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Tourists inflow now compares with high pre-COVID 19 levels

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

TOURISTS are flocking into Zanzibar despite the outbreak of the second wave of coronavirus infections sweeping across the world, resulting in countries taking various containment measures including lockdowns.

The increased number of visitors follows initiatives by the government which included improved quality of services and infrastructures at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport. Most inflows are from Oman, Russia and Western Europe.

The tourism sector on this beautiful island has been growing rapidly over the years. Today most businesses on the island depend on the tourist market, officials say.

Recently, five international airlines

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Mozambique leader lays stone for building of Burigi Hospital

■ Refers to discussions on boundaries and security issues

By Guardian Reporter



President John Magufuli looks on as visiting Mozambican President Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, current Chairman of the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC), waters a commemorative tree he planted shortly after launching the construction of Burigi Hospital in Chato District, Geita Region yesterday. Photo: State House

VISITING Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi yesterday laid a foundation stone for construction of the 14bn/- Burigi Hospital in Chato District, before concluding his two day state visit.

At the stone laying ceremony, President John Magufuli yesterday tasked the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children to ensure timely completion of the facility that will serve as an additional Lake Zone referral health centre.

The Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, said upon completion, the health facility will have capacity to attend to between 700 and 1,000 patients per day.

Dr Gwajima affirmed that in the past five years, the government has constructed 1,198 dispensaries and 487 health centres, among which are 99 district hospitals, five regional referral hospitals and two zonal hospitals

With the Lake Zone population estimated at 15m people, the need for an additional referral health facility was increasingly being felt, aside from services provided by Bugando Referral Hospital in Mwanza.

Regions surrounding Lake Victoria are Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kagera,

Bribes: Minister axes three TAWA officials

By Guardian Correspondent, Kilombero

NATURAL Resources and Tourism minister Dr Damas Ndumbaro has dismissed three officials of the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), including a conservator and two wardens over suspicions of indulging in bribes, economic sabotage, money laundering and acts of destruction in Kilombero Game Controlled Area.

The minister reached the decision here yesterday when speaking to managers and workers of TAWA and TANAPA after visiting the Kilombero Water Basin and witnessed destruction wrought therein that threatens the key water source.

He directed for their immediate dismissal and handing over to government apparatus for further action.



He also admonished other TAWA officials engaged in illegal acts, directing them to stop forthwith as at present the government was watchful and has pledged to deal with them without delay

He said the government of President John Magufuli cannot tolerate acts that retard the country's development like wanton invasion of reserved area. If condoned, such invasion will lead to the water in the Julius Nyerere Hydropower project (JNHPP) to dry up as it entirely depends on the key water source, he declared.

The various illegal activities including wanton poaching have begun diminishing the population of hippos, elephants and others in the reserve since the poachers have the collaboration of TAWA officials, he stated.

He also admonished other TAWA officials engaged in illegal acts, directing them to stop forthwith as at present the government was watchful and has pledged to deal with them without delay.

The minister also promoted Conservation Officer Gr II Laurent Juma Okode to become Conservation

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TRA's Jan 7 limit for new EFD software 'still valid'

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority is maintaining the deadline for upgrading Electronic Fiscal Devices (EFDs) to the latest versions, directing business entities to ensure their machines are running the new software giving them more digital flexibility on remote transactions.

At a TRA mid-year review meeting, Commissioner General Dr Edwin Mhede (pictured) said the time frame for upgrading EFD machines to the latest



firmware was set from the 7th of December 2020 to the 7th of January 2021 but traders, suppliers and other business entities have been dragging their feet to move from the previous 2.0 protocol to the new 2.1 protocol.

"Four weeks were enough for business owners to upgrade their EFD machines to the latest 2.1 firmware, but we have been getting requests from the majority, appealing for deadline extensions," he said, insisting that the upgrade to protocol 2.1 was compulsory and needs to be executed promptly.

It is required by law that all suppliers of goods and services whose annual turnover exceeds 14m/- should issue fiscalised receipts (or invoices) through

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He told the gathering that President Nyusi called him requesting to visit the country and hold talks on various economic developments for the benefit of both countries

Mara and Mwanza.

"We have invited the visiting president to inaugurate construction of the referral hospital. I want it to be completed on time for the residents to benefit with quality health care. There shouldn't be no delays in executing this crucial project," Dr Magufuli underlined.

He told the gathering that President Nyusi called him requesting to visit the country and hold talks on various economic developments for the benefit of both countries.

"I accepted his request," he said, extending appreciation to Health ministry officials for initiating the foundation stone ceremony in honor of visiting Mozambican top leaders.

On the bilateral relationship between the two neighbouring countries, the president stated that discussions focused on how the two countries can foster trade and investment.

Bilateral trade between Tanzania and Mozambique increased from 76.4bn/- in 2018 to 93.5bn/- in 2019, on the basis of statistics from the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

The two countries have enjoyed cordial relations since the founding

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Mozambique leader lays stone for building of Burigi Hospital

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of Mozambique at the end of a decade-long liberation struggle, he stated.

He said they have agreed that the two governments should work closely to foster economic development.

"There are Tanzanian companies operating in Mozambique, but we also have a number of Mozambican firms in our country," he said, citing the fact that the trade volume between the two countries increased to 93.6bn/- by the end of 2020.

The two countries are linked in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) where President Nyusi is the current chairman, after Tanzania handed over the SADC chairmanship to Mozambique on August 17 last year.

For his part, the Mozambican President Felipe Nyusi commended the government for investing heavily in the health sector and called on Tanzanians to work hard so as to enable the country realize its development goals.

"It is good that the government focuses more on improving the health of its people. We have witnessed President John Magufuli working hard to ensure that his people have access to quality health and water services

as well as decent settlements," he said.

President Nyusi said that the construction of the hospital is going to improve health service provision in the zone.

"We are also implementing a special policy in Mozambique, aimed at ensuring that every district has a hospital so as to bring health services closer to people. I remember when I came here in 2014 as I was vying for the presidency, Mama Maria Nyerere prayed for me and advised me to construct a medical plant as so many people were losing their lives due to lack of essential medicines," he recalled.

The Head of State further also referred to discussion on the issue of boundaries as well as on security and people's development.

"Tanzania and Mozambique have a very long historical friendship. We are relatives, the two countries collectively shed their blood during the liberation struggles for Mozambique," he affirmed.

The Mozambican leader was on Monday received by President Magufuli at his home town of Chato in Geita Region.

It was the second time President Nyusi visits Tanzania during the fifth phase presidency, as he first came here in December 2017 and he was received by Dr Magufuli in Dodoma.



Chunya district commissioner Mayeka Saimon (R) pictured at the weekend assessing progress in the construction of Chunya-Makongolosi bridge. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

TRA's Jan 7 limit for new EFD software still valid

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EFDs.

"From late last year, the revenue authority rolled out the process of upgrading its electronic filing (e-filing) system for Value Added Tax returns as well as improving the Electronic Fiscal Devices Management System (EFDMS) which goes in-sync with the introduction of new software; namely Protocol 2.1, the commissioner elaborated..

"Receipts and invoices churned

out from EFD machines running the old 2.0 firmware will not be able to pass the automatic verification test embedded in the new e-filing system," explained TRA commissioner general, Msafiri Mbibo.

He said with the new 2.1 upgrade, taxpayers will be able to settle and track their paid revenues remotely through smartphones, while the upgrade squashes bugs that caused problems for previous software as well as sealing loopholes for

counterfeit receipts.

All EFD devices that are not capable of being configured to the Protocol 2.1 software need to be replaced with new ones from approved suppliers and the exercise should have been completed before January 2021.

"But there are some EFD devices that can be upgraded to Protocol 2.1 software and these could be provided with the latest patch from any of the nearest TRA offices," he affirmed..

Following the planned

upgrade to Protocol 2.1 software, taxpayers will not be able to claim input VAT on invoices or receipts issued through devices with previous software and such documents will automatically be rejected on the new e-filing system, he cautioned.

Receipts issued under the new Protocol 2.1-compliant system will have special verification codes to distinguish them from receipts issued under the former 2.0 Protocol system, the top official added..

Mwinyi pardons 49 prisoners in 'Z' bar

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has pardoned 49 inmates who were serving their sentences in various prisons in the Isles as part of celebrations to mark 57th years of Zanzibar Revolution.

Dr Mwinyi pardoned them in accordance to Article 59 of the 1984 Zanzibar Constitution that empowers him to pardon prisoners sentenced to jail terms.

Dr Mwinyi said he had pardoned 46 prisoners in Unguja and three in Pemba to commemorate the

57th Zanzibar Revolution being marked today.

The clemency is given every year during Zanzibar Revolution celebrations and involves prisoners who are very old, those with serious ailments, those jailed for petty offences who have a short time to stay in jail and those who have shown good conduct while in prison. The granted clemency does not cover those prisoners whose crimes included premeditated murder, armed robbery, theft of public funds and property, gender based violence and child abuse or illicit drugs.



Jediva Fidelisi, a teacher at Mayila Primary School in Kahama town, goes through her Standard One pupils' exercise books yesterday - the very day schools opened across Tanzania for the new academic year. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njia

Tourists inflow now compares with high pre-COVID 19 levels

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landed Zanzibar with about 500 tourists, a big boost to the Isles government's coffers.

Data from the Office of the Chief Statistician of Zanzibar show that a total of 29,128 tourists entered the archipelago in November 2020 compared to 12,157 visitors in October 2019.

The number of foreign visitors to Zanzibar in November 2020 is equivalent to 61 percent of the 47,824 tourists who arrived in the Isles in November 2019.

Addressing journalists yesterday, Zanzibar airport spokesperson Mulhat Yusuf linked the rising numbers with the various COVID-19 containment measures taken by the government.

"When countries struggled to battle the pandemic, most airlines suspended trips to Zanzibar but had now resumed the routes. Tourists are coming to Zanzibar because we do not have coronavirus infections," the official intoned.

Before allowing the resumption of tourism activities, the government set standard operating procedures (SOPs) which require visitors to present medical documentation of their COVID-19 status.

The SOPs are applied to those involved in handling tourists, like tour guides, service providers and airport attendants. They are required to undergo regular COVID-19 tests to ensure only those testing negative attend the visitors.

Similarly, tourists entering Zanzibar are supposed to undergo

a COVID-19 test, as the procedures are intended to ensure the safety of services to tourists by the service providers, and vice versa, she stated.

Bakar Khamis, the head of the Isles tourism statistics unit, was recently quoted saying visitors from Europe accounted for 83 percent of the 29,148 tourists who visited Zanzibar in November last year.

About 89.6 percent of the visitors were aged between 15 and 64 years, 74 percent were under the age of 15 and 3.0 percent were 65 years and above, he said..

"This last group of seniors is a very good group because they are good spenders," he said.

"Most foreigners who entered the country preferred to stay for at least ten days, a step that is good in accordance with the government target of retaining the visitors for more than a week," he further noted.

A whopping 99.6 percent of the visitors came to the country for a vacation while 0.2 percent visited relatives and friends, and 0.2 percent came for other reasons, he pointed out.

Miraji Ussi, the director of marketing at the Zanzibar Tourism Commission, said the increase is due to good relations with other countries as well as efforts to promote Zanzibar as a tourism destination.

The commission in collaboration with other institutions was spending time promoting Zanzibar in an effort to restore confidence among visitors following the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, he added..

Bribes: Minister axes three TAWA officials

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Officer Gr I, citing faithfulness when executing his duties as manager of the Kilombero Forest Reserve.

He appealed to top regional and district officials countrywide to ensure they protect forest reserves and water basins to prevent destructive encroachments, as this would affect tourism activities, on which the government depends for 17.5 per cent of revenue each year.

Later in August this year the government plans to conduct fresh demarcations for the

Kilombero River Basin to solve existing conflicts pitting people invading the reserve and forest reserve authorities, he affirmed.

"The recognized boundaries in the basin are those set out in 1952 when the forest reserve was gazetted, with reviews made in 1997," he said, elaborating that the ministry treats as irrelevant any supposed change of boundaries. "Whoever thinks otherwise should come forward with solid proof," he told the audience.

He said 41 villages have been recognized for having appropriate agreements endorsed at various sittings including those of the

district council, "while one village had no proof of recognition that it was at all registered."

He reminded local authorities that since the government was coming up with fresh demarcations, people should stop all farming activities stretching to that period until the new boundaries are in place.

Assistant TAWA Conservation Commissioner Mabula Misungwi named those stripped of their ranks and dismissed as Conservation Officer Gr II Elisante Oktavia Akon, and the two disgraced wardens as Vicent Mkuki and Joshua Mageasa.

Deputy Minister Mary Masanja called on the people to observe existing regulations by desisting from invading and living in wildlife corridor areas, putting at risk their own lives from rampaging wildlife.

Permanent Secretary Dr Aloyce Nzuki urged conservation officials to recognize that the work they do is essential to religious admonition to man to tender to the earth and rule over other creatures.

People living in those areas must work together with the conservators in protecting the reserves in the spirit of doing what is right, he added.

NBS completes 'first ever' gender index survey 2020

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has completed the first ever Tanzania Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) survey 2020, aimed at measuring gender equality at all levels in the society, it has been learnt.

It is expected to point out results that will help the policy makers with the rightful data on the understanding of discrimination at regional and national levels, thus help in solving policy issues that hinder equality in the country.

Tabling the survey assessment

report in Dodoma, NBS research coordinator, Dadi Kolimba said the survey focuses on social institutions in the country that impact the roles of men and women, such as a society's norms, values, laws and attitudes that relate to gender.

He noted that some 217 survey areas were involved in the study, 182 in Tanzania mainland and 35 in Zanzibar.

"It is worth noting that the survey was successfully completed in all the planned areas despite challenge of weather conditions in some areas," he said, adding that everything went on

well as per the schedule.

He stated that some 4,340 households were reached in the survey whereby a total of 8,680 individuals were interviewed, 4,340 were women and 4,340 men.

Kolimba added that the main aim is to collect data that will help to measure understanding of people as far norms, values, laws and traditions can lead lack of gender equality or discrimination in different sector in the society like education, health, employment, ownership of resources and businesses, among others.

The coordinator also mentioned other targets as enabling policy makers to the right data that will show the quality of legal services and plans for women rights protection and improve gender equality, help in preparation for data base of elements of discrimination in the legal system, traditions and norms in the country. He said such a survey has been undertaken in other countries of Burkina Faso and Uganda, noting that in Tanzania it will help the assessment on decision making at households

level, decision to marry or be married, ownership of resources by widows, gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.

Kolimba explained the next step is to process the statistics in efforts to get the official information for follow up by other relevant authorities and programmes such as "Make Every Woman and Girl Count", among others.

He said the findings of the survey will help increase the rate of continued development in the country, the development that will be proved by evaluation on

the implementation of different plans at different levels from nationwide, regionally and internationally.

He named other programmes as the Sustainable Development Goals 203, African Development Agenda 2063 and National Development Vision 2025.

The survey, he said has been undertaken by NBS in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Government Statistician (OCGS) Zanzibar, UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development (OECD).



TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo (C, in glasses) has a word with staff of the Kibaha-based institute's centre yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

By Correspondent Gerald

Kitabu

TANZANIA Agriculture Research Institute (TARI-Kibaha) has embarked on a comprehensive plans and strategies to ensure sugarcane research for development contributes effectively to increased sugarcane production and productivity to eventually offset sugar problems in the country.

Announcing the plans at TARI-Kibaha yesterday, TARI director general Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said that the institute plans to establish sugarcane development centres in all potential sugarcane growing regions and districts so that farmers and other stakeholders can access technologies, innovations and good agricultural practices related to sugar cane crop within their vicinity.

"From the statistics we have currently, the real demand of sugar in the country is 650,000 metric tonnes, but basically what we produce in is only 300,000 metric tonnes which is almost half way. So there is this gap that we have to ensure we contribute to bridge it and we can do so through taking the latest technologies, innovations and good agricultural practices close to the farmers so that they can use them and enhance sugarcane production and productivity in this country," he said.

Dr. Mkamilo has directed TARI-Kibaha that from now, the researchers have to put in place an inventory of all technologies available at Kibaha and identify the inventory of technologies including improved seeds. It must

TARI embarks on major plans to boost sugarcane production

also establish a system where the farmers will be able to access such technologies compared to the current situation.

"In other crops like cashews we have established cashew development centres where the farmers are able to access technologies related to cashews closer to them. I want also sugarcane farmers to access technologies within their localities without waiting much time and money by traveling long distances in search for new technologies," he stressed.

Citing an example he said, the sugarcane development centres can be established around Kagera sugar, Mtibwa sugar factory, Kilombero and so on where the farmers are looking for such important technologies to boost sugar production in this country.

"Our President John Magufuli actually had emphasised strategic crops like sugarcane. We have to put all our efforts to reduce this gap. And this is really industrialisation strategy in this country to ensure that we are self sufficient of sugar and other crops as well."

For her part, TARI

Kibaha manager Hiddelitha Msita explained that TARI-Kibaha had already technologies, innovations, and good agricultural practices available and suitable for the farmers and other stakeholders.

So far the centre had seven good improved varieties for sugarcane and there are other six which are going to be released from next month.

"If farmers real want technologies related to improved varieties, good agricultural practices or diseases and paste management they are all available. It is important that they find time to visit Kibaha

for improved sugar cane and productivity in their localities.

Sugarcane coordinator Dr. Nessie Luambano explained that TARI Kibaha will enhance the use of the technology transfer section to take the technologies to the farmers through farmer field days, agriculture exhibitions, and media to create public awareness and for the farmers as well.

Sugarcane breeder Andrew Kachiwile named the seven good improved varieties already available for sugarcane cultivation as N41, N12, N19, N25, R570, R575, and R579.

GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - TANZANIA

JOB OPPOTUNITIES

1. Job Title: Supply Chain Advisor
Department/Unit: Systems Strengthening
Location: Dodoma
Reports to: Senior Capacity Building Advisor

OVERVIEW: The Global Health Supply Chain Program Technical Assistance – Tanzania (GHSC TA-TZ) project, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides expert technical assistance to Tanzania to strengthen country supply chain systems across all health elements, e.g., malaria, family planning (FP), HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH). In coordination with in-country and development partners, GHSC TA-TZ assists Government of Tanzania health programs by providing strategic planning and implementation assistance; improving the delivery of health commodities to service sites; providing capacity building support to broaden stakeholders' understanding and engagement of the supply chain system; and strengthening enabling environments to improve supply chain performance.

JOB SUMMARY: The Supply Chain Advisor will work under the technical guidance of the Senior Capacity Building Advisor, and will focus on supporting the rollout of the redesign logistics system. S/he will work with the System Redesign Technical Team to ensure alignment across stakeholders on the approach and steps in the system redesign roll out. S/he will work with in country stakeholders including the Medical Stores Department (MSD), President's Office of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), and the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MOHCDEGEC). This position will be based in Dar es Salaam or Dodoma, with significant in-country travel

- RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Provide technical guidance and secretariat support to the System Redesign Technical Team ensuring harmonization and alignment across GoT stakeholders, IPs, and any other relevant stakeholders.
 - Maintain and manage all relevant materials and tools for implementation of the revised system, including training curriculum and standard operating procedures.
 - Plan for and conduct monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the redesigned system.
 - Continuously determining the changes that may be needed and support their implementation
 - Facilitate workshops and meetings with key stakeholders in relation to the implementation of the redesigned logistics system.
 - Collaboratively develop an implementation plan for the rollout of the system to the rest of the country, managing close collaboration with PSU, MSD, and PO-RALG.
 - Provide technical support to MSD zones in line with the redesigned system rollout.
 - Work closely with GHSC TA-TZ staff to monitor system performance.
 - Liaise with the MIS team to ensure that all relevant needs for the system are captured in the eLMIS.
 - Present GHSC TA-TZ work in different stakeholders' meetings
 - Share updates and plans of activities to internal staff
 - Ensure workplan activities related to the system design are completed on time and of high quality
 - Document success stories, best practices, and lessons learned in the system rollout.
 - Serve as a technical resource for project staff for implementing supply chain improvement strategies and management approaches related to capacity building.
 - Support other capacity building activities as needed.
 - Prepare presentations, participate and/or represent the project in stakeholder meetings.
 - Complete and submit in a timely fashion written technical and trip reports.
 - Perform other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants for this position should be Tanzanian nationals or lawful residents who possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Degree in Pharmacy, Supply Chain, Public Health, or related field.

- At least five years of experience in health supply chains, including experience working in Tanzania's public health supply chain.
- Knowledge of best practices in supply chain management, particularly for health
- Experience providing capacity building
- Knowledge of various electronic health information systems such as eLMIS preferred
- Proven strong leadership skills and ability to build strong interpersonal relationships
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills
- Ability to handle multiple tasks, set priorities and work independently.
- Excellent technical writing and oral presentation skills
- Excellent written and verbal English
- A proven ability to work as part of a team and to be self-managing
- Knowledge of Microsoft Office, including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Experience working with the Government of Tanzania and other NGOs preferred.
- Previous work experience with USAID-funded projects desirable.
- Ability to travel for an extended period away from duty station to support technical activities

2. Job Title: Driver
Department/Unit: Operations
Location: Dar es Salaam
Duration: Full-time Position
Reports to: Director of Operations

JOB SUMMARY: To provide transportation services to Project staff, official visitors and related support activities as well as other administrative support when necessary.

- RESPONSIBILITIES:**
- Drive vehicle and observe all road rules and signs according to the required legal and traffic conditions.
 - May require extensive travel outside of Dar es Salaam.
 - Carry out different inspection of the vehicle before driving such as checking of coolant, oils and other fluids.
 - Carry out minor vehicle repairs and other emergency activities such as flat tires during any road breakdowns.
 - Maintain a car logbook, fuel and oil requisition book and prepare a logbook summary each day.
 - Maintain cleanliness of the motor vehicle.
 - Collect and deliver documents, parcels or mails as directed by the supervisor.
 - The driver will be required to support the project in various administrative tasks such as running errands to TRA to pick and up and drop off items, support the project on administrative implementation of activities in the field such as paying out per diem to workshop participants, liaising with hotel to collect receipt and other documentation for payments.
 - Perform other work-related duties as may be assigned by the supervisor.

- QUALIFICATIONS:**
- Driving license class C and form 4 minimum education required.
 - National Institute of Transport Certificate desirable.
 - Basic knowledge in mechanics and vehicle repair and maintenance.
 - Good English and Swahili communication skills required.
 - Ability to work under pressure and longer hours when periodically required.
 - Good teamwork and interpersonal relations.
 - Ability to deal appropriately with sensitive issues and maintain a high level of confidentiality at all time

If you are interested in applying these positions please send your resume, cover letter to ghsc.recruitmentt@gmail.com. And kindly include title you are applying for in the subject line.

While we thank all applicants for their interest, only those selected for interview will be contacted. Deadline for submission shall be on January 25th, 2021. GHSC - TA - TZ is an equal opportunity employer.

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar

57th ANNIVERSARY

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of TPB Bank would like to congratulate His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, on the occasion of the 57th Anniversary of the Zanzibar Revolution.



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JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
MAHAKAMA YA HAKUMU MACEP DAR ES SALAAM
MSUTU

CIVIL CASE NO. 202/2019

PAST DEF APR FORCE ONE.....**NADANI**

Chadip
Mwanamtu Mohamed
Robby Magoni
Monica De Milla
Rafiana
Jack Mgorja
Ema Lutengero
Hilma Rajabu
Marian Sanga
Mary Sasi
Sadio
Sharif Matika.....**NADIMBA**

Kazi: Mwanamtu Mohamed, Robby Magoni, Monica De Milla, Rafiana, Jack Mgorja, Hilma Rajabu, Marian Sanga, Mary Sasi, Sadio, Sharif Matika, Pochi mpo.

KUJITWA SHAURINI

Kwa kazi mda amekaa mchizi yake ambayo itakizo ya mda yamwambwa kutoa mada ya mda ambazo zinaweka kazi katika Mahakama ni binti au wazi au shauri ambaye amaruhusu, siku ya tarehe 21 Mwezi Februari, 2019 au 100 mchizi mda ya kazi katika Mahakama. P.M.

ANGALIKI: Kazi haitathabirika/haithabirika siku ipitayika hapa juu. Mahakama itaweka kazi hukumu zila ya uwepo wako.

Hati hi itaweka kwa amri yajayo na chapa ya Mahakama ili iki tarehe 08 Mwezi Januari, 2021.

Contractor urged to meet deadline for completion of chalk project

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

THE economic wing of the National Service, SUMA JKT the contractor who is constructing the chalk production factory in Maswa District, Simiyu Region has been tasked to complete the project before January 15.

