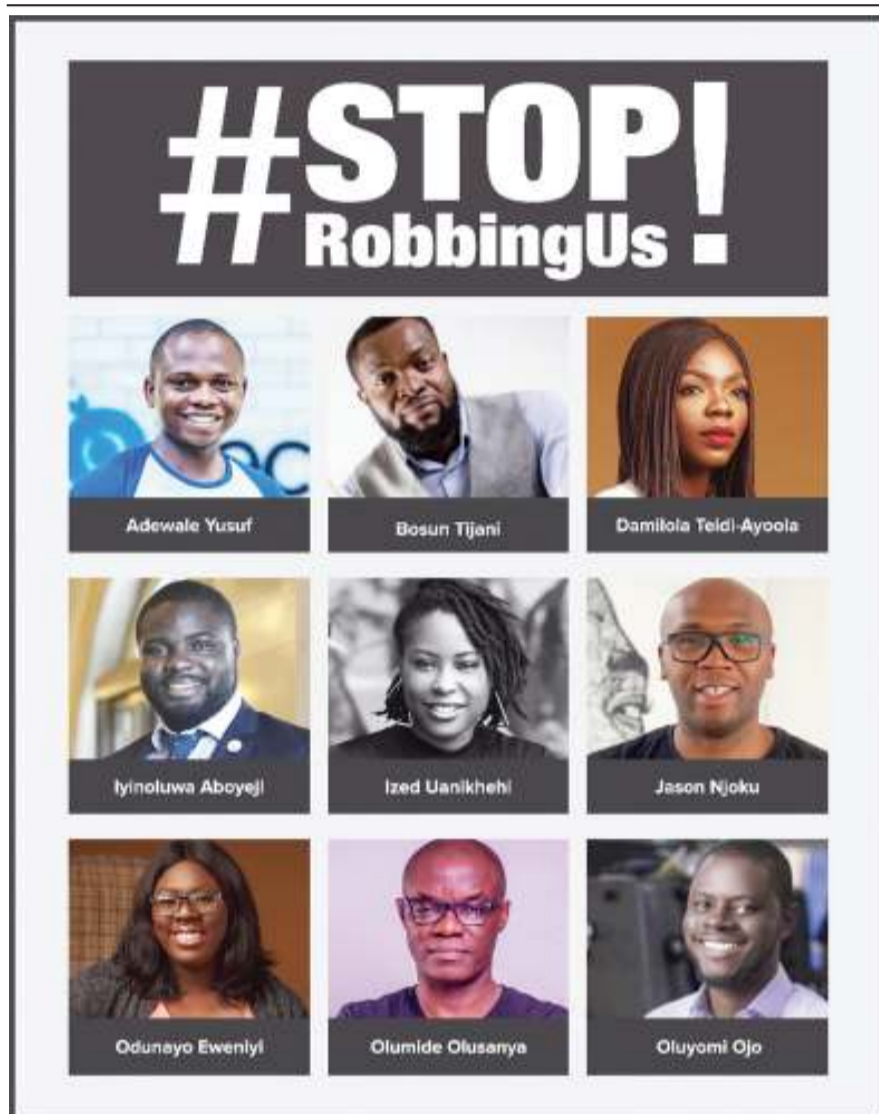
Tijani and other business leaders want the campaign to result in a culture

shift, a policy shift, underpinned by legislation and "swift legal action for perpetrators." He says: "We have a growing young population that is fast running out of patience with a society that does not represent them and that does nothing to support or protect them. The consistent lack of support from those who should fix this challenge will ultimately discourage our young tech talent from contributing to our economic prosperity."

"... tech particularly is susceptible to this exodus, because engineers' skills are coveted around the world. Everywhere, it seems, except for Nigeria, where our government stands by and

allows them to be persecuted as they go about their daily commute. Why would a professional in any sector want to stay in a country that doesn't value them or protect them from extortion and physical attacks?"

This is why we are mobilising - to ensure we create a safer place for our tech talent. We want them to stay here in Nigeria and contribute to the sector and the wider economy." According to Tijani business leaders are volunteering their resources in support of the campaign and their request is for people to collectively put pressure on the government to end the attacks.



#StopRobbingUs campaign poster

## HURDLE

## Internet access too costly for most in Africa

ABUJA

INTERNET access is still expensive and beyond the reach of many Africans, says the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) in its 2019 Affordability Index report released this week.

According to the report, the cost of accessing 1GB of data in the region costs about 7.12% of the average monthly salary. "Across Africa, the average cost for just 1GB data is 7.12% of the average monthly salary. In some countries, 1GB costs as much as 20% of the average salary - too expensive for all but the wealthiest few," says the report.

Internet access is considered key in unlocking economic possibilities, entrepreneurship and financial inclusion in a continent that is largely rural and poorly covered by traditional banks. Other experts say government taxation of data access and airtime top ups is also making internet access beyond the reach of many. A4AI says as much as 50% of the world population still do not have access to the internet because of high costs.

However, policy changes in some African countries and infrastructure investments have led to improvements in internet affordability and access. Kenya has been a front-runner in this, after the government eliminated taxes on handset purchases in the country.

"New National broadband plans in Cameroon and Mali led both to the top of the list of most improved countries," says the report. The index ranks Cameroon in 44th place after it moved six places, while Mali is ranked in 40th position after jumping five places. The two African countries are the top two upward movers on the rankings. Benin (29th), Rwanda (31), Tanzania (32) and Uganda in 36th position are ranked in the top 10 for low income countries.

Market growth for mobile internet also helped move some countries up the Index, with large expansions of 3G coverage in Mali, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania as well as "overall internet use in Namibia" emerging as "influential factors in this year's assessment" of internet affordability across the continent.

"Markets with companies that hold



African tech savvy youths at an internet café.

combined private and public capital can create dynamics that undermine fair competition. This is demonstrated in Namibia and Angola, where government investment in private operators

has created a tension between the public good of a market with affordable prices and the governments' desire for larger returns on investment," the report continues.



Safari Tour Tournament Director, Patrick Obath.

## INTEGRATION

## Safari Tour grows into an East Africa tourney

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DETERMINATION

# Meet the smiling cafe owner who refused to let disability put her dreams on ice

ABU DHABI

WITH her infectious smile, cheery demeanour and proven knack to make a delicious iced karak, Amna Al Mulla is a huge hit at her family-run cafe in Sharjah.

Such is her popularity at Vigo cafe, the establishment she launched with her brother in August, many customers will only settle down with a drink if they know it is being made by her. Enamoured with her warm personality, not to mention her favourite cold beverage, those who pack into the cosy Khor Fakkan venue give little thought to her disability.

Born with Down syndrome, the 18-year-old Emirati was determined not to let her condition stop her fulfilling her ambitions. Her dream to open her own cafe was inspired by some of her fondest memories of drinking coffee with her business partner brother and mingling with friends.

"Amna - or as we all like to call her Amona - is a very social person who doesn't like to sit down and do nothing," said her brother, Ahmed Al Mulla, 25. "So we both came up with an idea to open a cafe where she can make coffee, meet people and enjoy her time while being an active member of the community."

The venue, named after Amna's favourite Spanish song, is nestled in Souk Al Mirqab, close to Khor Fakkan Corniche. "It took us time to choose the location, pick the decoration and what we need to have in the menu and all under the supervision and guidance of Amna of course," said Ahmed.

"Amna spends four hours at the cafe almost every day, and customers always ask her to prepare their drinks as they want the drinks that are made only by her." Amna greets her customers with a broad smile and a recommendation to sample the ice karak. "I like the iced karak, it is my favourite drink, and I make it by myself," said Amna.

"I add the milk first to the cup and then add a mix of coffee, tea, sugar and ice to the milk and finally a straw to drink. "I feel so happy when I meet people, and the cafe gives me the opportunity to meet new people every day. "My family supports me all the time, and that makes me stronger and give me the power to give more."

Her father, who has always backed to pursue her goals, said the success of the cafe is just a small example of what people with disabilities can achieve. "Unfortunately, having a child with a disability is still treated as a stigma among many people in the country, and some even feel ashamed to have a child with spe-



Ahmed Al Mulla and sister Amna are enjoying life as cafe owners in Sharjah

cial needs and try to hide them away from the community," said Abdullah Al Mulla, a 60-year-old retired army veteran.

"The country is offering many opportunities to people with special needs and supporting them to open their one project or busi-

ness should become one of them. "When they both came to me with the idea, I supported them and their decision right away as I

knew that this project would provide her with the opportunity to become more productive and active, and she likes to be both."

Empowering people with disabilities, helping them to find gainful employment and enjoy greater independence, is a key priority for the UAE government. In September of last year, the Minister of Community Development, Hessa Buhmaid, challenged private sector companies to employ more people with disabilities and to view them as an asset rather than "people to be pitied."

