



National Pg 2
Drip irrigation for higher production



National Pg 3
Herders urged to ditch traditional practices



National Pg 6
Pact to beef up sesame production




Page 13



Leaders of the opposition Chadema pray in Dar es Salaam yesterday moments before the start of a meeting of the party's General Congress - which is meant to pick the party's candidate for the Tanzanian presidency in the upcoming (late October) General Election. From left: Vice Chairman (Zanzibar) Said Issa Mohamed, Vice Chairman (Mainland) Tundu Lissu, National Chairman Freeman Mbowe, Secretary General John Mnyika, Deputy Secretary General (Mainland) Benson Kigaila and Deputy Secretary General (Zanzibar) Salim Mwalimu. More photos on Page 4. Photo: Correspondent Anthony Siyame

Chadema, ACT confer on alliance for election

By Guardian Reporter

LEADING opposition party Chadema has revealed that it is in talks with ACT-Wazalendo aimed at fielding one presidential candidate in this year's general election slated for late October. Speaking at the party's general council in Dar es Salaam yesterday, Chadema national chairman Freeman Mbowe said the two parties are weighing the influence and popularities of their members who have declared interest in the top seat. However, he hinted that picking that candidate

will not be easy as integrity of proposed names will be thoroughly scrutinized before being endorsed by the two parties to square it out with other candidates. "We are ready to form a coalition ahead of elections but we shall work with serious people; we don't want the kind of people who are likely to betray us. We are currently discussing this with ACT-Wazalendo," he said. The council named the party's top three contenders for union presidency, with the party candidate selection awaiting the general council which sits today. The three are Dr

TURN TO PAGE 2



WHO: Do it all in the long war with the coronavirus

GENEVA

THE World Health Organisation warned yesterday that there might never be a "silver bullet" for COVID-19 in the form of a perfect vaccine and that the road to normality would be long, with some countries requiring a reset of strategy. More than 18.14 million people around the world are reported to have been

infected with the disease and 688,080 have died, according to a Reuters tally, with some nations that thought they were over the worst experiencing a resurgence. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (pictured) and WHO emergencies head Mike Ryan exhorted nations to rigorously enforce health measures such as mask-wearing, social distancing, hand-washing and testing. "The message to people and governments is clear: 'Do it all'," Tedros told a virtual news briefing from the UN body's headquarters in Geneva. He said face masks should become a symbol of solidarity around the world. "A number of vaccines are now in phase three clinical trials and we all hope to have a number of effective vaccines

TURN TO PAGE 2

Tanzanite mogul Laizer outlines secret to success

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

THE now-famous tanzanite miner Saniniu Laizer, whose bank worth has now reached 12.2bn/- after the sale of his latest massive gemstone, has lifted the lid on why his pit has produced the biggest pieces of Tanzanite ever.

Speaking here after pocketing 4.86bn/- from the sale of the gemstone weighing 6.3 kilogrammes to the government, the herdsman-turned-miner said he does not rely on pure luck as many people have

Laizer earned 7.7 billion/- from the two previous stones, the biggest tipping the scale at 9.3 kilogrammes and the other stone weighing 5.1 kilograms

been saying since he hit the first jackpot in June. He broke records with two massive pieces of tanzanite.

The pit owner said he invests heavily in the business in terms of mining equipment as well as professional advice; something other successful small-scale tanzanite miners shy away from.

"I always seek advice from mining experts. They tell me that investing in the business is the sure way of getting returns," he said.

So far the new tanzanite gem from Mirerani has

TURN TO PAGE 2

RwandAir restarts flights as tourism season peaks

By Guardian Correspondent, Hai

RWANDAIR has officially resumed its flights to Tanzania, coinciding with the start of the tourist peak season.

The acting Managing Director of the Kilimanjaro Airports Development Company (KADCO), Christine Mwakatobe (pictured), said yesterday that after Tanzania reopened its doors to incoming tourists on Sunday, the company received a RwandAir plane (XR-WL) providing flight services



between Rwanda and Tanzania.

She said RwandAir restarted flights following the commencement of the tourism season, noting that the flights prove that Tanzania is calm and business that was hampered by the coronavirus can resume.

"We are pleased by RwandAir to resume its flights after suspension due to the Covid-19 pandemic," she said.

"Apart from RwandAir, there are other airlines restarting flights to Tanzania - on June 1 we received an Ethiopian Airline flight, on July 30 we received a Qatar Airways flight and on August 1 we received a Crystal Air plane," she said, adding that today KIA is expecting a KLM flight.

Foreign airlines' decision to resume flights to Tanzania is explained by relative assurance of safety with regard to Covid-19 infections in Tanzania, she

TURN TO PAGE 2



Dodoma sensitising farmers on ways to use drip irrigation to boost production

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

AUTHORITIES in Dodoma Region have embarked on a programme to educate Tanzanians on the use of technology in agriculture to enable them to cultivate commercially for improved food security.

Dodoma City Council head of the agriculture, irrigation and cooperative department, Yustina Munishi made the statement yesterday when addressing journalists at the city's pavilion at the ongoing Nanenane exhibition in Dodoma.

"We are determined to transform the agriculture sector; we want our people to start cultivating commercially. Farmers visiting our pavilion will be educated on how to practice drip irrigation," she noted.

Drip irrigation is a type of micro-irrigation system with the potential to save water and nutrients by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants. The goal is to place

water directly into the root zone and minimize evaporation.

According to Munishi, drip irrigation can be practiced with vegetable farming. She said farmers will also be educated on how to properly cultivate onions to improve their yields whereas they can harvest up to 19 tonnes of onion in an acre.

The official noted that the city council wants residents to massively engage in commercial vegetable farming because there is a ready-made market.

She added: "At our pavilion, vegetable farmers will be taught on how to cultivate spinach, cabbage, collard greens, carrot and eggplants."

Munishi said that Dodoma residents are likely to improve their welfare through cultivation of the mentioned vegetable plants. She said that so far vegetables are mostly cultivated in the Ihumwa, Kikombo and Matumbulu areas.

She said the vegetables are sold within and outside Dodoma city.

RwandAir restarts flights as tourism season peaks

FROM PAGE 1

RwandAir country manager Jammy Mitali, speaking after the landing of the plane, said the airline has resumed its flights to Tanzania after ascertaining the diminishing of Covid-19 infections.

"We have many customers who are ready to use our airline to come to Tanzania. I also congratulate the leadership of the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) on the precautionary measures it takes on the disease," he said.

At the function the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) representative, Francis Malugu said the resumption of flights to Tanzania by foreign airlines has shown that they are in agreement on the situation in Tanzania as regards the Covid-19 pandemic.

The flight's timing appears well-calculated considering the fact that Kenya Airways is currently barred from flying into Tanzania, since last week.

The Tanzanian Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA) said Kenya Airways flights were restrained "on a reciprocal basis" after the Kenyan government excluded Tanzania in a list of countries whose passengers would be allowed to enter Kenya when commercial flights resumed on Saturday following the lifting of coronavirus restrictions.

"Tanzania has noted ... its exclusion in the list of countries whose people will be allowed to travel into Kenya," TCAA Director General Hamza Johari said in a letter sent to Kenya Airways on Friday.

"The Tanzanian government has decided to nullify its approval for Kenya Airways (KQ) flights between Nairobi and Dar/Kilimanjaro/Zanzibar effective August 1, 2020 until further notice," Johari wrote.

"This letter also rescinds all previous arrangements that permit KQ flights into the United Republic of Tanzania."



Angellah Kairuki (2nd-L), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment), and Agriculture minister Japhet Hasunga (L) visit the Workers Compensation Fund booth at the Nane-Nane agriculture exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region yesterday. To the right are WCF officials Sebera Fulgence (2nd-R) and Neema Mushi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Chadema, ACT confer on alliance for election

FROM PAGE 1

Mayrose Majinge, Lazaro Nyalandu and Tundu Lissu.

This means other cadres who had expressed interest in the top job, namely Isaya Mwita, Rev Leonard Manyama, Gasper Mwanalyela and Neo Simba were eliminated in the earlier council sitting.

On the other hand, the Chadema vice chairman (Zanzibar) Said Issa Mohamed and Hashim Juma Issa have

collected party's nomination forms for the Zanzibar presidency.

Meanwhile, ACT-Wazalendo party leader Zitto Kabwe yesterday appointed former Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Membe as the party's chief advisor.

A statement released by the party said Kabwe made the appointment because section 83 (I) of Act-Wazalendo's constitution empowers him to appoint advisors. The advisory

added that the leader also appointed Emmanuel Mvula as member of the party's central committee.

"The appointments have been endorsed by the national executive committee which is continuing with its meetings," the statement noted.

Membe who was ousted from the ruling party for allegedly violating the party's rules joined the opposition outfit last month. But speaking at a ceremony to welcome him at ACT-

Wazalendo, Membe who held the foreign affairs docket for nine years asserted that he was expelled from CCM because of expressing his intention to run for the presidency under the ruling party, challenging the incumbent President John Magufuli who is seeking his second and final term of office.

ACT-Wazalendo is scheduled to hold its general council tomorrow which will unveil its line-up ahead of polls scheduled for 28th October.



Billionaire mineral dealer Saniniu Laizer (4th-L, foreground) shows the 6.33-kg tanzanite extracted recently from his mining site at Mirerani in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region, before handing over to the government - which sold it for 4.8bn/- yesterday. To his right (foreground) is Minerals minister Doto Biteko. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

TASAF set to examine, identify ghost and unqualified recipients

By Guardian Correspondent, Kondo

A TOTAL of 7,936 beneficiaries of the third phase of the Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) implemented by the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) are being examined to identify ghost and unqualified recipients.

The move follows directives given by President John Magufuli in February this year when launching the second phase of the PSSN programme in Dar es Salaam.

President Magufuli ordered officials to examine all the recipients before implementation of another phase. He also ordered the removal of all the

households which do not meet the set criteria.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, the TASAF Coordinator in Kondo District, Donald Jidai said that TASAF is training its staff on how to examine the households. He said the current numbers of recipients are from 63 villages in the district.

He said the exercise will be conducted technologically to enable the officers to identify those unqualified for the second round. He said the implementation of the second phase is set to begin recently.

"They will use tablets where all the individual's data will be loaded; this will

help us to identify some households which have already graduated from poverty," he said noting after the exercise, new recipients will be added in the list.

He said some of the criteria that will be used to remove recipients from the list include being elected to be a political party leader or being appointed to a certain position in the government. "Those who have died and do not have dependents will also be removed," he noted.

TASAF senior officer from headquarters, Deo Shakiula said they only need eligible households to remain in the list of beneficiaries.

Launching the second phase PSSN programme in Dar es Salaam in February this year, President John Magufuli directed authorities to make sure that they supervise well and control enrolment of 'phantom' beneficiaries.

Magufuli said that in the verification exercise conducted from November 2015 to 2017 found a total of 73,561 ghost and illegible households being enrolled in the programme.

"The involved people who are not poor and leaders being enrolled in the programmes, this should be addressed, the next phase has to ensure that all these challenges do not exist," he said.

Tanzanite mogul Laizer outlines secret to success

FROM PAGE 1

taken slot as second largest blue gemstone on record. The first was also mined at Laizer's pit at the mining hills, together with the third largest both of which were sold to the government the previous month.

Laizer earned 7.7 billion/- from the two previous stones, the biggest tipping the scale at 9.3 kilograms and the other stone weighing 5.1 kilograms, writing history as the largest findings yet.

Minerals minister Doto Biteko was again presented with the giant stone at Mirerani yesterday. He used the ceremony podium at Mirerani Hills to insist that miners should avoid shoddy deals when it comes to selling the gemstones.

"We have recorded another historical finding at Mahenge, where a large rare

Spinel Gemstone weighing a post-polishing 4 kgs has been mined and it costs 750m/- after tax," he said.

Before Saniniu Laizer struck it rich, last June, the world's largest piece of Tanzanite Gemstone in history weighed 3.38 kilograms. These types of blue gemstones are only found in northern Tanzania.

Now the Maasai rancher has the three biggest stones under his belt. Speaking during the initial finds, Laizer explained that geologists had advised his team to crush rocks about 1 kilometer below the ground to find the rare stones.

At the same time elsewhere at the Mahenge Mines of Ulanga District, in Morogoro region, a rare, valuable and large Spinel Gemstone has been discovered, creating yet another windfall in the country's mining sector.

WHO: Do it all in the long war with the coronavirus

FROM PAGE 1

that can help prevent people from infection. However, there's no silver bullet at the moment - and there might never be."

The WHO head said that, while the coronavirus has the biggest health emergency since the early 20th century, the international scramble for a vaccine was also "unprecedented."

But he underscored uncertainties. "There are concerns that we may not have a vaccine that may work, or its protection could be for just a few months, not more. But until we finish the clinical trials, we will not know."

Ryan said countries with high transmission rates, including Brazil and India, needed to brace for a big battle: "The way out is long and requires a sustained commitment," he said, calling for a "reset" of approach in some places.

"Some countries are really going to have to take a step back now and really

take a look at how they are addressing the pandemic within their national borders," he added.

Asked about the US outbreak, which White House coronavirus experts say is entering a "new phase," he said officials seemed to have set out the "right path" and it was not the WHO's job to do so.

The WHO officials said an advance investigation team had concluded its China mission and laid out the groundwork for further efforts to identify the origins of the virus.

The study is one of the demands made by top donor the United States which plans to leave the body next year, accusing it of being too acquiescent to China.

A larger, WHO-led team of Chinese and international experts is planned next, including in the city of Wuhan, although the timing and composition of that was unclear. Ryan said China had already given some information but knowledge gaps remained.



NBC Bank customer service officer Peres Mbogoma (L) makes a briefing on a tractor to agricultural stakeholders who visited the bank's pavilion at the ongoing Nane-Nane agricultural exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Bariadi District, Simiyu Region, yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

Bank in new venture to help agricultural stakeholders realise their desired dreams

AGRICULTURE stakeholders have expressed satisfactions with the new NBC Shambani product which is specifically designed to meet the stakeholders' financial service needs.

Giving details on the new product to various stakeholders who visited the bank's pavilion at the NaneNane Agricultural Exhibition held nationally at Nyakabindi Stadium, Bariadi in Simiyu Region, bank's head of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Raymond Urassa, said it targets all stakeholders in agribusiness including agricultural input suppliers, farmers and transporters of agricultural products.

"The main purpose of the newly

NBC Shambani product is to help agricultural stakeholders achieve their agricultural business goals where it provides an opportunity for them to open joint accounts through AMCOS, FOs and other similar associations as well as opening individual accounts," he said.

In addition to saving services, Urassa further mentioned some of the benefits which comes along with the NBC Shambani product saying the account holder would be in a position to receive more interest when he/she is having

a balance of more than 100,000/- in his/her account plus the no monthly charges benefit.

"Further, NBC Shambani enables different groups of farmers to keep money in their accounts without paying for account service charges while at the same time the groups enjoy a number of benefits that include accessing their account information free of charge, no deduction for cash transfer payments to farmers with NBC accounts," he explained.

Speaking on the agricultural product,

some stakeholders from the sector said it was timely as the country is currently undergoing agricultural reforms whose prosperity depends largely on the availability of quality banking services which are in line with the needs of the stakeholders in the sector.

"Through the NBC Shambani product we farmers can deposit and withdraw any amount of money at any time. That is purely an example of the services we farmers need currently," said Emmanuel Rutatora, a farmer from Rorya district.

National Service out to improve efficiency with 353m/- injection

By Francis Kajubi

THE commercial wing of the National Service (SUMA JKT) has injected 353.62m/- into efforts to facilitate and improve the efficiency of its services offered by its two companies—SUMAJKT Cleaning and Fumigation Company Limited and SUMAJKT Guard Limited.

Speaking at a special event to hand over the vehicles which included one lorry, two security mobile cars and ten motorcycles to SUMAJKT cleaning and fumigation company and SUMAJKT Guard limited in Dar es Salaam, said that the wing has achieved in gaining the general public's faith when it comes to security and social welfare thus widening its scope to reach the booming number of clients across the country.

"The vehicles are going to make a good contribution in delivering quality services to new and old clients that believe in our professional services. Purchasing of vehicles is one of the initiatives in making sure that our services are of the first class. The demand in new facilities proves the increment in security posts deployed" said Shausi.

Programme manager, SUMAJKT cleaning and fumigation Company, Capt. Rosemary Katani said that the company was established in 2018 with the mission of increasing SUMAJKT's revenue by establishing social services to public institutions, private and public companies.

The company has in a short period succeeded in widening the scope of its services especially in public institutions. It currently offers cleaning and fumigation services at a range of institutions including the University of Dar es Salaam (new library),

Procurement and Supply Professional and Tender Board (PSPTB) and the Electronic Government Agency (e-GA) IN Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

The other institutions that the company has contract with are Simiyu referral hospital, MKURABITA Dodoma, Commission for Management and Arbitration (CMA), UDART, DART, TTCL Data Centre, Job Ndugai Stand Dodoma, Dodoma public market, Mtwara referral hospital, Kibondo district hospital, National Electoral Commission (NEC) and Ubungo municipal.

"The company has procured two canterers weighing 3.5tons each at 55million/- and one tipper weighing 10tons at 103million/- to be used in its operational services. The company has so far employed 448 cleaners from only seven cleaners when it started, making fluid soaps and established flower pots making enters.

Operational director for SUMAJKT Guard limited, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Masanja, said that the company was registered in 2008 and started operations in 2010. He said currently the company has grown to employing 11,214 security guards across the country from which 8,365 are male and 2,829 guards are female.

"The core purpose of establishing the company was to offer employment to youth who graduate from JKT army courses, providing security services to public institutions and to private and public companies. The other purpose was doing business to generate revenue that will benefit the national security force," said Masanja.

He added that in a bid to improve its services the company has invested in procuring vehicles and motorcycles for easing job doing hence bringing efficiency of services. The company so far owns more than 40 security mobile cars across the country and more than

Tanzania herders urged to ditch traditional practices

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

LIVESTOCK keepers in the country have been urged to embrace modern, gainful livestock keeping methods and abandon traditional methods that bring little returns.

The call was made by the director of production and marketing in the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries Dr Felix Nandonde at the launching of the campaign for the mobilization of artificial insemination for quality cattle breeds held in Uyui District, Tabora Region at the weekend.

Dr Nanonde said the campaign will be conducted countrywide and that the government through the Ministry has allocated 145m/- for mobilizing livestock keepers to improve their animals through modern livestock keeping.

"The ministry's strategy for the current Fiscal Year 2020/21 is to conduct artificial insemination for improved breeds to three million cows in order to get at least one million quality heifers," said Dr Nandonde.

He said for herders to have better livestock, it was important to abandon traditional methods for modern methods by adhering to quality fodder for their animals, vaccination and their protection in better livestock keeping areas.

"The government has mobilized for the construction of meat factories; hence this is

a good opportunity for livestock keepers to improve their incomes," he said. Tabora Regional Administrative Secretary Msalika Makungu said the artificial insemination

exercise will ensure huge benefits to livestock keepers. "The ongoing climate change no longer provides opportunity for traditional livestock keeping methods, and the only way for them

is to embrace modern methods - they should abandon the habit of having large herds of livestock that do not give them any tangible benefits," said Makungu.



RECRUITMENT NOTICE

BBC Media Action is the BBC's international charity. We believe in the power of media and communication to help reduce poverty and support people in understanding their rights. Our aim is to inform, connect and empower people around the world. With an expanding portfolio, we are now advertising for the following position in Tanzania:

Journalist/producer: is responsible for accessing content from journalists of the partner stations, selecting and inviting studio guests and working closely with the presenter and senior producer to realize the content vision of the programme. The national journalist/producer is entrusted with producing a programme of high editorial and technical quality. Together with the senior producer he/she will encourage the partner stations to rebroadcast the national programme thereby, promoting it to their audiences for added impact

Please only apply if you meet the basic criteria under the person specification which can be downloaded at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediaction/jobs/journalist-producer-tanzania-2020>

Candidates should send their CV and a cover letter (PDF or Microsoft Word format) which outlines their experience and suitability for the role in English by email to: recruitment@tz.bbcmmediation.org with the title of the position applied for in the subject line by **5pm on Monday 10th August 2020.**

Please do not send certificates or other attachments. Applicants with no separate cover letter will not be considered. These are local posts applicable to people who have the legal right to live and work in Tanzania and national terms and conditions will apply. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

"The role may involve working with groups of vulnerable children and adults. For the successful candidate, mandatory training will be provided on BBC Media Action's safeguarding policy and staff code of conduct. A police background check may form part of the recruitment process. BBC Media Action operates a zero-tolerance policy concerning all forms of abuse and exploitation of vulnerable people."

INSURANCE

UAP Insurance Tanzania Ltd wish to invite for salvage tenders/bids for various damaged vehicles listed below which are located in various places in Dar es Salaam and various regions in Tanzania. If you are interested, please visit and inspect the items between now and 10th August, 2020.

MAKE/ MODEL	YEAR OF MANUFACTURE	REG NO	CLAIM NO	SALVAGE LOCATION
TOYOTA CRESTA	1999	T 739 BHB	425MP19	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA BREVIS	2003	T 628 CVW	202MP19	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA NOAH	2004	T 479 CNC	336MP19	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
LAND ROVER	1999	T 231 BSA	804MP17	ATHUMAN S KHAMIS - KAHAMA
TOYOTA WILLS	2003	T 424 CXF	839MP18	CHINA XIANDA AUTO - MWANZA
HYUNDAI	2007	T 307 ASV	775MP17	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
POLO VOX WAGON	2003	T 274 CQJ	187MP18	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
VOX WAGON GOLF	2004	T 186 CDD	995MP16	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE	2002	T 161 AWX	086MP18	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
NISSAN ELGRAND	1997	T 469 BBQ	193MP18	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA SPARK	2005	T 966 CHL	837MP18	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
RANGE ROVER	2002	Z 209 GR	029CV19	BUDDA AUTOWORKS - ZANZIBAR
TOYOTA MARK X	1999	Z 985 FK	585MP18	INSURED'S RESIDENCE - PEMBA
TOYOTA ALLEX	2008	Z 980 JE	366MP19	ABDALLAH ALLY - ZANZIBAR
BMW 318	2001	T 648 DNR	509MP19	ATHUMAN S KHAMIS - KAHAMA
TOYOTA MARK II	2003	T 335 DGD	544MP19	MILANO EXPERTS - ARUSHA
SUBARU	2001	T 208 DJQ	068MP20	TONNY AUTO GARAGE - MOSHI
TOYOTA VITZ	2006	T 538 DLX	558MP19	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA RAV 4	2005	T 572 DDW	605MP19	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
M BENZ	2006	T 685 DGL	066MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA IPSUM	2005	T 578 DLL	563mp19	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA IST	2001	T 466 DHT	105MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA IST	2005	Z 263KE	568MP19	MKUNAZINI GARAGE-ZANZIBAR
TVS KING	2004	T 985DMM	107MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA L/CRUISER	2019	MC174CF	009MC20	DRAGON GARAGE- DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA CORONA FIELDER	2008	T 194 DCV	174MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA VERROSSA	2007	T 151 DGE	164MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
TOYOTA CROWN	2002	T 750 CBT	179MP20	SEMA CIVIL WORKS - SINGIDA
HYUNDAI TUCSON	2004	T 217 DSP	183MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM
	2008	T 359 AXC	165MP20	UAP YARD - DAR ES SALAAM

Terms and Conditions:
All tenders will be opened at Head Office on the day of 11th August, 2020. No verbal or telephone tenders or offers will be accepted.
Bidders will be required to quote the salvage price and VAT (18%) amount. Successful bidders will be contacted and required to pay the full amount within two days and to change details of ownership before collecting the salvage within 24hours after payment.
Salvages will be sold on 'as is where is basis' and no claim shall lie against our company for any charges or liabilities after the salvages have been sold or collected. No refund will be given after the payment has been made.
If you wish to tender for any salvage and post (or deliver by hand) to our office in a sealed envelope and address to: **Salvage Committee, UAP Insurance Tanzania Limited, 4th Floor, Absa House- Ohio Street, P O Box 71009, Dar es Salaam**

Chadema General Congress meets in Dar to pick Tanzanian presidential candidate



Lazaro Nyalandu prays moments before introducing himself to delegates to the general congress meeting, which was held in Dar es Salaam yesterday, as one of the aspirants for the Tanzanian presidency on the Chadema ticket. All Photos: Correspondent Anthony Siyame



Chadema top leaders head for the venue of the meeting.



