



National Pg 3 Apprenticeship training for youth



National Pg 4 Challenges facing irrigation schemes



National Pg 6 Construction of Bumbuli gravel roads



NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna (2nd-R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday handing over to board member Dr George Mulamula the Euromoney trophy the bank was awarded for emerging the Best Bank and Best Retail Bank in Tanzania. Looking on are NMB chief finance officer Juma Kimori (L) and chief of retail banking Filbert Mponzi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

NMB scoops best bank, leading lender awards

By Guardian Reporter

NMB Bank has won two international awards for outstanding financial performance and initiative, excellence in customer service, innovation prowess and huge investment in technological solutions. Revealing the awards yesterday in Dar es Salaam, NMB Bank Chief Executive Officer Ruth Zaipuna said winning accolades as the best bank and best retail bank in Tanzania was a clear indication of the bank's local clout and international recognition. Two global financial market magazines based in London have named the top lender and profit making leader the best bank and leading retail bank in Tanzania for 2021.

"For the 9th consecutive year, NMB Bank has won the best bank in Tanzania award from Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2021. The bank has also been recognized as the best retail bank in Tanzania at Global Banking and Finance Awards," the bank said in a statement. The Euromoney Best Bank award recognized NMB's strong financial performance and its switch to digital channels for greater efficiency. "With 93 per cent of its transactions taking place outside branches, NMB rightly deserves this recognition that also took into account the bank's financially inclusive approach to the business," it stated. "The best retail bank in Tanzania award reflects NMB's strategy and commitment

TURN TO PAGE 2

Demand soars with thousands registering for Covid vaccine

By Guardian Reporters

THE government may create a waiting list as thousands of Tanzanians from various regions registered for Covid-19 vaccine following the official launch of national inoculation drive last week. As of yesterday, Dar es Salaam Region had more than 10,000 applicants listing their names to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine which the government received recently from the United States. A big chunk of the one and quarter million doses has already been spent on frontline and at-risk groups such as healthcare providers, the

elderly, people with underlying conditions and lately—journalists. In Moshi, regional secretariat official Saidi Mtanda urged medical personnel to assist people in filling the consent forms, especially those who can barely read or write, as the vaccination exercise in the district was launched at Majengo health centre. He also urged medical practitioners to avoid being biased in providing the vaccines, insisting on priority to be given to identified groups. "We do not expect our people to use the opportunity to receive bribes. Conduct

TURN TO PAGE 2

Samia leads country in mourning Kwandikwa

By Guardian Reporter

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has led other Tanzanians in mourning the Minister for Defence and National Service, Elias Kwandikwa (53), who died on Monday. He passed on at night at the Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam where he was admitted. He was the legislator for Ushetu in Shinyanga Region. In her message of condolences to Chief of Defence Forces (CDF) Gen. Venance Mabeyo released yesterday, the president described



the departed leader as a hardworking cabinet minister who played a crucial role in shaping up current development efforts. President Samia said she received with shock the news of the death of Kwandikwa, as he had an immense contribution in the public service. "We have lost a very important person whose contribution in the public service cannot be erased. Kwandikwa was an energetic leader who carried out his responsibilities diligently while adhering to

TURN TO PAGE 2

Minister suspends three after power station fire

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

ENERGY minister Dr Medard Kalemani yesterday suspended three officials of the Tanzania Electricity Supply Co. (TANESCO) to pave the way for investigation of the fire outbreak at Msamvu power receiving and transmission station, resulting in a 2bn/- loss. He similarly directed Deputy Permanent Secretary Kheri Mahimbali to form a probe committee to investigate the cause of the fire, as well as the contractor of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) to investigate one of its engineers who is behind the mishap. He is said to have severed the transmission cable with a road construction bulldozer when

conducting his duties, to which steps must be taken against him when this accusation is proven, the minister specified. The directives were issued as the minister made an inspection tour of the Msamvu substation that was gutted by fire following the incident, leaving large areas without power. The TANESCO engineers have been suspended for failing to identify the fault in the power plant at the substation, the minister affirmed. "Engineers who were on duty on the fateful day should be suspended for failing to identify the fault early, thereby making the nation incur massive loss," he stated, asserting further that fire disasters were all too frequent "hence we must also investigate if some of them are acts of sabotage." He appealed to TANESCO to work day and night to make sure within 14 days power is restored in all areas, demanding also that the power utility assign experts from other stations to accomplish the task. The minister demanded that the TANESCO management speed up the purchase of

TURN TO PAGE 2



Dodoma regional commissioner Anthony Mtaka is vaccinated against Covid-19 at Dodoma city referral hospital yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph





Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda (in sunglasses) inspects an irrigation scheme at Magozi in Pawaga ward, Iringa District, on Monday while on a daylong tour of Iringa Region. Photo courtesy of Agriculture ministry

Tanga launches second phase of good financial governance programme

By Correspondent George Sembony,

Tanga

TANGA Regional Administrative Secretary Pili Mnyema has called on local government authorities (LGAs) to pull up their socks, work hard to ensure that they raise revenue collections to support improvement of services in the region.

She made the call during here the launch of the second phase of the Good Financial Governance-Accountability and State Revenue (GFG) programme that seeks to enhance revenue collection and management in LGAs in four districts of the Tanga Region.

She said that revenue collection must be taken as a national security matter.

The programme is being implemented by the German International Cooperation Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, with financial support from the Switzerland International Development Agency, the German Government and the European Union.

Mnyema pointed out that neglecting revenue collection and proper financial governance could endanger the security of the country as the government would not be able to finance social services resulting in an increase of hatred among communities.

"The government welcomes the GFG programme and it is taking it seriously as part of its efforts to strengthen revenue collection and financial management," Mnyema said.

She pointed out that Tanzania bids to strengthen its ranking as a country that has reached the middle-income status five years before the targeted date of 2015 would not be sustained if revenue collection and financial management is not strengthened.

She urged the four LGAs, Tanga City, Mkinga, Korogwe Town and

Korogwe District Council to prove that Tanga Region has not been favoured by having four LGA participating in the programme.

Earlier, Noel Kazimoto, assistant RAS (Local Government Administration) said LGAs performance in revenue collection in Tanga the Region was still poor and needed concerted efforts to address the situation.

Kazimoto said that Tanga City was the only LGA that seemed to do better but its position among Tanzania's cities was still not enough. It is ranked number four among Tanzania's cities.

GIZ programme advisor, Raymond Nzali said the second phase of the programme aims to strengthen impacts achieved in the first phase of the programme.

He pointed out that the second phase scales up successful measures from the first phase, realigning strategically where it was needed," Nzali said.

He said GFG II retains the general logic of intervention and corresponding fields of action from GFG I which focused on External Audit, Internal Audit, domestic resource mobilization and social accountability.

Nzali said that 15 districts were involved in the first phase of the project and 21 would be involved in the current phase.



The government welcomes the GFG programme and it is taking it seriously as part of its efforts to strengthen revenue collection and financial management

Demand soars with thousands registering for Covid vaccine

FROM PAGE 1

yourself professionally as what we want is for people to get vaccinated," he said.

In Mwanza, Regional Commissioner Robert Gabriel led residents to roll out the vaccination exercise at the SekouToure referral hospital.

Speaking shortly after receiving the vaccine, the RC people to go and get vaccinated in the 27 centres put up in the region. The job is voluntary and the region has prioritised people aged above 50 and those with complications such as diabetes, he stated.

He said experts have confirmed that the vaccine was safe and thus no need exist to pay attention to rumours against the vaccine in social media outlets and various other gatherings.

Despite the country receiving the vaccine there is need for more education on the continued use of masks and sanitizers, he affirmed, after taking the job accompanied by the CCM regional chairman Anthony Diallo and Nyamagana DC, Amina Makilagi.

In Arusha, residents turned up in large numbers at the Arusha International Convention Centre

(AICC) where the exercise was launched, with long queues of people of different ages ready to get the jab.

Geoffrey Pinda, deputy minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, was among those who turned up to vaccinate and used the gathering to urge people to come out and get vaccinated.

Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Amos Makalla said thousands had already booked to receive the jab, saying he was informed that more than 10,000 people had already booked to get vaccines and the regional leadership worries that the jabs will run out

soon.

Around 550 centers have been set up to provide the jabs in 26 regions across the country, with Health ministry officials saying the first drive targets health workers, those above 50 years and people with underlying conditions.

Chief Government Spokesman Gerson Msigwa said on Sunday that 11 million doses of Covid-19 vaccines under the COVAX facility are expected in the near future. Under the programme each recipient country receives doses for at least 20 per cent of its population, he added.

Minister suspends three after power station fire

FROM PAGE 1

equipment and materials for the gutted infrastructures via the emergency procurement system to restore the substation to its normal operating condition.

TANESCO must also make sure all aged substations are installed with indicators for pre-identification of faults and how to control them to

avert such disasters.

The management has to put visible marks on the ground in areas where power cables pass underneath to warn any building contractor in such areas.

Power consumers in areas where power has not been restored need to be patient as TANESCO technicians are working around the clock on the matter, he added

Samia leads country in mourning Kwandikwa

FROM PAGE 1

laws and regulations,' the president intoned, asking CDF Mabeyo to convey her condolences to the family of the late Kwandikwa3a, relatives, friends and all other people touched by his death.

The CCM Secretariat also conveyed its message of condolence, with the NEC Secretary for Ideology and Publicity, Shaka Hamdu Shaka saying they received with grief the news of the minister's death.

Kwandikwa served as a member of Kibaha District Political Committee from 2012 to 2015, and later Kahama District Committee from 2015 till his death, in his role as Ushetu MP since 2015, he said, also noting that .the late CCM cadre was Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications from 2017 to 2020 and more recently Defence Minister.

Reacting to the death, Shinyanga RC Dr Philemon Sengati said the nation has lost a brave yet humble leader who always put forward the interest of the people he served. He did a tremendous job to his constituents especially in health and education, plus electricity connections, he elaborated.

Julius Lugobi, a close aide to the departed minister, said leaders and residents of Dar es Salaam where he died will have an opportunity to view his body on Friday, before the body is flown to the National Assembly in Dodoma for last respects.

A requiem mass for the deceased is slated for Sunday at Saint Karoli Lwanga Catholic Church in Kahama District ahead of the burial service on Monday at his Butibu village of Kinamapula Ward in Ushetu District, the aide noted.



Kwandikwa was an energetic leader who carried out his responsibilities diligently while adhering to laws and regulations



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla (facing camera) has an audience yesterday with a delegation from the Office of Zanzibar's Chief Government Statistician. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

NMB scoops best bank, leading lender awards

FROM PAGE 1

to customer service excellence and value addition," the lender, noting that the two awards "underscore its market leadership, innovative creativity, unrivalled competitiveness and financial inclusion commitment."

"What makes NMB the best bank in the country mostly emanates from its leadership in innovative products, investments in technology and digital solutions. These are coupled with the widest branch network and ATMs, which have greatly contributed to its transformation," it further noted.

The CEO said it was "a great

accomplishment and honour for NMB Bank to receive these two prestigious awards and the recognition they represent," expressing pride that the bank's efforts are being recognized.

"But we also know we can't be complacent; we must continue to hold ourselves to the highest global standards and continue to reflect our dedication to maintaining our place as Tanzania's best bank and leading retail bank," she declared.

Both awards were given after taking note of several metrics including financial performance, digital banking strategy, financial inclusion, product offerings,

approach to innovative banking offerings and corporate social responsibility, the statement affirmed.

Other quantitative aspects considered include market capitalisation, return on equity, return on assets, market share of deposits, market share of loans, loans-to-deposits ratio, non-performing loans ratio and non-performing loans coverage ratio, it elaborated.

Zaipuna stated that the two awards also confirm NMB's investment in human capital, digital transformation, technology and innovative financial service offerings.

"This (best bank) award reflects the progress made by NMB Bank throughout the years including generating the highest profit in the history of the sector at TSh206bn (\$88.4m), up by 45 per cent from profits recorded in 2019," Euromoney's editor Louise Bowman explained.

"NMB is also being recognized for continuing to dominate the Tanzanian landscape in terms of good governance, integrity, financial inclusivity and corporate social responsibility, which all contributed to an exceptional year for NMB," Global Banking & Finance editor Wanda Rich summed up.



Hamisi Hussein becomes the first person to be vaccinated against Covid-19 - free of charge - at Dar es Salaam's Regency Medical Centre. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Ensuring apprenticeship training for youth is held in Kiswahili preferable'

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has instructed that apprenticeship training provided to the youth in various technical colleges in the country be in the Kiswahili language to enable all beneficiaries to understand what they are being taught.

He issued the instructions in Mbeya on Monday when officially launching the apprenticeship training Phase III and urged the Education and Vocational Training Ministry to supervise the procedure to go in tandem with government's aims to enhance skills to the youth.

The training is sponsored by the Prime Minister's Office as part of government's efforts to create 8,000,000 employment opportunities to reduce the unemployment challenge to the youth.

He said the training are being provided even to the youth who completed Std VII and who do not know the English language hence to teach them in the language they do not understand is not fair.

He said the training also aim to enable the country to realise its 2025 Vision towards Middle and Upper Economy. He also called on the youth benefiting from the training to study hard to realise their life dreams in economic enhancement through self-employment.

He also directed local councils to participate in the implementation of the training by identifying who had received the training in order to give them priority in accessing to the councils' loans.

He said before the launching of the training, he visited the colleges involved including Busokelo VETA and Kyela Polytechnic College (KPC) and saw the youth making various products even though they had received only a month's training.

For her part the Minister of state

in the PM Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour and People with Disabilities), Jenista Mhagama said the training will take six months and since they began it has benefitted 28,941 youth.

She said the training enables the youth to spend 40 per cent of his college time for theoretical training in class and 60 per cent in practical training and at his work place.

"The training is part of our programme to develop skills in the country whereby some part of the training is from work experience to the graduates and skills obtained outside the official training system," she said.

She said after the youth graduate in December this year the number of the programme beneficiaries will reach 80,320 hence the country will have adequate labour force for projects implementation as well as reducing the country's unemployment challenge.

Minister Mhagama further said do not pay for the training, as all the cost is being met by the government.

She said before launching the training, the Prime Minister will visit various colleges in Mbeya Region that provide such training including Kyela Polytechnic College, Mbeya and Busokelo VETA colleges, Prisons Technical Training College and MUST.

Mbeya Regional Commissioner, Juma Homera said "as we approach the launching day and the Prime Minister sis-day visit in the region, the security situation is satisfactory."

He hailed the government for establishing the training as it will help in beefing up the number of technicians in the country.

Meanwhile, Minister Mhagama called on the youth and other visitors who were expected to attend the event to take precautions against Covid-19 infections by wearing masks and frequently washing their hands with water and soap or sanitizers.

Govt cautioned over Marrakech declaration

By Alima Nkwong, HMC

THE government has been urged to be aware of the Marrakech declaration and to take appropriate actions as required by the declaration when it comes to the promotion and protection of the rights of the human rights defenders.

The Vice chairperson of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) Mohamed Hamad, said this yesterday in Dar es Salaam during a capacity building seminar that the declaration adopted in 2018 in Marrakech comes at a time when the rights of human right defenders are highly violated worldwide due to insufficient understanding of the declaration.

"Having the declaration is not enough but the most important thing is to disseminate and make

people aware of the declaration" he emphasized adding that a joint efforts from different stakeholders will make the implementation of the declaration possible

Hamad underscored that this will also help the government to understand their role and what needs to be done legally and in terms of policies will be considered and by so doing implementing the provision of the declaration.

"This will help them to identify who a human right defender and their role is therefore eroding the notion that exist about rights defenders and as a result promote the world fear of human rights" he intoned

He highlighted that this will also impact the citizens positively because what people need is to get their rights and human rights cannot be achieved without empowering

people.

"People have inherent rights but we put in the documents so that it can be enforced and protected but they cannot be enjoyed without recognizing them" he mentioned adding that through human rights defenders people will get the awareness and understand their rights making it easier for them to be enforced.

On his part, the Network of Africa National Human Rights Institution (NOANHRI) executive Director Gilbert Sebihogo said they have realized that there is a need to understand who are human rights defenders and the importance of protecting human rights defenders.

"We hope that at the end of the training participants will acquire knowledge about human rights defenders and will be able to assist the government in protecting the

rights of human rights defenders and that of Tanzanian citizens at large" he said

Sebihogo also called on state institutions to understand that protecting the rights of citizens is their responsibility and should also be aware that they need to partner with other actors like civil society organizations who represent citizens so that the rights of citizens could be better promoted and protected.

The National Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Onesmo Olungurumwa, stressed that human rights defenders are just there to complement the role of the government because the primary role of defending human rights has been invested in the government according to the constitution of Tanzania.



MANTRA
TANZANIA
ROSATOM

Mantra Tanzania Limited

2nd Floor, Masaki Ikon, Bains Singh Avenue, Masaki
P.O Box 23451, Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

Registration No: 29785

Tel: +255 764 700 440

e-mail: mantra@uranium1.co.tz; www.uranium1.com

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF A CIVIL CONTRACTOR FOR THE ROAD UPGRADE FROM NAMTUMBO TO MKUJU RIVER PROJECT SITE

Mantra Tanzania Limited (Mantra), operating as a subsidiary of Uranium One, is focused on the potential development of a Uranium Mine at its Mkuju River Project (MRP) in the Namtumbo District of Ruvuma Region.

Now Mantra Tanzania Ltd invites eligible Civil Contractors to express their Interest (EOI) for the road upgrade from Namtumbo to Mkuju River Project site (approximately 80Kms) as per Scope of Work to be provided to short-listed contractors.

Interested Companies are requested, as a minimum, to submit the following;

- Detailed Company Information with Organization structure, List of workers with CVs of key personnel.
- Details of completion of similar type of contracts in the last three years and similar contracts/agreements currently under execution under headings:
 - a) Brief scope of work
 - b) Value of work in USD
 - c) Contractual Duration

- d) Clients name
 - e) Contact details of the Client (Mantra may approach the client directly for the feedback).
- Details of Resources available in terms of number of manpower, equipment etc. for providing similar services
 - Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) policies, procedures and statistics covering the last 4 years.
 - Copies of Valid Quality Certifications / Accreditations, ISO certifications, If any
 - Company's financial performance documents (Audited Balance sheets, Profit and Loss Account & cash flow statement, Auditors Report and Notes to Accounts etc.) for last 3 (three) years. Latest financial statement should not be older than 18 months on the date of submission of response to Expression of interest.
 - Current Tax Clearance certificate from relevant authority.

The interested bidders should submit a soft copy of their Expression of Interest (EOI) via e-mail address; mantra@uranium1.co.tz and the hard copy to the below address latest on 18th August 2021 at 16.00 hours.

Managing Director
Mantra Tanzania Ltd

Plot No. 1520, Masaki Ikon, Bains Avenue-Masaki, P.O. Box 23451, Tel +255762700440 Dar es Salaam.

'Donors ought to prioritise investing in delicate nutrition-specific programmes'

By Guardian Reporter

GOVERNMENTS, donors, civil society and the private sector across the world have been urged to make smart investments and commitments to tackle the global malnutrition crisis.

This was said in a joint statement by UNICEF executive director Henrietta Fore and WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week which is conducted from August 1 to 7.

The leaders are calling on the players to invest in protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding through stronger policies, programmes and actions.

"At the start of this year, governments, donors, civil society and the private sector united to launch the Nutrition for Growth Year of Action. The Year of Action is a historic opportunity to transform the way the world tackles the global commitment to eliminate child malnutrition," the leaders said in the statement.

Initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour of birth followed by exclusive breastfeeding for six months and continued breastfeeding for up to two years or beyond offer a powerful line of defence against all forms of child malnutrition, including wasting and obesity. Breastfeeding also acts as babies' first vaccine, protecting them against many common childhood illnesses.

"While there has been progress in breastfeeding rates in the last four decades - with a 50 per cent increase in the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding globally - the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the fragility of those gains.

"In many countries, the pandemic has caused significant disruptions in breastfeeding support services, while increasing the risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. Several countries have reported that producers of baby foods have compounded these risks by invoking unfounded fears that breastfeeding can transmit COVID-19

and marketing their products as a safer alternative to breastfeeding," the statement noted.

"This year's World Breastfeeding Week, under its theme 'Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility' is a time to revisit the commitments made at the start of this year by prioritizing breastfeeding-friendly environments for mothers and babies. This includes:

Ensuring the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes - established to protect mothers from aggressive marketing practices by the baby food industry - is fully implemented by governments, health workers and industry.

Ensuring health care workers have the resources and information they need to effectively support mothers to breastfeed, including through global efforts such as the Baby-friendly Hospital Initiative, and guidelines on breastfeeding counselling.

Ensuring employers allow women the time and space they need to breastfeed; including paid parental leave with longer maternity leave; safe places for breastfeeding in the workplace; access to affordable and good-quality childcare; and universal child benefits and adequate wages.

"As we approach the UN Food Systems Summit in September and the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit in December, governments, donors, civil society and the private sector all have an opportunity to make smart investments and commitments to tackle the global malnutrition crisis - including protecting, promoting and supporting breastfeeding - through stronger policies, programmes and actions," read part of the statement.

"Now is not the time to lower our ambitions. Now is the time to aim high. We are committed to making the Nutrition for Growth Year of Action a success by ensuring that every child's right to nutritious, safe and affordable food and adequate nutrition is realized from the beginning of life, starting with breastfeeding."



Wentworth Africa Foundation (WAF) director Sauda Simba (R) opens a library worth 32,350,000/- built by the foundation and handed over to Chikoropola Secondary School in Masasi District recently. Left is Lulindi constituency legislator Issa Ally Mchungahela. WAF has the improvement of education as one of its core programmes and has so far built a total of seven libraries in Coast, Lindi and Mtwara regions. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government intends to increase engineering capacity for National Irrigation Commission

By Guardian Reporter, Iringa

THE government intends to increase the engineering capacity of the National Irrigation Commission (NRC), a move aimed at adding value to agriculture and get away with seasonal rains dependency.

Minister for Agriculture, Prof Adolf Mkenda made the remarks yesterday after touring Magozi and Mkombozi irrigation schemes located at Pawaga ward in Iringa Region.

He said the government intends

to facilitate the commission with resources to increase capacity as well as crop production.

Prof Mkenda said in addressing challenges facing the irrigation schemes, the government has come up with a strategy whereas it will ensure direct involvement of water users in decision making.

He said one of the strategies will be imposing levies so that whenever there are damages, a special fund is set up to address them.

Minister Mkenda called upon

farmers in the country to ensure that they work hard in their farms to increase production.

"But you should take precautions to prevent the spread of covid-19, follow what you are being advised by health workers," he said.

Prof Mkenda is on a tour of duty in southern highland regions namely Iringa, Njombe, Songwe and Rukwa where he is expected to inspect projects and witness the distribution of fertilizer and other agricultural inputs.