Launching three strategies aimed at getting more disabled people into the workforce, she said there was strength in diversity and that companies should seize the opportunity.

Abu Dhabi's successful hosting of the Special Olympics in March, hailed by many as the best in the event's history, helped put the Emirates' inclusive strategy in sharp focus. Her father said that Amna has many talents that need to be supported and developed.

CONSERVATION

## Australia's Uluru officially closes service to climbers

SYDNEY

HUNDREDS of tourists queued to climb Uluru for the last time on Friday ahead of a climbing ban which came into place as the sun set over the sacred red rock.

From Saturday, October 26, 2019, climbing the Unesco World Heritage-listed structure will no longer be possible as a climbing restriction comes into effect.

The prohibition comes exactly 34 years after the land on which Uluru sits was handed back to the indigenous Anangu people, who have called for the climb to be closed ever since. Heavy winds on Friday morning did nothing to discourage those people intent on scaling the giant structure. Videos on social media showed long lines of climbers waiting to make the ascent. Park rangers allowed climbing to commence around 10am, once the windy weather had calmed.

The closure comes after a period of tensions for the Anangu people, who faced an increase in the number of visitors arriving intent on climbing the rock against their wishes. In the twelve months leading up to the closure, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park has welcomed nearly 400,000 people - a 20 per cent rise in tourist arrivals compared to last year, according to government figures. A sign at the bottom of

Uluru reads: "Please don't climb. We the Anangu traditional owners have this to say. Uluru is sacred in our culture. It is a place of great knowledge." The indigenous people have been calling for the trek to be closed since 1985. Climbing the structure is not permitted in their culture, yet until the last gasp people continued to try to summit the rock.

Photos of crowds snaking their way up the structure have prompted anger on social media. One Instagram user captioned an image of Uluru: "I don't understand the staggering arrogance of people who think that they know better than the indigenous people, and climb it anyway?"

The traditional owners of Uluru have a connection to the rock that goes back at least 30,000 years. They were evicted from the site in the early 1960s by tourist operators and fought to reclaim their land for two decades. While the climb will no longer be legal after today, there are many other ways tourists can enjoy the region and do so in a way that is culturally sensitive. Marvelling at the rock from afar or taking in the geological wonders of it on the 10-kilometre walk around its circumference are highlights. There are also cultural tours, ranger-guided mala walks and dot-painting workshops on offer in the area.

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People view Uluru, formerly known as Ayers Rock, near Yulara, Australia.



# ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM I T V

<b>SATURDAY 26 Oct</b>	18:00 Jiji Letu	00:30 Al Jazeera	9:30 Isidingo	12:30 Ijue Sheria
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	18:15 Mapishi	02:00 CNN International	9:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa
6:00 HABARI	18:30 Mizengwe rpt		10:00 Watoto wetu	13:00 Jagina rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	18:45 Matukio ya wiki	<b>TUESDAY 29 Oct</b>	10:30 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok	13:30 Tanzania yetu
7:00 Habari	19:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa
8:00 Al Jazeera	20:00 Habari	6:00 Habari	11:00 Korean drama: The great Queen Seondok	14:00 The Slingshot rpt
9:00 Watoto wetu	21:05 Biko	6:40 Kumekucha	11:30 Jungu kuu rpt	14:55 Habari za saa
10:00 Mjue Zaidi rpt	21:10 Mizengwe	7:30 HABARI	12:00 Al Jazeera	15:00 Meza Huru
10:45 Usafiri wako rpt	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	16:30 Watoto Wetu
11:15 Shamba lulu rpt	22:15 Bongo Movie: Family Disaster	8:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Dakika 45	17:00 The Base
11:45 Series rpt: The Slingshot	00:30 Series rpt: The Slingshot	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	14:00 Series rpt; The Slingshot	18:00 Jiji Letu
14:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt		9:30 Isidingo	15:00 Meza huru	18:15 Mapishi
15:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	<b>MONDAY 28 Oct</b>	09:55 Habari za saa	16:30 Watoto Wetu	18:30 Jagina
15:15 Igizo: Utelezi	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00 Watoto wetu	17:00 The Base	19:00 Usafiri wako
16:00 Mr Tanzania	6:00 Habari	10:30 Shamsham za pwani	18:00 Jiji Letu	19:30 Isidingo
17:00 Shamsham za Pwani	6:40 Kumekucha	10:55 Habari za saa	18:15 Mizengwe	20:00 Habari
18:00 Jiji Letu	7:30 HABARI	11:00 Shamsham za pwani	18:30 Kipindi Maalum: Matibabu ya kibingwa ya moyo	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
18:15 Mapishi	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	11:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania rpt	19:00 Ijue Sheria	00:00 The Base
18:30 Jungu Kuu	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55 Habari za saa	19:30 Isidingo	01:30 CNN International
19:00 Sanaa na wasanii	9:30 Isidingo	12:00 Al Jazeera	20:00 Habari	
19:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019	9:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt	21:00 Aibu Yako! Hata wewe?	<b>FRIDAY 01 Nov</b>
20:00 Habari	10:00 Watoto wetu	12:55 Habari za saa	21:10 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
21:00 Shangweka	10:55 Habari za saa	13:00 Uchumi na biashara	21:40 Kipindi Maalum: Mwanza Marathon	6:00 HABARI
21:15 Kipindi Maalum: Wajibu	11:00 Jagina rpt	13:30 Shamba lulu rpt	22:15 Series: The Slingshot	6:40 Kumekucha
21:30 Kesho leo	11:30 Kamal Mr Tanzania 2019 rpt	13:55 Habari za saa	23:00 Habari	7:30 HABARI
22:00 Kipindi maalum: Insta Moja	11:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Sanaa na wasanii rpt	23:30 The Base	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
22:15 Hawavumi lakini wamo	12:00 Al Jazeera	14:15 Series rpt: The Slingshot	00:30 Al Jazeera	8:55 Habari za saa
23:00 Isidingo rpt	12:30 Jungu kuu rpt	14:55 Habari za saa	2:00 CNN International	09:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
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	13:00 Mjue Zaidi	16:30 Watoto Wetu	<b>THURSDAY 31 Oct</b>	9:55 Habari za saa
	13:45 Sanaa na wasanii rpt	17:00 The Base	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00 Watoto wetu
	13:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu	6:00 HABARI	10:30 Igizo rpt: Utelezi
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	18:30 Kesho Leo	00:30 CNN International	10:55 Habari za saa	
	19:00 Afya ya Jamii		11:00 Igizo rpt: Utelezi	
	19:30 Isidingo	<b>WEDNESDAY 30 Oct</b>	11:15 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Mwanza Marathon	
	20:00 Habari	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	11:55 Habari za saa	
	21:05 Dakika 45	6:00 HABARI	12:00 Al Jazeera	
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## WORLD

## EU likely to shelve Brexit delay as Britain squabbles over poll

LONDON

THE European Union looked set yesterday to delay a decision on Britain's request for a Brexit extension to give time for Britain's parliament to decide on Prime Minister Boris Johnson's call for an election.

"I'd be surprised if we land today," said an EU official before ambassadors to the 27 other EU member states went into a meeting to discuss postponing Britain's departure from the bloc, less than a week before the current deadline of Oct. 31.

Separately, a senior EU official said the 27 may agree in principle to a delay but set no new date until after parliament's vote on Monday on whether to have a snap election on Dec 12.

Johnson admitted that he would not meet his "do or die" deadline to leave the EU on Oct 31 and demanded on Dec 12 election to end what he cast as the "nightmare" of the Brexit crisis.

EU envoys to Brussels were due to discuss the length of another delay to

Brexit at a meeting on Friday, though officials said they would be reluctant to set a date because it could dictate the direction of political events in London.

According to a draft decision by the 27 EU countries staying on together after Brexit, which was seen by Reuters on Thursday evening, the delay would be granted by the bloc "with the view to allowing for the finalisation of the ratification" of the divorce agreement sealed with Johnson last week.

The draft text left the new Brexit date blank, but it was said in the text that the split could take place earlier if ratification is completed earlier - an idea known as "flexextension", an amalgamation of the words "flexible" and "extension".

An EU official explained: "It's basically between a three-month flexextension or a two-tier one."

Under the first idea, Britain would leave on Jan 31, 2020, three months after the current departure date due on Oct 31. The second one would include a second specific date when Britain could leave.



Flags of Anti Brexit protestors fly in front of parliament in London, on Wednesday. AP

Johnson won the leadership of the ruling Conservative party to become prime minister in a minority government by staking his career on getting Brexit done by Oct 31, but after parliament rejected his proposed legislative timetable on Tuesday he will fail to do that.

