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TANZANIA

THE LAND OF ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES
AND
HOME OF HOSPITALITY



Tanzania Trade Centre
3 Stratford Place
London W1C 1AS
Tel: +44 (0) 207 7588070
Email: info@tanzatrade.co.uk





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Publisher

Deo. Kamuhanda

Email: dkamuhanda@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 0784 083 0746

Associate Publisher-North America

J. Bailey Morgan

Marketing Executive

Tino Msei

Contributors

Derek Otieno, Ronald Elly Wanda,

R. Muchunguzi, Ludo Simon,

Rev. P. Karugendo, Agastin Angelo.

Published By Deo. Kamuhanda in Association with The Swahili Group:

195A , Park Lane, Tottenham,
London N17 OHJ-England.

Office Tel: +44 (0) 208-617-9899

Mob: + 44 (0) 7840830746

Email: dkamuhanda@hotmail.co.uk

Distributed in North America by:

Global Advertising Services,
177 West 26 Street, Loft 200,
New York, NY 10001.

Tel: 212 366 1447 or 212 613 3242

Email: staff@globaladvertisingservices.com.

Designer: George **Mobile :** +254 722 118 258

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Don't forget to send your comments about the magazine. The editorial team invites and welcomes your input, letters, opinionated articles, well-researched stories and contributions.

From The Publisher

As you read this, the Ugandan anti-gay law thrown out on a technicality recently could be re-submitted to the country's parliament as early as next week. Several anti-gay legislators want a prompt fresh vote on the measure without a lengthy debate.

The re-submission of the bill is spearheaded by Lawmaker Latif Ssebagala in a campaign to reintroduce the recently overturned anti-gay law for a fast-track vote in parliament and has already collected signatures from 150 members of parliament in support of the bill's reintroduction and was expecting to have more than 200 by the end of the day. According to him, as the law had already been debated it could be voted on directly.

Another parliamentarian, Medard Bitekyerezo, who strongly supported the previous anti-gay legislation, said, there would be "a show of hands in parliament so that we know who is a homosexual and who is not."

As most African Leaders were in Washington, DC attending the US-Africa Summit earlier this month, Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete took time to invite more American firms to quickly come and invest in the various sectors in the country including the oil and gas exploration, mining, agriculture and agro-processing industries, industrialisation in general, ICT, production and supply of electricity. According to the President, other areas include construction and running of ports, construction of railway lines, especially the central corridor and the tourism sector.

Apart from the investment opportunities, President Kikwete said that Tanzania is a very peaceful and secure country, has conducive investment environment, good geographical position and a huge market position as it is both in the East African Community (EAC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) with a total of 400 million consumers.

In neighbouring Kenya, the skyline of Nairobi, Kenya's capital is changing fast and at the centre of this transformation are Chinese contractors. Several buildings that once graced the city's skyline as the tallest are losing the coveted spot as new ones being constructed by the Chinese take over. To grace Nairobi's skyline more new glass-glittering buildings are coming up fast and it is the Chinese who are constructing them. On top on the list is Hazina Towers in the heart of Nairobi's central business district. The building whose construction is underway will have 40 floors, and once completed in 2016, it will be the fourth tallest in Africa.

Finally, at last, FIFA president Sepp Blatter has admitted that the numbers of World Cup places for Africa and Asia are "unfair" considering the large number of associations in the two confederations. Blatter discussed the prospect of changing the number of World Cup places given to each confederation in his column of the latest issue of FIFA WEEKLY, official magazine of the world's football governing body.

"In purely mathematical terms the Africans are at a severe disadvantage compared to their rivals," Blatter wrote, "Even though the Confederation Africaine de Football has exactly the same number of member associations as UEFA (54), it is only represented at the World Cup with five teams, whereas Europe has 13."

Let's hope, this will change soon. ■



Uganda Court Annuls Anti-Homosexuality Law

Uganda's Constitutional Court has annulled tough anti-gay legislation signed into law in February.

It ruled that the bill was passed by MPs in December without the requisite quorum and was therefore illegal.

Homosexual acts were already illegal, but the new law allowed for life imprisonment for “aggravated homosexuality” and banned the “promotion of homosexuality”.

Several donors have cut aid to Uganda since the law was adopted.

Ugandan government spokesperson Ofwono Opondo said the government was still waiting the attorney general’s advice about whether to challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court. He added that the ruling showed to Western donors that Uganda’s democracy was functioning very well and that they should reinstate any aid they had cut.

The Ugandan authorities have defended the law in the past, saying President Yoweri Museveni wanted “to demonstrate Uganda’s independence in the face of Western pressure and provocation”.

Uganda is a deeply conservative society where many people oppose gay rights and the sentence for homosexual acts has always been life imprisonment.

Earlier drafts of the anti-homosexuality act made it a crime not to report gay people - which would have made it impossible to live



Uganda President Yoweri Museveni signs an anti-homosexual bill into law at the Entebbe State House, Uganda.

as openly gay - but this clause was removed.

However the legislation that was passed in parliament was “null and void”, the presiding judge at the Constitutional Court said, as not enough lawmakers had been present to vote on the bill.

The law, which was signed by President Museveni in February, toughened up existing laws. Lesbians were covered for the first time and those found living in a same-sex marriage could have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

The challenge to the law was brought by 10 petitioners, including academics, journalists, both ruling and opposition MPs, human rights activists and rights groups.

“The retrogressive anti-homosexuality act of Uganda has been struck down by the constitutional court - it’s now dead as a door nail,” the AFP news agency quotes prominent journalist Andrew Mwenda, one of the petitioners, as saying.

The BBC’s Catherine Byaruhanga in the capital, Kampala, says supporters of the anti-gay laws have been

Photo: REUTERS/James Akena)

Cover Photo: Isaac Kasamani/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



Uganda's Ruling Party to Decide on Nullified Anti-Homosexuality Act



Ugandan human rights and gay rights activists attend a hearing at the constitutional court in Kampala on July 30, 2014, seeking to overturn tough anti-gay laws. [AFP Photo/Isaac Kasamani]

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni said recently that his ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) party will meet to decide on the next course of action over the nullified controversial Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA).

Museveni told reporters that his party will discuss the Constitutional Court ruling that nullified AHA following a petition by a group of gay and human rights activists over the parliament's passing of the bill without quorum.

"I have not had time to discuss with caucus. We shall discuss what to do with the bill in our party," said Museveni.

Asked why he assented to the bill after earlier rejecting on grounds that it was passed without the required quorum, Museveni said, "I assent to bills by authorized people. I sign them when I want to sign them. If I have anything I disapprove of, I don't."

The panel of five judges of the Constitutional Court recently nullified AHA after the parliament passed it without the required quorum. The judges led by acting Chief Justice Steven Kavuma ruled that the passing of the anti-homosexuality bill by the parliament on Dec. 20, 2013 without the required quorum was unconstitutional.

Museveni assented to the bill on Feb. 24 despite international pressure for him to drop the proposed law.

Under the AHA, those found guilty of homosexual acts can be jailed for up to 14 years, a sentence that increases to life in "aggravated" cases, such as those committed by an HIV positive person, or those involving minors, the disabled and serious offenders. ■

From Page 3

angered by the ruling of the five judges. They wonder whether their decision has anything to do with the president's visit to Washington for the US-Africa Summit, she says.

In June, the US imposed sanctions on the East African nation, including travel restrictions on Ugandan officials involved in serious human rights abuses. The White House also cut funds to a number of programmes it is running with the Ugandan authorities.

Several European nations - including Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden - had earlier cut aid.

Pastor Martin Ssempe, a vocal backer of the anti-homosexuality legislation, told the BBC his supporters would be asking parliament to investigate the impartiality of the judiciary.

Our reporter says if the state does not challenge the ruling it could re-table the bill in parliament where the ruling National Resistance Movement holds the majority in the house.

Uganda's anti-homosexuality act:

- Life imprisonment for gay sex, including oral sex
- Life imprisonment for "aggravated homosexuality", including sex with a minor or while HIV-positive
- Life imprisonment for living in a same-sex marriage
- Seven years for "attempting to commit homosexuality"
- Between five and seven years in jail or a \$40,700 (£24,500) fine or both for the promotion of homosexuality
- Businesses or non-governmental organisations found guilty of the promotion of homosexuality would have their certificates of registration cancelled and directors could face seven years in jail. - **BBC** ■

Push to Reintroduce Ugandan Anti-Gay Law

A Ugandan anti-gay law thrown out on a technicality could be re-submitted to the country's parliament as early as next week. Several anti-gay legislators want a prompt fresh vote on the measure without lengthy debate.

A Ugandan lawmaker announced recently that he is spearheading a campaign to reintroduce a recently overturned anti-gay law for a fast-track vote in parliament.