Finance and Planning deputy minister for Mwanaidi Ali Khamis made the directives yesterday here when she visited the construction of chinks and packaging factory which cost 8bn/- and its construction has reached 90 per cent.

"This is one of the key projects here, we expect that once completed it will inject a lot of revenues to the district council. It will also benefit a number of people in terms of employment. So make sure that the project is completed on time as the Minister of State, President's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government Suleiman Jafo who also wanted the contractor to fast track the project," she said.

She also directed the contractor to work day and night, as the time allotted to him is too short and the government will not extend it.

"Last week, the minister gave me a time frame for SUMAJKT to hand over the project before January 15, this year, so that the factory can start operating," she said, adding that the ministry established projects in different district councils to reduce dependency from the government.

"We believe completion of those projects will create job opportunities as well as increasing revenues," Mwanaidi said.

For his part, Maswa District Council executive director Dr. Fredrick Segamiko said that the

project had reached 90 per cent of construction and cost more than 8bn/-.

Dr. Segamiko said that in the project they have received 4.1bn /- equivalent to 49.9 per cent of all project funds and the contractor is continuing with the construction to ensure he completed it within the allotted time.

Maswa MP, Stanslaus Nyongo requested the ministry to provide funding earlier for the purchase of machinery that will be used at the factory once construction is completed.

Nyongo said: "It will be astonishing to see the factory buildings are completed and nothing is going on. So I ask the government to provide funds in advance for the purchase of the machinery."



It will be astonishing to see the factory buildings are completed and nothing is going on. So I ask the government to provide funds in advance for the purchase of the machinery



Foreign tourists pictured shortly upon landing at Zanzibar's Abeid Amani Karume International Airport at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Hawa Abdallah

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

President's Office, Regional Administration, and Local Government deputy minister David Silinde has suspended two heads of schools in Babati Town Council, Manyara Region over misuse of funds in the construction of dormitories.

They are heads of Babati Day and Muktuca secondary schools.

According to him, the two officials misused the public funds by injecting exorbitant costs contrary to the government's building guidelines.

The deputy minister took the decision here when he visited the two schools and found that the leaders used over 80m/- each to construct the dormitories.

"The dormitories are still

School heads suspended for 'embezzling' funds

on roofing stage but they have already spent over 80m/-, this is a misuse of funds, the actual work seen here cannot correspond with the costs, worse still all the construction expenses information are the same for both schools," he said.

Silinde ordered an immediate investigation be launched to find out how the funds had been spent.

He also dissolved all construction committees of the two schools and ordered the formation of new ones as well as

the appointment of new acting heads of the two schools who will supervise the completion of the dormitories construction.

The deputy minister also directed the Babati Urban education officer to submit a letter to the ministry explaining why he should not be accountable for failing to supervise the projects thus leaving the public monies in the wrong hands.

"The Babati Urban engineer should also write an explanatory letter on why he advised constructing the dormitories

at high cost contrary to the government's guidelines," he said.

The deputy minister also visited Babati Rural and witnessed two dormitories which had been constructed at a 'fair' costs of 74m/- out of the 160m/- provided by the government.

Lazaro Twange, Babati District Commissioner said that they will form a special team from the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) to investigate the fund's embezzlement scandal.



Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi (2nd-L) flips through a file on land-related issues during a one-day tour in Ikungi District, Singida Region, yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

RC demands cooperative union to produce title deed for farm 'locked' in conflict with villagers

By Guardian Correspondent, Babati

MANYARA Regional Commissioner Joseph Mkirikiti has instructed, within seven days, the region's Rift Valley Cooperative Union (RIVACU) to produce to the Assistant Commissioner for Lands authentic documents for the ownership of their farm in Mwada village in Babati District.

The instruction was given at the weekend when he was speaking to Mwada villagers at a public rally aimed to solve the land conflict pitting villagers and RIVACU.

Mkirikiti decided to issue the directive after he previously required the union officials to produce the said documents but were unable to do so.

Both Mkirikiti and the villagers said the conflict began in 1979 after 86 villagers registered their complaints.

After he listened to their grievances, Mkirikiti allowed the

villagers to continue with their agricultural activities in the farm said to be owned by RIVACU, while the matter was being resolved.

He also registered his displeasure by RIVACU's decision to rent parts of the 1,200 acre farm to people from outside the region without the knowledge of the village government.

The RC told the villagers not to sell the portions of the farm given to them as an interim measure while an overall decision of the ownership was being decided upon.

He also gave three days to Babati District Commissioner Lazaro Twange to collect a list of people who were given land pieces from the RIVACU's farm.

The RC also directed Babati District executive director John Nchimbi to transfer the village executive for lack of commitment and accountability.

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

Committee advises govt to revoke 196 licences for idle Njombe mining plots

THE government has been called upon to revoke 196 licenses of small miners whose plots have remained idle and hand the same to miners who can do work on them.

The call was given at the weekend at Njombe Region Consultative Committee (RCC)

after receiving a report from the acting minerals officer Eng Fredrick Jirenga who said Ludewa District has 201 licenses for mining plots, but the owners of only five are engaged in mining activities.

"I thank the Regional Minerals

Office for putting the statistics in public, a departure from the past. I, therefore, advise the licences for the idle mining plots be revoked and be given to other small miners who can work on them, said Joseph Kamonga, Ludewa MP.

Andrea Tsere, Ludewa District Commissioner said there are areas outside Liganga and Mchuchuma Iron Ore and Coal Project in the District that were supposed to be owned by small miners, but were taken by the National

Development Corporation (NDC) thereby denying small miners opportunities to do so.

"I call on the NDC to release the plots to given to small miners who need them," DC Tsere added.

Njombe Regional Commissioner

Eng. Marwa Rubirya said the government was still reviewing the contract with the investor that accorded more profit to the investor up to 80 per cent while the government remains with only 20 per cent.

He also said his office will hold talks with with NDC for the release of some of its mining plots that are outside Liganga and Mchuchuma Iron Ore and Coal Project to small scale miners.

Njombe Town Council hands over 9m/- worth sanitary towels for use by 5,636 girl students

By Guardian Correspondent, Njombe

NJOMBE Town Council has distributed sanitary towels to 28 schools for 5,636 girls in primary and secondary schools valued at more than 9m/- from the council's internal sources.

Speaking here at the weekend during the event to hand over the towels, Ruth Msafiri, Njombe District Commissioner said the issue of sanitary towels for primary and secondary schools in Njombe Town was no longer a challenge, and it will assist in girls in passing their examinations.

She called on the council to make the programme sustainable by having in place legal procedures for allocation of funds from its budget for procurement of the towels.

She added that after the council

received directives from the central government to distribute sanitary towels to girls for free, it is now supposed to formalise it by integrating the programme in accordance to council's procedures.

DC Msafiri said just like it is for allocating 10 per cent of council internal revenue as loans to vulnerable groups, the same procedure should be done in regard to sanitary towels for girl students in primary and secondary schools.

She also cautioned that the towels should not be turned into some business enterprise, because there are some people who could divert the towels into private shops, especially the towels that do not bear government emblem.

She also called on various stakeholders to support

government efforts in the undertaking.

Illuminata Mwenda, Njombe Town Council Director said the council allocated 10m/- to implement the government's directive to enable girl students to study without inconveniences.

"Today's exercise in respect of secondary schools only, as for primary schools we expect, in the next few days to purchase similar quantities of sanitary towels for primary schools," Illuminata said.

Margaret Masoi, Headmistress of Mabatini Secondary School said the towels will save the academic performance of girl students and eradicate truancy.

Elizabeth Mbigili, a student at the school said the biggest challenge was the inability for many of them to buy the towels.



Kiteto legislator Edward ole Lekaita (L), legislator for Kiteto in Manyara Region, visits a water catchment area at the weekend accompanied by residents of Dongo village. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Don't send pupils home over lack of uniforms - Arusha DC

AUTHORITIES in Arusha Region has banned teachers to prevent students who join elementary classes to enter classes on lack of school uniforms.

Arusha District Commissioner Kenan Kihongosi admonished the practice here yesterday when handing over 100 desks made by Arusha city Council for pupils of Msasani Primary School.

"I say this because here we have parents who have come to witness this event, but I also give parents and guardians one week to buy uniforms for their children to enable them study happily," said the DC.

He said it would be better for teachers to apply common sense in receiving the children instead of chasing them away.

He stressed that after one week, he would not like to hear that parents have failed to buy the uniforms for their children, as that would amount to negligence and lack of accountability.

After handing over the desks, Arusha City Director Dr John Pima supported the DC instruction and directed the City's Primary School Education Officer Omar Kwesiga to pass on the instructions to all teachers.

"The children have the right to study, there should be no reason to chase them away, as the government provides free education, hence sending them away amounts to obstruction of the government's efforts towards education," he said.

He stressed that Arusha City Council

has mobilised itself starting January 11 schools' infrastructures to receive all students (yesterday) as set, as all were ready for them.

WOMEN LEGAL AID CENTRE (WLAC)

Publication of Bi- annually Income and Expenditure

In accordance with Non-Government Organization amendment Regulation 2018 WLAC is pleased to publish its Bi-annual Income and Expenditure report for a period between **January to June 2020**.

Women's Legal Aid Centre		
Bi-Annual Income and Expenditure Report for the period from January – June 2020		
	Jan – June 2020 TZS	Jan – June 2019 TZS
Income		
Receipts from Donors	576,948,340	542,027,552
Total Income	576,948,340	542,027,552
Expenditure:		
Access to justice for women, children and refugees	496,885,065	384,028,985
Public awareness and engagements in women's civic and socio-economic rights	12,224,000	70,596,246
Policy and legal frameworks, including the country's constitution, on the rights of women, children and refugees	32,452,783	368,000
Institutional capacity and sustainability of WLAC	48,961,201	91,663,662
Total Expenditure	590,523,049	546,666,894
Surplus (deficit) of Income over expenditure	(13,574,708)	(4,639,342)

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Facebook : Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)



P.O. Box 10953 Geita, Tanzania

BUCKREEF GOLD COMPANY LIMITED

Tel: 028 2520727

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP): VALUATION OF LAND AND PROPERTY FOR COMPENSATION AND RELOCATION PURPOSES

Reference: BGCL/TZ/RFP/EQP_01/2021

Date: 12 January 2021

Buckreef gold Co. Ltd intends to commence intense Mining and Gold processing activities at its licenced area SML/04/92 located at, Mnekezi Village, Katoro, Geita Region, Tanzania.

Currently we are looking for a competent, independent and registered land valuer (Company) to Prepare and submit a well-documented and clear proposal so as to undertake the land and road relocation valuation exercise.

Background of the project and Scope of the assignment is in **Annex 1** of this RFP.

Here is the link to download Annex 1 <https://cutt.ly/MjcfZVJ>

Following Key dates apply to this RFP

Rfp Issue Date	12 January 2021
Rfp Closing Date & Time	17 January 2021
Estimated Contract Award Date	29 January 2021

The following information must be provided by a Bidder in response to this RFP:

- Comprehensive work Schedule to complete the assignment within 8 weeks or below.
- Break down of cost and taxes summing up to the total cost.
- Valid registrations with BRELA, TRA etc.(Company)
- Detail related experience of their organization in Tanzania and CVs of experts to be assigned. Supporting documents should be provided.
- List of references and how to contact them.

Your proposal must be signed and sent in a pdf format through email address below;

Procurement@buckreef.co.tz

And it shall remain your responsibility to ensure that it reaches us before the deadline. Any Proposals that are received by BGCL after the deadline indicated above, for whatever reason, shall not be considered for evaluation.

Services proposed shall be reviewed and evaluated based on completeness and compliance of the Proposal and responsiveness with the requirements of the RFP.

The Proposal that complies with all of the requirements meets all the evaluation criteria and offers the best value for money shall be selected and awarded the contract.

The selected bidder will be responsible in attending to any grievance, issues and concerns that may arise before and after signing off the valuation reports.

Selection criterion

- Understanding the methodology, resources to be committed to this work, CVs of the proposed experts and relevant experience-based selection. Weight for technical and price Proposal is 80/20.

Evaluation criteria

The award criterion is the most economically advantageous tender.

The formula for calculating the evaluation points is the following:

$$\text{Score} = A \times (\text{technical points of the tender} / \text{best technical points}) + B \times (\text{lowest price} / \text{price of the tender})$$

$$A = \text{Weight of the technical tender} (\%) \quad B = \text{Weight of the financial tender} (\%)$$

Criteria for tender evaluation are as set out below. Amongst the technical criteria 'understanding of the assignment, methodology and resources to be committed for this work' are given most emphasis whilst experience of the tendering organization and qualifications of key staff are also important.

Technical evaluation criteria

Criterion	Weighting
Pricing 20 points for lowest cost tender Points allocated on a pro rata basis for other costings	20 %
Tenderer experience on related assignments 20 points for 3 years of directly relevant experience 15 points for 2 years of directly relevant experience 5 points for 1 year of directly relevant experience	20 %
Understanding of the assignment, methodology and resources to be committed for this work Organizations tendering for this work are required to demonstrate their understanding of the assignment, how they will integrate with PFPII, how they will be completely self-sufficient, detail their methodology, Specify all the inputs they will deliver.	40 %
CVs of assigned experts and support staff Strength of team composition rated from 0-20 points by committee Members and relevant programme expert of programme leading by senior staff.	20 %

Any Contract that will be issued as a result of this RFP shall be subject to the Buckreef General Terms and Conditions. The mere act of submission of a Proposal implies that the Service Provider accepts without question the General Terms and Conditions of BGCL, please be advised that BGCL is not bound to accept any Proposal, nor award a contractor, nor be responsible for any costs associated with a Service Providers preparation and submission of a Proposal, regardless of the outcome or the manner of conducting the selection process.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your Proposal. Sincerely yours,

Pius Dominick,
Chief Accountant.

'Manufacturers should get new standards within three months'

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

THE government wants the time for waiting for new standards for manufacturers to be reduced from six to three months.

This was said yesterday in Dar es Salaam by the Minister for Industry and Trade, Geoffrey Mwambe, during a familiarisation tour at the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Mwambe said he wants to make sure that many manufacturers including small and medium entrepreneurs get their standards on time so that they can conduct trade.

"I have already instructed the management of TBS to write to me recommendations that would reduce the time of getting new standard from six months to three," he said.

Minister Mwambe also asked workers of the bureau to go out and support SMEs.

According to him, most SMEs do not know how to do with the standards issues hence they fail to conduct their business.

"I want TBS in collaboration with Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) and National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to come up with a strategy that would enable SMEs to conduct their business more easily," he said.

Minister Mwambe counseled workers of TBS particularly those at border points to adhere to integrity and avoid corruption.

He said workers at laboratories should do their job without external pressure for the benefit of Tanzanians.

"Do your work thoroughly with high integrity to save Tanzania from being a dumpsite," he insisted.

For his part, the TBS Director-General Dr Yusuf Ngenya thanked the minister for visiting their premises.

He said they will implement all directives issued by the minister instantly.

The minister has asked us to write recommendations to him on how we can reduce waiting time for new standards, we will do so, he said.

Speaking at a meeting with senior leaders of institutions and departments under the ministry last month in Dodoma, Minister Mwambe was quoted as directing them to submit their budget strategies that will bring about positive changes in the ministry.

The minister warned government executives and officials who frustrated investors and traders to "watch out."

"Each institution will prepare a report and submit to me on major strategies that will make significant changes," he said, pointing to the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (Brela).

"I want to know what you have decided to do to transform industries and trade," he said.

The minister said he was interested in new comprehensive strategies that were viable. He said he wanted a new report on the job description of each manager in the ministry.

"I want every unit in the ministry to rethink and revisit its position as well as its contribution to transforming the ministry."

According to the minister, the job is serious and managers must ensure it yields positive results. "The goal is to strengthen the ministry for the betterment of the nation," he added.

He also urged managers in the ministry to be more innovative and adopt initiatives that would bring about a positive impact on the country.

He explained that there was a need for new systems that would create new markets for locally-manufactured goods and products. The markets, he said should include both internal and foreign markets.

Mwambe said products produced by local entrepreneurs should be supported to reach the international market.



Kagera regional commissioner Brig Gen Marco Gaguti addresses Bukoba municipality motorbike taxi operators yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Deputy minister to DC: Ensure Ilemela hospital has supplies, water, electricity

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE Ilemela district commissioner has been required to ensure medical equipment, electricity and water become available at the new hospital in the district built at Kabasungu area to allow health services to begin.

The instruction was issued by the Finance and Planning Deputy Minister Mwanaidi Ali Khamis soon after she inspected the hospital, as well as the bus stand and heavy trucks' parking area at Nyamahongolo area implemented by Ilemela Municipal Council under Central Government

financing.

The Deputy Minister's gave the directives after Ilemela District officials explained to her that even though the main hospital buildings have been completed, the hospital has failed to start operating due to lack of medical equipment, electricity and water supplies to the project site.

"The government has provided a lot of money, over 1.6bn/- for the hospital, hence it is inconceivable it remains without water and electricity, very essential for running a hospital," she said.

She nonetheless praised them for good construction work done. She called on staff and workers

at the hospital that has begun providing some health services to ensure they work hard, with patriotism and take care of the equipment and the hospital's infrastructures.

Ilemela Municipal Council's Economist Mophen Mwakajonga said the hospital's seven buildings that have been completed including the maternity wing, outpatients, administrative, laboratory and X-ray buildings.

He said the project has cost 1.8bn/-, 1.7bn/- of which was provided by the central government and 176m/- from the council internal revenues that was used to compensate owners

of the land and a perimeter fence around the hospital.

Meanwhile, speaking after inspecting the bus stand and trucks parking area projects, the deputy minister directed the projects, contractor, Stecol Corporation from China to increase construction pace so as they start operating and enable the council collect revenues therefrom.

After inspection she said the twin project was 56 per cent complete adding that even the workmen at the site were few and was doubtful whether the project would be completed in May this year as per contract agreement.



EYESORE: Garbage lies just next to business stalls at Dar es Salaam's Mbezi Mwisho bus stand, as witnessed yesterday, clearly endangering public health. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

EABC calls for lowering of COVID-19-related charges in EAC

By Guardian Reporter

THE East African Business Council (EABC) has called for the lowering and harmonization of COVID-19 related charges in the East African Community (EAC), in a bid to ease the cost of doing business and boost intra-trade in the region.

EABC said in a statement yesterday: "This will support businesses to be more resilient and rebound amidst the COVID-19 pandemic."

According to the business council, currently, Covid-19 tests are priced differently in each Partner State EAC Partner States, while containment measures are

varied.

Tanzania and Burundi are now charging a standard rate of \$100 for both nationals and foreigners while the other Partner States' charges vary.

"The EAC Secretariat should fast track regional coordination and harmonization of measures on COVID-19 for economic resilience and growth of the EAC bloc," said Peter Mutuku Mathuki, Executive Director for EABC.

The council also called for the establishment of a common quarantine period in the region and fast-tracking of the waiting time for Covid-19 test results.

Dr Mathuki said the lack of harmonization of Covid-19 testing

rates in accredited laboratories and uncoordinated waiting time for the test results is disrupting cross-border trade.

"COVID-19 related Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) continue to hinder cross-border trade due to different measures on COVID-19 in the region," he further stated.

As of October 2020, the World Bank predicted growth in Sub-Saharan Africa to fall to -3.3 percent in 2020, driven by the economic fallout of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Different preventive and restrictive measures undertaken by EAC Partner States to control the spread of COVID-19 have significantly slowed down trade,

movement of persons and integration.

The trickle-down effects of these measures have also been felt across affiliated industries and the rest of the economy.

Dr Mathuki noted that reduction and harmonization of COVID-19 related NTBs will also enable businesses to tap into the opportunities availed by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"AfCFTA prioritizes addressing challenges in trade policy, productive capacity, hard and soft infrastructure, trade information and market integration which are critical for doing business in the continent," he said.

HakiElimu stresses need for intensive on-the-job training for all teachers

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Iringa

HAKIELIMU has called for the intensive provision of on-the-job training as an important part of equipping and enhancing teachers' professional and practical skills to further stimulate the potential and improve student learning.

Executive Director for HakiElimu Dr John Kalage said in-service training has for many years been the driving force behind many changes that have occurred in the area of teaching and learning.

"As in any other profession, it is vital that teachers keep up to date on the most current concepts, thinking and research in their field," he said.

He made the observation during the Mwanzo Mzuri (A Good Start) graduation ceremony of 40 pre-primary teachers from Iramba, Kilosa, and Mpwapwa districts held at the Mkwawa University College of Education (MUCE) on Saturday.

Mwanzo Mzuri intends to ensure that young Tanzanian's will be enrolled in high-quality and safe pre-primary education, which improves school readiness and supports them to reach their full potential.

Dr Kalage said that in recognizing that the government has strongly encouraged in-service teacher training by developing strategies, plans and implementing various programs aimed at giving teachers the opportunity to develop themselves in the workplace.

He further stated that HakiElimu in collaboration with MUCE and the University of Denmark developed this training

to contribute to reducing this problem.

However, we believe this training has additional features as it aims to provide you with the tools to enable you, participants, to learn by improving your practice while in the classroom.

"We recognise that our nation has made great strides in increasing enrollment which has reached more than 90 percent in Primary Education. We congratulate our government on this achievement," Dr Kalage said.

He said that colleges must be committed and determined to produce the best teachers and best practitioners who will oversee pre-school education.

Commissioner for Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Dr Lyabwene Mtahabwa said that one of the key determinants of quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) is high-quality teacher training.

He urged that the government has strongly encouraged in-service teacher training by developing strategies, plans, and implementing various programmes aimed at giving teachers the opportunity to develop themselves in the workplace.

Dr Mtahabwa also advanced parents in the country to value early childhood education, adding that parents should take responsibility for upbringing children which directly connect to the future life of children.

Mwanzo Mzuri Project is three (3) years from 1st May 2018 to 30th April 2021 with Partners VIA, HakiElimu, Mkwawa University College of Education and funded by Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF), which manages funds from UKAID.



Construction of sewage system in progress at the recently opened modern long-distance bus stand at Mbezi Mwisho in Dar es Salaam, as captured yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Four village leaders in Chunya suspended for allegedly taking bribes to allow pastoralists in

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

FOUR village leaders in Chunya District, Mbeya Region have been suspended for allegedly getting bribes from pastoralists and allowing livestock groups from various parts of the country to move to their village illegally.

Those who have been suspended include Kambikatoto village chairman, Saimon Maganga, Village Executive Officer, Erick Msola, Sipa Village Chairman, Maulid Migamba, Village Executive Officer, Laurent Namwinga and Kambikatoto Village Extension Officer, Samwel Lyeme.

Speaking to reporters at his office, Chunya District Commissioner Saimon Mayeka said apart from the officials receiving bribes and allowing livestock to enter their villages, they were also involved in the sale of large tracts of land to foreigners.

“There are others we continue to investigate for such allegations and if we find out that there is truth, we will take action like their peers to end this practice which has serious consequences in our district,” said Mayeka.

He clarified that the district government does not prevent pastoralists from other areas from entering the district but requires them to follow legal procedures instead of sneaking in.

Chunya District Livestock Officer, Dr Benedict Matogo, said the introduction of traditional livestock in the district has serious consequences including the spread of livestock diseases from one area to another.

He also said that it is causing an increase in livestock and thus causing areas set aside for the activity not to meet the needs of

the situation which leads to the emergence of conflicts between pastoralists and farmers.

He said some of these pastoralists are invading village areas by force and thus causing a breach of peace in those areas and that is why the government decided to put in place procedures.

“Sometimes if we decide to follow these pastoralists they start using force, now we have to take stronger measures to control them because it is very dangerous this interaction that does not follow the procedure,” said Dr Matogo.

Some pastoralists in the district also praised the government’s decision, saying it would help them reduce conflicts that have no basis.

One of the pastoralists, Josia Mwanakale, said that when new herdsman bring livestock into their villages, they are unaware of the procedures of the villages and that when they enter they have their own procedures which are contrary to the locals.

And some farmers in various villages in the district said some pastoralists have been bringing livestock into their fields and feeding crops and thus causing conflicts between farmers and pastoralists.

One of the farmers, Anthony Jeremiah, said in some areas people were starving due to their crops being eaten by livestock.

“Sometimes if we decide to follow these pastoralists they start using force, now we have to take stronger measures to control them because it is very dangerous this interaction that does not follow the procedure”

Mwinyi: We are working on campaign promises

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi said the government has started working on the ruling party’s promises made during the October 2020 general election campaigns including job creation to the youth.

During the campaigns, Dr Mwinyi who promised to create at least 300,000 jobs, insisted the government will always work to find ways to solve the unemployment burden facing many youths in the country.