Brexit was initially supposed to have taken place on March 29 but Johnson's predecessor Theresa May was forced to delay twice - first to April 12 and then to Oct 31 - as parliament defeated her Brexit deal by margins of between 58 and 230 votes earlier this year.

Johnson said in a letter to opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn he would give parliament more time to approve his Brexit deal by Nov 6 but lawmakers must on Monday back a December election, Johnson's third attempt to try to force a snap vote.

"Prolonging this paralysis into 2020 would have

dangerous consequences," he said. "If I win a majority in this election, we will then ratify the great new deal that I have negotiated, get Brexit done in January and the country will move on."

Corbyn said he would wait to see what the EU decides on a Brexit delay before deciding which way to vote on Monday, repeating that he could only back an election when the risk of Johnson taking Britain out of the EU without a deal to smooth the transition was off the table.

British Finance Minister Sajid Javid said on Friday that Britain's governing Conservatives will ask parliament again and again to back an early general election if lawmakers fail to support a snap poll in a vote on Monday.

"If Labour does not support that vote, then we will continue to ask for a general election and bring a vote again and bring a vote again," he told LBC radio.

Agencies

## Experts, policymakers call for redefining Africa's digital age narrative

ADDIS ABABA

AFRICAN experts and policymakers on Thursday called on African countries and pan African institutions to redefine Africa's narrative in the digital age in line with the continent's major development aspirations.

They made the call during an ongoing African Union (AU) Specialized Committee meeting on communication and information technology that ended on Thursday, as they called on all AU member countries and the AU to establish a continental cyber-security guard.

They also called for building consensus on integrated connectivity roadmap and elaborate efficient communication strategies to

bring the African Union closer to the African people.

Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society at the AU's Department of Information and Energy, who emphasized the vital need "to redefine the narrative of our mother continent in this digital age where information and different kind of content can be produced and distributed to a worldwide audience in real-time."

Yedaly (pictured) also emphasized that "African experts on Communication and ICT should put hands on deck to work together and take advantage of the existing traditional and digital communication tools and channels to engage with our people in Africa, in the Diaspora and throughout the world."

According to Yedaly, the AU



"needs its audiences to understand and appreciate the developments happening on the continent as well as the good and inspiring progress taking place in many countries" under the AU's 50-year continental development Agenda 2063.

"It is unfortunate that some of our leaders and a big number of our people still feel that this technological and network disruption is a distant concern for our endeavors or irrelevant for our industry," he said, adding that it is our duty as experts to create our smart or digital leaders.

Noting that the driving force behind this accelerating change is the digital and collaborative economy, which marks a major shift from firm-based to network-based business models, Yedaly also stressed that today's leading organizations in the world are network-centric and are creating remarkable economic returns by capitalizing on network advantages.

Amr Farouk Safiwat, Manager of

African Organizations under the Egyptian Ministry of ICT,

highlighted some of the existing major challenges facing the sector of communication and ICT.

"To face these huge challenges, it is important to create a conducive environment and reinforce the capacity of member states to overcome these problems," Safiwat said. He also noted that "many African nations are still lagging behind when it comes to the use of Internet due to poor infrastructure among others."

Abiot Sinamo, ICT Director General at the Ethiopian Ministry of Innovation and Technology, also emphasized the need to promote the implementation of previously adopted continental decisions and declarations.

Xinhua

## China's agriculture expands steadily

BEIJING

CHINA'S agricultural sector expanded steadily during the first three quarters of the year, with a stable increase in farmers' incomes, an official said yesterday.

The added value of the country's primary industry hit 4.3 trillion yuan (about 614.3 billion U.S. dollars) during the period, up 2.9 percent year on year, Wei Baigang, an official with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, told a press conference.

Disposable incomes of farmers jumped 6.4 percent year on year to 11,622 yuan. The growth rate was down from a 6.6-percent increase seen in the first half.

Retail sales in rural areas gained 9 percent to 4.315 trillion yuan, contributing 16 percent to the country's consumption growth.

Given downward economic pressures and other factors, it's getting difficult to bring about a continuous increase in farmers' incomes, Wei said.

The ministry will adopt a slew of measures in the near future to sustain farmers' income growth, including offering more job opportunities and increasing investment in rural and agricultural infrastructure.

STABLE GRAIN OUTPUT

China's grain output is expected to reach over 650 billion kg for a fifth straight year in 2019, sustaining 16 consecutive years of a bumper harvest.

The country has intensified its efforts to expand soybean production to ensure stable supplies and reduce reliance on imports.

To this end, the central government provided over 17 billion yuan in subsidies for soybean growers in northeastern regions this year, up nearly 4 billion yuan from last year.

Soybean acreage is expected to exceed 8.67 million hectares this year, up 666,667 hectares from a year earlier.

PIG PRODUCTION RECOVERS

Pig production is likely to rebound by year-end and recover to normal levels next year, as pig herds are increasing month on month in many provinces, Wei said, adding that the output and sales of hog feed also picked up in September.

The output of poultry, beef and mutton all rose during the nine-month period, reaching 15.39 million tonnes, 4.58 million tonnes and 3.3 million tonnes, respectively, he said.

In the midst of an outbreak of African swine fever, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed that the country's pork prices shot up nearly 70 percent year on year last month, driving overall consumer prices up 3 percent. China is currently the world's largest consumer of pork.

Xinhua

## Egypt, Ethiopia agree to resume talks over Nile dam issue

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed have agreed to immediately resume the work of the technical committee of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the Egyptian presidency's office said on Thursday.

"The committee aims to reach a final vision of the rules for filling and operating the dam," said Bassam Rady, spokesman of the presidency, in a statement. The remarks came in a meeting between the two leaders at the sidelines of the Russia-Africa Summit held in the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi.

The committee will seek to overcome any negative repercussions from the reported statements attributed to the Ethiopian side, Rady said.

The Ethiopian prime minister expressed appreciation for the Egyptian leadership, government and people, saying his recent remarks on the GERD, which fuelled tensions between the two states, were "quoted out of context."

On Tuesday, Egypt expressed "great shock and deep concern" in response to Ahmed's alleged remarks on the dam talks, as he warned that his country could prepare millions of people in case a war broke out over the dam. Ahmed said that his controversial statements "have in fact expressed Ethiopia's commitment to the construction of the Renaissance Dam without causing harm to Egypt and Sudan."

The Ethiopian leader noted that his government and people have "no intention to harm the interests of the Egyptian people," affirming that the stability of the two countries is an added value for the whole African continent.

During the meeting, al-Sisi said while Egypt has always shown openness and understanding of the developmental interests of Ethiopia by building the GERD, it sticks to its historical rights in the Nile water share.

Xinhua

## Yemeni officials say government, separatists reach initial deal

CAIRO

YEMEN'S internationally-recognized government and southern separatists have reached an initial agreement to end their infighting in the country's south, Yemeni officials said yesterday.

The two - forces loyal to President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and separatists known as the Southern Transitional Council - are ostensible allies in the Saudi-led coalition's war against Yemen's Shi'ite Houthi rebels.

The Houthis in 2014 overran major parts of northern Yemen, including the capital, Sanaa, pushing out Yemen's internationally recog-

nized government and ushering in the civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people. Hadi later fled first to the southern port city of Aden and then to Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi-led coalition intervened in the conflict in 2015 and has since waged war against the Houthis in an effort to restore Hadi's government to power. The fighting in the Arab world's poorest country has also left millions suffering from food and medical care shortages and pushed the country to the brink of famine.

In August, heavy infighting broke out between Hadi's forces and the southern separatists, backed by the United Arab Emirates, a partner in



the Saudi-led coalition. The separatists overran Aden, the temporary seat of Hadi's government and key southern provinces.

That infighting has raised fears of further weakening of the anti-Houthi bloc and undermining chances for finding a negotiated solution to the civil war.

According to two Yemeni officials, the tentative deal between

the separatists and the government envisages the formation of a new Cabinet with equal representation of northern and southern politicians, excluding the Houthis.

The two officials told The Associated Press that the agreement also allows for Hadi's return to Aden.

The separatists have agreed to disband their militias, which would be integrated in Hadi's police force, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters.

The agreement further dictates that both sides pull out their forces from Aden, leaving only a unit of Hadi's presidential guard there, they said.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia on the tentative deal. Earlier this week, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir told France's Libération newspaper the kingdom was close to a negotiated deal between Hadi and the separatists.

The pan-Arab Saudi-funded daily al-Sharq al-Awsat on Friday published some of the details of the tentative agreement on its front page, quoting a senior Saudi official. The Saudis have been mediating talks between Hadi's side and the separatists, hoping to stabilize southern Yemen and prevent further cracks in its anti-Houthi coalition.