Lawmaker Latif Ssebagala said he had already collected signatures from 150 members of parliament in support of the bill's reintroduction, and expected to have more than 200 by the end of the day. He said as the law had already been debated it could be voted on directly.

Another parliamentarian, Medard Bitekyerezo, who strongly supported the previous anti-gay legislation, said

there would be "a show of hands in parliament so that we know who is a homosexual and who is not."

"I can tell you that it is going to be bloody in parliament," Bitekyerezo said.

Law decried internationally

The invalidated legislation, passed originally in February, was decried internationally for its particularly harsh provisions. Penalties under the previous Anti-Homosexuality Act set sentences of up to life imprisonment for persons accused of "aggravated homosexuality" - having sex with an HIV-positive individual or someone considered "vulnerable", including people with disabilities.

It also required Ugandans to inform authorities if they knew of someone who was gay.

Lawmakers had called for even more severe punishments, with Ugandan parliamentary deputy David Bahati

proposing the death penalty.

The law was widely criticized, and compared to other discriminatory measures such as South Africa's apartheid regime. US Secretary of State John Kerry even described it as being similar to anti-Semitic legislation once exercised in Nazi Germany.

The backlash saw several countries, such as the United States and Sweden, reduce or suspend their

Uganda dependent on funding

Uganda relies on this support for around 20 percent of its annual state budget.

Early this month, the Ugandan Constitutional Court on a technicality, saying it was passed during a parliamentary session that lacked a quorum. The ruling however did not cover the substance of the law, meaning the same legislation can be re-submitted.

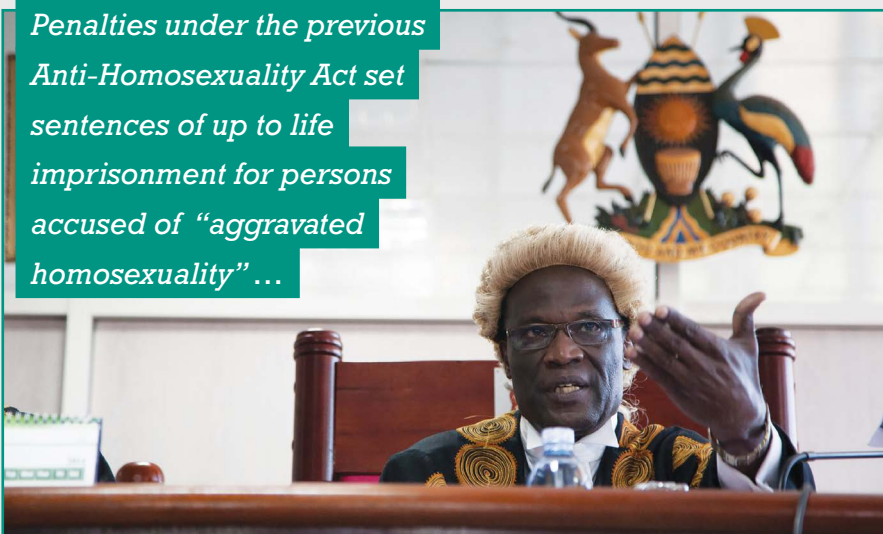
The court's decision to annul the law was denounced by many of the country's religious leaders, who are widely opposed to gay rights. Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni had strongly backed the law, although he has not revealed if he will back it again.

Museveni had called homosexuality demonstrative of the West's "social imperialism" in Africa.

The court's decision last week had helped relieve some of the pressure placed on President Museveni by Western governments over the law's introduction.

Homosexuality is taboo in large parts of Africa, with 37 countries having made it illegal. - DW ■

Penalties under the previous Anti-Homosexuality Act set sentences of up to life imprisonment for persons accused of "aggravated homosexuality" ...



Judge Stephen Kavuma reads the verdict at Uganda's Constitutional Court invalidating an anti-gay bill signed into law earlier this year, saying it was illegally passed and is therefore unconstitutional. [Photo: AP]

An investment Destination for the US Investors

By our correspondent in Tanzania

President Jakaya Kikwete of Tanzania recently invited more American firms to invest in Tanzania saying, the East African nation has the capacity to accommodate 10 times the number of American firms on the ground.

"There is no doubt that there are investors and businesspersons who have invested in the country. However, we are sure that the investment and business done can be more than the way they are now," said the President in the recent statement released along with the official Tanzania national statement on the USA-Africa Leaders Summit.

President Kikwete mentioned some of the sectors that American firms can quickly invest in as oil and gas exploration, mining, agriculture and agro-processing industries, industrialisation in general, ICT, production and supply of electricity. Other areas include construction and running of ports, construction of railway lines, especially the central corridor and the tourism sector.

Apart from investment opportunities, Kikwete said Tanzania is a very peaceful and secure country, has conducive investment environment, good geographical position and a huge market position as it is both in the East African Community (EAC) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) with a total of 400 million consumers.

According to President Kikwete the summit offered a special platform for the African continent to give a detailed explanation to US businesspersons on the business and investment opportunities available on the continent.

The president said that vast

opportunities existed in oil and gas, mining, agribusiness, infrastructure development, manufacturing, tourism and other services. He said Tanzania had a big potential in natural gas with proven deposit of 50.5 tcf and a potential of up to 200 while downstream petrochemical related activities (using gas) were expected to commence soon.

"There could be petroleum as well," he said. Mr Kikwete said the mining sector offered plenty of investment opportunities with almost all minerals known to exist on the earth crust available in Tanzania - some of which found in huge quantities.

"Tanzania has industrial minerals such as coal, iron-ore, nickel, cobalt, tin, soda ash and kaolin, plenty of gemstones including diamonds, ruby, garnets, emeralds tourmaline, sapphires and the beautiful tanzanite which is found only in Tanzania," he said. He added that the country also had deposits of base metals such as gold, silver and copper as well as precious metals such as niobium and titanium.

On agriculture and agribusiness, the president said Tanzania had about 44 million hectares of arable land, which was suitable for both tropical and temperate crops. He, however, said that currently, only 25 per cent of the arable land and about 500,000 hectares of the 29.4 million hectares suitable for irrigation were being utilised.

He assured investors of a conducive business and investment environment and peace and stability.

According to the president, Tanzania has so many other attributes which makes her an investment destination of choice to investors. They include strategic geographical position with borders with eight countries and a gateway for six landlocked ones.

"This provides good investment opportunities for the development of infrastructure, trade, transport and logistics. Currently, there are serious efforts to upgrade and develop ports, roads, telecommunications and railway infrastructure linking the country with Zambia, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and DRC. Prospective investors are welcome to work with Tanzania to develop these assets," he explained.

Likewise, Mr Kikwete said, Tanzania provided a sizeable market of 48 million people and an ever growing middle class and skilled labour force. "Tanzania's population of over 48 million people is predominantly composed of young people. The country has invested substantially in education at all levels which makes skilled labour force readily available. Equally important to note is that so far, the cost of labour in Tanzania is relatively low in comparison to many parts of the world," he pointed out.

Moreover, according to the IMF, during 2011-2015, seven African countries, Tanzania included, will be among the fastest growing economies in the world.

"This year we expect it to grow by 7.2 while Inflation which stands at 6.4 per cent as of June, this year is expected to be brought down to 5 per cent or less by June 2015," he explained. He attributed such strong macro-economic performance to sound economic policies being pursued by the government in line with the ongoing economic reforms.

"The reforms have worked well for Tanzania, which in recent years witnessed phenomenon increase in investment and expansion of trade. FDI inflows, for example, increased from 150 million dollars in 1995 to 1.8 billion dollars in 2014," he noted. ■

World Bank Railway Funding Aims to Turn Tanzania into Regional Gateway



President Jakaya Kikwete showing planned railway routes on a map of Tanzania to guests, from the Mwambani Port and Railway Corridor Company (MWAPORC), who had paid him a visit on September 29, 2012 at State House Dar es Salaam to express their interest on investing in the country's railways sector. [Photo: State House Tanzania]

By Deodatus Balile in Dar es Salaam

The World Bank's recent approval of \$300 million of funding to support Tanzania's railway infrastructure promises to bring about a fundamental change in the country's transportation system and help boost the livelihoods of the region's poorest people.

The project, which will be implemented by Tanzania Railways Corporation, will take place along the Dar es

Salaam - Isaka section of the East African Central Corridor. It aims to help take pressure off Dar es Salaam port, facilitate the movement of goods to and from Tanzania's landlocked neighbours, and spur the local economy.

The World Bank announced in April that it had released the funds to support Tanzania's efforts to open up East Africa's railway corridor, which serves Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

"The project will help improve a critical link in the regional →

rail network that is necessary for both competitiveness and improved regional and global economic integration,” World Bank Task Team Leader Henry des Longchamps said April 24th.

The funds, drawn from the World Bank’s International Development Association, will also strengthen the Tanzania Railway Corporation’s ability to manage the infrastructure, traffic operations and network regulation, the Bank said in a statement.