“We promised during our general election campaigns that we are going to find a solution to the problems facing youth including unemployment. We have seen a number of investors venturing projects that will

create jobs for our youth,” said Dr Mwinyi.

He made the statement on Saturday last week when speaking during the climax of Zanzibar Revolution Walk at Mao Zedong grounds in Zanzibar. The event was organized by CCM youth wing (UVCCM) as part of activities to mark the 57th anniversary of the 1964 Zanzibar Revolution.

The function was also attended by the Union Vice-President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Isles Second Vice-President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla and CCM Deputy Secretary General -Zanzibar Dr Abdalla Juma Saadala.

“I urge all youth not to select jobs or make job preference once there is opportunity for employment, and also avoid

laziness. We want all youth to get employed and engage in any income generating activities,” said Dr Mwinyi.

The president asserted that plans are underway to support youth financially through the special empowerment fund so that they can improve their entrepreneurship activities.

He urged youth not to select jobs, and make sure they wisely grab all the opportunities.

President Mwinyi added: “Don’t get involved in narcotic drugs, corruption and abuse of children and women. If you shun these practices and also take a role in prevention by discouraging and educating your peer group and the public, we can make Zanzibar a good place for everyone to live in.”

He commended the youth for supporting the government efforts towards ensuring economic transformation through ‘blue economy’. He said the government is determined to properly extract all the marine resources to achieve the targeted economic development.

Dr Mwinyi accepted the youths’ request to support their ‘work incubation and vocational centre’ at Tunguu in Unguja South, so that more youths can be trained/empowered for self-employment in efforts to address lack of jobs burden.

Earlier, UVCCM Chairman, Kheri James thanked the President Mwinyi and other government leaders for their parenting role for the youth.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY
ISO 9001: 2015 CERTIFIED

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) join hands with the President of Zanzibar and Chairman of Revolutionary Council, His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi and all Tanzanians to celebrate 57 years of Revolution.

‘LETS USE COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT’

tcra_tanzania | Mamlaka ya Mawasiliano Tanzania

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Locals preferred, but open to International Assignees*

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation is a proven leader in the global fight to end HIV and AIDS, and an advocate for every child to live a full and healthy life into adulthood. Founded through a mother’s determination, we are driven to see a world where no other mother, child or family is devastated by this disease. For more than 30 years, EGPAF has been a leader in meeting urgent needs in pediatric HIV and AIDS in the world’s most affected regions. For more information, please visit <http://www.pedaids.org>

Position Summary

Job Title	: Director of Finance and Operations
Immediate Supervisor	: Chief of Party
Location	: Dar es Salaam

Job Summary
EGPAF intends to recruit a Director of Finance and Operations, with strong United States Government (USG) Contract experience, for a forthcoming USAID-funded comprehensive HIV/TB project in Tanzania. Reporting to the Chief of Party, s/he will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all aspects of USG contract implementation, adherence and compliance to contractual and financial terms and conditions, and will provide operational and financial oversight and supervision for the project, including regular budget reviews and monitoring of expenditures. S/he will liaise closely with subcontractor staff and will coordinate with other key stakeholders to leverage resources and maximize project impact. The Director of Finance and Operations will be based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. **This position is contingent upon award and Tanzanian nationals are strongly encouraged to apply.**

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

Job Responsibilities:

- Ensure that project activities adhere to contractual terms and conditions and are in compliance with USG and USAID rules and regulations;
- Provide financial and operational oversight of project implementation;
- Review and understand compliance and financial reporting requirements of USG Contracts;
- Build the capacity of project staff in USG Contract implementation and management;
- Monitor all subcontract financial management and reporting, as well as build local capacity of subcontract staff to manage subcontracts;
- Support the development of annual work plans and contribute to reporting on technical and financial performance;
- Serve as secondary point of contact for the client.

Required Qualifications:

- Master’s degree in business administration, finance/accounting, or any other relevant field;
- At least 10 years’ experience managing large complex USG projects and ensuring compliance;
- At least 10 years of progressively responsible experience providing operational oversight for USG programs;
- At least 7 years’ experience in managing subcontracts under a USG Contract;
- Thorough knowledge of and experience with large-scale USG Contract compliance, financial monitoring, and reporting;
- Experience and working knowledge of accounting, finance, procurement and administration under PEPFAR funded awards;
- Knowledge of FAR and AIDAR;
- Strong team leader with extensive experience in staff management, capacity building, and building a culture of compliance amongst project staff;
- Previous direct supervisory experience of large project staff teams;
- Proven strategic, planning, and project implementation abilities;
- In depth knowledge of financial software applications, databases and spreadsheets including QuickBooks and Microsoft Office;
- Excellent verbal, written, interpersonal and presentation skills in English.

To apply click the Link:
<https://phe.taleo.net/phe02/ats/careers/v2/viewRequisition?org=PEDAIDS&cws=41&rid=2270>

TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

What shall it take to end poverty in Africa?

Just last year in November, China's South West province of Guizhou announced that its last nine impoverished counties have been lifted out of absolute poverty, which translated that all registered impoverished counties and areas in the world's most populous country have shaken off the pangs of poverty.

The core criteria for assessing poverty elimination means that in addition to having sufficient income, China does not consider people to be out of poverty until they have enough food and clothing, guaranteed basic health care, access to compulsory education, and safe housing.

Against the background of these vital fundamentals, the end of poverty in China despite being a milestone and epochal, acquires immense global significance and more especially for Africa, where poverty remains the most existential and potent threats to social and political stability.

Many governments and non-governmental organisations try to reduce poverty by providing basic needs to people who are unable to earn a sufficient income. These efforts can be hampered by constraints on government's ability to deliver services, such as corruption, tax avoidance, debt and loan conditionalities and by the brain drain of health care and educational professionals.

This is ten years ahead of the United Nations hypothetical deadline for lifting all humanity out of poverty, outlined in the 2020 Agenda for sustainable development.

Crossing the finish line of lifting China's 1.4 billion people out of poverty well above the poverty line defined by the World Bank is momentous and quite significant

beyond the border of the Peoples Republic of China. The country's poverty alleviation measures and drive towards the end of poverty was not simply built on raising the incomes of poor people but in giving them a solid foothold to meaningful livelihood.

Strategies of increasing income to make basic needs more affordable typically include welfare, economic freedoms and providing financial services. Meanwhile, the poorest citizens of middle-income countries have largely failed to receive an adequate share of their countries' increased wealth.

Poverty is the state of not having enough material possessions or income for a person's basic needs. Poverty may include social, economic, and political elements. Absolute poverty is the complete lack of the means necessary to meet basic personal needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. The floor at which absolute poverty is defined is always about the same, independent of the person's permanent location or era.

On the other hand, relative poverty occurs when a person cannot meet a minimum level of living standards, compared to others in the same time and place. Therefore, the floor at which relative poverty is defined varies from one country to another, or from one society to another.

China still has some acute challenges to resolve, especially caused by inadequate and unbalanced development. It also has the onerous task to improve follow-up support for people minted freshly out of poverty to ensure that they are able to settle down, stayed employed, and become wealth creators.

Africa states should work to promote formal skilled graduate employment

YOUTH in Africa constituted 19 per cent of the global youth population in 2015, numbering 226 million. The United Nations defines youth as people aged 15 to 24 years. By 2030, it is predicted that the number of youths in Africa will have increased by 42 per cent. Africa's population as a whole is very young, with 60 per cent of the entire continent aged below 25, making it the youngest continent in the world, in relation to its population makeup.

All of the world's top 10 youngest countries by median age are in Africa. There is contention among critics and analysts over what this demographic dividend could mean for African nations; some believe that, with effective governance, the economy could significantly benefit and develop, whilst others have argued that a large, poorly-managed youth population may lead to greater instability and civil conflict.

A 2004 study found that young people are the most likely to commit violent acts, as well as more likely to become victims of violence themselves.

There is a crisis in the lack of formal skilled employment opportunities across Africa, which is exacerbated by the addition of 10-12 million youths to the labour market each year. The demographic dividend in Africa has the potential to become a 'ticking time bomb'. It is estimated that 600,000 South African graduates are unable to find suitable employment. Many African nations have worked to promote formal skilled graduate employment through schemes such as the Virtual African Higher

Education Observatory, which seeks to develop employability skills amongst students.

Young women have higher rates of unemployment than men in all African countries, which may potentially result from gender inequalities in primary and secondary education. Further issues impacting young women's employment include: child marriage; time poverty through participation in reproductive labour; and laws and customs restricting women's actions and mobilities.

The informal economy comprises 75 per cent of non-agricultural employment in Africa. This is significantly higher than in other regions, and is discouraged by international corporations such as the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation, as informality is viewed as 'a reflection of underdevelopment,' which may also be 'the source of further economic retardation.' Informal employment may also be damaging on social levels, due to its lack of official regulation, limited social security and poor wages and working conditions.

Every year more young people pursue their transition to adulthood through education. This has caused higher demands for post-basic education as the bridge between the aspirations of young people and the promises of a better future through paid employment.

But opportunity for a secondary education is not a viable option for everyone, and along with fast-changing societies and economies, there is also a sector of urban and rural southern African youth who feel disengaged from the education system.

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By Marianne Thamm

THE internet and social media could still be our equivalent of the Sistine Chapel – if only we understood the freedoms and agency they offer.

If you haven't watched it yet on Netflix, *Death to 2020*, Charlie Brooker and Annabel Jones's big, fat satirical stake in the heart of a torrid year should finally snap open your mental roller blinds to the grave threat that social media poses to global reason.

The mockumentary by the creator of *Black Mirror* is populated by a series of "experts" played by leading lights including Samuel L Jackson, Hugh Grant, Tracey Ullman, Leslie Jones and Lisa Kudrow. A mockumentary or docucomedy is a type of film or television show depicting fictional events but presented as a documentary. These productions are often used to analyze or comment on current events and issues by using a fictional setting, or to parody the documentary form itself.

In *Death to 2020*, voices/opinions/attitudes clamour to be heard, reflecting a world, right now, that comes together in the borderless, liminal space of "the internet" in general and social media in particular.

Here, most visibly, our deepest atavistic impulses, amplified and magnified ad infinitum by sock puppets, bots and trolls, have found shameless expression.

2020, the real year we have just survived, should provide humanity with sharpened hindsight. It was a repeated smack across the collective head by the

Social media and you: In 2021, do get off the hate spectrum

universe.

It was Donald Trump who fashioned his own Throne of Twitter and who, perched there for four years, watching as we tore each other apart while he led from the frontline.

It felt like we were all part of a modern-age *Circus Maximus*.

And then, in keeping with the natural order of things, we watched as "Twitter" turned on Trump.

After Joe Biden's victory and Trump's very public dissolution, Twitter itself, in response to Trump's tweets, reminded the former president and his supporters that in the material world election officials had certified Biden as the winner of the US presidential election.

In South Africa, the Covid-19 pandemic flushed out phalanxes of the disturbed and paranoid, among them our own "friends" on Facebook.

As the great Facebook Friends and Family Purge of 2020 began to take full effect around August 2020, the trauma of the real world overwhelmed the data-driven noise.

Global hunger, racism, poverty, sickness and disease, broken health systems, bureaucratic violence, and deeply corrupt ruling political and business elites all surfaced in full view in 2020.

But the internet and social media could still be our equivalent of the Sistine Chapel – if only we understood the freedoms and

agency they offer.

And while, for now, much of the terrain has been occupied by tech overlords who trade personal data; journalists, investigators, whistle-blowers and decent, ordinary people across the world used the internet itself to expose the grifters.

In between, there were virtual street corners of teenage pop-up revolutionaries on TikTok who outwitted the president of the United States of America by jamming his booking lines for his Tulsa coronafest.

The internet is the antidote to itself if you know how to administer the dose.

In *Death to 2020*, Kumail Ali Nanjiani plays "tech mogul" Bark Multiverse, CEO of Shreeker, who is so moved by Greta Thunberg's headline address to the UN in 2019 that he buys a mountain in New Zealand and hollows it out to create a soundproof "survival bunker" only for himself.

It is here that Multiverse sits out the shitstorm.

Commenting on Thunberg, Multiverse tells the interviewer: "Usually when a child is shouting for help it is best to ignore them in case it is a trap. No less a man than Jeffrey Epstein told me that."

We forget Epstein between Trump and Covid and collapsed economies.

Laurence Fishburne's booming voice-over reminds viewers that "throughout 2020 the gods of Silicon Valley stand accused of

allowing their products to split the world into two warring factions".

Multiverse interrupts to correct that "actually it was four. We prefer to call it a hate spectrum, that is the official term."

Fishburne continues quoting to Multiverse research that found that it took "about six months' exposure [to social media] for the average person to become hopelessly radicalised".

"I know," says Multiverse sounding excited, "we are hoping to get that down to five minutes."

Death to 2020 is a sanity check on a year which metaphorically tilted the axis of the globe. Never before has humanity been so united and so divided in the midst of multiple self-created crises.

We begin 2021 without Trump leading the toxic charge. But Trump, those like him and those who support him will still be around. Twitter and the rest of social media will be their rickety soapbox.

You can choose to stand among a multitude of lunatics howling at the moon or you can begin to take control of the machine and curate for yourself what it offers, beyond the algorithm which will always render you as data, a consumer.

You can walk away, it is up to you.

You can clean up your lists, cultivate curiosity, curate and visit spaces you trust and reach out across atomised divides to turn the tide against rage, anger, idiocy and unreason.

How Russia Saved CAR from plunging into war

By Oman Mbiko

FROM dispatching hundreds of military personnel to delivering humanitarian aid in recent years, Russia's role in assisting the Central African Republic (CAR) hold elections and avert catastrophe cannot be overestimated.

Russia's dispatching of hundreds of military instructors to help repel a takeover by rebels at a major town on the eve of elections is the latest in a series of interventions.

The Central African country is emerging from milestone general polls, held on December 27, as the incumbent Faustin-Archange Touadera retained the presidency.

He has secured a second term after winning an absolute majority 53.92 percent of the presidential poll, according to the

results announced by the

President of the National Election Authority (ANE), Mathias Moroua, on Monday.

The holding of polls whose outcome has widely been endorsed has been hailed as a victory for the Central Africans, with the elections held against the backdrop of terror by armed groups opposed to the holding of the exercise.

Rebel groups aligned to the beleaguered former president, François Bozizé, ran amok on the eve of elections in opposition of his disqualification by the Constitutional Court.

The militants seized Bambari, CAR fourth-largest city, five days before nationwide elections. The market town is some 380 kilometres northeast of Bangui, the capital city the rebels threatened to march to in a bid to overthrow the government.

Bambari is back under the control of the United Nations peacekeepers and national security forces.

This is largely thanks to the Russian government, which immediately dispatched an additional 300 instructors and some combat helicopters to help the CAR government repel the rebels' takeover and protect civilians on the eve of the elections.

With some measure of stability restored, voter turnout among registered voters was 76.3 percent as 910 784 voters participated.

Russian instructors had been present in the Central African country for the third year, including 2019 when Touadera's government sealed a peace deal with armed groups, to pave way for the recently-held polls.

In a field where the international community, including the UN,

failed, Russia succeeded in that its representatives acted as intermediaries in the negotiations with the rebels.

Securing the peace deal against all odds raised Touadera's profile and placed him as favourite to win the poll. Ties between CAR and Russia have been solid during the period of the African country's quest for peace.

Russian specialists trained the CAR's army and the gendarmerie. This is part of an agreement by Russia in 2018 to provide free military aid to the CAR.

Initially, it sent 175 instructors to train the Central African Armed Forces.

The Eurasian country also delivered substantial humanitarian aid to CAR, the country of some 4.8 million people that has suffered recurrent strife since rebels overthrew Bozize in 2013.

By Raphael Mgyaya

This is how AfCFTA could be a game changer for businesses

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework agreement came into force this New Year's Day - that is, on January 1, 2021 - following a delay due to the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

All African countries have signed the pact except Eritrea, Tanzania and 33 other countries are yet to ratify it. This is an important milestone in the African continent.

AfCFTA is widely expected to lead to the creation of the largest free trade area in the world in terms of the number of participating countries.

It is seen bringing under a single market 55 countries with a total population of 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of US\$3.4 trillion - more than that of the UK (US\$ 3.25 trillion), the sixth largest economy in the world in terms of the GDP.

The World Bank reports that AfCFTA presents an opportunity to pull 30 million people out of extreme poverty and raise the incomes of 68 million who currently live on less than US\$ 5.50 per day.

In the East African region, AfCFTA is expected to lift 4.8 million people out of extreme poverty, with its implementation also helping to usher in the kind of deep reforms necessary to enhance long-term growth in African countries.

In a world recovering from the coronavirus pandemic, the coming into force of the AfCFTA agreement is excellent news for African economies. The lowering of tariffs by up to 90 per cent means



that the costs of doing businesses will get tremendously lower.

That should make African businesses and companies more competitive throughout the African continent vis-à-vis their foreign counterparts also seeking a pie into the African market. By extension, that should mean that Africa will progressively cease to be a dumping ground of substandard goods manufactured in other parts of the world.

AfCFTA is expected to attract more foreign direct investments and boost manufacturing across Africa. This would present immense opportunities for African businesses for strategic alliances and

external finance through equity investors. Foreign companies supplying manufactured goods in Africa will meanwhile be attracted into relocating their production in African countries to benefit from lower tariffs.

This should create jobs for local populations and as well as lead to transfer of technology and skills, which would make even more economic sense given the fact that Africa is the youngest continent with the majority of the world's fastest growing economies and endowed with an abundance of raw materials.

The possible relocation of businesses

from technologically and otherwise advanced economies into the AfCFTA should boost manufacturing sectors and agribusinesses across Africa.

This would make it possible for AfCFTA to replace China and India in the long run as the "workshop of the world", manufacturing goods at highly competitive prices for sale across the globe. Accordingly, this would naturally increase Africa's share in global trade from the current lowly 2 per cent.

The deep economic integration to be facilitated by the AfCFTA should create comparative advantages for African

economies, with African manufacturers having an advantage over their Asian or Western "rivals" in supplying goods and services within the AfCFTA.

This would apply largely because African businesses would have a cost advantage of tariff reduced by a whole 90 per cent - which should boost productivity and profitability.

To ensure full realisation of the potential benefits of AfCFTA, a number of challenges that must be addressed. Countries need to undertake appropriate reforms and ensure that trade facilitation measures are in place.

Red tape would have to be addressed, just as would be the poor state of communication and other infrastructure characterizing many African countries.

More flagship infrastructure projects such as Tanzania's standard gauge railway (SGR) project would have to be devised and implemented throughout the continent to connect various economies, while reliable and affordable power would be key in ensuring a thriving manufacturing base and agribusinesses growth.

As the tenth largest economy in Africa, one of the fastest growing economies in the world and fifth most populous country in Africa, Tanzania stands to benefit more with the coming into force of the AfCFTA agreement.

Thanks to its strategic location, ready availability of power, political stability and large population, Tanzania could easily position herself as an economic gateway for Western and South East Asian investments.

● **Raphael Mgyaya is Executive Director of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC). However, the views expressed in this piece are entirely his own and do not represent the position of any of the organisations he is associated with.**

COVID-19 pandemic shapes the future world people want

BONN

The peoples of the world are unanimous - access to basic services such as universal healthcare must become a priority going forward. So too should global solidarity, helping those hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and addressing the climate change emergency.

The collective thoughts of the world's future by some 1.5 million people, including those from various organisations and networks, from all countries across the globe has been highlighted in a global initiative by the United Nations, which it called the world's largest conversation on the future people want.

Last year, to mark the 75th anniversary of the UN, it conducted various townhall discussions, dialogues and an online survey from January until November, 2020.

The resultant report, Shaping Our Future Together, showed that people across the world were unified in their concerns, with the current coronavirus pandemic being the foremost in their minds.

"When you ask people about their fears and hopes for the future, when you ask people about their expectations of international cooperation about their priorities in the immediate, post-COVID, there is remarkable unity across generations, regions, income groups, education groups, and from people from different political direction," Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the commemoration of UN's 75th anniversary, said during a virtual press conference on the findings on Friday, Jan. 8.

Indeed respondents of the UN conversation from all but two regions - sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and South-eastern Asia - had listed access to universal healthcare as an immediate short-term priority, according to the report.

In the regions of sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and South-eastern Asia the call for increased support to places hardest hit by the pandemic and greater global solidarity ranked top. Next was the need for universal healthcare.

"This reflects the grim reality reported by UNDP - that daily COVID-19 related deaths have exceeded other common causes of death throughout much of 2020. Emergency services, health systems and health workers are under enormous strain around the world, with indirect health impacts also expected to rise," the report noted.



Respondents being questioned for the United Nations global conversation on the world they want. Many called for universal healthcare in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo: United Nations

Yesterday, Jan. 10, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres marked the 75th anniversary of the first UN General Assembly held in London by giving a keynote address. He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic "has had a disproportionate and terrible impact on the poor and dispossessed, older people and children, those with disabilities and minorities of all kinds".

"It has pushed an estimated 88 million people into poverty and put more than 270 million at risk at acute food insecurity," Guterres said.

The second short-term priority was a call for greater global solidarity and increased support to places hardest hit by the pandemic.

Indeed, Guterres said in his speech that the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted serious gaps in global cooperation and solidarity.

"We have seen this most recently in vaccine nationalism, some rich countries compete to buy vaccines for their own people, with no consideration for the world's poor," he said.

But he went on to thank the government and people of the UK for supporting the COVAX facility, established

by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which aims to guarantee that vaccines will become available to all.

COVAX is the global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for all countries, regardless of income level. In December, COVAX announced that it had arrangements in place to access two billion doses of COVID-19 vaccine candidates on behalf of 190 participating nations. At the time, WHO said in a statement that this would ensure deliveries of the vaccine in the first quarter of 2021 to participating countries.

Guterres said the pandemic has highlighted the "deep fragilities in our world" and in order to tackle them we need to reduce inequality and injustice and to strengthen the bonds of mutual support and trust.

He also said that the world needed "a networked multilateralism, so that global and regional organisations communicate and work together towards common goals".

"And we need an inclusive multilateralism, based on the equal representation of women, and taking in young people, civil society, business and technology, cities

and regions, science and academia," he said.

People around the world also called for safe water and sanitation, and education.

Rethinking the global economy and making it more inclusive to tackle inequalities was another concern.

Meanwhile addressing climate change and destruction to the environment also remained top long-concerns for respondents.

"Respondents in all regions identified climate change and environmental issues as the number one long-term global challenge," the report noted.

Guterres was pragmatic, admitting that while the UN was proud of its achievements over the last 75 years, including helping to boost global health, literacy, living standards and promoting human rights and gender equality, it was also aware of its failures. The biggest one being the inability to adequately address climate change.

"The climate emergency is already upon us and the global response has been utterly inadequate," he stated.

"The past decade was the hottest in human history, carbon dioxide levels are at

record highs, apocalyptic fires and floods, cyclones and hurricanes are becoming the new normal," he stated.

"If we don't change course," Guterres warned, "we might be headed for a catastrophic temperature rise or more than 3 degrees this century."

"Biodiversity is collapsing, one million species are at risk of extinction, and whole ecosystems are disappearing before our eyes.

"This is a war on nature and a war with no winners," Guterres said.

He said that while the pandemic was a human tragedy - it can also be an opportunity.

"The past months have shown the huge transformations that are possible, when there is political will and consensus on the way forward," Guterres said.

He said the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development already provide the blueprint for this.

"We now need increased ambition and action to deliver - beginning with the climate emergency. The central objective of the UN this year is to build a global coalition for carbon neutrality by the middle of the century," he said, adding that meaningful cuts - reduction in global emissions by 45 percent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels - were needed.

"Every country, city, organisation, financial institution and company needs to adopt plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050 - and start executing them now, with clear short-term targets."

Akosua Agyepong, a youth activist from Ghana, asked Guterres after his speech how the lessons learned from the current pandemic could be used in addressing climate change "so that we can achieve the [goals of the] Paris Agreement and the SDGs".

Guterres replied saying that currently trillions of dollars were spent on supporting economies facing the impacts of COVID-19. "When spending those trillions, we are borrowing in relation to the future. We need to make sure those trillions are spent to address the recovery from COVID but also the challenge of climate change."

"We can use the same money to build coal power plants or build renewable energy. We can use the same money to support industries

that pollute or use the same money to create new jobs in the green economy. We can tax people and income or we can tax carbon and pollution. There are many ways in which we can organise our recovery to make it sustainable and inclusive, reducing at the same time inequalities and making peace with nature and our planet in order to make sure we are able to tame climate change, and in order to make sure we do not allow temperatures to rise by more than 1.5 degrees C at the end of the century and that we can get a net zero coalition in the middle of the century to make sure that we rescue our planet," he said.