Agencies

## Japan trade minister quits amid election law violation scandal

TOKYO

JAPAN'S trade minister resigned yesterday a month into his job in a scandal over condolence money, expensive melons and other gifts allegedly offered to election supporters.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was quick to remove a potential damage to his Cabinet. He accepted Isshu Sugawara's offer to resign and replaced him with Hiroshi Kajiyama, formerly the minister in charge of local revitalization and regulatory reform.

Sugawara (pictured) was the minister of trade, economy and industry.

"I bear responsibility for his appointment and I apologize to the people for causing a situation like this," Abe told reporters. But he said he had to

move on because "not even a second of standstill or delay is allowed" in the important policy area.

Sugawara, 57, tendered his resignation just before he was to face questions from opposition lawmakers about the vote buying allegations later Friday, a day after more tabloid reports about his scandal came out.

Sugawara said he did not want to hold up important discussions in Parliament. The scheduled committee meeting Friday was canceled.

His resignation comes just weeks after Abe added him to the Cabinet in a reshuffling prompted by the July election, in which his ruling coalition secured a comfortable majority.

Sugawara has been grilled in Parliament recently after a magazine report-



ed earlier that he had paid condolence money and sent expensive melons, crab and other gifts to his election district supporters in 2006-2007. Such payments are considered donations that are against Japanese elections law.

Another magazine article Thursday provided more details of alleged giveaways in his election district of Nerima in Tokyo, which apparently triggered his decision to offer his resignation.

Opposition lawmakers said they will not let him off the hook without explanation.

"He had to step down because he cannot provide a clear explanation. Now he is even more suspect," said Tetsuro Fukuyama, secretary general of the opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. Another opposition lawmaker, Yuichiro Tamaki, head of the Democratic Party of the People, also demanded Sugawara's accountability.

"It's about his alleged violation of the law. He cannot just get away with quit-

ting the Cabinet," Tamaki said.

Sugawara denied paying cash to voters but has flip-flopped on other details when asked about the gifts delivered to his supporters in the Nerima district.

The "Weekly Bunshun" magazine said in an article Thursday that one of his aides attended a funeral of a supporters' family last week, with a photo showing the man purportedly leaving condolence money at the reception desk. Sugawara routinely had his aides deliver condolence money whenever there is a funeral for supporters' relatives, according to the magazine, quoting an unidentified supporter.

Sugawara said he regretted he had to step down in the middle of his term and leave work unfinished. He acknowledged the condolence money

was presented to supporters by his aide, and that he will fully investigate and clarify the situation.

Abe took office in December 2012 and is set to be the longest serving prime minister in Japanese postwar history next month. He has managed to shake off various scandals, partly because of an opposition that is divided and unpopular.

Sugawara's gift-giving scandal also comes at a time his ministry's oversight was in question over a separate money-for-favors scandal at the power utility Kansai Electric Power Co., whose chairman resigned recently after acknowledging that 20 of the company executives accepted cash and lavish gifts from a former official of a town hosting the utility's nuclear plant.

Agencies



# Shanxi to push sustainable development through energy reform

**N**ORTH China's Shanxi province has launched a set of revolutionary, exemplary and landmark measures to improve its energy sector, an official said at the 2019 Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum held in Taiyuan, capital of the province from Oct. 22 to 24.

These measures aim to build Shanxi into a green coal development and utilization base, an unconventional gas base, a power delivery base, a modern coal chemical industry demonstration base, and a coal-based scientific and technological innovation base, said Luo Huining, Secretary of the Shanxi Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Themed "Energy Revolution, International Cooperation", the forum attracted 830 guests and energy experts from 204 delegations at home and abroad.

Shanxi strives to build the forum into an influential and authoritative energy platform for conducting high-level dialogues, launching scientific and technological achievements and contributing to international cooperation in the energy sector.

At the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Summit held at the UN headquarters in New York, energy was recognized as one of the specific solutions that link up and have impact across all 17 SDGs, said Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, in his speech at the forum.

The summit regarded energy decarbonization with universal access as one of the 6 entry points to accelerate achievement across many SDGs and targets, Liu added.

As an important and comprehensive energy base and industrial base in China, Shanxi has



Themed "Energy Revolution, International Cooperation", the 2019 Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum attracted 830 guests and energy experts from 204 delegations at home and abroad.

committed to cutting excess capacity, developing competitive capacity and following green, efficient and low-carbon development of the coal industry. The proportion of competitive capacity has reached 68 percent from 36 percent in 2016.

In the first half of 2019, the installed new energy capacity in Shanxi was over 30 percent of the province's total installed

electricity capacity. The output of coal seam gas exceeded 90 percent of the country's total.

The installed renewable power capacity accounted for over 30 percent of the energy power capacity of the province as a whole, and photovoltaic generation capacity under the Chinese Photovoltaic Top Runner Program ranked first in the country. Focusing on improving energy

efficiency, Shanxi Coking Coal Group, China's largest coking coal company, has established the country's first 10 million-ton large-scale coking coal storage and distribution base alongside the Rizhao port in east China's Shandong province to better allocate domestic and international coking coal resources.

The company has also conducted project cooperation with Georgia, Russia and other countries along the Belt and Road.

Located in the revolutionary base areas in southeast Shanxi, Lucheng Economic and Technological Development Zone is the first of its kind in the province where private enterprises play a leading role. Recently, the market-based development zone embraced a project about the drawing of 100,000-ton new material, namely nylon-6 fibers.

From coal to coke and then to caprolactam, the industrial

chain has been extended from raw materials to fuel and new materials, greatly increasing the output value from the hundred-yuan level to thousand-yuan level, said Han Chang'an, president of Lubao Coking Group, a leading private company in Shanxi.

Assuming the principal responsibility for energy reform, the CPC Shanxi Provincial Committee and the provincial government have straightened out the relationship between the government and the market and improved business environment, thus boosting the enthusiasm for reform and development in the province, Han added.

China enjoys a really huge hydrogen energy market, said a staff at the exhibition stand of Air Liquide Group, a French industrial gas producer, in the Energy Revolution Exhibition of

the forum.

According to reliable sources, Shanxi Provincial Guoxin Energy Development Group has cooperated with Air Liquide Group to develop hydrogen energy and biomass energy, while Lu'an Group based in Changzhi, southeast of Shanxi, and Air Products, a world-leading industrial gases company in the United States, have conducted cooperation in clean use of sulphur coal.

Shanxi is rich in coal-to-hydrogen resources and is very likely to become a demonstration area for China to promote a low carbon and hydrogen economy by improving existing technologies for recycling carbon dioxide and effectively using renewable energy, said Tohmei Takekawa, president of Japan's Global Consortium for Energy and Environment and CEO of CMI Corporation. **TELC**

## Shanxi shoulders responsibility and leads energy reform

LOW-carbon energy development concerns the future of humanity, Chinese President Xi Jinping said in a congratulatory letter to the Taiyuan Energy Low Carbon Development Forum, which opened on Tuesday in Taiyuan of north China's Shanxi province, a traditional energy production center in China.

The country attaches great importance to low-carbon energy development and actively promotes energy consumption, supply, technology and institutional transformation, Xi said.

The country is ready to work with the international community to strengthen energy cooperation in all aspects, safeguard energy security, address climate change, protect the ecology and environment, promote sustainable development and bring more benefits to people around the world, he added.

As a national forum approved by the State Council of China, the Taiyuan forum attracts expertise from around the world. It has already been successfully held for three times, exerting significant impact in the global energy field.

It is developing into an influential energy platform for conducting high-level dialogues, launching scientific and technological achievements and promoting international cooperation in the global energy sector.

Co-hosted by the People's Government of Shanxi Province, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Commerce and National Energy Administration, the event this year features an opening ceremony and summit forum, an exhibition on energy revolution and six sub-forums.

While highlighting the national theme of energy revolution, the forum aims to show the world China's achievements and determination in advancing energy revolution as well as its call for further international cooperation.

The event also serves as a great opportunity for Shanxi to enhance its influence at home and abroad, lead energy rev-



Wind farm of Jinneng Group in North China's Shanxi province.

olution and promote energy transformation and development. It is of great significance for Shanxi to transform from a major coal consumer to a pioneer in energy revolution and embrace high-quality development.

Shanxi places more emphasis on attracting expertise from around the world for this year's forum. It has strengthened the exchanges with the International Energy Agency, foreign provinces or states with friendship relationship, elite universities as well as research institutions.

Meanwhile, it has deepened cooperation with leading energy companies in the world to build demonstration projects on international cooperation.

Shanxi province opens up to welcome all friends at home and abroad and intends to cooperate with international partners in energy transformation and reform.

It hopes the forum will provide a platform of consultation, contribution, and shared benefits for various parties to promote global energy transformation, jointly address the challenge of climate change, reach a consensus on fully implementing the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, and deepen pragmatic cooperation.