Last year, NRC revealed plans to build 384 new agricultural irrigation projects worth 986.8bn/- across the country in the next five years.

The new irrigation projects would be built in Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mtwara, Mwanza, Tabora and Katavi regions.

Funds for the construction of the new irrigation projects will be obtained under the implementation of the second phase of the Agricultural Sector Development Program-ASDP II.

PCCB to investigate procurement and distribution of medicines and medical equipment in Morogoro

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

THE Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Morogoro Region has announced to commence investigation on procurement and distribution of medicines and medical devices in dispensaries, health

centres and hospitals in the region.

The move is aimed to detect signs of corruption in the whole process and if found, the bureau will take stern legal measures.

Manyama Tungaraza, head of PCCB in the region said this yesterday in a statement to explain implementation of various activities done by the bureau in the final

quarter of the last fiscal year.

He said that the bureau aims to conduct intensive investigation on the procurement and distribution of medical tools for three months (July to September, 2021).

"Apart from it, the bureau will also continue investigating land conflict allegations especially in the area of land

formalisation which has been complained by many people in the Region," he said.

Tungaraza named another priority as investing public awareness on the impacts of corruption in development.

"We will continue educating the public, anti-corruption clubs in primary and secondary schools as well as colleges

equipping them with essential knowledge and enable them to become champions in disseminating the information to the society," Tungaraza said.

The Morogoro PCCB chief said that in the final quarter of the 2019/20 fiscal year, the bureau launched and strengthened anti-corruption clubs in 190 schools and colleges.

He said that in the same period (April to June 2021), PCCB monitored and investigated the implementation of 15 development projects worth 5.5bn/-.

"During monitoring, we found some gaps and the responsible supervisors were advised to make improvements," he said.

In another development, PCCB in Morogoro investigated and dragged to court 17 suspects of corruption where 10 cases got ruling with the State side winning nine cases.

"There are also 47 cases on corruption which are on-going in various courts in the Region," he added.

The Guardian Limited

VACANCY

Freelancer Sales Executive

The Guardian Limited is looking for self driven sales personnel to join our advertising Sales Team in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Arusha, Zanzibar, Tanga, Morogoro and Kilimanjaro.

Responsibilities


- Be responsible for aggressive development of new clients and growing existing business.
- Proactively develop new business avenues
- Devise and monitor business plans to ensure substantive sales
- Develop strategic solutions that meet the unique needs of each client

Qualifications

- The position requires someone who can deliver the set targets within deadlines under competitive working environment.
- Applicants need to be highly organized, self-motivated with a positive attitude, and can thrive on setting and reaching new goals.
- Holders of a University degree or Diploma in Business Administration
- Experience in Sales and Marketing is an added advantage

NOTE: This is a commission Based Position

Please send your application via Email to vacancy@guardian.co.tz before 15th August, 2021.



CONSULTANCY POSITION FOR A GOVERNANCE SECTOR MAPPING SPECIALIST

PricewaterhouseCoopers Limited (PwC) invites eligible candidates to indicate their interest to provide individual consultancy Services as a Governance Sector Mapping Specialist to the Field Support Services Project (FSSP) Tanzania.

The individual Governance Sector Mapping Specialist will provide technical support and advice to Global Affairs Canada through identifying opportunities for programming in the Inclusive Governance sector in Tanzania.

Candidates will be evaluated on the following minimum qualifications and experience:

- Master's degree in relevant discipline from a recognized University.
- Five (5) years of professional work experience in the international development sector in Tanzania.
- Five (5) years of professional experience in working with Development Partners.
- Five (5) years of professional work experience on governance, democracy, gender equality and human rights.
- Previous experience in conducting similar scoping studies, preferably in the areas of inclusive governance, human rights and gender equality.
- Experience in working with stakeholders from Non-Government Organizations and Government

In addition to the key qualifications above, the incumbent is also expected to demonstrate the following skills and competencies:

- Strong report writing and oral and visual presentation skills;
- Knowledge of national context for governance in Tanzania, including an understanding of relevant policies, priorities and programs of key institutions and development partners.
- Advanced professional proficiency in spoken and written English – level 4 and Kiswahili – level 4 as explained in http://www.international.gc.ca/ifa/iaec/test_levels-niveaux.aspx?lang=eng
- Knowledge of gender equality policy priorities and processes in Tanzania.

Interested individual candidates may obtain detailed description of these services by sending a request email to procurement@fssptz.org. Requests for further information will be received up to three working days prior to the submission deadline. Any request received later than that may not be responded to.

Interested candidates should send their Expressions of Interest (EoIs) ONLY electronically to procurement@fssptz.org not later than 15th August 2021 at 23:59 hours. Late Expressions of Interest shall not be accepted for evaluation, irrespective of the circumstances.

FSSP Manager

JIBAPA 750ml
Tsh **11,000**

BAPA 500ml
Tsh **8,000**

KIBAPA 200ml
Tsh **3,500**

Kinywaji Safi
Konyagi
THE SPIRIT OF THE NATION

THE SPIRIT OF THE NATION

Kinywaji Safi
Konyagi
THE SPIRIT OF AFRICA
A taste for the fun-loving and carefree that is distinctly Konyagi
35% ABV
750 ml
POTABLE SPIRIT
PRODUCT OF TANZANIA

Kinywaji Safi
Konyagi
THE SPIRIT OF THE NATION
A taste for the fun-loving and carefree that is distinctly Konyagi
35% ABV
500 ml
POTABLE SPIRIT
PRODUCT OF TANZANIA

Kinywaji Safi
Konyagi
THE SPIRIT OF THE NATION
A taste for the fun-loving and carefree that is distinctly Konyagi
35% ABV
200 ml
POTABLE SPIRIT
PRODUCT OF TANZANIA

TANZANIA DISTILLERIES LIMITED

NOT FOR SALE TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18. PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY.

By Guardian Reporter

Tanzania, Rwanda sign protocol to boost links

TANZANIA and Rwanda governments have agreed to boost ties between them in 10 fields.

Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan and her Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame reached the decision in Kigali, Rwanda on Monday during the former's two-day official visit in the Central African country that ended yesterday.

Among others, the issues they agreed on included economic and political cooperation in the East Africa Region.

Regarding the economic field, the two heads of state agreed to boost trade, investment to benefit both sides.

They also agreed to strengthen Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

"As you all well know, Tanzania have a telecommunication

broadband expanded to neighbouring countries including Rwanda, and today we have signed an agreement to pool more resources towards better utilisation of ICT," said president Samia.

In addition, the two heads of state agreed to work together in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic on which she said: "We have extensively discussed on the issue and we have come up with cooperation strategies through our common Rusumo Border Post as well as on drugs and other matters."

For his part, President Paul Kagame said the other issues they agreed on included more cooperation in strengthening infrastructures including the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), port services dairy industry and labour issues.

"We believe this agreement will boost brotherly relations between our two countries," said president Kagame.

"We have also agreed that we need extra efforts in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, we plan to work closely with our Tanzania brothers in this fight, personally I am very much pleased to be visited by the Tanzania president, and I believe what we have agreed upon have great benefits for our countries," said president Kagame.

During the talks, president Samia conveyed her grief to the country following the earthquake disaster.

She also thanked president Kagame for the closeness his country extended during the period following the death of Tanzania former president, John Magufuli.



Minerals minister Doto Biteko (2nd-L) presents a certificate to Exim Bank's Shinyanga branch acting manager Sarah Tito in appreciation of the bank's contribution to the success of the just-ended Trade and Mineral Technology Exhibition held in Shinyanga municipality. Others include Shinyanga regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati (L) and Mining Commission chairman Prof Idris Kikula (to the minister's left). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent,

Lushoto

Legislator gets set to 'fight' for good roads in his constituency

THE government has provided Bumbuli Constituency in Lushoto District, Tanga Region, 1.58bn/- for construction of gravel and tarmac roads.

This was disclosed here yesterday by the Constituency's Member of Parliament, January Makamba when addressing Ponde Ward residents as part of his visits during which he inspected and laid cornerstones for various development projects in his constituency.

Makamba told his constituents that he will make sure he fights for in parliament the road communication challenge in rural areas to

bring equality between rural and urban areas.

He said the funds provided by the government will be used to construct the 23.8km Mgwashi-Mbelei road at gravel level, and the 15.4km Vuga-Mponde-Wena road at tarmac level.

The legislator said it is not right to see flyovers being constructed and many roads being widened in urban areas while in rural areas, that have many voters experience untold inconveniences to transport their farm crops due to poor roads that become virtually impassable during rains.

He stressed that there must be equality in

regard to the country's development, saying "It is very unacceptable to see Dar es Salaam with up to six lane roads, while rural areas are being neglected."

He explained that among the big aims of President Samia Suluhu Hassan is to fight for the improvement of roads in rural areas.

He said that the government has planned that by 2025, Tanzanians who vote for CCM at every election should have roads that are passable at all times of the year.

However, he said, as MP his yearning is to see his constituents are relieved with the challenge posed by poor roads.

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA is losing USD 299,485, 211 in tax revenues every year due to tax evasion.

In addition, 700,000 workers die every year worldwide due to working for long periods contrary to World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.

This was revealed on Saturday by the Legal and Human rights Centre (LHRC) when launching the Human rights and Business Report in the country for 2020/21.

Submitting the report, Senior LHRC officer from its Research Department, Fundikira Wazambi said from the situation, Tanzania has been cited as being among 70 countries that lead in tax evasion.

He said out of that sum, USD

Tanzania losing \$299.5m from tax evasion every year - LHRC

279,081,381 or 93 per cent of the money being lost is from tax evasion done by various companies by depositing their profits in foreign accounts.

Wazambi said the amount of money that Tanzania was losing every year can pay salaries for 135,577 nurses in one year.

"Another report on taxation provided by Justice Network in Africa (TJNA) for 2021 shows that Tanzania is among 70 countries whose tax systems has loopholes for international companies to pay little tax," he added.

In regard to work hours, he said there has been challenges

for employers disregarding approved working hours whereby 85 per cent of workers who participated in the research said they were free to go home after laid down working hours.

LHRC Managing Director, Anna Henga said the research aimed at to find out how businesses respects human rights whereby 15 regions were researched upon through controlling institutions, firms, workers, drivers and construction workers.

Henga said main issues they came across with during the research was employment

contracts whereby these dropped as 59 per cent of those questioned said had work contracts as compared to the previous year. "The number of workers with work contracts was 25 per cent compared to those with contracts in 2019 when 84 per cent said they had work contracts," she added.

Henga appealed to the government to visit companies and institutions to see the actual situation instead of waiting to receive reports many of which are cooked up, and added that LHRC will submit its report to relative authorities for action.

Enabel

Accountant (m/f/x) –
Tabora Region, Tanzania

Enabel is the Belgian development agency. It implements Belgium's governmental cooperation. The agency also implements actions for other national and international donors. With its partners in Belgium and abroad Enabel offers solutions addressing pressing global challenges: Climate Change, Urbanisation, Human Mobility, Peace and Security, Economic and Social Inequality, and Global Citizenship. With 1,500 staff, Enabel manages about 150 projects in twenty countries, in Belgium, Africa and the Middle East.

Background

Enabel is operating in Tanzania as a public limited company under public law with a social purpose in accordance with article 7 (iii) of the General Agreement between The United Republic of Tanzania and The Kingdom of Belgium on Development Co-operation signed on 16th of October 2002, and the introduction Letter from the Embassy of Kingdom of Belgium N° 2018/023 signed on 25th January 2018 on the transformation from BTC into Enabel.

The project on beekeeping, funded by the European Union, has a duration of 4 years with an inception phase of 6 months.

The project is taking place under the 11th EDF National Indicative Programme for Tanzania (2014-2020) in which Sustainable Agriculture is a focal sector with the specific objective to "enhance management of natural resources, including forests, and ecosystem services for sustainable agriculture development and climate change adaptation". The European Union Action Document for Beekeeping Value Chain Support contributes to that objective and also to the Planet and Prosperity pillars.

For the launching of our new project on beekeeping, Enabel is searching for an accountant to be based in Tabora Region.

Job Description

Your tasks and responsibilities as an accountant:

- You ensure the processing of accounting data and documents in order to provide qualitative accounting.
- You ensure the preparation of treasury operations in order to ensure suppliers/beneficiaries/etc. are paid correctly and in due time.
- You ensure the preparation of files for control purposes in order to allow a transfer by one's hierarchical supervisor to the controllers/auditors.
- You control the supporting documents regarding grants in order to allow for an appropriate control of the grants.
- You provide financial data in order to allow reliable financial reporting and analysis

The Accountant reports to the financial controller

Your profile

Required qualifications and experience

- Tanzanian national
- Bachelor in accounting and/or financial management
- Minimum 5 years of experience in a similar function

- Experience in an NGO / bilateral agency is an asset

Required skills and knowledge

- Good knowledge of various accounting software;
- Good Knowledge of double-entry bookkeeping (accrual accounting);
- Good knowledge of computer software (MS Word, Excel);
- A Good Team Player
- You are fluent in spoken and written Swahili. Considering the international environment in which you work, excellent knowledge of English is required.

Applicants are also required to **commit to the vision, mission and values of Enabel** (<https://www.enabel.be/content/enabel-vision-mission-values>).

We offer

- A fascinating job in an international environment.
- A contract of **36 months with 6 months' probation period**. You are based in **Tabora Region**. Occasional missions to the region Katavi, Singida, Shinyanga and Pemba Islands where we implement projects are possible.
- A salary package that comprises the monthly gross salary, in accordance with our salary scales (Class 4), hospitalization/healthcare insurance, 13th month, double holiday allowance and reallocation allowance.

Every person who fulfills the conditions listed in our job advertisements may apply. Enabel is committed to equal opportunities and diversity in its workforce. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, origin, age, religion, sexual orientation, disability status or any other factor

Following this recruitment procedure a shortlist of successful applicants may be constituted which may be sourced in the next three years for similar job openings.

Are you interested?

Apply here <https://jobs.enabel.be/> at the latest by 25/08/2021 and include your application letter and updated CV. If you have any further questions, please send an e-mail to peter.mhuwa@enabel.be. We thank you in advance for your interest in our company.

Only applications submitted via the above link will be considered.

PANAFRICAN
Energy

Reference: PAT/EOI-PR/2021

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES TO PANAFRICAN ENERGY TANZANIA LIMITED

Date: 4th August 2021

- PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Ltd. a Producer, Distributor and Marketer of Natural Gas from the Songo Songo gas field in Kilwa District, Lindi Region hereby invites potential suppliers to express their interest for the supply of Public Relations Services.
- This call for Expression of Interest (EOI) signifies the start of an open, transparent and objective tender process which will commence in the period of seven (7) days from the date of this notice. The Contract for these works shall be for the initial period of 1 year and thereafter, following good performance of the Supplier, shall be extended for 2 more years' subject to the Contract termination clause.
- The Potential Supplier should be a well-established and reputable company and shall indicate that it is willing, capable, experienced and competent in supplying Public Relations Services preferably to the Oil & Gas or Mining Industries. Failure to clearly so indicate may result in disqualification from the bid list.
- A detailed Scope of Work will be shared via a Request for Quotation which will be issued to the qualified bidders
- Potential Suppliers must submit information to demonstrate their technical competency and relevant experience as a minimum. This must include the following:
 - Proof of experience in providing Public Relations Services preferably in Oil & Gas or Mining industries.
 - Registration in EWURA's LSSP Database as a Local Service Provider.
 - Proven technical capability.
 - Specific payment terms in Tanzania Shillings.
 - Proof of registration with the local authorities. This shall include but not be limited to a certificate of registration with BRELA, TRA (TIN & VAT), Valid Business Licence, etc.
 - Proof of financial capability (provide latest approved audited financial statements for the past 3 years).
 - Provide current annual returns updated in the BRELA Online Registration System.

Note: Potential suppliers may be requested to submit further information prior to being included in any final Bid List.

6. All correspondence regarding this enquiry shall be in writing and communicated by e-mail otherwise the potential supplier may be disqualified from tendering at the sole discretion of PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited.

7. Interested eligible suppliers may obtain further information by writing to the address below or e-mail to with a copy to Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe (e-mail: ntuyabaliwe@panafricanenergy.com).

All responses to be sent to the following address before COB Thursday, 12th August, 2021.

PanAfrican Energy Tanzania Limited, Oyster Plaza, 5th Floor, Haile Selassie Road, P.O. Box 80139, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Telephone: +255 22 292 3307, Fax +255 22 292 3312.

Attn: Bizimana Ntuyabaliwe, Deputy Managing Director.

PRESS RELEASE



LAUNCHING OF THE DSE ENTERPRISE ACCELERATION SEGMENT (“ENDELEZA”)



DSE Chief Executive Officer Moremi Marwa prepares notes before delivering a presentation during one of Endeleza Classes.

Background

One of the major challenges facing the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) is access to financial capital. This is evidenced by several research on challenges facing SMEs. To address the challenge, in Tanzania context, there has been a myriad of initiatives that the country has taken. On its part, the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), being part of the financial system introduced the DSE Enterprise Growth Market (EGM) in 2013, as one of the initiatives to address the challenge of access to long-term and patient source of capital for SMEs.

Since then, statistics indicates that minimal achievement has been made in easing access to long-term finance for SMEs. Among the hurdles that is hindering the uptake, is the lack of long-term capacities by executives and/or owners of SMEs in operationalization and governance of their enterprises in a sustainable manner, that will also be attractive to investors and suppliers of long-term capital financing.

It is against this backdrop that the DSE and its key stakeholders decided to develop a special program for capacity building to executive/owners of SMEs dubbed “DSE Enterprises Acceleration Program (DEAP)”. The Program was officially launched in January 2020, by enrolling the first 15 companies from various diverse sectors.

DSE Enterprises Acceleration Program (DEAP)

The main objective of DEAP is to enhance capacity of the targeted entrepreneurs in various aspects of business management and governance of their business so they may become attractive to different

types of financiers and investors hence the ability to expand their businesses, ultimately contribute to the economic growth. Among others, the program is a catalyst to embed certain behavioral and cultural change necessary for effective running of businesses.

The Program involve three (3) different phases: i) Experiential learning session; ii) Coaching and Mentorships; and iii) Admission to the Non-Trading segment of the DSE “ENDELEZA”.

DSE Enterprise Acceleration Segment “ENDELEZA”

ENDELEZA Program is a designated Non-Trading segment at the DSE aimed at profiling and enhancing visibility for qualifying SMEs. The ultimate objective is to provide an enabling linkage/platform for qualifying SMEs to engage with potential private capital providers (i.e., investors and/or financiers) such as Private Equity Funds, Venture Capital Funds, Angel Investors, Crowdfunding Platforms, Development Finance Institutions, Banks, etc.

Currently there are eight qualifying SMEs that are already admitted on the DSE ENDELEZA Program emanating from the Agro-processing, Fintech, ICT, Micro-finance, and other sectors. These companies can be accessed via www.dse.co.tz under the ENDELEZA link.

Admission to the ENDELEZA Project:

Interested and qualifying SMEs are required to fill the Online Application available on the DSE website at the “ENDELEZA” link and follow the following process:

- Filling in the interactive online application form
- Attaching relevant

information about the respective company

- Providing Audited Accounts for three years
- Provide Name and profile of Members of the Board of Directors and Executive Management
- Provide a Write-up on the company's desire for expansion and growth
- Provide a link of a well-functioning website capable to link ENDELEZA website
- Willingness to voluntary use the services of Licensed Investment Advisory upon consideration for accessing public capital.

Benefits of the ENDELEZA Project

The segment offers a wide range of benefits to qualifying SMEs, including:

- Enhanced visibility of the company across a diverse investing public and financiers.
- Enhanced brand recognition and business opportunities.
- Assist in inculcating improved corporatization, including good management corporate governance.
- Developing capabilities for access to capital markets.
- Access to a one-stop-shop advisory opportunities on strategy and capital raising.
- Roadmap to higher and long-term corporate sustainability.

For more information on participation to the Program contact DSE via info@dse.co.tz; imshindo@dse.co.tz, Phone numbers: +255 22 2128983 / 2128522 and Mobile 0756 391897.

THE FIRST EIGHT ENDELEZA FIRMS



Selcom is a Pan African cross-segment financial and payment services provider, providing its customers across Sub-Saharan Africa, with a full range of electronic payment products and services focusing on digital, card and card-less processing services. Selcom currently boasts a network of over 50,000 agents and merchant touch points for assisted bill payments as well as agency banking services.

Insurance Brokers Limited (VIB). VIB focuses on both life and non-life insurance offering, with mission to “provisioning of insurance services aiming at enhancing customers’ satisfaction and shareholder’s value.” Victoria Finance PLC wholly owns Victoria Insurance Brokers Limited.



FINCA Microfinance Bank in Tanzania was the first microfinance institution in the country to be licensed by the Central Bank of Tanzania. FINCA Microfinance Bank is part of the FINCA Impact Finance global network of 20 banks and microfinance institutions that provide impactful and socially responsible financial services enabling low-income people to invest in their futures. With 30+ years of experience and a mostly local staff of more than 10,000, FINCA Impact Finance delivers a double bottom line of commercial sustainability and positive social impact.



Raha Beverages Company Limited is the number one producers, bottlers and distributors of banana alcoholic beverages in East Africa. Formally known as Banana Investments Limited, RABEC is a home-grown venture dating back in early 1990s.



AKM Glitters Company Limited was established on 7th March 2007 by three Tanzanian share holders dealing with Intergrated poultry business and invested on Animal Feed Plant, Kuroiler Parent Stock Farm and provision of rural based extension and veterinary services. To date, AKM Glitters has established 480 small sized franchises and reached more that 1,200,000 small holder farmers in Tanzania working in 25 regions of Tanzania mainland and plans to expand to Zanzibar.



AML Finance Limited is a liability company seeking to provide financial services to small businesses and individuals in Tanzania.



Techno Image is a Specialist Contractor and System Integrator in the area of Business Communication, Security and Surveillance networks and Sound Systems.



Reni International Company Limited was established in April 2007. The company is led by youthful and enthusiastic Tanzanians who espouse the idea of a vibrant Tanzanian economy, job creation through investment in new and emerging building technologies purposely to deliver affordable, high quality power backup, to the Tanzanian public. Reni International Company Limited engages as part of its labor-force, highly trained and qualified professionals whose motto is ‘to uphold the highest ethics at work, integrity and timely and top quality service to the customer’.



Victoria Finance Plc (VFP) is a non-deposit taking microfinance institution, regulated by the Bank of Tanzania under Tier 2. VFP provides microfinance products and services to individuals, corporate and SACCOS or similar groups who may not be able to obtain such services from commercial banks or other financial institutions. In the efforts to diversify its revenues sources and increase its financial inclusion offerings; on 28th March 2017, Victoria Finance PLC incorporated an insurance Subsidiary-Victoria

Africa is at a crossroads over youth joblessness

WHEN African leaders converged for their summit in 2017 they appended their signature on the document that charted the path towards achieving the goals of the long drawn theme: "Harnessing the demographic dividend through investment in the youth."