In his speech Guterres also highlighted the role of gender equality in development, saying that justice and equality, including gender equality, were prerequisites to transforming the challenges ahead.

"Women's leadership and equal participation are key ways to address the global challenges we face.

"The past year has highlighted the effectiveness of women's leadership, adding to evidence that gender-balanced decision-making leads to stronger climate agreements, greater investment in social protection, longer-lasting peace, and more innovation," Guterres said, adding that achieving women's equal representation required bold action.

Despite the challenges in the years ahead, the world's people were optimistic about the future with many believing they will be better off in 2045, with respondents in sub-Saharan Africa - where the median age is just 18 - being the most optimistic about the future.

Guterres was also optimistic, in turn praising the youth of the world.

"Today, it is often young people who are showing courage, and demanding courage from the rest of us. Let me be clear: I stand with you. You give me hope. Young people can and do change the world," he said.

He said he was confident that working together the world can emerge from the pandemic "and lay the foundations for a cleaner, safer, fairer world for all, and for generations to come".

AGENCIES

We're going full throttle: How publishers are adapting to the coronavirus pandemic

By Faisal Kalim

THE coronavirus pandemic has been tough on publishers worldwide. However, despite the enormity of challenges, quite a few have reported growth.

A new research report by M&A firm Media Advisory Partners and content-services company Long Hill Media looks into how they're doing it.

The report, 'How media companies are adapting and finding success in a time of pandemic', is based on in-depth interviews with 25 C-suite executives - 23 of whom are CEOs. They represent a broad profile of media companies, in terms of size, revenue and market (B2B/B2C - business-to-business/business-to-consumer) and business models.

The report covers their business priorities, new initiatives, pain points, revenue performance and future plans.

"All are growth-oriented. All are innovating with new business lines and new served markets," writes Long Hill Media president Tony Silber, adding: "From digital products to virtual events, from research and data to lead generation and subscription boxes there's a lot going on."

MAP managing partner Mark Holdreith meanwhile says that this report is extraordinarily valuable as a picture of resiliency and adaptation



in the media market.

He adds that strong companies led by visionary leaders find a way to increase value, and in 2020, the companies that participated in this report did that in volumes.

B2B publishers stand out as the most innovative. They are mostly the ones looking to transform themselves in the face of business challenges. Lead-generation and virtual events are meanwhile the most significant and the most common area of innovation, according to the report.

"We're transitioning from a media company to a performance-marketing company," said a B2B CEO, adding: "We are always going to have media, but it will be used to solve pain points and goals. We will use research and mine data."

Four of the respondents said 2020 was more or less business as usual for them and some didn't experience notable falloff in revenue. These companies are either all digital and/or rely on subscription products.

"Digital businesses have done

well because live-event budgets have been diverted to digital marketing," writes Silber.

Some publishers also saw revenue growth this year. They are all digital pureplays - that is, focusing exclusively on a particular product or service in order to obtain a large market share - which have benefited from spending windfalls that would have gone to events.

"Our topline growth will be north of 25 per cent. We're selling bigger campaigns and adding

new clients," notes a B2B publisher executive.

The respondents indicated a wide mix of priorities, ranging from boosting advertising back to pre-Covid-19 levels to expanding lead-generation, data, research, marketing services and customer-insights. Broadly the priority is diversification of product mix and revenue streams.

The majority of the respondents said that they are focusing on either lead generation and database proficiency, or building up virtual or hybrid events. Virtual events or hybrid models are at the strategic centre for more than one-third of the respondents.

"While virtual events produce less revenue than live events, they're more profitable - and actually offer enhancements in lead-generation capability," comments Silber.

Membership models are also a priority for 2021. Nearly all the interviewees with significant subscription businesses are advocates for paid content. "A subscription-revenue stream is always going to be better as a recurring stream than advertising," one of the executives said.

Most of the publishers in the study are also actively engaged in portfolio management and are looking at acquisitions.

Broadly, they are looking at growth through acquisitions and internal product launches.

"There are whitespace growth opportunities around our businesses," said a B2B CEO, adding that they are also working at achieving efficiencies and eliminating what's not working.

Nearly all of the respondents are optimistic about the future. "They all believe they're playing a vital role in their served markets. And they all believe they will continue to leverage that role into monetisation," says Silber.

We're going full throttle. We have new talent, new capabilities, new capital, and new tech solutions. There was no transformation needed. We had the right model for these times," notes one of the interviewees, a CEO.

● **A What's New In Publishing report. A long-serving business journalist, Faisal Kalim rose to become Editorial Manager of The CEO Magazine before turning his attention to developments in media and digital publishing. His specialised focus is on the latest revenue generation strategies available to publishers.**

ROME

FOR 2021, Italy has been given chairmanship of the Group of 20, which brings together the world's 20 most important countries. On paper, they represent 60% of the world's population and 80% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). While the shaky Italian government will somehow perform this task (in the general indifference of the political system), the fact remains that this apparently prestigious position is in fact very deceiving: the G20 is now a very weak institution that brings no kudos to the rotating chairman. Besides, it is actually the institution which bears the greatest part of responsibility for the decline of the UN as the body responsible for global governance, a task that the G20 has very seldom been able to face up to.

Let us reconstruct how we arrive at the creation of the G20. It is a long story, that begins in 1975, when France invited the representatives of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, leading to the name Group of Six, or G6. The idea was to create a space where to discuss the international situation, not for decision making. Then it became the Group of Seven, with the addition of Canada in 1977. Russia was added in 1998, so the summit became known as the G8. And then, in 1980, the European Union was invited as a "nonenumerated participant". In 2005 the UK government initiated the practice of inviting five leading emerging markets - Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa. Finally, in Washington, in 2005, the world leaders from the group recognized the growth of more emerging countries, and they decided that a meeting of the 20 most important countries of the world would replace the G8 and become the G20.

At the meetings the United Nations, the European Union, and the major international monetary and financial institutions are also invited. Spain is a permanent invitee, together with leaders of the Asian, African Union, of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, the Financial Stability Board, the International Labor Organization, the International Monetary Fund, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Bank Group, and the World Trade Organization.

Plus. The host country can invite some countries that it feels particularly associated with its foreign policy, at its year of presidency. Until now, 38 countries have been invited, from Azerbaijan to Chad, from Denmark to Laos, from Sweden

Italy and dubious honour of chairing the G20



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte

agitative and original agenda will be structured in 10 specialized meetings, like Finance (Venice July 9-10th); Innovation and Research (Trieste Aug. 5-8th); Environment, Climate, Energy (Naples, July 22nd), just to give a few examples. Beside these 10 specialized meetings, there will be 8 "engagement groups", which will go from business to civil society, youth, etc.

The G20 is formed by countries that are involved in different and often contradictory groups. For instance, after Trump killed the TPP, (the Transatlantic Pacific Partnership), that Obama was able to put together excluding China, with a vast range of counters going from Australia to Mexico, from Canada to Malaysia, China was able to reciprocate, and crate the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which puts together the same countries plus some others and leave outside completely the United States. This commercial bloc is the largest ever created and has 30% of the world's population, and 30% of the world GDP. But the European Union, (to which Italy belongs) has explicitly taken a path of European nationalism, to make the EU able to survive in the coming competition between China and the United States. European Union (and therefore Italy) are also members of NATO, where the United States is the indispensable and fundamental partner. And in the G20 China

Summit for the North-South dialogue, a few months after his election, questioned the idea of democracy and participation as the basis for international relations. Until then, the General Assembly resolutions were considered the basis for global governance. In 1973, the GA passed unanimously a resolution, calling for the reduction of the economic gap between the North and the South of the world, calling rich countries to their duties to establish a New International Economic Order, more just and based on the faster development of the poorer countries. Reagan denounced this as an anti-American maneuver. The US is not the same as Montecarlo, as he famously said (probably he intended Monaco, as Montecarlo is no state), and yet they have a vote each. So, this democracy coming from the UN, was in fact a straitjacket, and the US would proceed on the basis of bilateral relations, and not to be strained by multilateral mechanisms. Reagan was the first to talk of America first, He, together with Margaret Thatcher in Europe, dismantled all the social progress made in the world after the end of the Second World War. The market, with his invisible hand, would be the sole engine of society (that Thatcher said does not exist, only individuals). The State, that he called "the beast", was the first enemy of the citizen. He declared: the most terrifying words in English are: I am from the Govern-

ment, and I am here to help". Any public or social cost was just a brake to the market. Reagan wanted to privatize even the ministry of Education: he and Thatcher left UNESCO, as a symbol of disengagement from the UN. Both he and Thatcher curtailed trade unions, privatized whatever possible, and started the era of neoliberal globalization, whose effect is now widely evident, and that Trump, Bolsonaro and Co. bless every day, because it has created a very large swath of disaffected citizens, who believe they will readdress their destiny.

Is important to note that Reagan did not have any real opposition, from the other rich countries. So, all this fragmentation of the world, with the creation of G7, G8, G20, and other exclusive clubs, was not an exclusive responsibility of Reagan and Thatcher. For forty years, the process of divesting the UN from its responsibility for the world's peace, development, and democracy went on. Neoliberal globalization was based on finance and trade. Even before the end of the war, finance was delegated to the System of Bretton Wood, by the name of the site where it was founded. Let us just state a fact: the Financial System was established in a such way, that Finance is the only sector of human activity that has no regulatory body. Today it has clearly separated by the general economy when its original function was to be at its service. And political institutions are not able to control its global structure.

The other engine of globalization was trading. United Nations had the UN Commission on Trade and Development, UNCTAD, which looked to trade as an instrument of development. The creation in 1995 of the World Trade Organization, as an independent organization, envisaging trade as an economic engine, divested the UN from trade too. And more the UN weakens, the easier is to decry its shortcomings.

The stroke of grace to multilateralism has been the arrival of Trump, the heir and an updated version of Ronald Reagan. But with a totally different agenda and vision. His basic idea is not "America

First", but "America Alone". He pushes Regan's idea of bilateralism versus multilateralism to the extreme of ignoring the concept of alliances. So, he declared, Europe is even worse than China. But there is a fundamental difference between them: Trump never pretended to be the President of all Americans. On the contrary, he tried immediately to divide and polarize the United States, and he leaves as a legacy the US that will take a very long time to become again a united and pacified country. And his strategy has been taken by several other leaders, from Bolsonaro to Orban, from Erdogan to Salvini.

It will be, therefore, difficult, for the UN to recover its function of the meeting place, to express plans of global governance, based on democracy and participation. It was a vision based on the lessons learned in the Second World War: let us avoid millions of deaths, terrible destruction, and to do so we need to work together. That lesson has been now forgotten. Just compare the kind of political leaders from that time, and the present one, to see the enormous change. Therefore, the expression of national egotisms will continue, with the richest countries in exclusives clubs, like OECD or the G20.

But there is a problem: those clubs are not efficient, because they gather together countries with very different agendas and priorities. Let us take a good example from the last G20, held last November under the very discredited chairmanship of Saudi Arabia. One of the points was the cancellation of the debt from poor countries, evidently urgent, because of the additional burden of the pandemic that is going to bring disproportionate damage. The Pope, the Secretary-General of the UN, Gutierrez, pressed for that decision. All that the G20 was able to do, was to freeze the payment of the interest of the debt, for six months. And here, let us divagate for a useful learning exercise of the Third World Debt, and on the nobility of the rich countries.

If you take a loan that you repay over 20 years at 5%, or a mortgage, of 100, at the end you will have repaid 200. And during the first ten years, all

you pay are the interest, and only in the second decade, you start to pay back, progressively, the capital. The result is that the poor countries several times renegotiated their debt and every time what they paid where the interest, to start again. And those interests were cumulative. During that process, they paid several times the amount of the capital that they received. But all that they paid went to the interests... At the university, you learn one good example of the perversity of cumulative interests. The old story is that a Dutch settler, Peter Minuit, bought the island of Manhattan from the Algonquin tribe. The price paid was \$24 worth of beads, trinkets, a jar of Mayonnaise, two pairs of wooden clogs, a loaf of wonder bread and a carton of Quaker oats. If that amount was put in a loan at 5% with composite interest, it would be by now more than the estimated value of all of Manhattan, which exceeds three trillion dollars. So, the decision of the G20 to freeze interests for six months, amount to nothing. It is interesting to listen to insiders' voices. The loans of the rich countries are computed in the DAC, Development Assistance Committee, established by OECD (the organizations that gathers all rich countries). The OECD engaged itself, in the old good day of multilateralism, to dedicated 1% of the members' GDP to the development of the underdeveloped countries. This engagement was never kept, except for the Nordic Countries and Nederland. The US never went over 0.3%. Anyhow, any debt condonation goes into the official statistics of the DAC committee. But new loans are made, by countries that are not in the DAC committee, like China, which has made a very extensive number of loans, especially in Asia and Africa in not public conditions. For the OECD countries (basically the West), to cancel their loans could mean to unleash resources that could go to pay China loans, becoming so China funders. This is a good example of how competing interests, block the G20 from concerted actions.

Decisions on this issue are now expected from the next G20 Summit in Rome, in November. But before, the Global Health Summit, called from the G20 together with the EU in May, will be the occasion to verify what will happen, with vaccinations. But in the same month, Portugal has called for the very important Social Summit of the European Union. Portugal has taken the much more substantial chairmanship of the EU, and this is a very positive contribution to a positive 2021.

To be continued

Macadamia nuts: Becoming Tanzania's future green gold - research institute

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

SOME years before the country's independence a team of missionaries brought alien seedlings from Australia and introduced what would be seen as strange trees in Lushoto District, Tanga Region.

However, the new trees later yielded robust round green fruits with hard brown shells inside and when cracked, they would produce sweet, whiteish butter-like substances that are now popularly known as 'Karanga Miti,' the Swahili term for macadamia nuts.

More than 60 years down the line, these nuts are being seen as the future green economy for Tanzania, with the initiatives starting at the Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI), in Tengeru, Arusha.

Aloyce Kalisti Kundi is a researcher at TARI Tengeru, specializing on fruit trees and he revealed here that ever since they left Australian shores over 60 years ago, the so-called Karanga Miti or Karanga Pori are still not widely farmed.

"In Africa, outside Tanzania, macadamia nuts are only grown in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi and South Africa, with the latter leading in production," said Dr Kundi, adding that farmers here are still unaware of its potential thus more research and studies are needed to promote farming.

So far there are potential for the trees to flourish in various parts of the country including Songea (Ruvuma), Kilimanjaro, Iringa, Njombe, Tanga, Kigoma, Kagera and Arusha.

The acting manager at TARI Tengeru, Agatha Aloyce pointed out that, macadamia were first planted at Sakari area of Lushoto and though the start is still slow, but the future prospects of macadamia look promising and in fact the nuts can even become Tanzania's most profitable agricultural exports.

Another TARI scientist, Ndeshi Munisi said other than oil production, the nuts are raw materials for various cosmetics products and may also be the best medium for baking; "The trees seems to share DNA with other crops such as tea and coffee which means all areas that coffee and tea grow, macadamia will also flourish.

She said the trees can grow along with other crops such as maize and legumes which means local growers can have the best of both worlds. The nuts prefer altitudes of between 500 to 1800 meters above sea level.

Macadamia nuts are tree nuts that have a subtle, butter-like flavor and creamy texture.

Native to Australia, macadamia trees are now grown in various places around the world, but mostly in Brazil, Costa Rica, Hawaii, and New Zealand. As of late Tanzania also plans to join the fold as a future exporter of the nuts.

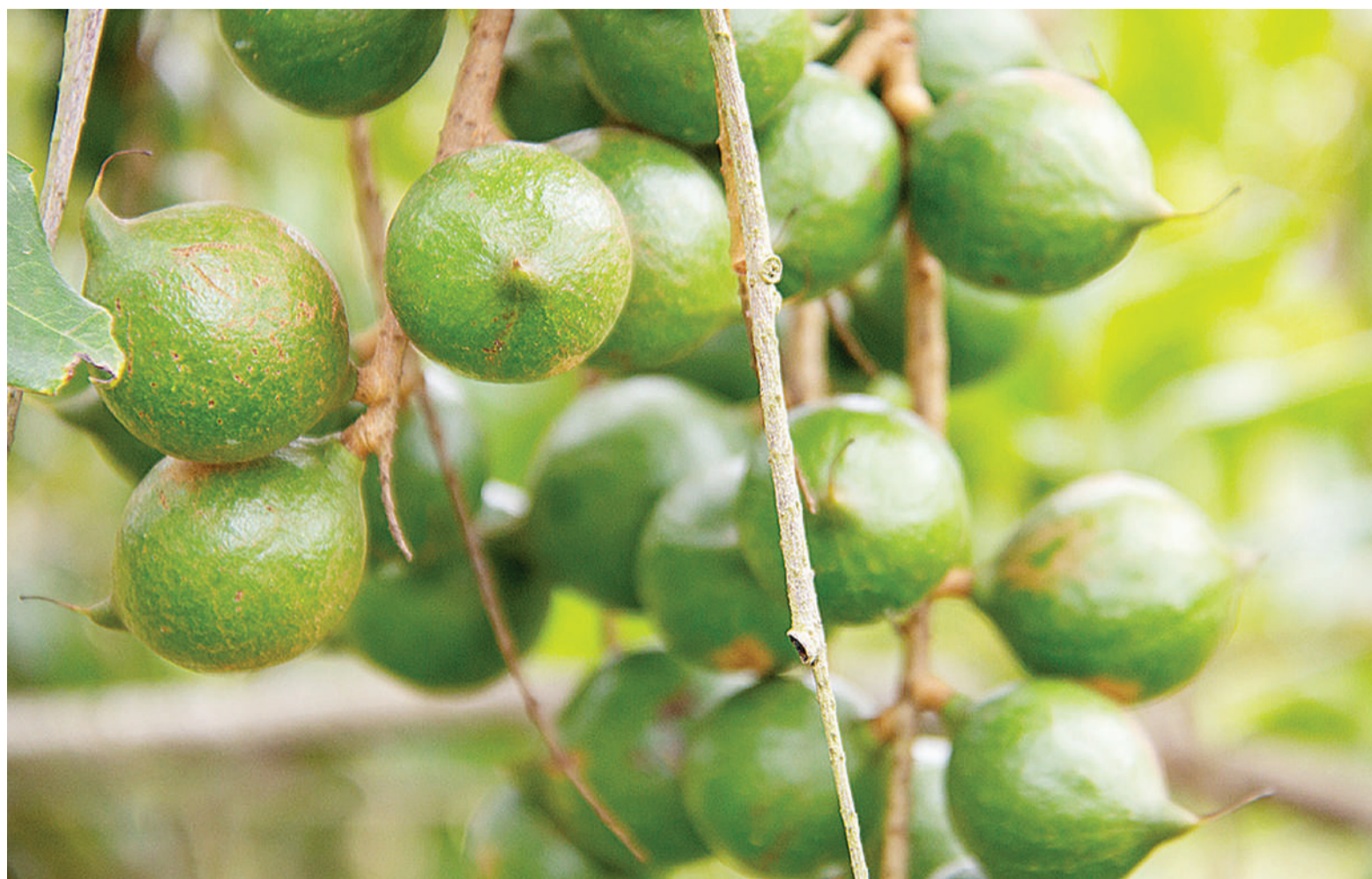
Like most other nuts, macadamia nuts are rich in nutrients and beneficial plant compounds but also linked to several added health benefits, including improved digestion, heart health, weight management, and blood sugar control.

Tanzania is now researching on the country's potential to grow, produce and export Macadamia Nuts overseas and already the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Centre of Tengeru, in Arusha is working on the preparation task.

According to scientists at TARI Center of Tengeru, the macadamia nuts are among the potential and drought and disease resistant crops that can compete with cashew nuts when it comes to profitable agricultural exports.

"And what we are actually doing here at the moment is researching for solution focused seed and seedling productions, that yield better profits to both farmers and country as whole," stated Acting Manager at TARI Tengeru, Agatha Aloyce.

She added that the institute at



Tengeru has a trial academia nuts farm recording bumper produce, therefore Arusha and other rain-fed regions can become good producers of such nuts.

On her part, the TARI Coordinator of Research, Alice Kavishe stated that macadamia Nuts command high prices in international markets, especially in Europe and USA where one kilogram of processed nuts reportedly cost US \$54 equivalent to 125,000/-.

"Grade One nuts will shell US\$ 54 per kilogram, compared to cashew nuts that cost US\$ 24," said Alice Kavishe adding that macadamia also have comparatively health

advantages on that oils produced from the nuts are 100 percent cholesterol free.

However, macadamia nuts remain on the expensive side because of their limited supply. As it happens, macadamia grow on trees, which means there is long duration between planting to harvest times.

Also, farmers need to dedicate plenty of time, energy and resources tendering to these trees before realizing a return on their investment. But once ready, growers can be smiling all the way to the bank, for many years.

Macadamia nuts take up to three years from initial planting to final

harvest ready for export and it was advised that even the local youth who currently seem to prefer the relatively cleaner horticultural type of farming may find the nuts profitable as well.

Locally one liter of edible oil derived from macadamia nuts demands over 12,000/- in cash.

So valuable are the nuts such that in 2012 Kenya authorities complained of illegal ferrying of macadamia from the country, claiming that the nuts were being smuggled into Tanzania for packaging and rebranding for export.

"We want to start supplying seedlings to local farmers but we

are constrained with inadequate land to grow enough seedlings to suffice demands," stated Kavishe.

Experts at TARI-Tengeru say at the moment their institution was working to ensure that Tanzania becomes self-sufficient in edible oil production, through sustainable agriculture to which Macadamia nuts can heavily contribute.

Tanzania on the other hand can be another potential market; the country is annually forced to shell out large amounts of foreign currency to import edible oils and sugar. In this respect the ingress of edible oils from overseas cost the country over US \$ 443,000 equivalent to 1.2 billion/- per year.

AfDB pledges to mobilise \$6.5 billion in support of Great Green Wall Initiative

By Special Correspondent

THE Sahel region's Great Green Wall Initiative received a major boost from the African Development Bank on Monday.

During a forum hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Bank pledged to assist in mobilising up to \$6.5 billion over five years, to advance the landmark initiative.

The resources will be made available through a range of programmes in support of the Great Green Wall by drawing on internal as well as external sources of funding, such as the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), among others.

Multilateral development partners joined the Bank in pledging funding for the African-led initiative that aims to rejuvenate life in Africa's current desert landscapes, providing food security, jobs and a reason for millions of Africans from Senegal to Djibouti to stay in the Sahel region. The forum took place in the margins of the One Planet Summit.

Bank President Akinwumi Adesina said: "As we rebuild from the coronavirus and its impacts on our world, we must recalibrate growth. We must prioritise growth that protects the environment and biodiversity, and we must de-prioritise growth that compromises our common goals."

Addressing the summit virtually from Abidjan, Adesina informed delegates that, "The Great Green Wall is part of Africa's environmental defence system—a shield against the onslaughts of desertification and degradation. The future of the Sahel region depends on the Great Green Wall. Without the Great Green Wall, the



Sahel region as we know it may disappear."

Climate change has led to extreme temperatures, fluctuating rainfall and drought in the Sahel, a region that is home to 250 million people living in ten countries. Millions of livelihoods and hard-won development progress are threatened.

The Great Green Wall's plan is to plant an 8,000 km long and 15 km wide mosaic of trees, grasslands, vegetation and plants across the Sahara and Sahel that can restore the degraded lands and help the region's inhabitants produce adequate food, create jobs and promote peace in the region.

"The Great Green Wall is a wall worth building. A wall that brings people together, not one that pulls them apart. A wall that insulates, not one that isolates. A wall that protects our collective existence. A wall for the environment—a wall for the planet," Adesina said.

A lack of finance has been the project's major constraint to realising its goal of creating 10 million jobs, sequestering 250 million tonnes of carbon and restoring 100 million hectares of

degraded land in the 11 countries of the Sahel-Sahara region.

The Bank has made the Sahel region a top priority for investment and mobilising new sources of finance to advance Africa's climate opportunities. One example is the African Development Bank's Desert-to-Power programme to build the largest solar zone power in the world.

The programme will provide electricity to 250 million people in 11 Sahel countries and help protect the Great Green Wall. Over the next five years, Desert-to-Power aims to make available \$2 billion for identified project opportunities for the Great Green Wall Initiative.

A lack of resources to adapt economies to the consequences of climate change is also one of the main constraints on the Sahel region's development. The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), hosted by the African Development Bank, aims to address this by mobilising resources and brokering solutions that boost progress in adapting to climate change.