To thoroughly implement the spirit of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the important arguments of Xi on energy

reform, the forum will help to practice the country's goals, policies, requirements and strategies on energy, promote energy consumption, supply, technology, institutional revolution and all-round international cooperation. It will also push forward the Shanxi energy revolution comprehensive reform pilot program.

Through the forum, Shanxi will gather global wisdom, bring about new ideas for economic development and fulfill its mission given by the central government to provide valuable experience in energy revolution for the rest of the country.

The reform program in Shanxi is expected to be a pioneering one in exploring ways to

carry out such programs nationwide. It is a comprehensive one that involves various fields and tackles deep-rooted problems in China's economic development.

Taking this forum as an opportunity, Shanxi determines to shoulder its responsibility and resolutely achieve the strategic goals of energy transformation and reform as a good example for the rest of the country or even the world.

**TELC**

## Shanxi makes strides in renewable energy generation

SHANXI province in north China has taken concrete actions to increase power production from renewable energy sources and achieved remarkable results in replacing coal with clean energy.

Solar energy offers a clean source of power. On the ridge bordering Yungang district and Zuoyun county in Datong, solar panels were glinting in the sunlight, and modular prefabricated substations stood among them, delivering clean energy to distant places.

On a mountain near Shahekou in Youyu county, more than 30 wind turbines rotated continuously under the clear blue sky. With 1,680 hours of effective wind speed each year, they could produce 80 million to 100 million kilowatt-hours of electricity.

In recent years, Shanxi has quickened its steps for energy transformation, giving priority to green and diversified development. Aside from coal power generation, the province has increased photovoltaic (PV) and wind power generating capacities.

As a national energy base, Shanxi has vigorously promoted new energy projects and significantly increased installed capacity of wind power and PV power generation.

Over the past three years, the installed capacity of wind power and solar PV power grew by 16.3% and 70.9% re-

spectively, making wind and solar PV power the second and third largest power sources in the province.

The installed capacity of wind power exceeded 10 million kilowatts. The solar PV power generation capacity in Shanxi reached 4 million kilowatts, ranking first in China.

Shanxi has stepped up the development of wind energy resources, actively promoted the construction of low wind speed projects in central and southern part of the province, and pushed ahead the construction of a 7 million-kilowatt wind power base in the north.

The province is striving to integrate at least 14 million kilowatts of wind power capacity into its power system by 2020.

Moreover, the province has promoted the development of pilot clean heating projects. It plans to bring the capacity of wind power heating units to 600,000 kilowatts and expand the areas covered by clean heating to 1.2 million square meters.

In terms of PV power, Shanxi has applied for approval from the National Energy Administration for construction of national solar PV leading technology bases, in an effort to increase its installed PV power generation capacity to 10 million kilowatts by 2020.



Lu'an Group of China's Shanxi province has become one of the world leaders in high-end modern coal chemical technology.

Shanxi has also intensively developed geothermal projects. It has promoted geothermal development projects and technologies, improved geothermal energy development and utilization, and built geothermal heating demonstration zones in Taiyuan, Jinzhong, Xinzhou, Changzhi and Linfen. By 2020, the geothermal heating area in the province will reach 23.6 million square meters.

Additionally, Shanxi has used internet technologies to support the building of a smart system of clean energy. The province adheres to the integrated development of the internet, advanced information technology and energy industry.

It has improved energy internet infrastructure construction, built an intelligent system for energy production and consumption, made the production of renewable energy smarter, and promoted the coordinated development of centralized and distributed energy

storage.

Shanxi has advanced the pilot construction of intelligent energy service parks and improved the consumption capacity of green electricity. It encourages new energy power generation enterprises to trade wind and thermal power as a whole with places in and out of the province as a way to boost new energy consumption capacity.

The province has encouraged private sectors to take part in the power transforma-

tion projects from coal to electricity. It has also enlarged the proportion of green electricity output to other provinces through existing channels.

Thanks to the effective measures, sustainable development of new energy in Shanxi has shown a strong momentum.

Datong coal mining subsidence area PV base is the country's first national solar PV leading technology base with a power generation capacity of one million kilowatts. By the end of June, 2018, the project's power generation had been connected to the grid.

Nowadays, the land and vegetation in the mining subsidence area have been gradually restored, and the environment has been effectively improved. With rows of PV panels shining brightly, the mining subsidence area has become a beautiful landscape in Datong.

Lingqiu county in Datong is home to the largest wind power heating project in China. Put into operation in October 2018, the project has a generation capacity of 400,000 kilowatts.

The project could be used as a source of indoor heating for an area of 200,000 square meters in the short run and 800,000 square meters in the long run, directly benefiting 5,513 residents relocated for poverty alleviation.

**TELC**

## SPORT

## Now with Clippers, Kawhi Leonard spoils Warriors fun again

SAN FRANCISCO

KAWHI Leonard sure knows how to spoil Golden State's fun.

Leonard did it again in the Warriors' first game at Chase Center just like in their farewell at Oracle Arena four months ago, scoring 21 points in three quarters to lead the Los Angeles Clippers to a 141-122 victory Thursday on opening night at Golden State's snazzy new arena.

Reigning NBA Finals MVP Leonard shot 9 for 17 and also dished out nine assists in his second game with L.A. after leading the Toronto Raptors to their first title last season in a six-game finals against the Warriors.

"I thought he started doing it in the second round last year," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "In the first round he was just dominating and then I thought as each round went on he started playmaking more and more, but what he's doing now is on another level."

Stephen Curry scored 23 points but committed eight turnovers and D'Angelo Russell added 20 points in his Golden State debut, but the Warriors got beat up the way they used to do it against the entire NBA – even giving up a 46-point third quarter.

"They hit us with our typical third quarter type of vibe," Curry said.

What a dud for the Dubs as they formally opened new Chase Center in San Francisco after 47 years at Oracle Arena in Oakland.

Patrick Patterson scored 20 points and Ivica Zubac had 16 points, 10 rebounds and two blocked shots for Los Angeles.

In a rematch of the hard-fought first-round playoff series last season won by the Warriors in six games on their way to a fifth

straight finals, the Clippers jumped to a 14-0 lead making 5 of their first 6 shots. Golden State started 0 for 6 and missed four 3s. Russell's jumper at 8:23 gave Golden State its first points and he scored the Warriors' initial seven before Curry hit a 3 at 6:42.

The Warriors got a scare when they briefly lost Draymond Green at the 9:03 mark of the opening quarter after he injured his right elbow on a screen, and it was sore all night because of a nerve issue. Green returned to the court at the start of the second and wound up with 11 points.

Curry, who at 31 is the oldest Warriors player, was 2 of 11 on 3s as new-look Golden State went 15 for 42 from deep. Kevin Durant is long gone and so are several other key veterans part of the recent Warriors championship runs.

"I'm sure the film session tomorrow won't be pretty," Curry said.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr is embracing the move and new arena – he's still figuring his way around the building – but noted "I'll miss everything about Oracle. It's a great place to play."

Some fans left after the third quarter with the home team trailing 111-87.

There will be plenty more lumps along the way for this young group, with Kerr noting, "This is not a one off."

"This is more the reality of the NBA. The last five years we've been living in a world that isn't supposed to exist," Kerr said.

Leonard and Patrick Beverley were booed during pregame introductions for the Clippers, who beat the Lakers 112-102 in their opener Tuesday with Leonard scoring 30 points on 10-for-19 shooting.

AP

## ...Bucks beat Rockets 117-111 in Westbrook's Houston debut

HOUSTON

WHEN Giannis Antetokounmpo fouled out with more than five minutes left after putting up a triple-double against the Houston Rockets, the rest of the Milwaukee Bucks didn't panic.

"These guys in this locker room, we're fighters, we're competitors," Wesley Matthews said. "If Giannis fouls out we can't just come into the locker room."

Antetokounmpo scored 30 points and his supporting cast held on to lead the Bucks to a 117-111 victory over the Rockets on Thursday night in a star-studded opener featuring the last three MVPs.

Antetokounmpo, the MVP last season, also had 13 rebounds and 11 assists. While certainly upset after fouling out, he was impressed with the way his team responded.

"They did an amazing job," he said. "Moving the ball, knocking down shots."

Brook Lopez made two free throws with about a minute left before a layup by Russell Westbrook. But Lopez made a fadeaway shot to leave Milwaukee up 115-109 with 39 seconds remaining. James Harden added a pair of free throws before Ersan Ilyasova made a jump shot with about 15 seconds to go that sent many fans heading to the exits.

Some had wondered what would happen with the pairing of the two ball-dominant guards in Harden and Westbrook after the 2017 MVP was traded from Oklahoma City for Chris Paul this summer. In their first game together with the Rockets both filled up the stat sheet, but they were unable to come away with a win after leading for much of the game.