Biggest Undertaking

Implementing the World Bank project will be the Tanzania Railways Corporation’s biggest undertaking to date, the company’s spokesperson Midladjy Maez said.

Improvements will include strengthening the current metre gauge, reconstructing train bridges and upgrading railway infrastructure from Dar es Salaam to Isaka, from which Rwanda’s and Burundi’s railways will connect, Maez told Sabahi.

Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania are also working on a separately funded project that will eventually upgrade railway tracks in all three countries to the standard gauge, thus ensuring train interconnectivity.

Upgrading Isaka with reliable train service will help plans to re-establish the town as a ‘dry port’, where goods offloaded from Dar es Salaam can be diverted to undergo customs, thereby relieving backups at Dar es Salaam port and reducing costs, Maez said.

“Local citizens surrounding the railway should be informed of this opportunity which is coming to them,” he said. “The government should empower them to become big farmers and transport their produce using this upgraded railway, which is cheaper compared to road and air transport.”

The project is part of the government’s Big Results Now initiative, which includes plans to increase Tanzania’s railway transport capacity from the current 1.4 million tons to 3 million tons annually.

“By December this year we will have imported about 21 new locomotives and we aim at having 50 new locomotives by 2015,” he said. “With the World Bank support we are going to rehabilitate 28 bridges and strengthen the current railway.”

‘Golden opportunity’ for development

Railway service starts in Dar es Salaam and stretches north-west to Tabora region, where it branches off to Kigoma and Mwanza regions. The branch that goes to Mwanza, again branches at an area called Tinde, which goes to Isaka. The Mwanza branch also serves Uganda, while the Kigoma branch serves the DRC as well.

“The location and the size of Tanzania, its mineral and agricultural resources, its tourism potential and its critical role as a transport hub for its landlocked neighbours provide unrivalled opportunities for the development of modern transport infrastructure and services,” World Bank Country Director for Tanzania Philippe Dongier said in a statement.

“The project will also indirectly help to boost agricultural trade, job creation and overall livelihoods for the country and neighbouring countries’ poorest people,” he said.

The central corridor railway was built in 1906 by the British and has since not undergone any major rehabilitation.

Prosper Honest Ngowi, a senior economics lecturer at Mzumbe University, said the project is an opportunity Tanzania should seize to alleviate abject poverty.

Sound Investment

“This is a golden opportunity the country should take seriously. Getting \$300 million specific for railway infrastructure at once is a sound investment,” he told Sabahi.

Ngowi said the revitalised railway should be viewed as an economic opportunity for the communities serviced by the lines, not just as a means of transportation.

For example, he said, communities that are not engaged in commercial farming should be educated on how to become involved, now that there will be a reliable way to transport goods.

“Local citizens surrounding the railway should be informed of this opportunity which is coming to them,” he said. “The government should empower them to become big farmers and transport their produce using this upgraded railway, which is cheaper compared to road and air transport.”

Anthony Kayanda, a journalist living in the Kigoma region, said the project would spur the local economy, establish more reliable train transport and help residents find business opportunities.

“This is good news. Train [transport] is the only transport available for Kigoma residents. There are villages like Uvinza, Malagarasi, Kazimaramimba, Kandaga, Kalenge and Nguruka, which have no access to any other form of transport except the train,” Kayanda told Sabahi. - **Sabahi**

Swahili International Tourism Expo is a Unique Platform – Hon Nyalandu

By: Geoffrey Tengeneza

Tanzania's Minister for Natural resources and Tourism has appealed to tourism stakeholders to make use of the newly established International Tourism Fair in Tanzania to be known as Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE) as a tourism business linkage between local and international enterprises as well as unique platform to market and promote destination Tanzania.

Unveiling and officially announcing the establishment of the new International Tourism Fair in Tanzania to be known as Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE) at Serena Hotel Minister Nyalandu said "I urge all tourism enterprises to seize this opportunity which will enable them link their tourism businesses with regional and international tourism markets".

He said that though Tanzania is blessed with unique natural and cultural attractions, we cannot rely merely on the abundant tourist attractions. It is important that we work harder than ever to capitalise on

the 'top of mind' awareness that our previous efforts have generated for the country. As a nation, we need to make concerted efforts on strategies to promote our attractions.

SITE

Tanzania's first ever International Tourism Expo, will be held annually in October at the Mlimani City Convention Centre in Dar-es-Salaam and focuses on inbound and outbound travel to Africa and takes the format of a travel and trade exhibition with a conference element focusing on topical tourism, sustainability, conservation and other market related issues.

Dar es Salaam has been strategically selected as a place for staging the fair because of its geographical location, adequate air access; the existing 'state of the art' and readily available infrastructure and amenities suitable for establishing an international tourism fair. The first SITE will be held from October 1-4, 2014 at the Mlimani City Conference Centre.

The effort to establish SITE in addition to promoting Tanzania as

a preferred tourist destination is intended to link the Small and Medium Tourism Enterprises (SME's) with the international Tourism market. It is a fact that many Tanzanian tourism agencies are small-scale enterprises, which have limited capital and ability to access to international tourism markets. The SITE and in particular the hosted buyer programme will help address this challenge.

Partnership

In February 2013, the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) entered into partnership with Pure Grit Project and Exhibition Management LTD (formally known as Witch & Wizard Creative (Pty Ltd)) to establish an International Tourism Fair in Tanzania, known as Swahili International Tourism Expo (SITE), with effective from October, 2014. Pure Grit Project and Exhibition Management LTD is the company that manages the INDABA Tourism Fair, one of the largest tourism marketing events on the African calendar and one of the top three 'must visit' events of its kind on the global calendar. -

TTB ■

Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa's highest mountain, looms large over a herd of elephants as they walk in the dawn light. [Photo: Paul Hampton]



Chinese Contractors at the Centre of Nairobi's Changing Skyline

The skyline of Nairobi, Kenya's capital is changing fast and at the centre of this transformation are Chinese contractors. Several buildings that once graced the city's skyline as the tallest are losing the coveted spot as new ones being constructed by the Chinese take over.

Out are going Times Tower, Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC), Nyayo House, Anniversary Towers and I&M Bank Tower and in are coming Hazina Towers, UAP Towers and University of Nairobi Towers.

The Times Tower, which was constructed in 1997, stands at 38 floors. It remains the tallest building in the capital Nairobi, but this is not a position it will continue to hold in the next few years as a 40-floor building is under construction.

KICC, the iconic building in the heart of Nairobi's central business district stands at 32 floors, the second tallest currently. The building, constructed in 1974, is as old as millions of Nairobi residents, who have visited it to look at its round structure.

But time for KICC and Times Tower, among others, to grace Nairobi's skyline is up. New glass-glittering buildings are coming up fast and it is the Chinese who are constructing them.

Top on the list is Hazina Towers in the heart of Nairobi's central business



An artists impression of the Hazina Trade Centre

district. The building whose construction is underway will have 40 floors, and once completed in 2016, it will be the fourth tallest in Africa. It will cost National Social Security Fund (NSSF), the owners, 82 million U.S. dollars, according to Kenya's Labor Cabinet Secretary Kazungu Kambi. The project is being undertaken by construction firm China Jiangxi International.

The contractors note some of the architectural features the building will have are a vegetated roof terrace, an atrium, a helipad, a gallery where residents can sit and the city's skyline and a fitted glazing to reduce solar heat.

The design of the architectural masterpiece is inspired by the outline of a young Maasai warrior standing on one leg and leaning on a spear. The Maasai products is Kenya's number one tourism export commodity.

The image of a Maasai donned in a red-checked shuka (wrapper), a spear on one hand and wearing sandals made from tyres is one that is familiar with tourists who have visited Kenya or who wish to visit the East African country.

The building is expected to be completed in two years' time. A visit to the site of the building shows construction is ongoing in earnest. One can see heavy construction machinery that includes cranes swinging from one part of the building to the other.

Less than 200 meters from Hazina Towers is University of Nairobi Towers, which is also under construction. The 21-story building, as others coming up in Nairobi, is being undertaken by a Chinese contractor. China Wu Yi Co. Ltd is expected to complete the building in next two years.

"Since the ground breaking ceremony on May 17, 2013, construction work on the University of Nairobi Towers has progressed unstopped. The 21-story building is expected to transform the city's skyline with its futuristic look," says a recent brief from the university. The 26-million-dollar towers will host administrative offices, lecture theatres and a helipad, and will be the tallest building in institutions of higher learning in Kenya.

"The Chinese have done well in road projects, at a lower cost. No one can thus doubt their work in the sector. It is the reason they are winning tenders for nearly all major construction projects in the country," said Antony Kuyo, a real estate consultant with Avent Properties.