The theme had been on the table for several years and had witnessed various dimensions with the youth themselves fighting hard to be in the driving seat. Yes they were allowed to be in the driving seat, but they also needed a strong investment from their political leaders for an overall success.

The decisions that were taken were critical for the survival of Africa's youth which make up a huge chunk of the continent's population. Such decisions were expected to avoid the route of imminent disasters.

Projections show that the continent's youth population is set to double by the year 2050 by which time Africa's population is estimated to reach 2.5 billion, with half being under the age of 25.

For the survival of, and to be fit into this society, the leaders should be projecting for the Africa of tomorrow and not to once again react to the problems of today.

The continent will be in need of 22.5 million new jobs to absorb the millions of young people that will be entering the Africa labour market every year. What this means is that the leaders should be committing themselves to talk about wealth creation and not managing poverty alleviation.

That, sadly, is what obtains today. Any strategic mistake in their decisions to invest in the youth between now and 2020 will spell another disaster for the continent.

Striving to improve access to financial services is laudable

IN sub-Saharan Africa, 350 million people are excluded from formal financial services. This includes approximately 125 million farmers that receive cash payments for the sale of agricultural products owing to lack of access to quality and appropriate financial services.

As a result the African Development Bank (ADB) and the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance access to quality financial services on the continent. The agreement aims to create a collaboration framework to promote financial inclusion in Africa.

Indeed we agree on the need to scale up the effort in addressing the gender gap in access to financial services for women.

We are told the partnership will also strengthen the technical capacity of financial regulators and policy-makers across the continent to implement substantive policy reforms to advance financial inclusion.

In order to implement its Financial Sector Development Strategy, the bank relies notably on strategic and innovative collaborative partnerships with organisations like the Alliance for Financial Inclusion.

According to the two organisations, financial services offered through mobile technology have revolutionised and accelerated the economic landscape in agriculture, energy, microfinance, gender access, and SME financing in many African countries.

They will seek to develop this further through initiatives such as the African Mobile Phone Financial Services Policy Initiative and digital

The ONE campaign group has been strident in its campaign to the African leadership. With its more than eight million members worldwide ONE has been lobbying governments to spend more on education, health, agriculture, access to energy and job creation among other things with one basic aim, 'end poverty.'

In Africa in particular, where 51 million out of the global 130 million girls are denied the basic right to education, ONE has been putting pressure on the governments to create the avenue for these girls not only to go to school but to also improve outcomes and generate fit-for-purpose skills.

As ONE put it: "Poverty is sexist - it hits girls and women hardest. But educate a girl from a poor community, and it can dramatically improve her health, wealth and potential."

She's less likely to become a child bride, contract disease like HIV, or die young. And she could help lift her family and her entire community out of poverty."

It is true that African leaders have the power to increase investments in education, employment and empowerment, and could make sure every girl gets the chance to go to school and learn. If this is done it will be an opportunity to transform the future of the entire continent.

Leaders must develop and effectively implement policies that promote and support start-ups, flexible labour markets, facilitate the development of labour-intensive sectors that can compete globally, and liberalise trade - all of which will lead to job growth driven by youth's entrepreneurial energy. In addressing job creation they should also take a comprehensive look at training.

financial inclusion, where AFI members have been ahead of the curve for almost a decade now.

The Alliance for Financial Inclusion is the world's leading organisation on financial inclusion policy and regulation. The member owned-network promotes and develops evidence-based policy solutions that improve the lives of the poor.

AFI is led by its members, comprising mainly financial regulatory institutions such as central banks, superintendencies and ministries of finance from developing countries.

The network currently includes members from 94 countries working together to accelerate the adoption of proven and innovative financial inclusion policy solutions with the ultimate aim of making financial services more accessible to the world's unbanked.

AFI's intellectual partnership with AFI is expected to facilitate substantial returns for Africa by supporting a truly innovative model of collaboration and knowledge exchange among policy-makers, the private sector and other stakeholders that will shape financial inclusion policy-making on the African continent in years to come.

At the signing of the MoU, Pierre Guislain, AFD Vice-President for Private Sector, Infrastructure and Industrialisation, said: "The Bank will leverage its resources to support AFI's efforts on digital financial services, agricultural and SME sectors as well as gender. It will prioritise capacity building and knowledge sharing activities and nourish the dialogue for Africa's policy-makers through global events and activities."

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757154767
General line: 0745700710
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Mobile: 0782253676
E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: www.ippmedia.com
epaper.ippmedia.com



By Skc Ogbonnia

HISTORY, though, must not forgive President Muhammadu Buhari whose pattern of injustice continues to inflame the crisis.

THE... SIN of the Igbo leaders is their nonchalant attitude towards the long-standing policy of the federal authorities to reduce the Igbo nation to a mere "dot in a circle." In fact, what most people do not know is that Nnamdi Kanu's biggest crime against the Nigerian state is actually his doggedness in exposing the major truths why the country does not promote the teaching of History in its schools.

Ezekiel 18:20: "A son must not suffer the punishment for the father's guilt..." Therefore, those grandstanding as Igbo leaders should be falling on top of each other protesting, demanding President Muhammadu Buhari to detain them instead of the leader of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Mazi Nnamdi Kanu. The objective fact is that Kanu is suffering for the sins of the Igbo leaders.

THE FIRST SIN of these Igbo leaders is the lack of development in Igboland that drew the ire of Kanu in the first place. Mazi Kanu, we should remember, began to gain national prominence not long after General Buhari gained democratic power in 2015. Key to Kanu's popularity among the masses was his boldness to say enough is enough, after the leaders from the South-East and South-South zones failed to hold President Buhari accountable for the naked threat to marginalise the Biafran region, simply because the people voted en masse for their native son, President Goodluck Jonathan. But their failure to confront Buhari is understandable. Most of these Eastern leaders -- like their counterparts in other regions -- are virally corrupt. Thus, they continue to fear that the president would readily revenge by marshalling the anticorruption agencies against them.

Such dilemma prompted my piece: "Buhari And Nnamdi Kanu Fighting The Wrong Enemies." There I reminded that before Buhari's presidency, a major aim of Radio Biafra, in Kanu's own words, was to uproot "all looters, embezzlers, kidnappers, sponsors of terrorism, child traffickers, corrupt judges, crooked university lecturers, murderous Nigerian security forces and all thieving individuals masquerading as public officials who steal public funds thereby preventing developmental projects from impacting positively on the lives of the ordinary people." Yes!

Nnamdi Kanu: Suffering for the sins of Igbo leaders

I then followed that, if Buhari was ever sincere with his election campaign promise to fight corruption, the President and Kanu ought to have common enemies in the very corrupt leaders from the South-East and South-South zones of Nigeria, who plundered development opportunities in Biafra land during the last 16 years of astronomical oil boom, before Buhari assumed democratic power.

... Buhari is not solely to blame for the "dot in a circle" propaganda. He inherited the script from the Igbo marginalisation scheme that began during the Biafran war. Central to such scheme was the endeavour to sustain an artificial boundary, which must suggest that the Igbo people suddenly no longer have access to the Atlantic Ocean.

THE SECOND SIN of the Igbo leaders is their nonchalant attitude towards the long-standing policy of the federal authorities to reduce the Igbo nation to a mere "dot in a circle." In fact, what most people do not know is that Nnamdi Kanu's biggest crime against the Nigerian state is actually his doggedness in exposing the major truths why the country does not promote the teaching of History in its schools. The most stubborn of those truths is that the Igbo nation is NOT landlocked, after all. Unlike the Igbo leaders, Nnamdi Kanu is a student of History and has stoutly rejected the "dot in a circle" label, far before Buhari made the conspiracy public. The IPOB leader understands that, besides the South-East geopolitical zone, there are indigenous Igbo areas in the North-Central and the South-South zones, including the riverine areas of Nigeria. The point is that Igbo nation is far beyond Muhammadu Buhari's "dot in a circle" map, well into the Atlantic Ocean.

But Buhari is not solely to blame for the "dot in a circle" propaganda. He inherited the script from the Igbo marginalisation scheme that began during the Biafran war. Central to such scheme was the endeavour to sustain an artificial boundary, which must suggest that the Igbo people suddenly no longer have access to the Atlantic Ocean.

Stop here for a minute and take a critical look at the Nigerian map, featuring the six geopolitical zones. Any discerning mind would notice the devious manner federal authorities lumped the indigenous Igbo areas that have natural access

to the sea into the South-South zone.

Make no mistake about this: No one is wishing for a perfect homogenous state or zone. After all, there are indigenous Igbo communities in the South-East zone, as there are indigenous Igbo communities in the North-Central zone. The problem here is the double standard. On the one hand, the Fulani flock -- a recent immigrant to Nigeria -- is free to align with the Hausa to assume a new ethnic identity - the Hausa-Fulani. Moreover, the Fulani is not only free to lay claim to Fulani settlements in the three zones of Northern Nigeria, but the group also prides itself for wielding the disparate Northern ethnic nationalities into a homogenous political identity. These moves by the Fulani are politically strategic and definitively worthy of emulation. On the other hand, however, any attempt by the Igbo -- an indigenous settler in Nigeria -- to identify with her indigenous components in the South-South zone or even to align with any other ethnic group is viewed as a taboo by the federal authorities. The latent policy of Nigeria is that the Igbo must be seen not only as "a dot in a circle" but they must also be viewed as political lepers.

The analysis into the current Biafran crisis should not only go beyond the fleeting exigencies of secession, it ought to also consider the message, not only the messenger. The problem must not revolve around how Kanu delivers his message. The problem is that the Igbo leaders who claim to know how best to deliver the message choose to do nothing at all.

Unfortunately, unlike Nnamdi Kanu, the Igbo leaders are grossly naive. They have been busy, aiding and abetting the federal authorities in the re-writing of Igbo history for their individual interests. Today, any mention of the Igbo is squarely pegged to the South-East zone. Presently, there is hardly any Igbo organisation or those in position of power who promote the Igbo agenda beyond the South-East zone. Unlike Nnamdi Kanu, the Igbo leaders prefer to forget that Ohaneze Ndigbo, for example, refers to indigenous Igbo communities in eight states in three geopolitical zones, namely: South-East: Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo states; South-South zone: Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross-River, Delta, Edo (Igbanke), and Rivers; and

North-Central: Benue and Kogi States.

Unlike Nnamdi Kanu, the so-called Igbo leaders are too daft to remember that the former Secretary-General of Ohaneze Ndigbo, a Biafran war commander, and the late Secretary-General of Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Joe Achuzia, is not from the South-East zone. Needless to mention that Ralph Uwechue, a native of Ogwashi-Uku in Delta State, was once the President General of Ohaneze; and the eminent pan-Igbo activist, Uche Okwukwu, a native of Ikwerre in Rivers State, was not long ago the Secretary-General of the Ohaneze.

THE THIRD AND MOST SENSATIONAL SIN of the Igbo leaders is their penchant to appease Buhari and the enemies of Ndigbo by carrying on as if Biafra is solely a South-East affair or rather a mere "dot in a circle". Unlike the Igbo leaders, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu clearly understands that Biafra is not even an Igbo word; and it was Frank Opiyo, an Ijaw -- not Igbo -- who christened the new nation after the then Bight of Biafra, now known as the Bight of Bonny. The IPOB leader does not forget that the last Head of State of Biafra, Major-General Phillip Effiong, a native of Ibiono Ibom in Akwa Ibom State, is not from the South-East zone. He knows that the ancient city of Asaba, the bloody epicentre of the Biafran war, is in the South-South zone. Nnamdi Kanu recognises that Chukwuma Nzeogwu, a native of Okpanam in Delta State, who led the first military coup of 1966, that is commonly blamed for the civil war, was from the present South-South zone. The IPOB leaders is bold to expose the true history, which clearly states that a major objective of the first coup was to free Obafemi Awolowo from prison and make him the prime minister of the country.

The analysis into the current Biafran crisis should not only go beyond the fleeting exigencies of secession, it ought to also consider the message, not only the messenger. The problem must not revolve around how Kanu delivers his message. The problem is that the Igbo leaders who claim to know how best to deliver the message choose to do nothing at all. History, though, must not forgive President Muhammadu Buhari whose pattern of injustice continues to inflame the crisis.

After vilifying the UN, US returns to the world body

UNITED NATIONS. ED Koch, a sharp-tongued Mayor of New York city (1978-89), once stopped short of using a four-letter word to denounce the United Nations.

Instead, he opted for a five-letter word dismissing the UN as a "sewer" relegating it to the lower depths of degradation.

In a bygone era, some of the most vociferous rightwing, conservative US politicians never ceased to denounce the world body primarily because of a rash of UN resolutions condemning Israel for human rights violations in the occupied territories or for resolutions mis-perceived as anti-American.

The late Senator Jesse Helms, a Republican chairman of the powerful US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, once said "providing funds to the UN was like pouring money into a rat hole."

"I disagree with the premises upon which the United Nations is built and with the illusion that it propagates," Senator Helms, said in a letter to the World Federalist Association. "It would be one thing if the United Nations were just an international side show, but it plays a greater role. It is a vast engine for the promotion of socialism, and to promote this purpose the U.S. provides a quarter of its budget," he said.

Helms, said he has long called for "our country's departure from this Organization, and vice versa."

Charles Lichtenstein, a former U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the U.N. Mission, once said he would urge members of the United Nations to move out of New York if they did not like the treatment they were receiving in the United States.

Helms – with tongue firmly entrenched in cheek – said he would join Lichtenstein in waving goodbye to U.N. member-states "as they sail away into the sunset."

When the 193-member UN General Assembly elected some of the so-called "repressive regimes" as members of the Human Rights Commission (later the Human Rights Council), Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (Republican of California) hollered: "The inmates have taken over the asylum. And I don't plan to give the lunatics any more American tax dollars to play with."

And more recently, former President Donald Trump not only decried multilateralism and challenged the effectiveness of the world body but also dismissed it as "a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time."

Trump pulled out of two historic international agreements: the Paris climate change agreement and the nuclear deal with Iran.

But things have dramatically changed since he was ousted from the White House – and the US is gradually returning to the UN, whose primary home is New York, even though most of its agencies are based outside the US, including in Geneva, Rome, Vienna, Paris, Bonn and Nairobi.

The administration of President Joe Biden, which took over from the Trump administration about six months ago, has not only returned to multilateralism but has also pledged to re-engage both with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris.

Additionally, the US has agreed to restore funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), both of which suffered funding cuts under Trump.

Last April, the Biden's administration said it plans to provide \$235 million to Palestinians, restoring part of the assistance cut by Trump. Two-thirds will go to UNRWA, which has suffered a financial crisis since it lost \$360 million of US funding in 2018.

In 2016, UNFPA received \$69 million in funding from the U.S. And in July 2019, UNFPA expressed concerns over US withholding funds for the third consecutive year. The Biden administration is expected to restore US funding.

Penny Abeywardena, Commissioner for International Affairs at the Office of the New York city Mayor Bill de Blasio, welcomed the move by the United Nations to gradually return to near-normal after a 16-month pandemic lock down.

She said "the UN General Assembly has for decades been a staple of Fall in New York and as Host City to the UN, we have always been proud to welcome the international community who gather here".

Kul Gautam, a former UN assistant secretary-general, told IPS the whole world, including the United Nations, breathed a sigh of relief at the advent of the Joe Biden administration in the US, following four years of the erratic and unpredictable Donald Trump presidency.

Mirroring Trump's "America First" bravado, his senior diplomatic team, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Ambassador Niki Haley showed little regard or diplomatic finesse in dealing with the complex issues high on the UN's agenda, he pointed out.

Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton had so little respect for the UN that as the US Ambassador to the UN, he had once proclaimed that if the UN Secretariat building in New York "lost 10 stories, it wouldn't make a bit of difference," said Gautam, a former deputy executive director of the UN children's agency UNICEF.

Similarly, his Trump-era successor Niki Haley told a Republican National Convention that the "UN was a place where dictators, murderers and thieves denounce America, and demand that we



pay their bills."

Gautam said in contrast to the Trump-era narrative of the UN being a largely bureaucratic and profligate anti-American organization, dominated by China and Third World countries, the Biden administration quickly proclaimed that "America was back" at the UN and would provide constructive leadership and support a multilateral approach to solving the world's most pressing issues from COVID-19 to climate change.

Not only is Joe Biden himself a seasoned statesman in international affairs, said Gautam, but his senior aides, including Secretary of State Tony Blinken, UN Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Special Envoy John Kerry are all consummate diplomats who believe in multilateralism.

Mandeep S. Tiwana, Chief Programmes Officer at CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organizations (CSOs), told IPS the United States played a key role in establishing the UN Charter who's opening words, 'We the Peoples', mirror the opening words of the US Constitution. Eleanor Roosevelt stewarded the draft-


ing of what is arguably the UN's finest achievement - adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The Trump administration's disdain for the UN devalued these historical achievements. Traditionally, the United States has been a supporter of rights and democratic values at the UN as core pillars of its foreign policy," he said.

The Biden administration's commitment to re-engage at the UN is being welcomed by many in civil society working to challenge discrimination and oppression, he said, pointing out, that it's a step in the right direction for people-centered multilateralism which lies at the core of the UN's founding.

Tiwana also said the Biden administration has an opportunity not just to repair the damage of the Trump years but to demonstrate commitment to laying the ground work for the ambitious advancement of justice, equality and sustainability for future generations.

Gautam said while Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was severely constrained from taking some bold initiatives during his first term due to fear of the veto-wielding and chest-thumping



Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition [THRDC]

P. O. Box 105926 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
 Mob: +255 769 642 208 E-mail: info@thrdc.or.tz
 Website: www.thrdc.or.tz

BID INVITATION TO SUPPLY ONE (1) OFFICE VEHICLE

Contracting Authority: Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)

Tender number: THRDC/OFFV/1/2021 (The tender number should be indicated in the application)

Tenders are to be returned in a sealed envelope marked: Bid to supply one (1) office vehicle

To:
The National Coordinator,
Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition,
Email: info@thrdc.or.tz
P.O Box 105926, Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam.

Deadline for submission: All tenderers must submit their applications within the **twenty (20) days** after the date of the advertisement. No hand delivered, emails application will be accepted, all applications should be sent through the address above.

Address to be printed on the bid envelope. The tender will be opened five (5) days after the bid deadline; however, it may be communicated otherwise by the contracting authority.

Below is a detailed general description of the vehicle THRDC is intending to purchase:

TOYOTA LAND CRUISER PRADO OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR CAR

Model code	: (Please indicate in your application)
Mileage	: Below 60,000 km
Year	: 2010 or later
Engine	: 2500-3000cc
Dimension	: According to a car type (please indicate in your application)
Dimension (Interior)	: According to a car type (please indicate in your application)
Transmission type	: Automatic
Drive train	: 4WD
Body Type	: Suburban Utility Vehicle
Steering	: Right
Fuel	: Petrol/Diesel
Seats	: 7
Color	: White/Black
Doors	: 5
Riding Capacity	: 5
Country of origin	: Japan

All bidders should also indicate any other customers benefits accompanied with their service including comprehensive vehicle maintenance plan and time. THRDC has the right to reject any or all the bids depending on the prevailing circumstances.

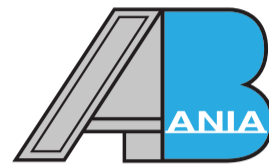
The price for the requested vehicle should include all associated fees.

Trump administration's non-cooperation, he should, in his second term, feel more empowered to act more decisively to push for the kind of bold vision he outlined in July 2020 in his Nelson Mandela Lecture: "Tackling the Inequality Pandemic: A New Social Contract for a New Era".

The early and quick gestures of the Biden administration rejoining the Paris Climate Accord, the World Health Organization, the UN Human Rights Council, funding for UNFPA and COVAX and paying outstanding US arrears to the UN peace-keeping budget are all encouraging signs, he noted.

"The ball is now in Guterres' –and his senior management team's– court to harness the potential of the Biden administration's goodwill to assert UN's proactive role to help tackle the most pressing global challenges of our times", said Gautam, author of "Global Citizen from Gulmi: My Journey from the Hills of Nepal to the Halls of the United Nations"

IPS



AZANIA BANK LTD
The One Stop Financial Centre

AZANIA BANK LIMITED

NOTICE TO ALL SHAREHOLDERS OF THE BANK

Notice is hereby given to all shareholders of the Bank that the **28th Annual General Meeting** scheduled to be conducted on **10th August, 2021** at the conference room, **2nd floor, Mawasiliano Towers** has been postponed.

The new date of the meeting will be communicated through newspapers and personal address of the shareholders.

Any shareholder who may need further clarification may contact the company secretary through the address indicated herein below;
Azania Bank Limited
Mawasiliano Towers
Sam Nujoma Road
P.O. Box 32089
Dar es Salaam

216391601

TANZANIA HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS COALITION



CALL FOR PRE-QUALIFIED SUPPLIERS APPLICATION

Opportunity : Provision of service
Client : Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition
Closing date for Application : 16th August 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION
 The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) is an umbrella organization of more than 150 human rights organizations operating in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. THRDC engages several service providers to provide various services in different capacities as part of its operational and intervention roles.

THRDC is currently planning to engage qualified suppliers for the provision of the following services:

- i) An ambulance in case of emergency
- ii) Transport services (car hiring and flight booking)
- iii) Medical and health-related services.
- iv) Stationery and printing services.
- v) Conference venues & hotel accommodation
- vi) Internet providers.
- vii) Media stations (programmes, ads, e.t.c).
- viii) Consultant services (tax consultants, project consultants, e.t.c)

Therefore, the Coalition is inviting interested qualified service providers to apply for either of the above-mentioned services.

2.0 APPLICANTS' ELIGIBILITY
 The service provider applicant should have;

- A well-defined organization/ company profile
- Legally operating in Tanzania with registration and tax compliance certificates
- Relevant experience
- Operating national wide

3.0 SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS
 The applicant should submit a cover letter detailing the type of service offered, company profile, registration and tax compliance certificates, and all other relevant documents detailing their technical capacity and experience.

4.0 HOW TO APPLY
 Interested qualified suppliers should submit their applications through the addresses below not later than **16th August 2021 at 23:00hrs**

To:
The National Coordinator,
Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition,
P.O BOX 105926, Dar es Salaam. Or via info@thrdc.or.tz

NOTE:
 Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition provides equal opportunity to all bidders. We, therefore, encourage all qualified and interested suppliers to apply for these opportunities.

How major media outlets screwed up the vaccine 'breakthrough' story

By Jon Allsop

LATE Thursday last week, the Washington Post landed what looked like a big scoop: it obtained an unpublished slide presentation from inside the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggesting that the Delta variant of the coronavirus spreads as easily as chickenpox.