Westbrook had 24 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists.

Harden, the 2018 MVP, added 19 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds. He was 2 of 13 from the field, 1 of 8 on 3s and made 14 free throws without a miss.

"They're going to be fine," coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It's sad to say, but we're not

going to win 82 games this year. Now we've got a chance to win 81."

The Bucks led by six when Antetokounmpo fouled out. He walked to coach Mike Budenholzer and implored him to challenge the call, but he'd already used his one challenge per game that coaches get this season and couldn't do anything to help his superstar.

Harden echoed his D'Antoni's sentiment and raved about Westbrook.

"Everybody saw it tonight," Harden said. "He's a different type of breed on that court. But it's Game 1, we're not going to get too down, and even if we won, we're not going to get too excited."

Houston scored the next five points, with the last four from Westbrook to cut the lead to 101-100. But Khristian Middleton hit a 3-pointer with 3 1/2 minutes left to stretch Milwaukee's lead.

The Bucks were up by six with about two minutes left before P.J. Tucker knocked a 3 from the corner. But Matthews added a 3-pointer for Milwaukee seconds after that to push the lead to 111-105.

Milwaukee opened the fourth quarter with a 13-3 run to make it 91-90 and take its first lead of the night. Antetokounmpo led the way in stretch, scoring eight points. The Rockets missed several shots and had a turnover before they finally got back on track.

There were about eight minutes left when Harden found Westbrook connected on two straight plays. On the first one Harden dished to Westbrook and he was fouled on a layup to get a 3-point play. The next time down the court Harden sent a bounce pass to Westbrook in the lane and he finished with a two-handed dunk that put Houston up 95-91 and brought a huge ovation from the crowd.

But the Bucks made the next 10 points, led by five from Brook Lopez, who capped the run with a 3-pointer to make it 101-95 with about 5 1/2 minutes left.

AP



National Microfinance Bank (NMB) Nothern Zone Manager, Aikansia Muro (2nd R), hands over sports kits to Arusha's Mbuni Brigade Administration Officer, Tobias Bulongo, in the region yesterday. The equipment will be used by Mbuni Football Club, which is under Mbuni Brigade. Also in the picture is the brigade's Operations Officer, Wilbert Kuzilwa (L), and NMB Bank's Monduli Branch Manager, Rebecca Lobulu. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

## Are Simba becoming too dependent on Kagere?

By Correspondent Michael Mwebi

MEDDIE Kagere continued in his purple patch of form and netted the lone goal that downed AzamFootball Club to hand Simba Sports Club 1-0 victory that extended their lead at the top of the Premier League by two points.

The Uganda-born striker has made himself indispensable to the side since he was signed from GorMahia last year, as his contribution to Simba seems to grow on a weekly basis, in tandem with his brooding confidence.

Kagere shows fight in every game and an infectious will to battle. He is more than just another player in this Simba side. He is the talisman. Chief goal scorer. Poster boy.

On Wednesday he took his tally to seven goals as Simba, popularly known as the Msimbazi Reds, continue their pursuit of a third consecutive league title in a hotly contested match.

His well taken second half goal means he has now scored in all five opening league games for Simba this season. He had a hand in 82% of his side's league goals this season - scoring seven and assisting two - which is more than all other Simba players combined have managed this term.

He has scored equal or more league goals than every club aside from Simba (11), Lipuli (9) and Prisons (8).

He has scored more than twice as many league goals (7) than JKT Tanzania (3), KMC FC (3), Biashara (3) and Singida United (2) so far. He is simply a cut above the rest.



Meddie Kagere

Kagere's importance for Simba becomes especially evident when the striker is not having his best day - just like it happened against UD Songo.

The forward who also features for Rwanda senior national soccer team 'Amavubi' was heavily marked and barely registered a shot on target on both legs.

The two games ended in stalemates as Simba

shockingly bowed out of the CAF Champions League preliminary round on away goals rule.

Whether Kagere can save Simba like this every time is yet to be seen, but the chances of that aren't 100% as he is, after all, a human and can have bad games. Remarkably Kagere has been very lucky to maintain injury free spell for a long time now.

Although we can all hope that he remains injury free and able to perform with at the same high level he has already demonstrated, the realities are that injury is an ever-present part of the game and over-reliance on a single player in a team sport is always dangerous.

Simba will need to find a solution when Kagere is sidelined for either injuries or suspension.

The main reason that Simba is increasingly dependent on Kagere is that the departure of Emmanuel Okwi and the injury to John Bocco.

Last season, Kagere, Okwi and Bocco scored more than a half a century of goals between them. The trio exchanged the league's Player of the Month award on more than five occasions.

With Okwi departure to Egypt's Al Ittihad Alexandria and Bocco injury, the goal scoring burden seems to be on Kagere. Other strikers have not stepped up, forcing Simba to rely on midfielders SharaShiboub and MirajiAthuman for goals when it gets tough.

Simba travel away to Singida United on Sunday and Kagere will almost certainly be the outfit's starting star forward, following his sensational striking form, to ensure his side collect three points.



Al Madras Tus Saifyah Burhaniyah School's pupils attend swimming training at the school's swimming pool located at Burhani center, Upanga in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

## Wenger eyes return, misses 'wet Wednesdays at Stoke'

**TOKYO**  
FORMER Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger is ready to return to football management and resume battle with that stubborn coat zipper, claiming he misses "wet Wednesdays at Stoke".

The Frenchman, who turned 70 earlier this week, ended his 22-year reign at Arsenal at the end of last season after capturing three Premier League titles and seven FA Cups with Gunners.

But during a visit to Tokyo, Wenger told AFP that absence had not diminished his passion for the game and revealed he has had "offers from all over the world" during his hiatus. "I refused until now to come back because we had some family sickness problems," he said in an interview.

"The offers always came in at a moment when I couldn't really do it or didn't want to do it."

Wenger, who coached J-League club Nagoya Grampus before joining Arsenal in 1996, has previously been linked to the Japan national team job.

Asked if he might be tempted in the future, Wenger said: "I can envisage everything -- I loved being in Japan. I don't rule anything out."

Wenger, in Tokyo in an advisory role on plans for a new stadium in the capital, is looking to return to the dugout early next year, though insists he is undecided about his next destination.

He admits, however, that he misses management -- even those freezing, rainy nights in such unglamorous climes as Stoke or Bolton, where

his artisans at times came unstuck against northern grit.

"I liked it personally," he smiled. "Because I come from an area (northeast France) where we had wet Wednesdays as well -- yes, I miss that! "You miss contact with people, being in the same boat -- sharing emotions, sharing winning and losing," added Wenger.

"I'm a guy who can take the pressure quite well, because I did that my whole life, so I miss that."

- 'Different landscape' -  
One position he did appear cool on, however, was the French national side, noting the achievement of Didier Deschamps in winning last year's World Cup in Russia.

"I turned that down a few times," said Wenger, who was recently in-liaison with Lyon.

"I prefer club football. For me it's a bit part-time the national team -- it's 10 games per year. I'm used to 60, so I was never really a big fan of it."

Wenger denied that he has spent his time moping around the house annoying family members.

"No, I'm quite surprised," he said. "I've enjoyed a little bit more time, more freedom -- it was the first time in 35 years that I woke up in morning and didn't have to go somewhere."

Wenger, meanwhile, blamed the intense media scrutiny of modern-day football and trigger-happy owners for making the job increasingly precarious. "There's some things I don't miss," he shrugged. "The scrutiny and the definite conclusions after every game are much worse than before," added the Frenchman.

AFP

## Messi or Ronaldo? Barcelona star a 'once-in-a-lifetime player', says Giggs

**LONDON**  
RYAN Giggs described Lionel Messi as a "once in a lifetime player" after being asked for his verdict on the eternal debate over who is better between the Barcelona forward and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The superstar duo dominated the Ballon d'Or voting for more than a decade, winning it five times apiece before Luka Modric broke their stranglehold in 2018.

Messi has spent his entire senior career with Barcelona while Ronaldo has starred for Manchester United, Real Madrid and now Juventus.

Giggs played alongside Ronaldo at Old Trafford and said he will always back his former team-mate but could not hide away from the fact a player of Messi's quality is a one-off.

"Obviously I lean towards Ronaldo a little bit because I played with him and saw him develop as a player," he told DAZN. "But Messi is a genius, a once-in-a-lifetime player."

It's as simple as that."

Giggs is now in charge of the Wales senior side, where he coaches Ronaldo's ex-team mate Gareth Bale, who is in his seventh season at Madrid.

Bale came close to leaving the Santiago Bernabeu in the last transfer window, but a move to China collapsed and he has been used seven times in all competitions this season.

Giggs found Bale's situation in the Spanish capital unusual given what he has achieved at the club.

