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TANZANIA

MONDAY 25 JANUARY, 2021

National Pg 3
Africa's youngest billionaire



National Pg 4
Production and marketing of wheat



National Pg 5
Project to benefit 4,000 farmers



National Pg 6
Supplying food to Mbarali schools



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan leads a march held in Dodoma city yesterday to mark the 100th anniversary of the Tanzania High Court, the other dignitaries including Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma (C) and Constitutional and Legal Affairs minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba (R). The event coincided with the annual Law Week celebrations. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Swine fever: Govt curtails pork, pig sale in six districts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has banned sale and consumption of pork in six districts of the expansive Lake Victoria Zone following an outbreak of African swine fever (ASF).

Announcing the ban here yesterday, Livestock and Fisheries minister Mashimba Ndaki said the rapidly spreading influenza had already killed 1,500 pigs in affected districts. The ban includes trading in and transporting pigs.

The minister said that 909 deaths were recorded in Kahama, while 56 were registered in Geita, while Mbogwe District had 388 swine deaths so far and Sengerema 147, adding up to about 10.1 percent of 14,814 domesticated pigs by current estimates, in the four districts, with their total worth put at 375m/-.

The minister also directed that trade in pigs in the affected districts stop with immediate effect, cautioning farmers who collect pork leftovers from various eateries as feed for their pigs to similarly stop the practice

Transportation of pigs in and out their areas of nativity should be controlled and animals in those areas should be quarantined, he ordered.

The ban now means that pork lovers, traders and piggery owners will have to wait as authorities chart out a plan and act swiftly to contain the disease from spreading further in the zone and other parts of the country.

African swine fever causes severe illness and high death rates in pigs, with pigs of all ages affected. Signs of illness include

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Govt, Judiciary elevating courts' use of Kiswahili

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government and the judiciary have agreed to fully switch the country's legal system and legal materials from English to Swahili, a century since the establishment of the High Court system in the country.

Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan said it was unjust to deny justice to a group of the citizenry on account of the language barrier.

Launching this year's Tanzania Legal Week and the 100th anniversary of the High Court, the VP said rural residents are unaware of most of the legal process, thus limiting access to justice in their communities.

"The government is keenly waiting for the full implementation of this plan. Tanzania is an independent state and therefore it's unfair for people to be denied justice because of language," she asserted.

The VP launched seven guidelines for the judiciary to implement the intended shift, which includes management of evidence, enforcement of court orders and use of court services, asking the judiciary to enhance access to the civic grievance redress system.

She hailed the law interpreting pillar of the state for the transformation it has undergone during the century, including recruiting 20 female judges in the past decade for the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

"There is a substantial revolution. You

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TPDC has 6 months to open natural gas refilling stations

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) has been given six months to complete installation of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations in Dar es Salaam to be used by passenger buses as well as private vehicles.

Once operational, the CNG stations which are projected to start by serving the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (DART), will cut operational costs by 45 per cent for converted vehicles and significantly reduce fares.

The directive was issued by Energy Minister Dr Medard Kalemani, launching the installation of a CNG station at Ubungu in the city, directing TPDC to expand uptake of the energy from DART to private buses as a way of boosting government revenue and cutting the cost for consumers.

The engine conversion service is offered at the College of Engineering and Technology of Dar es Salaam and at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology

"I will not officiate the launch of using CNG for only 300 vehicles; expand your clientele by introducing the energy to other customers including private vehicles," he stressed.

Speaking earlier, TPDC Managing Director Dr James Mataragio told the minister that the project was designed to start serving 300 DART buses, where the minister intoned that this would be uneconomical, tasking the corporation to extend to more customers.

Using CNG would bring significant benefits to Tanzanian motorists compared to petrol and diesel as natural gas is cheaper by 45 per cent, Dr Kalemani noted, urging city motorists to take up the offer by altering engine functioning from petroleum and diesel fuels to natural gas.

"The engine conversion service is offered at the College of Engineering

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Zanzibar taps private sector input for tourist attractions

By Guardian Reporter

THE government of Zanzibar has said it will introduce new tourist attractions in a bid to spoil visitors for choice, ensure more come back and hence boost earnings in the sector.

Notably, it plans to improve existing attractions including historical sites by working with the private sector in targeted investment aimed at increasing the number of tourists visiting the Isles.

In an interview with IPP Media



reporters yesterday, Zanzibar Tourism and Heritage Affairs, minister Leila Mohamed Mussa (pictured) said Zanzibar was well mobilised to ensure it obtains more foreign exchange from tourism.

"The economy of Zanzibar depends on tourism by 28 percent and by 80 per cent for its foreign exchange earnings. But the coronavirus pandemic adversely affected us, losing many tourists from eastern Europe, even though now we

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REFURBISHING OLD SCHOOLS

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Swine fever: Govt curtails pork, pig sale in six districts

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high fever, decreased appetite, and weakness. The skin may be reddened, blotchy or have blackened lesions, especially on the ears, tail and lower legs.

"I know it is not easy but I appeal to residents of the affected districts not to eat pork until the disease is contained. If one eats contaminated pork that means the disease will spread further," the minister underlined, halting all slaughter of pigs in the affected areas. Pork trade is responsible for the fast spread of the viral disease in the zone, he declared.

He warned piggery owners to zero-graze their animals; avoid movements of the pigs as a way of minimising the spread of the disease, meanwhile as in future, slaughtering the animals at home instead of designated slaughterhouses will similarly be prohibited.

"The virus that causes the disease spreads very fast. Once it enters a piggery, it tends to kill all the animals," he remarked.

Ndaki said the price of pigs in the affected districts has slumped to tempting levels for traders but warned that everybody must beat

the temptation since the time is just not right.

Teams of animal health experts from the ministry have already arrived in the affected districts to assess the impact and introduce control measures, he said.

"We have reached out to the Sokoine University of Agriculture and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for help, with livestock extension officers sought to educate people on the disease and impose temporary restriction on consumption of pork.

Last week, Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha said that more than 500 pigs were killed by the disease which landed in the district last month. He banned pork sales to curb the spread of the fever.

"The district authorities in collaboration with the central government are working hard to ensure that the disease is controlled before it spreads to neighboring districts and regions," the DC noted.

A previous outbreak of African swine fever was in March 2018 where more than 900 pigs were killed, but the disease remained in Ruvuma region.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa launches an investment guideline website for Iringa Region yesterday, as Iringa regional commissioner Ally Hapi (C) and Lands, Housing and Human Settlements Development minister William Lukuvi look on. Photo: PMO

Small farmers need more climate aid to ward off famines, says UN

By Special Correspondent

CLIMATE aid to millions of small farmers around the world must "substantially increase" to ward off hunger and instability, a United Nations body warned over the weekend.

Small farmers "do little to cause climate change, but suffer the most from its impacts," Gilbert F. Houngbo, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) said in a statement.

"If investments... do not substantially increase, we risk widespread hunger and global instability," IFAD added.

Houngbo said small farmers "increasingly common crop failures and livestock deaths put our entire food system at risk," warning that "hunger, poverty and migration will become even more widespread" without increased aid.

The UN body's warning comes ahead of a climate adaptation summit on Monday and

Tuesday in the Netherlands.

At the gathering, IFAD plans to launch a new \$500 million fund dubbed ASAP+ "to reduce climate change threats to food security, lower greenhouse gases and help more than 10 million people adapt to weather changes." Austria, Germany, Ireland and Qatar have already said they will contribute. British actor Idris Elba and his wife Sandrine, both IFAD "Goodwill Ambassadors," will take part in a debate at the summit with Belgian Prime Minister Alexander de Croo.

IFAD-funded research forecasts a potential fall in production of staples like beans, maize, and cassava of between 50 and 90 percent by 2050 across much of sub-Saharan Africa due to climate change, "which would result in substantial increases in hunger and poverty." "Climate change could push more than 140 million people to migrate" over the same period, the studies found.

KAMPALA

HALF of the young people in Africa feel excluded from political decision making. This is according to a latest U-report polling data released jointly by UNICEF, African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU).

While an overwhelming majority of the polled young people at 91 per cent would like to have more say in the political decisions that shape their lives, 48 per cent feel completely left out. The main obstacle they cite at 59 per cent is the lack of access to policymakers.

The report dubbed Your Voice Your Future that brought together results and recommendations from four U-Report polls across Africa and Europe also found participation in decision making, quality education and internet access among the main concerns for children and young people both in Africa and Europe.

U-report polls are a free SMS-based platform that allows people to report on issues affecting them and their

Politics and internet access key concerns among youth in Africa

communities as well as to get real-time information and feedback on new initiatives or campaigns. In these particular polls considered in the report, 450,000 young people between 14 and 35 years old voiced their views on key topics that affect their future and are relevant to the partnership between Africa and Europe. "Young people have a rightful seat at the decision-making table. They are the agents of change who with us build today a better tomorrow. We need to hear from them, but that is not all we must do. We must engage and empower youth to be involved in decisions affecting their lives," said Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships when commenting about the report.

Katumba was in Uganda's presidential race at only 24 years.

However while the report shows that young people feel left out in traditional

politics, 88 per cent revealed finding alternative ways in engaging and mobilising their peers whereby some 65 per cent of respondents say they are active within a youth network or organisation in their community.

With the #YourVoiceYourFuture campaign and the four U-Report polls according to a statement released this morning, the European Union and the African Union joined forces to explore new ways to engage with young people, to inform policy making, create interest around youth issues, and bring young people and decision-makers closer together on both continents.

Agenda set for Africa-Europe Youth Summit 2021

The results of the campaign they say will inform the agenda of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit 2021 and will feed into the next AU-EU Summit of Heads of States and Governments.



Rozena Bakari (R), a nursing officer with Medwell Health Centre at Kibaha Mpakani in Coast Region, attends to Kibaha resident Aksa Elia yesterday. This was at a camp where free diagnosis for cervical cancer and various other diseases was on offer. It attracted more than 400 women. Photo: Correspondent Margaret Malisa

TPDC has 6 months to open natural gas refilling stations

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and Technology of the University of Dar es Salaam and at the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology," he pointed out.

The government has set aside 10bn/- for implementation of the CNG project, the minister noted, urging vehicle owners to utilize the opportunity and get value for money.

Dr Mataragio said other CNG

stations will be put up at Mlimani City, the Kivukoni Ferry, the Muhimbili National Hospital and Kibaha in Coast Region, as two CNG mother stations and three mini-stations are on the cards.

CNG's main client, DART currently serves about 200,000 passengers per day but the number is projected to reach two million upon completion of its route expansion in the city.

Zanzibar taps private sector input for tourist attractions

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are receiving many of them," she stated.

"After the pandemic hit the countries from which most tourists come, we came up with a plan for the revival and improvement of the sector to ensure we receive many tourists from countries that were not much affected by the pandemic. To a great extent we have succeeded, and that is why we now receive many tourists from Western Europe," she further noted.

The minister affirmed that Zanzibar depends on beach tourism as it is home to excellent beaches, but still many of these are yet to be developed. Hence for now the government is in the process to develop them, as well as adding other types of tourism including forest tourism, she elaborated.

"We want to ensure that when a tourist arrives in Zanzibar, he should not just visit the beaches.

We need tourists to visit other sites and thus they in turn attract other tourists," she said.

At present the government is working with the private sector, advertising opportunities for investment in historical sites, the minister underlined, affirming that the historical sites renovation project would create jobs for many Isles residents, to uplift the number of tourists from last year's 260,533 arrivals.

The ministry plans to reach up to one million tourists and 300,000 jobs by 2025 by increasing new tourist attractions and development of infrastructures thereof, the minister projected.

In regard to the historical House of Wonder (Beit al-Ajaib) built in 1883 under Sayyid Barghash, a significant portion recently collapsed and the ministry was doing a feasibility study for its rebuilding in collaboration with UNESCO and the government of Oman, she added.

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Govt, Judiciary elevating courts' use of Kiswahili

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have established strategic divisions, Land, Commercial, Labour and the Corruption and Economic Crimes," the VP noted, underlining that the use of ICT has helped the judiciary to match up with the digital world.

Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Juma said the changes in the judiciary are in line with the global fourth industrial revolution which standardizes transparency and efficiency in delivering justice.

He said the government had extended the fibre optic broadband and is working to enhance e-government services, thus pushing the court to adopt

a language format that will help ordinary people access justice more confidently.

Justice Prof Juma acknowledged that the language barrier can obstruct proper application of laws in a specific situation.

"We have conducted an assessment of state records to establish what hindered the use of Kiswahili," he said. "Official government records hold that efforts began when Telford Philip Georges was appointed Chief Justice, holding the position from 1965 to 1971, where the courts worked to ensure Kiswahili is applied in all stages of the court system."

He said two committees were formed under the Justice and Education cabinet portfolios to write a Kiswahili Law Dictionary, among other recommendations. "There are no updates regarding the committee but we believe under the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs, we will be able to reach our target."

Technically 70 per cent of court proceedings in the country are run in Kiswahili. Chief Justice Prof Juma said only legal materials such as judgements are still being recorded in English.

He was optimistic that a strong push by the government

to translate all legislations will ease the transition. "The court uses legalized terms, a special language that is used by lawyers. We want to have uniformity in all proceedings and this is only possible with a change in concept documents," he explained.

China had adopted technology translating all court proceedings in different languages, he stated, noting that Tanzania can learn from that example.

With the advancement in technology Tanzania should be able to adopt software that can transcribe speeches in different languages and help save time, he added.



Nipashe newspaper managing editor Beatrice Bandawe (L) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday showing Zanzibar Tourism and Antiques minister Leila Mohamed Mussa around The Guardian Limited newsroom, as the latter toured IPP media outlets. Photo: Selemani Mpochi

Africa's youngest billionaire Mo vows to support govt in job creation endeavours

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-based businessman Mohammed Dewji has pledged to support the government's job creation endeavours by increasing the number of people who be employed in his companies from 32,000 to 100,000 by end of this year.

Dewji made the pledge when commenting on recently released Forbes' ranking of Africa's billionaires listing in 2021; where he has maintained his position as the youngest billionaire with unchanged fortune of \$1.6 billion as compared to outcome of the 2020 evaluations.

He said that the new drive is geared towards complementing government's efforts of creating more job opportunities to Tanzanians.

According to him, the focus is to promoting employment by increasing the number of my employees from 32,000 to

100,000 reaching end of the year.

He said was impressed by recognition and motivations he was getting from the Forbes' rankings of Africa's billionaires listings, hence encouraging him to invest on development of the country and its people.

Dewji who is popularly known as 'Mo' said that he's standing shoulder to shoulder with President John Magufuli's government that has been making encouraging industrial reforms, which according to him have increased opportunities for people to start industries, disclosing that his target was to start five to 10 factories by end of this year.

He further noted that the promise he made in a group of world riches that he will sacrifice 50 percent of his wealthy to the poor, saying once blessed, "people are supposed to remember the needy".

Forbes' ranking of Africa's billionaires listing of 2021 shows

that the Nigerian tycoon Aliko Dangote is still Africa's richest man with a fortune of \$12.1 billion, according to the Forbes ranking.

In 2020, Dewji who is the CEO of Mohammed Enterprises Tanzania Limited (MeTL) had a fortune of \$1.6 billion, some \$300 billion less as compared to \$1.9 billion recorded in 2019.

However, he cited the decline to long term investment in the agribusiness.

Nassef Sawiris, "ascion of Egypt's wealthiest family," according to Forbes, comes second in the list, after Dangote with \$8.5 billion real time net worth as of Saturday.

Nicky Oppenheimer & family comes of South Africa comes third with \$8.0 billion fortune and Johann Rupert & family emerged fourth with \$7.2 billion wealth.

Mike Adenuga, regarded as Nigeria's second richest man, comes third in the list with real time net worth of \$6.3 billion, down from \$7.7 billion last year.

By Guardian Reporter

'Government will set budget for refurbishing old schools'

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said the government was preparing a budget for the second phase of refurbishing old schools in the country that will incorporate teachers' quarters and other structures.

The PM also said he was pleased by the creativity in making various items by four students of Ifunda Technical secondary school adding that the issue was among essential issues stressed by the government through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Majaliwa was speaking yesterday after receiving reports on the refurbishment and inspecting infrastructure of Ifunda Girls secondary school and Ifunda technical school in Iringa Rural District.

He said he was happy with the refurbishment of the two schools and that the government will continue

improving teaching environment in the country including improvement to the infrastructure and sending more teachers to schools that have shortage.

In regard to refurbishment of old schools, the PM said that was the result of one of many pledges from President John Magufuli in 2015.

He also called on all students to study hard and to abandon the failure concept, as Tanzanians have capabilities to supervise the country's resources and accomplish great things.

He said the government was educating students to prepare them to become good supervisors of the country resources, hence they should

study hard.

Secondary schools that were refurbished in Iringa Region include Ifunda Girls secondary school, Ifunda technical secondary school, Lugalo secondary school, Malangali secondary school and Iringa secondary school at the cost of 7.8bn/-.

In regard to innovation of various items by the four students, Majaliwa said the government has mobilised to develop the innovations for the benefit of the nation and the people in general.

The students include Elia Mkumbo who invented a gadget (blind assistant) that gives sound to help blind people know if there is any obstruction before

him.

Others are Oscar Herman who invented a device dubbed local connection detector, Japhet Danford who created a device (tele switch) farming by sprinkling and Dhuwayya Latwif who invented a water level indicator that enables a person to know the water level in a tank without going up to the top to look inside.

In regard to refurbishment of old schools, the PM said that was the result of one of many pledges from President John Magufuli in 2015.

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Security Manager Skills and Qualifications

- Diploma or Bachelor degree in criminology, law or equivalent incl. any security certifications
- Previous experience working as a security manager, security officer or other security-related jobs in mining or extractive industry only
- Ability to pay close attention to detail, monitor surveillance systems and respond to emergency situations
- Strong communication, computer, security technology knowledge, administrative and leadership skills
- Proven ability to communicate effectively in English verbally and in written

Submission of application:

Candidates who meet the above attributes are encouraged to send their CV by 7th February, 2021 through the following address: novelcompany9@gmail.com



Terms of Reference for Consultancy to undertake a baseline study for Pulses Value Chain

About AMDT

The Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT) has been established by the Governments of Denmark, Ireland, and Sweden in 2014 and the current Trustee is KPMG. The Trust has been established as a long-term facility with the overall objective of increasing incomes and employment opportunities for poor women, men, and young people in Tanzania. With a strong pro-poor focus, the Trust works with the Private Sector, Government and Civil Society Organisations to promote the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P)/Market Systems Development (MSD) approach that stimulates changes to market systems leading to broad and sustained impact on the lives of smallholder farmers as well as competitiveness of agricultural MSMEs. AMDT achieves this by investing, together with market actors, in interventions that are: (i) based on diagnosed constraints and pro-poor opportunities, (ii) are well coordinated to enhance the leveraging of investments and resources targeting similar outcomes, (iii) stimulate the development of inclusive, competitive, and resilient agricultural market systems, leading to sustained benefits and impacts for the productive poor.

Therefore, the purpose of this assignment is to establish baseline values for key indicators for change based on AMDT's Pulses intervention strategy and log frame.

1. Objective of the Assignment

The overall objective of this baseline survey is to establish benchmarks for effective planning and monitoring and evaluation of AMDT's Pulses Value Chain interventions. The baseline will form the basis for progressive monitoring of achievements of the expected results, through the collection of quantitative and qualitative indicators of the situation at the beginning of the project in three regions: Ruvuma, Manyara and Ruvuma.

2. Specific Objectives are:

- To determine the existing linkages (vertical and horizontal) and other related parameters such as types and sources of inputs used, nature and quality of marketed pulses produce / products; produce / selling points and mode of transport for main buyers, the market structure, market share.
- To determine the value chain operators' empowerment in terms of type of groups and associations; their organizational leadership and governance strength as well as sustainability.
- To determine the annual total turnover generated by each of the sampled enterprises (including farmers) within the earmarked project area.
- Understand the current volume of production/products, sale and market size in relation to number of actors in each level including Business Development Services.
- To undertake the profitability analysis for the smallholders and micro enterprises in the pulses sub sectors -analyze the profitability trends; costs of inputs and inputs use trends.
- To determine the socio-economic status of pulses smallholder farmers in terms of household assets ownership, annual income, food security and nutritional status, gender relations/dynamics and environment.

3. Scope of Work- (Specific Tasks)

In order to accomplish the assignment, the consulting firm will be expected to undertake among others the following tasks:

- Reviewing of AMDT pulses interventions strategy, pulses markets system analysis report, the log-frame indicators at output, outcome and impact levels and establish the type and form of relevant baseline data to be used for future comparisons.
- Designing data collection instruments based on the log frame indicators and the broader insights gained from the review of the overall AMDT strategy.
- Recommend an appropriate sample size, including a control group, that is not likely to receive AMDT services. The exact sampling methodology will be discussed between AMDT and the consulting firm.
- Field data collection.
- Posting collected data into appropriate software.
- Data cleaning and validation before generating the analysis.
- Undertaking data analysis and preparing draft reports.
- Presenting the baseline survey results to stakeholders in a workshop for validation and incorporating suggestions made from stakeholders before finalization of the report.

N.B: Gender concerns - The tasks outlined under the scope of work should appropriately reveal, isolate and integrate all gender related concerns in terms of the participation of women, youths and other vulnerable groups in the pulses market system.

The baseline questionnaires should cover all the relevant performance indicators as reflected in the pulses and the AMDT log frames focusing on the following areas:

Production and productivity

- the socio-economic status of the smallholder farmers in terms of household assets, annual income, and food security and nutritional status.
- average land holding per household and how the same is distributed among the crops grown.
- yields per hectares Kg/ha for pulse crop commercialization of farming amongst the households.
- trends/status in adopting the use of improved inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, mechanization, yield etc.
- status on the use of financial services (investment loans and adoption of commercial contracts by households for the production of pulses in common beans and pigeon beans).
- agro dealers' networks, products and their outreach in the villages.
- access to inputs, especially seeds variety and other inputs plus farm implements
- adoption of the recommended technologies, including grain drying and storage technologies.
- main uses of the pulses.
- saving status in number and amount and all other aspects relating to financial inclusion amongst the households.

Markets and Value addition

- farm gate prices of pulses (common beans and pigeon peas) and other key crops.
- Linkages between the smallholder pulses farmers and buyers/bulk buyers.
- status of post-harvest grain losses amongst the households.
- sales channels for pulses seeds and related products.
- the status of contracts arrangements in the sub sector.
- Types of value addition, products and technology used.
- Existing markets and current prices.
- Export markets.
- farmers organizations' capacities and weaknesses.

Consumers and Consumption Patterns

- Consumers profile-household, institutions etc
- Preferences and types of varieties
- Main sources for consumers

4. Geographical Coverage

SN	REGION	DISTRICTS
1	RUKWA	Nkasi, Kalambo, Mide
2	Ruvuma	Namumbo and Songea District Council
3	Manyara	Babati, Kiteto, Simanjiro

5. Expected Deliverables

- Inception report detailing study design, methodology, tools, work plan and timelines.
- Draft baseline survey report covering all the objectives mentioned above.
- Presentation to stakeholders for validation
- Final baseline survey report and datasets (datasets in electronic version tool).
- A flow diagram of the result chain from base line to impact.

6. Reporting and ownership

The consulting firm will be answerable to the Technical Director and will work in direct collaboration with the Results Measurement Unit and the Market Development Analyst for Pulses.

7. Time Frame

This assignment is expected to be completed within 45 days upon signing of the contract.