The presentation added that fully vaccinated people who become infected with the variant may be able to pass it on in a way similar to unvaccinated people who become infected.

The slides were based in part on data about a Covid-19 outbreak linked to Provincetown, Massachusetts. On Friday, the CDC published the data.

Although "breakthrough" infections in vaccinated people are rare, and it's even rarer that they result in hospitalisation or death, major news organisations sometimes missed this crucial context as they rushed to confirm the Post's story and spit it out via headlines and push alerts.

A tweet from the New York Times - "The Delta variant is as contagious as chickenpox and may be spread by vaccinated people as easily as the unvaccinated, an internal CDC report said" - came in for particularly sharp criticism.

"VACCINATED PEOPLE DO NOT TRANSMIT THE VIRUS AT THE SAME RATE AS UNVACCINATED PEOPLE," Ben Wakana, a communications staffer for the White House's coronavirus response team, shot back, adding: "IF YOU FAIL TO INCLUDE THAT CONTEXT YOU'RE DOING IT WRONG."

The White House wasn't done with its media criticism. Two senior officials told CNN's Oliver Darcy that the (President Joe) Biden administration had been frustrated not only by coverage of the CDC slides but also by the broader media focus on breakthroughs.

Going by Darcy, the White House has even reached out to major outlets to urge a course correction. "The media's coverage doesn't match that of the moment," one of the officials said, adding: "It has been hyperbolic and frankly irresponsible in a way that hardens vaccine hesitancy."

Such criticism wasn't limited to the administration: Justin Amash, a former Republican (and Libertarian) lawmaker, echoed it (blaming the White House for good measure), as did Peter Meijer, a Republican who succeeded Amash in Congress.

Meijer took aim, in particular, at an NBC headline declaring that "at least 125,000 fully vaccinated Americans have tested positive" for Covid-19. The fact that this figure represents less than 0.08 per cent of fully vaccinated Americans was relegated to a subheading.

Other journalists also tore into NBC. Nate Silver, of the data-journalism site FiveThirtyEight, shared a tweet in which NBC's Ken Dilanian touted his network's "exclusive", strikingly adding: "EXCLUSIVE (must credit @NateSilver538) *At least 35,000,000 unvaccinated Americans have tested positive for Covid. *Ken should take a course in statistics."

Those readers who made it through a full story on the CDC data often found a greater degree of nuance. But critics

noted that the problems with the coverage ran much deeper than its headlines.

Silver, for one, expressed skepticism about the methodology and representativeness of the Provincetown study, and took news outlets to task for failing to emphasize its "several major caveats".

David Wallace-Wells, of New York, argued that coverage of the CDC's slides omitted or ignored not only key context but also "the most hopeful and encouraging facts about the Delta surge" - such as its decreased mortality risk and (so far, at least) quick peak and decline in countries with high levels of vaccination.

James Hamblin, a writer and medical doctor, took issue with the way the slides became public in the first place. News outlets generally framed them as "a set of leaked revelations from 'unpublished internal documents' about 'just how dangerous the delta variant really is'", Hamblin wrote - which is true, but also misleading.

"I hesitate to even call this a leak because that implies a trove of classified secrets; it's more of a document that's not written for an audience other than public-health officials, nor finalised enough to warrant publication," he added.

According to Mediaite, White House officials believe that major outlets have been hyping stories like the CDC slides "for eyeballs" - part of a bid to rectify a post-Trump ratings slump.

You needn't be quite as cynical as the officials to recognize a basic truth here; the hype may simply have reflected the diverse incentives that are baked into the modern news pipeline, from reporting stories to advertising them



in a crowded online marketplace.

In terms of reporting incentives, the appearance of a new narrative around vaccine efficacy may have driven some of the hype - though, as several critics noted, the slides didn't really contain much in the way of confirmed new information.

Basic innuendo could also have played its part. As Matt Gertz of Media Matters for America put it: "Journalists, like most people, often including myself, do not have a firm handle on statistical reasoning."

My hunch is that all of the above factors likely contributed to the botched coverage to some extent. Perhaps the biggest problem, though, was less innuendo than uncertainty.

As I wrote last week, when it comes to contextualising the breakthrough-infection problem, there isn't a central-

ised repository of data documenting its scale, since the CDC moved, in May, to stop monitoring all such cases and focus only on the small subset that preceded hospitalisation and death.

The NBC tally mentioned above, and others like it, draw on patchworks of state-level data. Nonetheless, the lack of a central source has created a void that anecdotes - and small-ish studies, like the one out of Provincetown - have filled. Even a rigorous central repository, of course, would face limitations, such as low testing rates among vaccinated people with no Covid-19 symptoms.

Thanks to its narrower focus, the CDC has better data establishing the rareness of severe outcomes in breakthrough cases, and outlets like CNN have done a good job of putting it into perspective.

And, as critics of the media's slides coverage acknowl-

edged, the CDC helped in other ways to create a vacuum around them. The agency could have published its data before - not three days after - changing its mask guidance for vaccinated people, and before the data appeared in partial form in the pages of a national newspaper.

Ironically, the slides obtained by the Post were entitled: "Improving communications around vaccine breakthrough and vaccine effectiveness."

Last week wouldn't be the first time that the CDC has allowed confusion to pool at a key point of the pandemic. The agency's failures, however, do not absolve the journalists who have channelled this confusion into their copy.

As I wrote last week, the Covid-19 pandemic has always been a devilishly hard story to cover, and this moment might be the most complicated yet.

But we've long under-

stood the vital stakes of clarity around the vaccines and, on those terms, some of last week's coverage was shockingly reckless.

It was also, at least to me, a little surprising - US media coverage of vaccines has not been perfect, by any means. However, mainstream sources have generally been very enthusiastic and upbeat about their effectiveness and the importance of getting vaccinated, especially relative to outlets in some other countries with comparable rates of vaccination.

That's not to say that journalists should be salespeople - there are complex nuances around vaccine efficacy. Indeed, media bullishness may have exacerbated the problems we're seeing in coverage now, by making breakthrough infections seem like a scary new development rather than a statistical inevitability.

CJR

Cooperation needed by West African countries to halt Islamic State's determined expansion into Lake Chad Basin

AFRICAN states must act quickly to stop the restructuring of Islamic State West Africa Province (Iswap) in the Lake Chad Basin. If they don't, Islamic State's plans to expand in the region will further endanger the lives of millions of Africans.

Islamic State is using Iswap, its local affiliate, to further its expansionist agenda that began even before it was defeated in Iraq and Syria. Institute for Security Studies research shows that Islamic State ordered the removal of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah lid-Da'wati wal-Jihad (Jas) leader Abubakar Shekau in May to open the way for Iswap's - and therefore its own - growth.

ISS sources who requested anonymity said Islamic State

advised Iswap that its Lake Chad islands location would make meaningful expansion difficult. It said the best position was Sambisa, Shekau's stronghold and hideout, and that taking Sambisa would require Shekau's removal - either dead or alive.

Leadership tussles in Iswap are bound to occur, and countries in the region should take advantage of that to weaken the group. It has tried to present a united front in the past, but internal divisions have led to at least five leadership changes in as many years. This instability has contributed to desertions from Iswap - something that states can use to cripple the group.

Iswa is being restructured into four caliphates - Sambisa Forest, Alagarno Forest (nicknamed Timbuktu), Tum-

buma, and the Lake Chad islands, each with its own semi-autonomous leadership. All these are in Borno State, northeast Nigeria. Tactically, they provide operational bases for the extension of activities to other parts of the northeast and Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

ISS sources familiar with these developments say Iswap has already appointed leaders in the Shura Council (consultative assembly) and the various caliphates. The group is also reforming its handling of members' welfare and the accountability of its commanders. These changes appeal to fighters who are now returning to the area to join Iswap.

Some of these combatants left the group between 2016 and 2018, fleeing to Libya

and Sudan. A driving factor was Iswap's leadership, particularly the brutality of former military head Mustapha Krimima. Some deserters were unhappy with the 2016 Boko Haram split that created Iswap and Jas, while others wanted to join Islamic State in Libya. Their return could boost Iswap's ranks and combat experience, as shown by their role in the May Sambisa attack.

According to ISS research, 130 or more former fighters rejoined Iswap after returning from Libya in three batches between April and June. At least 70 more are reportedly expected, although it isn't clear when this will be.

Iswap route to and from Libya and the Lake Chad Basin region

Sources say the combatants

use the Libya-Algeria-Mali-Niger-Nigeria route favoured by Islamic State and Iswap rather than the direct Libya-Niger-Nigeria passage. With its long stretch of desert, the latter is more difficult, with frequent reports of travellers dying of hunger and thirst. The route is also used by human traffickers and so has stricter security checks.

The choice of route is made by Islamic State and Iswap leaders based on logistical considerations, including the availability of guides or handlers along the way. Sources say most handlers are Nigerians, although some are Arabs and Tuaregs. Handlers are essential for moving fighters in and out of the Lake Chad Basin - providing instructions on how to dress and travel, and what transport to use to

avoid detection by security forces.

Iswap's ongoing re-organisation is yet to deliver a stronger and better outfit - but it could. The extremist group is intent on improving its resilience, longevity and success. The current changes could also be a response to the group's losses inflicted by military counter-terrorism operations. In the Lake Chad islands and Alagarno Forest, in particular, such clashes resulted in the death of some Iswap commanders.

It is vital that Iswap, and by extension Islamic State, is denied the space to operate in the region. Lake Chad Basin countries should collaborate with other states, especially in the Sahel, to boost intelligence on returning fighters travelling through their ter-

ritories.

These countries' membership in the Global Coalition to defeat Islamic State should also be exploited. Lessons from the process of neutralising Islamic State in Iraq and Syria can be adapted to the Lake Chad Basin context. The region's military body, the Multinational Joint Task Force, must play a leading role in any new interventions. Countries also need to integrate their civil protection, law enforcement and military responses and ensure these are connected regionally.

More than anything, governments must be ready to exploit the disagreements that will surely happen between Iswap leaders. They need to weaken the group as it tries to build, before its new roots take hold. **DM**

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY TIME PROGRAMME	TUESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	WEDNESDAY TIME PROGRAMME	THURSDAY TIME PROGRAMME	FRIDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SATURDAY TIME PROGRAMME	SUNDAY TIME PROGRAMME
05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS HALI HALISI 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-21:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPORTS 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS MALUMBANO YA HOJA 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	05:00-09:00HRS MORNING JAM 09:00-13:00HRS LETE RAHA 13:00-14:00HRS DW-RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CLUB 101 16:00-18:00HRS DALA DALA 18:00-18:10HRS HABARI 18:10-20:00HRS BOZOUK TIME 20:00-21:00HRS SPORTS 21:00-23:00HRS KIPIMA JOTO 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:30-10:00HRS DK 90 DUNIANI 10:00-11:00HRS KADOGOO 11:00-13:00HRS BONGO HITS 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS ZAIDI YA UMJUAVYO 16:00-18:00HRS ALIYEVUMA 18:00-21:00HRS BUZUKI TIME 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)	07:00-09:00HRS HABARI NA MATUKIO YA WIKI 09:00-11:00HRS THE SUNDAY 11:00-13:00HRS TOP 20 13:00-14:00HRS DW RADIO 14:00-16:00HRS CAPITAL MICHEZONI 16:00-18:00HRS UKURASA WA MBELE 18:00-21:00HRS JIACHIE 21:00-22:00HRS SPOTI 22:00-01:00HRS LADHA LAINI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHAGANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

UBA celebrates 5th anniversary of its customer first philosophy

By Guardian Correspondent

THE 'Customer First' philosophy is an initiative which was launched in 2016 with the objective to transform the bank into a customer focused bank.

This means understanding and anticipating customers while putting their needs at the heart of what we do and always pick up and solve their pain points.

This philosophy also applies on our products' and services' innovation and optimization that builds on our Customer Experience.

Along with this, last week UBA celebrated 5th customer first anniversary where UBA managing director, Kingsley Ulinfun demonstrated with action such as a special bonding session welcoming all Staff as they begin a new day at work and spending time in the branches to listen and serve the bank's customers, being a reflection of the bank's commitment to serve and appreciate them.

In addition Dora Kyungu paid a visit at the Pugu branch acknowledging and serving customers while listening to their needs and making sure all matters are resolved.

With increased electronic transactions, UBA has monitored all multi-protocol payments and transactions by developing an Omni Channel that has improved customer experience through the delivery of a seamless banking experience.

Customers are also given unrestricted and secure access to their accounts anywhere and anytime with UBA mobile banking service. This service is available to customers with smartphones, computers, laptops or any internet enabled devices.

Today, UBA is anticipating at creating immediate response and quick resolution of complaints to customers, excellent relationship management and customer support, proactive communication on products and services together with security of customer's data and transactions.

"Customer development remains an essential part of our strategy," said Kyungu.



UBA Bank Tanzania head of corporate banking, Dora Kyungu listens to one of the banks customers during an event to mark 5th anniversary of its customer first philosophy. In 2016, UBA launched the customer first philosophy to transform the bank into a customer focused bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

UCB donates equipment to entrepreneur groups in Moshi

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Kilimanjaro-based Uchumi Commercial Bank (UCB) has donated record keeping equipment including 75 computers worth more than 97.5m/- to women and youth small entrepreneur groups in Moshi Municipality.

The move is aimed to support improvement of financial record keeping systems for entrepreneurs, small micro financial institutions and Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS)

Handing over the computers yesterday to Ng'ambo and Karanga wards in Moshi Municipality owned by the

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), the bank's general manager, Samuel Wado, said the computers would help to keep the accurate financial records unlike the way people were keeping financial records on papers.

"Today we have visited Ng'ambo and Karanga ward's Saccos, of which we are the

major stakeholders of these Saccos that's why we decided to build capacity to improve delivery of their financial services to the community and today we have completed the exercise by handing over 75 computers," he said.

Wado said the bank has been providing the communication tools to small financial

institutions such as Saccos, entrepreneurial groups and AMCOS with the aim of ensuring easy access to financial services for the people as well as helping these small institutions keep their records accurately.

He added that the computers will significantly help to serve the increasing number

of members in the Saccos thus facilitating the proper placement of accurate financial records for each member.

Ng'ambo Saccos loan officer, Njelus Michael said the computers would help them keep accurate information and records of their financial matters as they had often kept them on papers and

sometimes made it difficult for them to identify debtors easily.

"These machines are going to help us a lot because they are going to bury paper use in keeping records, we are so grateful for this as they are going to help us to keep records and monitor well our debtors," he said.

African wild dogs return to southern Malawi for the first time in 20 years

LILONGWE

FOURTEEN endangered African wild dogs were recently translocated to Malawi in an attempt to re-establish populations in Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve.

There are currently only about 6,600 African wild dogs, including 700 breeding pairs, left on the African continent.

Experts say the success of the translocation will hinge upon whether the dogs reproduce and form a larger population, and also if they manage to stay away from danger if they wander outside the reserve.

Beams of light cut through darkness as people stand by a row of transport crates, preparing to open them. When they pull up the side panels, three dogs with mottled coats and white-tipped tails slip out into the darkness. A fourth stays in his crate, resting his head on the floor, but he gazes ahead with wide, alert eyes.

These animals are just a few of the 14 African wild dogs (*Lycan pictus*), also known as painted wolves, recently released in Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve in southern Malawi, where the endangered species hasn't been seen in about 20 years. In the western part of Malawi, however, experts say there may be a small population.

In Malawi, as in other parts of Africa, these wild canines have fallen victim to zoonotic diseases, bushmeat hunting, as well as deliberate shootings and poisoning by livestock farmers. The animals are also commonly run over by vehicles as residential and commercial developments take over their habitat. There's also new research showing that African wild dogs are struggling to cope with the rising heat due to human-induced climate change.

The dogs being released into their temporary boma to acclimatize after translocation. Image by Matt Moon.

It's estimated there are only about 6,600 African wild dogs, including 700 breeding pairs, left on the entire African continent.

"The African Wild Dog is one of the most endangered mammals on the continent, facing significant threats almost across its remaining range," Angela Gaylard, head of science support for African Parks, a South Africa-based conservation NGO, told Mongabay in an email. "To see this extremely vulnerable species re-established in Malawi as a result of our international collaboration is therefore a profoundly moving, hopeful development for conservation."



development for conservation."

The reintroduction of these African wild dogs was a team effort between African Parks and another South African conservation group, Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT). African Parks helps manage the Liwonde and Majete protected areas in collaboration with Malawi's Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW).

The whole process took "months of hard work," said Derek van der Merwe from EWT. This was also the third attempt to get the dogs to

Malawi, after earlier plans had to be postponed due to COVID-19 disruptions and even local road closures in South Africa following the arrest of former president Jacob Zuma.

"It was a relief to get all 14 dogs safely to Malawi," Van der Merwe told Mongabay in an email.

The wild dogs in their boma at Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi. Image by Matt Moon.

The dogs, which originated from Mozambique and South Africa, were eventually flown in a small aircraft from Mozambique to Malawi

on July 27. Then they were released into specially designed bomas in Liwonde National Park and Majete Wildlife Reserve, where they will stay until they're used to their surroundings.

"The wild dogs seem to be settling in well," Van der Merwe said. "They will be held in a holding boma to acclimatize until they are fully released. Both alpha females are pregnant so the wild dogs will most likely be released before the pups are born."

The packs will be fitted with radio

and satellite collars so rangers can keep a close eye on them. Gaylard said the success of the translocation will hinge upon whether the dogs successfully reproduce and grow in population in the reserves.

The reintroduction of the 14 African wild dogs is part of a larger project to rewild Malawi. Over the past 18 years, African Parks has worked with the Malawian government to translocate thousands of animals representing a range of threatened species, including elephants, giraffes and black rhinos, into Majete, Liwonde, and Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve.

Claudio Sillero, professor of conservation biology at Oxford University and chair of the IUCN Canid Specialist Group, said he was pleased to see the release of the 14 dogs, but added that the success of the reintroduction will depend on whether the dogs find suitable habitat and prey, and manage to stay out of trouble if they leave the reserves. African wild dogs are known to travel 40 to 50 kilometers (25 to 30 miles) a day, he said.

"Conservation translocations offer potential for wild dog recovery in some areas where they have disappeared, provided that livestock farmers are engaged throughout the planning, and any ensuing conflict is promptly mitigated," Sillero told Mongabay in an email.

Gaylard said she's optimistic that the reintroduction will succeed, thanks to the commitment of countries like Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa to reverse the trend of biodiversity loss.

'Homegrown' solutions can bolster Africa's COVID-19 response - study

By Special Correspondent

AS several countries across Africa continue to be impacted by third and fourth waves of the COVID-19 pandemic, the latest AFRI CONVERSE 2021 dialogue took a closer look at innovative local initiatives and the ongoing international support to bolster the continent's response to the virus.

Approximately 18 months since the outbreak of the pandemic, over 2.5 million people in Africa have been

infected and the death toll is in the tens of thousands. A recent United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) study warned that by 2030, approximately eight out of 10 people pushed into poverty due to COVID-19 will live in countries on the lower end of human development, with the heaviest burden falling on Africa.

And yet, in spite of the harsh impact of the pandemic on livelihoods, the continent has demonstrated extraordinary resilience across various sectors

when compared to the other regions of the world.

Opening the fourth instalment of the AFRI CONVERSE dialogue this year, Professor Tomohiko Sugishita, from the Department of International Affairs and Tropical Medicine at the Tokyo Women's Medical University said, "this session is a wakeup call for us to examine Africa's ingenuity, productivity and capacity to mitigate the pandemic, as well as determine how we can support such opportunities in building a new future for the

continent."

"To boost the efforts taken by our partner countries in Africa and other parts of the world in response to the pandemic, JICA has launched the JICA Initiative for Global Health and Medicine focusing on treatment, precaution, and prevention. We are cooperating through the existing technical cooperation projects, not only in health but in other sectors like education, water and sanitation, agriculture, nutrition, as well as other social services," said Mr. Ikuo

Takizawa, the Senior Director in the Office for COVID-19 Response, Human Development Department at JICA.

Between April 2020 and May 2021, he noted that, on top of the cooperation through the existing technical cooperation projects, JICA approved grant aid for public hospitals and national health institutions in several countries in Africa, as well as for water supply facilities, and nutrition and food production. Loan assistance to promote Universal Health Cov-

erage (UHC) and COVID-19 response based on the concept of human security was approved for some countries as well. Looking at the post COVID-19, he added the need for further strengthening the network of African public health institutions, promotion of applied biomedical R&D in Africa involving private sector partners, and global collaboration to back-up such efforts, together with accelerated actions to deliver the past commitment toward "UHC with resilience".

Referring to the regional impact assessments recently conducted, UNDP's Regional Programme Coordinator for Africa, Mr. Jide Okeke, warned while there are innovative local initiatives underway to curb the spread of the virus across the continent, the impact of the pandemic on Africa's overall human development progress was particularly concerning from the lenses of peace, security and governance as well as social, economic and political aspects.

Why we need federal assistance to help save local news

By Dan Kennedy

CAN government help solve the local news crisis? The notion sounds absurd, even dangerous. You get what you pay for and, if government officials are funneling money to media outlets, then it's not unreasonable to expect that they'll demand sticky-sweet favourable coverage in return.

Yet the situation is so dire that once-unthinkable ideas need to be on the table. Since 2004, some 2,100 newspapers in the US have closed, leaving about 1,800 communities across the country bereft of coverage.

About 30,000 newsroom jobs disappeared between 2008 and last year. The consequences range from the potential for increased corruption to a decline in voter turnout for local elections.

Now federal legislation long in the making may finally be ready to move ahead. Believe it or not, the bill is bipartisan. It also manages to avoid the entangling alliances that would endanger journalistic independence.

That's because the Local Journalism Sustainability Act, introduced in the Senate last week and in the House of Representatives a month earlier, relies on tax credits rather than direct government assistance.

"This clever, bipartisan bill would provide more help for local news than any time in about a century, yet it's done in a very First-Amendment-friendly way," writes Steven Waldman, the co-founder of

the Rebuild Local News Coalition as well as the co-founder and president of Report for America.

Disclosure: Report for America, which places young reporters at news organizations around the country, is part of the GroundTruth Project, affiliated with GBH in Boston.

So how would the bill work? Essentially, it would provide three tax credits that would expire after five years, giving media outlets some runway to move towards long-term sustainability.

I am oversimplifying, but here is the rough outline, including first: News consumers would be able to write off the US\$250 a year they spend on subscriptions or on donations to nonprofit news organisations.

Two: News organisations would receive tax benefits for hiring or retaining journalists.

Three: Local small businesses would receive tax credits for advertising in local newspapers and news websites as well as on television and radio stations.

The benefits would be restricted to small news organisations, defined as those with 750 employees or fewer in the House of Representatives bill or fewer than 1,000 in the Senate bill.

At a time when Congress seems incapable of doing anything, some version of the bill appears to stand a good chance of passing. After all, elected officials, regardless of party or ideology, like to be covered by the hometown press - and the bill would help ensure that there

will continue to be a press.