"The establishment of GCA Africa marks a critical step in our endeavour to accelerate and strengthen our efforts to address the triple challenge of biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change adaptation on the continent. We will develop and implement joint programs that will mobilise resources at scale to support the Great Green Wall," said Kevin Kariuki, Bank Vice-President President, Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth.

Another Bank initiative key to transforming the Sahel into a land of opportunities and inclusive green growth is Technologies for African Transformation (TAAT). The initiative aims to raise food output in Africa by 100 million tonnes and lift 40 million people out of poverty by 2025 by harnessing high-impact, proven technologies to raise productivity, mitigate risks and promote diversification and processing. TAAT, for example, has provided Sudanese farmers access to heat tolerant maize.

In a major announcement, President Macron named President Adesina a Great Green Wall Champion. Adesina was recognised for his personal commitment to addressing climate change in Africa. The position will see the Bank President play a significant role in mobilising political and economic support for the Initiative.

Pledges from others during the meeting, included EUR 1 billion of new financial and technical support to back sustainable agriculture, clean energy, water, infrastructure and private sector financing in 11 Sahel countries from the European Investment Bank and EUR 600 million from the Agence française de développement (AFD).

UK partnership supports S.African Female GreenTech entrepreneurs

By Special Correspondent

THE UK, powered by the UK-South Africa Tech Hub and in partnership with the Future Females Business School, will support 30 female entrepreneurs to grow their GreenTech businesses.

As the world looks to manage its way out of the COVID-crisis, which has affected millions of lives and decimated economies, it is important to remember we are still tackling an even greater crisis - climate change. But we also have an opportunity now to drive clean, resilient and inclusive recoveries - shaping the low carbon economy of the future that will create new jobs, attract green investment and protecting the global environment for future generations.

As incoming COP26 President the UK is working hard in advance of COP26 to increase the level of global ambition necessary to provide confidence that we are on track to limit global warming to below 2 degrees. As a bilateral partner, the UK is committed to support South Africa deliver an accelerated and just transition, not only to meet the climate imperative but to ensure the country is at the forefront of the global economic shift. This support, like the transition itself, is at all levels, from £200 million flowing into major clean technology programmes through International Climate Finance to entrepreneurs, designing and developing the small and micro enterprise sustainable companies of the future.

Future Females is therefore excited to announce that the Future Females Business School, in partnership

with UK-South Africa Tech Hub will be launching a new programme focusing on supporting 30 South African female founders through the Future Females Business School GreenTech programme.

Seeing the positive impact that the Future Females Business School, together with the UK-South Africa Tech Hub, has had on the 5 cohorts they have graduated to date, it is important to build on this and increase the scope and support female entrepreneurs who are working to care of and protect our planet. This led to the introduction of the Future Females Business School GreenTech programme.

UK-South Africa Tech Hub Director, Shirley Gilbey said: "The Future Females Business School GreenTech Programme is a three-month virtual programme, equipping local female entrepreneurs with the entrepreneurial skills and best practices needed to start and grow successful tech businesses. These businesses not only generate wealth for the founders, but also create a positive impact in communities and environments."

British High Commissioner to South Africa, Nigel Casey said: "A Just Transition is not just about Government policy and major infrastructure and energy projects. It is about inclusion and the creativity and drive of businesses to shape the economy and create the jobs of the future. I am therefore delighted that, through the UK-South Africa Tech Hub and the Future Females Business School, we are addressing both by supporting women entrepreneurs."

BY REMADJI HOINATHY

Boko Haram blocks Lake Chad trade routes

The Boko Haram insurgency has had devastating consequences on Lake Chad boat transporters, a socio-economic group that has been the locomotive of local trade for decades. An effective crisis response must address the needs of this often overlooked group.

Interventions to deal with the Boko Haram threat have largely ignored the impact on the economic activity of boat drivers who have been affected since 2015. Not being able to cross over to Nigeria has deprived Chadian boat operators of their main, if not their only, source of livelihood.

Before the Boko Haram crisis, generations of boat drivers contributed to a flourishing formal and informal economy based on the movement of people and goods. Their activity helped make the Lake Chad Basin a sub-regional trade hub. Compared to road transport, boats offered a faster solution to delivering large quantities of goods. This meant income for traders and boat drivers, and lower prices for consumers.

Every week, canoes crowded with hundreds of people and goods (smoked fish, corn, wheat, cow and camel skins, among others), would leave Bol and Baga Sola in Chad, in the direction of Baga Kawa in Nigeria. Baga Kawa is an important commercial hub from where fishing, agricultural and livestock products are moved into Nigeria, and Nigerian manufactured products are traded into the other



Terrorism has disrupted a thriving regional trade hub sustained by generations of boat drivers. File photo

Lake Chad Basin countries.

On the way back, the canoes carried food products including pasta, rice, oil, soft drinks, wheat flour, sugar, tea, as well as soap and detergents, cosmetics, loincloths, clothes and cement. These manufactured goods supplied a large part of Chad. Traders and transporters interviewed by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) estimated that the value of goods transported and exchanged weekly was in the range of thousands of euros, a fortune by local standards.

From 2009 onwards, violence in north-east Nigeria gradually spread to countries adjoining Lake Chad, making it difficult for boat drivers to move around safely. In 2015, after the first set of attacks and bombings on Chadian soil, the lakeside borders with Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria were closed. This greatly disrupted the flourishing transnational trade network.

Unsurprisingly, boat drivers who experienced first-hand Boko Haram ambushes around the lake or witnessed the killing of colleagues eventually abandoned the route

to Baga Kawa. Local markets remain accessible but they don't provide the same level of income as sub-regional transport.

This raises the issue of boat drivers' day-to-day survival, especially as their activity supports entire families and communities and powers the local economy. Many have tried to turn to agriculture or fishing, but access to land and fishing equipment is a challenge. Some have left in search of viable opportunities elsewhere, including Libya, while others remain idle.

Generations of boat drivers

helped make the Lake Chad Basin a sub-regional trade hub

Their fate and the implications on local economies receive little attention from governments and organisations working to secure the Lake Chad Basin area. Boat operators who spoke to the ISS said they had not received any form of help, either from the state or other development partners, to help them recover.

Cessation of transport across the lake has socio-economic implications beyond the boat drivers and their dependents. The price of some basic products has increased as a result of longer routes and higher transport costs.

Some have been rerouted through Niger or Cameroon. The temporary closure of land borders as a measure to combat the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these difficulties.

This situation particularly affects the economies of Bol and Baga Sola (Lac Province), two towns on the shores of Lake Chad that largely depended on cross-lake trade with Nigeria. Boat transportation also provided taxes for local council activities.

Boat drivers' activities support entire families and communities and power the local economy

Boat transporters are calling for a reopening of borders, but this won't be enough, as the security situation remains dire. Alternative livelihoods for boat drivers need to be found and supported, with agriculture and fishing the most promising options. They will need help gaining access to land, funds and necessary means of production in order to gain a foothold in these activities.

An effective response must be inclusive and meet the needs of victims who have silently suffered the consequences of the Boko Haram crisis over the past decade. Leaving them without alternative means of survival also makes them vulnerable to recruitment by violent extremists and other perpetrators of violence.

Action to restore peace in the Lake Chad Basin should include supporting the livelihoods of boat drivers and efforts to stabilise, secure and reopen trade and transportation routes in the region.

AGENCIES

BY PETER FABRICIUS

Is the 'Silk Road' unravelling?

Chinese President Xi Jinping's gigantic signature project, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), is showing symptoms of stalling. Warning bells are starting to sound over this series of transport, infrastructure and economic corridors snaking from China through central Asia to Europe and embracing Africa.

Analysts estimate that the US\$1 trillion China promised to invest in the mostly developing countries along the Belt and Road is about seven times more, in real terms, than the famous Marshall Plan. This was the initiative the United States financed to help Europe rebuild after World War II.

The BRI was expected to be Xi's biggest legacy project. It was originally conceived as a 21st-century landward Silk Road - running alongside a Maritime Silk Road that would have touched down in Africa at Mombasa. Later the definition became geographically fuzzier and African countries across the continent, including South Africa, signed on.

China's previous ambassador to South Africa, Lin Suntan, used to chide Pretoria for failing to put its



An apparent plummet in Chinese loans for external infrastructure projects in Africa is sounding alarms. File photo

money where its mouth was and embark on BRI projects, such as upgrading its export corridors from the interior to the coast.

The BRI was originally conceived as a 21st-century landward Silk Road

But some analysts are warning that China has begun to retreat from the BRI. A combination of rising bad debt by BRI borrowers and China's shrinking and increasingly introspective economy - aggravated by COVID-19 lockdowns - is forcing Beijing to consolidate and to cut back on new loans while it tries to digest old ones, they say.

Last month Britain's Financial Times reported that lending by the two Chinese policy banks that mainly drive the Belt and Road, the China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China, had collapsed from a peak of US\$75 billion in 2016 to just US\$4 billion last year. It said China had failed to do adequate risk assessments of the borrowing countries

and now found itself 'mired in debt renegotiations with a host of countries.'

As the paper points out, the two banks lent US\$462 billion between 2008 and 2019, just short of the US\$467 billion extended by the World Bank, the world's largest multilateral lender.

Analysts blame this apparent drastic fall in Chinese lending not only on its need to digest the growing pile of floundering loans but also to its recent 'dual circulation' economic policy that's shifting the focus away from global exports towards domestic consumption. This has been accompanied by overall economic growth rates significantly lower than the spectacular numbers of the last few boom decades.

Beijing is growing increasingly concerned about its massive official debt exposure to Africa

The Financial Times article has been questioned. In another article in The Diplomat, Tristan Kenderdine and Niva Yau contend that China is not so much cutting back on external infrastructure lending overall as shifting its focus away from loans to governments - and towards loans to private enterprises and state-owned enterprises.

Others note that Beijing is growing increasingly concerned about its massive official debt exposure to Africa and growing problems with state-owned enterprise-built infrastructure such as poor construction and white elephants. It's therefore trying to share the burden through public-private partnerships and insisting that state-owned enterprises co-finance projects.

A huge contraction in infrastructure lending of the sort suggested by the Financial Times would greatly widen the infrastructure financing gap facing Asia, Africa and Latin America. It would be especially damaging to Africa, where Chinese loans have helped to build major infrastructure projects such as the Ethiopia-Djibouti and Mombasa-Nairobi railway lines.

It would also be damaging to the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, which started with trade on 1 January. The ambitious trade deal's success depends heavily on vastly improved infrastructure to efficiently carry the expected boom in goods across the continent.

Chinese loans have helped to build major infrastructure projects in Africa

However, discerning the extent and nature of China's opaque foreign lending is an arcane art. Deb-

orah Brautigam, director of the China Africa Research Initiative (CARI) at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, who understands it better than most, is not overly pessimistic. She told ISS Today that she had also seen Chinese lending to Africa slowing over the past few years.

'Our total for China-Africa loan commitments for 2018, about US\$9 billion, was the lowest Chinese loan commitments to Africa had been since 2011.' And CARI was projecting the 2019 figure to drop further, to between US\$5 billion and US\$8 billion. Nonetheless, 'We do not anticipate a major drop in Chinese lending in Africa.'

All of this is relative of course. As Chris Alden, China expert at the London School of Economics, notes, countries outside of BRI's six economic corridors have never benefited from anything like the lending provided to even one of those in the corridors.

For example Xi offered US\$60 billion to all of Africa at each of the last two summits of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (2015 and 2018) versus US\$80 billion for just Pakistan.

'I don't know if they are pulling back from BRI but I don't think they were ever in Africa to the same level or degree. It was largely just a case of African governments overstating their significance in the overall picture of China,' he told ISS Today.

However he also noted that the Chinese economy slowing to around 4% - well below the 6% 'red line' - would probably impact BRI lending. So too could the new 'dual circulation economy' policy which seemed to indicate a shift by Beijing towards addressing economic disparities between its booming eastern coastal economy and its struggling western interior economy. He also noted that some analysts believed that the latter was intended to include central Asia and other BRI countries.

At least in the near term, Alden said Beijing would probably retain at least the BRI rhetoric - 'after all China's still talking about "social market economy" and "non-intervention" well after obvious policy changes.' China's need to continue recouping debt and value from BRI involvement would probably also mean some continuity of policy in those countries.

What this all seems to add up to - or perhaps subtract down to - though, is that a rather large question mark has now been placed over the BRI. Perhaps only the post-COVID period will illuminate the future of this ambitious project.

AGENCIES

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 168 00--

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 LETTERS: SAY, MAY, LUD
4 LETTERS: BABA, ACID, ALUM, ROOM, INKY, MAID, (7 WORDS)
5 LETTERS: SKULL, ASIDE, DRAMA, SMILE, MALAY, (5 WORDS)
6 LETTERS: GANDHI, SALIVA, NILGAI, DANGER LEDGER (5 WORDS)
7 LETTERS: PASCHAL
8 LETTERS: MALAYSIA
10 LETTERS: BARBARIANS

CLUES: Across
1 Urodela is their scientific name
5 a large number of people
7 a ring-shaped reef or chain of Islands formed of coral.
8 the subject on which one writes
10 to utilize
11 calm, tranquil
13 the connective tissue of the nervous system
15 out of the way
17 follow a winding course
19 largest continent
20 the lowest layer of ionosphere, able to reflect low frequency radio waves.

Down:
1 an amount of, not all
2 the end, final
3 an observation stuck in the mind
4 to sign up
6 a covering for the foot
7 amoeboid
9 a maize plant in South Africa
12 Mexico city is her mother city
14 a record of the events of one year
16 a rush, a flow
17 a diagrammatic representation of an area showing features
18 help or support

WORD-FIT CROSSWORD

SOLUTIONS

M	A	D	A	G	A	S	C	A	R	S	L	A	V	E	T	R	A	D	E
O	V	E	N	A	R	O	M	A		S	H	I	A	S	P	E	N	T	
F	T	E	A	S	E	A				O	D	R	O	N	E	A			
K	A	R	A	T	E	A				C	E	A		S	T	I			
R	N									M	O	R	A	N	I				
W	A	G	E	D	A	I	L	Y		L	O	R	E	S	C	O	R	E	
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Tafari designing solution for invasive tree species destroying farm and pasture land

By Smart Money Reporter

AN invasive tree species known as *Prosopis juliflora* which is destroying pasture fields in Mwangi, Moshi and Simanjiro Districts has attracted the attention of environment and conservation experts who will meet as soon as possible and define a solution.

Tanzania Forest Research Institute will convene the meeting to discuss the invasive species which are destroying animal fodder and threatening livestock existence in Kilimanjaro and Arusha Regions where most pastoralists live.

Lushoto Silviculture Research Centre's Director, Dr John Mbwambo said in Moshi Rural District this week that the invasive weeds were imported from North and Central America in 1988 as prevent desertification but also provide fuel.

"The problem with this tree species

is that it grows rapidly and in the process covers huge areas affecting other plants growing underneath including pasture for livestock," Dr Mbwambo said adding that Tafari experts will debate and share research reports designed at finding a lasting solution to the challenge.

He said the tree species has already invaded about 20 percent of the animal fodder land in the three districts hence an urgent solution is needed to ensure that it doesn't spread to larger areas hence threaten the ecology.

"We have many challenges which we need to discuss and find solutions as experts because the invasive tree is spreading rapidly," he noted while noting that with funding from Swiss Development Cooperation, the project is targeting primarily the *Prosopis juliflora*.

Dr Mbwambo further noted that the invasive tree is also affecting farming land because of the same reason, providing extensive cover above the ground which denies crops sunshine needed for growth and to manufacture food.

"Before these trees invaded these areas, farmers and pastoralists have many animals and crops



Lushoto Silviculture Research Centre's director, Dr John Mbwambo (L), has a word with residents of Oria Village in Moshi Rural District during his ongoing research on an invasive tree species which was imported in the 1980s from North and Central America. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

flourished well but currently, we are hearing stories of poor yields," the LSRC Director added stressing that the four year Swiss funded project has been going on for the past four

years in Oria area of Moshi Rural District and other areas.

The researchers have already come up with a possible solution to curb the spreading of the tree spe-

cies which include cutting them down and disinfecting to prevent growth but also uprooting the entire tree.

"But costs of rehabilitating the

destroyed ecosystem are very high at about 1m/- per acre which many farmers and pastoralists cannot afford," he stated while urging district and regional authorities help the communities to restore their damaged environment.

Residents of Oria village commended work being done by the researchers but said there is urgent need to ensure that expert advice is implemented to stop the invasive trees. "We thank Tafari researchers because to some extent we have been assisted to restore parts of the destroyed farms and are now cultivating crops," said Chirsant Festus.

Festus was backed by Tasira Joseph who also said the researchers have assist them a lot as animal fodder and arable land for farming has partly been restored. "This tree species has poisonous thorns which affect both people and animals," Joseph said while noting that many animals have died from the poisonous thorns produced by the trees. Tafari is working in partnership with Sokoine University of Agriculture under the SDC funded project dubbed, 'Wood Weeds Project.'

Kenya's digital tax comes into effect as online commerce grows

NAIROBI

Kenya's Digital Service Tax (DST) has come into effect amid impressive m-commerce and internet growth over the last three months.

Fuelled by the COVID-19 pandemic, digital businesses have benefited from the focus on mobile money payments. The government is looking to take advantage of this growth via DST. In a statement this week, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) outlined the application of this tax to digital enterprises.

"DST is charged at 1.5% of the gross transaction value and shall be payable by a person whose income from service is derived from or accrues in Kenya through a digital market place. The tax shall be due at the time of transfer of payment for the service to the service provider," the statement read.

"For residents and companies with a permanent establishment in Kenya, the DST will be offset against the income taxes due in the year of income. For non-residents and companies without a permanent establishment in Kenya, DST will be a final tax," the Authority added.

It is not clear how the exchequer aims to force compliance and the organisation has only stated that they will work with banks, credit card companies and mobile money services to retrieve transactional information. International companies such as Google, Amazon, Netflix and many more that offer services to Kenya, are targeted its implementation.

Zambia's fuel subsidy boost hurts chances of winning over IMF

LUSAKA

Zambia's move this month to further subsidise fuel prices highlights the government's balancing act of seeking to retain power while convincing the International Monetary Fund to approve a bailout before an election scheduled for August. The finance ministry removed a 16% value-added tax on gasoline and diesel prices from January 1, which it said was necessary to avoid increases at the pump. The IMF opposes subsidies and that could prove to be a stumbling block in the government's talks for assistance from the Washington-based lender.

It could also hinder discussions with holders of \$3 billion in Eurobonds as they have demanded an IMF deal as a condition for agreeing to a restructuring of the debt. The country became Africa's first pandemic-era sovereign default after missing an interest payment for one of its dollar bonds in November. Zambia's \$1 billion of Eurobonds due in April 2024 closed at 54.918 cents on the dollar in London on Friday, up 0.4% on the day and 2.1% stronger since the beginning of the year.

Zambia hasn't changed its fuel



Zambian President, Edgar Lungu.

pump prices since December 2019, even as its currency has since lost more than one-third of its value against the dollar, eclipsing the drop in oil prices over the same period. The government already owed suppliers \$727 million in arrears by June. The IMF declined to comment,

and the finance ministry didn't respond to requests for comment.

"Pre-election ploy"

"The dire fiscal position suggests that the zero-rating may be a pre-election ploy, prone to reversal as government funding lines run dry," Irmgard Erasmus, a senior

financial economist at NKC African Economics in Paarl, South Africa said of the ruling Patriotic Front's decision. The considerable concessions the IMF will require for a deal "run counter to its political survival strategy with some time still to go before the August poll."

Cutting or removing subsidies and a wage freeze for government workers could be critical for successful talks with the IMF, according to Chibamba Kanyama, a Lusaka-based economist who was previously a communications adviser with the lender. Civil servants won an 8% pay rise effective this month. "The IMF definitely will be concerned," said Kanyama. "I know the IMF is already raising a flag – a red flag – right now."

Subsidy cuts and wage freezes will be a difficult sell to citizens as President Edgar Lungu seeks reelection in August. He narrowly beat opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema in the last two polls. Zambia has failed in numerous attempts since at least 2014 to win funding from the IMF, but Erasmus still thinks there's a 60% chance the government can secure a deal by the end of the year.

"Securing a formal IMF program will play a central role in relieving tensions between creditors," she said. "However, in the near term, this courting of the fund will come at a high political cost. The most salient risk to the timely agreement to a fund program is refusal by government to surrender its political agenda ahead of a tight electoral race."

Kenyan dealer loses Porsche franchise

NAIROBI

Porsche Centre Nairobi, the Kenyan dealer which has been selling the high-performance German sports cars, has had its contract terminated effective the end of this month. The franchise owner, Stuttgart-based Porsche AG, is expected to transfer the dealership to a new entrant or one of the existing dealerships in the

local market.

Other dealers of luxury cars are DT Dobie (which sells Mercedes Benz), Inchcape Kenya (Jaguar, BMW and Land Rover) and Bentley Nairobi (Bentley). Porsche Centre Nairobi and Bentley Nairobi have common ownership through their parent company Multiple Hauliers.

Sources familiar with the matter told Business Daily that

Porsche Centre Nairobi will continue to offer parts and service to clients until March. The reason for the termination of the dealership agreement was not immediately clear but sales of the luxury sports cars have dwindled in recent years.

Porsche had not responded to our request for comment by the time of going to press. The dealership was well received when it opened in May 2014,

with sales rallying to 125 units within the first eight months.

Orders for the models, led by the popular sports utility vehicle (SUV) Cayenne, stood at 102 units in 2015 and dropped to 54 units the next year as the slump continued. The dealer had sold a cumulative 420 cars as of November, according to data from the Kenya Motor Vehicle Industry Association (KMI).

Showroom prices of the Porsche cars range from Sh10 million to Sh28 million, meaning that the dealer has generated sales of at least Sh5 billion over the past seven years. The strong initial sales were linked to a huge pent-up demand for the sports cars among wealthy individuals who could now enjoy access to parts and service from a local dealer.

Buyers of the Porsche models previously had to import them and face the challenge of sourcing parts and mechanical expertise on their own. The weaker sales recorded by the dealer in recent years has been attributed to a mix of internal and external factors including stockouts of cars, higher taxes and stricter lending standards by banks.

Porsche's move continues the musical chairs seen in Kenya's new vehicle market where automakers are constantly reviewing their existing franchisees. The churn, for instance, saw DT Dobie take over the Volkswagen dealership from CMC, DT Dobie lose Nissan franchise to Crown Motors and General Motors terminate Isuzu East Africa's sale of Chevrolet cars.

Twenty Junior Jumbo lucky kids get 30m/- school fees pay from CRDB



CRDB Bank Plc's senior manager for deposits mobilization, Abel Lasway (C), addresses journalists in Dar es Salaam earlier this week to announce that 20 Junior Jumbo account holders would get 1.5m/- each for school fees after emerging lucky winners through a promotion dubbed, 'Tumekusoti Ada.' He is with (L) relations manager for retail banking, Bupe Makibi and marketing manager Elikira Nkya. Photo Courtesy of CRDB.

By Smart Money Reporter

TWENTY Junior Jumbo account holders in the country have received 1.5m/- each as their school fees payment after taking part in a deposits and win campaign dubbed, 'Tumekusoti Ada.'

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week, CRDB Bank Plc's Senior Manager for Deposits Mobilization, Abel Lasway said the campaign which started in December last year involved children who are Junior Jumbo account holders.

"Junior Jumbo is a special account designed to enable parents and guardians save money for their children's fees. This account is also aimed at cultivating a saving culture among kids," said Las-

way adding that the bank's had received overwhelming support from customers. He said many parents and guardians face a challenge of paying school fees after the end of year festive season when consumption takes centre stage hence the bank's idea to come up with the promotion.

"The Junior Jumbo account is maintained free of charge, earns interest rate and can easily be opened by parents as conditions are less stringent compared to other accounts," he added while stressing that the 1.5m/- fees money can also be used to buy school materials and cover health insurance for the kids.

Lasway urged parents who are yet to open the account for their kids to do so

and avoid delaying their children to get back to class when schools open this week because of lack of school fees and other related expenses.

"Parents can open Junior Jumbo accounts for their kids from any of our branches but also through our digital platforms such as SimBanking, SimAccount and Internet Banking," Lasway stated while urging parents to encourage their children to adopt a culture of saving from tender age.

The CRDB Senior Manager further explained that digitization has meant that depositing or withdrawing money from any CRDB account can be done remotely without the need to visit a physical bank branch or agent.



Last year's Kili Marathon participants at the starting line. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kibo Palace upbeat on sports tourism through Kili Marathon

By Smart Money Reporter

THE annual Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon is increasingly becoming a sports tourism event other than a keep fit ritual.