Kuyo predicted that the Chinese will change Nairobi's skyline at least in the next two decades as relations between Kenya and China soar. ■

Chinese Firm to Build 3 Berths in Kenya's Lamu Port

The LAPSET Corridor will create the Great Equatorial Land Bridge, connecting East and West coast of Africa. It will also see to the development of Kenya's 2nd Transport & Economic Corridor which will in turn reduce over-reliance on the only Corridor-Northern Corridor.

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta recently signed a 480 million U.S. dollar agreement with a Chinese firm for the construction of the first three berths of Lamu Port in the coastal region. The deal for the three berths under the Lamu Port--South Sudan--Ethiopia Transport Corridor Project (LAPSSET) Corridor Program was signed with China Communications Construction Company Ltd.

Kenyatta said his government has already set aside for 50 million dollars to immediately commence the construction works.

"This includes funds for compensation of project affected persons. I am therefore directing the Ministry responsible for lands to complete the process of compensating those affected by this project as soon as possible," Kenyatta said.

The three berths will serve general cargo, bulk cargo and container cargo. The designs were completed in 2013 and a Chinese firm was awarded the tender.





The port of Lamu in Kenya's Coast [Photo: Frank Janssens]

The LAPSET Corridor will create the Great Equatorial Land Bridge, connecting East and West coast of Africa. It will also see to the development of Kenya's 2nd Transport & Economic Corridor which will in turn reduce over-reliance on the only Corridor-Northern Corridor.

Kenyatta said the commencement of the Lamu port project reinforces government's resolve to make infrastructure a key facilitator of social and economic development.

Kenya's commitment

"The commencement of the first three berths will send a strong message to our neighbours of Kenya's commitment to regional trade facilitation and integration," he said.

He noted that the construction of the first 3 berths will present a strong case and trigger for participation of the private sector in the construction of the remaining 29 berths and other components of the corridor.

The project components of the LAPSET Corridor Program have a

"The commencement of the first three berths will send a strong message to our neighbours of Kenya's commitment to regional trade facilitation and integration," said President Uhuru Kenyatta

budget estimated at 24 billion dollars in construction costs.

The Lamu Port with its 32 berths alone will cost about 3.1 million dollars, the railway 7.1 million dollars while the crude oil pipeline will cost a further 5 million dollars.

"All these components are intended to be implemented as a package that will result in the development of an integrated transport and economic corridor," he added.

Keys for development,

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, the LAPSET Corridor Development Authority Managing Director Silvestre Kasuku reiterated that the project will

not only improve Kenya's economy in general but also improve the lives of the people along the Corridor with education being one of the major keys for development, through youth scholarships.

Vision 2030

The LAPPSET is one of the major Vision 2030 flagship projects that will ultimately culminate in the attainment of transforming Kenya into a middle income, globally competitive and industrializing country with a high quality of life in the next 16 years.

The development of the LAPSET Corridor and indeed the first three berths of the Lamu Port is underpinned by a comprehensive feasibility study completed in 2011. This study indicated that the Port of Lamu will handle approximately 24 million tonnes of cargo per annum by 2030. This is supported by the fact that the geographical location of Lamu provides a naturally deep and sheltered harbour that will require minimal dredging to receive large post panamas vessels. ■

U.S. to Join Manhunt of Rwandan Genocide Suspects

The United States reaffirmed last month its commitment to bringing to justice nine chief suspects in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, who are indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

“Twenty years have passed but we want to make it clear, we will search the globe to bring these remaining fugitives to justice for the sake of the victims, and the sake of the survivors. There is no expiration date on justice for these crimes,” said Ambassador-at-Large Stephen J. Rapp of the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Global Criminal Justice at Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre.

During an approximate 100-day period from April 7 to mid-July 1994, an estimated 1 million Rwandans, mostly the Tutsi minority, were killed after the killing of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana. The genocide was believed to be plotted by members of

the Akazu, a powerful extremist Hutu group.

The suspects still at large are Felicien Kabuga, a businessman closely connected to the Akazu; Protais Mpiranya, the former commandant of the presidential guards, and the former defense minister Augustin Bizimana. The three people remain top on the ICTR’s most wanted list.

Other suspects include Ladislav Ntaganzwa, Fulgence Kayishema, Pheneas Munyarugarama, Aloys Ndimbati, Charles Rwandikayo and Charles Sikibwabo.

“As long as those responsible for crimes of this magnitude continue to enjoy impunity, those on the side of justice must strive to hold them accountable,” said Rapp. “Those who harbor fugitives obstruct justice, and only delay the inevitable. Others will eventually come forward and provide crucial information that will lead to arrest and to accountability.”

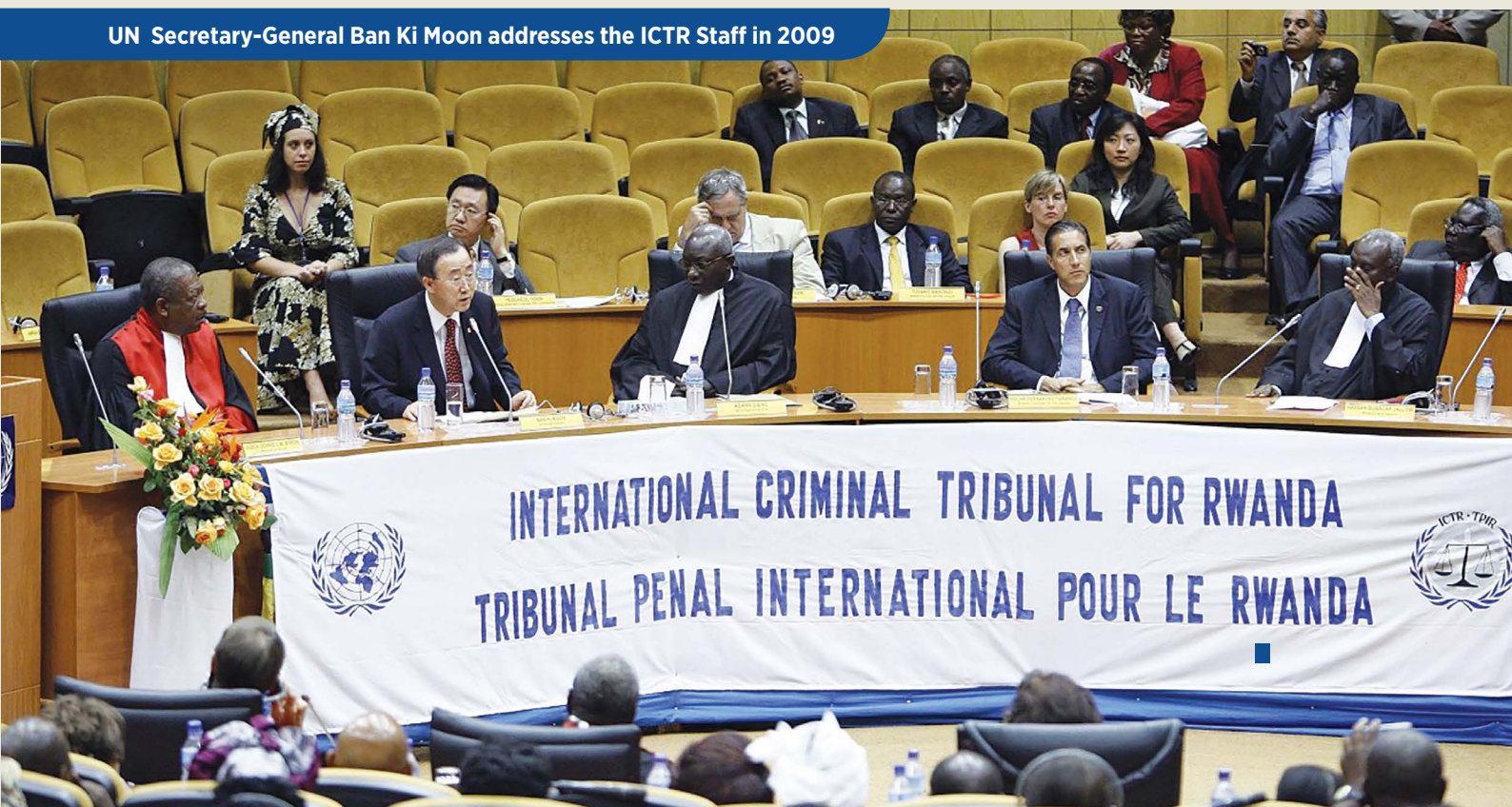
The U.S. Department of State’s Office of Global Criminal Justice has joined the government of Rwanda, the (ICTR) and Interpol through the International Fugitive Initiative, the ambassador added.

Hassan Jallow, the chief prosecutor of the ICTR and Mechanism for the International Criminal Tribunal (MICT), said the international war crimes program has provided incentives to people to provide information leading to the arrest of fugitives.