"It's strange. From the outside, it looks strange," he said. "For the quality he possesses and what he's won there: four Champions Leagues."

"I'm his coach for Wales, he's recently been my captain, and is a good professional. He's a player that can turn a game on its head like he did against Liverpool for Madrid."

(Agencies)

## Man United urged to 'break the bank' for Kylian Mbappe

**LONDON**  
MANCHESTER United should "break the bank" for Kylian Mbappe, according to Louis Saha, although the former Red Devils forward acknowledges Paris Saint-Germain's sensational youngster is likely already out of the club's reach.

United allowed both Romelu Lukaku and Alexis Sanchez to join Inter - on permanent and loan deals respectively - in the latest transfer window, leaving Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's only senior striking options.

Rashford has been in patchy form, scoring four goals from nine league appearances, while Martial has missed the majority of the campaign so far due to injury, with teenager Mason Greenwood called on at times to lead United's line.

Though Martial is now back to fitness, United's issues up front have been a source of debate, with the club's former captain Roy Keane suggesting Tottenham's Harry Kane should be a priority target.

Saha says PSG and France star Mbappe is a player United should be looking to purchase, but he knows they may have already missed their chance.

"If you ask me, I would break the bank for Mbappe, but now it's too late," Saha told Compare.Bet.

"But, when you look at strikers, it's a dying breed. [Robert] Lewandowski is a rare example of someone who is left, and I don't see many players that can easily fit up front."

"I had views on some strikers like [Atalanta's] Duvan Zapata who I think is a decent player, very strong."

"There is a need for somebody up front who is strong enough to hold the ball and to give time and space to the players like Paul Pogba and [Scott] McTominay to create something in midfield to put passes together."

Saha also believes the style of play employed by Solskjaer has often been "too nice" for United's own good.

"You're asking a lot from young players because passing the ball around and having nice touches, it just looks too nice and it doesn't work," Saha added.

"This football is really down to possession, but hard on young players especially when they don't have confidence."

"You need a couple of big strong characters to talk to people, to do the dirty jobs, winning duels, and to help the fans react. I think that's what we want to see."

"When we lose we have that challenge that nobody likes. Passing is nice but you don't hurt anybody."

(Agencies)

# Nicolas Pepe rescues Arsenal as United eke out rare away win

**PARIS**  
NICOLAS Pepe came off the bench to rescue Arsenal at home against Vitoria Guimaraes with two late free kicks in the Europa League on Thursday.

Arsenal came from behind to win 3-2 and stay perfect in Group F.

They are one of only two teams on nine points from three games, along with Sevilla, who beat Dudelange of Luxembourg 3-0 in Group A.

Manchester United are one of the teams on seven points and need just one more win to ensure they qualify from Group L after eking out a 1-0 win against Partizan on an emotional day in Belgrade.

Celtic came from a goal down to beat Lazio 2-1 in Glasgow and remain top of Group E. PSV Eindhoven were held 0-0 at home by Linz but still lead Group D.

Rangers drew 1-1 in Porto in Group G while Wolves beat Slovan 2-1 in Bratislava in Group K and both are in contention.

At the Emirates, Arsenal made 10 changes from the team that lost at Sheffield United on Monday in the Premier League. For much of the match, they looked even worse.

Arsenal dominated possession but were outshot 14-11.

They made the worst possible start, falling behind after nine minutes to a goal by a former Tottenham player.

In the ninth minute, Marcus Edwards, once compared by Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino to a young Lionel Messi, fired a shot under Emiliano Martinez.

Brazilian teenager Gabriel Martinelli replied with a header but Vitoria regained the lead before half time with a goal from Bruno Duarte.

With Arsenal's young strikers struggling, Pepe, who had not yet scored a goal from open play for the Gunners, came on in the 64th minute.

After 80 minutes he curled a free kick inside the far post. He repeated the trick three minutes into added time to secure the victory.

"It's important for Pepe," said Arsenal manager Unai Emery of his big summer signing. "He can gain confidence from tonight. When he scores it's good for him and the team."

In Belgrade, Manchester United held a



Arsenal's Nicolas Pepe fires home a wonderful freekick. (Agencies)

emony to remember the 'Busby Babes', and then won away for the first time since March Anthony Martial scored the only goal with a penalty kick after 43 minutes, but the hosts had eight strikes on target to just three by United.

The game marked the return to the ground where Matt Busby's famous team of youngsters played their last game, a European Cup quarter-final against Red Star in February 1958.

Their plane crashed in Munich on the way home and seven United players were among the 23 who died.

United had only played in Belgrade once since then, when they lost a European Cup semi-final to Partizan in 1966.

- 'Hostile environment' -  
On Thursday afternoon, United held a

commemoration ceremony where former players Bryan Robson and Mickey Thomas laid a wreath on the pitch at the Partizan Stadium and vice-chairman Ed Woodward gave a speech.

"As soon as the draw happened, our attention turned to wanting to remember those who lost their lives in 1958," he said.

"This was the last place, on this very ground, against Red Star Belgrade, when they played as a team together."

For the match, United made eight changes from the team that drew at home with Liverpool on Sunday. Teenagers Brandon Williams and James Garner came into the team.

In the 43rd minute, Williams burst into the Partizan box and drew wild tackles from two home defenders. Martial rolled the penalty into the corner of the goal.

"We expected a hostile environment but we got the win," said United defender Phil Jones. "I thought Garner and Williams were outstanding."

In a game in Bratislava, played in an unusual atmosphere after Slovan side-stepped a stadium ban for racism by giving 21,000 tickets to children, Wolves fought back from a goal down to win 2-1.

Andraz Sporar gave the home team an 11th minute lead.

Romain Saiss levelled in the 58th minute with a low shot that bobbed through goalie Dominik Greif's legs.

Six minutes later, Vernon DeMarco gave Raul Jimenez a shove in front of goal and the Wolves striker scored the winner from the resulting penalty.

AFP

# Man City look to Spurs to slow Liverpool Premier League charge

**LONDON**  
MANCHESTER City have the chance to exert some short-term pressure on runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool this weekend as Manchester United look to end their away day blues.

Jurgen Klopp's side saw their long winning streak ended by a hungry United in a draw at Old Trafford last week but still have a comfortable six-point lead over second-placed City.

Guardiola's defending champions can cut that gap to just three points, at least temporarily, if they beat Aston Villa at home on Saturday, while Liverpool have a trickier-looking tie against Spurs the following day.

Frank Lampard's young Chelsea side travel to Burnley on the back of a six-match winning run in all competitions while third-placed Leicester visit Southampton on Friday.

Manchester United will be desperate to put more distance between themselves and the relegation zone but travel to Norwich without an away win in the Premier League since February.

AFP Sport picks out some of the talking points ahead of the weekend's matches.

### Fortress Anfield

Liverpool go into their home match against Tottenham after falling one game short of matching Manchester City's record 18-match winning run in the Premier League.

The European champions, on a 44-match unbeaten run at home in the league, have forgotten how to lose at Anfield but will be facing a Spurs team buoyed by a 5-0 victory at home to Red Star Belgrade in midweek.

Erik Lamela, who scored against Red Star on his 200th appearance for Spurs, said the size of the victory had given the struggling team an injection of confidence.

"Our confidence is better after winning the game 5-0," said the Argentine. "We need to take this game, keep going, try to get better and better and now focus on Liverpool."

Spurs are seeking revenge for defeat in last season's Champions League final, but the odds are stacked against them.

Tottenham have won just once in 15 matches against Liverpool and have not won away in the Premier League since January.

**Sterling soars**  
Pep Guardiola urged his team to be more clinical after their 2-0 victory last week against Crystal Palace and his team responded by thumping Atalanta 5-1 in the Champions League.

Despite Guardiola's exhortations, City have not been shy in front of goal this season, hitting 29 in just nine Premier League matches.

Their top-scorer in all competitions is Raheem Sterling, whose hat-trick in midweek led to gushing praise from his boss, who called him an "extraordinary player".

Sterling has 16 goals already this season

for club and country -- already more than half of his tally of 31 during the previous campaign.

Despite his comments about his attackers, Guardiola's more pressing concern will be sorting out his defence, which has looked vulnerable this season in the absence of Aymeric Laporte.

Rodri's hamstring injury against Atalanta has restricted the manager's defensive options even further but John Stones will be hoping to put a frustrating spell behind him and re-establish himself in the starting XI.

### United's away-day woes

Manchester United came within minutes of beating Liverpool at Old Trafford last week but Sunday's visit to Norwich will likely be a truer test of the team's current form.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side, just two points above the relegation zone, have not won away in the league since the Nor-

wegian was appointed as the permanent boss.

The match at Carrow Road will be the second of four successive away games in all competitions.

United did at least secure their first win on the road since March at Partizan Belgrade in the Europa League on Thursday.