One of the most prestigious event, draws participants from largely from Tanzania but also is increasingly attracting foreigners not only from Africa, but also further afield in Europe and North America.

As a result, more and more sponsors are being interested to invest in the event as it offers value for money through the desired mileage of visibility on a global scale as participants come from all corners of the world.

Kibo Palace Hotel is one such sponsor which has also been promoting the event as a sports tourism gathering. The hotel's Sales and Marketing Manager, Patricia Maina said this is their eighth year of sponsoring the annual event and feel proud to be part of such a unique gathering.

"We are major tourism stakeholders and Kilimanjaro Marathon is about sports and tourism hence we have every reason to join hands with the organizers and the government in promoting tourist attractions in the country especially in the North Enclave," Maina said.

She pointed out that for the past eight years that they have been involved in the marathon, it has given them more experience and exposure which has in turn enabled them to get closer to their customers and authorities.

"We have seen our apartments in Arusha and Moshi getting full bookings during the Kilimanjaro Marathon which helps us to get local and international guests who always come back whenever they visit," she said.

Maina said Kibo Palaca is looking forward to open another hotel in Moshi Municipality to accommodate the growing number of guests and hope to promote the new facility during the 2021 Kilimanjaro Marathon scheduled for February 28, 2021.

"Moshi is the host town for Kilimanjaro Marathon so we are opening a new hotel as one of the ways to reduce shortage of accommodation for most people especially during the marathon," she argued while stressing that they are also looking forward to host guests during the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon launch in Moshi at end of this month.

She expressed her appreciation to other sponsors who include Kilimanjaro Premium Lager (main sponsor of 42kms), Tigo Tanzania (21kms-half marathon), Grand Malt (5kms - fun run), water

table sponsors Kilimanjaro Water, TPC Limited, Unilever Tanzania, Simba Cement, Absa Bank Tanzania and official suppliers Keys Hotel, Garda World Security, and CMC Automobiles.

The Kibo Palace Hotel Sales Manager said the organizers, Kilimanjaro Marathon Company and national coordinators, Executive Solutions Limited, have been doing a good job to ensure that professionalism is maintained and thus make the event more credible globally.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon local race Director, John Bayo commended Kibo Palace Hotel for being a reliable and consistent sponsor for the past eight years. "Being in the hospitality industry makes them very important partners for the annual event because it attracts participants from every part of the world who need accommodation and food," Bayo said adding that companies such as KPH are contributing much towards making the marathon a success story.

Executive Solutions' Managing Director, Aggrey Marealle also paid tribute to KPH saying as one of the key sponsors, the event has improved each year. "More than 11,000 athletes are expected to take part in marathon this year come February as registration is currently going on online and through mobile phones.

Cartrack to delist from JSE and list on Nasdaq

JOHANNESBURG

Cartrack, whose shares more than doubled in 2020, plans to delist from the JSE and file for an initial public offering on the tech-heavy Nasdaq stock exchange in the US, the company announced on Thursday.

The South African-founded telematics and vehicle recovery specialist, which owns its own software assets and which now operates in 23 countries, believes the proposed scheme, if approved, will unlock value for shareholders, particularly those who elect to stay invested in a new holding company vehicle.

Singapore-registered Karoo000 (formerly Karoo), the controlling shareholder in Cartrack, will buy out minority shareholders in the business – though shareholders have the option of effectively swapping their Cartrack shares for shares in Karoo000. Karoo000 is currently wholly owned by Cartrack founder and CEO Zak Calisto.

In effect, Cartrack and Karoo000 have reached an agreement in terms of which the latter has made an offer, valued at just over R4 billion in total, to acquire the shares it doesn't already hold in Cartrack.

Cartrack shareholders will be given the opportunity to remain invested, through Karoo000, in the "long-term value, benefits and strong growth opportunities of the Cartrack Group, in the event that the proposed transaction becomes operative."

Nasdaq

The plan then is to list Karoo000 on the Nasdaq, with an inward listing on

the JSE. Cartrack shareholders will be entitled to utilise up to a maximum of their "scheme consideration" to subscribe for Karoo000 shares, "resulting in the value of their effective interest in Cartrack remaining unchanged after the full reinvestment and prior to any primary capital raise that may be undertaken by Karoo000".

"Karoo000's intention is to convert Cartrack to a private company, subject to the provisions of the Companies Act and subsequent to the implementation of the delisting," Cartrack said. The scheme, the company said, will "create a more efficient global corporate and operating structure, reflective of the Cartrack Group's international operations and global growth strategy".

It will also, Cartrack said: Accelerate its global growth strategy; Enable it to attract and retain international talent to Singapore; Provide it with access to global technology infrastructure and research and development expertise; Assist in attracting a substantially larger and more diverse international pool of investors who understand the long-term value dynamics of software as a service; Provide it with access to global capital markets; and Potentially yield a rerated company valuation similar to global software peers.

If the proposed scheme is approved, Karoo000 will appoint additional directors – other than Calisto – to its board. As of the operative date of the scheme, shareholders in Karoo000 will be Calisto and all Cartrack shareholders who elected to participate in the reinvestment offer. Cartrack was listed on the JSE on 19 December 2014.



Cartrack founder and CEO Zak Calisto.

Kenya bows to IMF pressure on disclosure of public debt

NAIROBI

Kenya has bowed to International Monetary Fund (IMF) pressure to include Sh3.4 trillion parastatal and county loans as part of the country's national debt.

The National Treasury said this will be done gradually beginning with foreign currency debts by parastatals before including loans from private public partnerships (PPPs), pension and county governments.

Currently, the Treasury only recognises guaranteed debts, but the IMF wants it to include all loans of State linked firms, a move that will push the country's Sh7 trillion debt up by Sh3.4 trillion crashing through the Sh9 trillion ceiling set by Parliament.

"The authorities noted the importance of expanding debt coverage to include counties, non-guaranteed debt contracted by the extra budgetary units, and State owned Enterprises (SOEs). They planned to take a gradual approach to monitoring contingent liabilities, for example, to start to monitor external borrowing by large SOEs," the IMF said in the latest review on Kenya's debt.

IMF report, Kenya's Selected Specific Fiscal Risks, show that the government has guaranteed Sh139 billion which includes the Sh75 billion given to struggling Kenya Airways it wants to nationalise. However, public companies, most of which are loss making have a liability of Sh1.494 trillion, PPP's (Sh679 billion), Kenya Depositors Insurance Corporation (Sh261 billion), legal claims (Sh23 billion) and pensions (Sh819 billion).

Treasury officials were reluctant to take up these liabilities as debt claiming if a parastatal like KenGen or Kenya Power has borrowed it should not be part of public debt. This comes even as Central Bank of Kenya warned that parastatals struggling with huge losses and bad governance could default on Sh100 billion borrowed from 35 banks.

In the Financial Sector Stability Report, CBK said State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in the agriculture sector were able to service their loans, but those in the transport, trade and manufacturing sectors, have either delayed or stopped making payments. The regulator said the loans have been classified in watch and doubtful categories considered as Non-Performing Loans.

The telcos: A hard nut to crack for local CEOs

By Smart Money Reporter

IN September 2018, the then Vodacom Tanzania Plc Board Chairman, the late Ali Mufuruki expressed his disappointment with Labour Commissioner's decision to deny, Kenyan national, Sylvia Mulinge a work permit to take over as CEO. Mufuruki said in his statement, "Naturally, we are disappointed, and we regret the Labour Commissioner's decision. We will be engaging with the authorities. We are confident that Vodacom Tanzania has a strong management team in place to lead the company effectively until the search for a suitable candidate is finalised."

Mulinge was supposed to have taken over from Ian Ferrao, who decided not to renew his contract. Mufuruki lamented that company owners or boards should not be restricted by regulators when appointing CEOs or managing directors of their firms.

Many commentators including people in the government said the move was good because Vodacom which is the only listed telecommunications company (telco) in the market, needed a local CEO because for many years, the telco has been managed by foreign CEOs.

As the late Mufuruki argued, company owners through their boards should be given the freedom to choose who their CEO should be, based purely on merit and not nationality or ethnicity. Thereafter, Vodacom which is the market's largest telco, announced Hisham Hendi as new Managing Director.

Ever since John Pombe Magufuli took over the presidency in November 2015, there has been significant change in boardrooms across many companies in the country with banking leading the pack.

Wholly owned foreign banks like Citi Bank have had the appointment of a local CEO for the first time ever while in the energy sector, Songas Limited also announced the appointment of its first Tanzanian CEO.

Young and energetic local CEOs are leading major banking conglomerates like Ruth Zaipuna at NMB Bank Plc which is the market's largest bank by profit, net assets value and physical branch network, among others.

Another giant banking group, CRDB Bank Plc is under the management led by Abdulmajid Nsekela who has also steered the bank with its subsidiary in Burundi, to sustained profit making since taking over in 2018.

The success which local CEOs have shown in the banking industry, and to some extent in the mining sectors shows that there is enough talent at home to head large corporations including those that are largely owned by foreign investors.

But the telco industry remains a hard nut for local CEOs to penetrate. Despite the fact that many of these companies have been in the market for over two



Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disabilities).

decades now, appointment of Tanzanian CEOs has remained elusive.

Of the top five telcos in the market, which include: Airtel Tanzania, Tigo Tanzania, Zantel and Halotel Tanzania, none is headed by a local CEO, although the truth is that there is enough local talent within senior managements of these telcos.

To argue that company owners through their boards should be given freedom to appointment CEOs of their choice based on merit as made by the late Mufuruki in 2018, defies the logic that local talents should also be recognised and appreciated.

Although it is a fact that merit should be the guiding principle when hiring CEOs, it's unthinkable to argue that

during the past two decades since the telecommunications industry was liberalised, there is hardly a Tanzania fit to lead Airtel, Tigo, Vodacom and Zantel as CEO. Halotel may be spared because it's the latest entrant into the market.

And to argue that local talent cannot successfully run these giant telcos defies logic because there is enough testimony on the ground to prove that Tanzanians are capable of delivering. This doesn't mean however that we kick out all foreign CEOs in the market because, in some cases, we need their presence in the market but this should solely be based on merit. Tanzanian CEOs should also be recruited to such top positions based on merit and not patriotism.

Africa airlines see fall in air cargo demand in Nov 2020

GENEVA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has released its data for global air freight markets in November showing that freight volumes improved compared to October, but remain depressed compared to 2019. Capacity remains constrained from the loss of available belly cargo space as passenger aircraft remain parked. Capacity remains constrained from the loss of available belly cargo space as passenger aircraft remain parked.

Global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometres (CTKs), was 6.6% below previous-year levels in November (-7.7% for international operations). This was on par with the 6.2% year-on-year drop in October. The year-on-year decline is skewed as November 2019 had a boost in demand from the waning US-China trade war. Seasonally adjusted demand (SA CTKs) continued to improve, increasing 1.6% month-on-month in November. This was a slight improvement over the monthly growth rate of 1.1% in October. Current month-on-month gains indicate that SA CTKs will return to 2019 levels around March or April 2021.

Global capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometres (ACTKs), shrank by 20% in November (-21.3% for international operations) compared to the previous year. That is nearly three times larger than the contraction in demand. The capacity crunch is caused by a 53% decrease in belly capacity. This has only been partially offset by a 20% increase in freighter capacity. Strong regional variations continue with North American carriers reporting year-on-year gains in demand (+5%), while all other regions remained in negative territory compared to a year earlier.

Economic conditions in November, normally the peak season for air cargo, remained positive: The new export orders component of the manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) remained in growth territory in both developed and emerging markets for the third month in a row after two years of indicating negative growth. Retail sales for November were up by around 5% over 2019 for both China and the US, propelled by events like Black Friday and Singles Day.

"Air cargo demand is still down 6.6% compared to the previous year, however, we are seeing continuing month-on-



Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director-general and CEO.

month improvements. Severe capacity constraints persist as large parts of the passenger fleet remain grounded. This will put pressure on the industry as it gears up to deliver vital Covid-19 vaccines," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director-general and CEO.

Regional performance Asia-Pacific airlines reported a decline in year-on-year international demand of 9.5% in November 2020 compared to the same month a year earlier. This was a 2.2% improvement from the 11.7% fall in October 2020. While international traffic within the region remains weak (down 19.6% year-on-year in November), exports on the Asia-North America and Asia-Europe routes are strong, driven by demand for e-commerce and PPE. International capacity remained constrained in the region, down 25.3%. However, this was an improvement over the 28.5% fall the previous month.

North American carriers posted a 1% increase in international demand in November compared to the previous year—just the third month of growth in 12 months. This stronger performance compared to the rest of the industry was driven by a less stringent capacity crunch compared to other regions, with international capacity only down 12.7% in November. Strong traffic on the Asia-North America routes also contributed to the performance, reflecting rising e-commerce demand for products manufactured in Asia.

European carriers reported a decrease in international demand of 13.7% in November compared to the previous year. This was a 2.7% decline in performance compared to October 2020. Air cargo in the region has been significantly affected by the resurgence of the Covid-19 virus and the impact of lockdowns on consumer demand and business activity. Lack of capacity remains a challenge, as international capacity decreased 24.9% in November.

Middle Eastern carriers reported a decline of 2.2% in year-on-year international cargo volumes in November, a 1.1% deterioration from October. The lack of international connectivity is hampering air cargo recovery in the region, however, seasonally adjusted demand remains on an upward trend. International capacity decreased by 18.6%.

Latin American carriers reported a decline of 19.4% in international cargo volumes in November compared to the previous year. This was a drop from the 12.2% fall in October 2020. Air cargo in the region has been significantly affected by the resurgence of the Covid-19 virus and the impact of lockdowns on consumer demand and business activity. International capacity decreased 24.8% in November, an improvement from the 28.9% fall in October.

African airlines saw international demand fall by 1.7% year-on-year in November, after three months of positive year-on-year growth. This is primarily driven by a soft performance on the Asia-Africa route, which was down 4.5% year-on-year. International capacity decreased by 19.4%.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Rwanda horticulture export prospects high with UAE deal

KIGALI

Rwanda's horticultural products have started being traded in the Carrefour hypermarket thanks to a deal between the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB) and this United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based retail firm.

A hypermarket is a very large supermarket with a department store – a large store divided into departments offering a wide range of consumer goods. The partnership between NAEB and Carrefour is seen as a key enabler for Rwandan producers of fresh products, exporters and the country's economy at large, according to Rwandafresh—the brand for Rwanda's fresh products including fruits and vegetables.

"We've just started the New Year with an opportunity for our fresh agriexport producers & exporters. We secured a one-year deal with Carrefour hypermarket. We will be supplying to this wide UAE retailing company with passion fruits, apple banana, pineapple and avocado," Rwandafresh Brand wrote on

Twitter on Sunday, January 3.

Rwandafresh Brand, which is under NAEB, said that the first shipment to Carrefour on Sunday includes avocado and passion fruits. According to NAEB, the shipment consisted of 1,600 kilogrammes (1.6 tonnes) of which 1,500 kilogrammes were avocados and 100 kilogrammes of passion fruits.

"That was a sample to gauge the appreciation levels of their customers for our products," NAEB Communication officer, Pie Ntwari told The New Times, noting the volumes are likely to increase later. He said that this is one-year-contract that can be renewed.

He explained that the exports are expected to be made weekly, pointing out that they will depend on the purchase order from Carrefour based on its demands and sales statistics. "So, we have hope that it will be a long-term market," he said. For prices, he said they are fair based on the international market.

On the implications of the deal, Ntwari said that the country has



A worker sorting passion fruits for export at NAEB warehouse in January 2020.

been exporting horticultural products to UAE, Asia and Europe among other parts of the world, "but we had no market to which we are directly connected [ready market]."

"But, Carrefour is a potential retailing shop that will be [buying and] selling our products to different buyers," he said, adding that it has major markets in countries such as Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain,

Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Oman.

"It means we are going to see an increase in production and export volumes as well as revenues, which will have an impact on farmers, exporters, and the economy at large," he said of the implications of the deal.

Commenting on which exporters will get the rights to export fresh produce to the UAE, Ntwari said that all exporters

will have equal rights. However, he pointed out that exporters with high-quality products have an upper hand.

Robert Rukundo, the Chairman of Horticulture Exporters Association of Rwanda told The New Times the deal is one of the strategies to expand the market for "our products, which is largely traded in the UK and European Union. Rukundo noted that having a wide market base enables one to have other people to supply to when some cancel demands, referring to supply disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Carrefour is a big chain supermarket. That is a good thing for the Rwandan exporters and the Rwandan farmers...with the deal, we are dealing directly with supermarket, so the prices are and revenues are likely to go up as there is no middleman," he said.

Rwanda exported 31,788 tonnes of horticulture com-

modities (vegetables, fruits, and flowers) which generated \$28.7 million (about Rwf27 billion) during the fiscal year 2019/20, indicate figures from the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB). This represents an increase of 5 per cent compared to \$27.1 million generated from over 37,343 tonnes of horticulture exports in 2018/19.

According to NAEB, despite Covid-19, Rwanda fetched good prices for her products in 2020 thanks to government support through steady cargo flights. Such factors contributed to the relatively good performance of the horticulture sector in 2019/2020.

Rwanda targets \$130 million from horticulture exports by 2024. Among the strategies to achieve this target, NAEB says, include increasing investment to ensure production of quality fresh products to compete favourably on the international market.

WORLD



House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn

Timetable for Donald Trump's 2nd impeachment emerges in final countdown of divisive presidency

WASHINGTON

A timetable for proceedings in the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach outgoing President Donald Trump for a second time in just over a year has emerged in the final countdown of the Republican's divisive presidency.

The House may take up any articles of impeachment against Trump early this week, according to Majority Whip James Clyburn, a member of the House Democratic leadership. "It may be Tuesday or Wednesday before action is taken, but I think it will be taken this week," he said in an interview with CNN.

Clyburn made the remarks a day after House Democrats announced they plan to introduce one article of impeachment against Trump yesterday, seeking to remove the president from office for "incitement of insurrection" at the U.S. Capitol last week. Congressman David Cicilline from Rhode Island, who co-drafted the resolution, tweeted on Sunday that the document has so far had 210 co-sponsors.

In a letter to her colleagues on Sunday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said a Democrat-led resolution would be brought forward to the lower chamber on Monday, which calls on Vice President Mike Pence to "convene and mobilize the Cabinet to activate the 25th Amendment to declare the President incapable of executing the duties of his office," a move that allows Pence to immediately exercise powers as acting U.S. president. "We are calling on the Vice President to respond within 24 hours," the top congressional Democrat wrote. "Next, we will proceed with bringing impeachment legislation to the floor."

Should any articles of impeachment against Trump pass the House before he steps down later this month, Democrats, who have a majority in the lower chamber, might wait until after President-elect Joe Biden's first 100 days

in office to send the legislation to the Senate for a trial, Clyburn said. "It just so happens that if it didn't go over there for 100 days, it could -- let's give President-elect Biden the 100 days he needs to get his agenda off and running, and maybe we'll send the articles sometime after that," said the democrat from the South Carolina.

The U.S. Constitution provides that the House "shall have the sole Power of Impeachment" and that "the Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments." Through the impeachment process, the U.S. Congress charges and then tries an official of the federal government for "Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

Conviction can only happen in the Senate and requires at least two-thirds of its members, or 67 senators, to vote in favor of at least one article of impeachment after a trial. The chamber could try the impeachment of an official after he or she leaves office, according to legal experts.

Some Democrats are concerned that the Senate trial of Trump's second impeachment, likely a time-consuming process, could stall confirmations of Biden's cabinet nominees by the evenly-divided upper chamber, as the politically polarized country is still trapped in the middle of the surging COVID-19 pandemic and economic hardship. In Wilmington, Delaware, on Sunday, Biden ignored a shouted question asking him how disruptive the Senate trial of another Trump impeachment would be to his agenda.

The House, led by Democrats, impeached Trump in December 2019 after an inquiry triggered by a whistleblower complaint that raised concerns about the White House's interactions with Ukraine. The Republican-led Senate later acquitted the president, allowing him to continue holding office. No U.S. president has ever been removed from office via impeachment by Congress, nor has the House

impeached any president more than once.

A big crowd of Trump's supporters overwhelmed police and violently breached the Capitol on Jan. 6 when Congress was certifying Biden's victory in the 2020 White House race. The chaos and violence forced a lockdown on the Capitol grounds and left five people dead, including a police officer, and dozens of others injured.

Trump addressed a rally outside the White House shortly before the deadly violence unfolded on Capitol Hill, urging his supporters to march toward the landmark to encourage Republican lawmakers to contest the Electoral College results, as he had refused to acknowledge their legitimacy with unsubstantiated claims of voter fraud. Trump is facing a strong storm of bipartisan criticism amid growing bipartisan calls for him to resign or to be removed from office immediately in the wake of the Capitol siege.

U.S. Senator Pat Toomey, a Pennsylvania Republican set to retire in 2022, told CNN on Sunday that he believes the sitting commander-in-chief should resign. "I think at this point, with just a few days left, it's the best path forward, the best way to get this person in the rearview mirror for us that could happen immediately," Toomey said. "I'm not optimistic it will. But I think that would be the best way forward."

There are reportedly no plans for Trump to step down before Jan. 20, when his term ends and Biden is sworn in as the next president of the United States. According to a poll conducted by Ipsos in partnership with ABC News, 56 percent of Americans think Trump should be removed from office before the official transfer of power, while 43 percent say he should not. The issue split them along partisan lines, with 94 percent of Democrats and only 13 percent of Republicans supporting the move.

Trump will travel to Alamo, Texas, on Tuesday to "mark the completion of more than 400 miles" of U.S.-Mexico border wall, a signature of his immigration policy and a source of partisan tussle that contributed to the longest federal government shutdown in the history from late 2018 to early 2019.

On Jan. 7, the U.S. Congress affirmed the 2020 Electoral College votes, in which Biden won 306 versus 232 for Trump. It takes at least 270 electoral votes to win the White House. Biden also won the popular votes by 7 million and more than 4 percentage points. After the congressional certification of Biden's victory, Trump acknowledged defeat and promised to ensure "a smooth, orderly and seamless transition of power," while condemning the Capitol violence. **Xinhua**

UN chief 'seeks to stay on for second term'

BY BLOOMBERG

UNITED Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told the five permanent members of the Security Council on Sunday that he would like to stay on for a second term, according to two diplomats familiar with the matter.

Guterres (pictured), a former Portuguese prime minister, is likely to officially inform the president of the UN General Assembly soon, the diplomats said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the decision wasn't yet made public.

Guterres, 71, assumed office in January 2017 for a five-year term that finishes at the end of this year. Diplomats say Guterres,

who managed to avoid Donald Trump's wrath largely by refraining from criticizing the US president in public, was waiting for the results of the November election before coming to a decision.

A spokesman for Guterres didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Under Trump, the US has repeatedly clashed with the UN and its organizations, quitting the World Health Organization and angering Security Council members with its effort to kill what remains of the multinational Iran nuclear accord. President-elect Joe Biden has pledged to reverse the go-it-alone approach by returning to the WHO, seeking to repair the



Iran deal and rejoining the Paris climate accord.

Guterres has made climate change his signature issue, pushing countries to up their commitments to reduce carbon emissions. Biden's administra-

tion has signaled that climate will be a top priority and his pick for UN ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, is a seasoned diplomat with experience on four continents.

Transparency

Most recent UN chiefs have served out two terms, and diplomats expected the so-called P5 - Russia, the US, the UK, China and France - to support his re-election bid.

The selection process for a UN chief has been called opaque, though the 2016 election was the first one to be made more open. Critics have also called on the UN to finally name its first woman chief.

Writing on behalf of a group of 25 countries, Costa Rica and Denmark in December called on the UN to ensure that the "upcoming selection process" meets the "minimum standards of transparency." **Agencies**

Russian Health Ministry greenlights research of 'Sputnik Light' COVID-19 vaccine

MOSCOW

THE Russian Health Ministry has given the approval to the Gamaleya Federal Research Center for Epidemiology and Microbiology for the clinical trials of a "light vaccine" against COVID-19, dubbed "Sputnik Light," the website of the state register containing research approv-

als of the Russian Health Ministry informed yesterday.

"The goal of the clinical trials is to evaluate safety, tolerance and immunogenicity of the Sputnik Light vaccine concerning the prevention of the coronavirus infection caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The trials began on January 8, 2021, and they will end on December 31, 2021," the

register informs.

It is noted that 150 volunteers would take part in the trials.

The trials will be held at three medical organizations: the Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the Eco-Safety Research Center and the Smorodintsev Research

Institute of Influenza.

Russian President Vladimir Putin informed that there is a "light version" of the Russian COVID-19 vaccine earlier. He noted that this vaccine will have a shorter effect, but there will be an opportunity to vaccinate a larger amount of people.