Chadema Vice Chairman (Mainland) Tundu Lissu, who is also among the presidential aspirants, introduces himself.



The general congress in session.



The presidential aspirants wait for their turns to introduce themselves to congress delegates. From-L: Tundu Lissu, Lazaro Nyalandu and Dr Mayrose Majinge.



Dr Mayrose Majinge introduces herself to delegates.



Lazaro Nyalandu introduces himself to delegates.



Chadema national Chairman Freeman Mbowe addresses the congress.

Fuel subsidy removal and Naira devaluation

By Magnus Onyibe

THE bitter and sweet policies of gradually abolishing fuel subsidy regime and guided floating of the naira might have taken a long time in coming—nearly six years. But as the saying goes, it's better late than never.

And with the current developments in the monetary market and in the petroleum products retail sector, President Muhammadu Buhari has obviously softened his earlier hard stance against naira devaluation and elimination of fuel subsidy—two critical factors in the economy that have been distorting the development fundamentals of our country.

Keeping in mind that the late Chief of Staff to the President, Mallam Abba Kyari had midwived the assemblage of a coterie of academic eggheads, seasoned technocrats and financial consultants that got inaugurated as the new presidential economic advisory committee in replacement of the Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo led team which had been in that role since the inception of this government, my prediction may not be dismissed with a wave of the hand.

However, by virtue of the fact that I don't have my name plate in any of the doors in Aso Rock Villa corridors of power, I can't confidently lay claim to knowing fully well whether it is the new presidential economic team that has helped in shaping President Buhari's new thinking about eliminating fuel subsidy and naira devaluation that has seen the pump price of fuel go up and naira exchange rate spike. But a gut feeling tells me that the presidential economic advisory team may be the propelling force driving the new wind blowing in the economic firmament.

The august body led by Professor Doyin Salami, a don at Lagos Business School, along with Professor Chukwuma Soludo, ex-Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), and Mr. Bismarck Rewane, a financial consultant amongst fistful of other professionals, was charged with the responsibility of crafting sound and viable economic development policies for our country.

Given that the economic ship of state of Nigeria seemed to have been drifting like a rudderless vessel being tossed up and down in the ocean and at the mercy of violent waves exacerbated by the current crude oil price volatility and COVID-19 induced global economic meltdown, the formation of the presidential economic advisory body of experts to steer the ship away from the hazard, was a timely initiative.

Although such a formidable and astute team of managers of the economy should have been instituted at the inception of the administration six years ago, President Buhari in his wisdom prioritised anti-corruption war by inaugurating the Professor Itse Sagay-led Presidential committee on anti-corruption which in my view has been hurting instead of helping Nigeria. The foregoing assertion is underscored by the fact that it is the committee and the EFCC that have been demarcating our country through the numerous mind-boggling and mostly unsubstantiated claims of monumental corruption that they keep alleging against Nigerians which precipitated the flight of capital out of our country.

The crystallisation of the damage that the crying of wolf, where there is none, by members of the presidential anti-corruption committee and other agencies of government, especially the Minister of Information, Lai Mohammed that was cloaking Nigeria and Nigerians with the toga of corruption, culminated in the labelling of our country and people as 'fantastically corrupt' by former British PM, David Cameron when he was introducing President Buhari to Queen Elizabeth on the sideline of an anti-corruption conference held in London on May 12, 2016.

In an article titled: "Which is Hurting More, Corruption or Collateral Damage From Fighting It?" that I wrote and published in THISDAY Newspaper of July 25, 2016 and also widely shared on online media platforms, I denounced what can simply be illustrated with the act of a husband calling his wife a prostitute in the presence of his neighbours which is license for the neighbours to call her worse name than a whore. The referenced piece admonished government against making only anti-corruption the fulcrum and centre piece of its

development policy or *raison d'être* of the administration by making a song and dance of corruption in Nigeria, simply because diplomats and international agencies in our country would send the negative fallouts back to their home countries or offices and which would negatively colour the perception and influence the policies of their home countries towards Nigeria. So the motive of my essay was to draw the attention of authorities to the peril and dire consequences of taking its anti corruption war to an absurd extent as highlighted above.

Below is an excerpt from the referenced article:

"Some of us have literally been at President Muhammadu Buhari's 'throat' over what we deem to be economically, socially and politically rough methods and procedures that the president has been adopting in combating corruption in Nigerian and the catastrophic effects on the nation. Apart from the evidently obtrusive anti-corruption war, another clog in the wheel of progress is the knee jerk and pigeon hole policy initiatives that have led to failed expectations of positive outcomes, as opposed to unleashing a holistic policy package, which could have addressed all identified economic, political and social challenges harmoniously in a timely manner, without equivocation and thus yield the desired socioeconomic liberation of Nigeria.

"By now, it must be clear to all, as it has become incontestable that, it is the economic, social and political fallouts of the brutish pursuit and tunnel vision of eliminating corruption at all costs by this administration that is the culprit for the unprecedented hardship currently putting the nation's economy on a lockdown.

The fiasco that the economy has been plunged into is reflected in the imminent recession now confirmed by both the IMF in its World Economic Outlook, WEO report and the Central bank of Nigeria, CBN via Governor Godwin Emefiele's recent testimony to the Nigerian Senate.

Other incidents or events signposting the fact that Nigeria and indeed Nigerians are in dire straits are: social upheavals in the north east triggered by Boko Haram terrorism resulting in millions of families being consigned to living miserably in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps; renewed Niger Delta militancy focused on bombing oil facilities that has crippled oil/gas business and damaged the ecosystem and environment very badly; the recent increasingly violent crimes popping up in the suburbs of Lagos and in fact, across the country in the form of kidnappings and violent attacks on defenceless people by bandits disguised as herdsmen.

"As glaringly disruptive and debilitating as the effects of the anti-corruption war has been on the hoi poloi, whom the president is ostensibly protecting, nobody has considered a change of tactics to ease the pain on the less privileged members of society. This implies that our leaders may be oblivious of the reality of how, cruel, grueling and dreary life has become for the average Nigerian in the past one year.

In the light of the growing and palpable despondency being foisted on the populace, following the economic woes in the country fueling the emasculation of the common man, the rhetorical question elicited by the circumstances would be: which is more hurtful, corruption or the collateral damage of fighting it?"

"On a scale of balance, the simple and rational answer would be that corruption is more harmful, because it is debilitating and virulent like HIV/aids, Ebola virus and cancer disease combined, but in fighting the malaise, authorities should be careful not to inadvertently throw away the baby and the bath water, otherwise, the collateral damage could be equal, if not more devastating, as we are currently witnessing in Nigeria".

Isn't it so gut wrenching that the piece written four years ago, still rings true today?

With the new fangled compound word RE-LOOTING rapidly joining the lexicon of Nigerians as the circus show featuring the Ministry of Justice and the EFCC evolves, I'm vindicated in my argument four years ago (2016) that the foremost financial crime fighting agency, the EFCC and the presidential committee on anti-corruption, were



inflicting more harm on the economy as opposed to adding value if indeed the EFCC is guilty of re-allocating what has been recovered from looters.

The opening quote in the chapter titled "Corruption and the Unending Fight Against It" in my forthcoming book LEADERS, LEADING and LEADERSHIP: MEDIA INTERVENTIONS BY A PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL (1999-2019) features a remarkable quote by Jose Angel Gurria, who is the current OECD Secretary-General and it goes thus:

"Integrity, transparency and the fight against corruption have to be part of the culture. They have to be taught as fundamental values"

The message conveyed in the quote above is that curbing or stopping corruption can not be a 100 meters dash or fought in a manner reminiscent of the fire brigade combating an inferno, neither should it take the form of a bull charging into a chinaware shop, and in the process destroying the shop, which anti corruption war currently looks like in Nigeria.

Rather it has to be driven like a missionary, if you like jihadist, (without violence) aiming at changing the hearts and minds of people in their immediate community, which in my view is the best way to achieve the sustainable cultural change that would make most Nigerians detest and abhor corruption.

So the philosophy of slow and steady wins the race seems more appropriate in that regard.

And I'm not unaware that owing to constitutional curtailments, presidents have tenures of only two terms of four years each in Nigeria.

As such they often want to impress their support base by hastily concluding court processes before their exit so that they can claim that they are the ones that jailed alleged thieving politicians, who more often than not are actually their political enemies. Also the case of such political leaders as well as the heads of the crime fighting agencies like the EFCC ascribing messianic powers to themselves by taking pride in reeling off the list of politicians jailed (giant killers) and the assets and funds recovered under their watch is another bane of our country's approach to fighting corruption since independence. Incidentally, that's allegedly, in part, Magu's albatross as he is now being asked to 'cough' out the humongous sums he had been touting as having been recovered.

The folly of doing the same thing over and over with the same result, which is a definition of insanity/madness motivated me to write a piece during last year's Independence Day anniversary titled "Nigeria At 59: Are Our Leaders Mad?"

The case that I tried to make in that piece which was widely published in the mass media is that our country has been fighting corruption in the same way it did even before independence when the British colonial rulers indicted both Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe and Chief Obafemi Awolowo who were later to take over from them as leaders of the new nation in the role of President-General of Nigeria and Premier of Western Region.

That the same method of naming and shaming, charging and bailing which has woefully failed to yield positive results (except the introduction of whistle blowing) have remained the practice about 60 years after, is not only preposterous, but indicates that our leaders have been highly unimaginative.

Another affirmation that corruption

virus in our country has become highly toxic and very destructive, and therefore might have attained the status of a pandemic, is that corrupt politicians and their cohort no longer demand mere 10% which was the case in the 1960s, but they now walk away with the entire contract sum without any work being done as being allegedly witnessed in NDDC.

Given the lessons above, Aso Rock villa must recognise the aforementioned drawbacks inherent in the current system or style of fighting graft in our country and make amendments accordingly.

For instance, can you imagine that since it's establishment in 2003, the EFCC has not founded Anti Corruption clubs in our various institutions of learning where it could have commenced so that the much desired anti corruption cultural change in our youths can be achieved.

No wonder youths now prefer to make the likes of Hushpuppi, the alleged internet fraudster, their role model instead of Tony Elumelu of Tony Elumelu Foundation, TEF, Herbert Wigwe of Access bank, Samad Rabiu of BUA and Femi Otedola, formerly of Forte oil and now into electricity power generation via Gerengu power project and indeed any other youth that has acquired wealth through genuine hard work and entrepreneurship.

As my unsolicited advise and that of other well meaning members of the commentariat were unheeded, Nigeria suffered the first economic recession in 25 years from 2016 of which it is still partially mired and still trying to pull itself out from the hole.

Happily, six years after ascension into Aso Rock villa, President Buhari's government has now done what some of us have been clamoring for, establishment of a presidential economic advisory team, and entrusting the experts with the responsibility of pulling the economy back from the brink and unearthing the parts that have already sunk into decay from the abyss is now achievable goal.

Do the current changes in the petroleum products/pump price and foreign exchange markets go far enough to engender the much needed changes?

Not at all. But they are correct strides in the right direction.

Clearly, a lot more needs to be done to reform or rejig and align the factors of production and wealth creation in order for them to be harmonised. In particular, a more robust social safety net has to be introduced in the socio-economic landscape so that the new subsidy removal regime in both petroleum products import/sales and naira exchange rates would not hurt the critical masses so badly. To achieve the social objective, this time, efforts should be made so that the subsidy is geared towards production-education/skills acquisition as opposed to being Abuja applied in consumption activities like the NNPC fuel subsidy and the CBN foreign exchange interventions.

In the words of JF Kennedy, the 35th United States of America President.

"No President should fear public scrutiny of his program. For from that scrutiny comes understanding; and from that understanding comes support or opposition. And both are necessary."

It is in the light of the above that the wisdom in the wise counsel of converting problem into promotion comes into play.

Owing to the leadership chaos and confusion that have enveloped the country, the ruling party, APC has been in political hot water even from among its supporters arising from the slew of financial scandals cascading from the villa to the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) that are besetting the party that before its ascension to power prided itself as being on a mission to wipe out corruption in our country.

After practically decimating rival political parties, particularly the former ruling party, PDP members by arraigning or jailing most of them (especially its former spokesman Olisa Métuh and a couple of ex-governors) on account of corruption, it was sheer hypocrisy that barely two years into its first tenure, its greatest achievement is that it had surpassed the former ruling party's record of corruption.

And this is underscored by the fact that between 2015-18, at least half a dozen serving cabinet members and then Secretary to Government of the Federation (SGF) as well as head of security agencies including Nigeria Intelligence Agency (NIA), were indicted for corruption.

When one adds the frightening skeletons allegedly being exhumed from the vault of the EFCC—the nation's anti corruption agency which is being subjected to scrutiny or undergoing assizes by the retired Justice Ayo Salami-led panel, then the ruling party's loss of moral justification to continue to pride itself as anti corruption party becomes fully manifest.

By way of clarification, as a crisis manager, I deem it my duty to advise Aso Rock villa to not be like an ostrich that buries its head in the sand without realizing that the rest of its body is exposed.

It is against that backdrop that I'm calling a spade what it truly is, by diagnosing what's ailing us as a country with the hope that it would be a sort of wake up call for the ruling party, APC and the powers that be in Aso Rock villa.

Having come into full circle with its anti-corruption war through which it has virtually completely muzzled the opposition, it has now literally turned its guns against its self. I would argue that what can be best described as internal introspection that started with the targeting of erstwhile opposition members in the APC, whose hands are not clean and therefore cross carpeted to the ruling party for protection has ballooned into what seems like a national inquest. Four years after treading that path and exhausting the initially targeted category, the anti-graft agencies who were feeding on the frenzy finally started baying for the blood of APC's core members because the EFCC, DSS and NIA had become like the proverbial tigers whose riders would later become their prey/victims when they get off their back.

That's evidenced or signposted by the embarrassing schisms that have now gripped the numerous government agencies—EFCC, NDDC, NSTIF, and National Assembly, etc whose members are indicted or under investigation.

Strangely, rather than being driven by any altruistic value, the movement or internal inquest or assizes of APC-led government seem like self propelling and a natural cause of action.

The good news is that the rash of investigations may end up being for our country's greater good as it can be an opportunity for president Buhari to

press a reset button for the ruling party and his Govt.

Now, it may appear like a spin to some people, but Justice Minister, Abubakar Malami's recent statement on NTA late on Friday night as reported by The Nation newspaper, is so far the best explanation given by government for the ongoing investigation of the EFCC that has unearthed a lot of strange stuffs. According to The Nation Newspaper, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, stated during the NTA interview that "the ongoing probe of the leadership of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is a plus for President Muhammadu Buhari's anti-corruption policy."

"He dismissed the fears in some quarters that the probe was a vendetta against the EFCC leadership.

The newspaper report quoted Mr. Malami as stating that: "It is, indeed, a plus. It goes to establish the tradition for which this government is known; a tradition of no fear or favour as far as investigating corruption cases are concerned or corruption allegations or issues."

"It is indeed a plus that has reenacted, reinforced and reestablished a tradition by which the government of President Muhammadu Buhari is known, which tradition is to the effect that no allegation of corruption can be swept under the carpet. So, it is, indeed, to my mind, a plus and not a blow."

Although the justice minister's comments at first appear to be incredulous, but when put in context, it is actually plausible because real corruption fighters prove themselves to be who they claim they are by first of all starting the clean up from inside their own stable.

That's in line with the dictum 'charity begins at home.'

At this moment in time that most Nigerians are searching for answers to the avalanche of malfeasance and a slew of investigations of MDAs with the overwhelming effect on the polity, I guess Nigerians might as well take the attorney general's word at its face value and wait to see how the internal probes which he claims signify that President Buhari is not covering up the misdeeds of his associates, pan out.

Perhaps, just like President Buhari has allowed market forces to determine the pump price of fuel without subsidising it to force the cost down, and by allowing the naira to float without the erstwhile massive CBN intervention which is also a form of subsidy to boost the naira, the plethora of ongoing probes could be indicative of the likelihood that Mr. President may also be allowing justice take its course and as such any member of his government or the ruling party accused of financial impropriety or indicted for fraud would face the law.

That's my understanding based on my studied assessment of events as they are unfolding.

And the assertion above is derived from and anchored on the belief that being in his second term, and one year into his four year tenure, President Buhari may not like to exit power with his image as an incorruptible leader besmirched.

As such, it is likely that he would be allowing the law to takes its course against those that have infringed and have cases to answer this giving him a bad name.

If my analysis and prediction prove to be true, then there is no hiding for the rogues currently hiding in the shadow of the Buhari name with what may turn out to be false immunity when he turns them in for the long arm of the law to catch up with them.

If he could do so with Ibrahim Magu, the erstwhile blue eyed prince of his inner court and czar of the EFCC, then what President Buhari could do with any other cabinet, party member or people in his orbit, found culpable, is better imagined.

Nevertheless, with no slam dunk or smoking gun evidence so far, it is looking like Magu may scale through the inquisition unscathed, and if that happens, then Nigerians can heave a sigh of relief from the nightmare and roller coaster of corruption and the unending fight against it.

—Magnus Onyibe, an author, entrepreneur, development strategist and alumnus of The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA and former Commissioner in Delta State, sent this piece from Lagos.

Govt appeals to general public to support PwDs

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has urged members of the public to provide more support to people with disabilities saying Tanzania without any kind of discrimination is possible.

The call was made by the acting Director in the ministry of State, Prime Minister's Office, Department of People with Disabilities, Philbert Kawemama here yesterday when officiating at the opening of training of social workers' volunteers from Dodoma and Singida regions.

The volunteers were being empowered to help identify children with disabilities in the regions and how to help them cope with challenges facing them. The training was organised with support from World Vision Tanzania, a nongovernmental organisation in the region.

More than 495 volunteers are attending the training that is also aimed to help raise awareness on the best access and use of appropriate wheelchairs among the needy children.

"It is very important for various stakeholders including division executives, donors and other non-state actors help this special group of people in the society meet their necessary needs," he said.

He urged the families not to hide children with disabilities saying identifying them and subsequently providing them with the necessary gears will help a child participate in social activities in their communities.

The director further criticized those entertaining stigma in the community to avoid such acts, saying it has been a huge problem affecting hundreds of children countrywide.

The World Vision Tanzania is planning to donate 528 appropriate wheelchairs worth over 220m/-. At least 289 chairs have been arranged for Arusha, Manyara and Kilimanjaro regions and the remaining chairs are set to benefit children from Iringa, Singida, Morogoro and Dodoma.

The trained volunteers are to help

identify children with disabilities in the community that will benefit from the international charity.

Kawemama believes that such wheelchairs will help children access their basic education rights.

The Office of the President (Regional Administration and Local Governments) had so far released 3.5bn/- during the just ended financial year to support groups of people with disabilities.

According to the director, the ministry has further allocated over 200m/- as a special fund purposely for providing grants to groups of people with disabilities.

Zacharia Shikukulu, World Vision Tanzania Acting Central Zone Cluster Manager said a similar training has already been conducted in Kilimanjaro, Tanga, Arusha and Iringa costing over 100m/-.

According to the manager, the World Vision project is expected to benefit more children from poor homes across the regions.

Justus Ng'wantalima, Dodoma Regional Secretary of the Tanzania Federation of Disabled Peoples' Organisation (Shivyawata) noted that people with disabilities were increasingly facing challenges in the community.

He explained that a lot more children, especially in low-income families, were using gears such as wheelchairs which are completely irrelevant thus furthering their disabilities.

"People with disabilities must be given gears depending on their needs. This includes body size, length and kind of disabilities. People with disabilities find it difficult in using facilities which are not right to them thereby increasing the magnitude of their disabilities," he said.

"People with right facilities are able to participate in various social and economic activities. Children are at higher risk of having more health-related problems considering that they are exposed to poor gears such as wheel-chairs."



Nyaswi Elias (seated, in glasses), the Public Service Social Security Fund's acting manager for Mara Region, pictured yesterday attending to a visitor at the PSSSF pavilion at the ongoing weeklong Nane-Nane agricultural exhibition in progress at Nyakabindi grounds on the outskirts of Bariadi Township in Simiyu Region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Simiyu

MINISTER of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investment) Angellah Kairuki has applauded the role played by Workers Compensation Fund (WCF), describing the fund's performance as impressive.

Kairuki shared such applause when visiting WCF pavilion at the ongoing Nananene Agricultural exhibition at Nyakabindi grounds in Simiyu Region yesterday.

"What you do is marvelous. I'm satisfied with the explanations on how compensation funds are being paid to victims of accidents and those who lost

Kairuki applauds WCF performance

their lives at work," she said, calling on other organisations and institutions to emulate the spirit.

The minister credited the WCF after she had been informed about the fund's operational roles by the public relations officer Sebera Fulgence.

"The good news is for those who are injured at work or those who lost their loved ones by being paid by the fund. I commend you for offering good services that leave the general public with comfort of joining the fund," said

Kairuki.

WCF is taking part in this year's exhibition with the purpose of educating workers from both the public and private sectors on the services that can benefit them while at work and after retirement.

This year's Nananene exhibition theme is 'Vote for good leaders in 2020 general elections to realise true developments in the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries sectors'.

The fund is a social security scheme

established in 2015 under the worker's compensation Act Cap 263. R.E 2015. It provides wage replacement and medical benefit to employees injured in the course of employment.

The WCF is beneficial to both the employer and employee, in that, for the worker it can alleviate the socio-economic impact of accidents/ injuries and occupational diseases, whilst also covering the employer from being sued for negligence in both the private and public sector in mainland Tanzania.

By Guardian Correspondent, Tunduru

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) has come into agreement with the government in Tunduru District to increase the production of the sesame crop in a project that will be implemented by 170 schools and managed by the Agricultural Marketing Cooperative Societies (AMCOS) in the district.

The agreement recently reached through TADB Managing Director Japhet Justine and Tunduru District Commissioner Julius Mtatiro, amongst others aims to strengthen the agricultural sector in the district.

Speaking soon after the meeting, Justine said the agreement was the TADB's continuation in developing the farming sector to benefit farmers and the nation in general.

"The aim of TADB and associated banks is to support the government efforts in industrial development that needs adequate raw materials, we shall continue working together with the banks and development sectors in the country to ensure the aim is realised in time," said Justine.

He said TAZDB has been in good

TADB and Tunduru District agree to promote production of sesame

relationship with Tunduru District as this was the second agreement in ensuring the farming sector in the district is profitable to the people.

"Before this agreement, TADB through its Small Holder Credit Guarantee Scheme (SCGS) had provided 500m/- to 466 farmers and was able to effect payment to cashew nuts farmers by more than 99 percent," he said.

He said their aim was to see the agricultural sector injects huge incomes as it involves more than 70 percent Tanzanians "who if adequately funded can have huge contribution in the GDP growth," he added.

TADB Managing Director also made strategic discussions with the Nanyumbu District to see how best to extricate farmers in the district.

"We have met and discussed with the Nanyumbu District Commissioner Moses Mashali that dwelt on various challenges including lack of a warehouse for storing cashew nuts, and agreed on the construction of

a warehouse capable to store more than 5,000 tonnes of the crop in collaboration with Masasi and Mtwara Cooperative Union (MAMCU)," he said.

Tunduru DC said the agreement reached will provide huge opportunities for his district in increasing its revenues and improve people's lives.

He said TADB has been an important stakeholder in the farming sector as it was able to effect payment to cashew nuts farmers for more than 99 percent in 2018/19 season.

"As a district we shall fully supervise the implementation of the agreement reached with TADB aimed to increase opportunities to farmers, as we so did in regard to cashew nuts crop," he said.

TADB continues to ensure that agriculture has a big contribution in raising the living standard of the farmers as well as increasing the national income by involving various banks and development stakeholders in providing a friendly environment to them.



Save the Children

**Invitation to Tender
ITT/SCITZ/2020/0006**

**Provision of Medical Insurance for staff
Tanzania Program Office - 2020**

Save the Children (SC) is the world's leading independent organisation for children. We work in 120 countries. We save children's lives; we fight for their rights; we help them fulfil their potential. We work together, with our partners, to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

SCI Tanzania Office intends to enter into a service contract with selected and reputed insurance company for employees' Medical Insurance cover for one year with possible extension to two years from October 2020.

We invite sealed bids from reputed and registered insurance companies with proven track record to arrange medical health insurance cover (inpatient and outpatient) for its employees including their dependent (spouse and children only) located at Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Songwe, Dodoma, Shinyanga, Kigoma (Kibondo and Kasulu), Rukwa, Morogoro and Iringa regions.

S/N	Description	Coverage
1	Medical Insurance cover (Employees, spouses and children)	As per specifications provided in the Bidding Documents

Number of beneficiaries: **400** (anticipated)

Detailed information;

Tender documents are available on request through; Email address: tanzania.logsshared@savethechildren.org

In case of clarifications and all other queries, please contact our Contracted Insurance Broker; **MIC Global Risks (Tanzania) Limited**, Mobile: +255 687 774 631, Email address: jokameme@micglobalrisks.com

Sealed bids marked: **"Provision of Medical Insurance for Save the Children - Tanzania Staff"** should be delivered at the address below latest by **August 26th 2020 on or before 1600hrs (4.00pm)**.

Address to;

**Attn: Tender Committee for Save the Children- Tanzania
MIC Global Risks (Tanzania) Limited
8th Floor, Amani Place, Ohio street,
P.O. Box 10936, Dar es Salaam**

Any proposal received after the indicated time shall be rejected.



Maganga Ngosha, commanding officer for Shinyanga Region's Msalala Police Zone, has an audience with members of traditional 'militia' popularly known as 'sungusungu' and other Mwakata residents on ways to enhance security in the ward. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Zanzibar Electoral Commission chairman Hamid Mahmoud Hamid updates journalists in Zanzibar yesterday on progress made in preparations for the upcoming (late October) General Election. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Arusha City tourist hotels in operation after COVID

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

TOURIST hotels in the city of Arusha have resumed operations after the government opened the country air space to let in visitors.

For nearly four months the city's tourist hotels were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some of five-star hotels that were closed including Four Point By Sheraton have resumed service.

Speaking yesterday at the event for the resumption of Four Point By Sheraton operations, the Arusha Region's Assistant Commissioner of Immigration Kagimba Hossea said since the time the Covid-19 was confirmed in the country in mid-March this year, many tourist hotels suspended service including the Four Point By Sheraton.

He said the pandemic caused the suspension of tourist business, but due to the government strong control through the Health ministry, the infections dropped rapidly allowing various business activities to resume.

Four Point By Sheraton, formerly called Arusha Hotel was built during colonial times in 1894 and was among east Africa's prestigious hotels.

He said Arusha Region is among strategic regions in the tourism sector, hence it was necessary to ensure all laid down procedures are adhered to to help tourist stakeholders to continue with business for economic growth.

Earlier, the hotel's supervising manager Michael Kimaro said as for now they have concentrated more on security issues when receiving guests and have reduced hotel tariffs by 50 percent.

"True, we continue receiving reports of incoming tourists, and this gives us huge comfort. We thank the government for its decision to open the air space because from the visitors we receive, many Tanzanians get jobs and increase individual incomes as well as the nation's income," he said.



We thank the government for its decision to open the air space because from the visitors we receive, many Tanzanians get jobs and increase individual incomes as well as the nation's income

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

Efforts to restore ecosystem in Arusha, Manyara and Singida

ARUSHA, Manyara and Singida regions are now implementing a project to restore the degraded ecosystem, a situation which has dried-up water sources and resulted in several other environmental impacts.

Ecosystems are dynamic communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms which interact with the physical environment as a functional unit.

Director of a non-governmental organisation, Moivaro Jitegemee Family (Mojifa), Robert Mlugu linked the situation with increased human activities.

He said since the organisation deals with provision of environmental education, tree planting and environment protection it has planted over 83,350 trees in the three regions from 205 to April this year. He said the move was aimed to restore the degraded ecosystem.

Mlugu said the trees were planted at areas located near water sources or valleys to enable them to grow. He said most of the forest areas in Arusha, Manyara and Singida regions have been badly affected by increased human activities.

"We also planted trees at schools, colleges and public places. We are supporting citizen's efforts to restore the damaged ecology," said Mlugu.

"We are determined to protect the environment through tree planting. We are also encouraging residents to plant

fruit trees at their homes and farms," he added.

According to him, the organisation

is educating residents on the adverse impacts of cutting trees for charcoal. He said if not controlled, the regions will

turn into a desert.

Mlugu noted that MOJIFA-ECA planted a total of 600 trees in Kilimanjaro Region,

Singida (3,000) Manyara (4,000) and another 75,750 were planted at Longido, Karatu, Arumeru, Monduli and Arusha-Urban District in Arusha Region.

He added: "Tree planting is something we must nurture because if we do not, we will end up endangering our own lives."

He appealed to the government to assist them with a three acres farm land that will be used as a tree nursery. He said the tree seedlings to be grown at the nursery will be planted across the region.



Tanzania Forest Conservation Group

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Tanzania Forest Conservation Group (TFCG) is a national NGO whose mission is to reduce poverty in rural communities and to conserve the biodiversity of globally important forests in Tanzania for the benefit of the present and future generations. TFCG, in partnership with the Community Forestry Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) is implementing the Eco-schools in Africa Programme – Tanzania. The position is financed by DANIDA through the Danish Outdoor Council. The overall programme objective of the Eco-School is: to promote active citizenship and improved livelihoods through Education for Sustainable Development.

As part of this project, TFCG is seeking applications from qualified Tanzanian women and men for the following position:

Assistant Environmental Education Officer, Dar es Salaam

Responsibilities

- The Assistant Environmental Education Officer will implement specific programme activities in accordance with the work plan and budget submitted by TFCG to DOC with a specific focus on Component 1 of the project. This is the Capacity building Component. The Assistant Environmental Education Officer will assist in building the capacity of primary and secondary school teachers and local government staff to deliver quality education for sustainable development.
- The Assistant Environmental Education Officer shall provide detailed and accurate reports on any programme expenditure for which s/he is responsible in accordance with TFCG financial guidelines.
- To assist in monitoring and documenting the programme's activities using the indicators outlined in the logical frame work.

Qualifications and experience

- BSc. in a related discipline such as Forestry, Education, Biological sciences, Environmental sciences or B.Ed.
- Formal training on a rights-based approach to education is preferred.
- At least 3 years relevant practical experience in the field of education for sustainable development including work with schools, rural communities and local authorities.

How you can apply

The Job Description and other details are available at: <http://www.tfcg.org/careers.html>

Qualified candidates should send applications including CV, covering letter, contact details (including an e-mail address and phone number) and contacts of three professional referees to: personnel@tfcg.or.tz

The deadline for applications is 04:00pm on 15th August, 2020.

215842501



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

USAID/Tanzania is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following position:

Education Development Partners Group Secretariat (short-term consultancy)

Detailed information and application instructions can be viewed on the USAID/Tanzania website:

<https://www.usaid.gov/tanzania>

And the American Embassy in Dar es Salaam website:

<https://tz.usembassy.gov>

Deadline for applications is August 13, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

The U.S. Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer

215840801



We are determined to protect the environment through tree planting. We are also encouraging residents to plant fruit trees at their homes and farms

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO
Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO

Newsdesk

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

Advertising

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

Bankable land use patterns will end cattle grazers-farmers duels

JUST how serious the perennial problem of conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers is battering farmers in the country was visible in a write-up by a writer for this newspaper who visited Tunduru District recently.

One sphere of invading cattle keepers' damage to village life as a while in the area is extensive destruction or damage to water sources, as cattle keepers are given areas to graze which they prefer not to use. And no limits are placed on cattle numbers that they move with, while local officials use them as pawns in a cash game.

A photograph accompanying the write-up shows the village natural resources committee (VNRC) chairman in Namakambale village, Yacob Elisha explaining how stream have been badly damaged by livestock grazing and are drying up.

That numbing summing up of the situation in that village is true of scores of other villages in the district, who complain that their appeals to ward and district officials are unattended. Only when a person is killed trying to dissuade cattle keepers out to damage crops on farms or near water sources do they appear.

An equally devastating problem is the manner in which honey production has declined in the district, making life so hard after the new source of income appeared to stabilise in previous years.

The write-up said that honey and beeswax production at Ipapa Forest Reserve in that village, some 63 kilometres from Tunduru town, has vastly declined due to livestock grazers invading the village land forest reserve. Cattle trespassing causes deforestation in the village forest reserve, while streams that flow into Muhesi River are increasingly drying up as well.

The villagers say right now their economic situation is not good as the

key beekeeping project they relied upon for non-crop income has been decimated by loss of forest cover, woodland forests and flowers that are good for bees having been destroyed by livestock grazing.

Muhesi River subsidiaries like Mwehuru, Kiwea and Majimeupe form the 'beehive' around which the honey production engagement depended, but all that is trampled upon by nomadic grazers.

All usual conflict resolution methods don't work, as no one enforces zone limits, cattle herds.

The government has thought of solutions that previous administrations may have fallen short of imagining, and this problem is a 'nut cracker' that the incoming (post-October) administration would do well to solve.

There are many countries in Africa where land use conflicts are being settled through the use of force, literally, and once a country enters such a spiral it is hard to restore order.

Bold and imaginative solutions are needed which can also place traditional culture on the table, so that it is practiced within limits of bankable land use patterns, unlike nomadic destruction of forests and infringement on the rights to economic activity of peaceful farmers.

Recently, Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi went appealing to those holding land leases for 33 years to uplift their leasehold certificates in regional land offices to 99 years.

It is high time all land users had titles to their respective pieces of land, on ownership basis or subletting, so as to prohibit destructive nomadic practices. The current cattle herders will then be compelled to adopt modern methods of cattle keeping, by the principle of adapting or perishing, as no amount of education appears to be working.

African farming systems should undergo vast transformation

AGRICULTURE remains the largest single contributor to the livelihoods of the 75 per cent of the world's poor who live in rural areas. Encouraging agricultural growth is therefore an important aspect of agricultural policy in the developing world. In addition, a recent Natural Resource Perspective paper by the Overseas Development Institute found that good infrastructure, education and effective information services in rural areas were necessary to improve the chances of making agriculture work for the poor.

Agricultural policy describes a set of laws relating to domestic agriculture and imports of foreign agricultural products. Governments usually implement agricultural policies with the goal of achieving a specific outcome in the domestic agricultural product markets.

Agricultural policies use predetermined goals, objectives and pathway set by an individual or government for the purpose of achieving a specified outcome, for the benefit of the individual(s), society and the nations' economy at large. Agricultural policies take into consideration the primary, secondary and tertiary processes in agricultural production. Outcomes can involve, for example, a guaranteed supply level, price stability, product quality, product selection, land use or employment.

Agriculture has large impacts on climate change, estimated to be contributing 20-25 per cent of global annual emissions as of 2010. Moreover, agriculture is highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change, such as decreases in water access, geophysical processes such as ocean level rise and changing weather, and socioeconomic processes that affect farmer, many of whom are in subsistence economic conditions.

In order for global climate change mitigation and adaptation to be effective a wide range of policies need to be implemented to reduce risk of negative climate change impacts on agriculture and greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector.

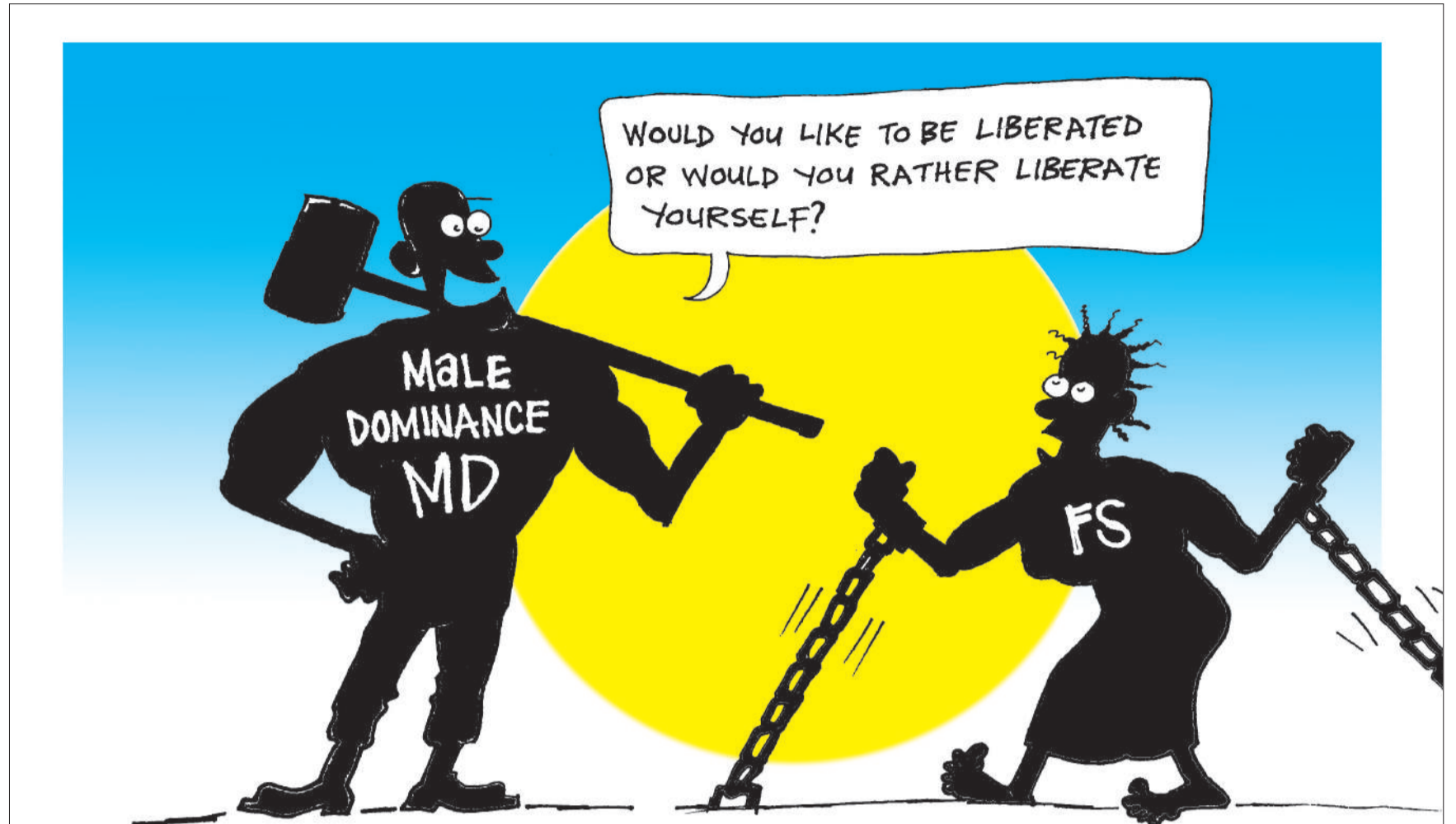
The Annual Agricultural Policy Conference (AAPC) kicked off last month in Dodoma. Tanzania as key players in the agricultural sector met to tackle value chain specific policies to deepen the impact on food security, nutrition and job creation in Tanzania.

The three-day conference brought together over 250 participants from academia, research institutions, policy-makers, advocacy groups and development practitioners.

The chairman of the Policy Analysis Group (PAG), Audax Rukongwe explained that the AAPC is Tanzania's high level policy dialogue that convenes key stakeholders from both the public and private sector, who come on board to present their research findings, success stories, progress made, share best practices and chart a transformative way forward for future reforms.

Agriculture in Tanzania is at a transformation point. Our economy is growing yet this has not always reflected in the lives of Tanzanians who mostly depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The sector holds the opportunity to create jobs, grow the economy and lift its people out of poverty if strategic investments are made into the sector. Key stakeholders delved into six thematic areas with an aim of deriving solutions that will enable and drive the sector's transformation.

The meeting was held under the theme of "Public and Private Sector Investment for Agricultural transformation in Tanzania: Tackling Agribusiness Drivers and Enablers in Crops, Livestock, Fisheries and Agro-processing."



We must purge corruption from the belly of the Covid-19 beast

By Omphemetse Sibanda

SOUTH Africa is in the belly of the beast of corruption, and our leaders are falling into corrupt activities like dominoes instead of being at the forefront of taming the beast.

The outcome of the gamble that the government took to introduce relaxed emergency public procurement measures is affecting South Africa's response to Covid-19. The very same healthcare sector and environment that should be improved to handle Covid-19 is fraught with corruption and malpractice in the procurement and supply of personal protective equipment (PPE). The new emergency Covid-19 procurement approach is doing more harm than good. This is the harm that Corruption Watch, in April, warned the National Treasury about.

Corruption Watch was concerned about the potential of looting and corruption under a procurement system that is an exception to the obligations in terms of section 217 of the Constitution. Section 217 requires state procurement to be fair, equitable, transparent, competitive and cost-effective.

"Given the rampant corruption that has characterised public procurement, procurement under the emergency instructions must be subject to tight scrutiny," said Corruption Watch's David Lewis. Speeding up the procurement processes created a fertile ground for corrupt opportunists.

The writing has always been on the wall that we are entering another phase of corruption alongside State Capture. For example, a report in the Mail & Guardian exposed the blanket scandal in KwaZulu-Natal.

The involvement of families of high-profile ANC members

Allegations abound of the abuse of power for private gain, and public loss resulting from suboptimal decisions in procurement choices or nefarious overspending on project implementation. The truth is that South Africa is in the belly of the beast of corruption, and our leaders are falling to corrupt activities like dominoes instead of being at the forefront of taming the beast. Government officials, politicians and high-ranking members of the African National Congress (ANC) are said to be wallowing in the benefits of the sea of Covid-19 corruption.

"One of the shameful achievements of the African National Congress in its 25 years of governing post-apartheid South Africa is that it's living up to the political stereotype of what is wrong with post-colonial Africa - unethical and corrupt African leaders who exercise power through patronage," as Mandisi Majavu wrote in 'The Conversation'.

The allegations of Covid-19 corruption are mounting. A report last week in Daily Maverick alleged that "the Free

State provincial treasury has awarded contracts worth R2.7-million to the sons of ANC secretary-general and former Free State premier Ace Magashule". You cannot blame the public for being sceptical and suspicious of this contract.

These revelations come hot on the heels of President Cyril Ramaphosa's spokesperson, Khusele Diko, having to take leave because of a suspicious PPE tender awarded to her husband, whose company has no track record of doing business in the health and medical sector.

There are also reports alleging that a barely six-month-old company of the daughter of former Gauteng premier and ANEC member Nomvula Mokonyane benefited from the Gauteng health department's Covid-19 procurement contract "handouts" worth between R2.7-million and R3-million to supply soap to the department. Monopolisation of Covid-19 procurement also hit home with Ramaphosa's son Andile said to have "landed a R6-million contract to modify taxis in Gauteng to comply with Covid-19 regulations". The list of questionable Covid-19 contracts goes on and on.

As usual, many of these allegations are met with those fingered declaring their innocence. The public cannot be blamed for believing that families and children of current and former government officials are always fortunate enough to win tenders.

How to tame the Covid-19 corruption beast?

Below are a few interventions I propose:

First, let there be no holy cows in the application of the law and justice.

This intervention has been much talked about by our public officials. For instance, it was reported by Daily Maverick in 2018 that Nhlanihla Nene, then reappointed finance minister, declared that there would be no holy cows in the fight against corruption.

The government has declared that combating corruption is a national priority, while acknowledging that "corruption in both the private and public sector has a detrimental effect on the government's effort to deliver effective services to the people".

There is one problem though: in law, we often talk of appreciation of the status of things and acting with such appreciation. Unfortunately, Covid-19 tender scandals have shown that the state and our leaders are failing to act in accordance with their appreciation of the ill of corruption in ensuring accountability and prosecution of those among their ranks.

To refer to the ANC spokesperson, Pule Mabe, answering questions about Ace Magashule's sons' Covid-19 contract - not that I believe him - "we won't tolerate any looting of public resources". Not believing him stems from taking the easy way out of challenging "anyone to go and lay charges if the matter is

criminal". The "no holy cows" approach to fighting corruption means that the government and leaders of political parties cannot cling to the comrades-in-arms mantra as an excuse not to abhor corruption.

Instead, they must send a clear and strong message against kleptocrats in their ranks. This entails supporting the law enforcement agencies in their investigations and allowing the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to conduct the prosecution of members of the political elite or their families and acquaintances.

But, again, not much can be written home about our law enforcement agencies, which are captured by politicians and have a fetish for low hanging fruit (an example is the Hawks jumping to investigate the Masondo and Gigaba stories, contrary to its real mandate of combating organised crime).

Second, implement punitive findings of inquiries and commissions to instil accountability and respect of the law against corruption.

South Africa has made frequent use of commissions and inquiries over the years, with the Zondo Commission being the latest. Testimony at the commission has pointed to corruption or corrupt practices, the undue flow of money and other resources out of the public purse, and abuse of power and influence. Still, the noted acts of impropriety in the government's decision-making and by government officials have not jolted the government into cleaning its ranks of delinquent ministers and other public officials.

Instead, we often hear them being defended by conveniently resorting to legal principles such as "innocent until proven guilty in a court of law". When they close ranks in defence of their buddies, the "no holy cows" war cry against corruption is deliberately forgotten.

Third, implement the country's anti-corruption laws indiscriminately.

South Africa is not short of legal and regulatory frameworks to deal with corruption relating to the procurement of medical supplies and PPE. Since price gouging or price inflation in the provision of PPE may give rise to criminal and civil liability, use of this legislation will set a firm precedent for asset forfeiture orders against the corrupt.

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Activities Act of 2004 contains clear provisions on how to deal with active and passive corruption. Nothing prevents the NPA from using this act to deal with cases of corruption and bribery, including fronting, kickbacks, and brown bags or under-the-table payments to government officials who manipulated the tendering process.

Further, under-the-table payments made to government and public officials

who rigged Covid-19 procurement contracts attract tax evasion laws. South Africa's organised crime and anti-corruption legislation imposes severe criminal and civil penalties on offenders. Yet, for some reason, there is always an excuse given to avoid enforcing the legislation against corrupt figures.

Fourth, reimagine our public procurement processes and measures.

A study by PwC on Identifying and Reducing Corruption in Public Procurement in the EU, prepared for the European Commission, noted what has been done across the EU to prevent corruption in public procurement. "[A]dministrative data on tenders, bidders, projects and contractors are collected and stored in a structured way, accessible for controls, investigations and analyses," states the report.

Fifth, maintain transparency rules during public emergencies.

In light of section 217 of the Constitution, public procurement is generally presumptively fair and transparent. The reason is simple: public money is being spent and taxpayers have a right to know how their money is used, even during a Covid-19 emergency. Exemptions from transparency in public procurement during Covid-19, if maintained, should be properly managed. Public procurement transparency is a critical anti-corruption mechanism, even under normal circumstances.

Some countries have gone a mile further with regards to making both the bidding and procurement information publicly available. For example, Mexico - though itself bulging under the weight of Covid-19 corruption - has in place a disclosure of information system managed through the central procurement system called Compranet. Compranet is informed by the Mexican Law of Acquisitions, Leasing and Services of the Public Sector (Ley de Adquisiciones, Arrendamientos y Servicios del Sector Público, LAASSP), which makes the publication of procurement information on Compranet mandatory for federal institutions' procurement. The information published on Compranet includes tender procedures (solicitation documents, minutes of the clarification meetings and the opening of tenders), contract awards history and formal complaints.

The latest reforms of Compranet include publishing information related "to subcontracting, modifying agreements, joint bid proposals and exceptions to open tenders". These reforms are aimed at making more information available to stakeholders on public procurement processes to enable them to conduct audits to prevent corruption. The example made is that "information on subcontracting and joint bids may help competition authorities identify bidding patterns indicative of collusion and bid-rigging".

By Robert Roy Britt

Covid-19 'cocktail crisis' adding to America's serious drinking problem

Americans are drinking more during the Covid-19 pandemic, and even indulging on the job while working from home, adding to an epidemic of alcohol consumption that research shows will only lead to more premature deaths, most notably among middle-aged people.

Excessive alcohol consumption kills more than 93,000 people in the United States every year, shortening the lives of these people by an average of 29 years, according to a new study by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The research accounts for acute alcohol-related deaths involving such things as violence, car crashes, suicides, accidents and child abuse.

But 55 per cent of these premature, preventable deaths are from long-term drinking that causes various cancers, liver disease, heart disease and other health problems. Overall, 71 per cent of these premature deaths are among men, and 56 per cent are people of ages 35 to 64.

The study, led by CDC scientist Marissa Esser, PhD, is based on data from 2011 through 2015. The figures are slightly higher than in the previous five-year period.

Likely an undercount

There were substantial differences among states. The researchers recorded 20 alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 people in several states, including New York and New Jersey. A few other states had lower figures but were thought to have "suppressed estimates" of the real totals, the study concludes.

The five states with the highest number of alcohol-related deaths per 100,000 people: New Mexico: 52, Arizona: 37, Montana: 37, Oklahoma: 36, West Virginia: 35.

"Effective population-level interventions to reduce excessive drinking are underutilized in states," Es-



ser said.

The study is "important" and its methods are "rigorous and valid", says Frederic Blow, PhD, director of the Addiction Centre at the University of Michigan, who was not involved in the study.

But the data involved only cases in which alcohol was listed as the primary cause of death on the death certificate. "So it is highly likely that many alcohol-involved deaths were not detected - for example, individuals who died of cardiovascular disease but were also heavy drinkers might not have been counted even though their drinking likely contributed to their heart disease," Blow says.

Drunk and drunker

It's no secret that Americans overimbibe. Excessive alcohol consumption, along with opioids (a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription) and suicide, are thought to be responsible for the decline in US life expectancy that began in 2015, after many decades of mostly

rising.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, binge drinking - defined as four drinks for a woman or five for a man in a single two-hour window in the past month - was already on the rise among people over age 50, while being most common in people ages 25 to 34.

And, increasingly, scientists question the age-old advice that one or two drinks is good for you. They cite many recent studies indicating that no amount of alcohol is healthy.

Research last year refuted the long-held claim that moderate drinking reduces the risk of stroke, as but one example. Another study finds that when moderate drinkers stop, their mental health improves.

Recently, a committee of health experts proposing changes to the federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans suggested reducing the recommendation for alcoholic beverages to no more than one for men, rather than two, and retaining the suggested limit of one for women. The scientists say that if you don't have a drink one day, that does not mean that you should have two the next day.

Covid cocktail crisis

Lockdowns and other pandemic stresses have certainly primed the drinking pump. Data from previous epidemics, including SARS in 2003 and swine flu in 2009, "suggest that social isolation can have a number of negative health effects, including increases in alcohol consumption", Blow says.

Stress, isolation and boredom are all potential triggers for alcohol consumption, says Adriane Dela Cruz, MD, an assistant professor in psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre.

"A lot of my patients talk about this idea that there's a hamster wheel constantly going in their head and that alcohol quiets down the hamster wheel," she says, adding: "But I'm worried when drinking becomes the routine, go-to solution."

This seems to be exactly what's happening, based on multiple analyses of the first months of the pandemic.

Overall alcohol sales, including from stores and in bars and restaurants, was roughly 10 per

cent to 20 per cent higher in March and April this year compared to the previous three-year average for those months in states that reported data. This is according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Sales of wine and hard liquor rose while beer sales dipped.

About a third of Americans say that they drink more now than they used to before the pandemic, according to a survey released in April by the American Addiction Centres. A similar percentage said that if they work from home, they're more likely now to drink during working hours.

The average number of drinks per day increased by 27 per cent between February and April, with binge drinking up by 26 per cent, according to another survey led by Carolina Barbosa, PhD, of RTI International, a nonprofit research institute. The biggest rise was among people with children at home versus adults with no children in the house.

Stressed-out parents

It's not hard to imagine the connection between children and parental drinking. Parents who are stressed about their children's distance learning are downing seven more drinks a month than parents who say that it does not stress them, according to yet another survey - done in May.

"These stressed parents are also twice as likely to report binge drinking at least once over the prior month than parents who are not stressed," write the researchers, University of Maryland psychologist Susan Sonnenschein, PhD, and Elyse Grossman, PhD, of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"Drinking appears to have gone up, perhaps rather substantially. In the long run, I can't imagine this will be good for American health," says Max Griswold, a researcher at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington whose own research found a strong link between alcohol consumption and the risk for cancer, injuries and infectious diseases.

Alcohol-related deaths had been declining in prior years, mostly among younger adults, Griswold points out. If younger people are responsible for the current rise, "then, given the addictive nature of alcohol, this could lead to increased drinking in the long run and subsequent increased deaths", he notes, adding: "If the increased drinking is among those who already were drinking a modest amount, this might push them to alcohol abuse."

Strategies to avoid alcohol as a pandemic stress reliever include physical activity, eating and sleeping well, staying in touch with friends and family, and even deep-breathing exercises, according to the American Heart Association.

The researchers in the new CDC study say that alcohol-related deaths could be reduced via society-wide measures, among them increasing alcohol taxes and reducing the number of places that sell alcohol.

Alcohol and the coronavirus don't mix

Experts have, meanwhile, dashed any myth-driven hopes that a good stiff drink might ward off the coronavirus. Rather, alcohol slows the function of lung cells responsible for clearing out coronavirus particles and reduces the production of the immune system's white blood cells, says David Fiellin, MD, director of the Yale Programme in Addiction Medicine.

"Alcohol use, especially heavy use, weakens the immune system and thus reduces the ability to cope with infectious diseases," the World Health Organisation states. It adds that consuming alcohol will not destroy the coronavirus, and consumption is likely to increase the health risks if a person becomes infected with the virus.

Griswold notes that while increased drinking may play a role in serious Covid-19 cases and deaths, many of the effects, including cancers and liver disease, won't show up for many years.

"I have no doubt that many individuals who increased their drinking during the (Covid-19) pandemic will continue that higher level of consumption over the longer term," says Blow, the University of Michigan researcher.

He adds: "Therefore, we will likely see many more people who drink excessively in need of treatment and, unfortunately, many who will die of alcohol-related causes over the coming few years."

• A piece originally published in **Elemental**, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Robert Roy Britt is a science & health journalist and an author.

Nigeria's growing insecurity offers expansion opportunities for Boko Haram

By Malik Samuel

Boko Haram is extending its reach from north-east Nigeria into the country's north-west. It is taking advantage of old and new local conflicts and insecurities to further embed itself in the area through violent extremism.

Since January 2019 thousands of people in the north-west states of Kaduna, Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara have been killed or injured. Others have lost their livelihoods, at least 23 000 have been displaced and dozens have been abducted for ransom, nurturing an economy of violence.

The growing extremism here and in Niger State in the country's north central region has led Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekar to thank fighters from the north-west who he claims have expressed their allegiance and goodwill to the group. Communities in north-west and north central Nigeria, lacking state protection, are becoming increasingly vulnerable to these converging threats.

There are several reasons for this insecurity.



Lacking state protection, communities in north-west and north central Nigeria have become increasingly vulnerable. File photo

Unresolved clashes over access to land and water between farmer and herder communities have morphed into violent and deadly conflicts using sophisticated weapons. The government has failed to effectively and sustainably address these escalating local conflicts over time.

Organised crime is another factor. Banditry, kidnapping and armed robbery have fuelled a lucrative economy in the trafficking of small arms, light weapons and other contraband. Boko Haram is taking advantage of the unresolved and escalating local conflicts and rising organised crime to expand and recruit.

Research in the Sahel by

the Institute for Security Studies has shown that violent extremist groups exploit local conflicts as part of their strategy to gain a foothold in communities. They also take advantage of inadequate state security and protection to exert their own control over local economies and ensure their groups' resilience.

Civilians have borne the brunt of the converging criminal and conflict dynamics in the north-west. Between January and June 2020 alone, at least 608 civilians were killed in about 245 incidents in Kaduna, Zamfara, Katsina, Kebbi and Niger states. By comparison, 251 incidents were recorded for the whole 2019, with 1 028 fatalities.

Marauders arrive on motorcycles fully armed, with little or no resistance from security forces who often arrive long after the attacks have happened. On 9 June, armed men on more than 200 motorcycles attacked Kadiru community in Katsina State, killing at least 20 people.

On 18 July, five children were killed by an improvised explosive device on a farm in Yammama village in Katsina State. Hours later at least 16 soldiers were killed in another part of the state in an ambush.

Efforts by national armies and the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) are preventing Boko Haram from holding or gaining ground in Nigeria's north-east and the

Lake Chad region. As a result, north-west Nigeria offers opportunities for the group to expand its territory.

Boko Haram's ability to move across state borders could increase if it succeeds in the north-west. Zamfara, Katsina and Sokoto states all border the country of Niger to the north, while Nigeria's Niger State borders Benin, which is also part of the MNJTF.

The north-west terrain suits Boko Haram's operations and tactics, and its ability to hide. The Kamuku Forest, which is bigger than Sambisa, spans several states within Nigeria. The Ruma/Kukar Jangarai Forest extending from Katsina to Zamfara and the Kwimbana Forest in Zamfara are already suspected hideouts for bandits. This terrain offers shelter for the group and access to resources.

The expansion of Boko Haram into north-west and north central Nigeria would disrupt local economies. The north-west is Nigeria's granary. With farming activities already greatly affected by conflict with Boko Haram in the north-east, Nigeria cannot afford further disruptions in a key

agricultural region.

Farmers in Zamfara and Katsina states are already staying away from their lands for fear of attack, and the situation will only worsen if it isn't resolved. The recent bomb blast that killed five children also increases fears of improvised explosive devices and unexploded weapons.

Boko Haram has no regard for borders when it recruits, attacks, steals and trades

The north-west is economically appealing for Boko Haram. The group has immersed itself in the economic activities of border communities in the Lake Chad region to ensure its sustenance. Illegal gold mines in Zamfara and Niger states will be a boon for the group, and Kaduna State is rich in nickel.

Boko Haram has previously carried out attacks in the north-west and north central regions without establishing itself in these areas. The current chaos provides the group with the opportunity to build the kinds of local alliances needed to establish its operation in these states.

Lacking government protection, community members may take charge

of their own security. This would lead to more violence, loss of lives and livelihoods, and increase the proliferation of arms. In Kaduna and Zamfara states, community vigilante groups have conducted reprisal attacks against armed groups. Youths in Katsina State are also teaming up to protect their communities.

Boko Haram has no regard for borders when it recruits, attacks, steals and trades. Nigeria must implement the National Livestock Transformation Plan that seeks to sustainably address the farmer-herder clash - the root cause of this crisis. This comprehensive plan has six pillars: economic investment, conflict resolution, law and order, humanitarian relief, information education and strategic communication, and cross-cutting issues.

If the problem isn't urgently addressed, the humanitarian fallout from Boko Haram attacks will only increase. This will lead to a diversion of resources that could instead have been used in developing the affected communities and improving citizens' lives.

AGENCIES

By Michael Touchton

Simon Sinek has a way of seeing through an issue and communicating it in a fresh, piercing way. And this time, the British-born American author and motivational speaker has taken on global warming.

No, he hasn't written another book or filmed a viral TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talk. So far, he has just shared a short video where he answers a question posed to him about climate change.

His brief reply is a two-point criticism of the way we have understood and communicated climate change, and his insight might just change the way you think about the problem.

Global warming has a marketing problem.

We have learned the hard way that, unfortunately, people aren't going to just jump on the environmental bandwagon because scientists said they needed to. That's just not human nature. People need to be convinced, inspired, sold and left to feel like they've decided to act out of their own free will and self-interest.

The majority of consumers care about how they'll directly benefit from something. And social issues are no different. We're just not that selfless - not on a global scale.

We've done a poor job at marketing the climate crisis to selfish human beings. We've confused people with poor messaging and we've assumed that people's better nature would lead them to act selflessly. Wrong.

Sinek proposes two fundamental changes to our climate crisis messaging strategy:

From global warming to climate cancer

In 1975, US Scientist Wallace Broecker used the term

How right - or how wrong - is popular thinking with respect to climate crisis?



"global warming" in a scientific paper - and the rest is history. The term became part of our global lexicon, and the results were... confusing.

If it's colder this winter than it was last winter, or if it's unseasonably cold today, how can global warming be real? "I'm telling you... those scientists are a bunch of liberal quacks," he said. People aren't just ignorant. We're bad at messaging.

The problem was never just warming - it was about a disruption in the normal, habitable range of our planet's climate. Or, as Sinek says, the problem isn't global warm-

ing, it's climate cancer.

We need to communicate exactly what the problem is in a way that people will immediately understand and emotionally feel. People get cancer. They understand the concept. They feel the need to act. And they understand what almost always happens to a cancer patient when they fail to act: they die.

There is a cancer in our climate. And if we don't act, there will be death. But whose death?

From save the planet to save your family

That's Sinek's second point.

We've ignorantly believed that we could get humanity to act by telling them that we need to save the earth, the animals, and some low-lying cities. But, by and large, people haven't acted.

We humans generally act in our own self-interest - especially if it will cost us something. And healing climate cancer will cost us a lot.

Instead of telling people that we need to save someone or something else, we need to warn people that they and their families are in danger. They need to know and feel the fear that failing to act will have on their own lives and

the lives of those whom they love.

It's really not about the planet. It's about us. As Sinek says: "The planet will survive no matter what. Life will continue with us or without us. What we have to do is save our species."

The way we're measuring progress is all wrong.

If the first point from Sinek was about how to effectively market the need to address climate change, this point is about how to ensure ongoing action to heal climate cancer.

According to Sinek, the way we measure progress should

be about momentum rather than about absolutes: "If we don't act now, the world as we know it will be gone in 50 years."

Fifty years is a long time. And, in addition to being selfish, we're finite-minded creatures. We like to see the results of the sacrifices we're making. And we want to see them much sooner than 50 years from now.

You probably wouldn't follow your personal trainer's regimen if she or he told you that you would need to make sacrifices and work out every day for the next 50 years, and then and only then would

you lose those several kilograms.

People are overwhelmed with pressing, personal concerns. So lowering some random data point that affects something years into the future is always going to be pretty low on their list of priorities. We need to see and understand the difference we're making in more immediate terms.

Like viewing the graphs of daily coronavirus cases, people need to understand how we can flatten the curve of climate cancer and environmental damage today, this week, this month, and this year. What actions can I take today, and what results will I see and feel tomorrow?

We need fewer absolutes that feel far off and hard to reach, and more ways to measure that we're moving in the right direction.

The Final Word

We've got a lot wrong with global warming. We've assumed that people will just "get it" and act in line with the most altruistic aspects of human nature. But they haven't. We haven't.

And it's not our fault. It's the messaging, the branding, the marketing. If you made a product you were sure was great and it didn't end up selling at all, would you blame the consumers who didn't buy it? Or would you step back and take a long look at your marketing strategy?

Things will only change once we help people understand the climate cancer all around them that threatens the survival of their family and give them clear actions to take with a compelling way to see the progress they're making.

A Climate Conscious dispatch. Former faith leader Michael Touchton writes to inspire people to move forward today so that they can create a better world tomorrow.

UNITED NATIONS

The theme of this year's High-Level Political Forum, where governments reviewed progress on the Sustainable Development Goals was "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."

Throughout this forum, which took place 7-16 July, one major theme emerged: how to use Covid-19 as an opportunity to reset national and global ambition.

Perhaps no goal lends itself to accelerating global ambition more than Goals 14 and 15. These two nature-related goals, covering 'life below water,' and 'life above land,' are foundations for many other Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, especially those related to the issues of food and water security, disaster risk reduction, sustainable livelihoods and climate mitigation. In fact, implementing nature-based solutions is a fast-track path for accelerated action across more than half of the SDG targets.

We know from recent reports, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystems (IPBES), that biodiversity is in rapid decline; we have wiped out 83% of all wild mammals, and a million species may go extinct by mid-Century. Our window to bend the curve on nature

SDGs: Accelerating action, transformative pathways through nature-based solutions



Unless we make bold changes in the way we produce our food and manage our land, we will not be able to cut emissions sufficiently and keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius. File photo

loss is closing, and Covid-19 provides a rare window of opportunity to act now.

The cost-benefit calculus for implementing nature-based solutions is compelling. Protecting 30 percent of the planet would cost 16 percent of global GDP, and is less than three percent of the cost of fossil fuel sub-

sidies. Yet the benefits of protecting the planet are enormous - more than 5 to 1, with benefits primarily flowing to the more than 2.5 billion people who depend directly on forestry, farming of fisheries for their survival.

The cost of inaction is equally compelling - nearly

half of all Gross Domestic Product globally is at risk from nature's loss. Furthermore, as biodiversity and ecosystems unravel, we will face new global pandemics, new water crises, famine, new ecosystem collapses and forest fires and more.

And the cost of inaction has already become

untenable. Clearly the time for accelerating progress on the SDGs through nature-based solutions is now. At UNDP we see three major pathways for taking action.

Three pathways for accelerated action and transformative pathways

First, we must invest in national nature-based safe-

ty nets. Although countries have committed to protecting 17% terrestrial area and 10% marine areas through the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and have committed to restoring 100 million hectares of land by 2020 through the Bonn Challenge, these targets are likely insufficient to tackle our planetary emergency.

By setting and implementing bold measures for protecting and restoring biodiversity, countries can realize multiple benefits. One of the more important of these is climate mitigation - protecting and restoring nature can provide up to a third of our climate mitigation needs.

Second, we can use the opportunity afforded by Covid-19 to implement fiscal stimulus and financial aid packages for nature-positive and climate-aligned recovery plans that accelerate the transition to a fair and green economy.

For example, UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) provides support for developing national biodiversity finance plans. One result is that 14 countries are looking at debt-for-nature swaps to accelerate the protection of nature. Similarly, we can see how to use public works programs to create green jobs, while also

achieving multiple societal benefits.

For example, Pakistan is hiring unemployed workers to plant trees and South Africa has shown that 'Working for Water' and other programs can achieve multiple benefits while providing jobs.

Third, we can accelerate the pioneering and innovative use of technologies that can accelerate a green recovery. For example, the GCash Forest Platform, a mobile wallet is a UNDP-supported app in the Philippines, enables people to sign up and gather points for sustainable activities such as walking, forfeiting paper bills or buying organic produce while creating a virtual tree in the app.

Once this tree has fully grown, a real tree is planted somewhere in the Philippines. More than 2 million people already signed up for the app since it was launched one year ago, and over US\$ 500,000 was invested in tree planting.

The outlook from the High-Level Political Forum is sobering; we are not on track to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, Covid-19 is likely to further dampen our progress across many of the SDG goals and targets.

However, we can and must take bold action now. Nature-based solutions are one of our brightest hopes to build back better, and to accelerate action through transformation.

Agencies

By Ian Lewis

Clean cooking: Africa falls behind

EXPOSURE to air pollution caused by burning raw coal, kerosene or traditional biomass for cooking damages health, especially among the women and children most exposed to it.

The Covid-19 pandemic has just raised risk levels again, as the virus has a greater impact on those with respiratory illnesses prevalent among those using those cooking methods.

The pressing need to tackle this health risk - and the harmful climate change impact from cooking emissions - have long been voiced.

But data showing progress makes grim reading.

In Sub-Saharan Africa alone, a stagnant access rate combined with rapid population growth have led to a rise in the number of people without access to clean cooking from some 750m in 2010 to 890m in 2018, according to Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report, published in May 2020 by a group of organisations including the IEA, the WHO and the World Bank Group.

More people without access to clean fuels and technologies now reside in Sub-Saharan Africa than in Eastern Asia and Southeastern Asia. Globally, the figure is almost 3bn people.

"If observed trends in access and population continue, it can be estimated that in 2030 Sub-Saharan Africa will have the greatest access deficit, at around 44% of the region's total population. This represents a substantial geographic redistribution

of the global access deficit and associated health, economic, and societal burdens. Future policies should take these trends into account, the report said.

In six of the 20 "access-deficit" countries identified by the agency, 5% or less of the population had access to clean fuels, and all are in Africa - Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Uganda, and Tanzania.

There are many initiatives

doing valuable work in this field.

The Clean Cooking Alliance, for example, brings together public and private sectors to support research, clean cooking standards, and enterprise capacity building. The alliance has called for clean cooking to be incorporated into pandemic emergency response plans to ensure that progress is not reversed. It cites India's plan to give away millions of cooking gas cylinders

to those in need as an example of positive actions.

SEforALL, the UN-Backed initiative to drive faster action meet energy access goals, calls for a more joined up approach to tackle the clean cooking crisis. It said in response to the Tracking SDG 7 report that a lack of political urgency and sustained investment, the absence of market-enabling conditions, and poor institutional frameworks had hindered wider uptake of clean

cooking.

"We must commit to implementing all necessary actions, including, but not limited to, mobilising finance, supporting innovative business models, undertaking market development activities to scale and replicating best practices," SEforALL said.

The organisation called for these measures to be supported by national clean cooking targets and enabling laws, policies and

regulations to send strong market signals and a stable investment environment.

Targeted public education campaigns were needed to emphasise the health, safety and climate benefits of transitioning from traditional cooking techniques to cleaner and healthier alternatives, it added.

The hope is that, at a time when governments have developed the ability to mobilise resources to tackle Covid-19, they may now apply those skills to improving access to clean cooking - a more harmful crisis for Africa's long-term future than the pandemic.

TARI develops high-yielding banana varieties - a big step

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has made big strides in scientific research of Banana crop production by developing high yielding matooke varieties namely NARITA hybrids for possible distribution to farmers. It has taken 18 years to generate these hybrids.

The new improved matooke varieties which are expected to be released soon, have 30 percent higher yield compared to the current local matooke varieties grown by farmers under the same conditions.

In an interview with the Guardian at Nyakabindi grounds, Bariadi in Simiyu region where Nanane nane exhibitions are being held at national level, National Coordinator for Banana Research, Dr. Mpoki Shimwel from TARI said that the first ever and significant scientific research has been done in collaboration with its partners, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI).

He said that the clones have peculiar qualities such as good test and resistant to pest and disease.

"This is the first ever for banana varieties to be officially released. This is a greater achievement, as the banana is one of the most difficult crop to breed. It took 18 years to generate these hybrids" said Dr. Mpoki Shimwela.

After the official release there will be a promotion campaign to distribute these new matooke varieties to the farmers. Planting materials will be multiplied through tissue culture laboratories, macro-propagator and seed nurseries. At the same time, farmers can obtain suckers and evaluate the performance of the new varieties in the demonstration plots which will be established in different areas in banana producing regions.

The small scale farmers will be highly benefits from these new improved matooke varieties. Dr. Mpoki Shimwela said that "Unlike many staple crops, bananas produce food throughout the year, making them an ideal crop for improving household incomes and providing food security". With 30% yield increase these

new matooke varieties ensured food security and sustainable incomes to banana farmers in rural areas.

According to Dr. Shimwela the evaluation of NARITAS hybrids in Tanzania started in 2015 by which the total of 29 NARITAS hybrids were introduced and agronomical evaluated for four years for yield, consumer acceptability and pest and disease-resistant. Explaining further, he said that the evaluation was conducted in three sites namely Mbeya, Kagera and Kilimanjaro regions. After screening the 29 NARITAS genotypes, ten (10) potential clones were selected for release in Tanzania: NARITA 2, NARITA 4, NARITA 7, NARITA 18, NARITA 23, NARITA 4, NARITA 22, NARITA 26, NARITA 20, and NARITA 14. Banana is important staple food in East and Central Africa and significant sources of income to farmers in rural areas but they are under threat of pest and diseases that cause yield loss. Millions of smallholder banana farmers in Tanzania and Uganda rely on banana as a staple food and as a major source of income. The two countries produce over a half of all bananas grown in Africa, with the region's yearly banana crop valued at \$4.3 billion. In Tanzania, about 30 percent of Tanzania's population derive their carbohydrates from green bananas resulting an average per capita consumption of about 84kg/year.

Bananas grown in a wide range of environments and farming systems including pure stands, coffee/banana farming systems intercropping with other crops like beans and yams. They fruit all-year around, which puts them above other crops as a food and income security crop as they are superior in bridging the 'hunger gap' between annual crop harvests. Banana plants also make an important contribution to environmental conservation as they are perennial with roots and broad leaves that help to maintain soil structure and provide protective soil cover throughout the year.

According to Dr. Shimwela, Tanzania ranks second after Uganda in banana production in East Africa, producing approximately 3.7 million tonnes per year from some

450,000 hectares. In Tanzania, most of the bananas (over 70% of bananas) are grown in Kagera, Kilimanjaro and Mbeya regions. Other regions producing significant amount of bananas are Morogoro, Kigoma, Mara, Arusha, Ruvuma, Tanga, and Coast.

Despite the importance of bananas, its production in Tanzania has drastically reduced over the past decade. Farmers are producing a mere 9 percent of what is actually possible, largely as a result of the devastating impact of pests and diseases such as black Sigatoka, Nematodes and banana weevils. The national coordinator of banana research from Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute- Maruku centre (TARI-Maruku) in Kagera region Dr Mpoki Shimwela says that "Despite the economic importance of banana in the country especially in Kagera, Kilimanjaro and Mbeya regions, the sustainable production of banana is threatened by pathogens and pests, posing a risk to household income generation and food security in rural areas".

Several interventions such as cultural methods have been deployed by farmers to control these pests and diseases but have not been very effectively. Use of host plant resistance is the more effective and durable option for the management of banana problems. Host plant resistance is cost effective, environmentally friendly and durable and easily adoptable by the small-scale farmers.

Director General for TARI, Dr. Geoffrey Mkamillo said that the high yielding matooke varieties namely NARITA hybrids is part of TARI's comprehensive plans and strategies to improve and enhance production of Banana crop for the farmers across Tanzania and for industrial economy as per the President John Magufuli's vision.

"We will always make sure that TARI generates and promotes application of knowledge in agricultural technologies as catalyst of change in achieving agricultural productivity, food and nutrition security in Tanzania. We also want to ensure sustainable agriculture and economic growth of the country," he said



TARI director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamillo (C) listens to the national coordinator for banana research, Dr Mpoki Shimwel (R), on high-yielding banana varieties - the NARITA hybrids - for possible distribution to farmers. Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

Authorities in Ilemela unhappy with increase in early marriages

By Guardian Correspondent, Mwanza

AUTHORITIES in Ilemela Municipal Council yesterday warned parents who are fueling early marriages and increased gender based violence (GBV).

Ilemela Municipal Education Officer (Academic), Dorice Timotheo made the remarks at the launching of 'Haki ya Binti' programme to support young girls which is implemented at Kitangiri and Pansiasi wards by a non-governmental organization - Wadada Solutions on GBV.

She said the government in collaboration with stakeholders has been working to end early pregnancies and GBV in the municipality to enable girls to achieve their targeted life goals.

She however expressed concerns about the habit of some parents who contributes to increased GBV cases as well as child marriages.

"There are some parents who

have been punished in accordance with the laws, at least 20 school girls got pregnant in 2019," she said, calling upon parents to help their children to achieve their life dreams.

She said that protecting girls from early marriages and pregnancy will save them from contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/Aids.

Representing Ilemela District Commissioner, Ward Executive Officer, Godfrey Mnzava said despite parents' role in protecting children, teachers also play a vital role in ensuring student's good discipline while at school.

He said teachers need to be close to their students to make them comfortable and free to share their life challenges.

"We must assist our girls to achieve their life dreams; when they share their challenges with teachers it becomes easy for teachers to inform parents and take appropriate measures against the culprits," said Mnzava.

He said children will also be provided with training on reproductive health.

Director, Wadada Solution on Gender Based Violence, Ruth John said that it is high time for parents to talk to their children on various issues related to reproductive health to protect them from diseases and early pregnancies.

She said the 'Haki ya Binti' programme aims to educate parents on their roles to children.

The NGO's Legal Officer, Anitha Samson said that plans are to reach 400 girls from the two wards. She said the girls will be educated on reproductive health as well as being equipped with different life skills so that they become economically independent in future.

Ilemela District Health Officer, Stella Mwakikunga said: "We have been providing reproductive health education to the youth at our available health centres. We sometimes organize debates where both primary and second-

ary school students discuss health matters freely."

Mwakikunga who represented the District Chief Medical Officer said that reproductive health education is provided to the youth as part of measures to prevent them from early pregnancies and protection against sexually transmitted diseases.

According to the Minister for Health Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Ummu Mwalimu, in Tanzania, out of 100 women aged 15-49, forty have experienced physical violence and 17 in 100 women (15-49 years) have experienced sexual violence.

The government has created policies and guidelines for management of gender based violence and violence against children (VAC), and the law of The Child Act number 21 of 2009 and its regulations, that aims at guiding the country on how to address VAV and VAC.

Rhino poaching down 53 pc during lockdowns, extending years of South Africa's success

By Special Correspondent

RHINO poaching in South Africa has decreased by almost 53 percent in the first six months of 2020, which continued a dramatic downward trend over the last five years.

"After a decade of implementing various strategies... efforts are paying off," said the Minister of Environment,

Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Barbara Creecy this week. "We have been able to arrest the escalation of rhino losses."

The Minister said the nationwide Covid-19 associated law enforcement measures to restrict movement has powered the ongoing decline in rhino poaching compared to the same period last year, calling it 'striking'.

An astonishing reprieve was celebrated in the Kruger National Park where, during April, no rhinos were killed in the Intensive Protection Zone for the first time in almost ten years.

Between January and June, 38 suspected rhino poachers have been arrested in the KNP and 23 firearms confiscated, while 57 suspects have

been arrested during joint SANParks ECI /SAPS operations outside of the KNP.

The Ministry also reported that, from January to June 2020, the National Prosecuting Authority managed to not only obtain convictions in 15 cases but maintain a remarkable conviction rate of 100%. In addition to these high conviction rates,

lengthy sentences were also imposed by the courts.

In February, the Ministry reported a 23% decline in the number of rhinos lost to poaching in 2019, as well as a 43% decline in elephant poaching.

"A decline in poaching for five consecutive years is a reflection of the diligent work of the men and women who put their lives on the line daily to combat

rhino poaching, often coming into direct contact with ruthless poachers," said the Minister last year.

In celebration of World Ranger Day today, the Minister paid tribute to the men and women whose commitment to protecting the country's natural heritage, sometimes at the expense of their own safety.

"Our rangers have remained at the forefront of

the battle against poaching, despite the National Lockdown, contributing to the decrease in poaching.

In this time, rangers have had to face not only the threats posed by poachers, but they, and their families, have also had to deal with the danger of contracting Covid-19," said the Minister.

Their work further strengthens the essential collaboration with the

South African Police Service, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (HAWKS), the Department of Justice, and other sectors of the security forces to gather, analyze and share intelligence on wildlife trafficking so that the international syndicate-related crimes can be effectively dealt with.

With drones and masks, African innovators keep COVID-hit economies afloat

ROME

GHANAIAN pilot Eric Acquah started a drone company in 2017 to spray crops with pesticides, but when coronavirus hit the West African country he found a new mission - saving lives.

The company has used 20 drones to disinfect about 38 open-air markets in Ghana, spraying a couple of acres in minutes, a job that would take a dozen people several hours, and there are now also plans to use them to disinfect classrooms, said Acquah.

"We targeted the market areas because in Africa they are open-air and always overpopulated. So we thought if the virus is going to spread fast it will be from them," said Acquah, who was paid by local authorities to spray the markets.

"Just closing the borders and quarantining the whole country wouldn't make sense unless there is a mass disinfection of places where people gather in larger numbers," the founder of AcquahMeyer Drone Tech told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The markets have since re-opened, with everyone wearing masks and social distancing, and traders and buyers said they felt safer, said Acquah, who is lobbying private donors for funds to disinfect other public areas - at about \$15 per acre.

Acquah is just one of a host of African innovators helping poor households adapt to and survive the pandemic which has so far infected more than 416,000 people in Africa with more than 11,300 deaths, according to a Reuters tally based



on government statistics and WHO data.

As job losses mount and incomes plunge due to coronavirus lockdowns and border closures, many African countries risk spikes in poverty and hunger, food experts have warned.

INNOVATION

In Benin, a dozen entrepreneurs are developing ideas to tackle the coronavirus pandemic, from masks to 3D-printed protective gear, with financial and technical support from a government-United Nations taskforce launched in April.

"Because it hasn't been easy to import goods into the coun-

try, we have to take a hard look at what we can produce locally," said Claude Bona, head of Seme City, the government's innovation and entrepreneurship centre, co-leading the project.

"I think people are slowly taking measure of what's happening here in Africa with innovation, and how it can be a very powerful tool."

Atingan is one start-up which received backing from the taskforce to adapt to the crisis, switching from making eco-friendly stoves to handwashing stations operated by pedals so users do not have to touch anything.

They have sold more than

600 units for about \$100 each to clients that include the United Nations, said Franck Zanhoundaho, who founded the company with his brother.

"All of the artisans, all the welders in the country have started to make them," he said, adding that the simple metal frame is easily replicable, and that they have shared the design to encourage wider production.

The production of handwashing stations has enabled the small company to survive the crisis, he added.

The Alodo Initiative - a group of fashion designers - is another project receiving support from

the taskforce to rapidly scale up its work, both to bolster the fight against COVID-19 and minimise its negative economic impact.

It is producing masks from locally available fabrics, which were tested in a lab to ensure their effectiveness in preventing coronavirus transmission. They have sold millions, some of which the government bought to distribute in schools.

"The textile sector often takes a hit when there is an economic crisis. And it's a sector that employs a lot of workers," said Char-

lemagne Amoussou, President of the Association of Fashion Designers of Benin.

"This local production breathed life into the textile sector in Benin, and I think that almost all the tailors, all the designers had work."

DIGITAL

With coronavirus cases still rising in Africa, digital networks have proven crucial in keeping economic activity going.

As disease-wary customers shun open-air markets, food sellers using Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp have seen a surge in demand, said Rumbidzai Mbambo, 27, founder of Quickfresh, one of the newest Zimbabwean online grocery start-ups.

Mbambo set up the company in April after seeing that a government-imposed lockdown had left smallholder farmers stranded with fresh produce while people stuck at home could not buy food.

"The pandemic has re-defined our way of life and our business model suits the low-touch new (environment)," she said, adding that the business has attracted more than 60 clients in its first two months.

Paída Moyo ventured into farming herbs just a few months earlier and feared she would have to bin her produce.

But linking up with QuickFresh has saved her business.

"We did not lose anything and we're not in debt," said the 24-year-old, who is expanding to grow tomatoes and cabbages.

"I was a bit worried but not for long when Quick-Fresh came into the pic-

ture. They rescued us."

In Kenya, charities are boosting economies in poor communities by using a blockchain-backed local currency to provide slum-dwellers with emergency aid on their mobile phones which they can spend on local goods and services.

Grace Hellen, a 53-year-old tailor in Nairobi's Mukuru informal settlement, saw her monthly income plunge when the virus struck in March as customers stopped coming to her shop.

The G20 Sarafu (\$6) a week she receives supplementing the small stipend of \$19 she earns as a volunteer community health-care worker, and enables her to buy essentials like kerosene for cooking and beans.

"Life would be more difficult without this, not only for me but the community as a whole because many people are going through the same challenges," said the mother-of-five.

The project was set up by the Danish Red Cross and Kenya-based foundation Grassroots Economics in 2019 and expanded to respond to help people whose income has been hit by the coronavirus crisis.

Meanwhile, Acquah is negotiating with officials in Togo and Benin who have expressed interest in using his drone service to disinfect public spaces on a tight budget.

"We want to offer subsidised services," he said.

"This epidemic has crippled a lot of economies. Right now, we are not looking to make profit. We started this company in the first place to give back to Africa."

Most economists see structural transformation as one of the main routes to Africa's sustainable development. What it means is changing the share of agriculture, manufacturing and services in an economy. It is a central aim of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

With this aim in mind, economists and policymakers need to know what determines structural transformation. They have flagged factors like demand for goods and services, trade policies, financial development, institutional quality and economic integration.

But researchers haven't closely examined the way economic integration through trade and finance influences structural transformation.

Balancing the potential benefits and dangers of integration is a pressing policy issue now that African countries have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, which aims to foster integration.

I therefore set out to study African countries' integration with the rest of the world and the effect of that integration on their structural transformation. This study provides fresh evidence about whether integration is good for Africa. It also unearths the right levels of integration necessary to increase structural transformation.

Trade and financial integration are both about countries exporting to and importing from each other.

Why African Free Trade Area could be the game changer for continent's economies



A bigger free trade area will not only boost intra-regional trade, it will also hasten the development of regional supply chains. File photo

The two are often referred to as economic integration. Opening national borders to trade has a number of potential benefits which can promote development.

For example it creates comparative advantage, access to external finance and opportunities for risk sharing. It also enables technology transfer. Local firms serving larger foreign and domestic corporations can acquire knowledge and skills and transfer them to the rest of the economy.

All these benefits are essential for structural transformation. But excessive openness and integration may also come at a cost, largely from distortions

around trade policy.

For instance, if certain local industries have been protected, local firms may not be fit enough to compete with foreign counterparts. Opening these industries to competition may harm them.

Balancing the potential benefits and dangers of integration is a pressing policy issue now that African countries have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement, which aims to foster integration.

Policy makers need to know whether there is an ideal level of trade and financial integration that will change economies in the desired ways.

The study: findings and implications

With this background, I examined the effects of economic integration on structural transformation in 32 African countries from 1985 to 2015. The time period and choice of countries were based on data availability.

I created an index of structural transformation that incorporates changes in sectoral value addition and demographic characteristics. The index ranges between 0 (low transformation) and 1 (high transformation). I found that structural transformation on the continent was low, with an average value of 0.419, but

varied across countries.

The majority of the countries' indices were lower, suggesting that structural transformation is only just beginning.

I also found that African countries were less integrated in terms of trade and finance than other developing economies.

I measured trade integration as the ratio of countries' imports and exports to GDP. This shows the degree of openness. I found that the optimal level for trade integration was 73.29% of GDP. By this I mean the level of trade integration that produces an improved effect on structural transformation.

The data suggested that trade integration encourages the reallocation of resources to more productive sectors.

To measure financial integration, I used the ratio of countries' total foreign liabilities and assets to GDP. This shows the degree of restriction of capital flows. The optimal level for financial integration was 137.5% of GDP. Ten African countries were above these levels and 22 were below.

The 10 countries that are above this financial integration threshold are Botswana, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan and Togo. Similarly,

transformation for sustainable development.

The role of the free trade area

The study shows that Africa has opportunities to integrate further. The African free trade area has the potential to defragment the continent and bring its economies into the global economy.

The free trade area aims to progressively eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and to liberalise trade in services. It will establish a single continental market for goods and services: a bigger and more competitive market.

A bigger free trade area will not only boost intra-regional trade, it will also hasten the development of regional supply chains. These have driven structural transformation in other regions, for example Asia. It is also necessary for policy to address the non-tariff barriers to trade. Among these are poor logistics and infrastructure (such as roads, rail, ports, power and digital connectivity).

Countries should be focusing on removing such bottlenecks. The African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank should get the free trade area working as soon as possible.

It has the potential to make a big difference to structural transformation and could be the game-changer for Africa.



CURRENT NEWS
SA government hoping to issue 15-year rights to small-scale fishermen

Page14



BUSINESS NEWS
Covid-19 affects performance of SBL's parent company, EABL, in H2 of 2020

Page14



OUTLOOK & ANALYSIS
Entrepreneur enters political arena, promising to turn Arusha into 'Canaan'

Page15



A coffee farmer in his farm.

Africa's coffee farmers are losing \$1.47bn a year to exploitative prices

ADDIS ABABA

According to a report by agricultural company Selina Wamucii, Africa's coffee farmers are being exploited to death in an industry that makes billions of dollars each year.

Many family farmers across Africa are facing economic devastation as coffee prices offered to them continue to be on a downward trajectory, often below production costs. Due to unfair trade terms, Ethiopian and Ugandan coffee farmers are estimated to lose 713.1 million USD and 229.7 million USD respectively in one year alone.

The report reflects African farmers' share in the roasted coffee value chain ranges from 8.7% to 12.6%, with the share being less in major African coffee exporters, Ethiopia and Uganda, being respectively at 12.6% and 10.0% respectively. Farmers' shares in the roasted coffee value chain are higher outside of Africa with India's coffee growers getting 15.7% in India and 14.9% in Brazil.

Due to unfair trade terms, lost earnings yearly for Ethiopian farmers are 713.1 million USD and 229.7 million USD for farmers in Uganda; It is estimated that African coffee farmers are losing \$1.47 billion every year from exploitative pricing of their crops. These amounts are crucial for African producers from several countries where coffee is their major exporting product.

Negative impact on farmers

For Wanjiru Kariuki, a 68-year old coffee farmer from Othaya, about 120 kilometers north of Nairobi, Kenya, she ponders how as a coffee grower can be so poor while profits for multinational coffee dealers increase year after year.

"Look at this tight belt - it holds my stomach in and helps avoid hunger pangs", said Wanjiru, pointing towards her waist. "I am poor, hungry, and shoeless. Those who benefit from my hard work cannot even tie a belt like this as they have stomachs bigger than a hippopotamus, all from my coffee" added the grandmother to four.

According to John Oroko, CEO of Selina Wamucii, this situation is untenable for the African farmer, who produces some fine quality coffee, but receives the lowest prices of all growers, globally. These coffee farmers are existentially threatened. "The only feasible solution is the establishment of a quota-based, International Coffee Agreement, that sets export quotas and helps steer the price and makes it possible for farmers to live from the proceeds of their hard work," says Oroko.

"If Africa wants to bring to an end the exploitation eating away her coffee farmers, the global trading rules for coffee will have to be changed through a pro-farmer political framework. And if this cannot be achieved within the confines of the World Trade Organization (WTO), then Africans are better off looking up to OPEC for inspiration and executing a Pan Africa Coffee Agreement that doesn't fatten a few while sucking the life out of farmers. Anything else is pure tokenism that seeks to buy time," concludes Oroko.

RC Anthony Mtaka marvels at successes of hosting 'Nane Nane' three years in a row

By Smart Money Reporter, Bariadi

SIMIYU Region has had its agriculture sector transformed completely thanks to hosting the annual 'Nane Nane' Agriculture Exhibitions three years in a row since 2018.

Regional Commissioner, Anthony Mtaka said this week when visiting NMB Bank Plc's pavilion that the annual show has inculcated an agribusiness culture among small-holder farmers in the region and its neighbours.

"To us this annual show has been an opportunity to showcase our agro-produce but also scout for markets and promote the agriculture value chain," Mtaka said noting that participants have also gained knowledge and acquired new farming technologies.

"This has been an agribusiness exhibition which has also exposed participants to the agriculture value chain phenomena," he pointed out stressing that when Simiyu Region requested to host the agros-show, they had an idea to completely change the tone.

He said after being given approval, the region's organizers were sent to France, Rwanda and South Africa on field visits to learn more



Simiyu RC Anthony Mtaka speaks at last year's 'Nane Nane' agricultural exhibitions in Bariadi.

about how to successfully host such a major event involving agriculture stakeholders both local and foreign.

"I should also thank NMB for assisting us to successfully host these shows for the past three years since 2018 because we have completely changed for the better," the Simiyu RC stated while adding that the bank also backed farmers efforts to transform their farming practices.

Briefing the RC on NMB's activities in relation to the farmers, Western Zone Manager, Sospeter Magese said among other things, the bank has been offering training to farmers and other agriculture stakeholders countrywide.

"We started with 20 cooperative societies which increased to 30 and this year we target 40 cooperatives. Members of these cooperatives received training on financial and business management basics," Magese said.

He pointed out that the basis of the training centres around agribusiness adoption by smallholder farmers but also support them to engage in modern agriculture production with quality and quantity produce.

"Through the cooperatives, we also link the farmers with agro-input dealers and agro-processors for easy markets of their commodities," Magese added pointing out that the bank then offers them credit to invest in their businesses.

Firm introduces online crowd-funding targeting entrepreneurs

By Francis Kajubi



SSC capital CEO Salum Awadh.

ENTREPRENEURS seeking to raise capital to invest in growing their businesses can now do so through crowd-funding thanks to Dar es Salaam based, Sustainable Solutions Consultant Company Limited (SSC Capital).

SSC capital CEO, Salum Awadh said in Dar es Salaam this week that the online platform dubbed Wengi Equity Crowdfunding will allow entrepreneurs raise minimum capital of 50m/- in only six months period to invest in existing businesses or community problem solving projects.

Awadh said the initiative which is dedicated to help business startups, entrepreneurs and small sized companies raise capital, also allows interested investors to inject a minimum of 500,000/- to support businesses.

"The purpose of allowing 500,000/- as minimum is to get serious investors (personal lenders). One may need 50m/- for instance to run a particular business that will benefit the general public but does not meet loan requirements, the platform enables them to get the money," he said.

He explained that an escrow account that investors will be opened to deposit the willing investors' money. "We are working with one of the five big banks in

the country and welcome graduates, entrepreneurs and startups to submit their business or project ideas to raise funds," the SSC Capital chief noted.

The investor is guaranteed to get return for investment made through SSC Capital which will invite venture capital investors to buy the projects on offer in a form of shares that they will also sell to other investors hence generating profits.

According to him, those who are interested in raising money should first seek intellectual property rights to safeguard their ideas. Businesses that are prioritized are those owned by more than three people and registered by authorities.

Qualified projects will be subjected to due diligence for the purpose of avoiding money laundering. Clean projects will be allowed to use the platform to raise money for a period of six months but can be extended under conditions.

SSC Capital will screen and analyze the submitted project ideas before approving them so as to enable the investor make right decisions. Projects that are scalable and have potential growth have a great chance of being listed. "Money will be disbursed in instalments to a beneficiary after every quarter with reporting on how the money is being used," he added.

Travellers to buy bus tickets online as telco teams up with Latra

By Smart Money Reporter

TRAVELLERS across Tanzania can now buy their tickets online using M-Pesa, thanks to a deal reached between Vodacom Tanzania Plc and Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA).

To begin with, the service is available with three bus operators, namely: Majinjah Logistics Limited, Tungi Express and Maning Nice which operate countrywide. Speaking during the

launch in Dar es Salaam this week, Vodacom's Managing Director, Hisham Hendi said that customers can access the service by downloading an M-Pesa application.

"Through the application, customers can select a bus operator, preferred travel date and time and reserve specific seat numbers," said Hendi who unveiled that as a technology telecommunication company, the telecommunication company supports doing things digitally

hence came with the new innovation showcasing how technology can support remote way of doing things.

He further noted that travellers can print their tickets at the bus station after presentation of the confirmation text message hence there will be no wastage of time for them while the price remains the same as that of counter.

LATRA's Director General, Gilliard Ngewe, said the move will not only reduce inconvenience to

travellers but also help in government's tax collection maximization.

"The payments will go straight to the government via National Internet Data Centre, hence allowing visibility and transparency of the whole process," Ngewe said. He hinted that plans to increase the number of service providers offering digital payments for tickets are ongoing and soon all bus operators will be available online.

Covid-19 affects performance of SBL's parent company, EABL, in H2 of 2020

By Smart Money Reporter

THE novel coronavirus outbreak has affected performance of East African Breweries Limited during the second half of this year with a decline of net sales by 29 percent.

In its 2020 second half results, the Serengeti Breweries Limited's holding company said stringent lockdowns by governments in Kenya and Uganda due to the virus have affected sales which grew by 10 percent during the first half of the year.

The report however stated that sales were up by 10 percent in Tanzania compared to Kenya and Uganda where they fell by 14 and five percent respectively.

EABL Group's Managing Director and CEO, Andrew Cowan, said the brewer focussed on managing working capital tightly in the last quarter, reducing discretionary expenditure and reallocating resources such as advertising and promotion spend to new and emerging channels in order to serve consumers safely.

"During this unwelcome pandemic, our top priority has been to safeguard the health and well-being of our people and support our communities, while taking necessary action to protect our business," Cowan said.

He added: "Across the markets we have tracked changes in consumer behaviour and repurposed our execution plans in trade to continue serving our consumers where safe and possible to do so."

The pandemic impacted EABL's business performance after three consecutive double-digit halves of growth, with profit for the year declining by 39 percent to KShs 7 billion from KShs 11.5 billion in the previous year.

The EABL stated that the country's first half growth was 19 percent but slowed down to 10 percent in the second half as the government imposed limited restrictions in response to Covid-19. Double-digit growth in premium and mainstream beer segments and improved spirits performance supported a strong delivery for the financial year.

EABL has made a significant con-



EABL Group managing director and CEO Andrew Cowan.

tribution through trade and community initiatives across the region to help East African communities emerge from the effects of the pandemic and included funding provision of hand sanitisers distributed to frontline health workers and vulnerable communities to the tune of Kshs 70 million.

Further, the company donated Kshs 50 million to Kenya's Covid-19 Emergency Fund, bringing the total contribution towards the pandemic to Kshs 120 million.

In Uganda, UBL donated hospital mattresses, hand-washing

stations and fuel to enable frontline health workers alleviate situation in healthcare centres. And in Tanzania, SBL delivered a hygiene awareness programme and donated hand-sanitisers to help combat the spread of the pandemic.

In view of the pandemic's impact on bar owners across East Africa, EABL is committing KShs 500 million to support the recovery of on-trade outlets in Nairobi, Kampala and Dar es Salaam as part of Diageo's \$100 million 'Raising the Bar' global fund. This funding will be used to support

the implementation of hygiene measures, provision of practical equipment and provision of free digital support and training to enable outlets transform how consumers will be served when bars reopen.

"Going forward, our market teams have put in place robust plans to help us emerge stronger from this crisis once the measures are eased across our markets. We will continue to execute with discipline and invest prudently to ensure we are strongly positioned for a recovery in consumer demand," Cowan added.

Huawei emerges No 1 as global smartphone sales drop 16 per cent

SHENZHEN

Global smartphone sales plummeted 16 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to a new report.

Nearly 278.4 million smartphones were sold in three months to June 30, more than 53 million less than the same period last year, as major economies around the globe followed lockdown restrictions during the period, said researcher International data Corporation in its latest report.

"Smartphones shipments suffered a huge decline in second quarter as they directly correlate to consumers spending, which had a massive reduction due to the global economic crisis and rising unemployment brought on by the widespread lockdowns," said Nabila Popal, research director at IDC.

From a regional perspective, Asia-Pacific (excluding China and Japan), Western Europe and the US declined 31.9 per cent, 14.8 per cent and 12.6 per cent, respectively. "The closure of retail stores, especially in regions where online shopping is less common, compounded the negative effect on smartphone sales," said Ms Popal.

Despite its sales falling nearly 5.1 per cent annually in the second quarter, Chinese brand Huawei for the first time reached the number one position with 20 per cent market share. It shipped 55.8 million smartphones during the period.

This was driven by Huawei's

tremendous growth in China - almost 10 per cent year-on-year - which offset the large declines the company faced in every other region, said Massachusetts-based IDC, adding, "The US technology ban will continue to create uncertainty for Huawei in foreign markets."

Samsung trailed Huawei with a 19.5 per cent market share and Apple retaining 13.5 per cent. South Korean tech giant, which shipped 54.2 million smartphones in three months, suffered a 28.9 per cent year-on-year decline, the most significant among the top five vendors.

While the budget-friendly A series performed well during the quarter, the premium devices such as the Galaxy S20 and the Galaxy Z Flip, launched in the peak of the pandemic, are facing sales challenges despite price reductions.

Apple, which faced supply constraints and store closures in the second quarter, was the only brand that saw a positive rise in market share during the period. It sold 37.6 million iPhones, 3.8 million more than the same period last year.

"The smartphone supply chain ground to a halt when the pandemic hit. However, recovery, specifically in China, has been strong," said Ryan Reith, vice president, IDC.

"The question now becomes what does demand look like with so much uncertainty around the world. We have already seen manufacturers moving more aggressively with their 5G portfolios both in terms of production and price points," added Mr Reith.



Chinese models brandishes Huawei smartphones.

Malawi telcos drop data prices

LILONGWE

Malawi telecommunications companies Airtel Malawi and TNM have reduced the price of internet services in response to a month-long #DataMustFall social media campaign.

TNM announced a 70% reduction of its Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) rate announced by CEO Michael Buitelaar during a launch of low cost smart phones in partnership with KaiOS in Lilongwe. Buitelaar conceded that the reduction was in response to customer demand. "The initiative of reducing the pay as you go will open up to most mobile users to accessing valuable information within reach."

TNM's head of Marketing Communications Louis Chipofya added that data prices will fall if more people use data. Airtel Malawi then followed with CEO Charles Kamoto confirming an increase in benefits with some bundles and a reduction in PAYG tariffs from MWK15/MB to MWK5/MB.

"We have listened very carefully to feedback from our customers and hope this increase in data benefits in the bundles goes a long way to helping our customers get the best possible value across all of our bundles," said Kamoto.

According to the company customers opting for a daily volume bundle for MWK100 will now receive 25MB per day, compared to the previous 15MB, whilst a MWK300 weekly bundle will secure 80MB, up 30MB from the previous bundle. MWK600 can now secure 175MB, up from the previous 150MB.

WhatsApp users will now enjoy a data volume weekly bundle of 120MB for MWK230, which previously purchased 90MB. "Whilst monthly bundle customers will receive 500MB for K560, amounting to an extra 100MB per month. Customers opting for the K1000 bundle will also receive 1GB per month, an increase of 224MB per month," reads a statement issued by the company.



SA's Environment, Forestry and Fisheries minister Barbara Creecy

SA government hopeful to issue 15-year rights to small-scale fishers

PRETORIA

Environment, Forestry and Fisheries minister, Barbara Creecy, says she is hopeful that the department will issue 15-year fishing rights to small-scale fishers in the Western Cape.

The Minister said this when she presented the department's budget vote during a virtual sitting of the National Assembly on Thursday. The Minister had recently spent 67 minutes, as part of Nelson Mandela International Day, with the World Wildlife Fund, meeting representatives from fishing communities in the Overberg Region of

the Western Cape.

Creecy said the representatives spoke of the hardship small-scale fishers face in this difficult industry, including their exclusion from the more profitable aspects of the fish processing value chain, due to lack of access to affordable loans for tools of trade.

The representatives also spoke about their hunt for viable catch in the face of dwindling wild fish stocks. "By October this year, we hope to issue 15-year fishing rights to small-scale fishers in the Western Cape. "For the first time in our country's history, this will conclude a small-scale 15-year Rights Allocation

Process to over 10,500 fishers organised into 110 co-operatives nationwide.

"The rights allocation process is a first step to formalising and developing small-scale fishers, who, even before the Covid-19 pandemic, faced enormous inequality, insecurity and barriers to economic participation," Creecy said.

Covid-19 recovery plan

Creecy said as government develops its medium-term recovery plan, attention must be focused immediately on stabilising sectors hard-hit by the pandemic. "In our space, this includes particularly nature based tourism,

the oceans economy, and the circular economy.

"The revised budget and plans we table for consideration today, represent our department's response to the difficult choices that confront us in stabilising our sector and opening possibilities for future growth," said Creecy.

The department received a net budget loss of 8.6%, amounting to a budget cut of R766m. The Minister said the funds were surrendered as part of the department's contribution to the national Covid-19 response plan and to the post-lockdown economic recovery

initiatives.

"To ensure the budget cut had a minimal effect on our programmes, we effected savings on advertorials, domestic and international travel, public meetings, stakeholder consultation and events, most of which are no longer possible under the current conditions. "Our four entities - SANParks, SANBI, Isimangaliso and the Weather Service - all of which have a good record of revenue generation and financial self-sustainability, are unable to realise their usual income streams.

"In the first quarter of this financial year, our 'Working For' programmes

were not able to operate due to lockdown conditions. By cutting back on now unachievable targets in this programme, we have been able to transfer R39m to the Isimangaliso Wetland Park Authority and R961m to SANParks," the Minister said.

She said this ensured the sustainability of the country's protected areas and the significant role they play in supporting our country's megabiodiversity. "We have also ensured the future sustainability of our contribution to nature based tourism and its longer-term employment potential."



Isabella Mwampamba enters the political arena promising to turn Arusha into a land of plenty.

Entrepreneur enters contest for political duty, promising to turn Arusha into 'Canaan'

By Smart Money Reporter

AFTER excelling in entrepreneurship and business, Arusha-based Isabella Mwampamba is now joining politics promising to use her skills and knowledge to turn Arusha Region into a land flowing milk and honey.

"Give me your vote and I will not let you down," Mwampamba who owns a stream of businesses ranging from English medium schools to sports tourism facilities told ruling party members during campaign primaries to seek the party's nomination for Arusha Urban constituency.

She said if elected she will use her knowledge and skills in business to ensure that Arusha becomes a powerhouse in conference, sports and cultural tourism. "Arusha is endowed with everything needed to turn it into a successful tourist city in East Africa," Mwampamba who is widely known as the country's first officially confirmed coronavirus patient, stated.

Her patriotic gesture to self isolate after arriving from Belgium in March this year, allowed Ministry of Health to swing into action and put her into quarantine for several days while awaiting results of samples sent to Chief Government Chemist in Dar es Salaam.

"We need to invest in three key forms of tourism, namely; conference, sports and cultural tourism," she told

CCM members who took part in the primary voting exercise. Mwampamba said Arusha needs at least receive a maximum of 1.5 million visitors in order to earn enough cash that will completely transform the region into a 'Canaan.'

"We will sell rooms, food, transport, traditional Maasai attire to foreign tourists that will boost people's incomes and government revenue," she observed while promising ruling party Arusha Urban voters to expect a landslide in October general elections if endorsed as candidate. She promised to champion a campaign to roll out new tourism products for the Northern tourist enclave region which will include German remains located a stone's throw from Arusha City Hall.

Other potential tourist hotspots in the region include the headquarters of East African Community, Arusha International Conference Centre which hosted International Tribunal for Rwanda, African Court on Human and People's Rights and Nelson Mandela Africa Institutions of Science and Technology. Mwampamba said Arusha which was nick named, the 'Geneva of Africa' by former US President Bill Clinton, also boasts of having many other unique things including Tanzanite gemstone mined at Mirerani within the region.

Sports tourism Mwampamba said unlike Safari tourism, conference, sports and

cultural tourism remain unexploited in the 'Geneva of Africa.' The mother of two who also owns a sports academy in the outskirts of Arusha City also believes that sporting activities such as football, is big business globally.

"In 2019, England generated 7.6 billion pounds or an equivalent of 21.9trn/- in revenue from the game of football alone," she stated adding that Arusha has potential to generate revenue from the game as well thanks to her links with European partners in Belgium. She promised to champion the refurbishment and expansion of Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha City so that it can meet global standards and attract football giants.

The director and founder of Upendo Friends which incorporates the English medium school and sports academy further noted that she is certain that with her skills and knowledge, Arusha will be completely changed in the next five years. A strong advocate of gender equality, Mwampamba dared fellow women to go for elective constituency positions other than opting for special seats slots. "It goes without saying that the plight to seek gender equality in elective political positions and other decision making institutions rests with us as women," she underlined while promising to invest heavily in girls education and sports skills development to empower them in preparation for their futures.

Relook free higher education for all, OECD urges S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG

South Africa's government should reconsider its free higher education model and implement a blended loan-grant system to ease the strain on fiscal resources, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has recommended in its 2020 economic survey.

The recommendation is one of several measures provided for the government to stabilise public finances, following the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its fiscal deficits and debt weighed down by persistent low growth, the public sector wage bill and bailouts to state-owned entities.

The fully subsidised bursaries for students coming from families with a total household income of R350 000 first came into operation in 2018 and have now given over 90% of students access to institutions of higher learning.

Returns

Initially, free higher education, administered through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Nsfas), was open to first-year students and existing undergraduate Nsfas loan recipients. The scheme's coverage gradually expanded and in 2020 this meant that qualifying students from first- to third year were covered at a cost of R35 billion.

The OECD said that among its 37 member countries, having a tertiary education often results in higher earnings. The assumption is that by investing in higher education this will lead to higher social returns from income taxes and social contributions from tertiary-educated individuals, who will also need fewer social security benefits.

But in South Africa, the benefit will not be realised soon from a budget perspective said the OECD. "The impact on tight fiscal resources should be considered and alternative financing mechanism[s] could be mobilised, to at least partially cover the cost," it said.

"Moreover, under the current tax system and depending on

the assumed discount rate, the net present value of government expenditure for university undergraduate education remains on average negative - even when considering favourable assumptions of continuous employment."

At R38.2 billion in 2022, the state's spending on Nsfas will be three times as much as that spent in 2017. Government's total spending on higher education, including university transfers and other spending, has grown from 1.3% of GDP in 2017 to 2.6% in 2020.

Income-contingent loans The OECD has recommended that government tweak the bursary grant scheme by determining support for eligible students on a sliding scale based on household income and introduce the participation of banks through income-contingent loans.

This means students from poorer families (in the R0-R350 000 qualifying spectrum) will get fully funded government support, while those at the upper end of the spectrum would receive less government support.

The balance of what is not covered through a Nsfas grant will be supplemented by a government-guaranteed bank loan "to ensure that students from higher-income families are not constrained in their educational choices due to access to financial resources." "Efficient administration of the scheme, including the collection of repayments, is crucial," said the OECD.

Heher Commission

This model of funding free higher education is similar to what the Fees Commission headed by retired Judge Jonathan Heher proposed. After a year of public hearings and work probing the feasibility of free higher education, the commission released its report which found that fee-free higher education for all was not possible, especially for university students, without a detrimental cost to government spending on other social priorities.

The report recommended that education at technical and

vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, which have been improved, should be free. However, university students would need to get income-contingent loans, underwritten by the government, from banks that they would begin paying back when their income after graduation reaches a certain threshold.

These recommendations were ignored by former President Jacob Zuma, who unexpectedly announced free higher education for working-class and poor students on the day the ANC's elective conference was set to begin in December 2017.

Fiscal sustainability

In addition to re-evaluating the free education model, the OECD said the government should consider indexing public sector wages to below inflation for the next three years, as a way of "managing spending pressures."

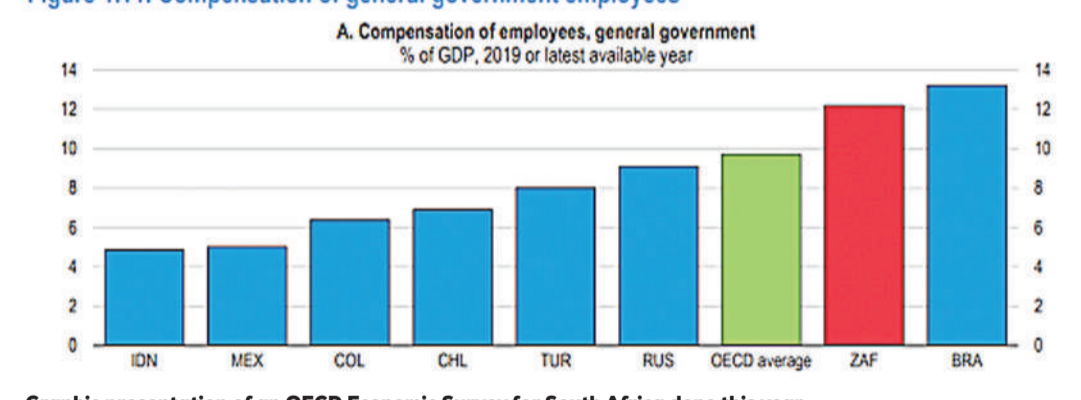
Government spending on public sector wages accounts for 12% of GDP - higher than the OECD average and that of individual partner countries. "Public sector wage increases are the main driver of government spending rather than increases in employment," said the OECD. It notes that in the last 10 years the number of public sector employees only rose by 100 000, and with the introduction of a recruitment freeze in 2011, the number of employees has actually been "trending down."

"The remuneration policy explains the increase of the wage bill," it says. In addition to above-inflation increases, promotion policies and occupation-specific salary dispensations - meant to improve government's ability to attract and retain skilled employees through increased remuneration - have also contributed to driving the wage bill up.

"As inflation has receded, and given the wage gains of recent years, the real cost to civil servants would be limited, as they would still benefit from annual progression in the pay scale," said the OECD. "Such a measure could create fiscal space for government investment in infrastructure and education."

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Figure 1.11. Compensation of general government employees



Graphic presentation of an OECD Economic Survey for South Africa done this year.

King Mohammed VI lays emphasis on social security as he marks 21st anniversary



King Mohammed VI's

By Smart Money Reporter

On the occasion to mark the 21st anniversary of King Mohammed VI's accession to power, the Moroccan leader said he cares as much about his citizens' health, welfare and safety of families as he does about his own children and family, especially now that the world at large is facing the novel coronavirus outbreak.

In this light, the monarch stressed that it is quite natural in such circumstances to experience fear and anxiety. And yet, what has sustained the hopes of Moroccans as much as their confidence are the important decisions and the crucial measures taken immediately by the authorities after the first Covid-19 infections appeared in the kingdom. In addition, the sovereign noted that "We had to resort to those measures for the sake of the safety of our citizens

and in the interest of our nation."

In this regard, the sovereign expressed his thanks and appreciation to all government authorities concerned for carrying out their duties competently to curb the spread of the epidemic, stating: "I wish to mention, in particular, the civilian and military medical and paramedical staff, the Royal Armed Forces, the Royal Gendarmerie, the local government authorities, the National Security Forces, the Auxiliary Forces, the Emergency Services, the workers involved in food production and distribution as well as all the other frontline workers."

There is no doubt that the King appreciated so much the sense of discipline, the level of awareness and the responsiveness shown by the citizens as well as by all the nation during facing this pandemic. The Monarch argued

that the next phase will require concerted efforts on the part of all Moroccans in order to rise to challenges. In this context, he called on stakeholders, without exception, to be actively involved in the national efforts to handle the current situation efficiently and tackle economic and social repercussions.

Above all, the king called during his speech for the expansion of social welfare coverage to all Moroccans, noting that the plan should, first of all, focus on the generalization of compulsory health coverage and family allowances, then moving on to pension and unemployment benefits.

Therefore, the Sovereign called on the Moroccan government to complete the development, together with the social actors concerned, in a comprehensive practical approach including a strict timetable with a legal

framework and financing options needed to achieve effective universal social protection.

The King also underlined that all the projects and initiatives that he has launched have been directed to accomplish one goal: it is namely the promotion of development and the achievement of social justice, with the priority given to social protection for all Moroccans.

As a reminder, the King recalled that during the State of Nation Address in 2018, he had already called for speeding up the review of the social protection system, which suffers from scattered services and inadequate coverage and is only moderately effective.

Concerning the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the monarch called for more vigilance, solidarity and safety, admitting that the repercussions of the health crisis will be harsh, notwithstanding efforts to reduce

its impact.

In this respect, the King said: "I therefore urge everyone to remain mobilized and vigilant, to promote solidarity and to comply with safety measures. I also call for the adoption of a plan to make sure we are prepared and ready to face - God forbid - a second wave of the epidemic, especially in view of the laxness noted recently," adding that "Our action is not limited to simply facing up to the current epidemic. We also aim at addressing its social and economic effects by adopting a comprehensive, future-oriented approach and by drawing lessons from this experience."

It is worth mentioning that the king at the end of his speech stressed that this crisis has shown that social bonds and ties in Morocco are solid, and that solidarity between Moroccans is a fact of life, especially in the social field.

WORLD

US election will be Nov 3 as planned, Trump advisers say

WASHINGTON

THE White House and Donald Trump's campaign on Sunday sought to shut down the Republican president's musings on delaying the 2020 vote, saying there will be an election on Nov 3.

White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows said Trump was raising concerns about mail-in ballots when he floated the idea of delaying the US vote.

"We're going to hold an election on November 3 and the president is going to win," Meadows said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Presidential campaign adviser Jason Miller echoed the sentiment on "Fox News Sunday," saying, "The election is going to be on November 3rd and President Trump wants the election to be on November 3rd."

Trump on Thursday suggested delaying the US elections, an idea immediately rejected by both Democrats and his fellow Republicans in Congress - the sole branch of government

with the authority to make such a change.

Critics and even Trump's allies dismissed the notion as an unserious attempt to distract from devastating economic news, but some legal experts warned that his repeated attacks could undermine his supporters' faith in the election process.

The Republican president has been trying to undermine confidence in mail-in balloting, claiming repeatedly and without evidence that it would lead to widespread voter fraud.

Meadows took up his boss's cause on Sunday, warning that mail-in ballots must be handled properly without providing evidence that they have not been in the past.

Asked if it were irresponsible for Trump to float the idea, Meadows skirted the question, saying "It is responsible for him to say that if we try to go to 100 percent universal mail-in ballots, will we have an election result on November 3? Now I would suggest we wouldn't even have it on January 1."

Republican Governor Asa Hutchinson



US president Donald Trump

son told CNN on Sunday the election should be held on time and it was up to states to ensure balloting be carried out properly.

"It's not helpful for the president to think out loud in a public fashion and express some frustration," he added.

The coronavirus crisis is expected to drive a surge in mail voting in November. State election officials are working to ensure tens of millions of ballots can reach voters in time to be cast and are returned in time to be counted.

Miller criticized efforts by states including Ne-

vada for moving toward expanding mail-in balloting during emergencies like the coronavirus epidemic, as well as other states that will count ballots postmarked Nov. 3 that arrive after Election Day.

Trump early Sunday called for a lawsuit to be filed to counter Nevada's legislative efforts to extend mail-in balloting. "This is outrageous. Must be met with immediate litigation!", he said in a Twitter post.

Agencies

Russian diplomat calls on Zelensky and his predecessors to discuss Minsk deal

MOSCOW

UKRAINIAN President Vladimir Zelensky and his predecessors should meet to discuss the essence of the Minsk peace deal on settling the Ukrainian crisis, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova wrote on her Facebook page on Sunday.

The diplomat commented on a remark by Leonid Kravchuk, a former Ukrainian president and new head of Kiev's delegation to the Contact Group for ironing out the crisis in Donbass, who said that he

did not quite understand the essence of the special status of Donbass mentioned in the Minsk deal.

"Maybe instead of convening endless international summits they should finally hold a Ukrainian one, gather for a four-way meeting (former Ukrainian presidents Leonid Kravchuk, Leonid Kuchma, Pyotr Poroshenko and Zelensky) and try to understand what was written down in the Minsk agreements," Zakharova wrote.

"The participants are familiar with the matter: two were in the Contact Group, one signed the



Minsk documents and one made them part of his election campaign.

"It's also important that two out of this quartet did not have any questions regarding the "Minsk package" and they never said that they did not understand something when energetically discussing the implementation with global capitals and calling on Moscow "not to stonewall the process." Let them tell the two others what was written down there," the diplomat noted.

In February 2015, participants of the Contact Group for settling the crisis in Donbass signed the Package of Measures for the Implemen-

tation of the Minsk Agreements, known as Minsk-2, which had been earlier backed by the Normandy Four (Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine) leaders.

The document envisages not only ceasefire, the withdrawal of hardware, amnesty and the restoration of economic ties, but also a constitutional reform in Ukraine aimed at ensuring the decentralization of powers while taking into account a special status for Donbass. However, this plan has not been fulfilled due to Kiev's stance.

Agencies

Mass jailbreak in Afghanistan, at least 24 die in Islamic State attack

JALALABAD/KABUL

A GUNBATTLE between Islamic State (IS) fighters and Afghan security forces raged on at a prison in the eastern city of Jalalabad yesterday, with at least 24 people killed after the militants' overnight assault led to a mass jailbreak.

The attack began on Sunday evening with car bomb detonated at the entrance to the prison, and there were numerous other blasts heard as the IS gunmen opened fire on security guards.

Some 30 militants involved in the attack on the prison, where some 2,000 prisoners were held, according to Sohrab Qaderi, a lawmaker in the capital of Nangarhar province.

Three militants were killed during the initial attack and gunbattle overnight, while at least 21 civilians and members of security forces died in the fighting, and 43 were wounded,

Attallah Khugyani, a spokesman for the governor said.

Police were forced to divert manpower to recapture escaped prisoners amid the chaos, and by noon on Monday around 1,000 had been caught, Qaderi said, without elaborating on how many were still at large.

Afghan special forces arrived to support police, according to officials, and civilians were being evacuated from areas surrounding the prison, where Taliban and IS prisoners were being held along with ordinary criminals.

Meanwhile the city was in lockdown.

"The whole city of Jalalabad is under curfew, shops are closed," Qaderi said. "Jalalabad is completely empty."

Some 130 kilometres east of Kabul, Jalalabad lies on the highway leading to the Khyber Pass and the



A wounded man receives treatment at a hospital after a suicide car bomb and multiple gunmen attack in the city of Jalalabad, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. (AP)

Pakistani city of Peshawar. The assault happened on the third and final day of a ceasefire between the Afghan government and the Taliban, when hundreds of Taliban prisoners were released in an attempt to make a final push for intra-Afghan peace talks.

The Taliban were not responsible for the attack, a spokesman for the Islamist group said.

President Ashraf Ghani and the Taliban have both indicated that long-delayed negotiations could begin immediately after the Eid al-Adha festival, which took place in Kabul on Thursday.

The Taliban say they have freed all 1,000 Afghan prisoners they had pledged to release in a deal with the United States.

A United Nations report last month estimated there are around 2,200 IS members in Afghanistan, and that while the group is in territorial retreat and its leadership has been depleted, it remains capable of carrying out high-profile attacks.

Agencies

Chinese senior rocks short-video platform, explores more in internet world

IN China, as internet keeps connecting more people, it continues to surprise us by making phenomenon changes to the society.

For example, Farm products from remote areas receive warm welcome as they are sold online. Families in small towns enjoy same standard shopping experience through 'E-commerce for rural areas'.

Kids receive high-quality education during the pandemic control period through 'Classroom in the Air' and traditional culture becomes new fashion as they promote themselves through social media.

What will internet achieve

when interacting with the seniors?

Yang Su is a professional micro vlogger in his sixties. He has over 2.3 million followers on Douyin, also known as Tik Tok overseas, and his videos have been watched by over 100 million times. One of the clips of himself playing piano he shared on the platform received over 10,000 likes within just one minute.

"Two years ago, my son uploaded a clip of me playing piano for fun and merely several hours later, it was played by over a million times," Yang said.

Yang studied in the Shanghai



Yang Su checks comments on his cell phone.

Conservatory of Music and was a pianist of the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra after graduation. According to him, he had

an audience of around a thousand back then when he was performing on the stage each time. However, the internet has opened a door to a whole new world for him. In two years, he filmed over 600 short video clips.

Before the filming, Yang set up a phone holder and adjust it to a proper angle with proper lighting. It won't even be easy for the youngsters, but Yang is quite adept at it.

However, such adeptness didn't come easy. "The lighting, angle and composition were always not right at the beginning, my child helped me a lot later," Yang said.

Making short videos has really introduced Yang to a new world on the internet. He established an official account on social platform WeChat to share his articles, and even started to offer piano courses online.

"Internet has opened the door to a new world," he said, adding that he has busied himself with various activities and never finds his senior life boring.

Yang, in his sixties, never considers himself an old man. He believes the senior years only come when a person, no matter at what ages, fails to master modern technologies

and tools and distances from the society.

Yang said that he hopes to bring piano, something normally considered classy, closer to the public through the internet.

People's Daily

Two years ago, my son uploaded a clip of me playing piano for fun and merely several hours later, it was played by over a million times

TikTok ban draws pushback in the US

SAN FRANCISCO

WITH President Donald Trump proposing a ban on TikTok, critics said the move will not solve the "security risk" issues while American values could be challenged, if the popular app actually goes dark.

Trump said on Friday night that he planned to terminate the social media app in the US through "presidential authority". It's not clear how he might implement the ban, but following the announcement, Microsoft reportedly paused negotiation with TikTok's Chinese parent company, ByteDance, to buy its US operations.

While the two companies are waiting for clarity from the White House, the TikTok community is pouring out their frustration and support for the company on social media.

Baby Ariel, one of TikTok's most-followed users, wrote on Twitter: "i hate donald trump" in response to Trump's announcement of the ban. Many other users replied to the 19-year-old girl's post: "same".

TikTok star Griffin Johnson tweeted on Saturday: "tik tok has gave (given) me a lot of friends & memories that i will forever be thankful for."

Another social media personality, Tayler Holder, said, "All I'm seeing is everyone's goodbye videos on Tik tok now and damn it's so sad..." The tweet post ends with sad and heartbreak emojis.

Many young TikTok users are so desperate to keep the app around that they launched a "saveTikTok" movement on social media.

TikTok, known for its dancing and lip-sync videos, has become wildly popular among young adults in the US. It has up to 100 million users in the country and hundreds of millions worldwide.

It gained more popularity during the coronavirus pandemic, as many view it as a source of entertainment and education.

But the app has been under scrutiny in the US in recent months because the Trump administration is concerned that TikTok will share the data of American users with the Chinese government.

The company has repeatedly denied that it shares data with the Chinese government.

TikTok CEO Kevin Mayer said in a blog post on Wednesday the reason why his company received more scrutiny than other tech companies is because of its Chinese origins. To counter the claims that Beijing might access user information or influence content on the platform, Mayer said the company is opening up its algorithms and moderation policies.

"TikTok US user data is stored in the US, with strict controls on employee access. TikTok's biggest investors come from the US. We are committed to protecting our users' privacy and safety as we continue working to bring joy to families and meaningful careers to those who create on our platform," a TikTok spokesperson said in a statement on Saturday.

TikTok's US General Manager Vanessa Pappas also defended the app in a video statement on Saturday. "We're not planning on going anywhere," Pappas said in the video, adding that the company plans to add 10,000 American jobs to its 1,500 workforce over the next three years.

READ MORE: Big Tech trio: No signs China stole technology

If the app was actually shut down, critics have raised concerns that it would challenge the values that Americans hold dear, such as freedom of speech.

"Banning an app like TikTok, which millions of Americans use to communicate with each other, is a danger to free expression and technologically impractical," the American Civil Liberties Union said.

"To truly address privacy concerns with companies like TikTok, Congress must ensure that ANY company that services US consumers cannot hand over our data to any government without a warrant or equivalent. Letting the president selectively ban platforms isn't the solution," the organization said.

Xinhua



FAO warns large desert locust swarms in East Africa could migrate west

ADDIS ABABA

THE Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations said on Sunday that large numbers of desert locust swarms that have formed in Horn of Africa (HoA), mainly Ethiopia and Kenya, since January 2020 could move west in the coming weeks, threatening fields, pastures and livelihoods in West Africa.

The FAO, which noted the full extent of the desert locust swarm warning, stressed its latest situation update on Sunday that national surveillance operations are in full swing, and control measures are ready because of the major early warning and rapid response effort coordinated by FAO.

"We have witnessed the unprecedented desert locust threat to food security and livelihoods in East Africa, and we are doing everything we can to prevent a similar crisis repeating in the Sahel region, which is already experiencing several ongoing crises," a FAO statement read.

According to FAO's desert locust watch, swarms that bred in spring in East Africa are now shifting to the summer breeding areas, and countries west of the HoA should remain on high alert.

The FAO also noted that most of the swarms in northwest Kenya are

expected to ride winds carrying them north to cross South Sudan into Sudan.

"Unless it rains more in Sudan's desert, providing favorable breeding conditions for the pests, the locusts will not stay in Sudan for long and would instead move west through the Sahel of West Africa in search of food and favorable breeding areas," it added.

Earlier this week, the FAO had warned that the East Africa region is facing an unprecedented triple food security threat caused by the combined effects of recent severe floods, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the upsurge of desert locusts.

The FAO, in a joint position statement issued together with the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) on late Tuesday, stressed that "urgent action is required to prevent a major food crisis in Eastern Africa."

It emphasized that there is an increased risk of below-average rains during the upcoming October to December season, which could further threaten food security and livelihoods across the region.

According to FAO, even before these current challenges, Eastern Africa was considered among the most food insecure regions of the



world, with nearly 28 million people in food insecurity crisis in 2019, or 20 percent of the total severely food insecure population across the world. It also stressed that an estimated 9 million children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition, including 2 million facing severe acute malnutrition.

The IGAD region is also one of the world's leading sources and hosts of internally displaced persons and refugees and asylum seekers who, due to limited livelihood opportunities and degraded coping mecha-

nisms, are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition, according to the FAO.

The FAO, which has been working closely with countries at risk in the region to coordinate a major preparation campaign in case the worst happens, also on Sunday stressed that national contingency plans are now activated.

The desert locust, which is considered as the "most dangerous of the nearly one dozen species of locusts," is a major food security peril in desert areas across 20 countries,

stretching from west Africa all the way to India, covering nearly 16 million square kilometers, according to the FAO.

According to the FAO, the desert locust is "the most destructive migratory pest in the world," in which a single swarm covering 1-square-km contains up to 80 million locusts and can eat the same amount of food in one day as about 35,000 people.

Locust numbers increase 20 times in three months with every new generation. **Xinhua**

Lebanon's foreign minister quits over lack of 'will to reform'

BEIRUT

Lebanon's Foreign Minister Nassif Hitti resigned yesterday over what he described as lack of political will to reform as his nation wrestles with a financial crisis posing the biggest threat to stability since a 1975-1990 civil war.



Foreign donors have made it clear there will be no aid until Beirut enacts long-stalled reforms to tackle state waste and corruption, root causes of the collapse. Talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been put on hold amid a row over the scale of financial losses.

"Given the absence of an effective will to achieve structural, comprehensive reform which our society and the international community have urged us to do, I have decided to resign," Hitti said in a statement.

"I took part in this government to work for one boss called Lebanon, then I found in my country multiple bosses and contradicting interests," he said. "If they do not come together in the interest of rescuing the Lebanese people, God forbid, the ship will sink with everyone on it."

Hitti, a former Lebanese ambassador to the Arab League, was named foreign minister in January when Prime Minister Hassan Diab took office with the support of the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement and its allies.

His decision to quit was also driven by differences with Diab, especially after a recent visit by France's foreign minister, and frustration at being sidelined, sources close to the ministry earlier told Reuters.

Diab appeared to criticise French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian for tying any aid to reforms and an IMF deal on his visit to Beirut last month.

The state entered talks with the IMF in May after defaulting on its hefty foreign currency debt.

But hopes of salvation through an IMF deal have been put on hold in the absence of reforms and amid differences between the government and banks over the financial losses. **Agencies**

NASA astronauts make historic return home aboard SpaceX capsule

US astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley, who flew to the International Space Station in SpaceX's new Crew Dragon, splashed down in the capsule in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday after a two-month voyage that was NASA's first crewed mission from home soil in nine years.

Behnken and Hurley, tallying 64 days in space, undocked from the station on Saturday and returned home to land in calm waters off Florida's Pensacola coast on schedule at 2:48 pm ET following a 21-hour overnight journey aboard Crew Dragon "Endeavor."

The successful splashdown,

the first of its kind by NASA in 45 years, was a final key test of whether SpaceX chief executive Elon Musk's spacecraft can transport astronauts to and from orbit – a feat no private company has accomplished before.

"This was a great day for NASA and a great day for the United States of America," NASA administrator Jim Bridenstine told reporters during a news conference. "Today we really made history." Despite Coast Guard restrictions and safety risks, spectators in private boats surrounded the splashdown site dozens of miles from shore as SpaceX and NASA recovery

teams used a crane to hoist the spacecraft out of the water and onto a boat. The crew's retrieval from the capsule was delayed slightly as the teams worked to flush its fuel tanks after sensing traces of nitrogen tetroxide fumes, a toxic gas from one of the spacecraft's flammable fuels.

While the trace amount of fumes were common with astronaut capsules, Bridenstine said, "what is not common is having passers-by approach the vehicle at close range with nitrogen tetroxide in the atmosphere. That is not something that is good."

Hurley, giving a thumbs up as he was wheeled out of the spacecraft on a stretcher, a normal procedure as astronauts adjust to Earth's gravity, said, "I'm just proud to be a small part of this whole effort to get a company and people to and from the space station."

"Thanks for doing the most difficult parts and the most important parts of human spaceflight - getting us into orbit and bringing us home," Behnken told SpaceX mission control in Hawthorne, California, as the hatch door was opened.

For the return sequence, on-board thrusters and two sets of parachutes worked autonomously to slow the acorn-shaped capsule, bringing Behnken and Hurley's speed of 17,500 miles

per hour in orbit down to 350 mph upon atmospheric reentry, and eventually 15 mph at splashdown. The pair were due to undergo medical checks onshore in Pensacola ahead of a flight to NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

NASA officials have said Crew Dragon, a pod with seven astronaut seats, was in a "very healthy" condition while docked at the space station, where astronauts conducted tests and monitored how the spacecraft performs in space.

"I'm almost speechless as to how well things went today," Steve Stich, NASA's commercial crew program manager, told reporters after the weekend-long return sequence.

Flag captured
NASA, aiming to galvanize a commercial space marketplace, awarded nearly \$8 billion to SpaceX and Boeing Co col-

lectively in 2014 to develop dueling space capsules, experimenting with a contract model that allows the space agency to buy astronaut seats from the two companies. Billionaire entrepreneur Musk's SpaceX became the first private company to send humans to orbit with the launch of Behnken and Hurley.

"Congratulations SpaceX & NASA on completing first crewed Dragon flight!!," Musk wrote on Twitter after the splashdown, adding a US flag emoji followed by "returned" – referring to a rivalry with Boeing Co over which company's astronaut crew would be the first to retrieve an American flag left on the space station in 2011, when the last crewed mission launched from US soil.

Behnken and Hurley brought the flag back to Earth, stowed as cargo in Crew Dragon. **Agencies**

Three Russian firms to start serial production of COVID-19 vaccine in September

MOSCOW

THREE Russian companies are to start industrial production of the first coronavirus vaccine in the Russian Federation developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology in September, Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov said in an interview with TASS.

"The Gamaleya Institute is working on serial production with facilities in the Vladimir, Yaroslavl and Moscow regions, those are Generium, R-Pharm and Binnopharm. <...> We very much hope that serial production will start as early as in September," he said.

Several thousands of vaccine doses per month are planned



to be produced at the initial stage this year, whereas by the

beginning of next year companies will increase output to

several millions, the minister added.

Former Pope Benedict is seriously ill - newspaper

BERLIN

FORMER Pope Benedict XVI is seriously ill after returning to the Vatican from a visit to Germany, German newspaper Passauer Neue Presse reported yesterday, citing his biographer.

Benedict, aged 93, has become very frail and his voice is barely audible, author Peter Seewald told the daily.

But at a meeting with Seewald on Saturday, German-born Benedict appeared optimistic, and said he might pick up writing again if he regains his strength, the report said, adding he was suffering from shingles.

Benedict came to his native Bavaria in June to pay his ailing brother Georg Ratzinger a final visit. Ratzinger, aged 96, died



shortly afterwards. It was Benedict's first trip

outside Italy since 2013, the year he resigned the papacy. **People's Daily**

Disaster monitoring, early warning systems improved in China to protect residents from floods

"THANK God we moved out of our house the night before the flood, or we would have been trapped there. The thought of what could have happened to us still terrifies us now," said Li Baoliang, a resident in Shifeng community, Xiaoyan township, Anhua county, Yiyang, central China's Hunan province, recalling an extreme rainstorm and the following disasters that happened on the morning of July 19.

As a matter of fact, a day before the disasters, the chief forecaster and on-duty forecasters at the Hunan provincial meteorological observatory had worked together to correct the deviations of the numerical weather prediction models, verifying real-time data on such aspects as wind filed, height field, precipitation area, intensity, and evolution of precipitation echoes.

Hunan provincial meteorological bureau gave out a yellow alert for rainstorms at 7:00 a.m. on July 18, pointing out that there would be a heavy rain in the northern and western areas of Yiyang, and torrential downpours in parts

of these areas.

Upon receiving the alert, the meteorological bureau of Yiyang immediately sent out an orange alert for geological disasters to hilly and mountainous areas of Taojiang county and Anhua county.

After receiving the warning information from the publicity department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Yiyang municipal committee at 17:00 p.m. that day, the flood control staff of the news organization under direct administration of the department quickly made relevant news products, including dynamic messages, graphics and text information, and aired them to the society, particularly the residents in affected areas.

An hour later, the loudspeaker of Shifeng community was turned on, and Liu Xingguo, Party chief of the community, started reminding local residents of the



Police helicopter flying to rescue people in areas affected by floods.

rainstorm, telling them to reach out to the community management committee once they find anything abnormal.

Around the same time, Li received a message on his phone from the flood control and

drought relief headquarters of Anhua county, informing him of the same matter.

Persuaded by Liu, Li and his family moved to a safe area that evening. A total of 421 residents from 95 households in Anhua

county were evacuated on the same day.

At 7:00 a.m. the next day, a torrential flood caused a landslide behind Li's house. Rocks rolled down along with the mountain torrents and rushed into the kitchen and bedrooms of the house. Luckily, all the 11 people from Li's and his neighbor's families had been relocated before the disaster.

In an effort to guarantee the safety of people's lives and property, many areas in China, including Hunan, Sichuan, and Zhejiang provinces, have explored monitoring and early warning technologies and improved their alert mechanisms since the beginning of the flood season this year.

To find help and proper places for evacuation is the most concerned issue of the people once floods happen. They can react more calmly and rapidly if the monitoring and warning services get more precise and timely.

Geological disasters happening during the main flood season in Sichuan province account for as much as 70 percent of the province's total in a year. This year, the province launched a 2.0 version of its provincial-level early warning platform for geological disasters, incorporating 6,932 vulnerable areas that affect more than 50 people each and 12,099 sets of monitoring devices into its monitoring and control system.

Residents in the province can check nearby vulnerable areas with potential geological hazards, as well as the corresponding liable officials and monitors on their mobile phones, said Xie Anjun, member of the Party organization of the Department of Natural Resources of Sichuan Province and Party chief of the organ.

East China's Zhejiang province launched a special QR code system in June to guarantee the evacuation of residents in high-risk ar-

reas, help emergency rescue teams reach their destinations smoothly, and facilitate disaster relief and related work.

"We have the information of all the residents that need to be relocated in the system. Once the flood prevention emergency response is activated, we can easily locate them," said an official of Taoyuanxi village, Taiyang township, Lin'an district, Hangzhou, capital of Zhejiang province.

During the promotion of the QR code system, Lin'an district made evacuation lists for nine types of emergencies, which covered the residents possibly affected by flash floods, living in old and dilapidated houses, as well as water-logged urban areas. Underground parking facilities were also a key focus of the lists.

Thanks to the system, the district relocated 3,565 residents on July 6 alone.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disability, Anthony Mavunde, speaks at a bonanza organized by National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) in Dodoma last weekend. PHOTO: RENATHA MSUNGU

TFF ought to seek soccer players' health insurance, says Mavunde

BY CORRESPONDENT RENATHA MSUNGU, DODOMA

DEPUTY Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and People with Disability, Anthony Mavunde, has directed Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) to communicate with National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) in a bid to process soccer players' health insurance.

Mavunde's directives were presented after he had graced a sports bonanza hosted by NHIF and involved teams made up of Dodoma-based public institutions and universities.

He disclosed the country has been losing lots of gifted performers in soccer as a result of the players' failure to access proper medical care when they sustain injuries.

"I call on TFF to convene meeting with NHIF to work on the process for provision of health insurance to players," he disclosed.

He said the approach targets to seeing to it domestic soccer players access health insurance, which is a must for them.

The Deputy Minister said many domestic soccer players fail to live up to their expectations for lack of proper medical care.

He praised the NHIF for hosting the bonanza and directed they should keep on hosting more sports events that will help to promote domestic sportspersons.

He stated sports a crucial for a person's health and, for that matter, NHIF should see to it they continue hosting the bonanzas, given the events are a platform for people from different walks of lives to, as well, meet and share experience.

Bernard Konga, NHIF Director, disclosed the institution appreciates Mavunde's willingness to support sports.

He stated the institution gears towards turning sports into part of cure for the society.

He disclosed there will be other sports bonanzas to be hosted by the NHIF.

Konga requested sports teams to shape up for the bonanzas.

Several sports disciplines took place in the bonanza, with volleyball in particular attracting plenty of spectators.

Strikers A now stretch winning run in 2020 Nasser Memorial Cricket League

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

STRIKERS A cricket team have stepped up their quest for the title in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, trouncing GP Pak Stars A by 81 runs in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The victory has helped Strikers A move to the top spot in the Division A's log, having posted victory in three out of four games to collect six points.

Gymkhana A, the division's leaders before the Sunday match, have in the process been pushed to the second spot.

Aces A, Caravans and Aga Khan SC A are positioned third, fourth and fifth respectively in the log.

Strikers A scored 229 runs for the loss of nine wickets in 50 overs after they had won the toss and chosen to bat first.

Skipper Ashish Kamania was impressive with the bat for the eventual winners, ending nine runs short of a century and playing vital role in his outfit's acquisition of the score.

After a rather shaky start to their innings, which had openers Kishen Kamania and Riken Patel, as well as Vikram Rathore, who batted at number three, dismissed in quick succession, Kamania stepped up to help his outfit stay in control of the innings.

He cracked six fours and five sixes in his spell.

Strikers A's other key all-round-



Saint Gobain Strikers' fielder goes for catch to dismiss one of Aces Club batsmen in the previous season's DRCC Caravans T20 Cup final, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Aces Club won the final. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

er, Jatin Darji, was too impressive at the crease, posting 61 runs not out and cracking six boundaries and three sixes.

Suraj Pala and Zahir Patel notched 30 runs and 10 runs respectively to boost the team's total.

He cracked six fours and five sixes to finish with the best innings in the day.

Zafar Khan had the most wickets for GP Pak Stars A in the duel, in which he took four and leaked 48 runs in his 10-over spell.

Wahid Hussain ended his bowling spell with two wickets and leaked 32 runs in 10 overs.

He had one maiden over in his spell, which ended with the

bowler posting economy rate of 3.20.

Posting 230 runs to post victory turned out to be a tall order for GP Pak Stars A, they on reply were skittled for 148 runs in 34.4 overs.

Youthful all-rounder, Abdullah Jabiri, had the best innings for the squad, scoring 42 runs which included five boundaries.

Jabiri, to a great extent, helped to steady the ship after early exits of opener, Nisar Ahmed, and Stewart Kaduma, who batted at number three, in the first two overs.

Goodluck Andrew and Qasim Ali notched 29 runs and 22 runs respectively, young batsman Sal-

mini Yusuph and Khan chipped in with 17 runs and 16 runs respectively.

The GP Pak Stars A's hopes for successful chase were all but over after Ali had been bowled by the eventual man of the match Kamania.

Pala led Strikers A's quest for frustrating GP Pak Stars A's chase given he took three wickets and leaked 36 runs in nine overs.

He was ably assisted by Kamania and Mukul Kumar, who ended with two wickets apiece.

Kamania's stellar batting showing in the duel has, as a result, boosted his quest for the KNML top tier's best batsman honour.

Prior to the Sunday clash, the experienced batsman had been holding the top spot in the list of the top run getters after notching 102 runs in three outings.

Team mate Darji was placed second in the list, having scored 94 runs in three clashes and boasting of an unbeaten spell in one clash.

The Sunday loss has compounded GP Pak Stars A's woes, given they are still at the bottom of the table with no victory four games.

The GP Pak Stars A had, before the Sunday clash, net run rate of -2.1779, having recorded 331 runs and leaked 532 runs.



Dar es Salaam's junior basketball players take part in training at the city's JMK Youth Park recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Tamar Braxton pays tribute to boyfriend for 'saving my life'

LOS ANGELES

TAMAR Braxton is thanking her boyfriend for "saving my life" after her hospitalization last month.

Braxton posted a lengthy message on social media late Saturday that paid tribute to David Adeleso being her "angel on earth." She said she is grateful for Adeleso who found her "lifeless" in their home, saying it "couldn't have been easy" for him.

The R&B singer did not provide details about her hospitalization. Police only confirmed they responded to a medical emergency July 16 at the downtown Los Angeles high rise that she calls home.

"Through this entire time, you have held my hand, heard my cries, held me when I have been weak. You have had my ENTIRE back" she said in the post.

Braxton, 43, shared the post along with an older video of the couple talking about getting engaged.

She called Adeleso and her 7-year-old son Logan, whom she shares with former husband Vincent Herbert, a priority.

"Although I been said yes in this old video... now and then, I couldn't imagine what life would be like if you weren't by my side," she wrote. "Thank God I'm here and thank God for you."

Adeleso replied to Braxton's post with a short message.

"I love you. You love me. We love Logan. Together forever," he said with emojis including one of a diamond ring.

Though Tamar Braxton released her debut album in 2000, she made a splash in pop culture when she and her sisters, including Grammy-winning icon Toni Braxton, launched their reality series "Braxton Family Values" on WETV in 2011. It was an insta-hit, with Tamar Braxton shining as the show's breakout fan favorite.

AP

Good o'l' times return - the NBA's back!

BY CORRESPONDENT LLOYD ELIPOKEA

LAST Thursday saw the return of one of global sport's most valuable and prized commodities, the NBA League of the United States.

Indeed, although the league in its modern incarnation is still like the NBA of yesteryear, meaning the power dunks, alley hoops and pick-and-rolls are still pretty much on display, there is one particularly stark contrast that can be drawn between the NBA League in its present-day form and the league which previous generations of basketball fans were entranced by.

That contrast rests in arguably one element of the league alone today: the number of international players who ply their trade in the world's indisputably most outstanding basketball league.

Namely a whole host of players from far-flung corners of the globe have succeeded in displaying their basketball skills on the most exalted and loftiest stage in world basketball - the NBA through the years.

These star players include the Gasol brothers, Pau and Marc from Spain, the Gallic guard Tony Parks, the celebrated Argentinean sixth man Manu Ginobili, and most recently, Luka Doncic, who plays a key role in the fortunes of the Dallas Mavericks, is just the latest Eastern European in a long line of many from that region of Europe to show off their skills to a vast discriminating American fan-base.

You, Dear Reader, may question what's good about this trend, especially, critically, from an African perspective.

Well, the good thing about this trend is that as more international players have been accepted into the ferociously competitive NBA, this has also paved the way for a greater number of quality African stars to find their way to some of the league's foremost teams in both the Eastern and Western conferences.

Apart from the likes of the twin colossuses Hakeem 'The Dream' Olajuwon (Nigeria), and Dikembe Mutombo (DRC), who ruled the roost in the world's top hoops league in the late

1980s and 1990s, it could be argued that there are more Africans today earning a living in the NBA than at any other time in the American basketball league's rich and illustrious history.

Such stars include the talented South Sudanese small forward Luol Deng, who has sprung to prominence in the league, the dominating Cameroonian center Josh Embiid and of course who could justly leave out last season's MVP Giannis Antetokounpos, who's a Greek but of Nigerian descent.

However, why this writer is so chuffed at the revival of this season's 2019-2020 NBA league is because in addition to our fellow African brethren who will be pulling in the crowds, there will be the added bonus for us, the numerous hordes of committed African devotees of basketball, of feasting our eyes on the pantheon of veritable iconic Africans in the diaspora, to wit, African-American leading lights of the sport who will be wowing not just American fans but a humungous global audience.

Indeed, this roll-call of bona

fide African-American hoops greats include the 'King' LeBron James, the whiz-kid guard with razzle-dazzle ball-handling skills, Kyrie Irving, whose mesmerizing ball-handling is truly a sight to behold, the deadliest shooting guard in the league of these times Stephen Curry, and as well, the young Zion Williamson, who is already being touted as the heir apparent of the coveted mantle of the league's greatest player, who is by general consensus, the aforesaid LeBron James.

Thus, as can be seen, there is a lot to be decidedly cheery about.

As a befitting postscript to this sporting narrative, this writer is firmly of the view that encomiums are in order for Arsenal FC's Gabonese skipper Pierre Emerick Aubameyang, whose brace of goals handed his team yet another FA Cup trophy yesterday against their vanquished opponents, Chelsea FC, who admirably finished in the 'Top Four' of the EPL this season.

Thankfully though, despite the Blues' 'top four' credentials, the Gunners still emerged

victorious courtesy of a certain predatory Gabonese marksman Aubameyang.

Let's hope then that next season brings more rewarding tidings for Africa's legions of football stars overseas who include Aubameyang, the deeply classy Egyptian Mohamed Salah, and the Ghanaian Andre Ayew among many others.

In that same breath, kudos aplenty should be deservedly dished out to the finalists of the Azam Sports Federations Cup (ASFC), Simba for winning the final 2-1 and the losing finalist Namungo FC for still qualifying to feature in the CAF Confederation Cup next season despite being defeated on the grounds that Simba SC as the country's Mainland Premier League victors, are already slated to jockey for top honors in the CAF Champions League.

Three cheers then for the Msimbazi Street side. But the heartiest cheers must be reserved for Namungo FC, who in spite of losing, are still deservedly going to play in one of continental football's most demanding competitions.

Infantino staying on as FIFA blasts Swiss probe

GENEVA

FIFA president Gianni Infantino will continue in his post, world football's governing body insisted Sunday, as they blasted the launch of Swiss criminal proceedings against him.

"There was and is absolutely no reason to open any investigation because nothing remotely criminal has happened and there is nothing at all to suggest any form of criminal wrongdoing," FIFA said in a media release.

"The FIFA president will continue to fully assume his functions within FIFA and fulfil his duties and will continue to cooperate with the authorities in Switzerland and around the world."

Special prosecutor Stefan Keller started proceedings on Thursday as part of an investigation into suspected collusion between Infantino and Switzerland's attorney general Michael Lauber, the country's top prosecutor.

Lauber, who offered his resignation on July 24, was in charge of Switzerland's probe into the towering corruption scandal that exploded at the heart of Zurich-based FIFA in 2015.

But he was forced to recuse himself from the investigation in June 2019, following media revelations that he had held several undeclared meetings with Infantino during the probe.

Swiss authorities said Keller "reached the conclusion that... there are indications of criminal conduct" in relation to meetings

between Infantino, Lauber and another official, Rinaldo Arnold, in 2016 and 2017.

"This concerns abuse of public office, breach of official secrecy, assisting offenders and incitement to these acts," the authorities said.

- Categorical denial -

FIFA hit back on Sunday, accusing Keller of having brought forward no legal grounds for his probe.

"Keller has presented no serious elements or legal basis for the opening of any investigation and lacks any detail as to the substance of the case."

"FIFA and the FIFA president categorically deny any implication or suggestion that the FIFA president would ever have attempted to exert any form of improper influence" on Lauber.

FIFA said it was "not illegal anywhere in the world" to meet a prosecutor.

It said the meeting between Infantino and Lauber was "entirely logical" given that the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) was conducting investigations in more than 20 cases in FIFA-related matters.

The organisation said such meetings or contacts were "routine" during an investigation.

It said the point of the meeting was to offer FIFA's "full support" for the investigations, and Infantino attended in "good faith".

AFP

Arthur lacked respect, to be disciplined - Barca

BARCELONA

BARCELONA president Josep Maria Bartomeu has said midfielder Arthur Melo is facing disciplinary action after showing a "lack of respect" towards the club after refusing to return to training.

The Catalan club agreed to sell Arthur to Juventus in July with Miralem Pjanic arriving from the Turin club once the season is completed.

However, Arthur failed to report to Barcelona for training on June 27 after a week off and remains in Brazil.

"He has decided not to return because he believes his chapter at Barca has ended," Bartomeu told Diario Sport when asked about Arthur.

"It is his decision. No one has given him permission. I assume what has happened is that he has gone to Brazil and wants to extend his holidays. That has forced us to open disciplinary proceedings against him because he has to play with Barca until the season is completed. In this case in the Champions League, just like Pjanic."

"It was an agreement between the clubs. What he has done is a

lack of respect to his teammates because the team wants to do well in the Champions League and also to the club. It is unjustifiable and totally incomprehensible."

Barca and Juventus take on Napoli and Lyon, respectively, in next week's Champions League round-of-16 return leg.

Bartomeu added that he was surprised by Arthur's stance despite reports that the Brazil international wanted to end his contract with the Catalan giants immediately.

"Apart from the fact that if a worker doesn't work, he doesn't get paid, it's not logical that playing for such an important trophy, a player decides to erase himself [from the team]," he said.

Arthur joined Barca in the summer of 2018 from Gremio and has made 28 appearances for the club this season.

He did not feature in Barca's last six league games of the season, with his last appearance in a 2-2 draw at Celta Vigo on June 27.

The 23-year-old had been reluctant to move, initially wanting to stay at the Camp Nou, but was convinced by Juventus to move to Serie A.

(Agencies)

Ex-convict Kokorin completes Spartak Moscow switch

MOSCOW

RUSSIA international forward Alexander Kokorin, who spent nearly a year in prison over a night of drunken assaults, has signed a three-year deal with Spartak Moscow, the club announced Sunday.

Kokorin, 29, rejoined Zenit St Petersburg following his release from jail last September but was loaned out to Sochi in February, scoring seven times in 10 games to help the club avoid relegation.

"I want to be in good shape, to help the team as much possible and bring back the Spartak that everyone loves: attacking, efficient and triumphant," said Kokorin, who played for Russia at the 2014 World Cup and two European Championships in 2012 and 2016.

Including time in pre-trial detention, Kokorin served 11 months of an 18-month sentence for hooliganism, after he and fellow foot-

baller Pavel Mamaev were found guilty by a Moscow court in May 2019.

In a booze-fuelled night in October 2018, Mamaev and Kokorin first assaulted the chauffeur of a TV presenter in a car park.

In an assault caught on video, they then attacked two government officials in an upmarket cafe, hitting one with a chair.

The Russian Premier League at one point considered a lifetime ban for the players.

Instead, Kokorin will join a Spartak side that finished a disappointing seventh last season and missed out on European qualification.

Kokorin, who won the last of his 48 Russia caps in November 2017, could face his former club Sochi when the new league season begins next weekend.

AFP

Champions League ready to resume, at long last

PARIS

AFTER an enforced hiatus of almost five months, the UEFA Champions League and Europa League resume this week in order to clear up the last remaining business in a troubled season.

Both competitions were frozen in March as the coronavirus pandemic took hold across the continent, and while European football's governing body acted swiftly to move Euro 2020 back a year, for a long time it was unclear how it would manage to complete its two landmark club competitions.

In the end the solution was to set up two mini tournaments bringing all teams together in one place from the quarter-finals onwards, with all ties being decided in one-off matches behind closed doors.

And so the Champions League will move to Lisbon for the 'Final Eight' starting on August 12 and ending with the final at Benfica's Estadio da Luz on August 23.

The Europa League, meanwhile, will be played to a conclusion at a series of venues in western Germany, with the last eight beginning on August 10 and the final in Cologne on August 21.

"I believed it from the first moment," said the UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin recently when asked if he ever doubted it would be possible to play the tournaments to a conclusion.

"You should always be optimistic, and if something like this crisis happens, you must have a plan ready."

"At the present time, we will be playing matches without spectators



The Champions League resumes on Friday with the remaining last 16 second legs. The final will be in Lisbon on August 23 (AFP Photo)

until further notice. We will not take any risks."

- UEFA not worried -

There is, though, no question of further changes being made to the formats despite concerns about an increase in Covid-19 cases in and around Lisbon, and more recent worries in Germany about a rise in cases there.

UEFA also recently insisted it was "confident" there would be no more delays despite cases of coronavirus emerging among players at Real Madrid and Sevilla.

It is, in any case, now or never.

Indeed, the preliminary round of next sea-

son's Champions League begins next Saturday, the same day Bayern Munich entertain Chelsea and Napoli visit Barcelona in their outstanding last 16 second legs.

Before that, Manchester City defend a 2-1 first-leg lead at home against Real on Friday as Pep Guardiola's side target Champions League glory on the back of the club's success at getting a two-year ban from the competition overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The winner of that tie will face Juventus or Lyon in the quarter-finals in Lisbon.

- Wolves' longest year -

It is the Europa League which is first up, though, with the last 16 being completed on Wednesday and Thursday.

Two ties -- Inter Milan against Getafe and Sevilla against Roma -- will go ahead as one-off ties in Germany as the first legs were never played.

Six second legs will also be played with the winners heading to Germany for the last eight.

Among the ties to be completed is Manchester United's against Austrian side LASK, which will be a formality for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team after they won 5-0 in the first leg in March.

Their form since the Premier League resumed in mid-June has been excellent and they have already sealed a place in the 2020-21 Champions League, but now they want to finish this never-ending season with a trophy.

"Now our focus is on the Europa League because this is a really good trophy and we want to win," Bruno Fernandes told MUTV.

"I came to Manchester to win trophies. We need to play every game to win. If we go into the Europa League and win every game, we know we'll win the trophy."

United, Europa League winners in 2017, could yet find themselves facing Premier League rivals Wolverhampton Wanderers in the semi-finals in Cologne on August 16 should both teams get there.

Wolves entertain Greek champions Olympiakos on Thursday having drawn 1-1 in the first leg of their last-16 tie.

Their campaign started more than a year ago now, with a 2-0 win over Northern Irish side Crusaders in the second qualifying round on July 25, 2019.

Extending it by another couple of weeks would do them no harm.

AFP

Lecce relegated as curtain comes down on historic Serie A season

ROME

LECCE were relegated from Serie A after one season in the top flight on Sunday as a dramatic season both on and off the pitch in Italy came to a close.

Fabio Liverani's side lost 4-3 at home to mid-table Parma but would have dropped down to Serie B even if they had won as relegation rivals Genoa thumped Hellas Verona 3-0 in a match that saw four red cards, including one for Verona coach Ivan Juric.

Lecce, who drop down to Serie B after finishing 17th, were a point behind Genoa going into the final round of matches and needed to beat Parma and hope Genoa failed to win against Verona in order to stay in the top division.

However unfortunate Lecce defender Fabio Lucioni made his team's task harder after just 10 minutes when he bundled the ball into his own goal after Hernani's shot thumped off the post.

Gianluca Caprari then doubled the away side's lead 13 minutes later when he lashed home a superb first time finish after being fed by Hernani. Seconds later Antonio Sanabria scored the second of his two goals for Genoa to put the hosts 2-0 up against Verona at the Stadio Luigi Ferraris, effectively ending Lecce's hopes of a final day miracle.

Entertaining Lecce didn't give up though and two quick goals put them level, Antonin Barak heading them back into the game in the 40th minute before Biagio Meccariello equalised with another bullet header just before the break.

However by that time Genoa were three goals ahead and as good as safe thanks to Cristian Romero's own beautifully-placed header.

Andreas Cornelius then put Parma back ahead six minutes after the restart when he tapped in Antonino Barilla's low cross, before Barilla then provided another perfect pass for Roberto Inglese to re-establish Parma's two-goal lead in the 66th minute.

That was the 85th goal Lecce had conceded this season, the league's worst defensive record, and meant Gianluca Lapadula's close range finish seconds later didn't even earn Lecce a point.

- Little virus drama -

Elsewhere Udinese won 1-0 at Sassuolo thanks to Stefano Okaka's strike seven minutes after the break while Torino and Bologna played a 1-1



Genoa celebrated securing Serie A safety by hauling coach Davide Nicola into the air. (Agencies)

draw in two matches with little at stake.

Earlier two late goals from Christian Kouame and Erick Pulgar gave Fiorentina a 3-1 Serie A win at bottom club SPAL.

Kouame headed the away side into an 89th-minute lead and after supplying the cross for the Ivory Coast international Pulgar then made no mistake from the penalty spot in stoppage time.

The sides had been level since the 39th minute when Marco D'Alessandro guided home a beautiful volley to cancel out Ghana midfielder Alfred Duncan's 30th-minute opener.

Fiorentina finish 10th while SPAL waved goodbye to Serie A with their 28th defeat of the campaign.

The Serie A season finished deep into a hot Italian summer with Juventus crowned champions for

the ninth straight year and little coronavirus drama despite the country at one point being the world's worst affected.

Italy's north was hit especially hard by COVID-19 as the Lombardy region, which includes the financial capital Milan, became the global epicentre of the pandemic in March.

Earlier on Sunday sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora admitted to news

agency ANSA that the Italian government at one point "genuinely thought the season would be called off".

"We were faced with weeks and months in which everything was put up for debate," he said, "in which our only thought was how we could deal with this pandemic ... and save as many lives as possible."

AFP

Gwiji by David Chikoko



TFF slaps ban, fine on coach Luc Eymael

SPORT

Champions League ready to resume, at long last

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

EATV TUESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msasi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

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

Filbert Bayi Schools' coach praises athletes

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

COAST Region's Filbert Bayi Schools' athletics head coach, Ron Davis, has said he is impressed by the performance of his athletes at the development athletics meet which was held at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam last week.

Davis said the performance shown by the schools' athletes is very impressive and he is confident that they will perform well at the coming National Championships slated for September 5-6 at the same venue.

The American coach is is famed for grooming the then prominent Tanzanian athletes, Filbert Bayi and Suleiman Nyambui, that won two medals in the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

The coach pointed out he is also impressed by the overall performance of Coast Region athletes and said he particularly hailed two Filbert Bayi Schools' athletes Gaudensia Maneno and Matiko Saria.

The two athletes broke the qualifying records in 400m event of the development athletics race.

At the development meet which attracted athletes from Coast Region and surrounding regions, Gaudensia, who emerged as the winner, recorded 58.54 in the event.

She broke her own record of 58.90, while Saria, who finished second, recorded 50.09 to break her record of 51.29.

"The performance shown by my athletes at the just ended development athletics meet was very good and I'm very happy and sure they are now ready for the National Championships," he noted.

"I will keep on training them, the aim is to polish them before the championships," he said.

The last weekend development meet was the last, two other races were held in the previous month.

Tanzania's athletics legend, Bayi, was recently reported to have said the development athletics meets are important as they help athletes fully prepare for the National Championships and other events.

"The just ended development athlete meet was good, it helps athletes stay fit and in shape before any event," he said.

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has slapped a two-year ban and 8m/- fine on former Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael, for his recent racist remarks.

The national soccer governing body yesterday released a statement saying it has reached that decision after going through a video clip, which had the coach uttering the remarks, and observing its impact on football and social welfare of the country. Clifford Ndimbo, TFF information officer, confirmed the development in an interview yesterday, but he stopped short of issuing more details.



Former Yanga head coach, Luc Eymael.

The Belgian tactician left the country two weeks ago.

Ndimbo, moreover, could not say anything on what the fine and ban will mean to the person who is outside the country.

He merely said TFF Disciplinary Committee's chairman is better placed to respond on the issue.

"It is true, TFF has imposed the ban and the fine on former Yanga head coach Luc Eymael for his racist remarks, I cannot

issue more details on the punishment, you should talk to the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee," he said.

After Eymael had been fired, former Simba SC Chairman, Ismail Aden Rage, who is also a lawyer, said TFF can complain to world soccer governing body, FIFA, after it had found the Belgian coach on the wrong side of the country's and international laws.

Rage stated that FIFA treat

racist cases seriously.

Two weeks ago Yanga fired the outspoken Belgian tactician for allegedly comparing the country's fans to monkeys after the club's 1-1 draw with Mtibwa Sugar in the domestic top flight clash.

Following the draw, which saw Yanga temporarily drop to third spot in the league, Eymael tore into the club's supporters, claiming they were ignorant about football.

He went on to lambast the conditions he had been working in since arriving in the country.

In the video clip which went viral on social media, the coach was heard saying the fans can only shout and are like monkeys who are barking.

He further said the country is not a better place for him as its people are uneducated.

He stated the domestic stadiums' dressing rooms and even the venues' pitches hardly meet the standard of a premier league.

Eymael who is never short of controversies also said in the clip he experienced several other problems in Tanzania, including lack of a car, wifi service and a DStv decoder.

"This place is not for me, playing in pitches at a level of seventh or eighth division in Europe is not for me," he added.

"The changing rooms, too, are not for me, I am not enjoying your country, you are uneducated people, I don't have a car, I do not have wifi and I do not have DStv, no, no, no," he was heard saying.

Eymael also announced that he was looking to leave Tanzania as his new wife is not enjoying life in the country.

"My wife is absolutely not enjoying here and this is disgusting to me, I am disgusted," he continued.

"The only pleasure that I have is the stadiums are always full when we are playing, full of our fans, but working in these conditions is not for me," he said.

He also accused the referees of biasness, claiming that the country's soccer governing body's officials are favouring Yanga's age old rivals, Simba SC.

"Referees here are always against us and only favouring Simba, not giving us even a clear penalty," he was heard saying.

By Guardian Correspondent

Government eyes formation of wheelchair tennis association

THE government has directed the formation of wheelchair tennis association which will spearhead the development of the sport in the country.

Currently, wheelchair tennis is under Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) but Riziki Salum, the national wheelchair tennis team's head coach, said at their recent meeting with the government, through National Sports Council (NSC), it was proposed that wheelchair tennis players should be under an independent association.

He said the wheelchair tennis association will mainly dwell on many issues, which have to do with the smooth running of the sport in the country.

They are, among others, the enhancement of youth development in order to develop the game that has made the country proud on the international scene.

The association, according to Salum, will be responsible for the day to day running of wheelchair tennis in the country, unlike the present structure which has TTA running the game's affairs.

He said NSC also advised them to really promote the sport through the youth



Dar es Salaam's wheelchair tennis player, Bernard Anthony, puts his skills to show during a recent tournament, which took place in the city.

development process they want to engage in.

"We had a meeting recently where, among other things, the government advised us that it is better for us to form our association which will be responsible for the development of wheelchair tennis in the

country unlike the present system which has our activities operate under TTA," Salum disclosed.

"We are, today (Sunday), meeting to select interim leaders of the committee," he said.

Dennis Makoi, TTA president, could not pick up his

phone on Saturday, when The Guardian sought for his comments on the matter.

He as well did not respond to messages sent to him requesting the same.

However, an anonymous source at NSC confirmed the meeting between

wheelchair tennis leaders and players.

The source disclosed it was called to discuss the way forward for the sport in the country after the resumption of sporting activities.

The source refused to comment on the proposal

for the formation of the wheelchair tennis association, saying NSC Acting Secretary General, Neema Msitha, is the only person who can comment on the matter.

He said the meeting mainly dwelled on the calendar of activities for wheelchair tennis, developments programs and other activities.

"I know of that meeting, although I did not attend it, the aim was mapping the way forward especially after the resumption of sporting activities in the country," he stated.

"Taking a look at challenges wheelchair tennis players face, seeing the calendar of their activities and other things, but I can not comment on the issue of forming the wheelchair tennis association, you can ask our secretary for her comments," he said.

Msitha yesterday could not be reached on her mobile phone for the comments.

The plan by wheelchair tennis players and officials to form an independent association has come after unconfirmed reports had it that there is misunderstanding between TTA president, Makoi, and some of wheelchair tennis leaders over many issues.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