"It's an issue that we have to deal with and sort out as soon as possible," said Solskjaer on his side's away form.

Fixtures (1500 GMT unless stated)

### Today

Manchester City v Aston Villa (1130), Brighton v Everton, Watford v Bournemouth, West Ham v Sheffield United, Burnley v Chelsea (1630)

### Tomorrow

Newcastle v Wolves (1400), Arsenal v Crystal Palace, Liverpool v Tottenham, Norwich v Manchester United (all 1630)

Gwiji by David Chikoko



# SPORT

## Are Simba becoming too dependent on Kagere?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18

## Minister to grace Bagamoyo Festival

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

DEPUTY Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza, is today expected to be the guest of honour at the closing of the 38th edition of Bagamoyo Festival in Coast Region.

The one-week event which involved arts and cultural performances is organized and taking place at Bagamoyo Arts and Cultural Institute (TaSuba) premises in Bagamoyo.

It brought together artistes from different countries, Kenya, United States of America, Finland, Botswana, South Korea, Zimbabwe, Mayotte, Uganda and Zambia.

Information from Thomas Nyindo, who serves as Communications Manager of TaSuba, said during the week there were various activities which include arts and cultural displays, stage performances, films and arts discussions.

"We always organize performances, this

is the 38th year we are organizing this festival, we have artistes from different parts of the world and other local artistes," he disclosed.

"We expect the Deputy Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Juliana Shonza, to grace the closing of the event," said part of the information from Nyindo.

Nyingo pointed out this year's festival theme is 'Arts and Culture, my employment'.

He further said TaSuba organizes the event with the aim of promoting and preserving Tanzania's cultural and arts activities.

He disclosed the festival as well gives local artistes opportunity to maintain their traditions and learn from foreign artistes.

The week also gave the locals and foreigners opportunity to visit Bagamoyo historical site and enjoy traditional food of the people of the area.



Artistes perform during a past Bagamoyo Festival which took place in Coast Region.

## Italian Gaudenzi to take over as ATP chairman in January

LONDON

Former player Andrea Gaudenzi has been appointed as the new ATP chairman on a four-year term that will begin in January, the governing body of men's tennis said.

The 46-year-old Italian, who won three titles on the tour and reached a career-high world ranking of 18 in 1995, will take over from Chris Kermode who will leave his position as ATP executive chairman and president at the end of the year.

"The ATP has played a central part in my life in so many ways and to be given this opportunity to serve as chairman is a true honour," Gaudenzi told the ATP website here

"I look forward to overseeing the future direction of the tour and building on the sport's global success and popularity at what is unquestionably one of the most exciting times in the history of men's professional tennis."

Gaudenzi, the unanimous pick of the ATP board of directors, had most recently served on the board of ATP Media and helped restructure the broadcast arm of the tour.

ATP Player Council president Novak Djokovic welcomed the move to appoint Gaudenzi, who has experience in sectors like sports marketing, entertainment, data and technology having pursued a career in business after his playing days.

"As a former player, he has walked in our shoes, and has also become a successful entrepreneur following his playing career," the world number one said.

"He has all the qualities to lead the tour and we

look forward to working together for the benefit of the players and the sport more generally."

Kermode, whose contract was set to expire at the end of the season, said in March he would leave his roles, ending a tenure that brought record prize money but also complaints from lower-ranked players about pay and travel schedules.

REUTERS



Mwynyi Zahera

## Zahera: We are ready for Pyramids FC

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) head coach, Mwynyi Zahera, is feeling optimistic ahead of tomorrow's showdown against North African opponents Pyramids FC at the CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Back-to-back wins against Coastal Union and Mbao FC in the Vodacom Premier League on Tuesday has added to the positive mood around the club.

However Yanga will face a much more significant test when they host Pyramids FC from Egypt in a CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage play offs' first leg tie.

Zahera said they are well aware of the pedigree of their opponents, but were, however, equally prepared.

He insisted despite the respect they have for the Egypt club, his team are ready for the challenge.

"We are playing against a big team with a squad full of big players, but we are also ready, and in any case, we are going to give our all to

match them," he disclosed.

In four continental matches, Yanga have managed to score just four goals, a fact that worries fans and supporters of the club who know to overcome Pyramids FC, they need a comprehensive victory.

However, Zahera believes his side are creating enough chances but poor execution is their main problem.

"We create so many chances and we don't take them. It's the quality in our decision-making and sometimes in the execution, my players sometimes over hit balls instead of directing it into the net," he disclosed.

"Sometimes it is just lack of luck. When Sibomana failed to head home against Zesco United it was not because he can't, he could've scored but it's just one of those days. We're working every single day in training."

Yanga find themselves in the secondary CAF club competition after losing to Zesco United 3-2 on aggregate in the first round of the CAF Champions League to miss out on

the lucrative group stages.

Winners on aggregate over two legs will qualify for the Group Stage of the CAF Confederation Cup while the losers will bow out of the competition for this year's edition.

To qualify for the CAF Confederation Cup Group Stage for the third time, Yanga will have to improve on their poor history against North African opponents.

Since 1982 when they first came up against North African opponents, Yanga are yet to progress past their now familiar opponents.

There is also the concerning matter of Yanga posting draw in all three continental matches they have played at CCM Kirumba. In 2001, they settled to a 3-3 draw against South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns.

In 2007, they drew 0-0 with Esperance of Tunisia and Sudan's Al Merrekh, failing to advance to the next round in all three occasions.

## ... Sadney, Kalengo set to miss Pyramids FC clash

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

YOUNG Africans (Yanga) players, Namibian Sadney Urikhub and Zambian Maybin Kalengo, are set to miss out on tomorrow's CAF Confederation Cup's clash with Egypt's Pyramids FC in the playoff for qualification for the competition's group stage, to be held at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza.

Yanga head coach, Mwynyi Zahera, noted the two forwards sustained injury recently.

The squad's other striker, David Moringa, will as well miss the clash because his ITC has not been cleared.

The muscular forward has yet to turn out for his club in continental assignments.

Zahera pointed out the rest of his players are ready for the showdown.

The Congolese tactician said his charges are working hard in training with the morale very high and they are expecting good results against the visitors.

He asked football lovers in the country to come in big number to cheer the home side.

The return leg will be played in Egypt on November 3. The aggregate winners will qualify for CAF Confederation Cup group stage and Zahera said his charges are ready to reach that stage.

The coach admitted that it will be a tall order beating the Egyptians but said his players are technically and psychologically ready to execute the job.

"I have prepared my players well, I have told

them that the visitors are favorites on paper, but football is played on the pitch with each team featuring 11 players," he noted.

"I have assured them that they are capable of beating any team, I'm only asking all football lovers in the country to come and cheer our team."

In the previous local and international matches, Yanga have failed to score more than three goals in a game.

Zahera, though, said he has rectified the problem and he is sure that his strikers will score goals in tomorrow's game.

"We have had the problem of failing to score many goals, but in the past days I have worked on that problem and I'm confident of winning the game at home," he said.

Yanga on Sunday can depend on such experienced players like skipper Papy Tshishimbi, Kelvin Yondani and Mrisho Ngassa, and competent foreign professional, Juma Balinya.

The home team also has gifted young players including ho are very good like Ally Ahmed, Mapinduzi Balama and Abdulaziz Makame.

Meanwhile, Yanga information officer Hassan Bumbuli disclosed that Pyramids FC arrived in Dar es Salaam on Thursday night using a private charter.

He also disclosed that they started selling tickets for the match on Friday in some selected centers.

In eight previous encounters against

Egyptian clubs, Yanga have never emerged aggregate winners.

The home side have lost five times to Egyptian giants Al Ahly, twice to the latter's Cairo rivals, Zamalek, and once to Ismaily.

The recent defeat which Yanga experienced in a clash with an Egyptian side was in the 2016 CAF Champions League, when Ahly scored a 96th minute goal to win 2-1 on the night and advance on with a 3-2 aggregate victory.

The Sunday game will not be easy to the hosts as Pyramids FC, coached by Frenchman Sebastian Desabre, have come with good players who can dictate results of the match any time.

The Egyptians have some good players who include Ghanaian forward John Antwi who had spells with Ismaily, Al Ahly and Masr Makassa, and Ugandan Abdul Lumala who was one of Desabre's key players with the Cranes in their AFCOM tournament spell.

Desabre, who has a good experience of East African football having coached Uganda senior national team, recently told CAF online that he signed for Pyramids because he knows well that the Egypt outfit can do well in CAF games.

"I signed for Pyramids because I know well what they can do. I had a previous experience with Egyptian football (with Ismaily) and now I'm looking forward for more, especially in the CAF Confederation Cup", he is reported to have said.

## Flexibles by David Chikoko