Head of the Gamaleya Research Center Alexander Gin-

zburg said that the "light vaccine" forms immunity within three weeks, which will last for about 3-4 months.

The main goal of using such a vaccine is to decrease the number of COVID-19 deaths in the countries with a very high death toll.

Meanwhile, Russia will use traditional vaccination with two components. **Xinhua**

UK concerned about spread of COVID-19 in supermarkets

LONDON

BRITAIN is concerned about the spread of COVID-19 in supermarkets and particularly people breaching rules by not wearing masks while shopping in them, Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment Nadhim Zahawi said yesterday.

Britain was expected to open seven large-scale vaccination centres yesterday, helping to accelerate the rollout of COVID-19 shots that the government wants to deliver to all vulnerable people by mid-February.

British Health Secretary Matt Hancock (pictured) on Sunday warned that flexing the COVID-19 lockdown rules "could be fatal", urging the general public to stay at home amid surging coronavirus infections.

Another 54,940 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 3,072,349, according to official figures released Sunday.

Another 563 have died within 28 days of a positive test, bringing the total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain to 81,431, the data showed.

The latest figures were revealed one day after Britain surpassed the grim milestones of 3,000,000 cases and 80,000 deaths on Saturday.

Britain's ambulance service is reportedly facing "unprecedented pressure" as it continues to struggle with the increasing demand due to the new variant of coronavirus, which is said to be up to 70 percent more infectious. **Agencies**

Cuba to collaborate with Iran on coronavirus vaccine

HAVANA

COMMUNIST-RUN Cuba said it had signed an accord with Iran to transfer the technology for its most advanced coronavirus vaccine candidate and carry out last-stage clinical trials of the shot in the Islamic Republic.

The allies are both under fierce US sanctions that exempt medicine yet often put foreign pharmaceutical companies off trading with them and as such they seek to be self-reliant. Both are also strapped for cash.

Iran launched human trials of its first domestic COVID-19 vaccine candidate late last month, while Cuba has four candidates currently in human trials.

Once its most advanced candidate, Soberana (Sovereign) 2, has completed Phase II trials which started on Dec 22, it will be tested in Phase III trials in around 150,000 people in Havana, officials have said.

Yet the Caribbean country will need to conduct more late stage trials abroad too given it does not have a high infection rate due to its successful management of its outbreak, they said. Iran, meanwhile, has been the worst-hit country in the Middle East.

Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute said late on Friday it has signed an accord with Iran's Pasteur Institute to collaborate on testing of Soberana 2.

Cuba says several countries have expressed interest in its coronavirus vaccines but this is the first such accord it has reached.

Cuba reported 365 new cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, the highest daily number since the disease first appeared in the country in March, according to the Ministry of Public Health.

So far, Cuba has registered 14,188 cases of COVID-19, with 148 deaths. **Agencies**

Machar urges implementation of cooperation deal with Sudan

JUBA

SOUTH Sudan's First Vice President Riek Machar on Sunday urged full implementation of the 2012 cooperation agreement signed with Sudan in order to boost trade and allow free movement of people between the two countries.

Machar (pictured) disclosed that the agreement signed in September 2012 grants South Sudanese and Sudanese the right to own property, free movement, residence and employment in both countries.

"We want the four freedoms agreed upon with Sudan in 2012 to be revitalized, the agreement on four freedoms are the freedom of residence, freedom of movement, freedom of employment, freedom of ownership and acquisition of property," Machar said during the opening ceremony of the Sudan-South Sudan trade expo in Juba.

The week-long trade expo will run until Jan. 15. The cooperation agreement signed during the administration of former Sudanese president Omar Al Bashir in Addis Ababa also includes oil fees, security and border demarcation. **Xinhua**

Village in central China develops ecotourism, lifts residents out of poverty

BY taking advantage of its natural environment and developing ecotourism, Yunding village in central China's Hunan province, has lifted local residents out of poverty.

The village, located in Liye town under Longshan county, Hunan, was once hindered by its natural conditions.

Covering an area of 7.33 square kilometers, Yunding is inhabited by merely 818 residents in six natural villages. Each household in the village has an average land of tens of mu (one mu equals about 666.67 square meters), and few families could farm all their land.

However, Yunding village, located in the Bamian Mountain, naturally lags behind in developing agriculture because of the mountain rocks and infertile land. Less than four

months per year are agriculture-friendly and for almost half a year, the village on the tablelands is either cloudy, foggy, or rainy and snowy, which resulted in the lack of sunlight and low crop yields.

In 2012, Zhang Xiaquan, a resident in Yunding village who used to work in the cities, returned to his hometown to seek a livelihood. He contracted a hilltop to take up farming, but didn't reach many results.

With an unyielding will, the 44-year-old villager, has grown corn, sweet potatoes and tobacco leaves. However, the man found that he lost half of his capital considering years of both good and bad harvests and was deeply disheartened.

Things began to change in early 2018,

when Zhang Xiangyang, first secretary in charge of poverty alleviation in Yunding, identified the crux of the problem.

"Nestled among the towering mountains, Yunding boasts a beautiful sea of clouds and twinkling stars on clear nights, making it an ideal place to develop ecotourism," the official said, adding that simply developing agriculture is never the right way for Yunding.

With the help of the official, Zhang Xiaquan established an eco-friendly agricultural cooperative, and handpicked and turned a piece of land of 400 square meters near a cliff into grassland for tourists to sightsee and camp.

Zhang has also developed catering business near the grassland, which can bring in

some 1,000 yuan (\$153) a day. In fine weather, tourists will also rent tents for camping at night, generating an income of several hundred yuan.

"The business reaches its peak in August, and sometimes 20 tents won't be enough for one night," he said.

Another villager Peng Shirong has opened a B&B and is busy renovating his attic as the original rooms cannot meet the popular demand.

Peng estimated that he needed to invest about 40,000 to 50,000 yuan to decorate the attic. The man told the People's Daily that what he is worried about is how to improve service quality rather than room reservation, as tourists now flock to the village.

In Yunding village, tourists can take a bird's-eye view of the ancient Liye town at foot of the Bamian Mountain. However, few tourists were seen in the village in the past as the one-way trip to the village would take one or two hours due to rugged roads, according to Peng, who has been living in the village for several decades, adding that he could only see local residents move out of this mountain area.

To solve such problem, Zhang Xiangyang first invited experts to explore ways to make better use of local ecological resources. The official also helped arrange charity performances such as traditional Chinese musical instruments Guqin and Guzheng on the peak of the Bamian Mountain. **People's Daily**

COVID-19 pandemic alarming as global cases surpass 90 million, new variant spread

BEIJING

THE raging COVID-19 pandemic shows no sign of abating as confirmed cases worldwide have exceeded 90 million and a new variant genome has been detected in Japan.

The global case count reached 90,045,410, with a total of 1,931,571 deaths worldwide as of 3:22 p.m. local time (2022 GMT), according to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University.

The United States has been the hardest-hit country worldwide both in terms of infections and fatalities with 22,293,281 cases and 373,588 deaths, accounting for 24 percent and over 19 percent of the global total respectively, followed by India with 10,450,284 cases, and Brazil with 8,075,998 cases but with the world's second largest death toll of 202,631.

Countries with more than 2 million cases also include Russia, Britain, France, Turkey, Italy and Spain, while other countries with over 50,000 deaths include India, Mexico, Britain, Italy, France, Russia, Iran and Spain, according to the CSSE tally.

Global cases hit 60 million on Nov. 25, surpassed 70 million on Dec. 11 and hit 80 million on Dec. 26. It took 16 days to climb from 60 million to 70

million, 15 days from 70 million to 80 million, and 15 days from 80 million to 90 million.

Japan's health ministry said on Sunday that four passengers who arrived at Tokyo's Haneda airport from Brazil earlier this month had been infected with a new variant of COVID-19.

The ministry said the four people, who arrived at Haneda airport on Jan. 2 from Amazonas, Brazil, tested positive after the airport quarantine.

Among them, a man in his 40s had been hospitalized due to breathing difficulty and a woman in her 30s had symptoms of throat pain and headaches, said the ministry.

A male teenager had developed a fever while a female teenager had shown no symptoms.

Japan's National Institute of Infectious Diseases said there was no evidence so far that the new mutant strain was highly infectious though the variant showed some similarities to those reported in Britain and South Africa.

Besides, the variants earlier found in Britain and South Africa have spread to many countries during the past 24 hours.

As of Sunday, France confirmed 47 cases of the new COVID-19 variant detected in Britain after seven people were diagnosed with the mutated vi-



A senior woman hugs and chats with her relative through a "safe hug curtain" at a nursing home in Brasilia, Brazil, Jan. 6, 2021. (Xinhua)

rus in Marseille, the country's second largest city, local authorities said.

Also on Sunday, Iran's Minister of Health and Medical Education Saeed Namaki confirmed four people infected with the new variant of the virus have been detected and placed under quarantine. The new variants have also been spreading to India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Vietnam, among other nations.

To contain the spread of COVID-19, various countries are launching their immunization programmes.

Iran will start vaccinating those vulnerable against COVID-19 in the next two months, said Alireza Raisi, spokesman for the Iranian National Headquarters for Combating the Coronavirus. Around 1.3 million people, including health staff and elderly people in nursing

homes, will be inoculated at the first stage of the plan, Raisi added.

Israel has started vaccination for all teachers and other educational workers, the Ministry of Education said Sunday. In the first phase, vaccination will go to the teachers who work as usual during the ongoing full lockdown in the country. Jordan will start a nationwide immunization campaign from Jan. 13, Health Minister Nathir Obeidat said Sunday. **Xinhua**



Flawed exceptionalism: Lavrov slams West's contempt for other nations' bona fide interests

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has taken Western countries to task over their unwillingness to ditch their confrontational stances and contemptuous arrogance towards the legitimate interests of other nations.

"The West's unwillingness to abandon confrontational bloc approaches, and its arrogant attitude towards the legitimate interests of other nations, stemming from the feeling of their own 'exceptionalism' remains a stumbling block," the top diplomat said in a video address to the OSCE Ministerial Council on Thursday.

"A policy to replace international law with a certain order based on guidelines, leads to an increasingly rigid and unfair game without rules and with an abundance of fake news and double standards.

The less any real facts are behind the orchestrated media campaigns the ever more aggressive they become," Lavrov pointed out.

The coronavirus pandemic came as an additional factor of disruption and anxiety in global relations.

Meanwhile, the global crisis has "clearly demonstrated the need to jointly hammer out systemic solutions to common challenges, and act against threats that are real, and not far-fetched," Lavrov stressed. **Agencies**

Washington mayor asks for increased security around Biden's inauguration

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON'S mayor has asked for increased security around the inauguration of U.S. President-elect Joe Biden after last week's storming of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Describing last week's assault as an "unprecedented terrorist attack", Mayor Muriel Bowser said that Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20 will require a "different approach" compared to past inaugurations.

"While I will be reaching out

to a broad range of local, regional and federal partners to enhance cooperation among our bodies, I strongly urge the United States Department of Homeland Security to adjust its approach to the Inauguration in several specific ways", Bowser wrote in a letter to

Chad Wolf, the acting secretary of the department.

The letter was dated Saturday and made available on Sunday.

The storming of the Capitol building last week by Trump supporters delayed the certification of Biden's

election victory.

Trump, who has without evidence challenged the validity of Biden's election win, initially praised his supporters but later condemned the violence.

Lawmakers were forced to flee, as the building was

mobbed by the president's

supporters who overwhelmed security forces. Five people died in the violence including one Capitol Police officer who was beaten as he tried to ward off the crowds. **Agencies**

Small community canteens in China bring great benefits to residents

Many communities in China have set up canteens for residents in recent years. Small as they are, these canteens offering affordable meals have become a convenience for residents living nearby.

Zhao Meng, a white-collar worker in Longhua district, Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province, has lunch in a community canteen near the office building he works in almost every day.

"It's cheap and convenient, and I can have time to take a nap in my office after lunch," Zhao said.

A chicken and water spinach combo platter in the canteen for only 10 yuan (\$1.53).

Community canteens differ from normal restaurants in service scenarios and operational logic, and aim to provide quality food at competitive prices, said Shangguan Xiayu, manager of the community canteen where Zhao frequently goes.

Just like ordering takeout food, community canteens could save residents from the chore of cooking. They could also give customers a public space to socialize with others, something missing in ordering takeouts.

"In community canteens, people can have meals and chat with neighbors, acquaintances in the neighborhood, as well as their colleagues and friends, which brings back memories of the past when



A community canteen in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu province, offers customers a variety of dishes at relatively low prices, greatly benefiting residents, especially senior residents. (File photo)

neighbors often gathered and ate together in a yard," said a retired professor surnamed Wang. As a frequenter of community canteens himself, Wang not only meets old friends in the canteens, but has got new friends there.

As community canteens satisfy the dining needs of a considerable amount of residents, they have emerged as an important dining mode and been introduced to more and more neighborhoods.

This year, cities in China have formulated plans to renovate 39,000 old residential communities, many of which have listed building community canteens as a must for the renovation.

A survey conducted on over 2,000 residents in Jinsong North Community in Chaoyang district, Beijing, showed

that the respondents considered setting up community canteens and dealing with residents' need for more convenient food as the third most important issue among their dozens of requirements, said Chen Bo, secretary of Party committee of the community.

According to Chen, 40 percent of the residents of Jinsong North Community are above the age of 60. Some of them need to take care of their grandchildren and have no time or strength to cook.

For the elderly who live alone, cooking is not only troublesome, but could also be dangerous. Chen added that 37 percent of the residents are young people, who usually don't have time to cook either, due to the pressure of work and the fast pace of life. **People's Daily**

Community canteens are indeed a good choice for cheap and quality meals, he concluded.

Many residents believe that such canteens have also vitalized communities. Elderly residents are more willing to walk out of the door, thanks to the canteens.

Meanwhile, community canteens have helped cut the living expenses for residents and enabled family members to have more time to better communicate with each other.

As community canteens aim to provide quality food at relatively low prices, they tend not to break even on their own in the early days of their operation, which makes it necessary to seek support from government departments, communities and enterprises.

Many cities have rolled out policies to provide financial support for community canteens, such as operation subsidies and rent reduction or exemption.

Some cities have allowed canteen operators to use public space in communities for free to ease their burden.

While operations are brought on track and gaining increasing popularity, many community canteens have gradually made small profits and realized sustainable business models based on sound commercial logic of their own. **People's Daily**

New Year trip shows China attaches great importance to Africa - Chinese FM

BEIJING

THE fact that Chinese foreign ministers chose Africa for their first visit every year shows that China attaches great importance to Africa, said Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

China has a good diplomatic tradition starting from 1991 that foreign ministers have come to Africa for the first visit every year, Wang said in an interview with the People's Daily as he concluded on Saturday his trips to five African nations, namely Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Botswana, Tanzania, and Seychelles.

Such a concrete action also embodies the traditional friendship between China and Africa and China's firm support for Africa's development and revitalization, Wang said, adding that it also illustrates an important diplomatic principle that China always stands together with developing countries.

Noting that this tradition has been held for the past 30 years, Wang said it should not be interrupted by the COVID-19 pan-

demical this year and China will not flinch. African countries are also looking forward to the arrival of their Chinese friends, he added.

The two sides need to overcome difficulties, promote cooperation and seek a better future together through face-to-face communication, Wang said.

Wang said he held meetings respectively with leaders and foreign ministers from the five African countries, during which they have reached broad consensus on implementing the important consensus reached by Chinese and African leaders, carrying forward the traditional friendship between the two sides and enhancing political mutual trust.

The Chinese diplomat said they also reached consensus on joint fight against the pandemic, speeding up the resumption of major cooperation projects, pushing forward the joint building of the Belt and Road, and strengthening coordination on global and regional affairs.

A series of agreements were also signed during the meetings, which have deepened bilateral friendship, enhanced mutual trust, promoted cooperation and accumulated consensus, he said. **Xinhua**

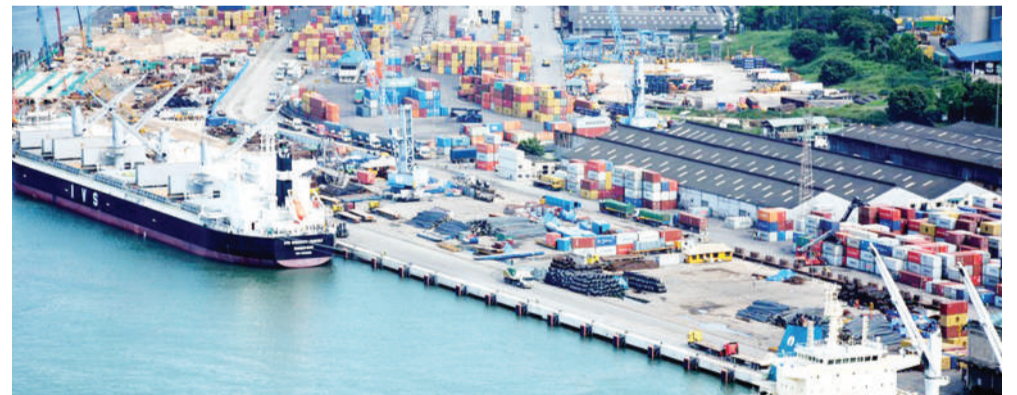


Photo taken on April 9, 2020 shows the Dar es Salaam Port undergoing upgrading of port berths 1 to 7 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. (Xinhua)

US plans to designate Yemen's Houthi movement as foreign terrorist group

RIYADH/WASHINGTON

THE United States plans to designate Yemen's Houthi movement as a foreign terrorist organization, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, a move that diplomats and aid groups worry could threaten peace talks and complicate efforts to combat the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

The decision to blacklist the Iran-aligned group, first reported by Reuters hours earlier, comes as the administration of President-elect Joe Biden prepares to take over from the Trump administration on Jan. 20.

A Houthi leader said in a Twitter post that the movement, which has been battling a Saudi-led coalition in Yemen since 2015, reserved the right

to respond to any designation.

"The Department of State will notify Congress of my intent to designate Ansar Allah, sometimes referred to as the Houthis, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization," Pompeo said in a statement late on Sunday.

"I also intend to designate three of Ansar Allah's leaders, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, Abd al-Khaliq Badr al-Din al-Houthi, and Abdullah Yahya al-Hakim, as Specially Designated Global Terrorists", he said. The Trump administration has been piling on sanctions related to Iran in recent weeks, prompting some

Biden allies and outside analysts to conclude that Trump aides are seeking to make it harder for the incoming administration to re-engage with Iran and rejoin an international nuclear agreement.

"The policy of the Trump administration and its behaviour is terrorist," the Houthi official Mohammed Ali al-Houthi tweeted. "We reserve the right to respond to any designation issued by the Trump administration or any administration."

In Tehran, when asked about the U.S. move, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told a weekly news conference: "It

is likely that the bankrupt U.S. government might try to further tarnish the United States' image in its remaining days and poison the American heritage."

Aid groups and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had warned against a possible designation, saying Yemen was in imminent danger of the worst famine the world has seen for decades.

Pompeo said the United States planned to put in place measures to reduce the impact of the step on humanitarian activity and imports into Yemen, where 80% of the population needs

help.

The foreign ministry of Yemen's Saudi-backed government, which the Houthis ousted from power in the capital, Sanaa, in late 2014, supported the designation and called for further "political and legal pressure" on the Houthis.

Saudi Arabia, which has been attacked by cross-border Houthi missiles and drones, has yet to comment.

U.N. officials are trying to revive peace talks to end the war as the country's suffering is also worsened by an economic and currency collapse and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oxfam America's humanitarian policy lead Scott Paul, describing the U.S. move as "counter-productive and dangerous", urged President-elect Joe Biden to revoke the designation immediately upon taking office.

The Norwegian Refugee Council called for "unambiguous safeguards and guarantees" to ensure sanctions did not prevent food, fuel and medicines from being delivered across a country "in the middle of a full-blown humanitarian catastrophe".

"We call on ... Biden to act upon taking office to ensure Yemeni civilians can still re-

ceive life-saving aid," it said.

Pompeo said that with the implementation of these designations on Jan. 19, the U.S. Treasury Department would provide licences that would apply to some humanitarian activities conducted by non-governmental organizations in Yemen and to certain transactions related to critical commodities exports such as food and medicine.

The Treasury Department has previously issued such special licences to humanitarian groups for heavily sanctioned countries, but international relief officials have said such measures often failed to unblock aid flows as banks and insurance firms worry about running afoul of sanctions. **Agencies**



Sven Vandenbroeck

All is well that ends well: Why it rightly summarises Sven Vandenbroeck's legacy

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

DAR ES SALAAM soccer fans and media pundits were awash with guesswork on the reasons and, more significantly, the circumstances of the departure of the amiable Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck, with plenty of disputation on how he actually left.

The point of departure of this confusion was the club itself, as it appeared to say he just decided on his own to leave, and the coach saw no use of igniting a war of words on the issue, as it was the case when Yanga lost their head coach not so long ago.

But here the club had plenty to say on why they had to sack him for racist comments, but he said he was leaving.

As could easily be expected, Yanga fans have been trying to milk by the ton this departure, explaining it as due to Simba methods and some unclear drawbacks at the level of club organization - that is, those which would be lacking in a more organized clubhouse, assuming Jangwani Street club provides an example.

The reality however is that the two situations are quite similar, even if the specific incidents are fairly different or detached from one another, since the problem comes down to the same thing, a perceived lack of professionalism in how the coach relates to fans and officials. It is due to this that Sven seemingly fled.

There is at least one rational circumstance that is possible amidst all sorts of accusations - assuming that the coach knew more or less correctly what sort of football culture to expect in Tanzania or other African country he might decide to pick a job.

The complaints are quite similar and Tanzania might not be much worse compared to other areas, for instance the fans being part of the technical bench and noisily laying out judgment for players and coach, and then club officials being unavoidable advisers to the head coach.

In this aspect however, Simba seem to have a specific problem in the ambitions of the deputy head coach.

It is not that he issued a statement to say anything of the sort but rather on account of fans who express their confidence in his ability to lead the team even as the premier league champions prepare for a fairly difficult CAF Champions League group stage.

Evidently one needs a top most coach to take the side to such a tournament, as without the best possible advice it is not easy to see how a novice makes head and tail on how to tackle Al Ahly differently from El Merreikh, where to use more energy and where

to focus more on defence, see the long term (90 minutes) problem as different from the short term error, etc.

Such fans wish that the club trust the deputy head coach, and some in TFF etc will say he has experience, etc.

It is entirely possible Sven might have noticed some of that, and if it is audible to those who listen to phone-in radio programs, it is hard to see how it could not have been fairly noticeable for the head coach, for instance if there was plenty of insistence on the part of his assistant in terms of tactics and even more so, on the line up, and then there is commotion in the clubhouse that the coach 'was not paying attention' to other views at the technical bench.

It becomes a problem of loyalty as the role of an assistance is to clear jobs or assignments he is assigned by the head coach, not to act as ombudsman for certain players.

There are other areas of complaints which are culturally ingrained, and it was laughable for Yanga fans to come out throwing jibes, for instance a cat entering the playing ground, but it would definitely be totally offensive to a well meaning coach, and tolerable to local team

It is unclear if this had any role in the departure of the coach as he did not band the door like Luc Eymael and even Zlatko Krmpotic whose sole error or discomfort with the club leadership was to admit the unlikelihood of winning the derby.

There were clear psychological tensions with Eymael, substantial disagreements with Krmpotic as to where the team stands and can achieve in the coming weeks or days; not much dispute with Vandebroek.

That is why explanations about his getting greener pastures, in the reported call up by FAR Rabat makes plenty of sense, especially as taking Simba back to the group stage of the CAF Champions League was both the height of his short coaching engagement in the club, as well as the best moment for another club too decide he is the right person.

Returning the club side to the lucrative group stage of the tournament is an accolade that many clubs around the continent would wish to be assured, and if they can figure out that Sven Vandenbroeck attained this feat singlehandedly, not by ulterior factors (having ordinary international players from within the region, rather severe limitations of foreign registration by wider standards) they would easily be pushed to sign.

They have other urgencies at hand, like the league, or continental dreams.

A legend sadly passes away

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

TODAY, we must begin soberly and on a decidedly bleak note.

Sports enthusiasts and avid sports devotees are forlornly and sorrowfully mourning the tragic demise of Anna Bayi, who was an enormously cherished and immensely esteemed sports administrator on the domestic sports patch.

The wife of the bonafide domestic sporting colossus, Filbert Bayi, who, of course, absolutely merits no introduction, Anna Bayi passed away quite recently after unsuccessfully battling an illness.