Government assistance for news is not new in the US. During the early days of the republic, postal subsidies were the foundation upon which the distribution system for newspapers and magazines was built.

Today, nonprofit news organisations ranging from hyperlocal websites to public broadcasters benefit from tax incentives that allow their donors to write off the money they give and that exempts the media outlets themselves from having to pay taxes.

Given the catastrophic state in which journalism finds itself, some activists and scholars are calling for more direct funding of news. For instance, Victor Pickard, a scholar at Penn's Annenberg School, advocates much higher government spending on public media.

Longtime media reformer Robert McChesney has meanwhile talked about giving as much as US\$35 billion over five years to elected citizens' councils that would fund local news and underwrite startups.

But there are dangers in such approaches. In Pennsylvania, for instance, the Republican-dominated legislature cut off US\$750,000 to the state's seven public radio and television stations after one of them, WITF Radio of Harrisburg, began calling out any elected official who continued to challenge the validity of President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

Philadelphia Inquirer columnist Will Bunch, while conceding there was no evidence of a direct cause-and-effect



over what was admittedly a small amount of funding, wrote in his weekly newsletter that the action "shows the enormous peril of government dollars for journalism, even as a partial solution".

"In an era when a growing number of elected officials are waging war on the truth, from election results to coronavirus vaccines, would journalists be forced to choose between an important story and their survival?" Bunch wondered.

By contrast, the federal bill under consideration avoids those problems by putting as much distance as possible between elected officials and the aid that news organisations would receive.

My one reservation about

the bill is that chain-owned newspapers would benefit along with independent projects. That said, the Rebuild Local News Coalition, whose members represent more than 3,000 newsrooms, includes some of the most public-spirited organisations that are working on these problems, such as LION (Local Independent Online News) Publishers, the Lenfest Institute and the Solutions Journalism Network.

Perhaps the problem of chain ownership could be addressed, as Waldman proposes, by giving tax breaks to the likes of Gannett and Alden Global Capital if they sell their papers to local nonprofits and public benefit corporations.

I would also suggest tax pen-

alties if they decline to do so. Corporate ownership is killing local news just as surely as technological change and the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we need to get the publicly traded corporations and hedge funds out.

At a time when political and cultural polarisation at the national level is tearing us apart, local news can help encourage the kind of civic engagement we need to rebuild community. But that can't happen if the newspaper has gone out of business or is on life support, and if nothing else has come along to take its place.

Fundamentally, what's at issue is that the advertising model that paid for journalism until recent years has col-

lapsed. Publishers need to find a way forward, whether through reader revenue, nonprofit funding, paid events or even starting a bar and wedding venue next to the newsroom, as The Big Bend Sentinel in West Texas did.

The Local Journalism Sustainability Act will help sustain local news while we search for a workable model that doesn't rely on advertising. After 15 years of declining revenues and dying newspapers, it may be our last chance to get it right.

Dan Kennedy is a professor of journalism at Northeastern University in the US and a panelist on WGBH 2's Beat the Press.

NANJING/CHANGSHA

CHINA has reported a cluster of COVID-19 infections in the past month, with 328 new locally transmitted confirmed cases registered in July, a number almost equal to the country's total number in the previous five months.

The country's latest novel coronavirus outbreak stems mainly from a flight that departed from Russia and landed in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province.

Further viral genome sequencing has found that all the strains in the recent resurgence of COVID-19 were the highly infectious Delta variant, which can contribute to a faster and wider transmission among a large population, according to He Qinghua, an official with the National Health Commission.

Currently, the virus variant has spread to more than 10 provinces. Since July 20, Hunan Province in central China, where the other center of the recent virus resurgence is, reported 19 new locally confirmed cases.

China goes all out to contain Delta outbreak

CALL OF DUTY

With a population of more than 9.3 million, Nanjing reported a total of 215 locally transmitted confirmed cases since new cluster infections began to emerge on July 20, the day when some airport cleaners at the Nanjing Lukou International Airport tested positive during routine testing.

Meanwhile, with tightened prevention and control measures in place, Nanjing has manifested a downward trend in its newly confirmed cases, with the past three days logging six, 14, and 11 cases, respectively.

The city has launched three rounds of all-inclusive nucleic acid testing and kick-started its fourth mass testing campaign Monday, covering nine districts, said Yang Dasuo, deputy director of the municipal health commission.

Prompt action and stringent implementation of measures in the initial stage of the coronavirus outbreak are thought to be central to mitigating spillovers of the Delta variant.

Jiangsu has canceled all flights at Lukou International Airport since July 30. Anyone leaving Nanjing must present their negative nucleic acid test certificates issued within 48 hours before their departure.

The province also sent relevant information of travelers who had visited the city of Nanjing since July 6 to their destination provinces and cities.

In the Tangshan branch of the Second Hospital of Nanjing, the city's designated hospital for COVID-19 treatment, over 1,000 beds are ready. All its 297 hospitalized patients are receiving customized therapies.

To make the most vulnerable stave off the contagious variant, Nanjing launched closed-off management in all its nursing institutions for the aged since July 20.

TWIN ACTION

The city of Zhangjiajie, a renowned tourist resort in Hunan and another center of China's latest infections, closed all its tourist sites starting Friday.

All its tourists are asked to take three nucleic acid tests and receive negative results for COVID-19 before they leave the city. The scenic spot also sent warm reminders to the stranded to provide necessary guidance.

The recent cluster of local cases in Nanjing remains generally controllable, considering the city's effective measures, namely sealing off relevant communities and launching all-inclusive nucleic acid testings, said China's top epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan during a summit held in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, on Saturday.

The Delta variant is estimated to be almost twice as transmissible as the original strain. It spreads much faster and is more likely to induce severe symptoms among patients, said Feng Zijian, a researcher at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nevertheless, similar to the recent resurgence of coronavirus in Guangzhou, which was also triggered by the highly contagious Delta variant, most patients in

this outbreak have shown mild symptoms, said Zhong.

Preliminary studies on Guangzhou's latest COVID-19 outbreak show that China's domestic vaccines prove effective to protect its people against the Delta variant, Zhong added.

The protective effect of China's domestic vaccines is 100 percent effective against severe cases, 76.9 percent against moderate cases, 67.2 percent against mild ones, and 63.2 percent against asymptomatic carriers accordingly.

Considering the transmission chain has extended to other parts of China, Zhong stressed the importance of control and prevention in communities and wearing face masks in densely populated areas.

The outdated interpretation of "close contacts" no longer applies to the Delta strain due to its high load, virulence, and infectivity, Zhong said.

Previously, those who had meals with an infected person or sat close to each other in the same office could be considered close

contacts. Now, people who were in the same space, workplace, or building with an infected person four days before can be counted as close contacts. It is the change in the concept of "close contacts" that demands major adjustments in the epidemic prevention and control model today.

Building a herd immunity is needed to combat the Delta variant, which can be achieved with around an 83.3-percent vaccination rate in China, said the expert.

Xinhua



All its tourists are asked to take three nucleic acid tests and receive negative results for COVID-19 before they leave the city. The scenic spot also sent warm reminders to the stranded to provide necessary guidance

RATIBAYA VIPINDI

JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)	05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHIE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDZOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 08:20 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS DJ SHOW 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:00 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:05 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00 - 05:00 HRS MUZIKI (MCHANGANYIKO)

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya Radio One

Radio One

OPTIMISM

Azania Bank Ltd chief touts universal health insurance coverage

By Guardian Reporter

THE government's plans for universal health insurance coverage for Tanzanians should be supported by all stakeholders including banks and other financial institutions.

Azania Bank Limited's Managing Director, Charles Itembe, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday after signing an agreement with National Health Insurance Fund's Director General, Bernard Konga which targets to enable farmers get health insurance cover, that all Tanzanians need proper health insurance coverage.

"We are joining forces with the government by ensuring that smallholder farmers in the country have access to quality health services through NHIF health insurance cover," Itembe said adding that under the agreement, Azania Bank will pay premiums of between 50,400/- and 76,800/- for a farmer and his family per annum through an interest free loan scheme.

"The farmer and his spouse will pay 76,800/- each for a year while each child will pay 50,400/- also per annum," the Azania Bank chief said while noting that to begin with, some 2,000 farmers are expected to benefit



Azania Bank Limited managing director Charles Itembe (2nd L) and National Health Insurance Fund's director general, Bernard Konga exchange contract documents soon after signing them in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Looking on are Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Dr Benson Ndiege (2nd-R), and the bank's senior manager for retail banking, Jackson Lohahy. Photo courtesy of Azania Bank

from the scheme christened, 'Ushirika Afya.'

He said the scheme will benefit farmers who are members of cooperative societies and that payment of the interest free loans will be done during harvest season. Itembe urged farmers through their cooperatives to seize the opportunity

and cover their families against the risk of falling ill.

In remarks after the signing ceremony, NHIF's Konga said the deal will allow smallholder farmers of all types of crops in the country who are members of cooperative societies to benefit from the interest free loan scheme being offered by Azania

Bank.

"The fund is determined to ensure that the government's initiative of universal health insurance cover is realised. This agreement allows smallholder farmers and their families get quality health services through NHIF for a whole year," Konga said while commending Azania Bank's man-

agement for joining forces with the fund to bail out the farmers many of who lack money to pay for premiums to get annual health insurance coverage.

"We have agreed with Azania Bank which is one of the big banks working in the agriculture sector to assist farmers get health insurance cover at affordable rates," he added while unveiling that NHIF has a network of over 9,000 health insurance facilities countrywide.

"Our affiliated partners who are on both sides of the union range from a health centre in the most remote part of the country to a high end referral hospital found in urban areas hence our members have access to quality health services anywhere that they choose to go," the NHIF chief noted.

Speaking at the same event, Registrar of Cooperatives, Dr Benson Ndiege commended Azania Bank and NHIF's innovative solution to smallholder farmers' health needs hence speeding up the government's initiative for a universal health coverage.

"This initiative by Azania and NHIF is a big relief to farmers who are left destitute when a members' of the family falls ill because they are forced to use all of their savings to pay for health services," Dr Ndiege said. He urged other banks and financial institutions to borrow a leaf from the Azania Bank and NHIF partnership.

SUGAR

20,000 tonnes of condemned Zimbabwean brown sugar to be destroyed in Mombasa

NAIROBI

KENYAN authorities are set to destroy 20,000 tonnes of condemned Zimbabwean brown sugar that has been lying at the Kilindini customs warehouse in Mombasa for three years.

According to the Gazette notice of July 2, which the port operations chief manager, Abdi Malik Hussein issued, the sugar

worth over Sh1.4 billion will be crushed tomorrow.

The sugar packed in 40 containers of 500 metric tonnes each, arrived at the Port of Mombasa on July 15, 2018, aboard MSC Nicole. It was imported by Nairobi-based company, Sirocco Investments (K) Ltd.

"Pursuant to the provisions of sections 42 and 248 of the East

African Community Customs Management Act, 2004, notice is given that the undermentioned condemned goods shall be disposed by way of destruction on August 3, 2021," stated the notice.

Sirocco Investments is one of the more than 200 companies licensed to import sugar to plug deficit in the country, according to the Agriculture and Food Au-

thority of Kenya (AFA).

Also to be destroyed is an unspecified amount of condemned brown sugar imported by Igaal Trading Company Ltd and Wilayan Traders Co. Ltd.

Kenya imports up to 300,000 metric tonnes of sugar from other African countries with Uganda importing the lion's share, to meet domestic demand of nearly one million tonnes.

A tonne of sugar goes for about Sh80,000 in Kenya.

In 2020, 603,788 tonnes of sugar were produced compared to 440,935 metric tonnes in 2019.

In 2019, domestic sugar production declined by 10.2 per cent from 491,000 tonnes in 2018 to 440,000. The country had to import 458,000 tonnes to meet demand.

Early this year, the ministry ap-

proved an increase in the price of a tonne of cane delivered from Sh3,700 to Sh4,040 effective April 1, to motivate farmers.

At the same time, the National Treasury lowered its cap on duty-free sugar import to Kenya from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) to 210,163 tonnes from 300,000 tonnes.

Uganda accounts for 43 per-

cent of the sugar Kenya imports from Comesa. This year 90,000 tonnes of sugar will be imported from Uganda and the remaining 160,000 tonnes from other countries after exhausting its Comesa import quota for 2020.

Key non-Comesa countries that export their sugar to Kenya include Brazil, Thailand, India, and Mauritius.

AGENCIES



Health officers destroy 153 bags of contraband sugar in Nakuru in 2018. Kenyan authorities will this time around destroy 20,000 tonnes of condemned Zimbabwean brown sugar.

LEADER

Uganda's digital finance growth better than Africa's average, states regulator

KAMPALA

THE Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) says the country's mobile money market is growing faster compared to other markets in Africa.

According to a report by the regulator, the number of active mobile money accounts in Uganda stood at 20.3 million as at the end of March 2021. This represents 66% of the 30.5 million registered mobile money accounts in the country, adding that the 66% active mobile money accounts amounts to double the African average of 30% account activity. In Uganda, as is the case in other countries in Africa, mobile financial services have continued to grow, propelled in part by COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

To streamline service delivery and capitalise on growth in Uganda, the UCC said in its report that two telecommunications operators MTN and Airtel have been given the all-clear to separate their digital financial business (mobile money) from the cellular network operations.

"These no objections are in partial fulfillment of new regulatory obligations instituted by the National Payments Systems Act of 2020 and the Uganda Communications Pricing and Accounting Regulations 2019," the report stated.

According to the report, in Africa, as at the end of March 2021, the total mobile money accounts on the continent had grown to 562 million, translating into a penetration rate of 40 lines per 100 inhabitants.

Additionally, the total number of active accounts had grown to 160 million, translating into an account activity ratio of almost 30%, with Vodafone, MTN and Airtel jointly accounting for more than 50% of this account base. By March 2021, MTN, Airtel and Vodafone mobile money outfits were valued at almost US\$20-billion.

COMPLAINT

Costly cooking oil, beef, bread hit family budgets

NAIROBI

HIGHER prices of cooking oil, beef, and bread have pushed food inflation to a 14-month high of 8.8 percent, straining the budgets of households that are already grappling with costly energy.

Twelve-month Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) inflation data shows that the cost of cooking oil has had the sharpest jump among the major food item categories, up by 32 percent between June 2020 and June 2021.

The price of beef (with bone) has gone up by 23.6 percent in the period, and that of bread by 20.1 percent.

The CBK attributed the increase in the cost of cooking oil and bread to higher international prices of palm oil and wheat respectively, partly caused by supply chain constraints due to Covid restrictions in producing countries. The lower supply of livestock to abattoirs has been the main cause of higher beef prices.

"This is attributed to the increases in imported inputs, for instance, palm oil whose prices has gone up significantly, same case with wheat which has a huge import component," said CBK governor Patrick Njoroge.

"There are also domestic pressures to month-on-month inflation...affecting items such as sukuma wiki and beef, being



CBK governor Patrick Njoroge.

pushed by seasonality." Palm oil prices, which remained largely stable in the previous five years, recorded a sharp rise in the 12-months to June after Covid-19 lockdowns cut output from plantations in Southeast Asia.

Kenya mainly sources its palm oil imports from Malaysia, whose benchmark palm oil price went up from \$649 (Sh70,480) per metric tonne in June 2020 to \$1017.50 (Sh110,500) in June 2021.

The higher palm oil price has also seen the prices of alternatives such as animal and vegetable oils go up, partly due to higher demand to fill in the gap caused

by lower palm oil production.

Wheat imports have also been affected by similar supply constraints, causing millers to raise the price of flour which has trickled down to bread prices. Upcoming harvests locally should however moderate these prices in the short term.

As a result of the higher food costs, Kenya's overall inflation rose for the third straight month to hit 6.4 percent in July from 6.3 percent in June.

Fuel inflation, which is also a major factor in the cost of living, fell for the fourth straight month to 11.8 percent, helping to mitigate the effect of higher food prices.

RECOGNITION

Kinondoni RPC salutes SGA Security for outstanding staff retention scheme

By Guardian Reporter

AN outstanding staff retention scheme at SGA Security in Dar es Salaam is a good example of how competent management should handle their employees properly hence forcing them to work till their retirement.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam on Monday evening at special ceremony recognise and bid farewell to 40 SGA Security retirees, Kinondoni Regional Police Commander, Ramadhan Kingai who presided over the ceremony as chief guest, paid tribute to the security company's management for maintaining a good trend in the market.

RPC Kingai said other security companies should emulate SGA saying guarding people's lives and property need disciplined people who can be identified when they retire on the job. "I also commend the 40 retirees for completing their duty with great honour which many of their peers have failed to do," the Kinondoni Police chief noted.

He conceded that security officers including members of the police force face many challenges some of which entice them to commit crime in the course of their duties. "I urge

you to be good ambassadors of peace and security in the society as you go into retirement life. SGA Security has demonstrated that it invests in the welfare of its employees which makes them reach retirement age crime free," RPC Kingai added.

He advised those who are leaving and staying behind to work with security organs to ensure that peace and security prevails in the country. He said outstanding performance has seen the 40 SGA retirees get gifts which is not part of their contracts with the employer but simply shows appreciation.

The Kinondoni RPC also commended SGA management for the cooperation that it gives the police force and called upon all security companies to emulate the Dar es Salaam based company's example. "Private security companies are part of community policing and they are actually auxiliary police hence need to work with security forces to ensure peace and tranquillity prevail in the country.

"SGA remains the only company that requests for police instructors when training its new recruits before employing them hence their officers turn out to be the best in the market," he charged saying other secu-



Kinondoni Regional Police Commander Ramadhan Kingai (R) presents over a gift to one of the retirees of SGA Security during a farewell party for 40 retirees held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Looking on is the SGA Security's managing director, Eric Sambu (C). Photo courtesy of SGA.

ity companies have a lot to learn for SGA.

In a vote of thanks, SGA Security's Managing Director, Eric Sambu said the company's founders had on the set instilled a sense of high discipline and professionalism which management has been forced to maintain over the years.

"We say thank you to our founders but also the police force for helping us to maintain such high standards of professionalism in the country," Sambu said while noting that SGA is the oldest private security company in the country having started operations in 1984 as Group 4 Security.

It now employs over 5,000 Tan-

zanians and has four ISO Certifications. "It is the only local company to be certified with ISO 18788 - Security Operations Management System," he added saying matters of human rights, stakeholder's interests and compliance are cardinal tenets at SGA.

SGA is known for best-in-class

service provision in cash-in-transit services, guarding services, alarm response service, electronic security solution, courier, tracking amongst others. The company was voted as 'the Most Equipped and Reliable Security Services Company' last year by Tanzania Consumer Choice Awards.

INVESTMENT

Ghana seeks to borrow \$1.7bn to help acquire energy assets

ACCRA

INVESTMENT push comes after Exxon Mobil Corp pulled out of an offshore prospect in the West African country in May.

Ghana is seeking parliamentary approval to borrow as much as \$1.65 billion to accelerate oil and gas exploration by acquiring and developing assets.

The investment push comes

after Exxon Mobil Corp pulled out of an offshore prospect in the West African country in May, dealing a blow to its burgeoning oil and gas sector. There are also rising concerns that the push for lower-carbon energy may reduce the value of Ghana's hydrocarbon resources over time.

The nation estimates it will need as much as \$1.3 billion to buy a 37% stake in the Deep Water Tano/Cape Three Points

asset operated by Aker Energy AS and 70% stake of the South Deep Water Tano field operated by AGM Petroleum Ghana, according to a parliamentary proceeding on Monday.

The time has come for Ghanaians to "become masters of our own destiny when it comes to our oil and gas resources," Charles Adu Boahen, Minister of State at the Ministry of Finance, told Bloomberg by phone. "There will certainly

be the demand for fossil fuels in countries outside of the West that will continue to use diesel- and petrol-fired cars and consume power generated from fossil fuels for the foreseeable future," he said. If approved, the stakes would be acquired through the Ghana National Petroleum Corp subsidiary, GNPC Explorco.

Aker Energy is also in protracted talks with authorities to reduce the development

cost of its Pecan oil field, for which Ghana is now seeking to borrow \$350 million to cover capital expenditure, bringing the total funds required to \$1.65 billion.

Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta warned last week that the country could be "left with stranded assets," if it didn't accelerate exploration amid the transition to renewable energy. According to BloombergNEF, nine of the

world's largest international oil companies sold \$198 billion worth of assets from from 2015 to 2020 in a bid to decarbonise for the long term.

The new strategy for the country to "become an operator in its own right" may require a legal amendment to allow the state-owned oil company to enter into reserve-based lending transactions, which could raise financing without putting fur-

ther pressure on the government purse, Ofori-Atta said in his mid-year budget speech on Thursday.

Ghana's public debt already stood at 77.1% of its economic output by the end of June. A shortfall in oil receipts and the fallout from the pandemic pushed last year's budget deficit to 11.7% of gross domestic product, compared to an initial projection of 4.7% for 2020.



Tanzania Commercial Bank Plc CEO Sabasaba Moshingi (L) and his Standard Chartered Tanzania Limited counterpart, Sanjay Rughani, exchange signed contract documents at a ceremony held in Dar es Salaam earlier this week. Under the deal, clients of the two banks will be able to get services at branches of each of them anywhere in the country. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

RESTRICTIONS

MTN Nigeria sheds 7.6m subscribers as regulator clamps down

LAGOS

MTN lost 7.6 million subscribers in its most lucrative market, Nigeria, in the half-year ended 30 June, due to the regulatory restrictions on new SIM sales and activations. Africa's biggest mobile operator says its subscriber base now stands at 68.9 million, and active data users also declined by approximately 52,000 to 32.5 million.

The Johannesburg-headquartered MTN Group has a footprint in 21 countries, and Nigeria is the most profitable market, generating the lion's share of the telco's revenue.

In the year ended December 2020, MTN Group service revenue increased by 11.9% to R170.1 billion (2019: R141.8 billion). This was led by growth of 14.6% in MTN Nigeria.

In the recent past, Nigerian operations have been the anchor market for MTN's search for new sources of revenue, recording a blowout per-

formance with increased uptake of its fintech business, which includes Mobile Money (MoMo), insurance, airtime lending and e-commerce. In the last financial year, MTN Nigeria's fintech subscribers increased by more than eight times to 4.7 million, driving higher transaction volumes of over 51.5 million. The core fintech growth stood at 28%.

Nonetheless, in December, Nigerian authorities threatened mobile operators with punitive punishment, including withdrawal of operating licences, if they fail to register subscribers and submit updated SIM registration records to authorities.

MTN says the move had a massive impact on its subscriber numbers in the first half (HI) of the current financial year, but it remains optimistic it will turn the tide.

"Operationally, our mobile subscribers closed HI at 68.9 million, down 9.9% from December 2020. This was

due to the regulatory restrictions on new SIM sales and activations, which were lifted on 19 April 2021.