8. Criteria to be used during proposal evaluation

- To be considered for this assignment, the following criteria shall be applied:
- At least 10 years' experience in conducting programme/project baseline studies and evaluations as well as a technical expertise in the operation and performance measurement of agricultural development programmes. Competent team with hands on experience in conducting at least 3 baseline studies.
 - An understanding of the Making Markets Work for The Poor (M4P) or Market Systems Development (MSD) approaches.
 - Experience in undertaking similar kind of assignments/tasks specifically on issues related to smallholder agricultural development in Tanzania for reputable organizations such as governments, multilateral donor organization or international organizations/agencies.
 - A clear description of the proposed approach and methodology including stating how sampling will be done.
 - Workplan specifying timeframe for accomplishment of the task and aligning to the suggested period.
 - Familiarity with results-based management concepts, results chains and logical framework approach.
 - The team leader must have a minimum of master's degree in Social Sciences, Economics/agricultural economics, business administration or project management and other members must have practical experience in doing baseline studies in agricultural sector.
 - Clear understanding of the Terms of reference.
 - Technical score will have a weight of 70% while financial proposal will be scored against 30%. In order for financial proposal to be reviewed applicant's technical proposal must have scored a minimum 70%.

9. How to Apply

Submit technical and financial proposal separately including CV's of proposed consultants, workplan, profile and capability statement. The proposals should be sent electronically to procurement@amdt.co.tz by 16:00 hours by 5th February 2021 addressed to:

Procurement Specialist

The Agricultural Markets Development Trust (AMDT),
Victoria House (Formerly GEPP) House, Plot No. 37,
7th Floor, Wing A,
New Bagamoyo Road,
P.O. BOX 71054,
Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

Important Attachments to include with your application: Evidence of Registration; TIN, most recent Tax Clearance Certificate. Names of three institutions who can be contacted for reference and any other documents that may be relevant such as Current Business License, VAT Registration Certificate and testimonials if any. AMDT reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted. AMDT also reserves the right to amend the Terms of reference to provide for additional or refocused services during the course of the contract. **Only successful consultant will be notified. In case you need further clarifications please send your queries to procurement@amdt.co.tz**

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Ordinary Diploma in Physiotherapy	Holders of Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (CSEE) with at least Four (4) passes in non-religious subjects including Biology, Chemistry and Physics/Engineering Sciences.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants who meet the required criteria are advised to apply directly online through our website

For further details, applicants may visit our website; www.bluenile.co.tz

OR contact our Admission Office through:

Email: admission@sjuit.ac.tz

Phone: +255 0689312861

+255 0768367080



Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan visits the NMB Bank Plc pavilion at a Law Week commemoration exhibition held in Dodoma city. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TCDC appeals for implementation of warehouse receipt system guidelines

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Tanzania Cooperatives Development Commission (TCDC) has appealed to both regional and district authorities to strongly oversee implementation of guidelines on warehouse receipt system aimed at ensuring farmers get the right prices for their produce.

Registrar of Cooperatives Societies, Dr Benson Ndiege made the appeal while briefing journalists on the 2021 warehouse receipt system guidelines.

He said the aim is to foster the efforts of the government to formalise the existing marketing system aiming at minimising various constraints hampering effective production and marketing of the agricultural produce.

The constraints, he noted include post-harvest losses, poor quality, price fluctuations, lack of reliable market information, poor finance and polarised trade.

"I have appealed to regional and district leaders to oversee implementation of the guidelines on warehouse receipt system which to a greater extent help farmers get better prices," said the registrar.

He named new crops that have been introduced to the new system as pigeon peas, chick peas, soya bean and sesame.

The registrar said the new crops have been included in the new guidelines for warehouse system for 2021 and that farmers are required to sell them through cooperatives under the system.

The guidelines, he said states that the crops will be collected at the agricultural marketing cooperative societies and transported to the main warehouse and sold through auction.

He noted that TCDC in collaboration with Warehouse Receipt Regulatory Board (WRRB) and Tanzania Mercantile Exchange (TMX) have organised the 2021 guidelines.

Dr Ndiege explained that warehouse

receipt system is aimed at helping both small and big farmers access platform to help them transparently bargain for better prices as a group.

He also appealed for buyers of crops to start registering in the existing markets as a way of introducing themselves in preparation to enter the warehouse receipt system

On the other hand, the acting WRRB director general, Asangye Bangu called on those who own the warehouses to register their facilities in accordance with the requirements for warehouse receipt system.

He also appealed to those with debts to clear their them in order to get new licences to operate warehouses in the country.

For his part, TMX, executive officer, Godfrey Malekano said the government aims to strongly implement the 2021 guidelines in order to help farmers expand market base both locally and outside the country.

Copter assembling plant on course, say engineers

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame - Arusha

BRAINS behind the ambitious project of assembling plant for Tanzania's first helicopter is on schedule despite delays, according to engineers.

Being assembled at the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Arusha Technical College (ATC), the maiden Tanzanian made chopper is advancing steadily, albeit slowly as the people behind the project said to be busy with other innovative projects at the rather busy, state-owned technical institution as well.

The principal public relations officer at ATC, Gasto John Leseiyo, the helicopter was among the various innovative projects being undertaken at the Technical College and the engineers behind it also happen to be trainers at the institution thus have limited time to work on the project but the chopper making initiative was progressing well.

One of the Engineers behind the project is the ATC Bursar, Adisai Msongole, who has just come up with yet another technological gadget, a pocket-sized illumination detector which can switch lights on and off, depending with time of the day.

"When it gets dark, this gadget will sense the atmosphere and automatically switch on the lights at any house, building or large institution; then when the sun comes on early in the morning the device will switch off the lights to save power, labour and costs," he explained.

Engineer Msongole and fellow trainer at the ATC, Engineer Abdi Mjema are the two inventors behind the helicopter project in Arusha.

The chopper was intended to take onto the sky three years ago, but according to Leseiyo, the engineers behind the project are also trainers at the college who are always busy with teaching responsibilities therefore find themselves with very little time to oversee the ambitious endeavor take off.

The idea was to devise a helicopter built from scratch in Arusha using locally sourced materials was concocted back in 2017 by the aforementioned engineers at the Arusha Technical College; Engineer Msongole, and Engineer Mjema.

"We had initially intended the helicopter with two-seating capacity to be used for surveillance, rescue missions and agricultural, but as the project takes shape we may increase the airframes to carry more people," they explained during the project start-up.

At the moment the helicopter 'assembled by ATC in Arusha,' should be more than 70 per cent complete and features the popular gasoline powered VW flat engine on board, manufactured by Volkswagen in Germany. It is the same engine used to power the Robinson helicopters in the United States.

The ATC chopper is designed with a non-pressurised cabin, it started with a projected flying ceiling of 400 feet to start , but as of now the concept aircraft can attain higher heights after it was fitted with a larger engine to give it more elevation and mileage.

Most commercial choppers can fly up to 8,000 feet above sea level.

How many choppers can they assemble in a year once the project gets a nod from higher authorities? "Depends with the demand, but with serious work we can roll out up to 20 such helicopters in a year," boasted the engineer.

The Arusha Technical College is listed among the institutions in the Eastern Africa with skills for transformation and regional integration programme, which is being implemented in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, aiming to develop specialised technical skills in priority sectors, including transport, energy, agriculture, processing, manufacturing and information and communications technology. Tanzania plans to open 42 technical training centres in other areas throughout the country.



The Economic Shield of the Nation

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN OF NICOL WEBSITE AND THE PROVISION OF ICT SUPPORT CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Service Required: Website Design, Development, Management, and IT Service.
Location: Tanzania.
Contract Period: One Year (Renewable).

National Investment Plc ("NICOL") is a publicly listed Company incorporated in the United Republic of Tanzania under the Companies Act 2002 and operates vide certificate of incorporation No 41644 of 27 June 2001. The principal activity of the company is to acquire or establish and manage business enterprises in key sectors of the economy. NICOL has made significant investments in NMB, DSE, TBL, Vodacom, Government Bonds and elsewhere.

Objective

The purpose of this expression of interest (EOI) is to solicit proposals and quotation from web design and development companies to enter into a non-exclusive long-term agreement (LTA) for the term period of 1 year up to five (5) years.

Scope of Work

The Consultant is required to:

- Design, develop and maintain a high standard and quality official website.
- Develop an online communication platform tools to support NICOL's shareholders and other stakeholders,
- To develop mobile applications suitable for the company and other online platforms.

Eligibility

- Competent Firm/Individual service provider with an experience of not less than 3 Years as Website/System developer and IT technician.
- A proposed Website development Fee or annual support fee shall be indicated in the letter of expression.

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 0900 through 1600, on Monday to Friday except on Public holidays.

Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address below by Friday 12th February, 2021 at 14.00hrs local time and mention "EOI for Consultancy Services for Design and Development of Website and IT Service for NICOL."

Chief Executive Officer
National Investments Plc,
11 Serengeti Road, Mikocheni "B"
P O Box 7476,
Dar es Salaam



JOB VACANCY

Director of Business Development

About PASS Trust:

In 2000 the Private Agriculture Sector Support (PASS) was established by the Government of Tanzania and Government of Denmark as a pilot project facility under the Agriculture Sector Programme Support (ASPS I) funded by Danida. PASS became operational in 2001 and in 2003 continued as a facility under Agriculture Sector Programme Support II (ASPS II). In 2007, PASS was registered as an autonomous legal Trust and became a component of the Business Sector Programme Support III (BSPS III) and since 2013 the Business Sector Programme Support IV (BSPS IV).

PASS is offering a range of Business Development Services (BDSs) and agri-financial services in agriculture development. The range of BDS services provided include feasibility studies and business plans for prospective bank clients, farmer groups formation, farmers and agribusinesses capacity building (training), facilitate contract farming and other market linkages, linking guaranteed beneficiaries with other development partners and commercial enterprises in the provision of specialized BDS services such as good agricultural practices (GAP) and extension services.

Director of Business Development (DBD) – Dar es Salaam

PASS Trust is looking to recruit a Business Development Director. This position reports to the Chief Operations Officer (COO). DBD is a member of the Management Team and plays a critical role in strategic decision-making and Business Development. The area of responsibility for this role requires thorough knowledge of various Business processes. The ideal candidate must be an exceptional leader who can determine the most efficient ways to run the business. The goal is to safeguard and enhance the efficiency of the Trusts Business Strategy to accelerate agriculture development and long-term success.

Job Purposes

To support business at the Corporate Level which include review of business proposals, managing relationship with financial institutions, partner institutions, donors government and other stakeholders.

Responsibilities:

1. Promoting and informing PASS roles, at meetings with potential clients, at visits to clients, through handouts, posters, advertising, etc.
2. Design and establishment of feasible models for activities at smallholder farmer levels, including diversification of crops, improvement of production practices etc.
3. Proactively facilitating and leading the development of existing and emerging agribusiness opportunities in the sector with industry and key partners, including overseeing

market intelligence and insights, opportunity identification and development as well as leading new initiatives and projects across the Business Strategy.

4. Ensuring quality of proposals presented for support, and assisting the organization in improving on proposals into Business Plans of acceptable standards.
5. Identification, and preparation of solutions for bottlenecks in agriculture performance e.g. market access, processing, appropriate mechanization etc.
6. Identify, map and forge strategic working relations with banks, local authorities and other programs that would deploy the credit guarantee with agricultural projects in the country.
7. Monitoring the performance of the Business in relation to respective business plans and budgets. Carry out regular performance appraisal of PASS Businesses.
8. Reporting to the management on Business progress according to the agreed procedures.
9. Performing other duties as advised by management from time to time.

Qualifications and Experience:

1. A business development specialist with good knowledge /Experience in Tanzanian agriculture and agribusiness development, in business planning, project analysis, evaluation and monitoring.
2. A good academic background, minimum bachelor's degree in agricultural field, preferably in agricultural economics, business administration or any similar qualification backed up extensive experience in business analysis.
3. Knowledge in agricultural financing and experience in facilitation of lending to smallholders including experience in negotiating with banks.
4. Adequate experience in agricultural supply chain interventions for enhancement of small/medium scale agricultural development.

How to Apply

PASS Trust is an equal opportunity employer and the position is open to all qualified candidates. You are required to submit CV and cover letter explaining how the experience detailed CV in the will contribute to the requirements of the position by/on **11th February, 2021** through <https://www.pass.or.tz/vacancies> and click **APPLY NOW** button to upload and submit your proposal. Unfortunately, due to the large volume of applications we receive, we will not be able to respond to each individual candidate. Women are strongly encouraged to apply, only shortlisted will be contacted.

"Improving quality of life through agribusiness transformation"



Joel Msechu (L), TBL Plc's manager in charge of agricultural projects, briefs residents of Kongwa District at the weekend on the advantages of turning to modern technology known as BanQu in sorghum farming. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

TBL and WFP project to benefit 4,000 sorghum farmers in 2021

By Guardian Reporter

OVER 4,000 sorghum farmers are expected to benefit from the new partnership between the Tanzania Breweries Public Limited Company (TBL) and World Food Programme (WFP) for the 2021 farming season.

Farmers are expected to produce 10,000 tonnes of sorghum and TBL has agreed to buy sorghum at a 550/- per kilo.

TBL Plc's managing director, Philip Redman, said that the 2021 project was an extension of last year's pilot project that had proven to be a success with yields 70 per cent better than in previous years.

He also went on to say that the pilot project aimed to equip the 2,000 sorghum farmers with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), improve the yield and quality of sorghum, as well as provide them with a guaranteed market for their produce.

Farmers will be pre-financed by NMB Bank and insured by Jubilee Insurance where they will be credited high-yielding seed, fertilizer, and other farm inputs which will be recovered at the end of the harvest season.

The launch of sorghum seed distribution took place in Kongwa district recently where agricultural officers from TBL were able to hold meetings with farmers to discuss the challenges they faced and met with insurance service agents to provide insurance education to farmers.

Agriculture manager at TBL Plc Joel Msechu said "This season the company rolled-out BanQu Blockchain technology which will benefit 4,000 farmers which adds transparency and traceability into our supply chain. BanQu will enable farmers to have an immutable digital record of their financial

transactions e.g., production, sales, purchases (inputs), repayments, and also enables the farmer to be paid via mobile money".

He said the company for the moment is conducting training sessions on technology use to selected groups of agricultural players including farmers, Aggregators, and local government

"This ensures food security for farmers and promotes financial inclusion, increasing the bankability of these farmers. Increased production, with TBL Plc as the buyer, will also serve as a source of income for them for improving their economic positions." said Msechu.

He added that this season the response from farmers who want sorghum seeds is greater compared to last season and the practice of providing them with seeds continues through their groups.

Sorghum farmers from Sagara B Village Farmers' Group Secretary, Theodora Mgaya, speaking on behalf of his fellow during BanQu training held over the weekend thanked TBL its partners for built their capacity through sorghum farming that was previously not commercial.

TBL Plc currently sources 74 per cent of its raw materials locally and is committed to increasing its local sourcing over the coming years. The company sources sorghum for the production of its fast-growing affordable brands - Eagle and BiaBingwa.

TBL Plc's contribution to local sourcing and intentions to develop the sorghum industry is aligned with the government's wider efforts to improve the livelihoods of many smallholder farmers and enhancing Tanzania's economy.

Potential investors enticed to visit Tabora

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

AUTHORITIES in Tabora Region have urged investors from inside and outside the country to go and invest in various potential and productive areas in the region assuring them of conducive environment.

Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Msalika Makungu made the call here when officers from the National Defence College (NDC) visited the Region to learn various things including investment opportunities.

According to him, the region has been blessed with several potential areas which are suitable to establish various small and big investment projects.

"Over 50 per cent of land in Tabora which is suitable for agriculture is yet to be utilised, so we welcome investors from every part in and outside Tanzania to come and reap what we have here," he said.

He highlighted areas of investments as cultivation of various food and commercial crops such as cassava, maize, fruits, beans, tobacco, cashew nuts, cotton and others.

Makungu said that in efforts aimed to transform the agriculture sector in the Region, authorities in collaboration with stakeholders have started preparing large scale farms for the cultivation of cashew nuts in Karangasi area in Uyui District.

"We also have plenty of land

suitable for irrigation farming, so investors can come and initiate rice plantations and other crops. We have invested much in the Mwampuli irrigation project and it is now producing a lot of rice for local use and for export," he explained.

He also said that the government has also invested heavily in the livestock sector which includes encouraging herders into modern livestock keeping for them to benefit from the business.

The RAS said they have already secured seeds from the Ministry of Livestock to transfer the genes to the indigenous cattle so as to produce quality animals.

He said that the regional

authorities will also invest in educational programmes to encourage farmers to embark on modern livestock keeping which embraces having a small number of animals for more benefits.

"Tabora has also investment opportunities in the tourism sector, we have the Ugalla River which if well used can attract a number of tourists and thus stimulate economic growth. Mining opportunities are also available in Igunga, Sikonge and Nzeza districts," he said.

Makungu fither said that modern bee keeping is another area of investment which can be grabbed by investors through establishment of small and large -scale factories to produce honey and its related products.

LUSAKA

THE African Union (AU) has allocated Zambia 8.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines under an initiative the African body was pioneering, a government official said yesterday.

The COVID-19 African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT) has been created by the continental body in August 2020 to ensure that the African continent will be able to secure sufficient vaccine doses to achieve herd immunity. Zambia's Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the AU Emmanuel Mwamba said the country's allocation may rise to 25 million doses by December 2021.

He said in a release that the initiative has been mandated to secure the necessary vaccines and blend financing resources for achieving Africa's COVID-19 vaccination strategy which targets vaccinating a minimum of 60 percent of Africa's population.

Under the initiative, the vaccines were being sourced from Pfizer and AstraZeneca, he added.

According to him, a financing facility has been created under the AVATT, the Advance Procurement Commitment (APC) facility to be backed by the African Import and Export Bank.

The mechanism will also ensure a timely, equitable and cost-effective availability

AU allocates Zambia 8.7 mln doses of COVID-19 vaccines

of COVID-19 vaccine supplies within the African continent and by so doing, mitigate the protracted financial and socio-economic costs of the pandemic.

The vaccine doses, which are in addition to the expected COVAX doses, will be distributed through the African Medical Supplies. Zambia has seen a surge in COVID-19 cases during the second wave of the pandemic.

In the last 24 hours, the country

recorded 745 new cases out of 7,903 tests done, according to health ministry figures.

This brings the cumulative cases to 45,337 while 1,667 passengers were discharged during the same period bringing the total recoveries to 35,960.

The country, however recorded 12 new deaths during the same period bringing the total deaths to 639 while active cases currently stand at 8,738.



International School of Tanganyika
Challenge | Support | Inspire

International School of Tanganyika (IST) Is Now Accepting Applications For International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Scholarships

SCHOLARSHIPS: A limited number of scholarships will be available for Tanzanian citizens where there is a genuine and proven financial need as well as outstanding academic performance and potential. Students applying need to be between 16 and 19 years of age as of August 2021 and have attained **NECTA Division 1 (7-12 points)** in the **O Level National Examinations** and/or **high academic results in Form 4**. Scholarships are awarded to students entering Grade 11 at the start of the two-year IB Diploma course. **Please state clearly in your letter of application that you are applying for a scholarship.** All students applying for Grade 11 (Form 5 equivalent) **must have COMPLETED Form 4** or its equivalent. Successful candidates must be prepared to reside in Dar es Salaam with their parents or guardians as we do not provide transport or boarding facilities for students.

PROGRAMME: The graduating programme at IST is based on courses leading to the International Baccalaureate Diploma or Courses. The International Baccalaureate (IB) is a demanding pre-university programme which combines rigorous academic challenge with service to the community.

In addition to a stimulating curriculum and an international student body, IST can offer your child the following:

- Career, college and financial aid counselling
- Access to representatives from top British, European & North American universities
- Assistance with the international university application process
- Experienced and committed teachers recruited from around the world
- Excellent facilities and an extensive extra-curricular programme

Direct your enquiries or applications for the Scholarship Program to:

Secondary School, Admissions Office
International School of Tanganyika
P O Box 2651, Dar es Salaam
Phone: 2601126/7, 0787 997778/98
ext 145
Email: ibs@scholarship@istafrika.com

For more information and application forms please visit :
istafrika.com/admissions/financial-support

IB scholarship application deadline for entry in August 2021: Friday, February 26, 2021. Please note if applications are not complete by the February deadline date, they will not be considered. Testing for selected applicants will take place at the Secondary School Campus, Masaki in early March.



Sightsavers

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Sightsavers is an international organization working with partners in developing countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

Sightsavers Tanzania Country Office is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI's) from suitably qualified companies/ suppliers/ service provider who wish to be **Prequalified** for provision/ supply of goods and services to our offices, Tanzania Country Office in **Dar es Salaam** and regional offices in **Morogoro, Singida, Lindi, and Ruvuma** for a period of one-year.

Sightsavers is seeking proposals for the following:

1. Medical Consumables, Equipment's and Pharmaceuticals
2. Supply of Office Stationeries
3. Supply of ICT Materials
4. Supply of Staff Amenities
5. Courier Services (Mainly for Medical supplies)
6. Vehicle Repairs Services and maintenance
7. Servicing Air Conditions in the office building
8. Servicing office Generators
9. Servicing Photocopier, Printer & Scanner
10. ICT Consultancy services
11. Clearing and Forwarding
12. External printing Services
13. Field Vehicle Hire and Taxi services.
14. General office repair and maintenance
15. Air Ticketing – Travel Agent

Closing date: 5th February 2021

Eligible suppliers/service providers are invited to submit proposals strictly via email to akilewela@sightsavers.org with a copy to gkabalika@sightsavers.org by the closing date. For more details, please contact Sightsavers through +255677000370 during office hours (8AM – 4PM).

Sightsavers reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without giving reasons for its decision and will not in any case be responsible or liable for any costs associated with the preparation and submission of any proposal.

Note: Existing providers are also encouraged to apply.

Govt commits to continue improving business and investment environment to attract more investors

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has expressed its commitment to continue improving business and investment environment to attract more foreign and local investors.

Launching Iringa Region's investment guide over the weekend at Mkwawa University College of Education, Prime Minister Kassim Mjaliwa asserted that efforts are also being made to maintain the prevailing peace and stability as the two are important for investors as well as development of the people.

Investment is the country's backbone since it facilitates economic growth and job creation, said the Premier adding the government is keenly supervising public servants responsible for providing services to investors with the aim of ensuring they are properly served.

The new investment guide for Iringa Region outlines the available business and investment opportunities as well as the good weather condition and a reliable market for locally produced goods.

"Iringa is endowed with a number of investment opportunities; but it is more important to come up with strategies to attract investors. These opportunities must be well known to the people within and outside the country so that they came and invest here," said the Prime Minister calling upon authorities to continue working on the investment barriers.

Majaliwa noted that the government is committed to increase investment in all the sectors to bolster development.

"It is important to prioritize serving investors; they should be assisted to timely complete all the required investment procedures to start operations," he added.

He said marketing the investment opportunities shouldn't be left to regional authorities, but also residents and public servants at different levels.

In the past five years, Majaliwa said the government has done so many things aiming at bringing development changes to Tanzanians. He said President John Magufuli's leadership has seen the country recording development changes in socio-economic sectors.

Minister of State, President's Office (Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo commended authorities in Iringa Region for coming up

with an investment guideline, saying the document will help increase the number of investors.

Prof Mkumbo called upon both local and foreign investors to wisely grab the available opportunities and make sure they produce quality goods to compete internationally.

"It is crucial for investors to know the country's investment policy as well as the laws. The government will fulfill its responsibilities by ensuring a conducive investment and business climate," asserted the minister.

Iringa Regional Commissioner, Ally Hapi said: "We organized this event to outline the available investment opportunities in our region. We are optimistic that more people would choose Iringa as their investment destination."

Hapi said they have introduced a new department that will be serving with investors at regional level and connecting them with public institutions that deals with provision of permits. "There will be no bureaucracy; all the investors will be equally served," said the Regional Commissioner noting the guideline also prioritizes job creation for the youth.

Inaugurated the 12th Parliament in Dodoma in November last year, President Magufuli said the government is determined to enhance investments and attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs).

Magufuli said the fifth phase government would like to see more Tanzanians becoming billionaires by using the available investment opportunities. He said the government was striving to ensure favourable investment environment, policies, laws and regulations.



It is important to prioritize serving investors; they should be assisted to timely complete all the required investment procedures to start operations

'Provide meals to schools for happy learning environment'

By Guardian Correspondent,

Mbarali

MBARALI District Council has instructed all primary and secondary schools in the district to embark on a procedure for providing meals to students as a strategy to increase examination passes and have a happy learning environment for them.

Mbarali District Commissioner Reuben Mfunu issued the instructions at the weekend at an ordinary councilors meeting, saying they have to supervise its implementation.

He said among issues contributing to poor academic results was lack of food in schools, hence he mobilised various officials from Ward, village levels and councilors to implement the directive.

"From now on parents and guardians of students should be mobilized to contribute towards food in the schools and this implementation of this directive should start at once to enable our children have meals at school,

as I believe you as parents have adequate supply of food, we want to increase examination passes in the district," he added.

Meanwhile, DC Mfunu called on the Councilors to supervise the completion of classrooms construction and school desks for Form I students.

He said the it is totally unacceptable to see students sit on the floor due to lack of desks, and added: "Apart from classrooms construction we also have plans for making chairs and tables, but first priority is desks in primary schools because many of them have acute shortages."

Mbarali District Council chairman Twalibu Lubandamo said they have put up strategies in collaboration with various officials to embark in mandatory contributions from the people towards classrooms construction and school desks.

He said the plan will succeed because they have introduced a sort of competition among the wards, with those wards finalizing construction of the infrastructures early would be awarded.



Children and relatives of the late Rev Dr Getrude Rwakatare pictured at the weekend laying wreaths on her grave - at the premises of Dar es Salaam's Mountain of Fire Assemblies of God Church, which she founded and headed until her April 20, 2020 death in the city. It was a thanksgiving occasion to celebrate the outstanding performance by the deceased's St Mary's Schools in last year's national Form Four examinations. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Isles journalists urged to strongly advertise the grand spices project

By Guardian Correspondent,

Zanzibar

JOURNALISTS in Zanzibar have been called upon to increase work pace and perform their duties with patriotism including advertising the spices project that stands to benefit 21,000 farmers from 50 'shehias' in both Unguja and Pemba.

The call was made by the Spices Project manager, Amina Ussi when closing a one-day training seminar to journalists that aimed

to make them understand the project.

She said newsmen have a great capability to change the community including providing them with right and accurate information hence they should use the seminar to convey the message to the community on the existence of the grand project.

She said she believes the power of the media was unassailable and through the seminar the Zanzibar community will get the correct information of the EU

funded project that would be implemented within four years.

Earlier, speaking at the seminar, Mwanaidi Mussa Shembwana, a project official said the project will benefit very many farmers, in particular women and youth, the groups that are faced with many life challenges.

She said through the project women will have the opportunities to learn about better and profitable farming practices, as well as having access to interest free loans.

Project Manager from TAMWA-

Zanzibar Ali Mohamed Abdallah said it was now time to restore Zanzibar's respect by making it a truly Spices Island.

He said for many years Zanzibar was better known as Spice Island while the name carried a huge implication as being a place from where many various kinds of spices could be obtained.

He explained that still Zanzibar has many opportunities in the production of various goods "if farmers will abide by this training as many benefit will be obtained."



Tabora regional commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati (2nd-R) directs the Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority to evict people said to have illegally moved into Isawima Forest in Kaliua District. Photo: Correspondent Vincent Tiganya

Africa needs timely access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines

BRAZZAVILLE

WHILE the development and approval of safe and effective vaccines less than a year after the emergence of COVID-19 is a stunning achievement, Africa is in danger of being left behind as countries in other regions strike bilateral deals, driving up prices.

As of early this week 40 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in 50 mostly high-income countries. However, in Africa, Guinea is the sole low-income nation to provide vaccines and to date these have only been administered to 25 people. Seychelles, which is a high-income country, is the only one on the continent to start a national vaccination campaign.

"We first, not me first, is the only way to end the pandemic. Vaccine hoarding will only prolong the ordeal and delay Africa's recovery.

It is deeply unjust that the most vulnerable Africans are forced to wait for vaccines while lower-risk groups in rich countries are made safe," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa. "Health workers and vulnerable people in Africa need urgent access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines."

The COVAX Facility - which is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and WHO - has secured 2 billion doses of vaccine from five producers, with options for over 1 billion more doses. "COVAX is on track to start delivering vaccine doses and begin ensuring global access to vaccines, said Thabani Maphosa, Managing Director, Country Programmes, GAVI. This massive international undertaking has been made possible thanks to

donations, work towards dose-sharing deals and deals with manufacturers that have brought us to almost 2 billion doses secured. We look forward to rollout in the coming weeks."

In Africa, the coalition has committed to vaccinating at least 20% of the population by the end of 2021 by providing a maximum of 600 million doses based on two doses per individual disbursed in phases. An initial 30 million doses are expected to start arriving in countries by March with the aim of covering 3% of the general population, prioritizing mainly healthcare workers and other priority groups and then expanding to cover additional vulnerable groups, such as the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions. Most of the doses are expected to arrive in the second half of the year. These timelines and quantities could

change if candidate vaccines fail to meet regulatory approval or production, delivery and funding face challenges.

To make sure that vaccines are transported and stored adequately to remain effective, WHO, Gavi, UNICEF and other partners are working with countries to support their readiness to receive vaccines by mapping existing cold chain equipment and storage capacity as well as providing technical support for countries to be ready to receive and manage the vaccines.

According to the WHO vaccine introduction readiness assessment tool, African nations are on average 42% ready for their mass-vaccination campaigns, which is an improvement on the starting point of 33% two months ago. However, there is still a long way to go to reach the desired benchmark of 80%.



Water ministry deputy permanent secretary Nadhifa Kemikimba (R) and Water Mission Tanzania director Benjamin Filskov pictured at the weekend cutting the ribbon to launch a water project at Ikombo in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, expected to benefit 4,172 people. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt, stakeholders agree to step up the production and marketing of wheat

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

WHEAT farmers in the country may soon have a reason to smile as the government and other stakeholders have reached agreement on how to improve production and marketing of wheat locally.

The consensus is that millers in the country reduce importation of wheat and focus on purchasing locally produced one at a minimum price of 800/- per kilogramme. Other measure is for all investors holding state wheat farms to resume large scale production or forfeit the plantations as the government is determined revolutionise wheat production.

Agriculture minister Prof Adolf Mkenda made the announcement here after a meeting that brought together various stakeholders in wheat sub-sector such as millers, traders, farmers and government officials.

According to the minister, private sector and largescale millers including the Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) and the Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) will now buy wheat from local producers at the same capacity they import, that is if they buy certain percentage outside the country, they will now the same amount locally.

Both TBL and SBL have agreed to sign a contract with the ministry to buy all the wheat produced by local smallholders... We will adopt special legislation to ensure such contracts are valid and respected," he said.

Tanzania imports between 800,000 and one million tonnes of wheat annually amid availability of arable land and conducive climate to facilitate mass production of the cash crop.

The new agreement reached yesterday also requires millers and other processors to outsource the same volume of wheat from local producers instead of importing.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture Hussein Bashe said the ministry is planning to spend at least 155bn/- in research and development to improve crop production. He said an additional of 4bn/- is required to procure and supply improved wheat seeds among smallholders.

"The best approach we want to take is to improve communication with the private sector that replaces directives and state controls," he said insisting the seeds expected to be supplied to farmers is not GMOs.

He said the Agricultural Seeds Agency (ASA) and Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) is working on to improve the system which includes availability of quality inputs. He went on to explain that a new system is being implemented which will help farmers access financial support at an agreed on the interest rate of 2 per cent.

"CPB for instance, has signed an agreement with farmers to access the input loan at an interest of 2 per cent," he said.

Yodas Mwanakatwe, Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) Dodoma zone manager speaking on behalf of the Tanzania Bankers Association assured the minister of the financial institution's support to improve agricultural activities in the country.

TADB developed a holistic model to support expanded production of wheat in Tanzania. "The wheat value chain as it stands now is benefiting the countries we are importing from a situation which denies us of economic benefits of employment and incomes as well as costing us forex revenue," said Japhet Justine Managing Director of TADB.

The bank believes the country can have wheat sub-sector which is wholly integrated from research for seed production to production, value addition and trade. Dr Godwin Wanga, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson for the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) said the government's approach is likely to propel the country's economic growth by between 8 and 10 per cent. In addition, he said the measures will create more jobs and open up opportunities for foreign currency through exports.

"CPB for instance, has signed an agreement with farmers to access the input loan at an interest of 2 per cent"

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

Chinese, African youth hold dialogue to promote biodiversity conservation

CHINESE and African youth on Friday held a virtual dialogue forum to explore innovative ways to promote conservation of biodiversity amid growing threats linked to human behavior and climatic stresses.

The forum that was organized by the Nairobi-based African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Friends of Nature (FON), attracted 190 participants and discussed the holistic involvement of indigenous and local communities to revitalize the protection of natural habitats.

"In order for conservation efforts to be impactful, we all need to embrace traditional knowledge and understand the historical trends of landscapes and local traditions that contribute to a healthy ecosystem," said Jie Feng, director of Southwest Project from Shan Shui Conservation Centre.

The virtual dialogue forum between

Chinese and African youth is part of an ongoing global conversation aimed at boosting the speedy implementation of the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

Participants agreed that limited engagement with indigenous communities has undermined biodiversity conservation hence the need to reverse the trend as countries focus on nature-based solutions to boost the green agenda.

"Indigenous people see biodiversity as part of who they are and what they do in all aspects of their livelihood," said Daniel Kobei, executive director of Ogiek People's Development Program in Kenya.

Kobei urged governments and corporations to respect land and territorial rights of indigenous people in order to encourage them to conserve


endangered species.

Adamu Adija, coordinator of African Indigenous Women's Organization-Southern Africa chapter said that conservation models that are grassroots-based have proved effective in reversing the loss of biodiversity.

"There has been a growing gap between high-level and local communities attributed to the ongoing top-down conservation model that has propelled biodiversity loss further," said Adija.

"We need to change tact and use a bottom-top approach to see high-impact results," she added.

Simangele Msweli, senior youth program manager at AWF said that robust dialogue between Chinese and African youth is key to revitalize the global biodiversity agenda.



WWF for a living planet

Invitation to Tender

- WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:
 - conserving the world's biological diversity;
 - ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
 - promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption
- WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO) secured some funds from Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) for supporting the protection of key ecosystems, increased resilience and adaptation for sustainable use by local communities. WWF-TCO intends to apply part of its budgetary allocation to fund eligible payments under the contract of the project for rehabilitation or construction of ten water dams to collect surface runoff at the selected restoration sites to increase communities' and ecosystems' climate change resiliency due to frequent and prolonged droughts.
- Due to the limited time for implementation, the company that has proven experience of similar works in wildlife dispersal areas, experienced with aforementioned areas and also with ability to do shall works in all sites simultaneously has advantage as project wants to see uniformity in terms of quality of work within two months as the works needs to commence in February 15th 2021 and be completed by April 15th, 2021.

Project	Site for Dam Construction/Rehabilitation	Conservation Area
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 1	Mkongga Ijinyu village in Same District	Mkomazi
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 2	Karamba-ndea village in Mwangi District	
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 3	Makundusi village in Serengeti District	Ikona WMA
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 4	Pakinyigoti village in Serengeti District	
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 5	Mwabagimu village in Meatu District	Makao WMA
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 6	Iramba Ndogo/Sungu village in Meatu District	
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 7	Eoworendeke village in Longido District	Lake Natron
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 8	Mundarara-Lekuruoni village in Longido District	
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 9	Lerang'wa village in Longido District	Enduimet WMA
WWF/TCO/BMZ/JAN2021/Lot 10	Ngereyani village in Longido District	

- WWF Tanzania Country Office, invites eligible contractors registered in (class V and above) Construction and or Rehabilitation of ten water dams to collect surface runoff at the selected restoration sites to increase communities' and ecosystems' climate change resiliency due to frequent and prolonged droughts. Project Site for Dam Construction/Rehabilitation Conservation Area
- Bidders can bid for any Lot/Lots of their choice as each lot is a separate tender.
- Interested eligible contractors should send the request for obtaining the full tender document and attach the proof of payment for tender document to Imaiga@wwftz.org copy mfeisal@wwftz.org. The payment of non-refundable fee for tender document is TZS 50,000/= Per Lot. The method of payment will be cash deposit to: Bank Name: NMB Account No. 70910003703 Account name: WWF FOR NATURE TZ COUNTRY OFFICE
- Interested tenderers are required to direct their soft copy tenders only (as mostly staffs are still working from homes) to the procurement e-mail at procurement@wwftz.org Deadline for submission is **10am, Monday 08th February 2021.**
- Only **Form of Tender in a sealed envelope** with clearly marked tender numbers should be submitted to: Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Office, Plot 252 Kiko Street, Off Mwai Kibaki Rd, Mikocheni P.O. Box 62117 Dar Es Salaam.



TWIGA
Minerals Corporation Limited
a partnership between Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of Tanzania



BARRICK
NORTH MARA

REQUEST FOR TENDER MINING RELATED SERVICES

North Mara Gold Mine, a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Tenders from interested and qualified parties to provide various mining related services.

Available Packages - Mining Related Services

- Rock Crushing/Screening and Rehandle
- Rehandle and Crusher Feeding
- General Services and Machine Hire
- Minor Services including construction and cement handling
- Surface Piping Installation
- Labour Supply Services

Information to Tender

Information to Tender may be obtained from: nm.proposal@barrick.com
Applicants must quote reference "Mining Related Services MINE11/2020" in the subject line of your email and submit your company profile. Interested parties may submit tenders for select individual packages, or for all available packages.

Key Dates

- Last date to request Information to Tender 28 January 2020
- Tender submission closing date 12 February 2020

North Mara Gold Mine Limited
19 January 2020

Supporting immunisation programmes in East Africa is a welcome initiative

IMMUNISATION campaigns covering measles, yellow fever, polio and other diseases have been postponed in at least 15 African countries this year. Immunisation is the process by which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against an agent. When this system is exposed to molecules that are foreign to the body, called non-self, it will orchestrate an immune response, and it will also develop the ability to quickly respond to a subsequent encounter because of immunological memory. This is a function of the adaptive immune system.

Immunization is done through various techniques, most commonly vaccination.

Immunisations are often widely stated as less risky and an easier way to become immune to a particular disease than risking a milder form of the disease itself. They are important for both adults and children in that they can protect us from the many diseases out there. Immunisation not only protects children against deadly diseases but also helps in developing children's immune systems. Through the use of immunisations, some infections and diseases have almost completely been eradicated throughout the United States and the world. One example is polio. Thanks to dedicated health care professionals and the parents of children who vaccinated on schedule, polio has been eliminated in the U.S. since 1979. Polio is still found in other parts of the world so certain people could still be at risk of getting it. This includes those people who have never had the vaccine, those who didn't receive all doses of

the vaccine, or those traveling to areas of the world where polio is still prevalent.

Active immunisation/vaccination has been named one of the "Ten Great Public Health Achievements in the 20th Century".

Germany has committed Euro 35 million to East African Community to be invested in vaccination programmes in the partner states.

Speaking at the EAC headquarters, Senior Policy Officer from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development recently, Claudia Imwolde-Krämer said Germany is contributing Euro 35 million to immunisation programmes in the EAC.

"I appreciate and acknowledge the EAC's efforts to immunise every child in the region," he said.

In his remarks, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote said the visit by Imwolde-Krämer reaffirms the strong ties of friendship and cooperation between the EAC and the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Indeed, the Federal Republic of Germany and the EAC have historically had strong and cordial relations dating back to the founding of the EAC, 20 years ago", added Eng. Mlote.

Eng. Mlote noted that the two partners been cooperating in different areas with notable achievements being realised in the health and pharmaceutical sectors; trade and customs; agriculture as well as tourism.

He thanked Germany for her generous support to the EAC, noting that the collaboration between the two parties continues to grow and become stronger.

Global conference should extensively discuss loss of nutrient-rich indigenous African crops

HORTICULTURE has been defined as the agriculture of plants, mainly for food, materials, comfort and beauty for decoration. According to American horticulturist Liberty Hyde Bailey, Horticulture is the growing of flowers, fruits and vegetables, and of plants for ornament and fancy.

A more precise definition can be given. The cultivation, processing, and sale of fruits, nuts, vegetables, and ornamental plants as well as many additional services. It also includes plant conservation, landscape restoration, soil management, landscape and garden design, construction and maintenance, and arboriculture. In contrast to agriculture, horticulture does not include large-scale crop production or animal husbandry.

Horticulturists apply knowledge, skills, and technologies to grow intensively produced plants for human food and non-food uses and for personal or social needs. Their work involves plant propagation and cultivation with the aim of improving plant growth, yields, quality, nutritional value, and resistance to insects, diseases, and environmental stresses. They work as gardeners, growers, therapists, designers, and technical advisors in the food and non-food sectors of horticulture.

In other words, a crop is a plant or animal product that can be grown and harvested extensively for profit or subsistence. Crops may refer either to the harvested parts or to the harvest in a more refined state. Most crops are cultivated in agriculture or aquaculture. A crop may include macroscopic fungus for example mushrooms or algae.

Most crops are harvested as

food for humans or fodder for livestock. Some crops are gathered from the wild (including intensive gathering, e.g. ginseng).

Important non-food crops include horticulture, floriculture and industrial crops. Horticulture crops include plants used for other crops e.g. fruit trees. Floriculture crops include bedding plants, houseplants, flowering garden and pot plants, cut cultivated greens, and cut flowers. Industrial crops are produced for clothing (fiber crops), biofuel (energy crops, algae fuel), or medicine (medicinal plants).

Arusha this week is expected to host a three-day World Summit on horticultural products, whereby 250 people will attend in person while another 350 will attend online owing to COVID-19 restrictions, according to organisers.

Briefing reporters recently on the summit, director general of the International Centre for Research on African Indigenous Vegetables, Dr. Gabriel Rugalema said preparations for the summit are almost complete and the meeting will be held partly online and live owing to threat of COVID-19.

It is our hope that researchers and experts from across the globe will extensively discuss issues related to loss of nutrient rich indigenous African crops.

The countries that have confirmed participation include the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, American, Thailand, countries in Asia, as well as East African countries including Kenya and Uganda.

We are told that the meeting will among other things discuss how to encourage and increase production of vegetable crops of African origin.

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Donald Trump

...was not as bad as he was caricatured!



By Muthoni Wanyeki

AFRICA'S political independence was accompanied by a clarion call to eradicate poverty, illiteracy and disease. Fifty years after the end of colonialism, the question is: To what extent has the promise of that call been realized for African women? There is no doubt that African women's long walk to freedom has yielded some results, however painfully and slowly.

The African Union (AU) now has a legally binding protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women. The protocol spells out clearly women's rights to equality and non-discrimination in a number of areas. It has been ratified by a growing number of African states, can be used in civil law proceedings and is being codified into domestic common law. The AU has also issued a Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, under which member states are supposed to regularly report on progress.

The protocol and declaration both reflect and reinforce developments at the national level. Many African states have moved to enhance constitutional protections for African women – particularly in the area of women's rights and equality. And the last two decades have seen the emergence of legislation to address violence against women, including sexual violence.

Political representation

These developments have been accompanied by improvements in African women's political representation. The AU adopted, from its inception, a 50 per cent quota for women's representation, which is reflected in the composition of the AU Commission.

Again, this standard reflects and reinforces efforts to enhance women's representation at the national level. Angola, Mozambique and South Africa have exceeded the 30 per cent benchmark for their legislatures. Rwanda made history in 2008 when 56 per cent of legislators elected to parliament were women, the highest in the world. A few countries, including Nigeria, have seen women assume non-traditional ministerial portfolios, in defence and finance, for example. And Liberia also made history ("herstory") by becoming the first African country to elect into office a female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Progress is evident, particularly in countries that have electoral systems based on or incorporating

African women's long, rough walk to freedom



proportional representation. However, enhanced women's representation has been harder to achieve in first-past-the-post electoral systems.

Even where there has been progress, the question is whether increased representation of women is catalyzing action by the executives and legislatures in favour of gender equality. That question arises because the battle for women's representation is not only demographic (with political representation as an end) but also for gender equality (with political representation as a means).

Put another way, there has been a shift in the focus and strategy of the African women's movement over the last two decades, from emphasizing capacity-building to improve African women's access to resources to emphasizing decision making to enhance African women's control over resources. This shift was made possible by real gains resulting from the capacity-building approach.

Education, poverty, health

These gains are most evident in African women's education. Girls and boys are now at par with respect to primary school enrolment. Efforts to get girls into school have been accompanied by efforts to keep them in school and to promote role models by developing gender-responsive curricula. Gender gaps are also narrowing in secondary education. The real challenge now lies at the university level, both in the enrolment figures and in curricula to benefit young women. So much for the "illiteracy" element of the African independence clarion call.

Gains for women are harder

to see in that call's "poverty" element, however. It is true that since independence investments in micro-credit and micro-enterprises for women have improved their individual livelihoods – and therefore those of their families. Since African women have proved that they are good lending risks, micro-credit is now being offered not just by development and micro-finance institutions, but also by commercial financial institutions.

Yet there was a critique of such investments, especially in the decade of the 1980s when governments withdrew from social service delivery as a result of structural adjustment programmes. Under those circumstances, such investments essentially enabled redistribution among the impoverished, rather than at a larger level from the rich to the poor.

The end of that era thus saw a new focus on gender budgeting: looking at where national budget allocations and expenditures could enhance women's status in the economy. Unsurprisingly, this approach has led African governments back towards public investments in social services.

It is now agreed, for example, that the benchmark for public investments in health in Africa is 15 per cent. The African women's movement has called in particular for more to be directed towards reproductive and sexual health and rights.

These areas are of critical concern to women, given the impact of HIV/AIDS, maternal mortality and violence against women, particularly in conflict areas. They are also of concern since African women's continued lack of autonomy and choice over

reproduction and sexuality lie at the heart of so much suffering. So much for the "disease" element of the independence call.

Where next?

Where to over the next 50 years, then? In light of the experience so far, the African women's movement will be focusing not just on political representation, but also on the meaning of that representation for advancing gender equality and women's human rights. And given recent retreats in Africa (such as the rise of the constitutional coup and "negotiated democracy"), the women's movement will also be focusing on democracy, peace and security more broadly – that is, on the nature of the political system itself and not just on the means of getting into that system.

Economically, women will continue to focus on the macro-level, but in a deeper sense. What has emerged from gender budgeting efforts is the need to actually track budgetary expenditures, not just getting information about allocations.

It is also necessary to concentrate on the macro-economic framework for fiscal and monetary policies, especially in the context of stabilization programmes in response to the recent economic shocks. Previously that framework was assumed to be gender-neutral, but it clearly can have gendered consequences. This problem must be addressed to ensure that Africa's growth will enhance women's livelihoods.

Finally, the women's movement will be focusing on reproductive and sexual health and rights. The battle over choice (including over gender identity and sexual orientation) is now an open one in many African countries. It is no longer couched politely in demographic or health terms.

The upsurge of conservative identity politics (in both ethnic and religious terms) is fuelling conflict on the continent. It constrains and dangerously limits women's human rights, including reproductive and sexual rights. Such notions are not harmless – they have grave consequences for women's autonomy, choice and bodily integrity. They therefore must be challenged.

African women's long walk to freedom has only just begun.

Learning from indigenous peoples: My Morocco diary

By Heike Kuhn

ONCE a year, on 9 August, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is commemorated, celebrating their unique culture and knowledge. This is done mostly from a distance, from our homes in (nominally) developed countries. But are we as developed as we pretend to be? On this question, I reflected for a while, still remembering a special and personal experience of having spent several days with an indigenous Berber family in Morocco.

What was the reason for this special visit to Morocco? I had the fortune and incredible opportunity to participate in a developmental training course, known as an exposure programme. At the heart of this program was a three day stay with a family belonging to a Berber tribe in Morocco, 40 km from Essaouira, the famous city located on the Atlantic Ocean.

What did I know about this tribe beforehand? The Berber are famous for their carpets and argan oil, used in cosmetics and for cooking. I have to admit that I had little knowledge of their traditions and culture before visiting them, other than knowing that they live in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco and although I had seen their products in shops in Germany, I was an ignorant of their cultural life.

But all this changed last year. In this exposure programme, a female colleague and I had the rare and incredible experience of participating in the daily life of a Berber family of ten persons - an elderly couple, their two sons, both with young wives and small children. With the elderly couple was a little nine year old girl who stayed during the week in the traditional house of the grandparents in order to attend the nearby school. Though her home was located some 6 km away, bad roads and a lack of transport made this journey near impossible.

During the day in this small Berber village near Essaouira, we were accompanied by Mohamed, a cousin of the sons, who worked as a teacher at a nearby school and spoke Arabic, French and Tamazight, the local language. Mohamed translated our conversations into French, facilitating better understanding by our hosts and for us to be understood. Earlier, we had an induction course over two days before we stayed with the family. This was so that we could get acquainted with the culture and the background of the family that had accepted to participate in the program, participation being allowed only once.

We arrived by car on a street for which you would really need a SUV. Shaken by the potholes on the road, a little bit nervous but excitedly nevertheless. What can we expect over the next three days and nights that we were to share the life of this unknown family? Our nervousness subsided when the family welcomed us warmly with open arms.

My first impression of the house was that it looked like a fortress - with thick walls, which you enter through a corridor and into an open atrium with all the rooms situated around it. In front of the entrance door were the family's two dogs, who protected them and lived off leftovers. First, we had tea with honey, kneeling on the carpets, the children watching us curiously. Then some traditional sweets were served and the ice was immediately broken among us when we began talking to each other, although this took a little time due to the consecutive translation from Tamazight to French and French to Tamazight, all managed by Mohamed. Soon it was noon and we had a delicious lunch with the whole family, again in the living room on carpets, sitting or kneeling on the floor.

Over the next three days we got familiar with our host



family. We were supposed to participate in their daily life and not be treated as guests coming around for a short visit. We were supposed to join this family, eating, working and sleeping in their home, and most importantly, talking with all of them. In a way, we were accepted as members of the family and took over tasks as any of their family members would.

What did we do during these days? First, we got to know all family members and the animals - cows, sheep, goats, chicken and ducks and a donkey. We also saw the beehive, visited some neighbors who later also came around to see us in our new short term home. Of course, we went to the nearby school and mosque. As only men were allowed inside the mosque, we did not have an opportunity to go in.

The cycle of the day was divided into three parts, morning, evening and night. Morning: We got up early, washing ourselves with some water in a bucket as there was no running water or bathroom; there was no mirror as we were used to; and a squat toilet with an electric light (working most of the time, but not always). The ritual then was to have a cup of local porridge and accompany the grandmother to the nearby stable where she milked the cow. During the day we worked in the fields, ploughing the land and sowing corn with the help of the donkey and a donkey of the neighbours, as both animals were needed. As the ground was very rocky, the largest stones had to be picked up and thrown to the side of the field. Some of those stones were very heavy.

The donkeys waited for clear commands. Our host used a whistle and a command word which we tried to imitate - the donkeys seemed to be quite amused. We visited the barn of the family next to the house, went to their fields, sitting on small benches on the rear of a motorcycle pick up. We learned who owned the land, picking weeds but not throwing them away as they were useful for feeding the cow and its two calves.

Our driver, the eldest son of the family, explained to us that rain was scarce in the area due to climate change. His fields had no irrigation systems as there weren't any in the region. He explained that they just pray for rain and that only the Prophet knows when it will come. We were accompanied by the four year old boy who copied everything his father did, being quite able to herd the sheep and to do many other things. He never asked for a toy, but enjoyed real life. When passing the house of their younger sister, we found that she felt quite ill and could barely look after her little baby, her husband being away in Casablanca for work. She immediately accepted to join us in going to her parents'

home, where her older daughter was really happy to see her.

Evening: At sunset, we returned to the house, trying to help the grandmother with the laundry or both young women in the kitchen, where they prepared dinner. There was no stool around and all work was done standing. The kitchen smelled of fresh mint and herbs. The young women were very skilled, one baking bread in the outdoor oven, another one was cutting meat or fish, dicing vegetables. Their combined efforts produced fresh and delicious dishes such as the famous Tajines or mint sardines which I still remember.

After dinner there was still work, especially for the women. Once the washing up for 12 people was finished, we were taught by the grandmother how to produce Argan oil. This is a long and intensive process as these little fruits, similar to almonds, are hard as stones. First you have to crack the shell, take out the nut, cook it and only then the oil can be extracted by the arduous task of pressing.

Women's work also includes making carpets - which we did not do in our three days with the family. The evenings were very nice, however, as the whole family gathered and talked about what had happened during the day. One son shared stories from the nearby market where he sold home-made honey and Argan oil, met friends and customers.

All laughing and relaxing after a day's work, the women were interested in education and told us that they hoped

for more education for their children, as they had spent only a few years at school. The grandmother and grandfather were illiterate. Mohamed translated from Tamazight to French and back, but not always. Sometimes we just looked at each other and understood the essence of conversations, not needing any words at all. The four years old boy and the toddler fell asleep on the carpet when exhausted.

Night: The nights were cold outside, as it was in February. My colleague and I shared the same sleeping area in a small room with mattresses on the floor, covered by many blankets, just as the family did. After the day's work, mostly in the fields, I was really tired and slept deeply. But if I woke up at night needing to go to the toilet, I crossed the atrium and could see the stars - cold, but quite romantic!

Coming to an end, these three days passed so quickly and the people impressed me very much. What I learned from this indigenous family near Essaouira was:

1. Being human has nothing to do with higher education. Deeds can be done by everyone, every day.
 2. Respecting each other and relying on your respective tasks helps everyone to survive.
 3. Do not use the word "Berber" for Tamazight people as they feel offended by it - and they are right to be if you check out the etymology.
 4. If you need something, just ask your neighbor's; they may have a donkey or whatever else you may need.
 5. If your host asks you if you would like to eat chicken, a rooster or a hen has to be killed and you could be invited to look into the eyes of the animal before eating it!
 6. Preparing fresh and healthy meals takes at least two hours a day.
 7. Integrating children in the daily work of adults, when possible, can make them proud of their abilities and give them self-esteem. Being a role model for them is of utmost importance.
 8. If you have a family, support and health-care is always close.
 9. Caring for the elderly can be a pleasure, if your cultural attitude helps you to understand at an early age that you are part of this cycle of life.
 10. Enjoy each other, with excellent food, drinks and music.
- The author is Head of Division 412 - Human rights; gender equality; inclusion of persons with disabilities, BMZ, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, Federal Republic of Germany

Striving towards the essence of the free market

By Olamide Eyinla

TIME has shown us that the free market provides the best outcomes, with periodic interventions from the government to adjust the market, where need be, when acting as the "unseen hand". If this hand is seen, it takes away the confidence that the market needs to show for more players to trust it.

There has been an argument between those who support the ruling party or government and those who do not, about the competence of government. Like we all hate to agree, we have two tiers of government - the federal and the state (as we know that local governments are extensions of states).

The question of the incompetence of government therefore does not begin or end with the Federal Government. We also have the same question to be asked of all our state governments, even when the incumbents in power in that tier possessed stellar track records of performance prior to getting into office.

There have been discussions about the efficacy of our leadership selection process in Nigeria, however we seem to always be at the short end of the stick with respect to the output of the leaders we have. This recurring out-

come has kept me in a state of confusion, and it sometimes makes me think and ask if the leaders are not actually the problems. With the state of how bad things are, it is indeed difficult to absolve our leaders from our current realities. What is the chance that all our leaders are bad? Having a probability of 1 is a rarity statistically for a lot of incidences, but it appears this happens too frequently in governance in Nigeria. Could it be that the system is what makes these leaders bad? As such, in governance, what are the factors affecting the system?

According to #FixPolitics, we need regulators, supply-side, and demand-side. This aligns directly to the fundamentals of a free market, which invariably implies that good governance is not autonomous, but it is to be demanded and supplied to the benefits of both market agents, with the regulators serving as the control system in order to protect both the demand and supply sides.

The demand side of this is the electorates and the citizens.

The electorates are citizens who have decided to actively participate in choosing their leaders; however, there are more citizens who for many reasons are not able to vote, but must bear the conse-



quences, good or bad, of the decisions of the electorate are part of the demand side. The supply-side of good governance has as major players the political parties and the politicians.

However, the effect of these groups is not efficient without the working of the civil service, which has the key to deliver as the political class wishes.

On the regulatory side, we have the law of the land, which is the Constitution of the Federal Republic, and other institutions set up to

enforce the law, which include the Independent National Electoral Commission, the Police, the judiciary, etc.

I am not particularly sure why we expect that the good governance system excludes the most important piece of the equation, which is the demand-side.

From what I have heard and read, the expectations of better governance are often on the supply-side and the regulator, and less on the demand-side. On many accounts, the demand side is the most important and pow-

erful side of the equation. It is a known fact that without the knowledge of power, it cannot be exerted. It appears the citizens who are oblivious of the extent of their power are not using it enough.

There are probably genuine reasons why the people are not using their power, but until this is done, little or nothing will change.

There is sufficient evidence to back the fact that as a country, we lack progress in areas and sectors where government is the key provider. Government, for many reasons,

is not designed for efficiency and it is not a coincidence that countries that appear to work are countries that are private sector-led.

It is a known fact that those who benefit from a broken system have no sufficient incentives to make the change. The change is normally driven by those who suffer most from status-quo. However, it is important that these people know their power and what they want. Knowing what they want is also very important as this might get out of hand, especially if the supply side does not meet them halfway.

The civil service and political class have their work cut out, as they need to show the people that they are working to fulfill their hearts' desires, however, with reasonableness in it.

Understandably, the people demand all they want from the government; however, the government cannot do all the people want. No government can, and that is why globally, we have governments voted in and out.

Government admitting that they cannot do all the people want is not a failure, it is when government is not able to deliver on the promises it made that it fails. In a free market economy, the government's role is not to provide economic goods, but to pro-

vide the right environment, through policies, for this to happen.

The government can only intervene when markets fail. In Nigeria, governments do not intervene, as they are already playing on the supply side, whilst attempting to provide what the market needs, i.e., roads, rail, airports, sea-ports, hospitals, etc. What the government is doing, being a player, discourages private investors, as who wants to go into competition with their regulator, which in this case is the government?

Time has shown us that the free market provides the best outcomes, with periodic interventions from the government to adjust the market, where need be, when acting as the "unseen hand". If this hand is seen, it takes away the confidence that the market needs to show for more players to trust it.

Unfortunately, in Nigeria today, the hand is so seen that all the economic agents from the demand and the supply sides are directly influenced by the government. The biggest example of this is the role of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in the allocation of foreign exchange currencies.

The Central Bank today, almost unanimously, determines the price of the naira, without much recourse to the market.

Trump's deep character flaw and tragedy: Lessons for Nigeria

By Dakuku Peterside

LEADERS with lousy characters will eventually ruin the system or tarnish the image of their countries. The lesson for Nigeria is that we must build strong institutions that can survive any onslaught by radical political juggernauts or demagogues. Strong institutions make strong democracies. Imagine if one judge in a federal high court had issued a court injunction against the election, the drama and lies and subterfuge would have continued till date in the U.S.

"Never has man reached his destination by persistence in deviation from the straight path." - Mahatma Gandhi.

It was apparent to some from the outset when he declared his intention to run for the office of the president of the United States of America that Donald J. Trump lacked character. He lacked the moral values of a town union leader, let alone the 'leader of the free world', the most powerful man in the world.

The United States Republican Party, known for its conservative principles and family values, was aware of the egregious stories around Trump's personal and business endeavours. For a man who likes attaching his name to his business ventures, who had so many failed business ventures, it was surprising that he had enough "brand equity" to become a populist politician.

Before they overwhelmingly voted for him as president on November 8, 2016, most American Christians had heard the 'Access Hollywood' tape on which Donald Trump boasted of forcing himself on women, and about his habit of sexually assaulting women. The Grand Old Party was aware of Trump's racist credentials. They knew that he spearheaded the Birther Movement against Barack Obama. He expounded the insane conspiracy theory that Obama was



US President Joe Biden has begun to undo some of his predecessor Donald Trump's key policies, hours after being sworn in, including ending the travel ban on some majority-Muslim countries

not born in America.

Trump did not pretend to have any modicum of decency or that he was a committed democrat. He levelled insults at his opponents during the Republican presidential primaries in 2016, he lied without compunction, mocked a disabled reporter, and shattered all forms of decorum. During the presidential contest, he refused to commit himself to conceding the election in the event of a loss. He insisted that he would only accept the results of the election if he were the winner.

It was all politics, and the United States Republican Party was only interested in capturing political power. Trump exploited the anti-immigrant fears of America's dominant Caucasian population, and the fact that quite a sizeable percentage of Americans were tired of politicians and admired the anti-establishment sentiments he expressed through the promise to shatter the norms and 'drain the swamp.' Trump, the billionaire, positioned himself as a fighter for oppressed Americans; however, many of his countrymen were swindled despite the paradox.

As president, most of Trump's policies anchored on the themes of "America First" and "Make America Great Again" overturned norms.

His immigration policies were blatantly racist, as they targeted poor and Muslim countries. Trump placed a ban on seven Islamic countries from entering the United States - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Saudi Arabia was not on the list, even though most of the terrorists who blew up the World Trade Centre in the infamous '9/11' debacle were Saudis. None of the citizens of countries placed under Trump's travel ban had ever committed an act of domestic terrorism in the United States.

In the diplomatic arena, Trump pulled the United States out of the Iran Nuclear Deal and the Paris Climate Accord. He riled other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) members and issued a travel ban on some of the International Criminal Court (ICC) judges. Trump cuddled up to dictators and threw insults at fellow leaders. He famously called Africa a 'shithole' and reportedly disparaged President Muhammadu Buhari before his assistants during the latter's diplomatic visit to the White House.

Little wonder many people had cause to look up to German Chancellor, Angela Merkel as 'the leader of the Free World', a term customarily accorded every U.S. president.

Now the 'emperor' is naked, and the long

knives are entirely out. There are ongoing mass resignations, all-round condemnation, talks about invoking the 25th Amendment... a looming unprecedented second impeachment, bipartisan calls for his resignation, and the sudden death of 'Trumpism' as a serious political movement.

However, Trump lacks the moral character to be president of the United States of America. His traducers consider him as an embarrassment to Western civilisation. This lack of character later became his Achilles heels.

When he lost the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden by huge margins - seven million-plus popular votes and 74 Electoral College votes, he should have gracefully conceded the loss, as every American president in the past had done. In this way, he would have left office proudly with some remarkable achievements and his supporters would always revere him, even many who never liked his style.

But, as a braggadocio demagogue, Trump continued to expound silly conspiracy theories to explain away his apparent electoral loss. He propagated lies, deployed insults and intimidation against American public servants overseeing the electoral process, for doing their jobs and refusing to bend to his dubious will.

Even when his legal team lost over 63 court cases, and judges he appointed faulted his absurd legal filings, he continued to deceive his followers that somehow he would continue in office for four more years.

Trump did not care that his dubious antics cost his party control of the Senate, removing the last bastion of check his party would have had on the incoming Biden administration. He was only concerned about his grievances, and the slippery, futile battle to cling on to the presidency.

A power-drunk Trump called his followers to the U.S. capital on January 6 to intimidate legislators at the Capitol into upturning the American public's will, in an act that could have ended the U.S. as a constitutional democracy. He tried to railroad his ever-loyal vice president into exercising powers the latter did not have. He insulted Mike Pence, decried his deputy's lack of courage, and tried to turn his de-ranked 'MAGAites' against the Senate's ceremonial president.

It should not be unexpected that Trump's long indoctrinated followers felt they owed it a duty to their supposed demigod to teach the legislators, who were trying to take power away from their leader, a big lesson. So, they stormed the legislative building, sacked the lawmakers, and desecrated one of the most sacred edifices of democracy on earth.

Now the 'emperor' is naked, and the long knives are entirely out. There are ongoing mass resignations, all-round condemnation, talks about invoking the 25th Amendment (through which members of his cabinet can remove a president on the grounds of incapacitation), a looming unprecedented second impeachment, bipartisan calls for his resignation, and the sudden death of 'Trumpism' as a serious political movement.

Veterinarians are experienced in dealing with animal pandemics: Use our knowledge to fight COVID-19

By Rebhone Moerane

VETERINARY specialists have vital skills gained from dealing with pandemics in the field of animal health, such as rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease, and could be usefully deployed in the fight against COVID-19.

As a veterinary professional with experience in disease control, I have been following the various measures implemented by the South African government as we attempt to navigate through the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is unfortunate that the National Command Council (NCC), the Department of Health, and Cabinet have to date not involved the veterinary profession in soliciting inputs and advice on how to manage the pandemic. There are a number of veterinary experts (veterinary epidemiologists, virologists and disease control experts) whose skills gained from dealing with various pandemics in the field of animal health, such as rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks, could be useful in the fight against COVID-19. Luckily, it is not too late for the government to consider involving a core team of veterinary experts, even if as a sub-committee of the NCC.

Taking into account lessons learnt from pandemics in animal populations, here are some ways in which the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic might be tackled differently if veterinary experience was considered:

•After the new strain of COVID-19 was detected in the Eastern Cape, and as the second wave escalated in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape

and KwaZulu-Natal, veterinary experience would have suggested closing all borders in South Africa during November and December 2020; moving the three worst-hit provinces to lockdown Level 4 or 5, accompanied by the deployment of police and soldiers to enforce regulations; increasing roadblocks at all ports of entry or exit; stopping travel into and out of the three provinces; and increasing the number of health personnel to focus on increasing awareness, testing and surveillance.

• In hospital wards handling COVID-19 cases in the other provinces, besides the current biosecurity measures, we would have suggested the following: An all-in all-out system, whereby only specifically identified health professionals are allowed to enter a ward, and remain inside until they are replaced at a certain time, with food and water delivered following strict biosecurity measures. Any health professional entering a ward must shower (with hot water at a specific temperature, and using soap) and remove personal clothing to change into specific PPE (personal protective equipment) clothing. When leaving the ward, they must also shower before putting on their personal clothing. Hospitals should dispose of new patients' clothing as they are admitted - the clothing should be treated as infected, and family should not be allowed to collect it.

•Regarding hospital mortuaries and funeral parlours, it's surprising that the government is only now acknowledging that funerals are often super-spreader



events. It was clear to many early on that funeral parlours and funerals would be one of the major sources of infection and spread. Therefore, besides the biosecurity measures implemented by funeral parlours and mortuaries, we need to use an all-in all-out system (as indicated above) for all people entering and leaving the mortuary or funeral parlour; require administrative personnel to also wear PPE, instead of working in their ordinary clothing; and regular changes into new PPE, with no re-use of PPE.

•Funerals are a sensitive matter, but although bereaved families are stressed and experiencing emotional pain, one must also be considerate of the health and safety of the extended family and friend circle. Therefore one must consider the following: Any death at home should be treated as a CO-

VID-19 case, unless proven otherwise; funeral parlours must be compelled to immediately inform relevant health authorities to disinfect houses affected, requiring an increase in the number of health personnel at local level; only one family member (complying with the all-in all-out system) to identify a body at a funeral parlour; irrespective of the cause of death, the deceased's coffin must not be allowed to be taken to the family home the night before the funeral; only close family members should be allowed at the funeral, with a maximum of 10 people in attendance (this should be monitored by an authorised Health Department representative); all 10 people must wear appropriate PPE on top of their normal clothing, and not only face masks; this would apply until we manage to vaccinate 70 per cent to 80 per cent of the population.

•While one acknowledges the positive intention behind giving first priority to vaccination to healthcare and other frontline workers, my approach would have been different and as follows: in the first phase, target the initial 1.5 million doses of vaccine (although insufficient) to specific areas, including hotspot areas as identified, as well as mining areas and towns. Vaccine coverage should also include a 30km-60km radius around the hotspot and mining areas. Two groups of teams should drive the vaccination campaign as follows: the first team starts from inside going out from the centre of the hotspot and mining areas, while the second team starts vaccinating from outside the 30km-60km radius of the hotspot/mining area heading inside. All people in the town/radius should be vaccinated;

•In the second phase,

the next batch of vaccines should focus on health and frontline workers, essential workers and the elderly. This could apply to all health and essential workers in the rest of the country, with the starting point being, again, a radius of 60km beyond the first 30km-60km radius vaccinated during the first campaign; and

•In the third phase, all remaining residents should be vaccinated to target an 80% coverage in the population.

•I know that a number of people will argue that treating and managing people is different from animals. However, I would argue that:

•Dealing with diseases (bacteria and viruses) which cause pandemics does not differentiate between animals and human beings, and most of the causes of such diseases are zoonotic (origi-

nate from animals). Scientific literature indicates that more than 70% of diseases in humans originate from animals;

•Veterinary professionals deal with diseases which might cause pandemics on a regular basis, and are well experienced to utilise the skills acquired over the years. It is thus unfortunate that their knowledge and skills have not been called on;

•It is common knowledge that a number of international drug companies, flying in the face of the push to reduce the practice, still use animals (rodents and monkeys) to develop and test the vaccines and medicine developed for human use; and

The above measures, even though some might be viewed as drastic, would reduce the spread and contain the disease until herd immunity is attained in South Africa.

Youth series to raise awareness of Africa's development policies

By Special Correspondent, Kigali

THE Pan African Movement Rwandan Chapter has launched youth series that seek to raise awareness and ensure ownership of policies that seek to develop the African continent.

Dubbed Africa Expects Youth Series, the program will be held virtually every month and bring together decision makers and youth from different African countries and diaspora

communities.

According to organizers, the initiative aims at giving African youth a platform to discuss, share, identify and define collective solutions that the African continent needs as stipulated in Agenda 2063 as well as Agenda 2030.

Organisers say that Africa Expects Series is linked to aspiration 6 of agenda 2063 which foresees "an Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the

potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children".

Protais Musoni, the Chairperson of the Pan African Movement (PAM - Rwanda) Chapter, explained how youth engagement is of great significance.

"Considering that more than 60 percent of Africa's population are youth, they have a critical role to play in ensuring that Africa achieves its target. This be-

gins with being informed about Africa's precise targets, and what responsibility they have in that regard," he said.

Musoni noted that participants of these series include members of Pan African Movement Chapters across Africa, representatives of National Youth Councils of the 54 Member States of the African Union, and head of African diaspora communities across the world.

Other participants include young African professionals and entrepreneurs, university guild council presidents, and other key influencers on the continent.

According to Musoni, engaging youth from as many African countries as possible was strategic.

He said: "As we raise that awareness of national, regional and continental policies, there is a need for all African youths to

be at the same pace in terms of understanding and implementation."

"Most of the problems on the continent are born from leaders who have different understanding of issues and therefore don't work together or when they agree on something they don't implement it," he added.

The first episode of Africa Youth Expects held at the end of December last year focused on tip-

ping youth on their role in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and Agenda 2063.

The second episode is slated for Saturday, January 23, and will be held under the theme "the role of technology and innovation towards Africa we want".

The Minister of ICT and Innovation, Paula Ingabire is among keynote speakers at the webinar.

Cyclone Eloise brings floods to Mozambique's second city Beira

BEIRA

PARTS of central Mozambique have been flooded after Cyclone Eloise struck near the port city of Beira with wind speeds of up to 160km/h (100mph).

Beira received 250mm (10 inches) of rain in 24 hours, according to Mozambique's National Institute of Meteorology (INAM).

Local officials and aid agencies are assessing the scale of the damage so they can help those affected, and trying to restore power and communications, which were cut off in some areas.

Four people have been killed, according to local officials.

The cyclone has now been downgraded to a tropic storm and was forecast to be heading towards Zimbabwe and northern South Africa, which have already experienced heavy rainfall.

Chris Neeson, who works for the UN in Beira said: "It was impossible to sleep because of the noise and fear."

"I heard so much wind and rain in the early hours of the morning. Water entered my home, as well as rocks and leaves that had flown off my neighbours' homes. Electricity has been down from last night and we've been unable to make calls.

"When I went outside, there was water everywhere - up to my knees - and trees, electrical wires, roof tiles, and fences all destroyed, strewn about on the streets. Thank God it has stopped raining. I never thought I would be afraid of water, but this was horrible," he said.

Residents of Beira, Mozambique's second city with a population of about 500,000, are trying to clean up as best they can.

More than 1,000 houses have been totally destroyed and another 3,000 badly damaged, according to Antonio Belez, from Mozambique's National Institute for Disaster Management and Reduction. He said more than 160,000 people had been directly affected.

Some are salvaging what they can from their flooded homes.



Wildlife foundation extends virtual safari programme

By Guardian Reporter

AFRICAN Wildlife Foundation hosted its first virtual safari to Tanzania in October 2020, which focused not only on giving participants a real taste of the safari experience, but offered an opportunity to learn from AWF experts about pandemic threats, including efforts to conserve wildlife and support wildlife communities.

The success of this event led to the creation of a virtual safari series to continue in 2021. AWF has announced the additional events - guided online tours to Uganda (next Thursday, January 28) and a third in Zimbabwe in March.

The primary goal of AWF Virtual Safaris is to engage its supporters with special access and offerings providing tangible takeaways about the connection between the tourism industry, wildlife, and community livelihood in African communities working to protect endangered and threatened wildlife.

This unique formula has made a difference over the past year and helped the organisation to conduct a highly successful emergency response to Covid-19.

AWF Safari Program Manager Carter Smith said: "We launched the virtual safaris series for our members and future travellers but realized along the way that there were benefits for other stakeholders.

These virtual safaris are not only a creative way to take our folks on safari during this strange time of restricted travel, but they are a terrific way to show solidarity with our partners in the safari industry as well as to highlight the important work that we are

doing."

AWF Trustee Stephen Golden said: "AWF created the Virtual Safaris event for our group of 12, whose planned in-person safari was squashed by Covid-19.

On what would have been our first day in the bush, we were joined on our video call by a top-rated Tanzanian guide and a couple of AWF staff members.

They tailored the event like a fireside chat and spoke to us about what was happening as a consequence of the pandemic and the impact of dramatically reduced tourism. They then took us on a drive through the Serengeti right from our living room."

In addition to helping with awareness, AWF Virtual Safaris program amplifies an emerging theme as part of AWF's new 10-year vision strategy, launched in 2020. Conservation investments are currently dispersed and disjointed, protecting islands of wildlife and wildlands.

AWF believes funds must be redirected to larger landscapes and ecosystems. The group is also working on long-range solutions for rapidly developing youth leadership programs, sustainable infrastructure and agriculture, and its safaris provide a window into this philosophy.

Over the next three years, the AWF 10-year strategy calls for larger investments in programs in Uganda and Zimbabwe, where virtual safaris are being held, in addition to Cameroon and Kenya AWF conservation programs have the greatest potential to aid wildlife habitats and local communities that exist side-by-side.

Carter Smith added: "Virtual Safaris has



been a refreshing use of the 'Zoom call' and a creative way to introduce the AWF traveler to safari guides and wildlife experts, who have shown the most incredi-

ble resilience and commitment to wildlife and wildlands.

In order for virtual safaris to truly benefit both sides of the equation, they need

to give participants an insider's view to the wildlife conservation work on the ground, and we feel very strongly that the program has met this goal."

Namibian govt to proceed with planned auction of 170 jumbos

WINDHOEK

THE Namibian government is going ahead with plans to auction 170 "high value" wild elephants on Jan. 29 due to drought and an increase in elephant numbers, despite objection from conservation groups.

The drought-prone southwest African nation announced last December that an increase in incidents of human-elephant conflict had motivated the sale of the large

mammal that is at risk of extinction due to poaching and ecological factors.

The government said it would auction the animals to anyone in Namibia or abroad who could meet the strict criteria, which include quarantine facilities and a game-proof fence certificate for the property where the elephants will be kept.

Several online petitions from animal rights groups and conservationists have since gained traction, calling on the Namibian government to stop its planned

sell-off of entire herds to the highest bidder.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), a global non-profit helping animal and people thrive together, said selling the elephants will not solve problems of human-elephant conflict (HEC) and is contrary to the guidance of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), of which Namibia is a member.

"Selling elephants will not prevent

HEC. The most effective way to mitigate the problem of conflict is by working with communities to ensure habitats are managed properly and solutions found to ensure wildlife and the people who live alongside them are protected," Neil Greenwood, IFAW regional director for southern Africa, said.

"This has been proven time and again throughout southern Africa."

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism spokesperson Romeo Muyunda,

however, said Namibia will not allow communities living with elephants to suffer for the emotions of people that do not understand the situation on the ground.

"The ministry is doing the right thing for conservation," he said.

Namibia's conservation drive, which has seen its elephant population jump from around 7,500 in 1995 to 24,000 in 2019, according to government figures, has largely enjoyed international support.

How US CDC missed chances to spot COVID's silent spread

By Ned Parker, Chad Terhune

In early February, 57 people arrived at a Nebraska military base, among the first Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the new coronavirus outbreak. U.S. health officials knew very little then about the mysterious new virus, and the quarantined group offered an early opportunity to size up the threat.

The federal government sought help from a team at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre, including Dr. James Lawler, an experienced infectious disease specialist. Lawler told Reuters he immediately asked the world-renowned U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for permission to test the quarantined group, deeming it crucial to know whether people without symptoms were infected and could spread the deadly pathogen.

Agency officials worried that detained people couldn't give proper consent because they might feel coerced into testing. "CDC does not approve this study," an official at the quarantine site wrote to Lawler in a Feb. 8 email obtained by Reuters. "Please discontinue all contact with the travelers for research purposes."

More than two months passed before the CDC expanded its testing guidelines to include all asymptomatic people, saying soon afterward that this silent spread "may meaningfully contribute to the propagation of the COVID-19 pandemic." By November, the agency estimated that more than half of cases were spread by people not currently experiencing symptoms.

Critics have widely asserted that the CDC fumbled key decisions during the coronavirus scourge because then-President Donald Trump and his administration meddled in the agency's operations and muzzled internal experts. The matter is now the subject of a congressional inquiry. Yet Reuters has found new evidence that the CDC's response to the pandemic also was marred by actions - or inaction - by the agency's career scientists and frontline staff.

At a crucial moment in the pandemic when Americans were quarantined after possible exposure to the virus abroad, the agency declined or resisted potentially valuable opportunities to study whether the disease could be spread by those without symptoms, according to previously undisclosed internal emails, other documents and interviews with key players.

Soon after balking at testing the returnees from Wuhan, the agency delayed testing asymptomatic passengers among 318 evacuees from the Diamond Princess, a contaminated cruise ship in Japan. In addition, the agency failed at that time to make effective use of outside experts and appeared at times unprepared for the crisis on the ground, lacking adequate personal protective gear and



A general view of the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia September 30, 2014. REUTERS

ignoring established protocols, Reuters found.

"Yes, they were interfered with politically," said Lawrence Gostin, director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, referring to alleged meddling by the Trump administration. "But that's not the only reason CDC didn't perform optimally during COVID-19. There are a lot of things that went wrong."

Four top public health experts or ethicists told Reuters that the question of whether to test or engage in research on detained people has always been a sensitive topic. But all said the CDC should have proceeded given the fast-moving public health emergency.

Moreover, the CDC finalized rules in 2017 providing that medical testing was expressly allowed in quarantine, as long as participants were given the opportunity to give "informed consent" or opt out. Informed consent means giving people adequate information to understand the risks and benefits of a test or procedure.

Gostin said the CDC's argument against testing was "unreasonable" under the circumstances. "You are asking for consent and not imposing any harm," he said. "There is a good reason to do it."

It's difficult to know whether more aggressive early testing among asymptomatic people would have significantly altered the trajectory of the pandemic in the United States, which has infected 24 million people and killed more than 400,000.

The CDC was not the only agency that struggled with this issue. Notably, an official with the World Health Organization called asymptomatic spread "very rare" in June, only to say a day later "we don't actually have that answer yet." In recent months, the WHO has said infected people without symptoms can be contagious, but "it is still not clear how frequently this occurs."

Still, some countries such as South Korea and Singapore used widespread testing early on to identify infected people with or without symptoms and, unlike the United States, broadly required or distributed masks.

CDC scientists infamously botched the creation of a test for the coronavirus and took weeks trying to fix it, making widespread testing - well beyond those with symptoms - impossible during the pandemic's first months.

In response to detailed inquiries from Reuters, a CDC spokesman said the agency declined to comment.

In the final weeks of the Trump administration, White House officials did not respond to requests for comment on reports of political interference.

The problems within the CDC, which has suffered from a decade of declining funding, point to the steep challenge faced by newly inaugurated President Joe Biden and his CDC director, Rochelle Walensky, to rehabilitate the agency in the eyes of scientists, other public health

officials and the public.

Walensky "acknowledges that work has to be done to restore public confidence" in the CDC, according to a Biden spokesperson.

Dr. Sonja Rasmussen, who worked at the CDC for 20 years and at one point was responsible for pandemic influenza preparedness, said the agency's staff are "among the most dedicated professionals in the world and they were doing the best they could under the toughest circumstances."

"This has been an incredibly challenging pandemic and it would have been hard for anyone to guess what would have happened," she said.

But she and other public health specialists also told Reuters that Americans deserve a thorough examination of the agency's shortcomings in the crisis.

"We have to figure out what needs to be fixed before this happens again," said Rasmussen, now a professor at the University of Florida.

REQUEST DENIED

On Feb. 7, a group of Americans arrived from Wuhan and the surrounding province at Camp Ashland, a National Guard base near Omaha and the University of Nebraska Medical Center, a major outpost in the nation's defenses against bioterrorism and infectious diseases.

Infectious disease specialist Lawler, who worked in the George W. Bush and Obama administrations on pandemic response, suspected that some of the evacuees might be infected with the coronavirus and shedding it despite having no symptoms. His suspicions were based partly on scientific reports from Asia and Europe.

Starting on Feb. 8, Lawler pressed the CDC to green-light voluntary and limited coronavirus testing among this group, according to emails obtained by Reuters through the Freedom of Information Act.

Lawler had already won support for such testing from the U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) officials in charge of the returnees at Ashland, the Nebraska health department and his university's medical faculty, emails show. HHS oversees the CDC.

Later that Saturday, Eric Kasowski, the CDC's representative at Camp Ashland, emailed Lawler to tell him that his request to test the 57 people in quarantine "was very quickly elevated to Dr. (Anne) Schuchat, Principal Deputy Director, CDC," who had worked at the agency for 32 years.

Schuchat referred questions from Reuters to the CDC press office, which declined to comment.

The CDC's answer to Lawler was no.

According to the Feb. 8 email: "It is CDC's position that since the research is being proposed for a group of individuals who are detained under a federal quarantine order, the circumstances of voluntary participation would

be extremely difficult to assure and therefore, CDC does not approve this study."

Lawler said he kept pressing Kasowski. But Kasowski told Lawler the next morning that the testing proposal had been rejected again, this time by officials up to and including CDC director Robert Redfield.

"This is absurd," Lawler recalled telling Kasowski.

Kasowski declined to comment, referring questions to the CDC.

Instead of having everyone tested during the two-week quarantine, only one returnee who became ill and was hospitalized got tested; the results were negative for coronavirus, Lawler said. The other 56 left quarantine without knowing whether they carried the virus, and Lawler said he knows of no CDC follow up with that group.

In a Feb. 10 email to Kasowski, Lawler warned that the federal government, by not testing symptomless individuals, "may be missing the submerged iceberg in the U.S."

MAJOR PROBLEMS

Within days, Lawler got a new federal assignment: to help evacuate more than 300 Americans stranded on the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Yokohama, Japan.

He was joined there by Dr. Michael Callahan, a veteran infectious disease specialist from Massachusetts General Hospital, who had just been appointed a special advisor to HHS on COVID-19. Callahan, who says his two years of physician scientist training at the CDC in the mid-1990s inspired him to forgo academia for a field career battling disease outbreaks, had just treated coronavirus patients in China weeks earlier.

Major problems emerged soon after Lawler and Callahan arrived in Yokohama on Feb. 14.

The U.S. team, including HHS and other U.S. personnel, had to borrow walkie talkies from Japanese authorities because they didn't have mobile phones that worked internationally, according to an "after-action" report submitted by Lawler and Callahan in March to HHS and obtained by Reuters.

Japan had to lend the U.S. team basic protective gear because the Americans' supplies didn't arrive in time, the report said. Some team members were not trained for handling a "highly contagious disease."

According to Callahan, he had to turn back two CDC staffers seeking to board the Diamond Princess in Japan because they had no current experience in emergency medicine and infection control.

Callahan said the problem was not isolated to the CDC's coronavirus response. In his regular interactions in the field with CDC staff in recent years, he said, he has seen "a progressive degradation of clinical

expertise and incident management," particularly during Ebola outbreaks in Africa.

The CDC needs "people that can actually do public health when bad stuff happens," Callahan said.

NOT ENOUGH PROOF

On Feb. 17, Lawler flew with 151 cruise passengers to Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas. An isolation bubble was created using a plastic curtain in the rear of the plane for five passengers who had tested positive for COVID-19 in Japan.

During the flight, Lawler moved two passengers who had become feverish to the isolation area, planning to take them to Nebraska Medical Center. But those precautions went awry when CDC personnel greeted the plane in Texas.

"The CDC officer in charge boarded the aircraft without consulting the flight crew regarding safety or contamination issues," according to the after-action report.

The officer's personal protective equipment "was grossly insufficient due to the high level of contamination that likely existed on the aircraft. This likely put CDC personnel and other responders on the ground at risk."

What's more, the CDC official moved the two people who had developed symptoms mid-flight back with the group of healthy passengers, and the CDC's handling of the flight violated disaster medicine protocols, according to the report. The CDC official is not named in the report.

Similar problems occurred when Callahan arrived with another group of 167 Diamond Princess passengers at Travis Air Force Base in Northern California and a CDC officer boarded the plane, the report said.

Meantime, officials at Nebraska's public health laboratory, who had been working with Lawler, asked the CDC for permission to test passengers from the Diamond Princess while they were under quarantine, even if they didn't have symptoms, emails show.

A CDC influenza expert, Dr. Tim Uyeki, wrote back on Feb. 17 to the director of the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory that the agency only wanted to test symptomatic individuals and those who had previously tested positive in Japan, citing a lack of detail on the accuracy of the Japanese tests.

Uyeki declined to comment and referred questions to the CDC press office.

Lawler and Callahan said they flew in late February to CDC headquarters in Atlanta to meet with Redfield and other senior officials, to raise concerns about the flawed evacuation and potential for asymptomatic spread based on their observations from the Diamond Princess.

China home to 23 world heritage irrigation structures

By Hu Bofeng, Gong Ming

FOUR ancient Chinese sites were recently recognized as world heritage irrigation structures (WHIS) by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), making the total number of Chinese irrigation projects on the list to 23.

The four sites include the Tianbao Weir in east China's Fujian province, Longshou Canal and Ancient Luohe River Irrigation District in northwest China's Shaanxi province, the Weirs of Baishaxi Stream Project in east China's Zhejiang province, and the Sangyuanwei Polder Embankment System in south China's Guangdong province.

This made China a country that has the richest type, widest distribution and highest irrigation efficiency of heritage structures.

The ICID, established in 1950, includes 80 national and regional committees and covers over 95 percent of the world's irrigation areas.

The organisation set up the WHIS award in 2014, aiming to protect and promote irrigation projects of historical value and their scientific experience. So far, 105 sites in 16 countries have been enlisted, including the Dujiangyan irrigation system in southwest China's Sichuan province, the Lingqu Canal in south China's Guangxi Zhuang au-



The Dujiangyan irrigation system in southwest China's Sichuan province.

tonomous prefecture, the Ziquejie Terrace in central China's Hunan province and the Hetao Irrigation Area in north China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

ICID Secretary General Ashwin Pandya noted that all enlisted sites are milestones for world's irrigation development, whose design, construction technologies, size, water intake, and irrigation areas must be in a leading position in their respective times and have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of local agriculture, food

production, farmers' income and poverty reduction.

Just like what the ancient Chinese irrigation structures have displayed, the WHIS projects represented innovation or miracles in their respective times and provided broad assistance and profound inspiration for modern irrigation theories and development, the secretary general remarked.

All the enlisted Chinese irrigation sites fit into the above features. For instance, the Tianbao Weir, built 1,300 years ago,

is the oldest extant water project specifically aimed at barring saltwater and storing freshwater. The Longshou Canal and Ancient Luohe River Irrigation District in Shaanxi Province is said to involve the first underground canal in China's history, making use of the shaft-tunnel method. It drove the development of tunnel excavation and water conservancy project. The Weirs of Baishaxi Stream Project covers 45 km of the Baishaxi Stream and has a total water-level drop of 168 meters. It was a leading project of its time regarding engineering planning and size.

Pandya noted the ancient Chinese irrigation projects reflected a vision of harmonious coexistence between mankind and the nature, and are a huge contribution to and a great inspiration for today's irrigation farming. Some of them are still bringing gigantic economic and social benefits today.

Over the past thousands of years, the ancient Chinese built a number of water conservancy projects and facilities, leaving valuable material and spiritual wealth.

Today, China is making efforts to build high-quality farmland and develop water-efficient irrigation, so as to promote the high-quality development of its agriculture. It conforms to the country's actual conditions and the global trend of irrigation development, said Harish Kumar Varma, executive director of the ICID.

China has employed drones, AI, big data, 5G and other advanced technologies in its irrigation practice and optimized agricultural irrigation with high-techs, which set a good example for the world to solve the water conservancy bottleneck when promoting poverty reduction, Pandya said.

China is also actively contributing sustainable development schemes to global water treatment. Last October, the Belt and Road River and Lake Ecological Protection Technology Joint Training was launched in Wuhan, central China's Hubei province, joined by representatives from Kenya, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, Pakistan and Nigeria. China is proactively cooperating with UN organizations and relevant international organizations to offer training sessions for young professionals from Belt and Road countries and regions, so as to advance water resource cooperation.

World Water Council president Loic Fauchon has visited China multiple times and witnessed the combined efforts made by China to simultaneously advance economic and social progress and water conservancy construction. He believes China is receiving broad attention for its experiences, and the country is an important participant of global governance, including water treatment.

PLEA

NIT chief urges China to speed up support to help the institute grow into a transport varsity

By Guardian Reporter

THE National Institute of Transport (NIT) has said support by the Chinese government towards helping it grow into a transport and logistics university is crucial and should be fast-tracked.

NIT Rector Professor Zacharia Mganilwa said during the recent visit by Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Tanzania, that China is an important partner to the project which is being implemented by the government.

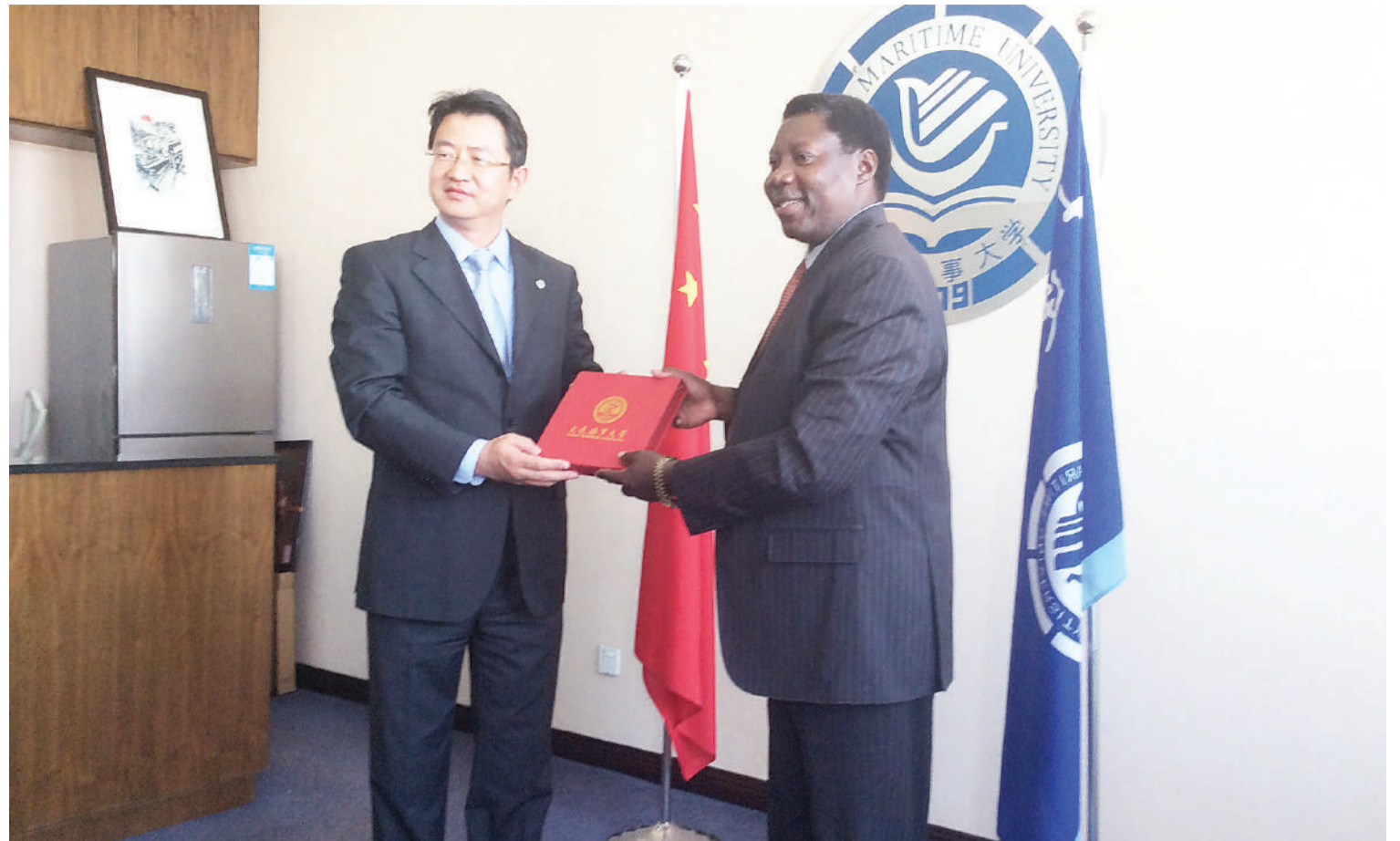
"The upgrading project is still on feasibility study undertaken by Chinese Southwest Jiaotong University and commenced in 2018. We expected the actual work for the entire project to begin last year with civil works kicking off first," Prof Mganilwa said.

He urged the Chinese government to speed up exercise of upgrading the institute into a fully-fledged university, it will greatly help Tanzania increase the number of qualified personnel in the transport and logistics industry.

So far, US\$62 million has been allocated to Tanzania with NIT being among beneficiaries of the Chinese Governments' five mega transport universities to be built in Africa so as part of China's ambitious Belt and Bridge global project.

"We have decided that the university will have five colleges with one institute. Southwest Jiaotong University who are undertaking the feasibility study for the upgrading have already taken soil sample for the campus design," he noted.

Apart from having five colleges, the



NIT rector Prof Zacharia Mganilwa exchanges contract documents with the vice president of Dalian Maritime University, Prof Shan Hongjun, when the former visited China last year. Photo courtesy of NIT.

university will have offices, laboratories, workshops, libraries and student hostels. "Under the agreement, we also expect to receive teaching machines soon after upgrading into university though currently, we have good instructors' tools but we will get much better ones through China's support," he noted.

Prof Mganilwa pointed out that the upgrading of NIT is very crucial to the country because of the massive investment being done by the government

in modernising the transport industry which will need experts to manage.

"Apart from Tanzania being expected to benefit from the presence of the transport university, our neighbours such as Kenya, Uganda, Congo Brazzaville, DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi and Zambia, will also benefit by bringing their student to pursue transport courses here," the NIT Rector explained.

He added, "East and Central Africa does not have a specialised transport

and logistics university as such we badly need this support from Chinese government."

He argued that as the country moves towards industrialization, there is a need for such investment to go hand in hand with the improvement of the transport sector which is life blood for shipping of people and cargo.

"Many investors from China are eager to come and invest in this country, especially in the transport sector such hence the university is very important," he argued while noting that NIT has already started to implement some project's components to Tanzania Commission for Universities' requirements.

PROMOTION

Firm roots for macadamia cultivation in Kilimanjaro

By Francis Kajubi

IN a bid to help local farmers adopt macadamia cultivation, Macjaro Limited of Kilimanjaro has started distributing 1,200 hybrid seedlings at affordable prices.

In a statement on Friday, Macjaro spokesman, Austin Makani said the company which has invested US\$1.2 million (over 2.7bn/-) in 160 acres farm, will release another batch of 1,800 seedlings by March this year.

"The first distribution of 2,000 seedlings was done in November last year, all being part of the preordered 5,000 seed-

lings from the company. The seedlings are made available to Mwangi district farmers at a discounted rate of 1,500/- each compared to a market price of 7,000/- per seedling," said Makani.

Makani said the company has plans to distribute the seedlings to more districts of the country where the nuts can grow as the global market for the commodity improves. He said the crop is environmentally friendly and sustainable hence allows for biodiversity as it sequesters carbon from the atmosphere hence mitigating climatic changes causes.

Makani further stated that apart from exploiting the global market, macadamia nuts husks can be used as a source of compost manure but also animal feed while protecting soil erosion.

"The cost of cultivating the crop is very small thus affordable to many smallholder farmers. The nuts will help the country earn foreign currency if farmers adopt and produce in large quantities for exports," he added.

Makani was backed by the company Director, James Powell who said he is determined to improve the smallholder grow-

er scheme which is benefiting local farmers of the crop which when ready his company purchases at premium prices.

"Our company also offers capacity building to smallholder farmers through training so that they are able to produce efficiently through organic farming and maximize their profits," Powell said. He urged farmers to adopt organic farming instead of conventional farming because it returns are substantial.

On his part, Mwangi District Commissioner, Thomas Apson urged farmers to make sure that they make use of the hybrid seedlings to cultivate massively



Macjaro Limited director, James Powell (C) briefs Mwangi district commissioner, Thomas Apson (R) on hybrid macadamia seedlings being sold to smallholder farmers in the district. This was at a ceremony held at the company's premises on Friday. Photo courtesy of Macjaro Limited.

and earn more to transform their lives.

"It is high time that Tanzania transforms its agriculture by focusing on commercializing

it to realize industrialization," Apson argued while commending Macjaro management for introducing the commodity in his district.



Coca-Cola Kwanza's director of public affairs and communications, Salum Nassor (R), Kibiti District Commissioner, Gullamhussein Kifu (C) and Kibiti legislator Twaha Mpembenwe have a feel of some of the 100 desks donated by the beverages manufacturer to the district's public schools on Friday.

GENEROSITY

Coca-Cola Kwanza donates desks worth 10m/- to Kibiti schools

By Guardian Reporter, Kibiti

SOME public schools in Kibiti District of Coast Region will share 100 desks valued at 10m/- thanks to a donation by non alcoholic beverages manufacturer, Coca Cola Kwanza Limited.

Speaking during a handover ceremony held in Kibiti on Friday, Coca Cola Kwanza's Director of Public Affairs, Communication and Sustainable Growth, Salum Nassor said the donation is aimed at giving back to the community part of profits made through the beverages business.

"Coca Cola Kwanza's objective is to refresh and improve living standards of Tanzanians by focusing on key sectors including education which is why we are donating the desks to Kibiti District," Nassor said.

He said the community that benefits from the company's donation is an in-

tegral part of its beverages drinks market hence management feels obliged to support their customers. Nassor added that the desks were made from the timber boxes used to carry raw materials to the factory by suppliers.

"This shows how the company is making efficient use of the resources available for the benefit of the community," he added while urging other corporations to back state efforts in improving community services.

In a vote of thanks, Kibiti lawmaker, Twaha Mpembenwe said thanked Coca Cola for the donation saying it came at the right time at the beginning of a new calendar year for schools when demand for desks is high due to more students being enrolled to join schools.

"Because of our government's policy to offer free primary and secondary education, commencement of the new term has attracted huge numbers

of students joining class one or proceeding to form one," Mpembenwe said. On his part, Kibiti District Commissioner, Gullamhussein Kifu also commended Coca Cola Kwanza for the donation saying it demonstrates good and healthy relations between the government and the private sector in the interest of the community.

"As a government we say this donation will go a long way in improving the learning environment in Kibiti District's public schools which is an incentive for students to perform well in examinations," Kifu said.

Coca Cola Kwanza is a subsidiary of South African based Coca-Cola Beverages which has been one of the leading companies in donating desks and other materials to public schools to solve shortage of such facilities. The company has so far 3,000 desks to various schools in the country since last year.

BOOST

Africa trade pact gets \$1bn to offset revenue losses

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Export-Import Bank has mobilised \$1 billion for an adjustment facility to offset revenue losses for countries that lower cross-border tariffs as part of an Africa-wide free-trade area, according to the zone's most senior official.

"We will be able to go to global capital markets and we will be able to go to development finance institutions to mobilise more resources, but at the moment, it is a fund of a facility of \$1 billion," Wamkele Mene, secretary-general of the African Continental Free Trade Area said in an interview Thursday. Officials are

making "very, very good progress" on the facility, and countries may be able to draw on it by year-end, he said. The world's biggest free-trade area was implemented Jan 1. It aims to bolster intra-African trade by lowering or eliminating cross-border tariffs on 90% of goods, facilitating the movement of capital

and people, promoting investment and paving the way for a continent-wide customs union.

The planned reduction in duties has raised concerns from countries that rely on them for income. However, a World Bank report shows that short-term tariff revenues would decline by less than 1.5% for 49 out of 54

African countries, with total tax revenues set to decrease by less than 0.3% in 50 countries under the deal.

That's because only a small share of tariff revenues come from intra-African trade, according to the Washington-based lender. The bulk is from a few tariff lines and that would enable some protectionist measures

to be maintained even if countries liberalise, it said. Mene said last week that AfCFTA officials are considering several options, including an escrow account to reimburse exporters trading under the pact, even as their countries are still working to implement the necessary customs infrastructure.

RELIEF

Water Mission's 300m/- project to supply water to thousands in Dodoma

By Guardian Reporter

A WATER project worth 300m/- has been inaugurated in Chamwino District of Dodoma Region to supply over 4,000 people thanks to Water Mission Tanzania's funding.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony on Friday, Deputy Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Water, Engineer Nadhifa Kemikimba said the project is one of several others currently being implemented in different parts of the country as government seeks to ensure that every citizen gets clean and safe water.

Eng Kemikimba commended Water Mission Tanzania for the project which demonstrates steady progress towards attaining the 2025 strategic plan of ensuring that at least 95 percent of the population has access to clean safe water in their neighbourhoods.

"The goal is to have water depots after every 400 meters in rural areas so that people should be able to get

the commodity within half an hour," she said while adding that the government and development partners such as Water Mission Tanzania are doing everything to attain the 95 percent mark.

The project which was implemented jointly between Water Mission Tanzania and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA), will supply Ikombo community's 97 percent of clean and safe water. "We thank Water Mission for their support in getting the project financed and as government, we pledge to ensure that this project is sustainable," Eng Kemikimba assured.

In remarks during the event, Water Mission Country Director, Benjamin Filskov said one of the beautiful elements that led to the project's success was cooperation among the ministry, RUWASA and the community.

Filskov said such partnership will enhance that the water project will be financially sustainable on an indefinite timeline hence benefiting the



The Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Water, Nadhifa Kemikimba (R), and Water Mission Tanzania country director Benjamin Filskov drink clean and safe water drawn from a tap during the launch of Ikombo Village water project in Chamwino District of Dodoma Region at the weekend.

community. "Our goal is to collaborate, create consensus, and help communities in accessing safe clean water project which is what we are witnessing to-

day," he said adding that Chamwino residents are now done with shortage of water.

He also paid tribute to RUWASA and Ministry of Water for en-

suring that government's efforts to provide rural populations with safe water is materialising. The safe water which comes from boreholes is distributed

through a gravity-fed system to the entire community of 684 households in Ikombo Village which has population of 4,172 residents.

AMBITION

Dar RC sees end to shortage of classrooms, desks in public schools

By Guardian Reporter

DAR ES SALAAM chronic shortage of classrooms and desks in public schools will soon be history as Regional Commissioner, Abubakar Kunenge vows to ensure that construction of 339 classrooms and thousands of desks are available within the next five weeks.

Speaking during a ceremony to receive a donation of 400 desks valued at 40m/- from NMB Bank Plc on Friday, Kunenge said completion of the classrooms which will be fully furnished are his administration's new goal.

"We will complete the projects within the specified timeframe thanks to cooperation from well wishers such as NMB Bank," Kunenge said as he pitched camp at King'ong'o Primary School in Ubungo Municipality supervising construction of new classrooms.

He said so far 90 classrooms have been completed while the remaining at different stages of construction hence his ambition to com-



King'ong'o Primary School pupils carry some of the desks donated by NMB Bank Plc to their school after a handing-over ceremony held in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo courtesy of NMB.

plete the task in five weeks time. "As for desks, about 40,000 are currently being made by carpenters, thanks to support from partners including

NMB Bank," the Dar RC added while announcing March 1 as deadline for such an exercise to be completed in the region.

In remarks during the handover ceremony, NMB's acting Chief Finance Officer, Benedicto Baragomwa said they decided to assist the government

with the donation because as a bank they understand the importance of education.

"So while the government is doing a lot to improve the education sector, we as stakeholders have decided to join hands by donating these desks," Baragomwa said while noting that NMB allocates one percent of its net profit annually to invest in community projects as part of its corporate social responsibility policy. He said the bank's social responsibility policy focuses on education, health and relief aid to communities struck by disasters.

Out of the 400 desks, 150 are for King'ong'o Primary School while 250 will be shared by five other primary and secondary schools in Ubungo Municipality. The schools are Makabe Primary, Kimara, Kinyerezi Annex, Kibwegere and Mpiji Magohe Secondary Schools.

Baragomwa revealed that last year, the market's most profitable bank donated record 10,450 desks valued at over 1.045bn/- to 209 public schools across the country benefitting more than 31,350 students.

ADVICE

SIDO manager says discipline in financing is vital for SMEs

By Correspondent Teresia Victor

SMALL and medium size enterprise owners who want to see their businesses graduate into successful companies must basic of good management and financial discipline to safeguard capital.

Addressing SME entrepreneurs who attended a weeklong training on food processing and entrepreneurship, Small Industries Development Organization's Dar es Salaam Regional Manager, Baraka Kandonga, said urged them to treat their businesses as separate entities.

Kandonga said money management an importance subject for SMEs to understand to attain growth backed by strong financial security needed to graduate into successful mid size companies.

"We are giving you these skills because you have decided to gain knowledge and grow your businesses," he said while assuring them that financial discipline is a cornerstone for any successful business.

He told the 56 entrepreneurs who came from Kigoma, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and China that many of them are already employing people at their small food processing industrial hence need to learn different entrepreneurship skills to survive market competition.

Kandonga further added that Sido is committed to work with SME owners and managers through training to ensure that their businesses flourish rapidly by getting loan access and investing profitably.

"We have been receiving a lot of feedback on the issue of training because this is something that we are working on to ensure you get the most out of our experts in various fields," the Sido Regional Manager for Dar noted.

In a note of thanks, a representative of the trainees, Ahmed Khan commended Sido for organising the training saying as SMEs they learned a lot from the organisation's experts.

"We will use what we have learnt here to start grow our enterprises by seeking more capital without waiting for grants from anyone," Khan said. "We have learnt different food processing and entrepreneurship skills which will enable us make products needed by every household," Khan added.

Khan's observation was backed by Doreen Ndalaha who thanked Sido for providing the training that will be a catalyst for change and growth of their businesses.

"We spend our money unconsciously on unnecessary things but now all that will change after attending this training," Ndalaha said.

ECO-FRIENDLY

Rwanda moves to stimulate transition to electric vehicles in domestic market

KIGALI

THE Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) has called upon the public and private institutions as well as individuals to consider shifting to electric vehicles and join the effort to beat air pollution.

REMA made the call when taking delivery of its first electric vehicle that will be used to support the institution's mandate of environmental protection. A charging station has also been installed at the environmental watchdog office in Kacyiru. The move is aimed to stimulate the demand of electric vehicles on the local market.

"The acquisition of a Mitsubishi Outlander Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) aims to demonstrate the potential of low emissions technologies and encourage public and private institutions as well as individuals to transition to electric vehicles," said Juliet Kabera, Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority.

The Outlander PHEV can operate as an electric vehicle (EV) with a range of up to 54 kilometres using the electric motors alone. Charging the lithium-ion batteries uses 9.8kWh of electricity, which can

take 30 minutes using a charger.

"Vehicles powered by petrol and diesel contribute to climate change and pollute the air we breathe. Electric vehicles are part of the solution and we are now taking advantage of this emerging technology to mitigate air pollution and walk the talk on reducing emissions," she said.

According to the International Energy Agency, transportation is responsible for 24 per cent of global direct carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from fuel combustion. Road vehicles - cars, trucks, buses and two- and three-wheelers - account for nearly three-quarters of transport CO2 emissions and are a leading contributor to climate change and air pollution, especially in cities.

Globally, more than 90 per cent of us breathe polluted air and approximately seven million people die from air pollution related causes every year. The 2018 Inventory of Sources of Air Pollution in Rwanda showed that vehicle emissions are the leading cause of air pollution in Kigali and other urban areas.

"Using electric vehicles in its daily work is, therefore, part of REMA's long-term plan to contribute to Rwanda's green growth," added Kabera. Rwanda has a long-term goal



REMA's electric car recharged in Kigali.

INVESTMENT

NSSF buys Sh312m more KCB shares

NAIROBI

NATIONAL Social Security Fund (NSSF) has purchased an additional 8.55 million shares in KCB Group, raising its stake in the country's biggest bank to 7.99 per cent.

Latest disclosures shows that the state-controlled pension fund closed last month with 256.903 million shares in KCB, being a rise from 248.3 million shares or a 7.73 per cent stake in October. The latest shareholding means that NSSF has added 31.07 million shares in KCB between April and December 2020 amid the Covid-19 environment that saw the lender's stock take a beating, making it attractive for purchasing by investors with a long-term view.

NSSF had a 7.03 per cent shareholding in KCB at the end of March last year. The onset of Covid-19 disruption in Kenya mid-March saw KCB share price close the year having retreated by 29.4 per cent. NSSF's purchases have contributed to local investors raising their aggregate ownership in the bank to a new high of 86.59 per cent from 80.91 per cent in March last year and end of 2017 when their stake was at 70.75 per cent.

Foreign investors sold 182.48 million shares between March and December last year, with the trades valued at about Sh6.6 billion when calculated by KCB current share price of about Sh36.5. Most of the sales came after the coronavirus-inspired panic trades

hit Nairobi bourse from April. The National Treasury retains its 19.76 per cent stake in KCB and which was boosted by the lender's purchase of National Bank of Kenya (NBK) in an all-stock deal last year. Former NBK investors, including the government and NSSF, converted their stakes into shares of the country's biggest bank at a rate of one for every 10 held. Local investors' purchase of KCB shares has seen the lender's share price recover from the lows of Sh30.5 in mid-August following the announcement of a record profit drop. Fundamentals of firms such as banks have come under pressure in Covid-19 especially with drops in profits on higher provisioning for loan defaults dimming the dividend outlook.

WORLD

Trump asked Justice Department to go to Supreme Court to overturn election

WASHINGTON

FORMER President Donald Trump considered replacing the acting attorney general with an official willing to pursue unsubstantiated claims of election fraud, and he pushed the Justice Department to ask the Supreme Court to invalidate President Joe Biden's victory, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Citing people familiar with the matter, the Journal said the efforts in the last weeks of Trump's presidency failed because of resistance from his Justice appointees who refused to file what they viewed as a legally baseless lawsuit in the Supreme Court.

Other senior department officials later threatened to resign if Trump fired then-acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, several people familiar with the discussions told the Journal.

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment from Reuters on Saturday.

Senior officials including Rosen, former Attorney General William Barr and former acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall refused to file the Supreme Court case, concluding there was no basis to challenge the election outcome and the federal government had no legal interest in whether Trump or Biden won the presidency, some of these people told the Journal.

Then-White House counsel Pat Cipollone and his deputy, Patrick Philbin, also opposed Trump's idea, which was promoted by his outside attorneys, these people said.

After his Supreme Court plan got nowhere, Trump explored replacing Rosen with Jeffrey Clark, a Trump ally who had expressed a willingness to use the department's power to help Trump



Former President Donald Trump

continue his unsuccessful legal battles contesting the election results, the people told the Journal.

Trump backed off that plan after the threats from senior Justice Department leadership to resign if Rosen were removed, people familiar with the discussions said.

The plan to oust Rosen was first reported by the New York Times.

A Trump adviser, asked to respond to the U.S. media reports, said the former president "has consistently argued that our justice system should be investigating the broader, rampant election fraud that has plagued our system for years. Any assertion to the contrary is false and being driven by those who wish to keep the system broken."

Democrats reacted with fury on Saturday to the New York Times' report, with Senator Richard Durbin, incoming chairman of the Judiciary Committee, saying he would investi-

gate efforts to use the Justice Department to further Trump's efforts to overthrow the election results. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer calling on the department's inspector general, Michael E. Horowitz, to investigate "this attempted sedition."

Trump's relentless and baseless claims of election fraud - and his refusal to acknowledge Biden's victory - culminated on Jan. 6 when Trump urged a rally of his supporters to march to the Capitol to protest the certification of the results. The resulting rampage led to five deaths, including a Capitol police officer.

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives impeached Trump for a second time a week later for inciting the insurrection at the Capitol, and a Senate trial on the charge will begin the week of Feb. 8. Biden took office on Wednesday.

Agencies

Veteran US talk show host Larry King dies at 87

LOS ANGELES

LARRY King, a veteran U.S. talk show host and former CNN interviewer, died on Saturday at the age of 87 after media reported earlier this month that he had been diagnosed with COVID-19.

"With profound sadness, Ora Media announces the death of our co-founder, host, and friend Larry King, who passed away this morning at age 87 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles," said a statement posted on King's social media account.

King hosted CNN's "Larry King Live" for over two and a half decades and retired in 2010 after clocking in at more than 6,000 episodes.

"For 63 years and across the platforms of radio, television and digital media, Larry's many thousands of interviews, awards and global acclaim stand as a testament to his unique and lasting talent as a broadcaster," said Ora Media, a television production company co-founded by King, in the statement.

"Whether he was interviewing a U.S. president, foreign leader, celebrity, scandal-ridden personage, or an everyman, Larry liked to ask short, direct, and uncomplicated questions," noted the statement.

King was born in Brooklyn, New York, on Nov. 19, 1933. He got his start as a broadcaster at a small radio station in Florida in 1957. King is best known for the nightly interview television program "Larry King Live," which aired on CNN from 1985 to 2010. After his CNN career, King went on to be the host of Ora Media shows "Larry King Now" and "Politicking With Larry King."

"We mourn the passing of our colleague Larry King," CNN President Jeff Zucker said in a statement posted online, adding that King had a history-making career spanning radio and television.

"His curiosity about the world propelled his award-winning career in broadcasting, but it was his generosity of spirit that drew the world to him," Zucker noted.

King was honored with two Peabody Awards and 10 Cable ACE Awards in his career. He was also the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2011 News and Documentary Emmys.

No cause of death was given by Ora Media in the statement. Earlier this month, citing sources close to the family, CNN reported that King had been undergoing intensive treatment for over a week after being diagnosed with COVID-19. Besides Type 2 diabetes, King has also reportedly faced some other medical issues over years, such as heart attacks, angina and lung cancer.

Xinhua

AU condemns continued Boko Haram attacks, abuses against innocent civilians

ADDIS ABABA

THE African Union (AU) Commission has condemned the continued attacks and abuses perpetrated by the Boko Haram terrorist group against innocent civilians.

The statement was made by the Peace and Security Council of the 55-member pan-African bloc on Saturday, which followed the Council's recent meeting that dwelt upon the Report of the AU Commission Chairperson on the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against the Boko Haram.

The Council strongly condemns the continued attacks and abuses perpetrated by the Boko Haram terrorist group against innocent civilians which have resulted in the destruction of infrastructure and widespread population displacement and exacerbated the serious humanitarian crisis in the region, and warns that the perpetrators of these attacks shall be brought to justice," an AU statement issued on Saturday read.

It also expressed "deep concern, once again, over the continued use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) within the MNJTF Area of Operation by Boko Haram in its reconnaissance operations." The Council also requested the AU Commission, in coordination with the member states of Lake Chad Basin Region Countries (LCBC) plus Benin, to engage with partners and other relevant stakeholders to explore urgently the possibility of more effectively responding to this threat, as well as curtailing any other form of political, military and financial support to the Boko Haram terrorist group.

It also stressed the need for "full implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region, including, as applicable, through the AU Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre, with a view to ensure that development projects are promoted and implemented to alleviate the living conditions of the people in the region.

Xinhua

Biden administration to unveil more climate policies

WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration next week will release more policies it believes are needed to tackle climate change and is urging China to toughen one of its targets on greenhouse gas emissions, his top climate advisers said on Saturday.

Gina McCarthy, the White House's national climate adviser, did not say what policies would be released. A memo seen by Reuters on Thursday showed Biden will unveil a second round of executive orders as soon as Jan. 27 that include an omnibus order to combat climate change domestically and elevate the issue as a national security priority.

"We've already sent signals on the things that we don't

like that we're going to roll back, but this week you're going to see us move forward with what's the vision of the future," McCarthy told a virtual meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Biden, a Democrat who took office on Jan. 20, quickly issued executive orders canceling the Keystone XL pipeline that would import tar sands oil from Canada and rejoining the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Both of those moves reversed former President Donald Trump's policies. During his four years in office, Trump rolled back about 100 regulations on climate and the environment as he pursued a policy of "energy dominance" to maximize output and exports of oil, gas



U.S. President Joe Biden

and coal.

John Kerry, Biden's special climate envoy, said a recent pledge by China, the world's top greenhouse gas emitter, was "not good enough." In September, Chinese President Xi Jinping set a goal for his country to become carbon neutral by 2060, 10 years after the 2050 time frame favored by most coun-

tries, while also pledging a more ambitious short-term goal on emissions.

As secretary of state under former President Barack Obama in 2015, Kerry helped bring China to the table at the U.N. climate conference in Paris. Now, the Biden administration has begun to apply diplomatic pressure on countries to work harder on climate, said Kerry.

He talked on Friday with foreign ministers in Europe, who told him they had high expectations for the Biden administration after a lack of action on climate in the Trump years.

"Yeah, we realize we come back with humility," Kerry said he told the ministers, adding that the majority of U.S. states and more than

1,000 mayors continued to move ahead on climate during the Trump years.

The United States, the world's second leading emitter, has to do better than getting to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, perhaps through emerging technologies such as capturing carbon dioxide directly from the air, Kerry said.

Tackling climate change did not mean a diminishment of lifestyle, such as driving less or not being able to eat meat, he said. The Biden administration, mayors and other local leaders will have to persuade Americans that curbing climate change "can be the greatest economic transformation in global history," Kerry said.

Agencies

Putin to reciprocate if Washington ready for dialogue with Moscow - Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA expects that Moscow and Washington will manage to establish dialogue, and if the new US administration is ready for this, Russian President Vladimir Putin will certainly take a reciprocal step, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

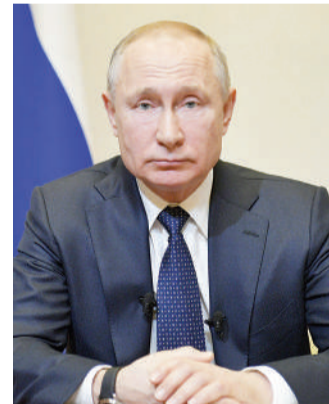
"The thing is that the Russian Federation has been consistently and traditionally calling for kind relations [with the US]," Peskov said in an interview with "Moscow. Kremlin. Putin" program on Rossiya-1 TV channel.

"We are saying in deed and not in name that we are ready to consider the Americans as our partners, they are not ready.

But here love can't be forced," Peskov stressed.

"Certainly, we expect that we will be able to establish dialogue," he noted. This will be dialogue in which the sides will confirm that there is some disagreement. But at the same time dialogue is always an opportunity to find "those smallest areas where our relations coincide," Peskov said. "If the current US administration is ready for this approach, I have no doubt that our president will reciprocate," he stated.

The Kremlin spokesman drew attention to the first remarks of new White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, who called for investigating cyber attacks against the US,



of which Washington immediately accused Moscow, and "the alleged bounties on US soldiers in Afghanistan."

According to Peskov, this approach was "quite predicted." "That's because the new administration is old and well-

known people," he explained. "As for the statements, the word 'partner' is probably not applicable to us for Washington and certainly they still view us more as foes," Peskov noted.

Flexibility in relations

Russia showed flexibility in relations with the United States but it cannot keep doing this endlessly and is not ready to tolerate rude behavior and diktat, Peskov said.

In comment on the host's remark that Russian-US relations were worsening and at a certain point someone should make a concession, the Kremlin spokesman noted that "flexibility is a necessary ele-

ment of inter-state relations."

"We are ready to show flexibility, [but] we are not ready for a diktat, we are not ready for rude behavior and we are not prepared for crossing 'the red lines.' As for the rest, certain flexibility was shown," he stressed. "But it cannot be shown endlessly."

The TV host voiced an opinion that Russia "should have been more flexible" and gave the example of the situation with the coup d'etat in Ukraine in 2014 and granting asylum to former National Security Agency (NSA) whistleblower Edward Snowden. "No, these are these the red lines, which cannot be crossed," Peskov stressed.

Agencies

To gather more strength to protect homeland of mankind

TO enhance global environment governance is an urgent task that shall never be overlooked, and to build a prosperous, clean and beautiful world is common expectation of the international society.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called to make peace between mankind and nature, calling 2021 a key year to achieve it.

Men and nature are interdependent, and a sound ecosystem is essential for the prosperity of civilization. The COVID-19 pandemic triggered our profound introspection on the relation between men and nature, and the decreasing biodiversity and climate change are posing severe risks for human

existence and development.

Some scientific findings have sounded an alarm. For instance, carbon dioxide levels are the highest in three million years and keeping climbing, and 2016-2020 is expected to be the warmest five-year period on record.

"Climate change will be our generation's most profound challenge—and in 2021, the world will take its biggest steps yet to meet it," said The Economist in an article under its 'The World in 2021' column.

Last year, environmental governance took an obviously increased share in global agenda. The 12th BRICS Summit Moscow Declara-

tion reiterated the mechanism's commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and looks forward to further strengthening cooperation on environmental issues, in particular combating marine plastic litter as a key focus of the BRICS Clean Rivers Programme.

The G20 Riyadh Summit launched the Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform and the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats, and reaffirmed the mechanism's commitment to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter, as articulated by the Osaka

Blue Ocean Vision. Besides, at the Climate Ambition Summit, 45 countries vowed to scale up their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and 24 raised their goals on carbon neutrality. The international society is bringing up more visions for cooperation to jointly cope with climate change.

The next year, the process of global environment governance will be a focus of a series of important international meetings. The 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is to be kicked off in China in 2021, will formulate the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to chart the

course and set goals for the world's efforts to protect biodiversity in the next decade. The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in the UK is about the execution of the Paris Agreement.

Besides, countries will also gather at the 19th meeting of the Committee for the Review of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, to explore a path to combat global desertification.

The international society is expecting to make further joint efforts and make an important step toward the goals set in the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development.

China is playing an increasingly prominent role in global environmental governance. From the traditional Chinese wisdom that the laws of Nature govern all things and that man must seek harmony with Nature, to the new development philosophy emphasizing innovative, coordinated, green and open development for all, China has always prioritized ecological progress and embedded it in every dimension and phase of its economic and social development. Such vision is receiving more and more attention.

People's Daily

US attempts of incitement to have negative impact on ties with Russia - foreign ministry

MOSCOW

US diplomats' attempts to encourage radicals are doomed to failure and will have negative implications for the Russian-US relations, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday, commenting on the posts published by the US embassy in Moscow on social media.

"The US should address its own problems, including the handling of the profound split in American society caused by social injustice, inequality and persecution of dissent," the foreign ministry said.

"The attempts of the US diplomacy, which ignores all decency, to actually incite the radicals are doomed to failure and will have negative consequences for bilateral relations."

It was pointed out that the senior diplomats of the US embassy would be summoned to the Russian Foreign Ministry.

The ministry stated that the US diplomatic mission in Moscow had again shown disregard for diplomatic norms and rules.

"In fact, it means encouraging violent actions hypocritically announced as a peaceful protest, in which the organizers cynically involve even minors," the Foreign Ministry added.

Agencies

Johnson says he looks forward to working with Biden on shared goals

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Saturday he looked forward to working with US President Joe Biden on their shared goals, including tackling climate change.



Johnson (pictured) used his first phone call with the US president to welcome Biden's announcements that the United States would rejoin the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate and the World Health Organization, and they discussed the prospects of a free trade deal.

"Great to speak to President Joe Biden this evening," Johnson said on Twitter. "I look forward to deepening the longstanding alliance between our two countries as we drive a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19."

The White House said Biden and Johnson talked about cooperation, including through multilateral organizations, on curbing climate change and fighting COVID-19.

Biden also conveyed his intention to "strengthen the special relationship between our countries and revitalize transatlantic ties, underscoring the critical role of NATO to our collective defense and shared values," the White House said in a release.

A spokeswoman for Johnson said the leaders "also discussed the benefits of a potential free trade deal between our two countries." Britain left the European Union last year. Biden's call with Johnson was his first with a European leader since taking office.

On Friday, Biden spoke to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

Agencies

Greece hopes for 'positive' spirit from Turkey in talks

ATHENS

GREECE'S foreign minister said he hoped Turkey would have a positive approach to a meeting next week aimed at reviving long-stalled efforts to open negotiations over disputed territorial claims.



The neighbouring countries held 60 rounds of talks between 2002 and 2016, but plans last year for discussions to be resumed foundered over a survey vessel sent by Ankara into disputed waters and disagreements over the topics to be covered.

"The only sure thing is the positive approach of Athens. I hope the Turkish side will come to these talks in the same spirit," Nikos Dendias told the Efimerida Ton Syntakton newspaper in an interview.

He said the exploratory talks, which were halted in March 2016, were not negotiations but aimed to discover whether there was enough convergence for possible future negotiations on just one specific issue.

"I want to be clear, that (subject) is the demarcation of the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean on the basis of international law," Dendias was quoted as saying.

If negotiations did begin after the exploratory talks but the two sides were still unable to reach a deal, they would have to agree on a text to refer the issue to the International Court in The Hague, he added.

While Athens only wants to address the demarcation of maritime zones in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean, Ankara says all issues should be tackled, including air space and the status of some Greek islands in the Aegean.

"In the exploratory talks there will be no discussion on demilitarising islands. No discussion on an issue that has to do with national sovereignty," Dendias told the newspaper.

Agencies

Xi stresses strict Party governance for 14th Five-Year Plan period

BEIJING

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed the importance of leveraging the guiding and safeguarding roles of strict Party governance in every respect to ensure the development goals and tasks of the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025) are fulfilled.

Xi, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks on Friday when addressing the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI).

The year 2020 was extraordinary in the history of the People's Republic of China, Xi said as he summarized the year's achievements in Party construction.

"People feel deeply that in stormy times the strong leadership of the Party and the authority of the CPC Central Committee are what they can always count on," Xi said.

The CPC Central Committee is satisfied with the progress made in improving Party conduct, building a clean government and combating corruption, he added.

Xi underscored the importance of improving political judgment, understanding and execution in implementing full and strict governance over the Party.

NO ALTERNATIVE

On fighting corruption, historic achievements have been made but the situation remains challenging and complex, Xi said.

"Corruption, as the biggest risk to the Party's governance, still exists," Xi said, adding that old and new types of corruption have become intertwined and corruption is increasingly covert and complex.

In 2020, 18 centrally-administrated officials were investigated. Also, 1,229 fugitives were brought back and 2.45 billion yuan (378 million U.S. dollars) retrieved from overseas in the first 11 months of 2020.

In the first 11 days of 2021, China's top anti-graft body announced punishments for seven centrally-administrated officials who were accused of taking bribes, signifying that the country's war on corruption is taking steady steps in the new year.

"The struggle between corruption and anti-corruption efforts will continue to exist for a long period to come," Xi said. "There is no alternative but to forge ahead in the anti-corruption fight against all odds."



General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Xi Jinping, also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, addresses the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) in Beijing Jan. 22, 2021. (Xinhua)

HIGHLIGHTED REQUIREMENTS

Xi stressed constantly improving Party conduct, building clean government and combating corruption.

The governance over the Party must always be strict, so that the CPC can lead and ensure the smooth sailing of the great ship of socialism with Chinese characteristics, he said.

Xi demanded strong political oversight to ensure the implementation of the CPC Central Committee's major decisions and plans.

"We must resolutely continue the fight against corruption," Xi said, stressing the need to build the systems and measures to ensure that officials do not dare to be, are not able to be, and do not want to be corrupt.

Xi demanded efforts to resolutely curb the practice of formalities for formalities'

sake and bureaucratism.

Continuous efforts must be made to address corruption and misconduct that affect people's immediate interests, to boost their sense of gain, he added.

Xi stressed the need to improve the Party and state supervisory systems, and integrate supervision into the country's development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period.

Discipline inspection and supervision agencies should take the lead in strengthening the Party's political building. They must also be subject to the strictest constraint and oversight, Xi said.

Members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Wang Huning and Han Zheng attended the meeting.

Zhao Leji, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of

the CPC Central Committee and head of the CCDI, presided over the meeting.

Xi's important speech serves as the major guidance for advancing strict Party governance in every respect, Zhao said as he called on Party organizations at all levels and Party members and officials to study and implement the guiding principles of Xi's speech, and earnestly implement the plans made at the CCDI session.

Zhao also delivered a work report to the session on behalf of the standing committee of the CCDI.

Xinhua

Iran's Zarif urges Biden to act first in returning US to nuke deal

NEW YORK

IRAN urged new US President Joe Biden on Friday to "choose a better path" by returning to a 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and global powers, but said the opportunity would be lost if Washington insists on further Iranian concessions up front.

Under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, Washington withdrew from the deal - designed to stop Iran developing a nuclear weapon - and bolstered sanctions in a bid to force Tehran into talks on a broader agreement that also addressed its ballistic missile program and support for proxies around the Middle East.

Biden, who took office on Wednesday, "can begin by removing all sanctions imposed since Trump assumed office and seek to re-enter and abide by the 2015 nuclear deal without



The Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Javad Zarif, speaks during a meeting with his Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez (out of frame), in Havana, on Nov 6, 2020. (AFP)

altering its painstakingly negotiated terms," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote in Foreign Affairs magazine.

"In turn, Iran would reverse all the remedial measures it has taken in the wake of Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal," he said on Friday, adding that the

"initiative squarely rests with Washington"

Since Trump abandoned the deal in 2018, Iran has breached its key limits, building up its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, refining uranium to a higher level of purity and using advanced centrifuges for enrichment.

Biden has said that if Tehran resumed strict compliance with the 2015 agreement Washington would rejoin it. Zarif said temporary limitations on Iran's defense and missile procurements under the 2015 deal cannot be re-negotiated. He reiterated that, separate from the nuclear issues, Iran was willing to discuss problems in the Middle East.

"But the peoples of the region, not outsiders, must resolve these issues. Neither the United States nor its European allies have the prerogative to lead or sponsor future talks," he wrote.

Wasteland in north China turned into fashion centre

A PIECE of wasteland covered by sands in Yongqing county, Langfang, north China's Hebei province, is now turned into a cluster of fashion enterprises, fertilizing China's clothing and fashion industry.

The Yunshang Town, which started operation in 2017 and has been joined by over 3,800 merchants from Beijing, is a major project shouldering the non-capital functions of Beijing.

Located at the junction of Beijing, Tianjin and Xiongan New Area, Yongqing county is less than 10 kilometers away from the Beijing Daxing International Airport, Beijing-Xiongan intercity railway and Capital Region Ring Expressway. As Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei further advance their integration progress, the county is building itself into a new high ground for the clothing industry in north China.

The Yunshang Town's major functions include clothing trade, tourism and exhibition. It is also a base for mass entrepreneurship and innovation in the fashion industry that gathers a number of designers and brands. Besides, the town has built a residence zone in it, vowing to offer the most fashionable dwelling experiences in China. At present, the town has been developed into an industrial cluster that covers all link, including designing, R&D, production, training, launching, cross-border marketing and innovation.

The Yunshang Town always invites teachers and students from Minzu University of China and Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology for teaching and



A clothes manufacturing competition is held in the Yunshang Town.

internship programs, regularly holds exhibitions and fashion shows. So far, the town has attracted over 100 independent designers and high-end customization studios.

At present, nearly 10,000 people work in the town, 2,500 of whom are from local community. The town's annual turnover has reached 5 billion yuan, con-

tributing a total of 260 million yuan of tax. It was listed as a national-level pilot park of textile and clothing industry in November, 2018.

Centering the town, Yongqing county also established multiple platforms for the clothing industry, making fashion designing a new impetus driving regional economic restructuring and develop-

ment.

Li Yuanjie, 29, runs a clothe brand in the Yunshang Town. "Our brand has newly opened several stores in Beijing, and the performance is pretty good," he told the People's Daily.

Li's company moved to the town four years ago from Dahongmen, a wholesale market in Beijing. "Our company bought a new store here, which covers over 2,800 square meters, or 3 times of that before," Li said. He believes his company was not able to complete transformation in the metropolis given the high operational cost and little development space there.

Thanks to the resources and consumption market in Beijing and Tianjin, the company has expanded its annual turnover from 200 million yuan to 1 billion yuan, Li said. After four years of development, the company has grown from a traditional wholesale dealer of textile materials into a comprehensive clothing enterprise engaged in designing, fabric processing and branding. Its products have been sold to first-tier cities in China and even overseas markets.



People's Daily

At present, nearly 10,000 people work in the town, 2,500 of whom are from local community. The town's annual turnover has reached 5 billion yuan

SPORT



Moshi District Commissioner, Rajabu Kundyia (C), cuts a ribbon to regionally launch the 2021 Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon in Moshi over the weekend, while other dignitaries and representatives of the race's sponsors look on. : CORRESPONDENT

Kilimanjaro Marathon now launched in Moshi

By Guardian Reporter

THE 19th edition of the prestigious Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon has been launched regionally in Moshi, with Kilimanjaro Regional Commissioner (RC), Anna Mghwira, pledging more support to the organizers and sponsors to make the event bigger and more beneficial to the region and Tanzania as a whole.

The RC, who was represented by the Moshi District Commissioner, Rajabu Kundyia, at a colourful event held at the Kibo Palace Homes said the marathon has had a positive effect on tourism and business in Kilimanjaro and the entire country.

She said that she is ready to cooperate with the organizers in addressing the available challenges so the marathon can register more participants.

According to her, the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon attracts around 12,000 runners and the organizers are not able to go beyond this number because of various challenges especially the narrow roads around Moshi town.

She said: "We had already started talks regarding the need to expand most of the roads so that the marathon can accommodate more runners on the route as, at the moment, they have to close entries once capacity is reached so as to conform with the IAAF regulations."

"They also have to ensure that they are able to provide the essential services like water, first aid and that the races also start without participants pushing and stepping on each other," she disclosed.

The Kilimanjaro Premium Lager's Brand Manager, Irene Mutiganzi, who also doubles as the Grand Malt Brand Manager,

said they are proud to sponsor the event for the 19th year running as a sign of patriotism and the contribution of the marathon to sports tourism and businesses in Kilimanjaro.

She said they are well prepared for next month's event and have set aside 25m/- in prize money with the top winners in both the male and female category walking home with 4m/- apiece and the first Tanzanian male and female in the 42km race will receive a motivational prize of 1.5m/- apiece.

She also made a special appeal to participants of the 5km Fun Run to also register on time as the entries are limited and might run out anytime.

The Tigo North Zone Director, Henry Kinabo, said this year they look forward to another exciting and entertaining Tigo Kili Half Marathon.

"The registration via Tigo Pesa has been well received, thus far we have 3917 runners who have registered in the different categories," he said.

According to him, this is the sixth year they are sponsoring the Tigo Kili Half Marathon and, as the custodians of the race, they continue to urge runners to register for the event and pay with Tigo Pesa since it is easy and convenient.

In addition to government's efforts to prevent Covid 19 through stringent measures at all ports of entries, the Kilimanjaro Marathon organizers disclosed they will ensure that all officials follow the government guidelines.

The launch was also attended by regional leaders, Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Kilimanjaro Amateur Athletics Association (KAAA), business people, jogging clubs, athletes and the media.

Participants are registering through online www.kilimanjaromathon.com and Tigo Pesa #149*20# for the 19th edition of the Kilimanjaro Premium Lager Marathon which will be held at the Moshi Cooperative University (MoCU) venue in Kilimanjaro on February 28, 2021.



Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL)'s Managing Director, Mark Ocitti (R), presents a Johnnie Walker whisky to retired General, George Waitara, as part of the firm's recognition of the latter's contribution in golf promotion in Tanzania, during the closing ceremony of this year's General Waitara Trophy tournament, which took place at Lugalo Golf Club's course in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

SPORTS

Women's football should receive more funds

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

AS we bite what is left of our fingernails and nervously keep tabs on the Taifa Stars' goings-on at the presently unfolding African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals in Cameroon, we should spare a thought or two for the seemingly perennial woes afflicting women's football in Tanzania.

Indeed, these travails range from uneven media coverage to the dispiritingly humungous challenge of insufficient funds.

One would think though that in light of the laudably triumphant exertions of many a women's youth team during recent years that would-be sponsors would be literally queuing up to plough vast chunks of funds into the advancement of the women's game from the grassroots levels upwards to the senior levels of the sport.

Alas, such expectations have disappointingly only amounted to be bona fide mirages.

Now, this line of reasoning is not to suggest that no funds at all have been channelled into the women's game for its betterment.

Indeed, it is crucial to note that only lately, women's football were the beneficiaries of a generous injection of funds aimed at the development of technical and other assorted aspects of the women's game, which was a truly heartening and encouraging gesture.

Still, that notwithstanding, considering the unquestionably lamentable record of women's football being denigratingly given the cold shoulder by sponsor after sponsor in a quite condemnable past, it would seem only fitting then to assert that we as a sports-loving populace owe the



JKT Queens' attacker, Zabela John (R), negotiates her way past Ruvuma Queens' player, Swamu Salum, in a recent Women Premier League's tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

women's game a massive debt.

And, by my count or by any fair estimation of what constitutes an accurate count, it is most definitely the hour to pay up!

Fresh from laying that argument to rest, let us segue seamlessly now into the weighty matter of sports documentaries, which is a subject that I tackled a few years ago in this modest corner of The Guardian's sports pages.

Dear Reader, I feel compelled to take up this argument again following what was an especially hellish 2020, when it appeared that every conceivable nightmare that could possibly be imagined actually came into being.

Despite the much-needed mood-boosting news of a number of newly manufactured vaccines, we are still having to deal with the same old horrors and frightful fears on a day-to-day basis.

Bearing all this in mind, then, a well-researched and painstakingly prepared documentary on say the steady ascent of

our darling son Mbwana Samatta, from his humble beginnings to the very apex of football would serve as the perfect tonic and feel-good medicine to lift all of our wearied spirits, would it not?

And, of course, the subject matter for a documentary need not expressly be about football or a football icon for that matter.

Indeed, the trailblazing erstwhile National Netball Association (Chaneta) Chairperson, Mama Anna Bayi, who tragically met her demise recently, would be the ideal subject matter for a revealing documentary about her transformational impact on women's netball in Tanzania.

Ergo, Dear Reader, as we ease decidedly into the home stretch of this commentary, I would like to issue a clarion call to my fellow media colleagues, sports scribes and indeed filmmakers to dust off their equipment and get set to work!

The duplication of African Nations tournaments, and the ends it serves

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

SOME old fashioned onlookers in Tanzanian soccer have lately been wondering what national team has been playing first friendlies and then competitive matches recently, where a single name is being used, Taifa Stars.

First there was an Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match against Tunisia, where the reference was to Taifa Stars, and since this is the proper national side including professional players abroad, it was in tradition the right reference.

Then came the other competitive games and the name tag remained the same.

The competition is being held in Cameroon, this time it is the African Nations Championship (CHAN), but it has a sub-title, 'for home-based players.'

That means there is a competition where countries send a shadow of their proper national teams, as usually there are professional players in most or really all national teams, even if it is just a couple of them playing in a neighborhood country.

It is still a bit complicated why the Confederation of African Football (CAF) opted to come up with this competition, what it seeks to prove.

It is evident that in a proper CAF tournament, the countries having excellent players abroad make a better impression than in home-based players, which adds a 'normalisation' factor which appears to be pivotal in the design of the competition.

It also appears to be imbued with a minimum of radicalism, in the kind of feeling it brings about, that an African Nations championship without professionals is possible - and in that case the professionals are seen vaguely as mercenaries, instead of flag bearers of African soccer.

It is a bit of confusion which underlies an apparent gap to be filled, holding a self-reliant continental tourney.

What is unclear is whether this same spirit underlines the dropping of other names for national team sides which are not the full list, for instance we used to have Kilimanjaro Stars for the East and Central African Challenge Cup, where Zanzibar plays on its own.

In that case the fact that Zanzibar does not appear on its own in CHAN makes it a national side like in the full competition, and thus the name Taifa Stars properly



Senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Limbe, Cameroon recently to shape up for Group D games of the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TFF

applies as there is just a diminution of a few key players.

Still the psychological impact of the missing players is profound for the fans, as the CAF wisdom of cultural affinity with playing at home is irrelevant.

What is noticeable about the home-based players competition is that it is another layer of continental contest whereas there is insufficient contest beneath this layer, for instance a home and away regional competition.

Indeed, CECAFA member countries are scarcely able to hold single venue tournaments lasting say two weeks, while at club level the situation is worse, whereas it is at club tournaments that the spirit of the game is cultivated, not by starting with national teams.

The problem appears to be one of the scaling of responsibility, that lower level competitions are held via a CAF In exactly that same outlook, CAF appears to have a plethora of youth competitions, from U-17 to U-20 and in the past there was an U-23 tourney that has since been scrapped.

While youth competitions are technically helpful to raise the level of the game, it is really competition at the grassroots and then at club level that builds the game, not some contests used to select a national team, as by definition there is really nothing collectively energizing on who gets selected to the national youth squad, etc.

Even the manner it performs does not pointedly affect national sentiments on the game; only the senior national soccer

side.

One explanation for this hiatus is that there is a discrepancy between financing CAF tournaments and regional tournaments, as both groups depend on similar sources of funds, which have definite sorts of conditionality.

Thus FIFA appears to encourage CAF to focus on continental competitions and similarly encourages national federations to focus on youth competitions - thus tying up at the CAF level as plethora of continental competition on the one hand, and disproportionate youth focus on the other hand.

In between it is club football which suffers, and at a higher level, more involving regional tournaments.

There will be no easy solution to this situation as it is globally modeled on European football, where one does not hear of Balkan championships, Scandinavian tournament, thus no Arab zone or North African club championship, etc.

All one hears is CAF preliminaries, groups and finals, just like one hears of Cup of Nations, Champions League and Confederation Cup.

Is it difference in the Americas, where the Copa Libertadores is for the southern continental states and a Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) tournament for the island states and continental neighbours in the Caribbean? It is an integrated football model with some prickly parameters.

Female referees create African football history at CHAN

LIMBE, Cameroon

THREE female referees created history Saturday as Guinea and Zambia moved closer to the African Nations Championship (CHAN) quarter-finals, Tanzania clawed back into contention and Namibia were eliminated.

Ethiopian referee Lidya Tafesse and her assistants, Malawian Bernadettar Kwimbira and Nigerian Mimisen Iyorhe, became the first women to control a match at a senior CAF male tournament.

The breakthrough came two years after female referees handled matches at the African under-23 and under-17 Cup of Nations tournaments.

Former professional basketball player Tafesse gave a flawless performance as Tanzania edged Namibia 1-0 in Cameroon city Limbe to remain third in Group D, one point behind leaders Guinea and Zambia.

Earlier, Zambia scored three minutes from time to snatch a 1-1 draw with Guinea in a lively match between the two teams most likely to reach the quarter-finals of a tournament reserved for home-based players.

Tafesse exuded confidence in every decision she made, was extremely fit and tolerated no foul play as she yellow-carded three Tanzanians within 10 minutes during the second half.

African male footballers often dispute decisions against them, but most accepted without hesitation the rulings of Tafesse at the Stade Omnisport in the southwest-

ern coastal resort.

"Lidya really enjoyed herself tonight and was a wonderful advertisement for female referees," a CAF official, who requested anonymity as he is not an official spokesperson, told AFP.

CAF referees manager Eddy Maillet from the Seychelles was overjoyed as the trio created history eight days into the sixth edition of the Nations Championship.

"The CHAN is the second most senior national team competition in the continent after the Africa Cup of Nations," he said.

"It is a wonderful platform for Lidya, Bernadettar and Mimisen to prove what they are capable of. They competed with male referees for places at this tournament and now they have made history."

Both goals in the top-of-the-table clash between Guinea and Zambia came from substitutes introduced at the start of the second half.

Victor Kantaboudou latched on to a deflected shot and fired past goalkeeper Allan Chibwe on 58 minutes to give Guinea a lead they retained until Spencer Sautu nodded in a deep cross.

The draw added to the pressure on Tanzania and Namibia, who had lost their opening matches, as defeat for either side would end hopes of making the knockout phase.

Farid Mussa proved the 65th-minute match-winner for Tanzania, hammering a loose ball into the net after Namibia goalkeeper Kamajanda Ndisoro feebly parried a cross into his path.

Strict virus measures for Club World Cup in Qatar

DOHA

THE Club World Cup will be staged with strict measures to combat the spread of Covid-19, the Qatari organisers said Saturday less than two weeks before the tournament which will be closed to overseas fans.

It is due to get underway on February 4 with spectator numbers capped at 30 percent of capacity at each of the two 40,000-seat grounds which will host games.

"Fans will have to undergo rapid PCR or antigen tests up to 72 hours before each match. If it comes out negative they are allowed to receive their ticket," said Abdulwahab al-Musleh, sports affairs adviser to Qatar's health ministry.

Social distancing, mask wearing and use of Qatar's contract tracing app and sanitiser will be mandatory, he added, during a media briefing in Doha.

International fans will be unable to attend because of Qatar's virus mitigation measures, and there will be no public events including fan zones.

Qatar's coronavirus cases are steadily ticking up, with 59.5 new cases per 100,000 people in the past week, up 15 percent on the week before.

The death rate is very low and cases remain fewer than many other countries in the region.

"This slight increase means we

won't raise the capacity beyond 30 percent," said Musleh who added the new variants of coronavirus are likely already in Qatar.

Following a cluster of cases in the Saudi Al-Hilal team during the AFC Champions League at the end of last year, Musleh said that "several measures to prevent that recurring" had been taken.

On January 15 Auckland City withdrew from February's tournament, because of the Covid-19 pandemic and related quarantine measures required by the New Zealand authorities.

FIFA said it would work with the Qatari authorities to provide "the safeguards required to protect the health and safety of everyone involved in the competition".

The February 4-11 Club World Cup 2020 will now be contested by Qatari club Al Duhail, Al Ahly of Egypt, Bayern Munich, Ulsan Hyundai, Tigres UANL and the winners of the CONMEBOL Libertadores final scheduled for January 30.

The first round match will no longer take place and Al Duhail will begin the competition in the second round. The competition format remains otherwise unchanged.

Matches will be held at Qatar's recently inaugurated Ahmad Bin Ali and Education City stadiums, important test fixtures ahead of the 2022 World Cup.

AFP

Mbappe's PSG future uncertain as he hesitates over new deal

PARIS

WHEN Kylian Mbappe's two goals took him back to the top of the French league's scoring charts on Friday night, the move seemed natural and inevitable.

What is far less certain is whether Mbappe will stay at PSG, or accept the challenge of moving to a more demanding club like Real Madrid next season.

After his brace in the 4-0 win against Montpellier took him to 14 goals - and 106 overall for PSG - the 22-year-old Mbappe said he has yet to decide whether to sign a new deal.

"We're in discussions with the club to find a plan. I'm thinking it over, because I think that if I sign then it's to commit myself long term to Paris Saint-Germain," Mbappe told broadcaster Telefoot following the match.

"I'm very happy here, I've always been very happy here. The fans and the club have always helped me. For that, I'll always be thankful."

Mbappe's contract expires at the end of June next year, as does striker partner Neymar's, and PSG sporting director Leonardo is working hard to persuade the two global stars to sign new contracts.

But the club faces stiff competition. Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane is reportedly interested in making Mbappe a marquee signing to form a potentially prolific partnership with veteran Karim Benzema. Mbappe has also been linked with Premier League champion Liverpool.

Because of his young age - he is six years younger than Neymar and 11 years younger than Benzema - Mbappe would represent the brightest future of any club.

Rashford must learn from clinical Cavani, or Man United may need to sign Haaland

By Mark Ogden, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

MARCUS Rashford should look back on his 85 minutes on the substitutes' bench during Manchester United's 2-1 win at Fulham as one of the most productive experiences of his career. If he used his time wisely, Rashford will have seen Edinson Cavani deliver a masterclass in the art of playing as a centre-forward.

Some might argue that the strength of United's opponents diminishes the value of breaking down Cavani's performance, with Fulham starting the game four points adrift of safety in the Premier League relegation zone. But the ability of Scott Parker's team and defenders should not detract from the display of the 33-year-old Uruguayan international, whose 21st-minute equaliser, following Ademola Lookman's fifth-minute opener for the hosts, gave United the platform on which they built the victory that took them back to the top of the table.

In October, United completed the deadline day signing of Cavani on a free transfer because manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was desperate to find a solution, temporary or permanent, to his squad's lack of a true centre-forward. Signing the former PSG striker appeared to be a gamble - not quite in the same league as last January's late scramble to sign Odion Ighalo on loan from Shanghai Shenhua, but a gamble nonetheless considering he'd been a free agent since being released by Paris Saint-Germain last June and hadn't played or trained properly for months.

But against Fulham at Craven Cottage, just as against Everton at Goodison Park in the Carabao Cup quarterfinal in December, Cavani dispelled any doubts over his enduring quality by producing



Edinson Cavani - Marcus Rashford

an outstanding display of centre-forward craft to help United to an important victory.

Three days earlier, Rashford was deployed at centre-forward by Solskjaer for the 0-0 draw against Liverpool at Anfield, and the 23-year-old struggled to make an impact. It's been a similar story whenever the England forward has played through the middle; equally, Anthony Martial has also found it difficult to convince Solskjaer that he is the answer as United's best centre-forward.

At 33, Cavani is clearly not the long-term solution either, but he's buying United time to either identify the best player to sign, or for Rashford or Martial to develop into masters of the role.

Solskjaer has already tried and failed to sign the outstanding young centre-forward in the game right now: United's move for Erling Haaland proved unsuccessful last season when the Norwegian chose Borussia Dortmund instead when leaving FC Salzburg. If or when Haaland becomes available again, United will be at the front of the queue to sign the 20-year-old. But they may already have missed their best chance to take him to Old Trafford, with competition for his signature likely to be much more intense than last time when he does decide to move on.

Therefore, United and Solskjaer might have to rely on Rashford developing into the answer, by working him alongside Cavani and having him learn from a player who has been one of the world's top centre-forwards for over a decade.

Does Rashford have it in his locker to become a centre-forward? He's unquestionably an attacking player of supreme talent, but Rashford's strengths at the moment are his pace, ability to cut inside from the left and readiness to shoot from distance. It requires many more attributes to be top class in the position.

United have had some great ones in recent years - Ruud van Nistelrooy, Wayne Rooney, Robin van Persie, Zlatan

Ibrahimovic - and they could all do things that Rashford still cannot do. They were able to play with their back to goal and were physically strong enough to withstand tight marking by defenders, outmuscle them to create space and take advantage of chances. They were all powerful in the air, able to score regularly with their head, and they all had the crucial discipline of being able to play through the centre of the pitch - within the narrow corridor the width of the "D" on the edge of the penalty area - to give their team a focal point that could receive the ball and hold up play for teammates to join attacks.

Most importantly, they each had a goal scorer's instinct that enabled them to sniff out and take chances others simply fail to see.

Bayern Munich's Robert Lewandowski is arguably the best example in the modern game of a true centre-forward, but Cavani is not far behind the Poland international. And at Fulham, he displayed all the qualities required of a great centre-forward, with endless workrate also part of his game.

Cavani chased down Fulham's defenders for the full 90 minutes and forced them into mistakes. His goal was another example of what a top striker can do: He pounced on a loose ball created by goalkeeper Alphonse Areola's failure to properly clear a cross and scored from the rebound before any defender was able to react. In the second half, he continued in the same vein and gave another example of his quality by almost scoring with a header after his movement and anticipation took him past Fulham's defenders and into the penalty area.

Rashford was on the bench when all this was happening and if he was soaking it up, he will have realised that Cavani can do so many things that he still can't.

Cavani's movement and ability to bend his runs, timing them so he's not caught offside, is a big lesson that Rashford must learn, but that can come with work on the training ground.

Whether Rashford can develop the other qualities remains to be seen. Will he be able to become physically strong enough to play as a centre-forward? Can he go against his natural instinct to run at goal and learn how to play with his back to it instead?

Can he become stronger in the air? And can he become more ruthless when he has a chance to score? Or should United simply encourage him to become even better as their left-sided attacker - he may have to fight Martial for that spot - and not risk sacrificing his qualities in order to make him the answer through the middle?

There are big questions to be addressed, both by Rashford and United, but unless they're able to make it second time lucky with Haaland, they both need Cavani to defy his age and continue to show how it's done.

FIFA's hollow threat to bar players from World Cup

By Leander Schaerlaeckens

THE revolution is coming. There's nothing soccer's governing bodies can do to stop it, that much is clear. A European super league is beginning to feel inevitable.

On Thursday, the New York Times reported that plans for such a breakaway continental competition, an alternative to the UEFA Champions League pushed by mega-clubs Real Madrid and Manchester United, are so advanced that funding is already being sought to pay each of the 20 would-be members a \$425 million fee for their commitment.

This new league has been rumored for a quarter century, pushed by the biggest and richest clubs as a way of keeping more of the vast wealth generated by their head-to-head matchups.

The Champions League has helped to enrich the big clubs, but it also funds UEFA, Europe's governing body, which redistributes some of that money to its member nations and the grassroots game. The big clubs have used the possibility of a super league as a cudgel to extract ever more money and guarantees from UEFA over the years. And it comes as no surprise that this latest push comes in the midst of negotiations over a revamped Champions League.

But this time around, the proposal to create a permanent class of elite teams - either 20 fixed clubs or 15 and five qualifiers - seems so close to happening that it has alarmed UEFA and FIFA enough to make threats.

FIFA and its six regional governing bodies said in a statement that any player or club to appear in such a breakaway league would be barred from competitions put on by those organizations. Which is to say that such defectors would no longer be eligible to play in the Champions League or national team tournaments like the World Cup or European Championship. They could, however, remain in their domestic leagues, unless those decide otherwise.

That's how you know that FIFA is powerless, and that UEFA is powerless, and that they are at the mercy of the



FIFA is threatening to bar players from the World Cup and other tournaments if they participate in the proposed European super league? Ohhh-kay. (Agencies)

clubs. There is no bite to their bark.

The clubs, for starters, would be delighted not to have to release their players to national teams any longer. The clubs pay the salaries - national teams give out relatively modest performance bonuses, for the most part - and are saddled with the repercussions of injuries. The players, for their part, might be disappointed to miss World Cups, although it might plausibly also come as a relief to some of them.

Oh, and the clubs couldn't appear in the Club World Cup any longer either. Which won't bother them any if a super league generates several hundred million dollars per club, as it projects to.

But it's a threat FIFA could never actually carry out. It's an entirely hollow

menace. Because if the biggest clubs in the world did indeed break away from UEFA's elite club competition, rendering their players ineligible for the World Cup, that tournament would be shorn of almost all of its star power. Rare is the player of a caliber capable of starring on the game's biggest stage who isn't already employed by one of those mega-clubs.

FIFA would be devouring its crown jewel event just to take a stand, cutting off its nose to spite its face. A World Cup without its stars isn't a World Cup at all, it's just some national B-teams playing a summer tournament. A World Cup without Messi and Ronaldo and Mbappe and Neymar would feel illegitimate. And FIFA's Club World Cup would like-

wise implode without Real Madrid and Barcelona or Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus competing in it.

The rush to a super league seems to have been propelled by the pandemic, which cost the big clubs hundreds of millions in missed revenue. What was that old adage about not letting a crisis go to waste? But it always felt likely that we would end up here eventually. Absent any kind of mechanisms to curb soccer's runaway capitalism - after UEFA's Financial Fair Play scheme to limit large outside investments turned out to be toothless - the rich and famous would never reroute themselves from the path to maximum riches and fame. This is all of a piece with England's biggest clubs proposing a scheme to consolidate their own grip on the Premier League in exchange for a payoff to the smaller ones.

Yet the proposed reform for the Champions League gives the big clubs a lot of what they want, generating more revenue and making it harder for the legacy teams to be knocked out. Still, they might just go it alone.

The governing bodies have lost this fight. All that's left for them is to express indignation and, quite reasonably, accuse the powerful clubs of selfishness. But they won't convince anybody that they would effectively euthanize what few money-making competitions they would have left as a matter of principle.

There's isn't anything to stop the clubs from doing what they want any longer. They're in charge now.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Rashford must learn from clinical Cavani, or Man United may need to sign Haaland

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



National U-20 football squad, Ngorongoro Heroes.

Mkude to resume training with Simba SC

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

SIMBA SC's Disciplinary Committee, under its chairman Suleiman Kova, the former Dar es Salaam Special Zone Police Commissioner, has announced the sentencing of the club's midfielder, Jonas Mkude, who was suspended by the management for misconduct.

According to Kova, the committee has given the midfielder 24 hours to apologize in writing while opening up to all offenses that led to the player being suspended on December 28, 2020.

The committee issued details on the offenses the midfielder was accused of committing, as well as his convictions.

Firstly, failure by the player to attend a seminar involving the outfit's players, technical bench and officials. The penalty is a fine of 1m/-.

Secondly, his delay in attending the outfit's camp while the squad was preparing for this season's Mainland Premier League game against Coastal Union.

The punishment he received was a severe reprimand and a fine of 1m/- and he was monitored for six months.

Thirdly, the midfielder's failure to report to the outfit's camp on December 26 last year without permission.

In this allegation, the committee found him not guilty after the committee had unmistakably confirmed the charge.

The Disciplinary Committee has also asked Mkude to return to the camp immediately to continue training and if he does not do so he will have committed another offense of misconduct. He is supposed to pay the fine within one month.

The committee has asked Mkude to apologize in writing within 24 hours.

Mkude has already apologized in a video clip to Simba fans for the act he did, whilst promising that he will never do it again.

During his sentencing hearing by the Disciplinary Committee, Mkude was absent from the side in a total of seven matches, four of which were for this year's Mapinduzi Cup competition, which was staged in Zanzibar.

He also missed one for this season's Federation Cup, one for the Mainland Premier League and one for the CAF Champions League.

Mkude's suspension was made public on December 28 last year, with the midfielder facing the punishment for alleged misconduct.

Following the statement, Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez said the saga was still undergoing disciplinary action and a statement would be issued.

On January 21, this year, Mkude, through his personal social media account, apologized and said there were issues between him and the Simba's leadership.

He disclosed: "I apologize to the players, members, fans, technical bench and management, I ask them to forgive me because a human being is at times wrong."

"What I promise you is, such a tendency will never happen again," Mkude said.

He said: "Mkude is a Simba player, the matter is with the committee, Mkude has not been expelled from Simba and of course after the committee had issued decision, he will return to the club, he is a senior player in Simba for 10 years."

Simba SC confirms French Didier Gomes da Rosa as new head coach

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC has officially announced on Sunday the signing of French coach Didier Gomes da Rosa replacing the departed Sven Vandebroek.

The 51-year-old Da Rosa was a free agent after departing from Sudan's side, Al Merreikh, on Saturday despite guiding the side to the 2020/21 CAF Champions League's group stage.

On Saturday he was reported to have paid his release clause after informing them he had received a better offer elsewhere.

Gomes said he is honoured to join Simba SC and he is eager to work with the club in the long time.

"I am very happy to be here (Simba SC) and we have the opportunity to do more together in the future," he disclosed.

After Vandebroek's abrupt departure a day after guiding Simba to the 2020/21 CAF Champions League group stage, assistant coach Selmani Matola was in charge of the team temporarily until the appointment of the new foreign coach.

Da Rosa is expected to take the outfit, alias 'Msimbazi Reds', to the semi-finals of the CAF Champions League and also make sure the club retains the Mainland Tanzania Premier League title.

The Tanzania representatives in the premier continental club competition qualified for tournament group stage for the third time after over-



New Simba SC's head coach, Didier Gomes da Rosa (L), signs a contract with the club in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Looking on (R) is Simba SC's Chief Executive Officer, Barbara Gonzalez, and the outfit's information officer, Haji Manara. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

coming Nigeria's Plateau United and Zimbabwe's FC Platinum in the two preliminary rounds.

Simba face a daunting task this year after they were once again drawn against Egypt's Al Ahly and DR Congo's AS Vita Club in Group A.

Simba will also have trips to Sudan to face Da Rosa's immediate former employers, Al Merreikh.

Da Rosa comes with lots of experience on the African scene as he has managed clubs in West and North Africa.

He had a successful stint with Cameroonian side, Coton Sport, from 2013 to 2015. He helped the side win the league title twice, the cup tournament once, besides reaching the CAF Confederation Cup semi-final.

It would not be the first time for Da Rosa to work in East Africa, as he previously guided Rwanda's Rayon Sport. He also led Algeria's CS Constantine in the 2015/2016 season.

The French coach guided the Algerian club to progression to the CAF Confederation Cup quarterfinals and also progression to the Algerian Cup tournament semi-finals.

He steered Guinea's AC Horoya to the CAF Champions League group stage last year before moving to Egypt's Al Ismail where he did not last long before joining Al Merreikh at the start of this season.

AFCON U-20 finals' draw set for today

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE draw for this year's Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) U-20 finals is expected to be held at the Hilton Hotel in Yaounde, Cameroon today starting at 5pm.

The draw involves national youth teams from the 12 countries that qualified to play in the tournament, which is expected to be played from February 14-March 4 in Mauritania.

They are Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gambia and Ghana.

Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uganda are as well expected to participate in the tournament.

The competition's draw may produce either three or four groups. Tanzania's national U-20 squad, Ngorongoro Heroes, qualified for the major junior tournament in Africa after reaching the final of the 2020 CECAFA U-20 Championship, held at Black Rhino Academy Stadium and Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium in Arusha.

Uganda emerged as the tournament champions after beating Tanzania 4-1 in the final.

A total of nine teams from Burundi, Djibouti, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia took part in the event, while Eritrea and Rwanda withdrew from it.

Ngorongoro Heroes' squad is already in camp in Arusha since January 13 preparing for the Mauritania tournament.

The team will know their opponents after today's draw.

Ngorongoro Heroes' head coach Jamhuri Kihwelu said they are now focusing their efforts on excelling in the competition and secure a place in the FIFA U-20 World Cup finals.

Kihwelu has successfully guided the Ngorongoro Heroes to the AFCON U-20 finals, to be played in Mauritania.

Four teams, which will book a place in the semi-finals of the AFCON U-20 finals, will automatically qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup finals, to be hosted by Indonesia from May 20 to June 12 next year. Kihwelu said despite conceding the 4-1 loss to Uganda in the 2020 CECAFA U-20 Championship's finals, he still believes his youngsters have great potential and will make extensive preparations to do well in Mauritania.

Former TGU boss Omar laid to rest

By Correspondent Mohamed Ugasa

FORMER Tanzania Golf Union (TGU) president, Alhaj Hussein Kajuna Omari 'HK', who passed away on Saturday, was laid to rest in Kanyigo, Kagera yesterday.

Omari, nicknamed 'HK' (80), was hospitalized barely few days ago as he looked well when he celebrated the new year.

According to one of his sons, Aziz, HK is survived by 10 children and a widow.

News of Omari's death reverberated let alone shocked the entire golfing fraternity in not only Tanzania but also across the East Africa Region.

Most of the golfers across the country were highly grief stricken when the news broke that Omari has permanently parted ways with the golfing world.

The burly Omari who joined Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) as

a member in mid 1970s, held several posts in both the club as well as the national golf governing body, TGU.

He used to play squash and won several titles before joining the world of recreational golfers.

He served as a president of the TGU for three terms that covered nine years before he stepped down voluntarily in 2002.

His last term ended in 2002 to open room for Gideon Sayore in an election held at Arusha Gymkhana Club after leading Tanzania to the first ever East African Golf Challenge Trophy tournament's victory.

Most of the regional golfers will always remember Omari for his generosity as well as engineering the establishment of EA Challenge Golf Trophy tournament in 1998 at the Arusha Gymkhana Club.

He came into discussion then agreement with the then Kenya Golf Union (KGU) Chairman, David Ngugi,

before the match play championship got underway a year later at the DGC. Kenya beat Tanzania by a single point to lift the inaugural title.

Under his leadership, Omari was seen as a role model when he featured in his four-ball recreational play twice in a week beside playing other tournaments.

Caddies across the Tanzanian clubs have always been appreciating his leadership and initiative by supporting them to feature in TGU-organised tournaments despite lacking club membership.

Tanzanian all time veteran golf professional Salim Mwanenza described Omari as a true leader whose services and advices will be missed.

His last victory in golf was British Airways Speed Golf at the Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club, three years after the late Victor Kimesera snatched the competition's title at the same venue.

Flexibles by David Chikoko



5 Sports
EATV
MONDAY
11:00 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Akili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SLELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 5SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Bongo Hits

TONIGHT @ 9:30

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10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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