“With the eminent closure of ICTR, the MICT has taken over the responsibility of tracking and arresting the remaining fugitives. All those who are at large should know that the mechanism is committed to bringing them on trial as a matter of priority,” he said.

Stefano Carvelli, head of Interpol’s Fugitive Investigative Support (FIS), commended the initiative to re-engage the public in the search for the remaining perpetrators.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon addresses the ICTR Staff in 2009





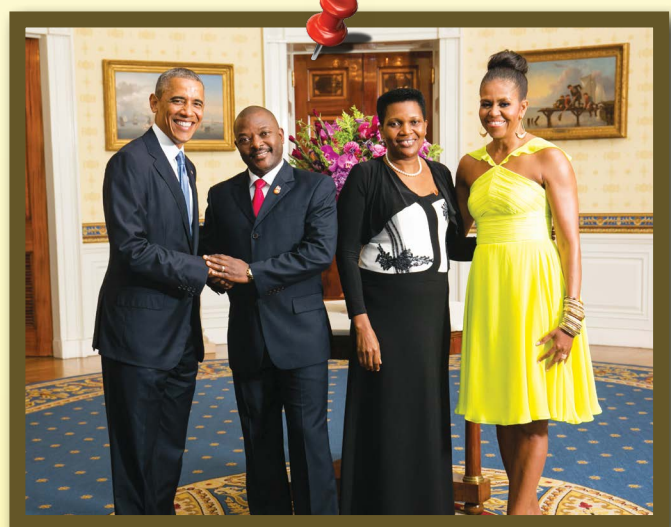
Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete greeting Rwanda's President Paul Kagame and other African leaders who attended the U.S. Africa Leaders' Summit



President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama meet President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya



President Kikwete sharing a joke with Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta at Dubai Airport on their way home from the U.S. Africa Leaders' Summit



President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama with the President of Burundi Pierre Nkurunziza and Ms. Denise Bucumi



Presidents of the East African Community in Washington
[Photo: Tanzania State House]

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THE U.S. AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT - 2014 IN WASHINGTON DC



US President President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama with Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni.



President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama pose for a photo during a reception at the Metropolitan Museum in New York with Paul Kagame of Rwanda.



Tanzania Investment Centre's Director General addressing some investors (not in the picture) in Washington DC



Tanzania's Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda with a group of Tanzanians and Embassy Officials at the Tanzania High Commission in London recently [Photo Rashid Dilunga]

New Anglican University to Encourage Inter-Tribal Harmony in Burundi

A new Christian university planned by Anglicans in Burundi aims to promote inter-tribal harmony across the nation through the teaching of the Gospel.

Burundi is one of the five poorest countries in the world with one of the lowest per capita GDPs of any nation in the world. The country has suffered from warfare, corruption and poor access to education.

The country's Anglican Church is hoping to address some of that by building a new university that will teach students how to think for themselves and to see what God has to say about peace, justice and reconciliation. In an interview with ACNS, the University's Vice-Chancellor, the Revd Canon Donald Werner said the plan was to provide students with a university-level education and encourage them to bring that learning back to their towns and villages. "The Church needs educated Christians who can communicate the ethical teaching of Jesus Christ," he said. "We encourage children in education and in the practice of thinking for themselves rather than blindly following a strong personality in whatever they say."

The Anglican Church is complementing the Government's effort to improve the education sector in a country still suffering from years of civil war. The conflict was the result of long-standing ethnic divisions between the Hutu and the Tutsi tribes in the country.



Launching the new university with Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury.

The university is also a response to a growing desire for education among local people, which has put pressure on existing facilities and, in some cases, has resulted in the shortage of education facilities and study materials.

For many years the Anglican Church of Burundi has wanted to provide a university-level course in pastoral theology as part of the preparation for lay or ordained ministry in the country.

"The university has the full strong support of all the diocesan Bishops and the Archbishop of Burundi," the Vice Chancellor said. "But we are also asking for prayer and financial support from the wider world."

"While I am keen to see the Church of Burundi owning the venture by giving as much financial support as possible, it would be unrealistic to expect the Church to contribute more than a

small fraction of the cost," said Canon Werner.

To show its commitment to the success of this project, however, the Diocese of Bujumbura has donated the old Cathedral building which is in a prime site in the centre of the capital city. It will be converted into three lecture rooms, library, offices and a worship area.

"We are starting small, with just a theology faculty, and then we will add other faculties," declared the Vice Chancellor. "This was the way taken by what is now regarded as the best university in Burundi, that now has thousands of students and many faculties."

Canon Werner said he was also encouraged by the fact that six lecturers from England have offered to visit the country to teach some units of the university's syllabus. - **ACNS**

Congo-Kinshasa: Catholic Bishops Urge President Kabila Not to Seek Re-Election

"To seek to violate these provisions would set a dangerous precedent on the long road to peace & national unity," read a CENCO statement published a day after Congo's 54th independence anniversary celebrations.

Catholic bishops in the Democratic Republic of Congo urged President Joseph Kabila on July 01 to respect constitutional terms limits and not seek re-election in the 2016 presidential election.

According to Reuters, The Congo Catholic bishops Conference (CENCO) warned the president that any attempt to change the constitution and remain in power could destabilize the mineral-rich nation which is still recovering from decades of political turmoil.

"To seek to violate these provisions would set a dangerous precedent on the long road to peace [and] national unity," read a CENCO statement published a day after Congo's fifty-fourth independence anniversary celebrations.

The message comes less than a month after international envoys from the United States, European Union, African Union and United Nations also urged Kabila to respect his constitutional obligations and to publish an elections timetable.

Catholics make up about half of Congo's population. In the absence of a coherent political opposition, the Church has been one of Kabila's more vocal and influential critics.

In their statement, the bishops urged Congolese to "be vigilant in opposing by all legal and peaceful means any attempt to modify the locked articles," referring to constitutional provisions that cannot be changed.

Having won elections in 2006 and 2011, Kabila's final mandate expires in late 2016, but his political opponents fear he will seek to change article 220, which bans any change to the article setting out term limits.

CENCO also urged the government to provide the necessary financial and material resources to ensure that elections take place within the time-frame provided by the constitution, which would mean presidential elections no later than December 2016.

Lambert Mende, Congo's government spokesperson, said after the warning by the international envoys that an electoral calendar would be decided upon within the deadlines set by the constitution. - **CISA**

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China Pledges Closer Cooperation

Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his Ethiopian counterpart Mulatu Teshome last month and pledged to boost cooperation between the two countries.

Calling Mulatu an old friend of the Chinese people, Xi said the visiting Ethiopian president has made a great contribution to the friendship and cooperation between the two nations over the past years.

Xi said he appreciates Mulatu's decision to choose China as the first country to visit since taking office last October and to attend the Eco Forum Global Annual Conference 2014. The conference was held in Guiyang, capital city of southwest China's Guizhou Province.

Xi said the China-Ethiopia relationship has been at the vanguard of that between China and all African countries, and serves as a good example of unity among developing countries.

The Chinese side will support Ethiopia's drive for prosperity, increase exchanges on governance, and boost practical cooperation in all fields.

Xi said the Chinese government encourages businesses to invest in Ethiopia, share experiences with their Ethiopian partners and cooperate with them on technology transfer and training. China also stands ready to enhance coordination and cooperation with Ethiopia on international and regional affairs.

Mulatu said Ethiopia and China trust and sympathize with each other, and that the bilateral friendship enjoys a solid foundation. He also expressed appreciation for China's enduring support and assistance.

The Ethiopia side is working to accelerate economic development, hopes to learn from China's experience and welcomes investment from China, Mulatu said, highlighting fields of cooperation such as agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructure.

Mulatu said he believes Ethiopia-China cooperation will contribute more in the future to ties between China and the whole continent. ■

Commonwealth Secretariat has new Chair of Board of Governors

Rwanda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Williams Nkurunziza, is the new Chair of Commonwealth Secretariat Board of Governors. Having been elected unanimously by his fellow Board members, he took up his responsibilities on 1 July 2014.

Mr Nkurunziza succeeds His Excellency Carl Roberts, High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, and will serve in this position for two years. All 53 Commonwealth member states are represented on the Board of Governors, which meets annually to consider Commonwealth Secretariat work plans and budgets.

Speaking after discussions with Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma at Marlborough House, the Commonwealth headquarters in London, Mr Nkurunziza said: "I am profoundly grateful to my fellow Governors for their confidence and for entrusting me and my country with this important responsibility. I look forward to working with my fellow Governors and the senior management of the Commonwealth Secretariat to ensure that the organisation continues to deliver good value to the member states and all our citizens."

Greeting Mr Nkurunziza on his first day as Chair, the Commonwealth Secretary-General said: "The High Commissioner for Rwanda takes up his duties as Chair of our Board of Governors on the day we open a new chapter at the Commonwealth Secretariat. The structure of our divisions and our staffing arrangements have been reformed."

Mr Sharma said he felt sure that they would enjoy a warm and productive relationship as they work together to deliver the Secretariat's strategic plan for advancing democracy, development and respect for diversity in all Commonwealth countries.

He said: "I look forward to working in close and fruitful collaboration with His Excellency Williams Nkurunziza to serve the needs of all our member states in fresh and practical ways, and to achieve impact that will fulfil their high ambitions for the Commonwealth."

The Secretary-General said that Mr Nkurunziza comes well prepared for the role of Chair, having served as Chair of the Board's Executive Committee for the past year.

About HE Williams Nkurunziza

Prior to taking up his role in the UK, Mr Nkurunziza served in India, as High Commissioner of Rwanda there, with concurrent accreditations to the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as well as designate-Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Union of Myanmar.

Before joining the diplomatic service, he served as Director General of the Rwanda Investment and Export Promotional Agency (RIEPA) during which time he worked tirelessly to reposition post-genocide Rwanda in the international marketplace as an ideal investment destination and a reliable trading partner. During this time, he also served on President Paul Kagame's Presidential Economic Advisory Council. H.E. Nkurunziza is widely travelled and has attended and or addressed international conferences and seminars in over 50 countries across the world – in the Americas, Europe (including the UK), Africa and Asia, on Rwanda's socio-econo-political development, investment opportunities and potential for trade partnerships. - www.thecommonwealth.org

Somali Women 'Untapped Resource' in Fight Against Al-Shabaab



Al-Shabaab fighters in Somalia. The raid in Barawe aimed to capture Abdulkadir Mohamed Abdulkadir, a senior commander. [Photograph: Farah Abdi Warsameh/AP]

The women, selected with the help of district commissioners, underwent a three-week training on the basics of what to look for when monitoring for suspicious activity, and how to use mobile text messages to report information,

By Shukri Mohamed in Mogadishu

For years women in Mogadishu have been on the side-lines in the fight against al-Shabaab, but more recently they have begun to play a more active role by providing critical information about suspicious activity and people to security agencies, officials told Sabahi.

Women are an untapped resource and could play a more decisive role in defeating al-Shabaab, but have been so far underused in security efforts, said Jawahir Barqab, the director of the Benadir Women's Association, a Mogadishu-based non-



governmental organisation that works to advance women's issues such as equal representation in politics and job opportunities.

Barqab said her organisation has been trying to change that situation since last December by facilitating the collaboration of security agencies with civilian women, and training women on how to monitor and report suspicious activities in their neighbourhoods.

"[So far] we have trained about 500 women who are reporting if they witness suspicious activity that could jeopardise [public] safety. We have also established a women's group in each of the 17 districts of Benadir region to manage security and cleaning efforts in the districts," Barqab told Sabahi.

The women, selected with the help of district commissioners, underwent a three-week training on the basics of what to look for when monitoring for suspicious activity, and how to use mobile text messages to report information, she said.

Barqab said the programme has been a success so far with trainees aiding security forces with actionable information that helped foil attacks and apprehend suspects. However, she said, more women are needed to join the fight against al-Shabaab to ensure security.

As responsible members of their communities, women should report anyone who appears willing to endanger the public, even if that person is her own brother or son, she said, adding that mothers should pay particular attention to their teenage sons to make sure they are not falling prey to al-Shabaab.

"If the people who share information about al-Shabaab receive a monetary incentive and receive proper training on collecting intelligence, it will result in al-Shabaab's defeat. However, if there is no incentive, no one will volunteer information." Colonel Sharif Hassan Robow

"A mother should befriend her son and observe his activities and every step he takes especially when he is going to school or going out of town," Barqab said. "She has to guard him against being brainwashed, which would lead him to inflict harm on the public."

Al-Shabaab militants value their distorted ideology more than anything and will not show mercy to their own relatives, she said. "If you hide them today, they will just kill you tomorrow. Therefore, it is better if you hand them over to the police so that you can save yourself, save your family and save the public in general," she warned women.

Warta Nabada District Commissioner Hussein Nur Issa said district security officials are now actively using the women

trained by the programme and that their reports have saved lives.

"I greatly welcome these [training] efforts, and we have really taken advantage of them. The women have given us information on people who were engaged in destabilising actions such as planning explosions or preparing to assassinate a person, and we captured those people," Issa told Sabahi. "We have arrested individuals who came from regions far away and who were sent by al-Shabaab to create chaos in the city during Ramadan. This came about as a result of the women's efforts as they provided a lot of intelligence."

He called on the general public to develop a working relationship with the security agencies, especially with the police so that their security can be ensured and they can live in peace. Progress in the security situation in Benadir region and the rest of Somalia cannot be achieved without collaboration from the public, he added.

Government should provide incentives to women

Colonel Sharif Hassan Robow, who served in the National Security Service, Somalia's intelligence agency during the Mohamed Siad Barre regime, said al-Shabaab's actions can be prevented and Somalia can attain lasting stability if the government invests in types of efforts spearheaded by civilian women.

"The efforts of the women are great, but the government has to encourage those people and pay them so that they can forward accurate information," Robow told Sabahi.

"If the people who share information about al-Shabaab receive a monetary incentive and receive proper training on collecting intelligence, it will result in al-Shabaab's defeat," he said. "However, if there is no incentive, no one will volunteer information."

For her part, Fadumo Osman, a 22-year-old from Mogadishu's Hodan district, said she welcomes the news that women are working with security agencies on safeguarding security. However, she said, more women would consider joining if the government would take responsibility for their safety and promise the prosecution of any al-Shabaab member arrested as a result of their reports.

"If that promise is given, I would take part in these efforts myself," she told Sabahi. "My only worry is [if] al-Shabaab members who the women report [to police] are released back to the streets. [This] could result in many women being killed [by al-Shabaab in retaliation] and losing their lives that way."

"We are always ready to work for the security of our country so that Somalia can once again stand on its own feet. That can only come about if al-Shabaab and all the people who support them are eliminated from the country," she added.

Sabahi ■

South Sudan Crisis: Donors Pledge \$600m at Conference

Donors including the US and the UK have pledged more than \$600m (£360m; 440m euros) in aid to South Sudan at a conference in Norway.

The sum raised will go towards the target of \$1.8bn the UN says is needed to help millions facing starvation.

UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos says it is still possible to prevent a famine in the conflict-torn country. More than a million people have fled their homes since fighting erupted in December.

Unable to farm

Thousands have now died in the crisis that started as a political dispute between President Salva Kiir and his sacked deputy Riek Machar, but escalated into ethnic violence. The conflict has left people unable to farm and with little access to food, aid experts say.

Nearly four million people in South Sudan are now at risk of serious food insecurity, according to the UN. The UN's humanitarian co-ordinator, Valerie Amos, said there was still "a small window of opportunity" to avert a famine before the rainy season begins.

"The important thing is to be able to get seeds and so on to people who are in desperate need... so that they are able to plant," Ms Amos said.

"We can prevent the famine if there is enough food available for next year, but if there is not, if people are not able to plant, if the herders are not able to move, then we will face a severe crisis."

Humanitarian needs

- Some 7.3 million people are at risk of hunger
- At least four million face alarming food insecurity, particularly in Unity and Jonglei



South Sudanese President Salva Kiir shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry during a brief bilateral meeting at the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C. [Photo: Freddie Allen/NNPA]

- An estimated 223,000 children face severe acute malnutrition
- Around a million are internally displaced, half of them children
- More than 83,000 of the internally displaced are at eight UN bases
- Close to 350,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries
- The number of refugees abroad could rise to 863,000 by December

Source: UN South Sudan Crisis Response Plan, May 2014

The new aid announced at the donors' conference in Oslo last month included \$100m from the UK government, nearly \$300m from the US and \$75m from the EU. The sum of \$600m will be added to \$536m already pledged - but that is still only two-thirds of the way to the UN target.

Mass killings

Earlier President Kiir told the

BBC his country faced "one of worst famines ever" unless the current conflict is ended. Mr Kiir has postponed presidential elections due next year to give government and rebel forces more time to achieve reconciliation.

The United Nations has accused both sides of crimes against humanity, including mass killings and gang-rape, and threatened sanctions against those responsible for the violence.

The unrest has assumed ethnic overtones, with Mr Machar relying heavily on fighters from his Nuer ethnic group and Mr Kiir from his Dinka community. The UN says hundreds of non-Nuers were killed in Bentiu in April when rebel forces captured the town.

South Sudan is the world's newest state, becoming independent in 2011 after seceding from Sudan.-

BBC ■

Chinese Enterprise Helps Resolve Mozambique's Food Crisis



Students at the Agrarian Middle Institute in Inhambane study the development of a variety of lettuce at the Umbeluzi Agricultural Station in Mozambique. Credit: Amos Zacarias/IPS

Although Mozambique has emerged from the nightmare of civil war, the “Pearl of South eastern Africa” remains troubled by serious problems, including a food crisis.

Though far apart from China, its connection with the world's most populous country is becoming tighter. It has not only found, near its coastline, porcelain relics from the Ming-era maritime voyages of Chinese trading fleets between 1405 and 1433, but also benefited from agricultural projects from the world's second largest economy.

In recent years, an increasing number of Chinese agricultural enterprises are seeking broader development overseas, with some of them figuring their way into Mozambique, where their hard work and the experience of feeding Chinese people are assisting locals in achieving self-sufficiency in food.

Lianhe Africa Agriculture Development Co. is one of them. Although the company set its foot on the Mozambican soil only less than two years ago, it has already put high-quality rice to the market in Beira, the second largest city and a major seaport and airport in Mozambique.

According to Zhou Mingzhao, Lianhe's president, the firm started to explore overseas opportunities three years ago in response to the Chinese government's call on private enterprises to go global. After visiting some countries in South America, Southeast Asia and Africa, they picked Mozambique to promote and develop the Chinese high-yield and high-efficiency agricultural method.

The Chinese company then signed a cooperation agreement with a farm in the central province of Sofala in 2012 to start rice and cotton cultivation, processing and other operations on its 600-hectare land.

“The reason for choosing Africa is simple -- it is an undeveloped virgin land,” Zhou said in a recent interview with Xinhua.

In his eyes, Mozambique's black soil, good climate, abundant rainfall and sufficient labor are all favourable conditions for agricultural development. At present, 26 skilled workers from China and hundreds of local farmers hired by the company are working on 852 hectares of land, leased from local people and the government.

“We have adopted and altered the Chinese household contract system. The company assigned 750 mu (50 hectares) of land to each of the local workers, and they can contract with some other locals to help them complete the farm work,” said Zhou.

Zhou said he believes that mutual respect is most important to the development of a smooth relationship between employers and local employees as it can lead to mutual understanding and support, and finally result in an all-win situation among enterprises, local governments and farmers.

Aside from hiring local workers, Lianhe also provides seeds, fertilizers and agricultural machinery for farmers. The cost of these services will be deducted from the final yield when the company buys grains after harvest.

The farmers involved in the project could get up to 2,000 meticaïs per acre (equivalent to 66 U.S. dollars) of income, which is believed to be high for many local farmers.

For Zhou and his company, this is just a beginning. In the second half of this year, they plan to cultivate nearly 1,000 hectares of rice, 100 hectares of cotton, and increase investment to improve local agricultural facilities. **-FOCAC ■**

Minister Urges Tourists to Sample Out Malawi's Beauty

By Mlenga Mvula

The Minister of Information, Tourism, Culture and Civic Education, Kondwani Nankhumwa, urged international tourists to visit Malawi and enjoy maximum pleasure provided by the country's tourism sector.

The Minister made the plea recently at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe when he presided over debriefing organised by Ministry of Information, Tourism, Culture and Civic Education in collaboration with the South African press. He said Malawi offers a wide range of captivating scenery to tourists such as Mulanje Mountain, Lake Malawi and other wildlife and game reserves.

"We have a wide range of tourism attraction centres including Mulanje Mountain, Lake Malawi and national parks.

"These tourism attraction centres would provide international tourists with maximum pleasure," Nankhumwa said. He further observed that the ministry has a daunting task to market the country's tourism centres at international market, saying many countries have embarked on promoting tourism as mainstay of their respective economies hence Malawi needs to tirelessly emulate them for socio-economic development of the country.

"There is need for the country to do more in order to break the international market and the ministry should start marketing tourism sector massively.

"The platform has given us as a country a chance to interact and network with our fellow counterparts from South Africa to learn more about how South Africa marketed its tourism sector," Elsie Tembo.

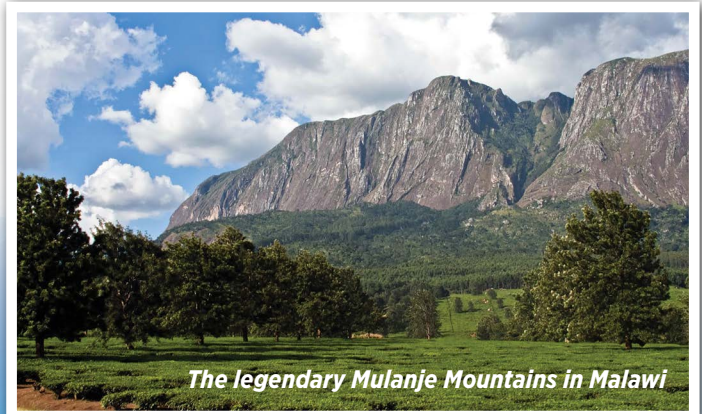
"Once we embark on marketing the sector internationally, there is likelihood that the country's economy would benefit from that," he explained.

Secretary for Tourism and Culture in the Ministry of Information, Tourism, Culture and Civic Education, Elsie Tembo, said the debriefing gave a platform for Malawians to network with South African counterparts in the tourism sector and see how best the country could benefit from their visit.

"The platform has given us as a country a chance to interact and network with our fellow counterparts from South Africa to learn more about how South Africa marketed its tourism sector," Tembo said.

Team leader for South African journalists, Brendan Seery, expressed satisfaction after visiting different tourism centres in the country, saying Malawi has an opportunity to break the international market in the sector. He said their visit would create a chance for Malawi to be marketed by the team.

"Malawi stands a chance to break the international market in the tourism sector as Namibia and Botswana have done. We will try to market the country in order to attract more international tourists," Seery, an Editor for South Africa's Star Travel newspaper, explained. - **Mana** ■



The legendary Mulanje Mountains in Malawi



The scenic Lake Malawi



Aerial view of Lusaka city, Zambia [Photo: www.lusakatimes.com]

World Bank Reaffirms Zambia's Positive Economic Growth

The World Bank has said Zambia will continue recording higher economic growth rates largely driven by massive investments in the mining sector and high domestic demand for goods, the Times of Zambia reported recently.

In its third economic briefing on Zambia, the World Bank said the southern African nation was on course for higher economic growth rates.

"The medium-term outlook is for growth to stay robust, supported by domestic demand and the global recovery, but with real downward risks," the bank was quoted as saying in its economic brief.

Real Growth Domestic Product (GDP) is projected to increase from an estimated 6.4 percent in 2013 to 6.5 percent and to stabilize around 6.5 percent in 2015-16," the bank added.

The briefing has however warned that changing external conditions, tightening of international financial conditions, and declining copper prices were likely to lead to higher borrowing costs, volatile portfolio flows and lead to lower investment and growth.

Kundhavi Kadiresan, the bank's representative in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe said it was of great importance for Zambia to maintain the current economic direction in order to consolidate fiscal position.

The World Bank official however expressed concern that the gains in the growth sectors were often transient and that firms exit the export market nearly as soon as they enter it.

Meanwhile, Zambia's Minister of Finance Alexander Chikwanda said the bank's economic brief would provide useful information to the public on the country's economic activities and that this would help the country remain among the 10 fastest growing economies in the world and among the fourth in the sub-Saharan African region.

The Zambian minister said efforts to diversify the economy have started bearing fruits with the strong growth being recorded in non-traditional exports. ■

Zimbabwe Telecom Giant, Mastercard Launch International Debit Card



EcoCash CEO Cuthbert Tembedza (left) launches the new EcoCash debit card yesterday in Harare while Econet Wireless CEO Douglas Mboweni (centre) looks on and MasterCard Worldwide vice-president and area business head Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Charlton Goredema (right) holds the dummy card [Photo: www.newsday.co.zw]

Zimbabwe's biggest mobile phone operator Econet Wireless and MasterCard have jointly launched an international debit card that will assist in reducing cash dependence and increase financial inclusion in the country. Econet chief executive officer Douglas Mboweni said recently that the adoption of electronic payments is critical to Zimbabwe's economic development as the economy will benefit from reduced dependency on cash and increase involvement of financial institutions.

Econet said the partnership will result in more than 3 million MasterCard debit cards being issued to EcoCash's customers in the next five years. EcoCash, an Econet's mobile money service launched in 2011, boasts of 3.5 million customers.

In a country with a 13 million population, Econet has 9 million subscribers, leaving the second and third telecom firms Telecel and state-owned NetOne far behind.

"We do not expect anyone to still be using paper money in a year's time. It will be just like Europe or America, where you no longer see people carrying bundles of cash," said Mboweni.

The introduction of the international debit card marks the first time of its use in mobile money services in Africa. Customers obtaining an EcoCash MasterCard debit card will be able to withdraw money from MasterCard-licensed automated-teller machines and pay for goods and services at all merchants that accept MasterCard payment cards both in and out of Zimbabwe.