Although the initial run-rate of additions has been slower than usual due to new process requirements, we anticipate growth to normalise in the short-term as more of our acquisition centres are certified for SIM registration," says MTN Nigeria CEO Karl Toriola.

Despite the setback in subscriber numbers, in the period, MTN Nigeria's service revenue was up by 24.1% to N790.3 billion, and earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation grew by 27.6% to N417.2 billion.

"Our board of directors has approved an interim dividend of N4.55 kobo per share to be paid out of distributable net income. This represents a growth of 30% over N3.50 kobo per share paid in HI 2020," Toriola comments.

"In the first half of 2021, we made

good progress strengthening the resilience of the business, managing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and enhancing support to our people, customers and other stakeholders.

"Our progress towards achieving greater business resilience is reflected in the upgrade by Global Credit Ratings (GCR) of our national scale long-term issuer rating to AAA and affirmation of our national scale short-term rating of A1+ with a stable outlook.

This puts MTN Nigeria on the highest possible GCR scale for short-term and long-term ratings, providing a solid platform for growth."

Furthermore, MTN, which is celebrating 20 years in Nigerian this year, reiterated its intention to sell up to 14% of its investment in MTN Nigeria, subject to market conditions over the medium-term.

"MTN Nigeria's shareholders approved an equity shelf programme at the last annual general meeting.

BORROWING

Rwanda raises over \$600 million in fresh international bond sale

KIGALI

RWANDA has raised \$620 million in its second-ever Eurobond, the Ministry of Finance has confirmed. A Eurobond is a debt instrument denominated in a currency other than the home currency of the country.

Bonds are issued usually in terms of ten years or more, they are therefore long term investments. According to officials from the Ministry of Finance, the bond has an interest rate of 5.5 per cent with a 10-year maturity.

The proceeds of the bond according to the Finance Ministry will be used partly to refinance Rwanda's existing Eurobond which is due in May 2023 to maintain the country's debt management strategy. This, the ministry said, will serve to proactively address the upcoming debt burden.

Part of the proceeds will also go into funding priority projects that will support recovery following the slowdown triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as strategic investments in health and agriculture to enable export growth.

Other consideration, government said, include safeguarding environmental protection and mitigate adverse effects of climate change. Officials say that the bond's issuance was over-subscribed receiving orders of over \$1.6 billion.

Oversubscription of a bond implies that there was higher demand than going beyond the amount sought. This can be considered a positive stance especially with the global economic recession and slowdown which has left investors uncertain of markets.

According to officials, a significant part of the demand for the bond was from existing bondholders of the 2013 bond who tendered 84.5 per cent of their existing holdings. This is Rwanda's second Eurobond following the inaugural one issued in 2013 of \$400 million that was due to mature in 2023.

The New Times understands that the sale was processed by Deutsche



John Rwangombwa, Rwanda's Central Bank governor.

Bank, a German investment bank and Citigroup, an American investment bank. John Rwangombwa the Central Bank Governor welcomed the investors' response to the Eurobond issuance. He said that the lower yield, (5.5 per cent compared to 6.625 per cent of the 2021 Eurobond) is ideal in reducing the interest repayments.

"The lower yield of this issue will result in a reduction in our annual interest payments over the next 10 years, strongly contributing to our debt sustainability strategy. The funds raised will accelerate strategic projects in productive sectors that will further boost the country's economic transformation efforts," Rwangombwa said.

Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr. Uzziel Ndagijimana said that the sustained high economic growth in recent years had led to investor demand. Experts say that the bond's issuance timing is ideal as global investors are seeking reputable markets to invest in following a global drop in treasury yields in most developed markets starting early this year due to the state of the economy.

At a 5.5 per cent coupon rate, Rwanda's bond was attractive enough for a majority of global investors hence the oversubscription. The global liquidity also allowed Rwanda to set a lower yield of 5.5 per cent compared to 6.625 per cent of the 2021 Eurobond which means it will be cheaper repaying the new bond.

RELIEF

IMF nations approve record \$650bn to aid virus fight

WASHINGTON

MEMBER nations approved the biggest resource injection in the International Monetary Fund's history, with \$650 billion meant to help countries deal with mounting debt and the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The creation of the reserve assets – known as special drawing rights – is the first since the \$250 billion issued just after the global financial crisis in 2009, with Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva billing it as “a shot in the arm for the world” that will help boost global economic stability. The SDR allocation will be effective on August 23, the IMF said in a statement Monday.

“The SDR allocation will benefit all members, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy,” Georgieva said. “It will particularly help our most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the Covid-19 crisis.”

The guardians of the global economy have wrestled with the plan for more than a year. It was initially delayed when the US – the IMF's biggest shareholder – blocked it in early 2020. President Donald Trump's Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that the funds wouldn't get to the nations that most need it. Republican Representative French Hill called it a “giveaway to wealthy countries and rogue regimes” such as China, Russia and Iran.

The US's position changed under President Joe Biden and Mnuchin's successor, Janet Yellen, and with the fund exploring options for members with strong financial positions to reallocate the reserves to support vulnerable and low-income countries. Still, a global allocation of \$650 billion was about the maximum that the US could support without needing to get approval from Congress.

Reserves are allocated to all 190 members of the IMF in proportion to their quota, and some 70% will go to the Group of 20 largest economies, with just 3% for low-income nations. Overall, 58% of the new SDRs go to advanced economies, with 42% for emerging and developing economies. So of the \$650 billion, about \$21 bil-



IMF managing director, Kristalina Georgieva.

lion go to low-income countries and \$212 billion to other emerging market and developing coun-

tries, without counting China, according to US Treasury Department calculations.

The Group of Seven advanced economies in June endorsed a plan to reallocate \$100 billion of

new SDRs to poorer countries, but the G-20 in July only specified support for a general allocation of \$650 billion in SDRs, without detailing how much would be re-lent.

Reallocation will be crucial to help countries in Africa, for which only about \$33 billion is earmarked in the SDR issuance. France has committed to reallocating part of its SDRs for countries on the continent.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has previously said that from the total allocation, about one-quarter – equivalent to around \$162 billion – should be made available to African countries. He has called on rich nations to donate – and not just on-lend – their allocations.

Rich nations currently can use the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust to help channel reserves to low-income countries interest free. Fund staff also are working to set up the so-called Resilience and Stability Trust for redirecting new reserves to vulnerable low-middle-income countries and small island economies, an option that Georgieva has said she hopes will be established by year-end.

The fund will “continue to engage actively with our membership to identify viable options for voluntary channeling of SDRs from wealthier member countries to support their pandemic recovery and achieve resilient and sustainable growth” Georgieva said in Monday's statement.

CONTROL

Tech giants' rise requires new financial oversight, bank says

BASEL

THE world's biggest tech firms need oversight from financial regulators to guard against their growing market power, possible threats to financial stability and data privacy concerns, according to senior officials at the Bank for International Settlements.

Agustin Carstens, general manager of the BIS, and three colleagues at the Basel-based institution said in a paper published Monday that the current system “is likely to fall short of an adequate response” to Big Tech's move into finance.

“The current framework does not address the potential (possibly global) systemic impact of big tech operations and of possible spillover effects to the financial sector,” the officials wrote. Current licensing requirements for payments firms “were formulated with small remittance service providers in mind.”

The paper highlighted the surge in users of Alphabet's Google, and Facebook as well as the more than 90% market share of mobile payments in China held by Alibaba Group Holding and Tencent Holdings Tech firms can grow quickly in financial services because they can quickly roll out new products to their massive user bases, the BIS executives said. The paper shows the growing concerns among central bankers and financial authorities over new forms of technology that are outside the traditional core of the banking system.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen last month pushed top US financial regulators to accelerate their consideration of new rules to police stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency that's seen rapid recent growth and remains largely unregulated. The Bank of England wants additional powers to oversee the financial industry's reliance on cloud computing, a market with a handful of technology giants like Amazon.com and Microsoft.



Agustin Carstens, general manager of Bank for International Settlements speaks at a past meeting. He said big tech companies need oversight from financial regulators to guard against their growing market power.

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	
MONDAY 19 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanzania Yetu 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Mjuzi Zaidi 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Art and Lifestyle rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:10 Abu yako rpt 18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe 18:30 DWTV: Kesho leo 19:00 Aya ya Jamii 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Dakika 45 22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV
TUESDAY 20 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Igizo rpt: Rebecca 12:30 Aya ya Jamii 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt: Masoko Chakavu D'Salaam 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Shika Bamba rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza huru 16:30 Watoto wetu 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Uchumi na bashara 19:00 Habari za saa 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 21:30 Uchumi na bashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu
WEDNESDAY 21 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Al Jazeera 9:00 DWTV Journal 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:30 Uchumi na bashara rpt 11:00 The Base rpt 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt 13:00 Dakika 45 rpt 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Meza huru rpt 15:00 Watoto Wetu 16:30 The Base 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 18:00 Kiliam 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco 21:30 Ripoti Maalum: Masoko Chakavu 22:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV
THURSDAY 22 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:30 HABARI 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto Wetu 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: TMDA 12:30 Ijuzi sheria rpt 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Shamsam za Pwani rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Meza huru 15:00 Watoto Wetu 16:30 The Base 17:00 The Base 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Mipishi 18:30 Uchumi na bashara 19:00 Habari za saa 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja 21:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt 21:30 Uchumi na bashara 19:00 Jarida la wanawake 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanzania Yetu
FRIDAY 23 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 HABARI 7:30 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu rpt 10:30 Usafiri waoko rpt 10:55 Habari za saa 11:00 The Base rpt 11:55 Habari za saa 12:00 Al Jazeera 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco 12:55 Habari za saa 13:00 Jagina rpt 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt 13:55 Habari za saa 14:00 Chetu ni chetu rpt 14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 14:55 Habari za saa 15:00 Meza Huru 16:30 Watoto Wetu 17:00 The Base (DJ Show) 18:00 Kiliam 18:15 Mjuzi Zaidi rpt 19:00 Shamba lulu 19:30 Soap: Uzalo 20:00 Habari 21:05 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA 21:30 Ripoti Maalum: Masoko Chakavu 22:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 23:00 Habari 23:30 The Base 00:30 Al Jazeera 02:00 DWTV
SATURDAY 24 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 HABARI 7:30 Kumekucha Michezo 8:55 Habari za saa 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo 9:30 Soap: Uzalo 9:55 Habari za saa 10:00 Watoto wetu 10:30 Shika Bamba 5 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt 12:00 Hawavumi lakini wamo 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Jumong 13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe 16:20 Igizo: Rebecca 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani 18:00 Jiji Letu 18:15 Korean drama: Jumong 19:00 Jungu Kuu 19:30 Shika Bamba 20:00 Habari 21:00 Igizo: Rebecca 21:30 Art and Lifestyle 22:00 ITV TOP 10 22:45 Hawavumi lakini wamo 23:45 Soap: Uzalo rpt 00:30 DWTV
SUNDAY 25 July	5:30 Uwanga wa Mazoezi 6:00 HABARI 6:40 Kumekucha 7:00 HABARI 7:30 Kumekucha 8:00 Kumekucha 8:40 Kumekucha 9:00 Habari 9:30 Al Jazeera 09:00 Watoto Wetu 10:00 Soap: Uzalo rpt 11:35 Bongo Movie rpt 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo 15:30 Mwangaza 16:30 ITV Top 10 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
MON 19 July	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 07:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Shamba Lulu rpt 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt 13:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:00 Rev 19:30 Eco@Africa 20:00 Abu Yako 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition 20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death 21:30 Capital Prime News 22:00 Malumbano ya hoja rpt 00:00 Al Jazeera
Tues 20 July	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 Turning the spotlight rpt 21:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
Wed 21 July	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 Turning the spotlight rpt 21:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
Thurs 22 July	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 Turning the spotlight rpt 21:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
Frid 23 July	06:00 Al Jazeera 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio) 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio) 13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio) 16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love 16:30 Turning the spotlight rpt 21:30 Eco@Africa 23:00 Al Jazeera
Sun 25 July	06:00 Al Jazeera 09:00 In good shape 10:00 Capchat rpt 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Emperor of the Sea 12:00 Jagina rpt 12:30 Burndisigga Kick Off rpt 13:00 In good shape rpt 13:30 Series rpt: Beats of Love 15:15 Abu yako 15:30 Rev rpt 21:15 Dakika 45 rpt 16:45 Mizengwe rpt 17:00 The Decor rpt 17:30 Meza huru 19:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights 20:00 Korean Drama: Emperor of the Sea 21:30 Dw News Africa 21:15 Capchat live 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death 00:00 Al Jazeera

WORLD

Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates divorce becomes official

THREE months after they first announced their split following 27 years of marriage, Bill Gates and Melinda French Gates are officially divorced.

The marriage's dissolution was finalized by a judge Monday in King County, Washington, according to court records, which detailed that neither party will receive "spousal support" or change their names.

The judge ordered the Gateses to divide their property according to the terms of a separation contract, which remains confidential under the terms of the divorce.

Washington laws stipulate a 90-day waiting period between when a divorce is filed and finalized. TMZ earlier reported the official conclusion of the marriage.

Since the split was revealed in May, more than US\$3 billion worth of shares held by Gates's Cascade Investment has been transferred to French Gates's name. That's a fraction

of their US\$146 billion fortune at the time of the announcement, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, though it may never be known how the ex-couple's private assets are being divided up. Gates, 65, is now worth more than US\$150 billion, according to the index.

While Washington is a community property state, which means anything accumulated during marriage is considered both partners' equally, the separation contract can supersede that as long as both parties agree and the court deems it fair. In Monday's filing, the judge called the plan to split property "just and equitable."

Intense focus

In the months following the divorce announcement, there's been intense focus on the future of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Warren Buffett, the only other trustee aside from the pair, stepped down from the



Melinda Gates and Bill Gates speak on stage during The Robin Hood Foundation's 2018 benefit at Jacob Javitz Center in New York City. File photo

board in June, while the foundation announced it would add more members. French Gates, 56, meanwhile, might exit her role in two years if she and Gates cannot work together.

The couple also committed an extra US\$15 billion to the organization. That money will go to the foundation's endowment, which stood at about US\$50 billion be-

fore the announcement and has given away about as much over the past two decades.

French Gates, who filed the divorce petition in May, signed the document on July 30 from "Pivotal Ventures," her investment and incubation firm focused on gender equality based in Washington.

Agencies

Multiple political parties, social societies submit Joint Statement to WHO to oppose politicising virus origin-tracing

BEIJING

OVER 300 political parties, social societies and think tanks in over 100 countries and districts opposed politicizing virus origin-tracing in a joint statement sent to the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariat on Monday.

In the face of the grave threat COVID-19 possess to life, safety and health of all mankind, the statement stressed that the international society needs to strengthen anti-epidemic cooperation, called for the WHO to carry out global virus origin-tracing research in an objective and fair manner, and stands resolutely against politicizing virus origin-tracing issue.

"We as humans live in a community in which we rise and fall together with a shared future. In the face of major crises, no single country can remain insulated and intact. Viruses know no border or races. The only way to defeat them is for the international community to work together," the statement said.

"(The coronavirus) origin-tracing is a serious scientific



A woman wearing a face mask walks on Via dei Condotti in Rome, Italy, Jan. 27, 2021. File photo

issue that must be studied by scientists and medical experts around the world through cooperation before any scientific conclusion is drawn on the basis of facts and evidences," the paper stressed.

"We are of the view that origin-tracing is the shared obligation of all countries. The outline of the next step work plan

proposed unilaterally by the WHO Secretariat has neither complied with what is stipulated in the relevant Resolution of the World Health Assembly, nor been consulted adequately with Member States, still less fully reflected the latest research achievements of the global origin-tracing. Hence it is not conducive to offering due guidance

for future cooperation thereof," the statement said.

It calls on the Secretariat of the World Health Organization to "act on relevant resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly to advance global origin-tracing study in cooperation with all Member States while giving full consideration to the emerging new scientific evidences and faithfully following the recommendations of the Report of the WHO-China Joint Mission on Coronavirus Disease 2019."

"We support medical experts and scientific researchers in carrying out thorough origin-tracing in a professional spirit covering multiple countries and multiple locations, so as to provide necessary reference experience for the prevention of the next possible pandemic," it noted.

"We resolutely oppose any attempt of politicization, geographical labeling and stigmatization as well as the obstruction by any political factor and political manipulation to the research process and the international anti-epidemic

cooperation," the statement said.

"We appreciate the fact that China and other countries have taken positive moves in providing vaccines to the rest of the world, in particular to developing countries, making important contribution to the global anti-epidemic cooperation. We call on vaccine-capable countries to refrain from imposing export restrictions or resorting to excessive hoarding and to resolutely oppose vaccine nationalism so that the global immunisation gap can be narrowed, and a stronger international fence against the virus can take shape," it added.

"We are of the view that political parties and organizations of all countries must shoulder their responsibility to enhance cooperation, work hard to facilitate global anti-epidemic cooperation, policy coordination and complementary actions, so as to inject inexhaustible driving force for the global fight against COVID-19 and the building of a global community of health for all," the statement underlined. **Xinhua**

Tensions in Afghanistan stem from US strategic blunders, says Russian envoy

MOSCOW

THE current tense situation in Afghanistan stems from strategic mistakes made by the United States and its allies, Special Russian Presidential Representative for Afghanistan and Director of the Second Asian Department at Russia's Foreign Ministry Zamir Kabulov said at an online discussion at the Gorchakov Public Diplomacy Fund yesterday.

"The current situation in

Afghanistan stems from the strategic mistakes, which the United States and its allies made in their Afghan policy," the senior Russian diplomat said.

The United States made a big mistake when it engaged in creating a network of military bases on the territory of Afghanistan instead of assisting the country's recovery, Kabulov said.

"The Americans took advantage of the situation to

establish a ramified network of military bases on the country's territory so that they could project force to the regions adjacent to Afghanistan, including Russia, to say nothing of Afghanistan's other immediate neighbors," the envoy added.

"Unfortunately, the Americans could not stay away from this temptation," Kabulov pointed out.

The second strategic mistake was that the United

States sought to democratize Afghanistan to follow the US model, the envoy said.

"Instead of simply helping Afghanistan in its development and assisting in developing its state institutions and the economy, relying on proven Afghan traditions, the Americans engaged in democratizing the country and imposing their own conceptions of democracy, which has resulted in failure," Kabulov said.

All these strategic blunders triggered the current situation that is being observed by the entire world, the Russian envoy stressed.

"Now the main task for all the states interested in stability in Afghanistan is to do everything possible to prevent the country from turning into a hotbed and a bridgehead of international terrorism as was the case in the mid-1990s," Kabulov said.

Agencies

Kenya's surging COVID-19 infections raise concern over possible 4th wave

NAIROBI

KENYA could be on the verge of the fourth wave of COVID-19 infections that was predicted earlier by local epidemiologists as the capital, Nairobi and eight other counties grapple with a record spike in new cases and fatalities.

Kenya's Ministry of Health acknowledged recently that a surging COVID-19 caseload, largely driven by the Delta variant and lax observance of containment measures, could have ushered the fourth wave. Mutahi Kagwe, cabinet secretary for health said at a briefing in Nairobi on July 30 that a sudden upsurge in coronavirus positive cases after a brief lull could reverse progress towards flattening the curve.

He disclosed that health facilities in Nairobi were getting overwhelmed amid an influx of COVID-19 patients, adding that demand for oxygen had shot up as mild cases became severe at a faster rate.

Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) late May predicted that the country might experience its fourth COVID-19 wave in July, citing a three months interval since the onset of the pandemic in mid-March 2020. The epidemiologists domiciled at Kenya's premier medical research body said it was possible to avert the worst outcomes of a fourth wave subject to enhanced adherence to measures aimed at curbing the spread of the virus.

The ministry warned that new upticks in Nairobi, several counties in central Kenya, Rift Valley, eastern and the coastal region, had reversed gains achieved previously toward containing the pandemic. Non-compliance to public health protocols like wearing of face coverings, hygiene and social distancing was fuelling infections in counties that had experienced some level of normalcy.

Mercy Mwangangi, chief administrative secretary in the Ministry of Health said that surging COVID-19 cases in Nairobi, adjacent counties and the coastal region were an indicator the country was on the verge of a fourth wave that could extend throughout August in the absence of mitigation measures.

According to Mwangangi, the fourth wave that was slated to begin in mid-July was inevitable amid enhanced mobility, community transmission of the Delta variant and easing of containment measures. Kenya had improved on genomic sequencing to identify variants of concern besides accelerating vaccination and revamping critical care facilities to help the country withstand the adverse impacts of a fourth wave.

Kenya as of Monday has reported a total of 204,271 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 189,692 recoveries and 3,970 deaths. **Xinhua**

Latin America's resurgent left, Caribbean spurn US on Cuba

HAVANA

THE United States doubled down on its tough stance and sanctions on Cuba after historic protests in the island last month and said it would seek to support protesters.

But many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, a region which is still scarred by Washington's backing of coups during the Cold War and has shifted leftwards in recent years, are asking it to back off instead.

President Joe Biden's administration imposed new sanctions on those who cracked down on protesters and promised the Cuban-American community more actions were coming, like efforts to help Cubans circumvent "censorship".

While the fresh sanctions are largely symbolic, they suggest a return to a period of detente under former president Barack Obama is not forthcoming.

The governments of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Honduras joined the United States last week in issuing a statement condemning mass arrests and calling for full restoration of disrupted internet access.

Yet only 20 foreign ministers worldwide joined in signing the letter, signalling how relatively isolated Washington is on its Cuba policy, analysts said. Even US allies like Canada did not sign.

Meanwhile, Cuba's allies in Latin America and fellow Caribbean island nations have focused their reaction on the contribution of the US embargo to the country's current humanitarian crisis, urging Washington to lift sanctions. Mexico, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Bolivia have sent aid. Some countries in the region have also warned against US meddling in Cuba's domestic matters.

These regional divisions came to the fore last week when the Organization of American States had to postpone a meeting on the human rights situation in Cuba due to objections by more than a dozen member states.

"Any discussion could only satisfy political hawks with an eye on US mid-term elections where winning South Florida with the backing of Cuban exiles would be a prize," wrote Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador to the OAS, Ronald Sanders, in a column published on digital platform Caribbean News Global. **Agencies**

Technologies facilitate biodiversity protection in China

FROM DNA sequencing to biodiversity monitoring, and from artificial reproduction to species conservation, science and technology has contributed a major part to China's biodiversity protection in recent years.

China is a country with some of the richest biological resources in the world. It is also one of the first countries that have approved the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Noting that China's researchers have valuable experiences

that the world needs to hear about, British scientific journal Nature pointed out that as China prepares to take on a crucial role in the governance of global biodiversity, its researchers must be at the table.

China has built in Kunming city, Yunnan province, the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species, a comprehensive national database for the collection and preservation of wildlife germplasm resources.