Despite the glorious and storied accomplishments of her husband, Anna Bayi painstakingly carved out a niche for herself in her own right as a constantly forward-looking and eminently capable sports administrator, especially in the entertaining sport of netball which was very dear to her heart.

A former chairperson of Chaneta, the governing body of national netball, Anna stunningly



Anna Bayi

spearheaded the steady ascent of Tanzanian netball from its erstwhile lowly reaches to international relevance and prominence.

In fact, it was during her transformational and inspirational tenure as Chaneta chairperson that Tanzania was welcomed back into the no-holds-barred arena of ferociously contested international netball and even more critically, that our national netball team, the Taifa Queens, literally took the whole world by storm by leaping from obscurity to a

laudable 10th position on the International Netball Federation (INF)'s world rankings.

Indeed, at the time, the feat was viewed quite justly as a breathtakingly staggering accomplishment.

However, it would be a costly mistake to assume that Anna Bayi's 'magic wand' only transformed and impacted domestic netball in a unique and special manner.

Indeed, according to the Athletics Tanzania (AT) Secretary General, Ombeni Zavalla, Anna's Midas Touch as a hands-

on administrator also contributed to the advancement of other sports like athletics and football in various respects.

Frankly speaking, it is a bitterly cruel and unjust way for us to begin this New Year by losing one of the leading lights of the domestic sporting fraternity, which, naturally, has been plunged into unrestrained mourning.

As a bard would attempt to put it, a dizzily bright light has been extinguished from the firmament of

national sports.

Fare thee well Anna Bayi, our beloved and treasured sporting heroine. We entrust you now into the mercy and care of the saints, angels and other heavenly creatures where perfect peace so blissfully resides.

On a happier note, I have often pondered and wondered why domestic martial arts-cum-sports like Karate, Judo, et al have never quite received the hefty levels of sponsorship that they merit.

Indeed, for numberless years now, it has always disappointingly been the case that other sports such as football, of course, and basketball among a distinctly few others have perennially been boosted by massive chunks of funds instead of Karate and Judo as well as other martial arts-cum-sports.

So, today, I would like to issue a hopefully rallying call for would-be sponsors and interested affluent corporate firms to plough more funds into domestic martial arts-cum-sports.

Indeed, it is my expectation that were they to do so, they would not be disappointed in the slightest.



In this Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, file photo, golfers play golf at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J. The PGA of America voted Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, to not play the 2022 PGA Championship at the club because of the Trump-fueled insurrection at the Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6. (AP Photo)

PGA Championship leaving Trump National in '22 tournament

KAPALUA, Hawaii

THE PGA of America cut ties to President Donald Trump when it voted Sunday to take the PGA Championship event away from his New Jersey golf course next year.

The vote comes four days after the Trump-fueled riot at the nation's Capitol as Congress was certifying the election victory of President-elect Joe Biden. This is the second time in just over five years the PGA of America removed one of its events from a Trump course.

PGA President Jim Richerson says the board voted to exercise its right to "terminate the agreement" with Trump National in Bedminster, New Jersey.

"We find ourselves in a political situation not of our making," Seth Waugh, the CEO of the PGA of America, said in a telephone interview. "We're fiduciaries for our members, for the game, for our mission and for our brand. And how do we best protect that? Our feeling was given the tragic events of Wednesday that we could no longer hold it at Bedminster. The dam-

age could have been irreparable. The only real course of action was to leave."

The PGA of America, which has some 29,000 golf professionals who mostly teach the game, signed the deal with Trump National in 2014.

It canceled the PGA Grand Slam of Golf in 2015 at Trump National Los Angeles Golf Club after Trump's disparaging remarks about Mexican immigrants when he announced he was seeking the Republican nomination for president. The event was canceled for good the following spring.

The shocking insurrection Wednesday rattled the country, and in golf circles, attention quickly focused on whether the PGA of America would keep its premier championship - and one of golf's four major championships - at Trump's course in 2022.

"Our decision wasn't about speed and timing," Waugh said. "What matters most to our board and leadership is protecting our brand and reputation, and the ability for our members to lead the growth of the game, which they do

through so many powerful programs in their communities."

The Trump Organization said in a statement it has "a beautiful partnership with the PGA of America and are incredibly disappointed with their decision."

"This is a breach of a binding contract and they have no right to terminate the agreement," the statement said. "As an organization we have invested many, many millions of dollars in the 2022 PGA Championship at Trump National Golf Club, Bedminster. We will continue to promote the game of golf on every level and remain focused on operating the finest golf courses anywhere in the world."

Waugh declined to say whether the PGA of America expected any legal challenges from the Trump Organization.

Trump had delivered a speech to his supporters in which he repeatedly made baseless claims that the election was stolen from him and urged them to "fight."

They stormed the U.S. Capitol as lawmakers were in the process of certifying President-elect Joe Biden's victory.

After forcing their way inside, the violent crowd ransacked the building and sent terrified staff and lawmakers into hiding. Five people, including a Capitol police officer, died.

A new ABC News/Ipsos poll released Sunday found that 67% of respondents said Trump deserves a "good amount" or a "great deal" of blame for the insurrection.

"This is not because of any pressures we feel. We're not being forced into a decision," Waugh said. "We had to make a business decision. It's a perpetual institution. My job is to hand it off better than when I found it. One hundred years from now, we still want to be vibrant."

The PGA of America, which operates separately from the PGA Tour and its week-to-week tournaments, previously held the Senior PGA Championship at Trump's course outside Washington in 2017. That was the same year the USGA staged the U.S. Women's Open at Trump National in Bedminster.

Trump also owns Turnberry in Scotland, one of the most pictur-

esque links in the British Open rotation most famous for the "Duel in Sun" between Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus in 1977, and most recently Stewart Cink beating a 59-year-old Watson in 2009. The R&A, which determines the British Open rotation, has not returned to Turnberry since Trump took over.

He also owns Trump Doral outside Miami, for years a venerable stop on the PGA Tour schedule and most recently a World Golf Championship site. Trump's presence made it difficult to find a corporate sponsor, and the tournament moved to Mexico in 2017.

Waugh said the PGA of America already had a team in place in New Jersey to start work on selling the events to the public and local sponsorship. Now it's about finding a place to play the PGA Championship, which dates to 1916, for next year.

The PGA is at Kiawah Island in South Carolina in May.

"We've had a number of places reach out already," Waugh said. "We think we'll have a bunch of options."

Osimhen has learned a hard lesson after ill-advised Nigeria trip

ROME

THE reckless actions which led to Napoli striker Victor Osimhen testing positive for COVID-19 after a trip to Nigeria will serve as a steep learning curve.

And that lesson, as many sportspeople have discovered in the past few months, is that attending a party, especially sans mask, during a pandemic is likely to end up on video and get you into trouble.

Osimhen was moved to offer a very strong apology to the club and his fans last week for testing positive for coronavirus after a visit to Nigeria over the festive season.

A video subsequently emerged showing him at what appeared to be a party, spraying money on attendees. It was not a good look for the forward, and the club were reportedly looking at fining him for the breach.

Osimhen's international coach Gernot Rohr, and close adviser Osita Okolo, told ESPN that what happened was a genuine error which the player deeply regrets.

"You know Victor, he is young, he is very humble," Rohr told ESPN.

"This was for him a mistake, but he will learn and he will be strong after."

Okolo said it was all an unfortunate series of circumstances: "He had no plans to attend a party and did not go out of his way to do so.

"He was actually home sleeping when some members of his family decided to throw a surprise party for him.

"They woke him up and got him to come downstairs and out of respect for everyone, he came down, but he spent less than 10 minutes before going back to his room.

"It is just unfortunate that things turned out the way they did because all he wanted to do was come home and spend time with his family and then go back and do his best for his club."

Osimhen himself was quick to issue an apology: "I am so sorry for what happened, I was wrong to go to Nigeria in this moment, even if I have many loved ones over there, including my brothers.

"I was wrong to take part in the party. I didn't understand the severity of what I was doing. I apologise to the club, the coach, the team and the fans."

He also enjoyed the support of his manager Genaro Gattuso, who told the club website: "He knows he's made a mistake and he's apologised."

Rohr says Gattuso's handling of the situation is a reflection of both the player's previous spotless behaviour the respect that the coach has for his record signing.

He said: "When you have a good player, who is very humble and he makes a mistake, you try to help him. Also the coach respects him, that is why he will speak to him to help him."

It is the first big misstep in the career of the young Nigerian, who has enjoyed a largely trouble-free career since emerging as a star with Nigeria at the under 17 World Cup in 2015.

His goalscoring and potential so impressed Rohr when he took over as Nigeria coach in 2016 that he immediately called the youngster up for the Nigeria men's senior team and kept him on the squad even during his lean years in Belgium, and before his move to France.

With Odion Ighalo the first choice striker, Osimhen was consigned to watch and learn from the bench.

He got an opportunity during the Africa Cup of Nations in 2019, where Nigeria finished third behind Algeria and Senegal, but came into his own after Ighalo's international retirement at the conclusion of the tournament.

Since taking over as lead striker, Osimhen has become of the more deadly strikers on the continent in Afcon qualifying, where he has scored four goals in four qualifying games.

Osimhen has scored two goals in six Serie A games since joining from French club Lille OSC in mid-2020, and is missing the first four games of the year while in isolation.

He also missed a chunk of action with a shoulder injury picked up on international duty in November.

(Agencies)

Matarazzo at a loss to explain Stuttgart's latest away win

BERLIN

STUTTGART coach Pellegrino Matarazzo said he was unable to explain his side's impressive away form after Sunday's 4-1 win at Augsburg made them the Bundesliga's joint-strongest team on the road.

Alongside Bayer Leverkusen, who have also won five times and lost once away this season, Matarazzo's men have a better record than Bayern Munich, who remain top despite losing 3-2 at Borussia Mönchengladbach on Friday.

"The only difference is that we stay in a hotel," the 43-year-old Italian-American said.

"Perhaps we should consider an overnight stay before our home games too," he quipped.

"The win does us good, to get back on the right path after two games without a point," he added as his outfit picked up their first win since last month's away thrashing of Borussia Dortmund.

Raised in New York to Italian parents, Matarazzo earned a maths degree at Colombia University before moving to Europe, eventually becoming Julian Nagelsmann's assistant coach at Hoffenheim before taking charge of Stuttgart in 2019.

Roma leveller stalls Inter as Juventus close gap in Serie A

MILAN

INTER Milan's title push took a knock on Sunday as a 2-2 draw at rivals Roma allowed AC Milan to finish the weekend with a three-point lead at the top of the Serie A table.

Champions Juventus also benefited from the stalemate, powering up to fourth with a 3-1 win over 10-man Sassuolo.

Inter are three points behind AC Milan, who beat Torino 2-0 on Saturday, with Roma a further three points behind in third.

Juventus are just a point behind Roma after claiming a third consecutive win for the first time this season.

"It was important to give continuity and win tonight, because otherwise the match played on Wednesday at San Siro was useless," said Juventus coach Andrea Pirlo whose side ended AC Milan's 27-match unbeaten run midweek.

In Rome, Inter's stalemate was a blow for Antonio Conte's side whose eight-match winning streak ended against Sampdoria midweek.

Chasing a first Serie A title since 2010, Inter play Juventus in the San Siro next weekend in what could be one of the



Roma defender Gianluca Mancini (Top L) headed in a late equaliser against Inter Milan. (Agencies)

defining clashes of the season.

Lorenzo Pellegrini gave Roma the lead after a quarter of an hour in the Stadio Olimpico.

Inter fought back with Milan Skriniar heading in the equaliser 11 minutes after the break with Achraf Hakimi adding a second seven minutes later with a superb curling effort.

But with the clock ticking, Inter could not resist the Roman pressure with defender Mancini getting his head to a Gonzalo Villar cross four minutes from time.

"At the end of the match, sometimes there is a certain fear in the face of an important result which prompts you to drop off," said Conte.

"We had the chance to kill off the game but couldn't manage it."

Roma could also rue their missed opportunities as they play eighth-placed city rivals Lazio, who beat Parma 2-0, next weekend.

"We had 15-20 minutes in the second half which were fatal," said Roma coach Paulo Fonseca.

- Juve feel the pain - In Turin, it was a bruising

clash for the reigning champions, who are chasing their 10th title in a row, as they lost forward Paulo Dybala and Weston McKennie to injury in the first half.

Midfielder McKennie pulled up after 18 minutes with a muscle problem and was replaced by Welsh international Ramsey.

Dybala was substituted three minutes before the break for a knock to his left knee.

Juve are already without Alex Sandro, Juan Cuadrado and Matthijs de Ligt who tested posi-

tive for coronavirus.

There was also a scare for forward Federico Chiesa, who was left screaming in pain and clutching his left ankle following a Pedro Obiang tackle which saw the Sassuolo midfielder see red before the break.

Defender Danilo put Juventus ahead in the 50th minute.

But seven minutes later Sassuolo pulled level with Gregoire Defrel brilliantly finishing off a Hamed Junior Traore through ball.

Ramsey gave Juventus

the advantage again eight minutes from time when he tapped in a Gianluca Frabotta cross to claim his first goal of the campaign.

Cristiano Ronaldo completed the scoring deep into injury time, rifling in his 15th league goal this term.

"It was a painful match, badly managed after our advantage, but the important thing was winning even if we were a little disorganised," added Pirlo.

Sassuolo drop to seventh after their third loss in five games.

Napoli bounced back from their shock midweek home to defeat to Spezia with a last-gasp 2-1 win at Udinese to sit sixth.

Napoli captain Lorenzo Insigne converted a penalty in the 15th minute following Kevin Bonifazi's foul on Hirving Lozano.

Kevin Lasagna pulled Udinese level in the 27th minute, with the hosts missing chances to kill off the game before Tiemoué Bakayoko headed in his late winner.

"The team is alive. We suffered, but we managed to recover what we had lost a few days ago," said Napoli coach Gennaro Gattuso.

AFP

Spurs show no mercy to 8th-tier Marine, Crawley stuns Leeds

LONDON

THE biggest mismatch in the FA Cup's 150-year history delivered a predictably one-sided result as Tottenham showed no mercy to an eighth-tier opponent whose lineup featured a garbage collector and a factory worker.

It was left, then, to Crawley to provide the so-called "giant killing" long associated with the storied competition, with a British reality TV star helping the fourth-tier team complete a stunning 3-0 win over Leeds.

On a classic day in the world's oldest club knockout competition, Tottenham's stars entered the humble surroundings of Rossett Park – a cosy ground located alongside a row of townhouses, from which horn-blowing residents got a free view of the action – and came away with a 5-0 victory over Marine, a team of part-timers 161 places lower in English soccer's pyramid.

A first-half hat trick from Carlos Vinicius, who was filling in as striker for Harry Kane, settled any early nerves among Tottenham's players who dressed for the game in a makeshift locker room that is usually a bar. For the locals watching the game from behind a wall or metal fencing – some with a glass of wine in their hands – there was the treat of internationals like Gareth Bale and Sergio Reguilón coming on as second-half substitutes.

"I'm not English but I know what this means for everyone," Tottenham manager Jose Mourinho said, "so I

brought a good team – not just for the result but also for the meaning of the cup."

So, the dream is over for Marine, though a match broadcast live in 40 territories worldwide will be a huge money-spinner and potential life-changer for a tiny club from England's northwest whose world has been turned upside down amid a pandemic that prevented any fans from attending the biggest game in its history.

For Crawley, however, the road to Wembley Stadium is still very much open, with the unlikely win over Leeds proving a fairy-tale moment for one of its late substitutes, in particular.

Summing up the "magic of the FA Cup" – a phrase often trotted out at the third-round stage of the competition when the country's top teams enter – was the sight of Mark Wright coming on for Crawley in the final minutes for his debut in professional soccer.

The 33-year-old Wright has taken part in reality TV shows "The Only Way Is Essex," "I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!" and "Strictly Come Dancing," and also hosted TV shows in the United States. But he has continued to pursue his dream of becoming a soccer player, and joined Crawley last month on a non-contract basis in a move that has been documented in a BBC program.

For some, Wright's late showing summed up a triumph of perseverance. For others, it simply capped a humiliating day for Leeds and its widely admired Argentine manager, Marcelo Bielsa, whose record in three seasons in the FA



Tottenham's Carlos Vinicius scores passing Marine's goalkeeper Bayleigh Passant during the English FA Cup third round soccer match between Marine and Tottenham Hotspur at Rossett Park stadium in Crosby, Liverpool, Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021. (AP)

Cup reads: played three, lost three.

"He was very complimentary afterward," Crawley manager John Yems said of Bielsa. "but I suppose when you lose 3-0, you can't be anything but."

Among the scorers for Crawley was Nick Tsaroulla, who was released by Tottenham after being involved in a car crash in 2017 that led to him being out of football for a year. After some time at Brentford, Tsaroulla is making his way in the game at Crawley and was in tears after the full-time whistle having

scored his first senior goal.

There was no such fairy tale for fourth-tier Newport County, which scored an equalizer in the sixth minute of stoppage time against top-flight Brighton to take the game to extra time and a penalty shootout – with the final score at 1-1 – only to lose 4-3 on spot kicks.

Chelsea and Manchester City saw off lower-league opposition much more easily, albeit at home.

DROUGHT OVER Timo Werner scored for the first time in 13

games to help Chelsea to a 4-0 win over fourth-tier Morecambe at Stamford Bridge.

Kai Havertz, another Germany international struggling for form, also netted along with Mason Mount and Callum Hudson-Odoi as Chelsea manager Frank Lampard's decision to field a strong team got its reward.

Lampard, who has come under pressure after four losses in the past six matches in the Premier League, was particularly happy for Werner. "He's had a lot of near misses in that time,"

Lampard said of Werner's drought. "He'd been getting into positions to score goals but they hadn't been going in for him. So I was pleased to play him today and for him to get confidence and get a goal."

AGUERO ISOLATING

Sergio Agüero was expected to start for Man City for the first time since October but the striker had to miss the game against Birmingham because he was in isolation after coming into contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

City coped just fine, a powerful lineup featuring Kevin De Bruyne easing to a 3-0 win thanks to two goals by Bernardo Silva and a third by Phil Foden. All the goals came in the first half.

City manager Pep Guardiola was unsure if Agüero would be available to play against Brighton in the league on Wednesday.

On Saturday, sixth-tier Chorley eliminated second-tier Derby and Premier League team West Bromwich Albion was ousted by third-division Blackpool.

AP

Gwiji by David Chikoko

COACH GOES AWAY
"WHEN ONE DOOR IS CLOSED, MANY MORE IS OPEN"
APPLY for the job.



Zanzibar to host East Africa Judo Championships

SPORT

Roma leveller stalls Inter as Juventus close gap in Serie A

PAGE 19



Judo players participate in a recent National Championships which took place in Zanzibar.

"We will meet the government soon so that they financially support us, but we will also seek support from the cooperate world," he said.

Zanzibar are the East and Central Africa Judo Championships' defending champions.

Juma disclosed that a team of 20 judo players from the Isles will enter camp end of this month to prepare for the event.

Judo, which means 'gentle way' in Japanese, is a martial art created in Japan by Jigoro Kano in 1882.

It was derived from the ancient techniques of jiu-jitsu. Men's judo debuted in the Olympics in 1964, and women's judo followed in 1992.

A judo match takes place on a mat with three referees officiating.

With its origins coming from jujutsu, judo's most prominent feature is its competitive element, where the objective is to either throw or take down an opponent to the ground, immobilize or otherwise subdue an opponent with a pin, or force an opponent to submit with a joint lock or a choke.

Strikes and thrusts by hands and feet as well as weapons defences are a part of judo, but only in pre-arranged forms (kata) and are not allowed in judo competition or free practice (randori).

It was also referred to as Kan Jiu-Jitsu until the introduction to the Olympic Games.

A judo practitioner is called a 'judoka', and the judo uniform is called 'judogi'.

"We will have the East and Central Africa Judo Championships in March

here in Zanzibar, all preparations for it are going on well," he said.

He said they expect to get financial support from the Isles government.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchek

adona

ZANZIBAR is set to host this year's East and Central Africa Judo Championships in March.

Mohammed Juma, Zanzibar Judo Association's chairman, said the showpiece will involve all teams from the region.

He said the championships will take place from March 6-7 and teams are expected to start arriving in Zanzibar two days before the event's official opening.

Juma said on March 5, there will be an administration and technical meeting for all competing nations.

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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

PCB's cricket committee to review Misbah-ul-Haq and Waqar Younis' performance

LAHORE

THE PCB's cricket committee will meet on Tuesday to review Pakistan's 2020-21 season, including the team's performance in the recent series against New Zealand. Head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and bowling Waqar Younis will both be briefed on a tour where Pakistan lost the Tests 2-0 and T20Is 2-1.

One of the key agendas in Tuesday's meeting would be to assess the performances of Misbah and Younis, who have both been under scrutiny for the team's poor results lately. Batting coach Younis Khan, however, has been exempted. While the PCB had indicated after the New Zealand tour that there may be a shake-up in the coaching staff, the board's chief executive Wasim Khan only confirmed a "transparent review" was in order.

"Committees will recommend whatever it is, good or bad, and after that Ehsan Mani will assess and take a final decision," Wasim said. "At the moment, we can't speculate and there should be a transparent evaluation of the performance. We will do the review of the whole season, starting from England series. There will be debate and there will be questions, but it doesn't mean there will be definitely some changes.

"Speculations are always there whenever we lose and new names (to replace the present) come up. It is disrespectful to Waqar and Misbah and nothing has changed as yet but their performances will be reviewed."

The committee had been formed in October 2018 to assist PCB chairman Ehsan Mani, but the responsibilities of the panel were limited to just recommendations. Saleem Yousaf, the new head of the committee, is the fourth incumbent in 26 months.

The role of the committee broadly encompasses cricketing affairs, both domestically as well as internationally, but they aren't allowed to interfere in day-to-day selection matters.

While the committee has not been given any decision-making powers, they have been handed a wide remit. The committee meets three times a year; the upcoming meeting is the first of 2021.

Ever since Misbah took charge of the team, the PCB has taken several bold decisions, such as removing Sarfaraz Ahmed as captain and dropping him from all three formats.

Soon after, Azhar Ali was made the Test captain while Babar Azam was chosen to lead the team in the limited-overs formats. However, after the England series last year, Ali was also stripped off the captaincy, with the role handed to Azam.

After another review last October, Misbah stepped down as Pakistan's chief selector, but agreed to continue as head coach till 2022.

When asked why the PCB hands three-year contracts to their coaches if the management is reviewed after every series, Wasim said, "There should be some continuity and security in contracts. We do give contracts in good faith and this cricket committee meeting will not necessarily recommend a change. This is purely a review and assessment of the cricket we have played so far."

The meeting will be chaired by Yousaf, while other members Umar Gul, Urooj Mumtaz and Wasim Akram will join via video. The PCB said the committee's recommendations would be announced in due course.

AGENCIES

Butiama football clubs get timely boost

By Correspondent Sabato Kasika

SOCCER promotion in Mara has gained a timely boost, given the region's Butiama Constituency's Member of Parliament, Jumanne Sagini, has handed over 40 balls to various clubs located in the area's 18 wards.

The donation gears towards seeing to it the wards' teams prepare for a competition which will produce the best four squads that will take part in a district soccer league.

Sagini presented his donation when he visited the wards, noting he is seeking to fulfil the pledges he issued during the general election campaign which took place last year.

The wards include Bisumwa, Buhemba, Bukabwa, Buruma, Busegwe, Buswahili, Butiama, Butuguri and Bwiregi.

Kukirango, Kyanyari, Masaba, Mirwa, Muriaza, Nyamimange, Nyankanga and Sirorisimba are the other wards that got the balls.

He stated playing an active part in soccer promotion in Butiama is one of his pledges, insisting he is sure he will, in cooperation the sport's other stakeholders in the area, strive to see to it the initiative run smoothly.

"We want to see to it our competition's winners are presented with a good trophy and 500,000/- in cash prize," he noted.

He said the tournament's runners-up will walk away with a trophy and 200,000/- in cash prize, whereas an outfit, which will finish third, will take a trophy and



Butiama Constituency's Member of Parliament, Jumanne Sagini (R), presents footballs to some of football officials representing the constituency's 18 wards' clubs last weekend. The soccer teams will play in a tournament, which will take place in the constituency later this year. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

100,000/-.

Sagini also noted he will keep on backing efforts to develop other sports disciplines in his constituency,

given sports are lately offering employment opportunity.

He moreover stated he will solicit 20 bicycles from

his friends with a view to launching a cycling race in the area.

He noted: "We will set up strategies, seeking to see to it

the cycling race is held and having winners are appreciated, this is one of the means through which efforts to develop sports get support."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