A MasterCard official said the debit card was an innovative payment product that will address Zimbabwe's market realities, particularly by acknowledging the impact mobile money has on the economy.

"The EcoCash MasterCard debit card is a milestone towards realizing MasterCard's vision of a cashless society," said Charlton Goredema, MasterCard's vice president and area business head for southern Africa. He said the card will enable EcoCash customers to benefit from MasterCard's global payments network as well as assist Zimbabwe to integrate its economy with others in the world.

The launch of the card comes just about two weeks after the country's second largest mobile operator Telecel introduced its own mobile money transfer debit card for use only in the country.

Econet said it had invested in more than 5,000 point-of-sale (POS) devices across the country. It also plans to double to 10,000 the number of POS terminals over the next few months to its network of more than 13,000 EcoCash agents. ■

Will a World Class Soccer Team ever Emerge from East Africa?

By Isaac Mwangi

African teams at this year's World Cup matches were unceremoniously bundled out in the early stages of the tournament, leaving European and American teams to battle it out for glory. Eventually, Germany triumphed over the resilient Argentinian team when they scored a solitary goal in the second half of extra time.

Throughout this period, East Africans were forced to become mere spectators, their teams having long lost out to West African and North African teams in the preliminaries. The fact that no East African team has ever made it to the World Cup stage is testimony of the neglect that this sport suffers in the region.

That does not mean we have a shortage of footballing talent. A good number of East Africans are to be found playing in top clubs in Europe and the Middle East.

The problems that afflict soccer in East Africa are not dissimilar to those found elsewhere on the continent, only that they are perhaps more pronounced. Lack of sufficient facilities, kits, and equipment tops the list. There is also poor spotting and



Kenya's National team, Harambee Stars after winning the 2013 Cecafa Senior Challenge Cup final at the Nyayo Stadium in Nairobi.

[Photo: www.cecfafootball.org]

nurturing of talented players, who in other countries would benefit from sports-linked scholarships. In the developed world, there are plenty of sports academies where young talent is allowed to blossom to its fullest extent.

But nurturing talent is not something that can be achieved overnight. It takes years of persistent dueling for top stars to emerge. In team sports such as soccer, it also takes a lot of effort to ensure that players

complement each other as a team.

African teams have also suffered from problems of mismanagement. Match-fixing has been a common problem. Demoralized players have often had to fight their way to get their allowances by threatening not to play.

Issues of integrity have therefore to be addressed if Africa – and East Africa in particular – will perform better in future tournaments. We cannot have a situation where players do the hard work as officials throw them a pittance and grow fat on their efforts.

As the world drifts away from the thrill of the globe's leading sports bonanza, these issues should not be forgotten

African teams have also suffered from problems of mismanagement. Match-fixing has been a common problem. Demoralized players have often had to fight their way to get their allowances by threatening not to play.

by our governments and officials – as we wait for the next thrashing and elimination of our national teams at the preliminaries. It is time to chart the way forward, taking first and foremost the interests of our sportsmen and women.

When our countries are considering development issues, sport is rarely a priority. There are plenty of pressing concerns – from health issues to poverty alleviation and educational facilities to agriculture. Yet, it should not be forgotten that the region's star sporting performers bring in a significant amount of wealth into the region.

There is, of course, the positive publicity that is generated as well when elite runners, swimmers and others sweep the medal tables at international sporting events. It is thanks to their efforts that we now have, for example, international athletes coming from all over the world to train in Kenya's town of Eldoret.

A sporting culture can also help us overcome some of our challenges of nationhood and the emerging regionalism. Witness how various nations from all over the world descended on Brazil and competed in good faith, gracefully accepting defeat at various stages until an overall winner emerged. This kind of healthy competition is sorely needed at a regional level to develop a sense of unity among the people of our five partner states.

People who play together are more likely to appreciate one another's cultures and differences without these leading to violence. They will be more tolerant of others' perspectives while retaining the right to retain their own worldviews. Such a population is unlikely to go for one another's throats at the slightest provocation.



Tanzania's national football team poses during the 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying football match between Tanzania and Ivory Coast in Dar es Salaam on June 16, 2013. [AFP PHOTO/Tony KARUMBA]

With our countries divided along religious, ethnic and other lines, we

When our countries are considering development issues, sport is rarely a priority. There are plenty of pressing concerns – from health issues to poverty alleviation and educational facilities to agriculture...

cannot underestimate the power of sports to create unity. In addition, a lot of young people who would otherwise engage in drugs and other undesirable practices can release their energy through engaging in sports. Even though it may take some time to make it to World Cup glory, East African countries can start taking the first steps in that direction.- **EANA** ■



Uganda Cranes Winger Emmanuel Okwii gestures to the fans that graced the Uganda Cranes vs Angola match on 15 June 2013. [Photo: mtnugblog.wordpress.com]

Blatter: Number of World Cup Spots “Unfair” for Africa, Asia



Fifa's president, Sepp Blatter, at the meeting of the executive committee, at which Qatar was a central issue.

[Photo: Walter Bieri/AP]

FIFA president Sepp Blatter said the numbers of World Cup places for Africa and Asia are “unfair” considering the large number of associations in the two confederations.

Blatter discussed the prospect of changing the number of World Cup places given to each confederation in his column of the latest issue of FIFA WEEKLY, official magazine of the world’s football governing body.

“In purely mathematical terms the Africans are at a severe disadvantage compared to their rivals,” Blatter wrote, “Even though the Confederation Africaine de Football has exactly the same number of member associations as UEFA (54), it is only represented at the World Cup with five teams, whereas Europe has 13.”

“The same applies to the Asian Football Confederation: four places at the World Cup is unfair given the number of member associations (46),” he added in his column titled “It is time for a new deal”.

“We need a new deal, preferably sooner rather than later,” the 78-year old concluded.

Blatter praised the performance of teams from the African confederation and North and Central America (CONCACAF) in the beginning of the article.

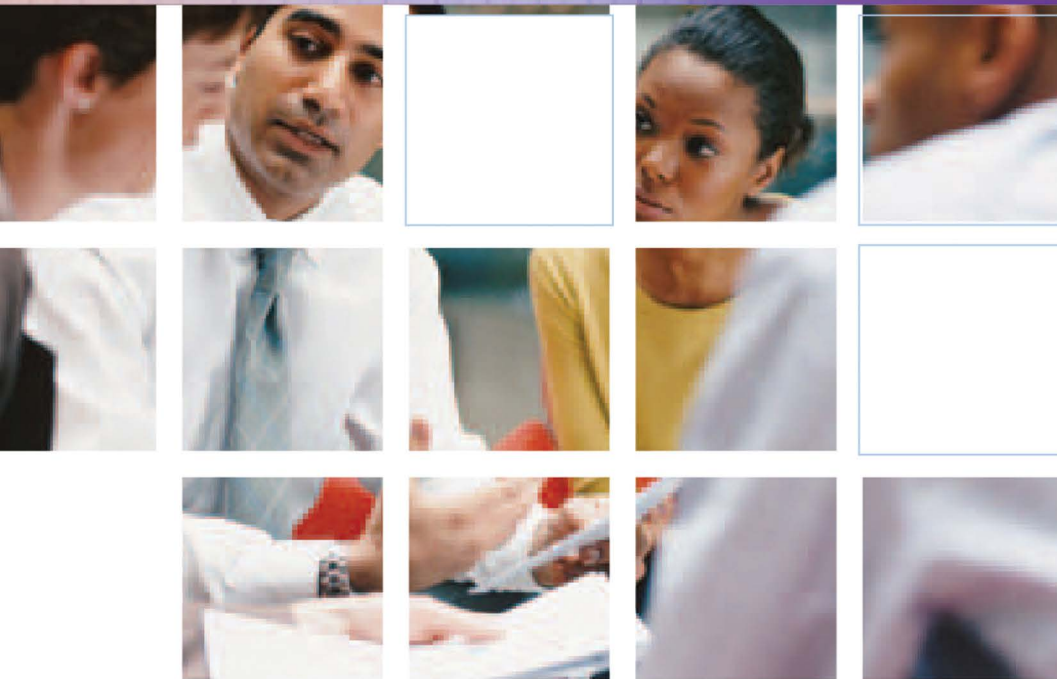
“The Africans have played good football and shown technical skill. For the first time, two of their number made the last sixteen,” he wrote.

“Three of their (CONCACAF) four teams at the finals made it to the knockout stages.”

Blatter also commented on the three European giants who failed to qualify from their groups. “It is no coincidence that three former world champions - England, Italy and Spain - went home after the group stage,” he wrote. ■

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208 Langdale House, 11 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1EN.
We are 3 minutes from Borough Tube Station on the Northern Line, near London Bridge Station.

Tel: 0203 176 5216 Fax: 0203 176 5217

Ms Joy Kyakwita: 07984461097

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