As of the end of 2020, the germplasm bank had pre-

served 85,046 copies of 10,601 wild plant seeds. It is hailed as "Noah's Ark" for protecting wildlife germplasm resources.

Preserving dried and frozen seeds, the germplasm bank provides technological support for the protection, research and appropriate utilization of China's wildlife germplasm resources, and plays a major role in international biodiversity conservation.

The importance of science and technology for biodiversity conservation is increasingly

obvious.

When remote sensor monitoring was not available, agricultural technicians had no choice but to go for field studies, which could barely meet the need for large-scale, fast and nondestructive monitoring of crop conditions and timely prevention and control of diseases and pests.

Nowadays, remote sensor monitoring has been applied in agricultural production in China, allowing agricultural technicians to analyze the

movements of insect pests and evaluate the severity of plant diseases and insect pests by monitoring remotely the vegetation growth, coverage, surface temperature, humidity and other indicators.

In the Internet era, information technology has made possible the processing of massive data, and created wider and more convenient platforms for biodiversity conservation in China, including Chinese Virtual Herbarium, the Plant Photo Bank

of China, and the National Animal Collection Resource Center. The emergence of these databases and digital programs in recent years is driving China to turn around its seriously threatened biodiversity.

From the collection and storage of information to the management and analysis of resources, the constantly improving biodiversity information network has realized the exploration and utilization of massive biodiversity data,

providing a solid underpinning for China's biodiversity conservation and research.

The practice of biodiversity conservation is inseparable from the guarantee and assistance of science and technology.

Only by making science and technology a strong support for biodiversity conservation can humankind guard the Earth and build a beautiful world of harmony among all beings on the planet. **People's Daily**

IMF approves largest SDR allocation in history to combat COVID-19 crisis

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a new general allocation of Special Drawing Rights (SDR) equivalent to 650 billion U.S. dollars, the largest in the IMF's history, in an effort to boost global liquidity amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a statement released Monday.

"This is a historic decision - the largest SDR allocation in the history of the IMF and a shot in the arm for the global economy at a time of unprecedented crisis," said IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

Noting that the SDR allocation will benefit all IMF members, address the long-term global need for reserves, build confidence, and foster the resilience and stability of the global economy, Georgieva said it will particularly help the most vulnerable countries struggling to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

About 275 billion dollars (about SDR 193 billion) of the new allocation will go to emerging markets and developing countries, including low-income countries, according to the multilateral lender.

"SDRs are a welcome finance mechanism for Zimbabwe and the rest of Africa, they are not conditional, a country can utilize the funds as according to their own blueprints," Gordon Moyo, founder of Public Policy and Research Institute of Zimbabwe, was quoted by the Sunday Mail as saying.

According to the recently released update to the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO), many countries entered this crisis with high debt levels and limited re-

sources to ramp up health and social spending, and access to international liquidity is "vital" to help them combat the crisis.

"At a time when many of these countries face difficult choices between meeting essential health and social spending needs, supporting their economies more broadly, and fulfilling obligations on external borrowing, the SDR allocation is set to ease some of the constraints and help them better manage the trade-offs," the report said.

The SDR allocation would also add to existing IMF and broader multilateral efforts, such as the Group of 20 (G20) Debt Service Suspension Initiative, directed toward cushioning the impact of the pandemic on financially constrained economies, according to the report.

Moreover, the IMF noted that the new SDR allocation will "address a long-term global need" to supplement existing reserve assets.

While subject to uncertainty, IMF staff estimates the long-term global need for reserve assets in the range of 1.1 to 1.9 trillion U.S. dollars (about SDR 0.8 to 1.3 trillion) over the next five years. An SDR allocation of 650 billion U.S. dollars (about SDR 453 billion) would cover about 30-60 percent of the estimated global reserve need.

The SDR allocation proposal was delayed for more than a year, as the United States, the IMF's biggest shareholder with a unique veto power, blocked it early last year under the Trump administration. The Biden administration quickly reversed the position and voiced its support for the plan.

The proposal gained wide support during the virtual spring meet-



Photo taken on April 6, 2021 shows an exterior view of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) headquarters in Washington, D.C. (Xinhua)

ings of the IMF and the World Bank held in April, as G20 finance ministers and central bank governors, as well as officials from other IMF members, backed the plan.

The final approval by the IMF board of governors, which requires an 85-percent majority of the total voting power of all IMF members, came just weeks after the IMF executive board approved the proposal.

The new general allocation of SDRs will become effective on Aug. 23, according to the IMF.

The SDR, an international reserve asset created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement its member countries'

official reserves, can be exchanged among governments for freely usable currencies in times of need.

So far, SDR 204.2 billion (equivalent to about 293 billion U.S. dollars) have been allocated to members, including SDR 182.6 billion allocated in 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis, IMF data showed.

The Chinese currency, renminbi, formally became the fifth currency in the SDR basket on Oct. 1, 2016, joining the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Japanese yen, and the British pound.

Georgieva said the IMF will also continue to engage actively with

its membership to identify "viable" options for voluntary channeling of SDRs from wealthier to poorer and more vulnerable member countries to support their pandemic recovery and achieve resilient and sustainable growth.

One key option is for members that have strong external positions to voluntarily channel part of their SDRs to scale up lending for low-income countries through the IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT), the statement noted, adding that concessional support through the PRGT is currently interest free.

Xinhua

US' Russophobic rhetoric meant to hide its aggressive behavior in Black Sea - Russian MP

MOSCOW

US Admiral Robert Burke's Russophobic rhetoric is designed to hide NATO's real plans to escalate the situation in the Black Sea, a senior Russian lawmaker said on Monday.

It was "an attempt to use Russophobic hysteria to disguise NATO countries' true plans to escalate the situation in the Black Sea," Leonid Slutsky, chairman of the international committee of the Russian State Duma (lower parliament house), wrote on his Telegram account. "It is not mere verbal saber-rattling. These pronouncements are extremely destructive and dangerous."

According to the Russian lawmaker, Burke's words fit well into "Washington's usual rhetoric" of passing the buck. "Burke's words are especially in discord against the backdrop of the recent incident when a British warship incurred into Russia's territorial waters," he noted.

"Russian border guards thwarted what is called a provocation quite professionally and precisely. We will continue to safeguard our state border and rebuff anyone who may try to violate it," he pledged.

Commander of the US Naval Forces in Europe and Africa Admiral Robert Burke said earlier that the Russian military was "baiting" the United States "into shooting first" in the Black Sea. **Agencies**

Changes in Chinese countryside in the eyes of auto repair shop owner in Xinjiang

TUMANBAY Yoldash, a 41-year-old owner of an auto repair shop in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, was changing tires for a freight truck while humming a tune to himself on the afternoon of a sunny day. The service was provided for the fourth client he received that day.

There was a time when Yoldash's shop was the only auto repair shop in Ulugqat township, Wuqia county, Kizilsu Kirghiz autonomous prefecture, Xinjiang. Over these years, Yoldash has experienced personally the changes in his hometown, and seen how the lives of the local people have changed. In the past, horse and camel were the main means of transport for herdsmen, and most of the local roads were gravel roads full of bumps and hollows. Today, more and more families have private cars, and expressway network has extended to Ulugqat township.

Local herdsmen have seen their income increase continuously and moved into spacious and bright new houses built under the country's construction projects launched to provide better and affordable housing for rural and urban residents, leading better life with each passing day.

Yoldash's family has raised livestock for a living for generations. Horse and camel were their main means of transport every time they move to a new pasturing area in the past.

"We drove sheep and cattle forward on the back of horse or camel. The distance between our two pasturing areas is more than 60 kilometers.



Photo shows new houses of herdsmen in Hutubi county, Hui autonomous prefecture of Changji, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region. File photo

We could only drink unboiled water and eat Nang (a kind of crusty pancake) during the journey," recalled Yoldash, who added that they often had to spend the night in the field when there was a rain or other unexpected circumstances.

According to Yoldash, at that time, when they needed to go to Wuqia county to seek medical services or deal with urgent affairs, the only choice they had besides riding a horse was to wait for a ride on a freight truck.

"I remember that once when my grandfather was ill, he was not able to ride a horse. He waited for four or five days, but still couldn't hitch a ride in a truck. In the end he got on the back of a truck fully loaded with ore. When my grandfather finally arrived at the county after four or five hours, he was covered with dust," Yoldash told People's Daily.

Life of local herdsmen began to change around the year 2010. "At first some people got motorcycles, then more and more people bought pickup trucks and private cars," said

Yoldash, who observed business opportunities from these changes: once people have cars, there will be demand for car repair services.

Based on the car repair skills he learnt when he was a migrant worker before, Yoldash then opened an auto repair shop near the office building of the government of Ulugqat township.

At the beginning, most of the people who came to the shop were for tire repair services, according to Yoldash, who explained that the bumpy gravel roads back then made tires worn easily.

Nevertheless, as there were not a lot of cars in Ulugqat township, Yoldash could only earn about 2,000 yuan (\$309.8) a month at most. Because the road in front of his shop was an unsurfaced road, his jack often got stuck in the mud after rain.

Greater changes in the locality began around 2015 when expressways extended to Ulugqat township, and the bumpy gravel road in front of Yoldash's shop was replaced by

a flat asphalt road.

Since the auto repair shop was located on the only way from Wuqia county to Irkesh-tam port, a border land port in west China, business in the shop has picked up as the number of commercial vehicles passing the road has risen gradually.

"Now I can make more than 5,000 yuan by running the auto repair shop alone. My business gets even better in July and August when there are more tourist cars here," said Yoldash.

"I have entrusted my livestock to other people. Besides running the auto repair shop, I've also started a decoration business. Now I can make more than 100,000 yuan a year from running these businesses. My two children are both in school and our life is becoming better and better," said Yoldash, who got a new car just a few years ago.

"My daughter is in a boarding junior high school in Wuqia county. I often drive to see her. It's only a one-hour car ride," Yoldash added.

Yoldash's family is not the only one that has enjoyed great changes over these years. In fact, all the herdsmen in Ulugqat township have embraced major changes.

By improving breeds of their livestock, local herdsmen have achieved constant increase in their income. In recent years, they have been relocated to places with better living conditions and moved into spacious and bright houses, thanks to major construction projects launched by the government.

People's Daily

US offers refugee status to more Afghans facing danger

BY BLOOMBERG

The Biden administration is expanding a program to take in Afghans who face threats from the Taliban for having worked with the US since the 2001 invasion, announcing a plan to make it easier for people employed by American media and aid groups to apply for refugee status.

Citing a rise in violence by the Taliban as American forces leave the country, the State Department said Monday that the US will offer so-called Priority 2 status to a new category of Afghan citizens: current and former employees of American media outlets as well as for US-funded projects and non-governmental organizations. Those who worked for the US for short periods can also apply.

People seeking refugee status under the expanded category will still find it hard to get. A senior State Department official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said their applications would be considered only after they flee Afghanistan, and processing could take 12 to 14 months. The official said the US currently wouldn't be able to help them get out of the country though it's reviewing all options.

"This is incredibly hard, it is hard on so many levels," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a briefing when asked about the re-



Internally displaced Afghan children stand outside their temporary mud house at a refugee camp in Kabul on Nov 23, 2020. File photo

quirement that people leave the country before getting help. "We have a special responsibility to these individuals. They stood with us and we will stand with them."

Previously, the administration offered refugee status to Afghans who had worked directly for the US government - mostly for the military and for a certain length of time - under what's known as the Special Immigrant Visa program. Their families are also eligible. But that didn't address the many thousands of Afghans who face similar danger from the Taliban for their affiliation with other US entities.

In a statement, the State Department said the US still wants a "peaceful, secure Afghanistan" but that rising violence by the Taliban added to the urgency of the move.

Members of Congress have pressed for faster and expanded action to protect those at risk, and lawmakers last week cleared legislation

with funding for that purpose. "As we bring our troops home, it's important not only to ensure the safety of Afghans who offered important assistance to our military but also to protect a broader set of Afghans who have helped further our goal of building democratic values in Afghanistan," Senator Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, said in a statement Monday.

Independent advocates for Afghans in the country said the new program wouldn't go nearly far enough.

'A Cop-Out'

"It's a cop-out" said Matt Zeller, a fellow at the Truman Center and a retired Army major who served in Afghanistan. "These people don't need more paperwork. They need an airlift."

He said a similar, longstanding program for Iraqi refugees has more than 100,000 applications that would take 200 years to work through at the current rate. **Agencies**

BRASILIA

Brazil court to probe Bolsonaro for attacks on voting system

BRASIL'S Supreme Electoral Court (TSE) decided on Monday to open an investigation into far-right President Jair Bolsonaro for his statements claiming there will be fraud in next year's elections.

Bolsonaro, who is expected to seek a second term in 2022, has repeatedly said Brazil's electronic voting system is vulnerable to fraud.

Critics say Bolsonaro, like former US President Donald Trump, is sowing doubts with his unfounded claims in order to pave the way for him not to accept defeat in 2022.

The TSE also decided to ask the

Supreme Court to investigate whether Bolsonaro committed a crime by attacking the electoral system on social media and threatening Brazil's democracy.

The TSE voted to investigate Bolsonaro after he accused the court's members of complicity in maintaining a voting system that would help former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva return to power. Bolsonaro is calling for

the adoption of printed receipts that can be counted if any election result is disputed, a paper trail that would change the current all-electronic voting system. Bolsonaro has said he might not accept the result of next year's presidential election if the system is not changed.

Over the weekend, supporters of the president held demonstrations in several cities backing his proposal.

A group of 18 active and former Brazilian Supreme Court justices said printed ballots are less safe than electronic voting, and that if Brazil goes back to manual counting of 150 million printed ballots, the chance of fraud would be higher.

Earlier on Monday, a group of 18 active and former Brazilian Supreme Court justices, who also serve as judges on the TSE, said the election system is free of fraud.

"Brazil has eliminated a history of election fraud," the judges said in a statement, saying that since the electronic voting system was adopted in 1996, there has never been a documented fraud case in any election.

"The electronic voting system is subject to audits before, during and after the election," they said. The judges said all the steps are monitored by political parties, prosecutors, federal

police, universities and the Brazilian Bar Association.

The judges said printed ballots are less safe than electronic voting, and that if Brazil goes back to manual counting of 150 million printed ballots, the chance of fraud would be higher.

A congressional committee will vote Thursday on a proposal pushed by Bolsonaro to introduce paper ballots.

The government solicitor general's office did not

immediately reply to a request for comment on the TSE decision.

Agencies



The electronic voting system is subject to audits before, during and after the election, the judges said all the steps are monitored by political parties, prosecutors

SPORT



Simba SC players participate in training in Kagera in April this year to shape up for this season's Vodacom Premier League and CAF Champions League fixtures. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

Simba eager to invest in quality players

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

WHILE Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes, has approved various players for registration, the club's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, has said the good news is coming to the outfit.

Barbara said Simba's success this season was due to an investment poured in by the outfit's Directors' Board Chairman, Mohamed Dewji.

According to the Simba CEO, a lot will be done at the outfit Dewji promised to put more effort into strengthening their team and ensuring they win the CAF Champions League title.

She said one of the areas they had planned for was the registration of players and the preparations for the upcoming season to replicate the success they got last season.

"We are going to invest more in quality players to have the best in the squad and, God willing, good things will be seen in the upcoming season," Barbara revealed.

She disclosed: "During the registration period good things will be seen in the outfit, we will register the best players according to our shortcomings which

were seen last season."

Dewji said last week he wants to catapult Simba to success in CAF Champions League and promised to rope in top-class players, with coach Gomes continuing coaching the outfit.

Dewji noted in the four years he has led Simba to win the Mainland Premier League title for four seasons, he was spending more than 5bn/- annually, but next season the stake will be increased to maintain the side's success.

Barbara emphasized that good strategies are to be implemented next season in Mainland Premier League and the CAF Champions League.

So far, four local players have been linked with a move to Simba for next season, with some still being discussed, including foreign professionals.

The newly recruited footballers and those who were present last season, on August 10, will board a plane to Alexandria, Egypt in preparation for next season.

Simba will camp in Alexandria for two weeks. Apart from engaging in various strenuous exercises, the side will play international friendly matches with some of Egypt's teams.

Reports from Simba say that all of the squad's players have prepared their passports for obtaining Egypt visas to enter the country.

Black athletes defend Spanish roots after winning in Tokyo

MADRID

TRIPLE jumper Ana Peleteiro and gymnast Ray Zapata came out defending their Spanish roots after winning medals for their country at the Tokyo Olympics, with Peleteiro saying "a lot of people" back home were probably upset that two Black athletes succeeded.

Bronze medalist Peleteiro and silver medalist Zapata said they should be celebrated for succeeding while representing the country at the Games.

"It's evidence of change, that this mix is very good, that it makes the country richer," Peleteiro told the newspaper El Mundo. "Anyone who doesn't want to see that is a fool because there is nothing more beautiful than to mix two good things."

In an earlier joint interview to Spain's public broadcaster, RTVE, Zapata was talking about how they are "of color but represent Spain" when Peleteiro interrupted him and said, "We are Black, what do you mean 'of color?'," they are the ones 'of color,' they change color more than the sun."

"What do I know ... I feel extremely

proud when I come out to represent Spain," said Zapata, who was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to Spain at an early age.

Peleteiro was born in the northwestern Spanish region of Galicia. She complained in the past of being racially abused and of being told to "go back to your country" by someone on the street. She also had previously received abuse on social media.

"I think it shows that, whoever you are, when someone takes advantage of an opportunity, you have to celebrate it," she said.

Peleteiro's comments stirred a small political controversy on social media as many noted that politicians from some more radical parties congratulated other Spanish medalists but not Zapata and Peleteiro.

There were about a dozen Black athletes in the Spanish Olympic delegation of more than 320 athletes. Some represented the country despite being born outside of Spain.

Zapata won the silver medal on the individual floor exercise.

AP

SPORTS

Cricket development programme garners momentous boost



Junior cricket players from various schools in Mwanza hold cricket equipment they were presented with by Mwanza City Council Sports Officer, Mohamed Bitegeko, recently as part of the Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s efforts to develop the sport in the country. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA Cricket Association (TCA) has stepped up efforts to develop the game among youths domestically, as the association handed over equipment to various schools in Dodoma and Mwanza recently.

Atif Salim, TCA information officer, revealed the equipment was handed over to Mwanza City Council Sports Officer, Mohamed Bitegeko.

The city officer thereafter handed over the equipment to the schools at a ceremony that took place at the Butimba cricket oval.

In Dodoma, District Sports Officer, Peter Ititi, was presented with cricket equipment by TCA Development Officer, Benson Mwita.

Ititi was overwhelmed by the association's efforts and noted that he will offer full support to help the game reach out to as many schools in the region as possible.

The TCA development program, which is also run in other regions, Arusha, Tanga, Morogoro, and Dar es Salaam, seeks to groom youngsters into gifted players set to competently turn out for junior teams in the future.

In a related development, Twiga Queens' cricketers made short work of Ngorongoro Queens in this season's Tan-

zania Cricket Association (TCA) Tanga U-18 Girls League, recording an eight-wicket victory over the latter in a duel, which took place last weekend.

Leila Ramadhani and Aisha Juma put notable batting showing once Ngorongoro Queens were presented with the opportunity to start batting and recording 61 runs, dropping six wickets in 20 overs.

Their efforts to end the innings with an imposing score suffered a knock within the first two overs, given openers, Mwanaidi Mohamed and Mericiana William suffered early exits. Mericiana was sent back to the pavilion by Twiga Queens' Mwanaidi Ismail after the batter had posted four runs.

Mwanaidi executed six knocks and she was then sent to the pavilion by Twiga Queens' Mwajabu Athumani with the former exiting for naught.

Top-order batter Aisha notched 13 runs, the batter turned out to be one of two performers with a two-digit figure. After two quick dismissals of Hereth Peter and Christina Richard, Leila and Martina Cosmas sought to somewhat boost their squad's score, ending with not-out stints.

Leila was ultimately the batter with most runs, as she notched 18 runs not out and Martina recorded nine runs not out.

Twiga Queens' Mwanaidi Ismail, Asha Abbas, and Mwajabu Athuman posted two wickets each in their respective four-over spells, seeking to see to it Ngorongoro Queens post a modest total.

In response, Twiga Queens smoothly got down to a successful chase, dropping two wickets, with 32 balls to spare.

After experiencing an early blow, in which opening

batter Amina Hassan exited for duck, the outfit wrestled control with fine displays by Mwanaidi and Mwajabu.

Mwanaidi sought to spare her fellow opening batter's blushes, notching 12 runs consisting of a boundary.

Mwajabu later saw to it Twiga Queens are within reach of the chase, she notched 23 runs not out in a stint which had the batter blasting one four.

She forged an unbeaten partnership with Asha Abbas, given Asha ended with six runs not out.

A total of 22 extras given away by Ngorongoro Queens as well boosted Twiga Queens' pursuit of the win.

Tanga Regional Cricket Committee oversees the tournament, which has youngsters from schools from across the region taking part with a view of allowing the players to garner experience.

Msuva now happy with clinching Morocco Premier League silverware

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TANZANIAN forward, Simon Msuva, who features for Morocco soccer big guns, Wydad Casablanca, has expressed his excitement over his club's triumph in this season's Morocco Premier League.

Wydad Casablanca clinched the Moroccan top-flight title after beating FAR Rabat 2-0 on July 28, helping them notch 67 points ahead of Raja Casablanca with 59 points, with one game remaining.

Commenting on the Premier League's victory, Msuva, who signed for Wydad Casablanca at the start of the 2020/21 season from Morocco's Difaa Hassan El-Jadeed, said: "It is a great honour for me to win the Moroccan Premier League title with Wydad Casablanca. There was stiff competition, but luck was on our side," Msuva noted.

"I wanted to score more than the seven goals I finished with this season, but it's not bad as I struggled to be in the first team, despite finding players who were trusted and high-level competitors who I considered as the most committed," he said.

"My focus has been to look further to ensure I do great things that will be a sign for others to learn from me and I know there are those who are learning to this day."

Wydad Casablanca is eight points ahead of Raja, with four matchdays remaining.

They won the 21st Moroccan Premier League title in their history, far ahead of Raja (12 titles), and saved a season marred by the surprise elimination against South Africa's Kaizer Chiefs in the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League.

Msuva could not bail his outfit out after his team lost on penalties 5-3 versus Moghreb Tetouan on Sunday evening in the Moroccan Throne Cup after ending 2-2 on extra time.

Moghreb de Tétouan (MAT) qualified for the final of the Football Throne Cup, beating Wydad Casablanca (WAC) via penalties in the semi-final played at



Tanzanian forward, Simon Msuva.

the Grand Stade de Marrakech.

Ayoub El Kaabi, Botola Pro Division 1 top scorer this season (18 goals), took advantage of a poorly cleared ball by the Tetouan defense to open the scoring in the 42nd minute.

At the start of the second period, MAT managed to pick up the score thanks to Hicham El Khaloua (46th minute), before Anas Jabroun gave the advantage to the club of the White Dove (70th minute).

Four minutes later, freshly returned Msuva scored the equalizer goal with a diving header.

El Kaabi thought he had delivered his own by scoring in the 118th minute, but his goal was denied after resorting to VAR.

The WAC, nine times winner of this trophy, made it to the semi-finals by beating Chabab Mohammadia (4-0) in the quarterfinals, while MAT had disposed of the Maghreb of Fez (7-6 penalties, regulation time 0-0), in the knockout stage.

In the final, Moghreb Tétouan will cross swords with AS FAR, winners earlier in Agadir against Raja Beni Mellal (1-0).

What exactly are track's testosterone rules?

TOKYO

THE complex testosterone regulations in track and field have become an issue again at the Olympics after two teenagers from Namibia qualified for the women's 200-meter final despite being banned from some other events because of their natural hormone levels.

Christine Mboma and Beatrice Masilingi are both 18 and were relatively unknown in international athletics until this year, when they started running extraordinarily fast times over 400 meters.

That caught the attention of World Athletics and prompted the sport's governing body to order tests on both sprinters in the weeks before the Olympics. They were found to have natural testosterone levels that are higher than a limit set by the sport for female athletes, prompting an immediate ban under the regulations.

But the relatively new regulations only cover certain races – from 400 meters to one mile – meaning Mboma and Masilingi are allowed to compete in the 200.

They made a big impact in the preliminary rounds of the 200 at the Tokyo Games on Monday, when Mboma broke the world under-20 record twice and both runners clinched surprise places in Tuesday's Olympic final.

SO WHAT ARE THE TESTOSTERONE RULES?

Essentially, the rules are designed to deal with the dilemma presented by female athletes who were born with conditions that mean their natural testosterone levels are much higher than the typical female range. World Athletics says that's a problem because the high testosterone gives them unfair athletic advantages over female athletes with more typical testosterone levels.

The answer, according to the current rules, is to ban the athletes from certain events unless they agree to artificially lower their testosterone to a level set by World Athletics.

That's caused huge controversy for many reasons, but the most emotive appears to be this: Track authorities are basically asking the athletes to artificially manipulate their natural hormone levels and change their natural physiology – effectively make themselves slower – if they want to compete at big events like the Olympics and world championships.

HOW DOES IT AFFECT THIS OLYMPICS?

The Namibian teenagers both qualified for the Olympic 200-meter final in their first major meet, raising eyebrows. In the semifinals, Mboma charged past American Gabby Thomas, who is the second-fastest woman ever over 200 meters. That left Thomas scrambling to qualify for a final where she is one of the favorites for gold. She squeezed in with a

wild-card place.

The presence of Mboma and Masilingi might now cause discontent among other runners, who may feel they are at an unfair disadvantage. That backlash among fellow competitors certainly happened when Caster Semenya of South Africa was dominating the 800-meter event a few years ago.

Both Mboma and Masilingi have a chance to win an Olympic medal and follow in the footsteps of Semenya.

WHERE DOES SEMENYA FIT IN?

ADVERTISEMENT

Track and field has been trying to deal with the issue for years, but it really became a hot topic with the emergence of Semenya in 2009. Semenya, then also an unknown teenager at her first big meet, won gold in the 800 at that year's world championships. Just 19, Semenya appeared to be completely dominant in her race.

So, World Athletics spent the best part of the next decade trying to formulate rules that would deal with the complex testosterone issue. There have been multiple versions of the rules but the latest, produced in 2018, refer specifically to athletes with conditions known as DSDs – differences of sex development. Basically, the rules focus on athletes born with the typical male XY chromosome pattern but also female characteristics. They were identified as female at birth.

Semenya was the first to publicly announce she was affected by the rules. She also has been the most outspoken critic of the regulations and has challenged them in three different courts. She lost cases at the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Swiss Supreme Court and has now taken World Athletics to the European Court of Human Rights.

Semenya, a two-time Olympic champion and three-time world champion, says the rules are discriminatory. She has refused to manipulate her natural testosterone level, meaning she has been banned from running the 800 meters since 2018, and was barred from defending her Olympic title in Tokyo because of the regulations.

WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT?

It's likely that World Athletics will now look at including the 200 meters in their testosterone rules. One criticism of the regulations has been that they are inconsistent by only being applied to certain distances when the governing body insists testosterone provides a clear athletic advantage. Expect World Athletics to begin regulating the 200 meters, and maybe other events.

The biggest takeaway may be this though: Semenya is gone but the complicated and highly controversial issue is clearly still here.

Why track cycling records are falling at Olympics

IZU, Japan

EVERYBODY expected records to fall when the track cycling program began at the Tokyo Olympics, but nobody expected the German women's pursuit squad to shatter the mark held by the two-time and defending gold medalists from Britain. Or the Chinese to lower their team sprint record. Or Denmark taking down the Olympic record in men's team pursuit.

All on the first day of competition. "We knew there would be world records broken this week. That's the first thing," explained Gary Sutton, the endurance coach for the world champion U.S. women's pursuit team.

"The track is quick." Indeed, just as the track surface at Olympic Stadium in Tokyo is shaping up to be a fast surface, so is the Siberian pine wood of the Izu Velodrome.

But this is not some new track built specially for the Olympics. It's a decade-old velodrome in the wayward forested hills near Mt. Fuji. Nor is it located at high altitude, like the historically fast velodrome in Aguascalientes, Mexico, where the thin air has produced a mul-

titude of world records over the years.

So why are records falling in Japan in seemingly every race? Well, it's a combination of factors – a perfect storm, if you will – that has allowed riders regardless of discipline to set their sights on some quick times.

Simply put, training methods continue to evolve and improve with each Olympic cycle, making athletes themselves even better.

Yes, that includes more effective and productive workout plans, but it also means finely tuned recovery periods and the right nutrition to fuel the efforts, all of it customized for each athlete's specific body composition.

And all of it constantly monitored by an array of technology. Like in many other sports, they are aware of specific output of watts in training, the quality of their sleep and a complete breakdown of the food they consume.

The velodrome sits about 1,000 feet above sea level, so riders aren't getting any benefits from thin air. But they are getting a boost from the warm weather and the air density.

Hurdler Warholm crushes world record in race for the ages

TOKYO

KARSTEN Warholm of Norway obliterated his own world record in the Olympic 400-meter hurdles Tuesday, finishing in 45.94 seconds to break the old mark by .76.

One of the most anticipated races on the program more than lived up to the hype.

Second-place finisher Rai Benjamin of the United States finished in 46.17, also bettering the 46.7 record that Warholm set just last month.

"Sometimes in training, my coaches keep telling me this could be possible with the perfect race," Warholm said of the prospect of breaking 46 seconds. "But it was hard to imagine it because it's a big barrier, and it's something you don't even dream about."

Warholm tore open his jersey when he crossed the line first. He flashed the same mouth-gaping look of amazement as when he announced himself on the world stage with his victory at world championships in 2017.

Benjamin – well, what was there to say?

"If you would've told me that I was going to run 46.1 and lose, I would probably beat you up and tell you to get out of my room," he said. "I'm happy to be part of history."

Alison dos Santos of Brazil finished third in 46.72; he was among the six runners in the eight-man field to break either a world, continent or national record.

That included Kyrone McMaster of the British Virgin Islands, whose run of 47.08 left him in fourth.

"After the second hurdle, I was like, s---. If you go after them, it's suicidal," McMaster said.

It took until 1948 for a man to run a flat 400 meters under 46 seconds, and the world record in the 400 flat is 43.03. That's only 2.91 faster than what Warholm did with 10 hurdles in front of him.

"I knew it was possible to do the perfect race at the Olympics," he said. "But I still can't believe it. It's the biggest moment of my life."

All in all, it was a race that more than lived up to expectations on a steamy afternoon at a mostly empty Olympic Stadium.

Amazing but not unexpected.

The hype for this showdown started building at U.S. Olympic trials in June, when Benjamin became only the fourth man to break 47 seconds with a run of 46.83 and pronounced he thought he had a low-46 in him.

Warholm responded a few weeks later by running the 46.70, and breaking the 29-year-old world record held by American Kevin Young since the Barcelona Olympics.

"I made some mistakes on the backstretch that cost me a little," Benjamin said, as he held his thumb and his index finger a tiny space apart. "But he's a great competitor. He runs really fast. You just have to get better."

Starting in Lane 6, Warholm flew out to the lead, and by the midpoint, he had drawn so far ahead of Benjamin that the real race appeared to be Warholm vs. the clock.

Covering the distance between hurdles 13 powerful steps at a time, Warholm never came close to breaking stride. He sped over the line with arms-a-flailing, but that didn't cost him much.

Low-46 had been a long-imagined dream for most of these hurdlers. Now, the mark is in the high-45s.

"Forty-seven would've been a record, or an Olympic record, four years ago, three years ago, eight years ago, whatever the case is," said McMaster, the fourth-place finisher. "But 47.08 doesn't get you a medal" today.

And, this race might have simply been the undercard for the women's battle Wednesday morning in Tokyo.

Warholm's record came 24 hours before Americans Sydney McLaughlin and Dalilah Muhammad were scheduled to square off in the women's 400 hurdles s – a



Christine Mboma, of Namibia, left, leads Gabrielle Thomas, of United States in a women's 200-meter first round heat at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Monday, Aug. 2, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP Photo)

race in which they've broken the world record the last three times they've squared off in a major competition.

Meanwhile, in Saitama, Japan, back and forth they went, the three-time defending Olympic champions from the U.S. on one side, the reigning Basketball World Cup champions from Spain on the other.

The difference: The Americans had Kevin Durant.

He's never gone to the Olympics and not won gold – and clearly, doesn't plan on that changing. Durant scored 29 points to keep his quest for a third Olympic title alive, and the Americans are headed to the medal round after ousting Spain 95-81 on Tuesday in a quarterfinal matchup at the Tokyo Games.

"We've just got to finish it. Got to finish it," Durant said. "We're supposed to be here. For us, it's about getting the gold."

Jayson Tatum scored 13 and Jrue Holiday added 12 for the U.S., which will play either Australia or Argentina in the semifinals on Thursday. The Americans also gave themselves the chance of extending a streak like none other in Olympic basketball history – in all 18 of their previous Olympic men's basketball appearances, they've gone home with a medal.

"It was a wonderful game in the sense that we feel absolutely great about the victory, knowing full well there's a lot of work to be done," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "We played a terrific basketball team."

Ricky Rubio was brilliant for Spain, scoring 38 points – which the Spanish federation said was an Olympic record for their program. Sergio Rodriguez added 16 and Willy Hernangomez scored 10 for Spain.

Damian Lillard scored 11 and Zach LaVine added 10 for the U.S.

"Right now, there is no time for disappointment and no time for any other bit of feeling," Spain coach Sergio Scariolo said. "We are competitors and we lost the quarterfinal, but we know we played against an unbelievable team."

It wasn't easy, and rarely is against Spain. This was the fifth time the teams – the top two men's programs in the most recent FIBA world rankings, the U.S. at No. 1 and Spain No. 2 – had met in the Olympic quarterfinals or later since 2004. The U.S. is now 5-0 in those games, but the margin of victory in those is a close-by-American-Olympic-standards: 9.2 points.

And this one was no different. Spain actually led by 10 in the second quarter, before the U.S. went on what

became a 36-10 run over the next nine minutes to take control for good.

"It was a huge boost," Durant said. "We didn't want to go into the half down double digits. ... We knew we didn't want to get down big against this team."

Spain had won three consecutive Olympic medals, taking silvers after losing to the U.S. in the gold-medal games in 2008 and 2012, followed by a bronze in 2016 after falling to the U.S. in the semifinals. And this may be the last time that the Spanish roster has some of its longtime mainstays; Pau Gasol is 41, other top players like Marc Gasol and Rudy Fernandez are much closer to the end than the beginning, and this might have been Spain's best chance to beat the U.S. at the Olympics.

"I think it's time for somebody else to enjoy the ride," Marc Gasol said, indicating he's playing for Spain for the final time, after a game where he and his brother both went scoreless – an unthinkable concept in Spanish basketball for two decades. "I think it's time for me to get off the ride and for some young guys to step on and enjoy it."

Spain got down seven early, then simply did whatever it wanted against the U.S. for a 10-minute stretch of the first half. It was a 29-12 run by the time it was over, a burst that turned a 17-10 early deficit into a 39-29 lead with 3:25 left until halftime.

Spain shot 13 for 22 during that stretch, the U.S. just 5 for 22 – missing 12 of its last 13 shots in the run. But just when it looked like the Americans were in big trouble, it was their turn to rally.

"We just needed to respond," Tatum said. "It was a time, not to get worried, but to raise our sense of urgency."

And that's what they did. A 14-4 U.S. run to close the half made it a 43-43 game at intermission, the burst capped by seven consecutive points over the final 70 seconds. With that, it was a 20-minute game to decide who would play for medals and who would be going home earlier than planned.

The Americans didn't trail again.

"A team with so much firepower, you learn," Marc Gasol said. "You learn."

The U.S. opened the second half on a 15-4 run – making it a 22-4 run going back to late in the second quarter – and went on to lead by as many as 16 before taking a 69-63 edge into the fourth. The lead held up, and the medal round awaits.



Karsten Warholm, of Norway, third left, celebrates as he wins the gold medal ahead of Rai Benjamin, of United States in the final of the men's 400-meter hurdles at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP Photo)



SPORT

Hurdler Warholm crushes world record in race for the ages



Heritier Makambo

Yanga re-signs Heritier Makambo on two-year deal

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

YANGA has completed the signing of DR Congo striker, Heritier Makambo, on a two-year deal with an option to terminate the contract if he does not show good performance within his first season.

Makambo returns to Yanga after a two-year stint with Horoya AC based in Conakry, Guinea.

This time around, fans did not congregate at the Julius Nyerere International Airport (JNIA) in Dar es Salaam to welcome the attacker, as was the case last season, when they heavily stormed at the airport to receive their outfit's foreign professionals, Carlos Fernandes 'Carlinhos', Micheal Sarpong, Fiston Razak, among others.

He left in 2019 when Yanga was led by DR Congo coach, Mwynyi Zahera, who facilitated the striker's deal.

In his last season with Yanga, Makambo managed to score 19 goals and became the second-best scorer in the Premier League behind Rwandan, Meddie Kagere, who scored 22 goals for Simba.

Makambo did not have a good time at AC Horoya, and he often found himself missing out on a chance to play for the squad on regular basis.

It prompted the attacker to terminate his contract and rejoin the historic Mainland Premier League champions for the second time.

Yanga will benefit from Makambo's arrival as he is not a newcomer to Premier League and he is familiar with many stadiums, as well as the country's environment.

Makambo established himself at Yanga before he was sold to AC Horoya, and since then, the Jangwani Street-based team had been struggling to get the commanding goal scorer in the squad.

Therefore, he is a footballer that has won many of Yanga supporters' hearts.

Most of the side's followers are interested in seeing him return and turn into part of the next season's team.

Unlike in the last season, Yanga is now silently accomplishing signing deals as they beef up their squad before the tightly packed next season, where they will compete in three major contests.

They will represent the country in the CAF Champions League, chase Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) title besides competing in the Premier League, which will have 16 teams.

However, the team newly signed another striker from DR Congo, Fiston Mayele. Mayele is already in the country and was already introduced by Yanga.

Mayele landed quietly over the weekend through the JNIA in Dar es Salaam and was welcomed by some of Yanga officials.

“

In his last season with Yanga, Makambo managed to score 19 goals and became the second-best scorer in the Premier League behind Rwandan, Meddie Kagere, who scored 22 goals for Simba

Double Action ready to surprise and book ticket for Egypt

GABORONE

BOTSWANA side, Double Action Ladies, are not daunted by their difficult group at the 2021 TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League I COSAFA Qualifier from August 26 to September 4 and are preparing to go all the way and win the inaugural competition.

Double Action was drawn in Group A alongside South African champions, Mamelodi Sundowns Ladies, Lesotho Defence Force, and Eswatini's Manzini Wanderers.

The top two teams will advance to the semifinals, and assistant coach, Tony Serumola, is confident his team will be one of them, with the ultimate aim to qualify for the TotalEnergies CAF Women's Champions League in Egypt later this year.

"Everybody wishes to be on the other side [Group B] with three teams, but the draw has put us in the four-team group," Serumola says.

"Sundowns is a big team and we respect them, but we will also show them what Double Action is about and go all the way in terms of giving them a good fight.

"We have to go to Egypt, with the four teams [in the group], we have to target the semifinals, and then the rest will follow."

Double Action will be at a disadvantage compared to some of their rivals in that football in Botswana is only just getting going again after a long pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Getting the players back up to speed and in the right condition to play will be a big task for the coaches, but Serumola says they do not want to use that as an excuse.

"Women's football is growing in Botswana, but we have not been back playing for long. That is the challenge we are having, we are trying to prepare the girls for a return to play, which is not easy, but come competition day we will be ready.

"It is not an excuse, because at the end of the day we have to be here and we have to be ready."

The team will be led by experienced head coach, Oupa Kowa, who replaces Philemon Makhwengwe after the latter moved to the men's Premiership side, Orapa United.

Kowa is no stranger to women's football, he has previously served as technical advisor to the coaching staff of the senior national team, The Mares.

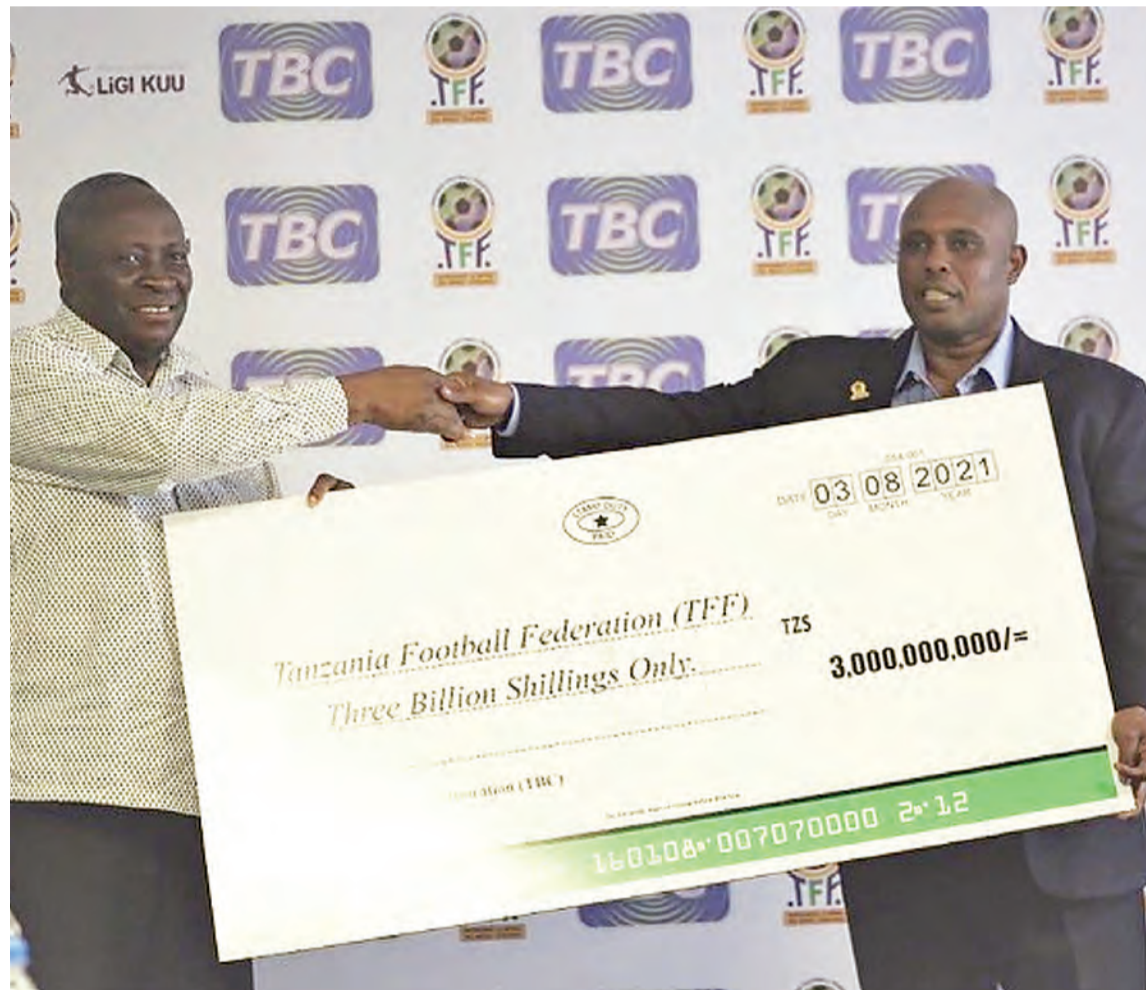
Sundowns will be an open book given the plethora of video footage available on them, while Double Action has met Manzini Wanderers in the recent past. The Lesotho Defence Force will be the one unknown to them.

Sundowns also have former Double Action goalkeeper, Sedilame Boseja, on their books.

She left the Botswana side for Bloemfontein Celtic Ladies in 2017 and signed for Sundowns in May.

Double Action will take their place in the tournament having replaced Prisons XI, who turned down the invitation to take part, citing logistical issues. **AGENCIES**

TFF seals 3bn/- 10-year Premier League radio broadcasting rights



Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) president, Wallace Karia (R), and Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) Project and Marketing Coordinator, Gabriel Nderumaki, hold a dummy cheque amounting to 3bn/- shortly after signing the Mainland Premier League radio broadcasting rights agreement for 10 years at a function, which took place in Dar es Salaam yesterday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) has entered into a Premier League radio broadcasting rights agreement with the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) worth 3.54bn/-.

The agreement, which was signed in Dar es Salaam yesterday, is for a period of 10 years, costing 300m/- each year.

The agreement was signed after an agreement was reached between the two parties, with TFF president, Wallace Karia, signing the agreement on behalf of TFF.

Gabriel Nderumaki, the TBC

Project and Marketing Coordinator, was one of those who signed the agreement on behalf of the media outlet.

Karia said it was a good step that they have reached in signing the agreement which will add value to Tanzanian football as well as the quality of the Premier League.

The Mainland Tanzania Premier League has been short-listed for the top eight leagues in Africa.

In addition to that record, Tanzania has been named among the 12 countries with the best results on the continent.

Karia made this known yes-

terday when he signed the Premier League radio broadcasting rights agreement with the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation.

He said the best league cannot have one best team because such a squad plays against other teams.

Karia disclosed: "The quality of our league has not only put us on the list of the top eight countries, but also we are 12th in the countries with the best results."

"We will continue to make sure we take a step further here," he said.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

EATV WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kili Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kibiashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM