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National Pg 3 HESLB vows to adhere to laws



National Pg 4 Z'bar fish farmers pleads for support



National Pg 6 Govt to distribute improved cattle



National Pg 7 Bakwata permits abattoir oversight



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Law Day hears new constitution demand

■ JPM promotes Kiswahili using judge to Court of Appeal



Tanzania Railways Corporation director general Masanja Kadogosa (2nd-L) has a word with a member of the business community at a function organised by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation and sponsored by NBC Bank. It brought together, among other people, private sector stakeholders and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (Tanzania) officials and was in relation to the implementation of the Mwanza-Isaka segment of the Standard Gauge Railway project. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Henry Mwangonde

CALL for a new Constitution for Tanzania, a process that has stalled since 2014, have reemerged in the wake of the Law Day national commemoration to mark 100 years of the High Court.

Veteran Opposition Leader Prof Ibrahim Lipumba used an opportunity granted to him by President John Magufuli, who graced the event in Dodoma, to revive the topic.

The Civic United Front (CUF) national chairman, who has since maintained that he will not talk of anything but the new constitution, challenged the president - who is serving his second and last term - to leave as huge legacy for Tanzania with a new constitution.

"Fortunately, most of the people close to you in your official duties including Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi and CCM Publicity Secretary Humphrey Polepole had prominent roles in the

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Traces of adapting to malaria found among African people

NORTH CAROLINA

MALARIA is an ancient scourge which is still leaving its mark on the human genome. And now, researchers have uncovered recent traces of adaptation to malaria in the DNA of people from Cabo Verde in West Africa.

An archipelago of ten islands in the Atlantic Ocean some 385 miles offshore from Senegal, Cabo Verde was uninhabited until the mid-1400s, when it was colonized by Portuguese sailors who brought enslaved Africans with them and started cultivating.

Those Africans carried a genetic mutation which the European colonists lacked, that prevents a type of malaria parasite known as Plasmodium vivax from invading red blood cells. Among malaria parasites, Plasmodium vivax is the most widespread, putting one third of the world's population at risk.

People who subsequently inherited the protective mutation as Africans and Europeans intermingled had such a huge survival advantage that within 20 generations, the proportion of islanders carrying the mutated gene was dominant.

Other examples of genetic adaptation in humans are thought to have unfolded over tens to hundreds of thousands of years. But the development of malaria resistance in Cabo Verde took around 500 years.

That is the blink of an eye on the scale of evolutionary time," said Iman Hamid, study first author and doctoral student at Duke University.

It is unsurprising that a gene that

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'Govt must test COVID-19 vaccines safety level first'

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has said it will not accept COVID-19 vaccination at the moment until intensive investigations are locally done to determine that the vaccines are safe.

This position was made clear by the Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Dorothy Gwajima, in remarks at a press conference yesterday in the capital, where she stated that several vaccines have been developed and are being used in other countries but Tanzania wasn't ready to accept them.

"The Tanzanian government has its procedures to follow when it comes to receiving any health products. This is usually decided after the government is



She urged people to stop engendering fear among the public on COVID-19 but rather educating others on ways to fight the spread of the infection

satisfied with the product," she said.

The minister explained that following reports of the second wave of COVID-19 in neighboring countries, the ministry has been receiving questions from various areas asking if it plans to accept COVID-19 vaccines.

The government will invest its efforts in educating and encouraging the public on traditional medicines taking, balanced diets as well as conducting body exercises, she asserted.

"The government through the Chief Chemist has tested and verified some traditional medicines which can provide great relief in respiratory disturbances and other chronic diseases, so we encourage the public to use these remedies," she

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Local councils' billboard levies restored, save on TARURA sites

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE government has returned the mandate to collect property tax and advertising fees for commercial billboards to local government authorities to facilitate proper revenue collection.

Local government authorities have again been mandated to oversee the exercise which was since July 1, 2017 shifted to the Tanzania Revenue Authority



(TRA).

The Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), Selemani Jafo (pictured) told a press conference that district council directors are required to administer the exercise promptly, taking up all rented property.

They must ensure that commercial officers and local officials in their

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Law Day hears new constitution demand

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(stalled) constitutional review commission," he said.

"Even (National Assembly Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson was an avid supporter of the new basic law and she led fellow academics in debates," he stated.

Prof Lipumba said the only legacy that will support Dr Magufuli's memorial was the new constitution, as "the president has all the people at hand for reference."

In his remarks, Chief Justice Prof Ibrahim Hamis Juma said a lot has been achieved by the judiciary in the 100 years of its existence but there was a lot to improve to match with the changing technology.

He called upon applicants for court services to consider arbitration facilities instead of litigation so as to ease caseload congestion in courts.

President Magufuli used the opportunity to call on

the judiciary to use Kiswahili in deliberations and written judgments to demonstrate Tanzania's sovereignty and cater for justice for those who do not understand English.

The president's call was in rapport with an earlier call by Vice President Samia who had challenged experts in Kiswahili to do more to promote the language locally, regionally and internationally for Tanzania to cement its position as the birthplace of the language.

Officiating at the launch of a two-day event to mark Kiswahili Day, the VP expressed concern that while the language is gaining momentum as a major international language little effort is done nationally to promote it.

The president used the occasion to promote High Court Judge for the Musoma Registry, Sephrine Galeba to the Court of Appeal for promoting Kiswahili. The judge recently issued a ruling in Kiswahili.

African youth activists warn over 'great danger' from climate chaos

By Special Correspondent

AFRICANS are facing worsening food and water insecurity among other threats from climate and weather extremes - but few grasp how and why they are at risk, or see global warming as a top policy priority, young African activists have warned.

"In school, it's taught as something in the future (that) we do not have to worry about," said Vanessa Nakate, a Ugandan Fridays for Future protester, via live video at a Stockholm press event with school climate strike

founder Greta Thunberg.

"If only the school institutions would teach the students it is something happening right now", that could unleash a new generation of activists and drive the problem up the agenda of African leaders, Nakate said.

Thunberg lent her star power on Friday to an effort to focus attention on climate threats facing Africa after young climate activists who tried to spread that message at the World Economic Forum in Davos last week were largely overlooked, she said.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdallah (2nd-R) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday launching the Tanzania Oncology Society. Photo: State House

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respective localities are involved in the exercise, he said.

"It is my hope that we will see an increase in the revenue collected from buildings and other sources so that the government can more adequately provide social services to the people," he said.

Other directives on the matter will be issued later, he said, noting that billboards earlier covered by TRA shift to local governments, excepting where levies are

Local councils' billboard levies restored, save on TARURA sites

collected by the Tanzania Rural Roads Authority (TARURA).

Property tax was previously collected by city councils, town councils and municipal authorities, but in 2016 property tax law gave TRA the mandate to estimate, calculate and collect taxes on buildings countrywide.

He also said identity cards for vendors for the year 2021 are ready and will be distributed in all the regions by the regional secretariats under the RC.

He said new IDs will contain essential particulars of a trader including photo, thus improve their recognition in banks and

other financial institutions.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has lately directed local authorities to allow hawkers and small-scale traders to operate with expired identity cards as the government prepares the new, improved ones whose issuance was slated to begin in April.



Venance Msafiri (L), a deputy registrar of co-operatives in Manyara Region, presents a certificate to Nangwa wheat farmers' primary cooperative society chairman Clement Fissou (R) yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Jaliwason Jasson

Govt must test COVID-19 vaccines safety levels first

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she stated. Regional medical officers, doctors in charge in major health centres and district health officers must work to strengthen systems to fight communicable and non-communicable diseases, she emphasised.

"This year, the government will invest in strengthening systems to fight communicable and non-communicable diseases. We will educate the public on the importance of body exercises, nutritional balance, frequent water drinking, plus facilitating

establishment of more health clubs and regular steam inhalation so as to have a nation which is free from a number of preventable diseases," the minister explained.

She urged people to stop engendering fear among the public on COVID-19 but rather educating others on ways to fight the spread of the infection.

The high expenses of COVID-19 tests do not arise from the government meaning to hurt its people but since that equipment

is purchased at high cost, she further noted.

Dr Godwin Mollé, the deputy minister, hinted that despite Tanzania being generally safe from COVID-19, the public has to take precautionary measures as advised by health experts.

"We have to ensure that we take nutritional foods every day. This means that we take more veggies, water and fruits to keep our bodies fit. This should also involve maintaining individual and environmental cleanliness," he added.

Traces of adapting to malaria found among African people

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protects people from malaria would give people who carry it an evolutionary edge, the researchers said. One of the oldest known diseases, malaria continues to claim up to a million lives each year, mostly among children.

The findings, recently published in the journal *eLife*, represent one of the speediest, most dramatic changes measured in the human genome, says a team led by Goldberg and Sandra Beleza of the University of Leicester.

The researchers analyzed DNA from 563 islanders. Using statistical methods they developed for people with mixed ancestry, they compared the island of Santiago, where malaria has always been a fact of life, with other islands of Cabo Verde, where the disease has been less prevalent.

The team found that the frequency of the protective mutation on Santiago is higher than expected today, given how much of the islanders' ancestry can be traced back to Africa versus Europe.

In other words, the chances of a person surviving and having a family thanks to their genetic code -- the strength of selection -- were so great that the protective variant spread above and beyond the contributions of the Africans who arrived on Santiago's shores.

The same was not true elsewhere in the archipelago.

The team's analyses also showed that as the protective mutation spread, nearby stretches of African-like DNA hitchhiked along with it, but only on malaria-plagued Santiago and not on other Cabo Verdean islands.

Together, the results suggest that what they were detecting was the result of adaptation in the recent past, in the few hundred years since the islands were settled, and not merely the lingering imprint of processes that happened long ago in Africa.

Humans are constantly evolving, but evidence of recent genetic adaptation -- during the last 10 to 100 generations -- has been hard to find. Part of the problem is that, on such short timescales, changes in gene frequencies can be hard to detect using traditional statistical methods.

But by using patterns of genetic ancestry to help reconstruct the Cabo Verdean islanders' history, the researchers were able to detect evolutionary changes that previous techniques missed.

The authors hope to extend their methods to study other populations where mass migration means migrants are exposed to different diseases and environments than they were before. "Humans are still evolving, and here we have evidence," the lead researcher added.

VisionFund

CORRECTION

VISIONFUND TANZANIA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED LOGO

The January 29, 2021 issue of The Guardian carried a VISIONFUND TANZANIA MICROFINANCE BANK LIMITED financial statement. Unfortunately, it carried the wrong logo. The correct one is as appears above.

We sincerely regret the error, which was due to a technical hitch, and apologise for any inconvenience it will have caused.

Editor



A resident of Namelock village in Kiteto District assists Kiteto legislator Edward ole Lekaita (in glasses) put on traditional Maasai attire. This was at a fundraiser in support of the construction of Orpikata kindergarten school held at the village at the weekend. A total of 8m/- was realised. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Energy minister: We will soon start construction of two hydroelectric power plants in Njombe Region

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya,

Njombe

ENERGY minister Dr Medard Kalemani has said that the government will soon start construction of two hydropower projects in Njombe Region with the capacity of generating 580 MW.

The projects involve the construction of the Rumakali and Ruhudji hydroelectric power plants which will have capacities of 222 MW and 358 MW respectively.

He made the remarks here during his official tour in the region saying that the designing work of the project is in the final stages paving way for the tendering process to begin.

“We now hope to enter the second stage of announcing tenders to find eligible contractors who will be able to produce quality projects,” Dr Kalemani said.

He said that once the construction work begins, the projects are expected to be completed within three years and thus add 580MW to the National Grid.

“Currently the country has the capacity to spend up to 1400MW, but the National Grid has 1602 megawatts. So more efforts are being taken to add power in the grid,” he said.

The minister also urged residents in Njombe to prepare to receive both projects and be able to seize all opportunities so as to earn income.

He also wanted the resident to protect water sources, take care of the environment and all electrical infrastructures for them to benefit the current and future

generations.

Njombe Regional Commissioner, Marwa Rubirya commended the government for implementing the two important projects whose research was conducted many years ago.

Rubirya said the projects will open up opportunities and stimulate economic growth in Njombe Region and surrounding areas.

Eng Pakaya Mtamakaya, deputy director of electricity production from the Tanzania Electric Supply Company Limited (Tanesco) said the project will also involve the construction of two transmission lines to transport the electricity of 400 kilovolts.

The first route will be built from Ruamakali to the Mwakibete Mbeya Station and the second from the Ruhudji area to the Iringa Regional substation to enable the transmission of electricity to the National Grid and to be used in various regions in the country,” he said.



We now hope to enter the second stage of announcing tenders to find eligible contractors who will be able to produce quality projects

By Guardian Reporter

HIGHER Education Students Loans Board (HESLB) executive director Abdul-Razaq Badru has said the institution will continue to abide by guidelines, laws, regulations and procedures of the public service in serving its customers.

Speaking yesterday at the closing of the seminar for capacity building to HESLB officials, Badru said HESLB is among public institutions that touch on various groups in the society; hence it is responsible in having in place

HESLB vows to continue adhering to laws and guidelines on public service

robust strategies in serving its customers.

In the circumstances, he said, his office was preparing various guidelines for its staff to empower them on how best to serve the customers as well as dealing with various complaints that arise.

He also said through various presentations made at the meeting, it was now appropriate

time for every HESLB officer to ponder his position and responsibility thereon in implementing his responsibilities in accordance with the guidelines.

Earlier, HESLB Director of Finance and Administration, Neema Kiwite said due to the training’s importance, her office was organizing a plan for training on how to serve customers at

work places.

“During the just ended training seminar we have received advices, opinions and recommendations from our staff on how best to serve our customers,” she said.

The two-day training brought together 140 officers from HESLB headquarters, its zonal offices in Dodoma, Zanzibar, Mwanza, Mtwara, Arusha and Mbeya.

From herbal mediation to antiretroviral therapy: HIV-positive mother, baby get the care they need

By Guardian Reporter

Fazila, a 31-year-old mother from Masasi, Tanzania, was pregnant with her fourth child when she learned she was HIV-positive. The revelation was almost too much for her to bear. She made sense of it the best way she knew how: She blamed her diagnosis on misfortune, witchcraft and the work of bad spirits, a belief that is common here. Lacking knowledge about HIV causes and treatment, Fazila dropped out of her antenatal care visits and stopped taking her antiretroviral therapy medication, or ART. Instead she sought help from a traditional healer and began using herbal medicines. Last February, her son Jamal was born. He tested positive for HIV, and soon he and Fazila both became seriously ill with opportunistic diseases. Still, Fazila continued to take only herbal medicine.

Just when Fazila and Jamal needed it most, Kizazi Kipya entered their lives. With funding from USAID/PEPFAR, Pact began implementing Kizazi Kipya, or “New Generation,” across Tanzania in 2016. The project works to improve the lives of HIV-exposed infants and their mothers by helping them overcome barriers to HIV services, and by improving access to comprehensive services for their health, nutrition, education, protection, livelihood development and psycho-social wellbeing.

Kikundi Mwavuli Masasi, or KIMAS, is the project’s local society organization partner. Together with Tanzania’s government, KIMAS trains and

supervises community case workers to identify and manage cases like Fazila’s. The case workers track the children of HIV-positive mothers to link them to testing and treatment.

Case worker Bernadetha Charles first learned about Fazila from the staff of a testing clinic she visited. The clinic helped connect Bernadetha and Fazila, and soon Fazila and Jamal were enrolled in Kizazi Kipya.

Bernadetha accompanied Fazila and her baby to the local health facility, where they received clinical and laboratory services, and Fazila restarted ART. Her other three children were tested and confirmed to be HIV-negative. Initially, Fazila was reluctant to accept HIV retesting for Jamal, but through persistent follow-up and counseling, she agreed to a second, confirmatory test. Jamal, who was already on ART, was diagnosed with severe malnutrition and treated with therapeutic milk products.

A year later, Fazila and Jamal’s health has improved considerably. They continue to take ART.

“I thank God and I thank my case workers for lifting me from the darkness and enlightening me to see sense and to obtain authentic services that have improved my health and made me who I am today,” Fazila says.

According to researchers globally, around 36.9 million people are living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). In Africa alone, 25.7 million people are living with HIV, and in 2018, 1.1 million Africans were infected with HIV and 470,000 Africans died from AIDS-related disease. By the end of 2017, only 15.3 million people infected with HIV in Africa were accessing life-saving antiretroviral drugs.



In African countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, the overall prevalence of HIV resistance is 5.6%; this includes 3.3% associated with non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTI). People living with HIV who develop drug-resistant HIV have few other treatment options except regimens based on ritonavir-boosted protease inhibitors.

Still, protease and integrase inhibitors result in inferior virological outcomes, more HIV resistance, and are less likely to be recommended within current treatment protocols. Severe liver toxicity affects 8-23% of HIV-infected patients receiving indinavir and tenofovir, and combination antiretroviral therapy (cART) is associated with

nephrotoxicity. Development of HIV-resistance and toxicity subtract from the efficacy of and adherence to cART. Against this backdrop, use of anti-HIV/AIDS medicinal plants provides a complementary treatment option that might significantly improve the quality of life for patients.

This potential use to complement existing therapies and the search for new anti-HIV medications are the two foci of this Research Topic. However, in the management of HIV/AIDS, as in many other diseases, medicinal plants have been misunderstood by patients, medical doctors, and the general public. However, as natural remedies continue to make a dramatic comeback, it is important to evaluate which medicinal plants have the potential to specifically work against which HIV-linked opportunistic disease and in what

setting or provide support during the course of the disease.

Of course, medicinal plants are not a silver-bullet solution to HIV/AIDS. They do not replace the need for antiretroviral drugs but they do increase the options available to many HIV/AIDS patients in Africa’s resource-limited settings, especially those faced by side-effects, drug resistance and treatment failure. For example, patients with HIV drug resistance or those suffering from liver and kidney toxicity tend to use medicinal plants improve their health.

Several plants are known to inhibit HIV-1 reverse transcriptase: *Adansonia digitata* L., *Terminalia sericea* Burch. ex DC., *Hypoxis hemerocallidea* Fisch., *C.A.Mey. & Avé-Lall.*, and *Moringa oleifera* Lam. While these plants are used by patients as complementary

therapy, public health systems in Africa have not yet accepted the efficacy and safety of these herbal anti-HIV/AIDS preparations obtained from in vitro studies, more so because challenges of adverse interactions with synthetic antiretroviral drugs have not yet investigated in any detail. Despite these challenges, ethnopharmacology has an important role to play because the structure of several active anti-HIV-1 reverse transcriptase compounds from African plants mimics known nucleoside analogues found in synthetic antiretrovirals.

If it is well used, phytotherapy, especially in the context of African medicinal plants, may soon result in the discovery of novel antiretrovirals that could be developed for stubborn and drug-resistant HIV-1 and AIDS-related opportunistic diseases including cancer, tuberculosis, malaria, and skin, oral or sexually transmitted infections. As synthetic antiretroviral drugs begin to flounder, there is a real sense of expectation for finding and testing novel antiretroviral drugs from African plants used in traditional medicine.

Working at the crossroads of indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants and HIV/AIDS, in the field known as Reverse Pharmacology, African scientists hope to shorten the classical route of antiretroviral drug discovery. The focus of this Research Topic is to demystify the use of natural remedies from plants and to bring the efficacy and safety of medicinal plants that are used to manage HIV/AIDS in Africa to the forefront of current knowledge in antimicrobial and pharmacological research.

Agriculture ministry all out to give higher priority to research

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

THE Ministry of Agriculture says in its 2021/22 budget it will ensure to give priority in research and improvement of extension services to make the agricultural sector more beneficial.

This was revealed here at the weekend by the Agriculture Minister Prof Adolf Mkenda during his closing speech at a meeting that brought together ministry's officials and stakeholders in the country's extension services.

He said in order to have profitable agriculture, the country should invest in research for higher achievements.

Prof Mkenda said in order to increase crops production, research was needed to get quality seeds.

"In our coming budget we shall concentrate in research work even if it would be necessary to slash other expenditures such as purchase of vehicles and allowances," he said.

He added: "It is said that origin of oil palm is here in Tanzania, and it leads in edible oil production, but you can clearly see that the Malaysians are producing more

than us."

He said in Malaysia one hectare of oil palm produces 10 tonnes of the crop, but here in Tanzania one hectare produces only 1.6 tonnes of the crop, hence, he added, "We cannot compete with them, hence we need to do more research to get quality oil palm seeds."

In the circumstances, he said, the ministry was working together with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) to conduct research on seeds and has so far succeeded to come up with seeds that can produce 5 tonnes of the crop per hectare.

Livingstone Lusinde, a Member of Agriculture, Livestock and Water Parliamentary Committee said in order to make the agriculture sector beneficial, great revolution thereof is needed.

He said due to the importance of agriculture in the country the issue needs in-depth debate in the ruling party in order to push up for a great revolution in agriculture.

"In our coming budget we shall concentrate in research work even if it would be necessary to slash other expenditures such as purchase of vehicles and allowances"



Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula (R) exchanges greetings with Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disabilities), Ummu Nderiananga, when they met in Musoma municipality at the weekend while on official tours. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Reporter, Zanzibar

Z'bar fish farmer appeals for govt assistance

ZANZIBAR vegetable farmer Muhammed Ali Suleman has decided to switch to fresh water fish farming and has appealed to the government and other sponsors to assist him with modern fish farming equipment.

He said he decided to employ himself and to employ other young people in his new business

due to high cost in his former vegetable farming business.

Suleman was speaking to this paper at the weekend on his new business in catfish farming, adding that he trusts fish farming to be more beneficial to him than vegetable farming.

He said he has 30,000 fish in his ponds, whose fingerlings he obtained from natural dams and others from the Department of Fisheries, and so far he has already sold more than 20 tonnes of the fish.

Suleman further said catfish

demand in the market was big and the only problem was the availability of the fingerlings.

He also said he is in need of education for the business, modern fish farming gear and a plant for producing fingerlings.

"I do not really know the age

of the catfish that I have hence I need education in fish farming to develop the business in a modern way," he said.

He said his aim in fish farming is to also make it as a tourist attraction to be visited by various tourists from within and outside

the country.

He therefore asked for government assistance as he will be able to provide employment to other people as well as pay taxes to the government.

"As of now what I need most is the plant for production of fingerlings and electricity because there was no electricity in the rural area he lives," he added.



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INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. TMEA is supporting several initiatives aimed at improving regional prosperity through reduced barriers to trade and improved business competitiveness. Through its long-term technical support to various institutions and agencies in East Africa, TMEA invites bids from eligible bidders for:

- CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DIAGNOSTIC STUDY OF ETHIOPIAN TRADE CORRIDORS PERFORMANCE AND SELECTED VALUE CHAINS ANALYSIS AMIDST COVID-19 AND BEYOND [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200547].
- SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM ICT INFRASTRUCTURE [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200539]; AND,
- SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF COVID-19 LABORATORY EQUIPMENT AND CONSUMABLES FOR UGANDA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (UNBS) [TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200347].

The tender documents for each tender can be obtained at <https://www.trademarka.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting each tender title and number in the email subject should be emailed to procurement@trademarka.com.

Interested bidders MUST submit separate technical and financial proposals via TMEA procurement mailbox at the address procurement@trademarka.com. The closing date for submission of bids is stipulated in the tender documents. Only applications from firms/consortiums shall be accepted.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to this tender 7 days or less prior to the submission deadline

Explore municipal councils' funds to scale up businesses, youth urged

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIAN youth have been urged to effectively use the 4 percent youth funds from the municipal councils to scale up their businesses.

Municipal councils in the country allocate 10 percent of their revenue collections to improve citizen livelihood economically. These funds are provided as loans with no interest to groups of women, youth, and people with disabilities. Of those funds, 4 percent is allocated for youth in the form of a revolving fund. "And this is where we want youth to explore those loans and beef up their businesses," said Mgunga Mwa Mnyenyelwa, executive director of Babawatoto Organisation (BAO).

He was speaking at the one-day reflection meeting of the Vijana Twende project, which kicked off last year, where youth were being empowered on how they can get

access to the soft loans offered by municipal councils to scale up their businesses.

The meeting brought onboard youth and officials from three municipalities of Ilala, Kigamboni, and Kinondoni.

Mwa Mnyenyelwa said: "We're encouraging youth to refrain from complaining about lack of start-up capital, but they should use this window of getting loans from the municipalities to venture into businesses."

He also challenged them to take entrepreneurship as a battlefield and exercise financial discipline for them to excel in their various business endeavors. "We want to see youth venture into different business projects through these municipal council funds for their own benefits and the country at large," he said.

According to him, the initiative seeks to complement the government's efforts to empower youth in different aspects of life.

Lucas Kifyasi, programme officer at the Youth of United Nations Association (YUNA) commended the government for coming up with the fund for people who are unable to get start-up capital in financial institutions, describing the fund as sustainable as it comes from the municipal councils' internal revenue collections.

He however said that the challenge is the number of beneficiaries in a group, whereby rules and regulations state that the group seeking a loan should have 10 people; "but, we're saying that this number is bigger and should be reduced to at least five people."

"We're working closely with the Regional Administration and Local Government (RALG) so that the rules and regulations are reviewed, particularly on the number of people in the group which is seeking loans from the municipal council," he said.



CRDB Bank Plc CEO and managing director Abdulmajid Nsekela (C) has word with chief commercial officer Dr Joseph Witts (R) on the sidelines of an event organised by the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation on the Mwanza-Isaka segment of the Standard Gauge Railway project. Left is the bank's director of corporate banking, Prosper Nambaya. Photo: Guardian Correspondent



Buzwagi and Bulyanhulu Gold mining official Benedict Busunzu (3rd-R) presents a dummy cheque for over 1.6bn/- at the weekend to Kahama district commissioner Anamringi Macha (3rd-L) as royalty to Kahama municipality. Photo: Correspondent Shaban Njira

‘Courts, prisons in Geita Region deserve urgent decongestion’

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE head of National Prosecutions Services in Geita Region, Bibiana Kileo, has appealed to the government to build prisons in Bukombe and Nyanghwale districts in order to reduce congestion of prisoners and remandees.

Kileo issued the appeal here yesterday when speaking to this paper during celebrations to mark Law Week and 100 Years of the High Court.

Kileo said: “Up to now our region has only one prison for Geita and Chato districts. We have no regional or district prisons for Nyanghwale, Bukombe and Mbogwe districts.”

He also said some court officials do not abide by laws and procedures governing justice dispensation causing some people being denied justice from the courts thereby making many of them to have no confidence in the courts resulting in many of them taking the law in their own hands.

He said there was still big challenges in regard to courts infrastructures, especially court buildings in Mbogwe and Nyanghwale districts.

“We are of the opinion that the Judiciary should see the importance of building courts in these districts to simplify judicial business in their respective areas,” he added.

Geita Regional Commissioner Robert Gabriel who was the guest of honour at the event said the main foundation of justice comes from God.

He said the increase of crime stems from the fact that many people spurn God causing the disappearance of justice in the society.

He also said the courts has an important function in the maintenance of peace in the society by dispensing justice in their timely judgements.

He also said there was the great challenge from inadequate of courts and prisons in various districts of Geita Region therefore making it difficult to dispense justice.

He also called on the people to desist from taking the law in their own hands due to not being satisfied by rulings from the courts.

“We are of the opinion that the Judiciary should see the importance of building courts in these districts to simplify judicial business in their respective areas”

Kaliua District collects 2 billion/- in revenue in first half of FY 2020/21

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

KALIUA District Council in Tabora Region has collected a total of 2bn/- from its internal revenue sources in the first six months of the current Financial year.

The sum is equivalent to 67.1 per cent of the 3bn/- targeted by the Council for the 2020/21 Financial year.

This was revealed yesterday by the council’s chairman Japhael Lufungija when submitting report on

the implementation of the council business plan for the period July to December last year at the councillors meeting.

He called on council officials to ensure they increase the pace of revenue collection as well as exercising high degree of ethics in order for the council to meet the set collection target and even surpassing it.

Lufungija said during the period the council was also able to provide

290m/- in loans to various vulnerable groups from the 10 per cent of its internal revenue collection.

He said out of the sum, 156m/- was provided to 17 youth groups and 119m/- to 23 women groups, adding that 15m/- was extended to five groups of people with disabilities.

He called on the borrowers to repay the loans in time so that other groups could also benefit from the loans.

Meanwhile, the council chairman

said during the period the council has continued to purchase building materials for the construction of infrastructures for primary and secondary schools costing 147m/-.

He added that they have also distributed 1,692 roofing sheets out of 4,308 in wards that had finalized school buildings.

He said they have also distributed 1,410 bags of cement for the construction of 10 classrooms in various wards,



Plan International Tanzania, Kigoma Emergency Response

Request for Bids (RFQ) for Provision of Catering Services in Kakonko, Kibondo and Makere-Kasulu

Districts-Kigoma Region. RFQ No. PIT/ER/FY21/02.

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan’s mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu Districts). Plan International Tanzania directly sponsored 30,000 children and support directly more than 2.4 million people in the program areas. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide.
- Plan International Tanzania has set aside funds for program implementation and operations. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the funds will be used to cover eligible payment for provision of catering services during trainings, officials’ meetings, seminars etc. for a period the period between March 2021 - June 2022. As per below Lot numbers indicates;

Lot No	General Description	Location
1	Provision of Food and soft drinks (Catering) Service during seminars/meetings and trainings	Emergency Response Programme, Kibondo-Kigoma. Main office
2	Provision of Food and soft drinks (Catering) Service during seminars/meetings and trainings	Emergency Response Programme, Kibondo-Kigoma. Nduta camp
3	Provision of Food and soft drinks (Catering) Service during seminars/meetings and trainings	Emergency Response Programme, Kibondo-Kigoma. Mtendeli camp
4	Provision of Food and soft drinks (Catering) Service during seminars/meetings and trainings	Emergency Response Programme, Makere centre Kasulu – Kigoma.

Bidders may quote for one, two or all Lots, but for each Lot, bidders must quote for all items. Bids not quoting for all items and quantities in a Lot will be considered non-responsive and rejected for that Lot.

- Interested eligible bidders are invited and must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders.kibondo@plan-international.org. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email or be collected at Plan International, Kibondo office. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
- Bidders are hereby requested to send their bid documents in plain sealed envelope by hand to Plan International Tanzania, Country Office P.O Box 3517 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania OR to Plan International Tanzania, Kibondo offices P.O Box 40 Kibondo, Kigoma. Deadline for submission is 10AM, Monday 15th February 2021. Marked “the tender description, the RFQ and Lot Number Applied”, not to be opened before 10AM, Monday 15th February 2021.
- Late bids and electronic bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

Tender Panel
Plan International Tanzania
Kibondo Emergency Response Program



Request for Quotation (RFQ)

RFQ Number: PIT/ER/FY21/03

Provision of Vehicle Hire Services Plan International Tanzania, Kigoma ER office

- Plan International Tanzania is an International humanitarian child-centered development organization without religious, political or government affiliation. Plan’s mission is to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning to their lives. Plan Tanzania has a physical presence and implements projects in the following Regions: Dar Es Salaam, Coast, Morogoro, Geita, Dodoma, Mwanza, Rukwa, Kigoma (Refugees Emergency Program in Kibondo, Kakonko and Kasulu Districts). Plan International Tanzania directly sponsored 30,000 children and support directly more than 2.4 million people in the program areas. Plan Tanzania also works with other stakeholders in various projects countrywide.
- Plan International Tanzania is therefore issuing this request for bids to interested suppliers for provision of the vehicle hire services during the year 2020/2021 as indicated below;

S/No.	General Description	Location
1	Vehicle Hire; 1-unit 4WD Station Wagon and 1-unit Mini Bus	Kibondo district, Kigoma

- Interested eligible bidders must confirm their intention to bid indicating all relevant contact information including an email address to tenders.kibondo@plan-international.org Att: Procurement and Logistics Manager. Bidding documents in the English language will be sent to interested bidders by email or be collected at Plan International, Kibondo office. Plan Tanzania will not be held responsible for any costs related to printing of the bid documents.
- Bidders are hereby requested to send their bid documents in plain sealed envelope by hand to Plan International Tanzania, Country Office P.O Box 3517 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania OR to Plan International Tanzania, Kibondo offices P.O Box 40 Kibondo, Kigoma. Deadline for submission is before 10AM, Monday 15th February 2021. Marked “the tender description and the RFQ Number above”, not to be opened before 10AM, Monday 15th February 2021.
- Late bids and electronic bids shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

Tender Panel
Plan International Tanzania
Kibondo Emergency Response Program

Ministry ready to distribute improved cattle breeds to farmers to boost production

By Correspondent Cheji Bakari,

Tanga

THE government has unveiled plans to distribute the improved cattle breeds to livestock keepers to boost their income as well as meat and milk production.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Mashimba Ndaki revealed the plan here over the weekend during his tour at the Tanga Fresh milk processing factory, where he held talks with workers and livestock keepers.

The cattle breeds will be produced using modern cattle breeding methods including artificial insemination (AI) using the best heifers.

Under the programme, livestock keepers in Tanga Region will be distributed with 1000 modern cattle breeds to enable them to produce more milk to be sold at the Tanga Fresh milk processing factory and to the residents.

Ndaki was concerned that despite the good number of cattle that Tanzania has, the contribution of the livestock sub-sector to the national income stands at 7.4 percent.

According to the minister, the country has a total of 4.6 million livestock keepers.

"The country's milk production is still low because most dairy farmers keep traditional cattle breeds. We want to distribute them with the best cattle breeds and help them adopt modern dairy farming methods," said Ndaki noting the sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) will increase.

He said most of the livestock keepers are still poor because they don't produce enough milk and meat.

The government produced 1,062 dairy heifers at its Arusha based National Artificial Insemination Centre (NAIC) between July 2019 and March 2020.

However, between July 2019 and March 2020, a total of 134 heifers were produced through AI at the Kitulo dairy farm and National Ranching Company Limited (NARCO).

The quality cattle breeds were distributed to various state-owned dairy farms across the country for the production of a dairy calf that will later be distributed to dairy farmers.

Tanzania is rich in livestock resources with a total of 32.2 million cattle.

According to data from Tanzania Dairy Board (TDB), the livestock sector contributes 7.4 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) whereby 30 percent of it is from the dairy industry.

According to the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Tanzania has a low-level consumption of milk and dairy products which is 45 liters per capita per year, against the recommended 200 liters annually.

The yearly amount of milk produced in Tanzania is 2.4 billion liters but less than 10 percent of the milk produced is processed.



The country's milk production is still low because most dairy farmers keep traditional cattle breeds. We want to distribute them with the best cattle breeds and help them adopt modern dairy farming methods



Bakari Mwanjiro, Rural Water and Sanitation manager in Babati District, disembarks from a water tank at Endakiso village after inspecting it at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Jailwason Jasson

By Guardian Correspondent, Chunya

Chunya DC cautions tobacco farmers against child labour

AUTHORITIES in Chunya District, Mbeya Region has cautioned some tobacco farmers in the district to stop employing children as farm labourers saying whoever does so will be dealt with according to the law.

The farmers have been using children as farm hands to evade the high cost in employing adults whose wages are negotiated.

In addition, it is claimed that children are often psychologically and sexually abused and that many of them come from poor families including orphans.

The caution was given at the

weekend by the Chunya District Commissioner Simon Mayeka at the opening of tobacco farmers meeting.

Mayeka said the big problem in employing children in the district is the low pay they receive, and that stems from their families' abject poverty.

"We went to some villages including Mafyeko, Kambikatoto where much tobacco is grown and where there is rampant

employment of children. We have begun taking steps to rein in the situation that violates the 2009 law of the child and other international protocols," he said.

He called on tobacco farmers to be good ambassadors and if there are some who employ children in their farms to stop the practice.

Chunya Tobacco Co-operative Union limited (CHUTCU LTD) Acting General Manager Juma Nshinshi called on farmers'

leaders to continue educating the farmers on the issue of employing children as farm hands.

Nshinshi said employing children in farms was illegal because tobacco buyers worldwide oppose buying crops produced using child labour.

"We can all miss the tobacco market that we have if it is found that some farmers use children in their farms, hence all those doing so must stop," he added.



Mwerika Makeseni, chairman of Naisinyai village in Simanjoro District, addresses a meeting at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

100 herbalists to benefit from TIRDO value addition training

By Correspondent Michael

Sikapundwa, Morogoro

OVER 100 herbalists from the southern highlands and eastern part of the country are set to benefit from training on value addition to their traditional medicines to be offered by the Tanzania Industrial Research and Development Organisation (TIRDO).

TIRDO's researcher from Agro-processing and industrial chemistry division, Jacqueline Mwendwa, said this over the weekend at an agro-products trade fair that involved herbalists from eastern and southern regions.

Medicines exhibited at the trade fair includes alternative medicine such as anticancer and ant allergic, organized by Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) in Morogoro Region.

She said TIRDO has noted that local products do not compete in international and local markets due to lack of mechanisms to control chemicals, a move that made them carry out research hence provide technical services to industries.

"We invite herbalists, factory

owners and others specialized in alternative medicine to assist them and to share knowledge on how to add value to their products," she disclosed.

One of the beneficiaries, Prof Hamis Malebo who came for the promotion of herbal medicine namely "COVIDOL" said from technical support in research about trees and their function in curing many diseases, he managed to produce an oral liquid that possesses antiviral, antibacterial, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, anti-asthma and anticoagulant effects.

While visiting Prof Malebo's pavilion former prime minister, Fredrick Sumaye said he has been using COVIDOL as precaution, then he realized it was useful for respiratory disorders, and called upon Tanzanians to maintain a culture of taking alternative medicines as it was available in their surroundings.

"Alternative medicines are cheap and a source of income for indigenous herbalists who are left behind while their medicines are useful since a long time ago, Germany applies alternative medicine by 80-percent why not Tanzanians who are blessed with various tree species," he stressed.

Govt launches plan to resolve disputes in labour and employment sectors

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE government has officially launched the plan to listen to and deal with reports of complaints in the labour and employment sector in order to control some unfaithful leaders of trade unions who misuse their positions by soliciting bribes during employers-workers disputes.

Through the plan, the government has established a task force for special inspection in the labour and employment sector aimed at solving challenges and ensuring a friendly environment for workers, employers, and other stakeholders.

The launch was held in Morogoro and attended by leaders of various trade unions, employers' organisations,

officials from the Prime Minister's Office, ILO Director, and other institutions under the parent Ministry including WCF, NSSF, PSSSF, OSHA and the Morogoro Regional Commissioner, Loata Ole Sanare.

Launching the plan, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Coordination, Parliamentary Affairs, Youth and People with

disabilities Jenista Mhagama equated the plan to an initial clinic in assisting workers, employers, and the people, in general, to discuss their problems before reaching higher decision making organs.

She said another aim for the "clinic" is to assist stakeholders to understand the correct authority to refer complaints against the sectors for solutions.

She called on all stakeholders to fully use the plan since it can also deal with stakeholder's complaints by having in place a procedure in providing education and advice to all those concerned thereby controlling bribes by unfaithful union officials.

For his part, ILO Country Representative Maridadi Phanuel praised the government step for

establishing the system as it would help in the reduction of conflicts at workplaces and promised to support the efforts for positive results.

However, he said ILO will continue to work together with the government, employers' associations, and trade unions in order to push for tripartite meetings aimed at solving challenges in the labour sector.

Morogoro MC allocated 470m/- to upgrade clogged drainage system

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

MOROGORO Municipal Council in collaboration with Tanzania Rural and Urban Road Agency (TARURA) has allocated 470m/- to upgrade its dilapidated drainage system, which brings business to a halt every rainy season.

The amount which will be dished out by TARURA (370m/-) and the municipal council (100m/-), will be used to improve the existing drainage system at the heart of the municipality, as well as refurbishing the 350km canal that pours water into the Morogoro River.

"The idea is to create a conducive working environment for businessmen and women who do business at the Morogoro main market, who for years are being troubled in every rainy season," said

Leopold Runji, TARURA municipal manager.

According to him, the current canal is overwhelmed with solid waste, as people in the city use it as a dumping site, the situation that makes it unable to transport water, hence causing floods at the town centre causing mayhem to the public and business people at the market.

The project is to be implemented by Iwawa Civil Building Work Company Limited (ICBWK), according to TARURA officials.

The project is to be executed in less than 45 days and the contractor is being tasked to build day and night.

"As TARURA, we've instructed public and private companies to remove their utilities like telecommunication fibers, water pipes, and electricity posts to enable the contractor to complete the project within the

expected time," Eng Runji said.

Managing director of the Morogoro Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (MORUWASA), Eng Tamim Katakweba, said there's a mutual relationship with TARURA as among of public sector whose target is to provide quality services to people.

"My office has already responded to the government's order of removing water infrastructure along with the project," he stressed.



My office has already responded to the government's order of removing water infrastructure along with the project

Bakwata grants permit to meat company to supervise abattoirs

By Guardian Correspondent

IN a bid to ensure that the meat produced has all the required standards the Muslim Council of Tanzania (Bakwata) has issued permit to the Mico Halal International Bureau to supervise all abattoirs in the country.

The company's secretary Sheikh Jumanne Kasonso told journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the job began effectively from January, this year.

"Mico has been given permit by the Bakwata to ensure that the meat produced in all slaughterhouses in the country is clean and safe for consumers' health, the firm will also be issuing permits for those who produce the meat for export," he said.

He said that apart from measuring the quality of the meat, Mico will be providing training to traders on quality slaughtering procedures as well as certification to the meat produce for export.

He added: "We will be also monitoring food and beverage standards to ensure Tanzanians

have access to quality services and do not suffer health problems due to low standard products."

He named some of the animals which the firm has been supervising to ensure that their meat has all standards and safe for consumption as goats, cattle, sheep and birds.

Sheikh Kasonso said the company has purchased special and state-of-the-art machines that will be used in meat testing to determine if they are fit for human consumption.

He called on the public to ensure that they eat only verified meat which is free from diseases.

"There are some medicines that if an animal is given, then its meat should not be eaten within 30 days while its milk should not be consumed for seven days after the medication," he added.

He further added that response has been great since the firm commenced providing the service in January, this year where traders were flocking in the office to seek permits.



RE- ADVERTISED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF FUEL AND LUBES CONTAINER FACILITY TO BE PROCURED BY GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED (GGML), TANZANIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of procuring Fuel and Lubes Container Facility and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the provision of various goods and or services for any of the below listed services.

Scope of work:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME0949	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Fuel and Lubes Container Facility

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	
Working knowledge of general Lubricant, Diesel and Hydrocarbon Management	20%
Prior experience on supply of Lube, Fuel and Hydrocarbon related components, facilities and or Instrumentation	20%
List of clients and Type of suppliers	5%
Relevant Authorities including TRA, ERB, CRB, BRELA or/and any Professional bodies dealership	3%
Prior experience on supply, fabrication, repair or maintenance of Fuel, Lubricant related Equipment, components or instrumentation	20%
Evidence of ability to undertake and complete projects within time and budget	2%
Local Company or JV with evidence of the JV support of external resources	3%
Financial capability to handle this project without posing a Risk of Project execution.	2%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit their expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER (GGME0949) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services, including similar contracts undertaken over the past three years. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 9 February 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.



INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – PREQUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF UNDERGROUND SUPPORT FOR GEITA GOLD MINING LIMITED AT GEITA MINE SITE

I. INTRODUCTION

Geita Gold Mining Limited ("The Company") an AngloGold Ashanti's ("AGA") asset is located in north western Tanzania, in the Lake Victoria goldfields of the Geita region, about 5km from Geita town.

The Company is in the process of sourcing underground support and is, therefore, inviting interested eligible service providers to submit Expression of Interest for the below products.

SCOPE OF WORK:

REFERENCE NUMBER	SERVICE DESCRIPTION
GGME01118	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF UNDERGROUND SUPPORT PRODUCTS

II. INFORMATION REQUIRED

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	10%
COMMERCIAL	
Company Profile	1.25%
Copy of registration/Incorporation Certificate	1.25%
Copy of Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC)	1.25%
Copy of TIN Certificate of Firm/company and VRN	1.25%
Copy of Current Business Permit/Trade license.	1.25%
Company Shareholding Structure/Share structure of the company (ownership of shares in percentage (%))	1.25%
List of Directors	1.25%
Compliance with the Mining (Local Content) Regulations, 2018 by having Local Content plan - Approved by mining Commission	1.25%
FINANCIAL POSITION & TERMS OF TRADE	
Audited & certified financial statements (2018-2019)	2.5%
At least 2 references from the applicant's bankers regarding supplier's credit position	2.5%
SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	
OSHA Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Environment Compliance Certificate	1.25%
Workers Compensation Fund Certificate/ any proof of compliance	1.25%
Safety and Environmental Policies	1.25%
PAST EXPERIENCE	
At least 3 names of the applicant's clients, value and duration of the contracts entered into with the clients in the past two years (must be listed)	1.25%
Signed contracts/LPOs (proof of the above)	1.25%
Acceptance certificates/completion certificates (proof of the above) where applicable	1.25%
Provide at least 3 recommendation letters from different clients	1.25%
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	
Proof of Product Suitability	12.5%
Proof of Easy access to Raw Material	12.5%
Proof of Plant Capacity to produce products	12.5%
Product Quality Control and Assurance	12.5%
Product Storage Facilities	12.5%
Proof of Research and Development	12.5%
Total	100%

Interested bidders must submit expression Letters of Interest ("LOI") by quoting the SERVICE DESCRIPTION AND REFERENCE NUMBER(GGME01118) of the service they intend to express interest on THE SUBJECT OF THE EMAIL together with supporting information to GGML, which states the full name, address, telephone and e-mail address of the bidder, name of the principal contact, and signed by an authorized representative. The LOI must outline a statement of firm capability to provide the relevant Services. All LOIs and support documentation must be received by the GGML Office via e-mail at geita.eoi@anglogoldashanti.com not later than 0830 A.M 12th February 2021 (the "LOI" Submission Deadline"). EOI submissions should not exceed 10MB per email. In case the size of the email exceeds 10MB, please split the submissions into more than one email.

TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Low concern on title deeds: Land sector habits die hard

THE Lands, Housing and Human Settlements is understood to be fighting to ensure that the issuance of title deeds is put on fast track all over the country and ease implementation of economic and welfare programmes.

Deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula has tasked district land officers to fully participate in the preparation of title deeds in order to increase the pace of title deeds issuance in various areas.

The deputy minister had just made an inspection visit meant to mobilising collection of land rents, speaking to land sector officials in Mara Region, where she disputed this excuse about shortage of the relevant officials.

Most districts have various experts in land issued like those in urban planning, surveyors or valuation as they all studied in land sector colleges.

Thus, with the right supervision or coordination, they can perform tasks that pertain to any of this cadre, like issuance of land occupancy titled. She said that all it needs is land officers performing their duties by working together for set targets.

One such target that is slow in being pursued is title deeds preparation, upon which the ministry relies to increase its share of collection of much needed government revenue, Dr Mabula noted.

She thus urged the experts to use the common basic knowledge they have on land matters to boost the pace of work in title issuance target observance, as they aren't ignorant of what the task demands.

Accordingly, they were directed to prepare to be assigned some extra duties or other desks so that the work proceeds rapidly.

As the meeting was attended by

district executive directors from across the region to assess the pace of revenue collection in the sector now that the financial year 2020/2021 is at halfway point, the urgency of the call is right on the mark.

Dr Mabula said land rent collection in many districts was so far below 50 per cent, a situation that weaves doubt as to whether they can reach the targets in the time remaining.

So, the pace of collection is way below the set targets and officials read newspapers in office instead of moving to occupy another desk to help speed up the pace of revenue collection.

Previously, it would need a number of seminars to discuss the issue; not at present, as the solution is clear and all it needs is pushing back traditional habits.

From what the deputy minister said, the problem with collection of land rent is less the tenant's ability to pay than the attitude by officials in demanding such rents or laying out schedules for checking on payments.

Traditionally, this was one blank area where collections were sparse or not reported, or gaps were noticed and covered up as auditors couldn't easily make out where it was a case of poor recording or actual lack of payment.

It was similar to estimated sales taxes in that there were gaps between what is reported and what is paid, as no verification mechanisms could be set up and applied.

A land officer has the power to revoke the title deed of any land owner who refuses to pay land rent within six months after a demand letter is sent to the deed holder. Title deed holders know it, so officers shouldn't wait for bribes.

True enough, people should be busy with farms by now

USING the ongoing rains to ensure that there is enough food in the country right up the coming year is a vital issue that President John Magufuli has been addressing at the last stage of his working tour of several regions lately.

He particularly tasked district commissioners (DCs) with ensuring that people take advantage of ongoing rains to engage in intensive farming, as it appears this wasn't being done adequately. He was referring to experience gathered during his tour of three regions.

The president was worried that food security may not be assured despite good rains towards the end of the past year and into the past month.

Usually DCs and other district-level authorities are charged with ensuring that government directives are put into effect at the grassroots level, in which case if the pace of taking up farming isn't consonant with the rains, something is likely wrong there.

In remarks in Bahi District in Dodoma Region, the president said that he will not hesitate to sack DCs whose areas finally face food shortages after it rained for much of last year and the rains continue, having noticed that farms in the district weren't being adequately catered for. There was a lack of commercial activity arising from agriculture in comparison with other regions, even if there are disparities in their potentials.

With any effort, virtually all districts are good for agriculture as we don't have semi-desert conditions. In that case an omnibus appeal about responding to the

rains makes sense in most regions.

There is an additional reason for people to attending to farms in an earnest manner at the moment, and indeed more than one such reason.

One was being repeated by Dr Magufuli during his tour - that many countries are still under lockdowns of one sort or another, in which case Tanzanians ought to use this period to produce enough for the country's needs as well as to sell to neighbours or those further afield who may need food surpluses to cover the Covid-19-induced shortages.

This observation is related to the generalised green light the government has since last year given with respect to exports of grain and other foods, so that farmers obtain the benefits they deserve from their sweat and toil.

Obviously, with the abundance of rains, it will be surprising to hear of grain shortages in future, even as we still have a few more months to watch for the rain pattern this year.

In mid-October last year there was a rainfall pattern projection for the period towards the first quarter of 2021, referring to a phenomenon called La Nina.

This occurs in the southern Indian and Atlantic oceans and involves a cold wave with an effect of depressing rains or making rain fall somewhat erratically contrary to normal expectations.

There is reason to believe that we haven't been grossly affected by La Nina, up to now, in which case the government considers this a good year for rains and expects districts to achieve crop targets. Fair enough, and let's hope for the best.

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Better local climate adaptation means that we all benefit in connected world



By Special Correspondent

WHEN severe drought hit south and southeast Asia in 2008, harvests fell, global rice exports shrank and prices shot up as much as 200 per cent around the world -spurring food riots over rising costs in places as far away as rice-loving Senegal.

Such interconnected threats mean efforts to adapt to growing climate change risks in one village or nation are likely to fail unless officials take a broader look at what is happening around the world, climate change adaptation experts said.

"One weather shock in one part of the world can have really severe repercussions in a completely other part of the world," noted Richard Klein, a climate change and development expert at the Stockholm Environment Institute.

"The question is: Can we prepare for these kinds of events?" he asked during Gobeshona, a Dhaka-based conference on locally-led climate change adaptation, which ended at the weekend.

A few European countries - particularly Germany and Switzerland - are furthest along in trying to model the risks they face from failed harvests elsewhere

or collapsing supply chains, said Klein, a top climate adaptation policy expert.

For instance, a report by the German Environment Agency released last year found that, because of trade ties, climate risks outside Europe posed a likely bigger threat to Germany's economy than more local risks.

Those threats include everything from failing coffee harvests in Brazil drying up one of Germany's major sources of beans to economic downturns in South Asia, driven by climate extremes, slashing demand for German imports.

"Adaptation is a global challenge because we are all connected, Klein said, adding: "What happens in one part of the world has an effect on others in very different parts."

The problem in most places, though, he said, is that "managing transboundary climate risks is currently no one's job".

Thousands of scientists warned late last week that a changing climate, including more severe floods and droughts, could depress growth in global food production by up to 30 per cent by 2050.

Rising seas and greater storm surges also could destroy urban economies and force hundreds of millions of coastal dwellers from

their homes, they noted.

But, investing more in solutions from early-warning weather systems to climate-resilient roads and buildings, climate-smart crops and harvesting more rainwater could produce a payoff four times the cost, the Netherlands-based Global Centre on Adaptation said in a 2019 report.

Klein said the threats facing most countries range from impacts on transboundary water systems like rivers - a drought in one upstream nation leads to less water flowing downstream - to trade disruption, especially involving food supplies.

Rice-producing and storm-vulnerable Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia, for instance, are potential "risk exporters" to countries like Singapore that depend heavily on their harvests, Klein said.

But economic threats can also come from things like drying up of remittances as family members working abroad lose their jobs when drought or storms slam their host countries, or loss of insurance coverage as rising risks send premiums soaring.

Climate-driven disasters can also spur cross-border migration as families seek safety or jobs - or dry up tourism, as repeatedly

storm-slammed Caribbean nations have discovered.

"If we plan adaptation only at the national level, I don't think we can be certain we are building resilience," Klein noted.

The good news is that better preparing for and managing climate risks in one country could provide benefits in others - one strong argument for more global spending to help the most climate-vulnerable countries adapt to risks.

Currently, only about 5 per cent of all climate finance goes to efforts to adapt to more extreme weather and rising seas - a figure climate adaptation backers say should rise to 50 per cent.

Climate adaptation has long been seen as local work that communities carry out in their own self-interest, to help them deal with worsening impacts of planetary warming, said Saleemul Huq, director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Dhaka.

But "local is not local anymore. Local is global", he said during a Gobeshona panel. "Everyone is linked up in some way," he added.

Because of that reality - that climate disasters often have impacts far from where they occur - "adaptation globally can be seen as a public good we all benefit from", Klein said.

A grey cloud over Lebanon: Mental health burdens

By Maria Aoun

HUMANKIND is no stranger to the destabilizing events of 2020. The state of the global economy and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic hit the headlines. In this ever escalating global crisis, Lebanon, has been facing what can only be described as unimaginable hardships. For the past year the country has seen challenges which have resulted in an utter state of hopelessness and rapid deterioration in mental health of many of its citizens.

The country has been facing a high rate of youth unemployment, with 55% of the Lebanese population already living under the poverty line according to the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Followed by an almost complete devaluation of the Lebanese currency due to ever-growing political uncertainties and national lockdowns to tackle the pandemic, Lebanon is faced with one of its worst economic crises.

The aforementioned obstacles reinforced pre-existing socio-economic inequalities in the country that has taken a heavy toll on the state of mental health of the Lebanese people.

In fact, shortly after the economic collapse in July 2020, alarming reports made headlines about the double suicides that occurred on the same day, a Friday, mainly because of the financial instability that people are faced with.

On 3 July, a man in his 60s stood in front of a café in the city of Hamra and shot himself in the head in broad daylight, leaving behind a copy of his clean criminal record with a message written in red that said "I am not a Kafer" meaning sinner, infidel or blasphemer, and a Lebanese flag. On that same day in Sidon, an unemployed bus driver in his late thirties took his own life.

The middle aged man also wrote "I am not a Kafer" since the act of suicide is culturally and religiously prohibited and considered a sin or taboo in both Islam and Christianity, the two predominant religions in Lebanon.

In fact, some families tend to hide the real cause of death of members who have taken their own lives to avoid societal judgment.

The successive misfortunes that befell Lebanon reached a height when one of the deadliest events in its history occurred at 6.07 pm on 4 August 2020; tons of Ammonium Nitrate detonated at the Beirut port, devastating the capital within seconds and causing thousands casualties.

Additionally, it is estimated that 70,000 workers have lost their jobs, and 42 percent of affected families who had chronic medical conditions reported that they could not afford continuing treatment, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

When asked about the collective mental state of the Lebanese in 2020, Mia Atoui, co-founder and board member of "Embrace", a Lebanese NGO that works to raise awareness around mental health told IPS that "We are witnessing increased levels of depression, anxiety and PTSD as a result of all the crises", stressing on the importance of providing



mental health services to people during these difficult times.

According to the latest report created by "Embrace" titled "Post Beirut's Blast Update", issue no.9, two months after the Beirut blast, the national hotline for emotional support and suicide prevention received more than 2239 calls, with approximately 67% of those callers expressing emotional distress and around 28% exhibiting suicidal tendencies.

Those numbers reveal the state of mental health faced by the Lebanese. "Embrace Lifeline (1564) received more than 6,100 calls to its hotline in 2020, compared to more than 2500 calls in 2019" stated Atoui.

These numbers show that calls have almost tripled from the year 2019 to 2020.

Nowadays, and five months post blast, the Lebanese are still trying to adapt to what seems to be a "new normal" by going about their daily lives, navigating a pandemic that has gone completely out of control.

Lebanese Journalist Cendrella Azar was meters away from the Beirut blast and shared with IPS her mental journey.

"Physically, I am a survivor, I healed in no time. Nevertheless, mentally and emotionally, I am still bearing the consequences of the Beirut Port crime I was subjected to.

Today, almost six months past the explosion, I still deal with different kinds of symptoms. While I think that I am a normal human being who overcame this traumatic event, I am hit on a daily basis with visions and thoughts. I am physically

at home among my loved ones yet mentally I am stuck within the walls of Annahar Newspaper's building where I was the moment we were hit by the third biggest non-nuclear explosion in human history" stated Azar.

The journalist pointed out the daily stress that citizens are subjected to amidst the new wave of the global pandemic that brutally hit Lebanon. "We transformed into a traumatized nation, suffering from a collective trauma, and bearing so many invisible wounds and scars. We are currently in a national state of shock" declared Azar.

With positive cases of Covid-19 multiplying due to relaxing of governmental restrictions, Lebanon is now seeing a saturation in ICU beds and is heading towards disaster including yet another full lock-

down.

"The impact of Covid on mental health is a very significant and serious one. People are in a constant state of fear with worry and anxiety; many are losing their loved ones, which is also causing a lot of people to be in grief" explained the mental health expert Atoui.

In fact, Lebanon is seeing thousands of new contaminations per day with the peak being 6154 registered cases on 16 January 2021, coupled with an exponential death toll, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Mental health hit a low point in Lebanon in the year 2020 with a grey cloud over the country overstaying its welcome.

However, Atoui explained that suicides have not increased this year, "most probably because of the Covid crisis and Beirut blast; usually when there are big disasters at a national level we do not witness an increase in suicides, especially after the Beirut blast where there was a lot of social solidarity..." she said. "...However if the crises continues in 2021 we may witness an increase in suicide rates. Currently the rate of suicide in Lebanon is on average 1 person every 2.1 days" stated Atoui.

Atoui mentioned how important it was to assist people mentally during those trying times yet the current skyrocketing prices have made mental health services inaccessible with therapists charging outrageous figures per therapy session. Atoui told IPS that "Even when it [the cost of therapy] was 150,000 LBP (approximately \$ 100 at the time), it was not affordable by most people.

Now [after the currency devaluation] it has become a luxury. Since Embrace opened its clinic in August 2020, we have provided 690 consultations and we already have a long waiting list".

A few days into the new year, a middle-aged man set his car on fire in Beirut and attempted to burn himself alive; bystanders rushed to stop him. On 25 January this year, violent anti-lockdown protests erupted in Tripoli, one of the poorest cities in Lebanon. Met by police brutality, the protesters denounced the absence of a sustainable governmental plan and a lockdown that is worsening their economic situation everyday.

IPS

Sri Lanka's deteriorating human rights situation raises multiple alarms

NEW DELHI

A decade has passed since the end of Sri Lanka's civil war between the government and the LTTE, where at least 100,000 people were killed in the over three-decade long conflict. Families of victims of enforced disappearances continue to seek justice, the government is yet to end impunity and put accountability for crimes under international law and human rights violation and abuses in its transitional justice process.

In a recent United Nations Human Rights Office of The High Commissioner report, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet stressed that the failure to deal with the past continues to have devastating effects on tens of thousands of families in Sri Lanka, who are still waiting for justice, reparations - and the truth about the fate of their loved ones. The report warns that the failure of Sri Lanka to address past violations has significantly "heightened the risk of human rights violations being repeated."

"Sri Lanka's current trajectory sets the scene for the recurrence of the policies and practices that gave rise to grave human rights violations." The report also flags the pattern of intensified surveillance and harassment of civil society organizations, human rights defenders and victims, and a shrinking space for independent media.

"I see the OHCHR report as something that will give more oxygen to continue our many struggles, especially for truth and justice," says Sri Lanka based human rights activist Shreen Saroor to IPS News. The report has articulated the lack of access to justice and the need for accountability very well. It is robust on militarisation and deep securitisation of Sri Lanka and calls for rigorous vetting and demilitarization with a warning of grave consequences if failed, says Shreen.

"Michelle Bachelet's criticism on surveillance on CSOs and shrinking space for dissent and the abuses of Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) Act are alarming. However in order to prevent another round of conflict, the report should emphasize more on the ongoing attacks against countries' religious minorities," says Shreen.

Earlier in december 2020, Muslims in Sri Lanka were outraged over the forced cremation of a 20-day-old COVID-19 victim against the family's wishes. Sri Lanka has been flagged for ignoring the World Health Organization's (WHO) guidelines which permits both burial and cremations.

In a country where minorities are marginalized and discriminated against, Muslims who fall victim to COVID-19 are unjustly prevented from being laid to rest in accordance with their religious beliefs and are forcibly cremated, said Amnesty International in a statement. Sri Lanka is one of the few countries in the world which has made cremations mandatory for people who have



Shreen Saroor

died or are suspected of having died from COVID-19. The rights group urged the Sri Lankan Government to not forget that "it has a duty to ensure all people in Sri Lanka are treated equitably. COVID-19 does not discriminate on grounds of ethnic, political or religious differences, and nor should the Government of Sri Lanka."

"Many of us who have witnessed continuous minority rights violations over three decades in Sri Lanka, it is important for OHCHR to take on the issue of growing Sinhala Buddhist majoritarianism and the extreme nationalism that has been mentioned in the OHCHR report.

"It is time for OHCHR to come up with an early pre-

vention strategy, so that another bloody war or religious violence in this country is prevented," says Shreen.

Human Rights Watch in its recently released 93-page report, Open Wounds and Mounting Dangers: Blocking Accountability for Grave Abuses in Sri Lanka, examines the efforts by the government of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to thwart justice in seven prominent human rights cases.

"The Sri Lankan government's assault on justice increases the risk of human rights abuses today and in the future," said John Fisher, Geneva Director at Human Rights Watch. "The UN Human Rights Council should

adopt a resolution at its upcoming session that demonstrates to the Rajapaksa administration that the world won't ignore its abuses and offers hope of justice to victims' families, the report stated.

In 2018, just before and during the ongoing session of the UNHRC, Sri Lankan authorities made several announcements to signify their commitments to pledges made in the October 2015 resolution on justice and accountability for abuses during Sri Lanka's civil war.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa months into his tenure in November 2019, made several changes including replacing the 19th Amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution, which was enacted to limit excessive executive power and facilitate independent institutions including the judiciary with the 20th Amendment, which consolidated power in the executive and nullified the independent commissions mainly Sri Lanka's Human Rights Commissions and Office of the Missing Persons. "Rajapaksa appointed people implicated in war crimes and other serious violations to senior administration positions," said Shreen.

In February 2020 Sri Lanka withdrew itself from the 2019 UN resolution on post-war accountability and reconciliation, which is scheduled to be taken up in the upcoming session.

Sri Lanka's main Tamil political parties are now urging for an international probe, and in a joint letter addressed to members of the UN Human Rights Council said, "It is now time for Member States to acknowledge that there is no scope for a domestic process that can genuinely deal with accountability in Sri Lanka."

According to this report, Sri Lanka is in discussion with India and other countries for support to counter the Core Group's move which could lead to targeted sanctions, asset freezes and travel bans against alleged perpetrators of grave human rights violations and abuses in the March session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

IPS

How Africa can benefit from the new commodity supercycle

By Ronak Gopaldas and Menzi Ndlovu

SINCE the dramatic worldwide 21-year low of April 2020, oil prices have recovered by almost 300%, copper prices have reached an eight-year high and liquefied natural gas prices have recovered by over 700%. This commodity rebound - supported by accommodative global monetary and fiscal policies, Covid-19 vaccine rollouts, and increased investor and market confidence - has significantly boosted prospects of a global economic recovery.

This has implications for Africa, whose vulnerability to boom-bust scenarios is well documented. After a devastating 2020, the gradual easing of the pandemic straitjacket and the onset of a commodity bull market could see the balance sheets of many exporting African countries benefit immensely.

There's a sense of déjà vu here. After the last financial crisis in 2008/9, Africa became the darling of the investment world. Fuelled by cheap money, low growth in the developed world and buoyant commodity prices, the continent enjoyed a sustained period of high growth and investment. The superficial 'Africa rising' became the dominant narrative for years, until the oil and Ebola shocks of 2014/15 exposed its deficiencies.

Economically, Africa has endured a torrid time since then, culminating in its first recession in 25 years in 2020. Current trends suggest that the continent may luck out with another windfall. But can we get it right this time? Capitalising on this opportunity will require an honest assessment of contemporary realities, and learning lessons from the previous decade to ensure that past mistakes aren't repeated.

The 2021 economic landscape doesn't make for pretty reading. Regarding both public finances and governance, the continent is in a far weaker position than it was after the onset of the last supercycle around 2010. Sub-Saharan Africa has had the fastest-growing debt levels worldwide over the past decade, according to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Statistically, the average public debt ratio for low-income sub-Saharan African countries increased from 22% of GDP in 2010 to 43% in 2019. Debt accumulation, currency depreciation and constrained revenue sources have also seen debt service ratios climb across Africa.

Rather than use this debt to fund future growth, much of this was lost to unproductive expenditure. Debt went to campaign financing, superfluous and overpriced infrastructure projects and in some cases was simply embezzled, as witnessed in Mozambique.

This mismanagement has come at a significant cost. By the end of 2019, more than 16 African countries were classified as being at high risk of debt distress by the IMF, with many forced to ask the fund for rescue from balance of payments and fiscal crises. Two have defaulted since the turn of the decade - Zambia and Mozambique - while a third, Republic of Congo, teeters on the brink of default.

Economic mismanagement throughout the past decade cannot be decoupled from the politics of the period. Regressing standards of governance and democracy, evidenced in the 2020 Ibrahim Index of African Governance, which saw the African average score register its first year-on-year deterioration since 2010.

In many instances, the autonomy of fiscal and monetary



To avoid crises akin to Zambia and Mozambique, African governments must ensure sound economic management, avoid populist impulses and restore institutional capacity and integrity. (Photo: Adobe Stock)

institutions was usurped by the executive, technocrats were replaced by partisans and institutional checks and balances dramatically waned.

Nowhere has this been more extensively detailed than in South Africa, where the ongoing state capture inquiry has revealed the political machinations underlying the 'lost decade' under former president Jacob Zuma. The same can be said about Zambia under Edgar Lungu, Angola under José Eduardo dos Santos and Tanzania under John Magufuli.

The combination of bad politics and bad economics has retarded the continent's progress. It will need to be quickly addressed if Africa is to reverse its current malaise. So what have we learnt from the past decade?

First, behind every opportunity is a crisis - if past lessons are not learnt and governments fail to exercise discretion. Failure to deal with the shortcomings of the past decade, including poor fiscal management, reckless borrowing and in-

sufficient institutional checks and balances, could see the commodity supercycle be a catalyst for the next crisis. This could be far larger than that witnessed during the 2010s, given current vulnerabilities.

Second, hot money is dangerous money without a concrete plan for its use. African governments will no doubt be tempted to tap into private markets to finance fiscal shortfalls and recovery plans. However, if the debt accumulation isn't met with equal measures to stabilise public finances and stimulate growth, it may seed the next crisis when the commodities eventually taper off; Zambia being a case in point.

Policymakers should take advantage of the favourable context to accelerate the development of domestic capital markets. This could help mitigate some of the recurrent external vulnerabilities countries face, notably regarding exchange rate risk.

Policies that attract longer-term foreign direct investment (by nature stickier, more employment

generating and better for long-run growth), should be prioritised. Well-governed and capacitated sovereign wealth funds can help ensure these gains aren't squandered.

Third, a commodity supercycle is just that - a cycle - and all cycles eventually end. African governments must prepare for this inevitability by exercising caution in debt accumulation and spending.

Governments must also use the current windfall as a foundation for long-term macro-economic stability and to insulate Africa from potential shocks - including climate change. One way of doing this is doubling down on diversification. Policymakers must realise that it is unwise to 'go it alone' - strategic partnerships with the private sector can unlock a plethora of growth opportunities in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

Importantly, the continent must bet on itself. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement offers an opportunity for robust and long-term growth. AfCFTA will create the largest free

trade area in the world as measured by participants, with a combined GDP valued at US\$3.4-trillion. This has the potential to improve economic markers continent-wide if teething problems such as economic nationalism are overcome.

Finally, standards of economic governance will have to improve across the board. Avoiding the roller coaster ride of the commodity supercycles requires meaningful structural reform, which cannot be achieved through current evasive measures. Equally, dovishness among creditors is unlikely to persist for much longer, and with a proverbial 'get out of jail free card' by way of the commodity supercycle, lenders may revert to a hard-nosed stance.

To avoid crises akin to Zambia and Mozambique, African governments must ensure sound economic management, avoid populist impulses and restore institutional capacity and integrity. The commodity supercycle could help Africa overcome the failures of the previous decade and chart a clear path to long-term prosperity. But it could seed the foundation for the continent's next crisis. Will we use it to our benefit or will we bungle it?

DM

At risk and unpaid: The foreign doctors treating Covid-19 in South Africa

By Rebecca Davis

THE supernumerary registrar programme was created to give doctors from other African countries specialised training in South Africa in order to allow them to bring those skills home.

But during the Covid-19 pandemic, some of these foreign doctors have found themselves effectively stranded in South Africa, working the same gruelling shifts as local medics to treat Covid-19 without pay. Because they are technically registered as foreign students, they have no access to the benefits or salary of their local colleagues. But like them, they have been putting themselves at risk daily for close to a year to treat patients hit by the first and second wave of the pandemic.

"We are so tired," Dr X told Daily Maverick.

Dr X is a supernumerary registrar from a SADC country whose identity is known to Daily Maverick. None of the doctors was comfortable being identified for this article because they feared recriminations, as their course examiners work closely with them.

He is a University of Cape Town (UCT) student seconded to work at Groote Schuur Hospital, and he says he is reaching out to the media in desperation. Dr X says that the situation for medical registrars treating Covid-19 in the second wave of the pandemic is significantly more difficult than the first.

"We now have more patients on high-flow nasal oxygen who need close monitoring," Dr X explained.

"One medical registrar is expected to man three wards and still expected to do intubations and also do admissions and supervise interns at night. One person is not enough. It's just torture."

Medical registrars get 21 days' leave a year, of which only 14 days can be taken at a time. Dr X says most leave was cancelled in 2020. But for the foreign supernumeraries, going home and returning to South Africa within that time frame was, in any event, virtually impossible - due both to closed borders and quarantine requirements.

Ordinarily, the studies of supernumerary registrars are sponsored by their home countries. But because the pandemic saw teaching and learning suspended, a number of sponsors have pulled the plug. This means that not only are some of the supernumeraries not receiving a salary - they are being actively financially disadvantaged through their work.

"Many of us are getting threatening letters of fees owing. We are getting letters of rent owing," says Dr X.

He says the doctors are not asking for salaries, but some understanding and acknowledgement when it comes to



UCT fees and rent "for those who stayed behind and helped out".

The situation is doubly galling given the fact that the 187 health workers brought in from Cuba by the national government to treat the pandemic were reportedly earning monthly salaries of more than R130,000.

Part of the problem seems to be that responsibility for the supernumeraries is shared by UCT and the Western Cape government, under which Groote Schuur Hospital falls.

Groote Schuur CEO Dr Bhavna Patel told Daily Maverick: "The [foreign supernumeraries] are not appointed as staff by the province, but register with the university as students. The province only provides a platform to facilitate their learning."

Dr X has heard this before.

"When we came here we were told we are students, but nobody knows where we fall," he says.

"UCT only wants us when it comes to fees. Groote Schuur only wants us when it comes to work. When there's a problem, we are stuck in the middle."

It is not just the supernumerary registrars at UCT raising these concerns. In a letter to the South African Medical Journal in August 2020, three Stellenbosch University medics described supernumerary doctors as "the unsung heroes in the undercapacitated SA healthcare system for almost 25 years".

In the past, these foreign doctors have battled xenophobia and significant financial hardship.

But the Covid-19 pandemic has "exposed the vulnerability of their health and financial well-being," the doctors wrote, citing the issue of medical aid as one

example.

"In light of the occupational cover and health insurance issues, supernumeraries will be taking on considerable personal risk without the guarantee of being provided with the same benefits of care that SA doctors receive."

The letter's authors acknowledged that the state has no legal obligations towards the foreign doctors, but questioned "whether the government and universities are ethically fulfilling their duty towards those who are currently working on the frontline of the pandemic in SA".

A moral approach, they suggest, might see measures put in place to support the doctors financially and medically at this time.

Dr X and his colleagues say that although they are constantly told they are on a par with their local colleagues, the reality is very different. They have to pay for their own medical aid, and if they can't afford it, seek assistance from public clinics. If they contract Covid-19 on duty, they receive no occupational compensation, unlike their colleagues.

Groote Schuur's Patel told Daily Maverick: "Since [the supernumeraries] do not earn any salary, they are categorised as those receiving a free service from the public sector. None of the students at the university [is] covered by any insurance and there are student health clinics at the university that can be used."

The issue of the health risks that Dr X and his colleagues are facing by serving on the frontline of the pandemic for so many months came to a head earlier in January. A Libyan supernumerary seconded to Groote Schuur, Dr Abdurouf Mohamed Kdaish, died of Covid-19 on 18 January 2021.

A statement sent out by UCT described Dr Kdaish as "a hardworking person who performed his job with diligence against the odds. He will be remembered as a kind and gentle colleague who remained good-natured through many long nights on call".

Kdaish left behind his wife, Khadija Tareki, and four children.

Patel told Daily Maverick she couldn't comment on individual cases due to patient confidentiality regulations.

"Every person is exposed in the same way

to this virus. Similarly, health workers are exposed both in the work environment and in their communities," Patel said.

"I can assure you that as with all other patients, we have done everything we could to treat all our patients in the best way possible."

For Dr X and his colleagues, though, Dr Kdaish's death might be the straw that breaks the camel's back.

"We are suffering here," Dr X says.

A recording of a meeting held last week between Groote Schuur management and UCT postgraduate students, seen by Daily Maverick, makes it clear that treating the pandemic is exhausting and traumatic work for all healthcare workers.

A South African registrar presenting on behalf of the UCT students - both local and foreign - notes that something different in the second wave of the pandemic is the changed profile of Covid-19 patients this time around.

"It has placed a huge amount of pressure on us... in realising that we're dealing with actually reasonably healthy individuals that are very sick," he tells management.

A hospital administrator acknowledges the extraordinary toll placed on Groote Schuur's doctors, with 7,874 patients coming through the doors since March 2020.

"The kind of pressure that you have had to face with the number of people coming through the doors, and how sick they were, and the numbers of deaths that you had to deal with... You know, it was just a very difficult time for those of you that worked, we absolutely recognise that, we acknowledge that," she says.

Then the administrator asks: "How do we pick up those pieces now? At the time when you needed it most, were we able to meet your needs? I'm not so sure."

Dr X is the first to acknowledge that all healthcare workers have been hard hit by the pandemic and that rising to the challenge is what doctors do. But coping with this burden while being unpaid, overworked, unprotected and far from home?

DM

Traditional arts curb deadly diarrhoea in children, study says

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

POTENTIALLY deadly cases of diarrhoea and pneumonia among young children can be greatly reduced, a study found, when basic hygiene messages are delivered through drama and song.

The study conducted in the Gambia used traditional performing arts to encourage mothers to provide children with safe food and water.

Researchers from the UK-based University of Birmingham said hospital admissions from diarrhoea among children under five were reduced

by 60 per cent as a result of the intervention, while admissions for respiratory infections fell by 30 per cent.

Diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old globally, killing 525,000 children of this age group each year, according to the World Health Organization.

Researchers said that inadequate community-level intervention trials for addressing diarrhoeal disease in Sub-Saharan Africa motivated them to conduct the Gambia study, which aimed

to improve food safety for babies.

Researchers used a randomised controlled trial across 30 Gambian villages: 15 got a 25-day campaign with songs and plays about food safety practices for mothers with children aged six-24 months. The other 15 villages instead got messages about water in household gardens.

Researchers assessed the impact of the intervention six months and 32 months on.

"The improvements we saw at six months [...] are amongst the highest found in any preventive trial other than

for vaccination," says Semira Manaseki-Holland, lead author of the study and clinical senior lecturer in public health at the University of Birmingham.

"This is a great low-cost intervention, involving and delivered by local public health workers and communities and celebrating and tapping into local traditions and culture," she adds.

According to the study published in PLOS Medicine this month (11 January), new mothers in the villages that received the intervention practised key behaviours such as washing hands with soap at a higher

rate than those who did not receive the intervention.

Researchers used songs, stories and plays to communicate food safety and hygiene behaviours to communities and mothers. They focused on motivating mothers of weaning-age children in a positive way, rather than talking about diseases.

"Thirty-two months later, without any more contact after six months, the mothers continued to practise improved food safety and hygiene behaviours, informing and encouraging new mothers to do the same and this has sustained

the intervention beyond six months," Manaseki-Holland explains.

She adds that the Gambia success can be replicated in other Sub-Saharan Africa countries: "We are currently replicating this at scale in Mali in 120 urban and rural communities and adding other components to the intervention to make it an integrated nutrition, food safety and play intervention."

Aghan Odero Agan, an arts and culture consultant based in Nairobi, Kenya, says that performing arts, if properly applied, often functions as one

of the most effective tools for achieving deep engagement with targeted audiences.

"In the cited case, performing arts seem to have successfully aided the mothers in coming to terms with the fatal challenge of diarrhoea and pneumonia to the survival of their children," Agan said.

"Performing arts seem to have successfully gotten the mothers to weigh, internalise and change course from their everyday routine child rearing practice to adoption of new approaches in the struggle to save the lives of their children."

Bulgarian boxers get set to market Tanzania as safe tourist destination

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame

TOP Bulgarian professional boxers have defied the global fear of the new Covid-19 outbreaks and flew to Tanzania ready to sample the northern circuit's tourist attractions as well as using the excursion to help market the country abroad.

Kubrat Pulev and Tervel Pulev are in Arusha, visiting the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, precisely the legendary wildlife-filled crater as well as witnessing the annual wildebeest calving season which they described to be 'spectacular'.

"We were really looking forward to seeing lions in real life and to our surprise we saw the King of the Jungle as well as other wildlife species within a very short time," stated Tervel Pulev, adding that even the country's scenic landscape was spellbinding to say the least.

Kubrat Pulev said despite the fresh outbreak of the global Covid-19, Tanzania was relatively safe compared to other countries and therefore people who still want to venture out of their homes or countries should travel to Tanzania where things are still 'fine'. The two boxers from Bulgaria were accompanied here by their respective teams of management.

Marketing Officer of the Tanzania Tourist Board

(TTB), Francis Malugu said the arrival of the two professional boxers from Bulgaria, was yet kudos for Tanzania's global marketing strategy which is now bearing positive outcome.

"The fact that people, especially celebrities, are braving all odds to come to Tanzania indicates that the country has created a positive profile internationally," added Malugu.

Boxing events' Coordinator Levis Paul who had organized the recent cruise-weight fight in which Tervel Pulev 'Knocked out,' the Namibian glover, Vikapita Merero, said he was envisaging future boxing oriented modes of tourism in Tanzania as well as East African Region.

Kubrat Venkov Pulev, who was born on the 4th of May 1981 is a Bulgarian professional boxer boasting the European heavyweight title twice between 2012 and 2016, and has challenged twice for the unified world heavyweight title in 2014 and December 2020.

His younger brother Tervel Venkov Pulev, born on the 10th of January 1983 is also a Bulgarian professional boxer, holding the World Boxing Association (WBA) International cruiserweight title since December 2019 and previously the European Union Cruiserweight title in 2018.



Bulgarian professional boxers, Kubrat Pulev (L) and Tervel Pulev (2nd R) with their touring trucks as they arrived at the Lodware Gates for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area on Monday. Photo: Correspondent Marc Nkwame.

Dar digital firm in drive to equip people with skills to explore online market amid Covid-19

By Getrude Mbago

COVID-19 outbreak has taken a toll on almost all sectors—economy, social welfare, and employment across the globe and there are lots of efforts taking place to ensure that people continue earning a living despite being on lockdown. Online has been one of the effective ways of doing business and makes some people work from home.

In this case, there are many Tanzanian businessmen and women who have opted to use this new way of doing social and economic activities. There are many innovators who came up with a number of ways to make people free from the pandemic but continue with their undertakings.

A Dar es Salaam-based digital firm—GigSpace is one of the companies in Tanzania that has come up with a solu-

tion to enable people to find income-generating activities online and thus support their daily lives.

GigSpace chief executive officer, Ashura Babi says there are countless opportunities on the internet and various digital networks that are yet to be grabbed by many.

GigSpace is a newly launched online skill selling platform— that works to connect people to various income opportunities.

She acknowledges that COVID-19 has affected several sectors but it has also stood as a wake call for experts to come up with new and innovative solutions to facilitate smooth life and economic growth.

Babi however says there is no need for jobless people to worry or stay home without doing anything while there are a number of opportunities online which could pay

them heavily.

"After witnessing that majority of Tanzanians and others in the East African Region are grappling to survive after losing their jobs due to various challenges including COVID-19, we decided to improve our digital platform by adding more opportunities ranging from projects, researches, writing, editing, and others so as to enable people to earn money online or even grab permanent job opportunities," she says.

According to her, digital space is no longer optional as it has a number of opportunities which in-turn bring positive impacts to people's lives, so youth should make sure that they grab the opportunities positively.

She says that they have developed the platform to be one of the safe and authentic ones which enable those who acquire part-time or fully jobs

to be paid on time and fairly.

Babi noted that young workers are the ones who are seen to have been affected mostly by the COVID-19 pandemic because they were yet to establish more investments that could support them during hard times.

Reports show the job prospects for those seeking employment have also been particularly bleak. Historically, young people are disproportionately disadvantaged in many ways during economic downturns, but this recession has been particularly acute given the sectors of the economy that were hit the hardest.

She adds: "So those who were retrenched from their job positions due to economic challenges should visit the platform as there are countless opportunities there, this is not a time to stay home doing nothing; so you can stay home but at the same time in-

ject something in your wallet."

Babi urges youth in the country to be innovative, wake up, and start utilizing the emerging opportunities in the safe digital platforms to improve their businesses and brands.

"We came up with this platform so as to support young Tanzanians grab various income-generating works which are usually advertised in the digital networks, our preliminary study found that major of young people spend a lot of time searching for useless content on social networks while there is a number of opportunities which can help them transform their lives," she explains.

Steve Mawalla, GigSpace co-founder, hints on the note wanting Tanzanians to make proper use of digital space opportunities to promote businesses and brands.

He says that due to various

challenges brought by Covid-19, the majority of people including youths are jobless, so by using GigSpace, they can find various opportunities of their choice that can help them earn income.

"We should no longer spend our time and bundle searching for useless issues but rather have a positive eye on what is available on the internet. GigSpace has a lot of opportunities to fit various professions. These include accountants, journalists, lawyers, policymakers, traders and so many," he says.

The firm aims to connect businesses and independent businesses to collaborate online. Through gig space businesses are more effective and efficient connecting with freelancers to work on projects from web and mobile app development to social media marketing content writing graphic design ad-

ministrative tasks and thousands of other projects.

According to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)'s quarterly report ending September 2020 shows that the number of subscriptions to mobile and fixed networks increased to 49.2 million whereby 25.6 million of them were connected to internet services through their smartphone handsets in the country.

Tanzania ranks second in East Africa and fourth in Africa with the highest number of internet users after Nigeria with 126.07 million, which is 61.2 percent of the population, Egypt 49.9 million - 48.1 percent, and Kenya 46.8 million - 87.2 percent.

The number of smartphone users worldwide today surpasses three billion and is forecast to further grow by several hundred million in the next few years



Africa GreenTec merges with Nexus for mini-grids in rural areas

By Special Correspondent

SOLAR mini-grid supplier Africa GreenTec has merged with Nexus Energy, a company owned by Green Climate Ventures, an impact investor based in Florence, Italy. With this transaction, the two companies hope to deploy their electricity access solutions more effectively in sub-Saharan Africa.

There is strength in numbers. Africa GreenTec and Nexus Energy have chosen to join forces in Africa. The aim of the two solar energy providers is to accelerate the deployment of their electricity access solutions in rural areas, mainly in the Sahel, where Africa GreenTec already offers its containerised solar systems.

In this part of Africa known for its relatively arid climate, Africa GreenTec is installing systems consisting of solar panels on containers, which can electrify a small village.

Each system is connected to a battery system for storing the electricity needed after sunset or in bad weather. The company founded by Thorsten Schreiber and his wife Aida N'Daye currently oper-

ates 21 off-grid solar systems and three under construction in the Sahel.

The company, founded in 2016, has already secured a portfolio of containerised mini-grid projects at least 100 sites in seven countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

It will now have more weight with the experience gained over the past five years, as well as the merger with Nexus Energy, a company created in 2019 and owned so far by Green Climate Ventures, an impact investor based in Florence, Italy.

"As a result of the merger, Nexus Energy will now be fully integrated into the Africa GreenTec AG holding structure, while Green Climate Ventures will become a significant shareholder in the holding company. Founder and CEO (Nexus Energy) Claudio Pedretti will assume the role of member of the advisory board of Africa GreenTec AG.

He will bring his market knowledge as well as his strategic and financial acumen to stimulate the strategic exponential growth of Africa GreenTec AG," the two companies state in a joint statement.

Biden's student debt payment suspension underscores ongoing problem in US

WASHINGTON

CHRIS Gomez, 35, has been struggling to pay off his student debt for several years.

"You need a master's degree for a good job and then you got this huge loan to pay off," he told Xinhua, adding that his loan for a master's degree was around 80,000 U.S. dollars.

His complaint echoes that of millions of others, amid the rising cost of higher education, and increasing workplace demand for advanced degrees.

IN DEBT FOR DECADES

While student loans were easy to pay off two decades ago, recent years have seen an astronomical rise in the cost of higher education, putting some borrowers in debt for decades.

Martin, 40, a Washington, D.C. area resident who declined to give his last name, said it took him over a decade to pay off his student loan of around 50,000 dollars.

He added that if he had put that



money in the stock market instead of spending it on education, the payoff would have been five-fold by now.

In a nod to millennial voters, many of whom are in heavy student debt, U.S. President Joe Biden has extended the

nearly year-long suspension on payments of student loans until Sept. 30.

That, proponents argue,

will provide much-needed financial breathing space after nearly a year of draconian lockdowns that have sent the economy reeling.

Biden campaigned on providing student debt relief, and the most likely path for him will be a forgiveness plan for 10,000 dollars, at a time when the average amount owed per student is around 30,000 dollars.

Last year federal student loan debt hit record highs, approaching 1.6 trillion dollars and impacting around 40 million Americans, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Average loan payments range from 200 to 299 dollars a month, according to the U.S. Department of Education. That cuts into the income of those struggling paycheck to paycheck.

"It is a politically popular move, especially among young people, and a way to help them regain their footing in a difficult economy," Brookings

Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua, speaking of Biden's extension.

"Others in the party would like him to go bigger than 10,000 dollars," West said.

PROS & CONS

Borrowers have been calling for years for some sort of student loan forgiveness, and many have applauded Biden's move.

Economists said people saddled with debt are less likely to spend money on big-ticket purchases that will benefit the economy, such as real estate or just general consumption. Personal finance experts said being burdened with debt means it's harder to save and invest.

But others said it's not as simple as it may seem, highlighting the possibility of negative unintended economic consequences of blanket student loan forgiveness.

Mary Clare Amselem, policy analyst in the Heritage Foundation's Center for Education Policy, argued on the think tank's website that forgiveness of student loans "sounds compassionate on the surface, but is actually a radically unfair policy," she said, echoing an argument that taxpayers should not be forced to pay off other people's loans, especially if the borrower is a high earner who could pay it themselves.

"I fear that extending the suspension of student loan forgiveness will only open the door for large-scale loan forgiveness down the road," she argued.

Some contend that education need not be so expensive in the United States.

A professor at a prestigious D.C. university, who declined to be identified, told Xinhua that at least at her university, the problem is the parents.

These days, American parents dote over their children even after they reach university age. They want their kids to have every comfort imaginable while at college, from new dining facilities to new dormitories to entertainment. That means universities need to hire an army of administration staff, and that's outrageously expensive, the professor said.

Xinhua



Last year federal student loan debt hit record highs, approaching 1.6 trillion dollars and impacting around 40 million Americans, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Chinese city builds public psychological service system to improve social governance

By Bi Jingjin

ZHUMADIAN city in central China's Henan province has established an effective public psychological service system to facilitate social governance, achieving rich fruits in such aspects of social services as aiding people with disabilities, poverty alleviation, education, as well as marriage and relationship.

"Today, I counseled three expectant mothers and mediated the problems of four young couples who are seeking divorce," Liu Xiaohu, a social worker providing psychological services at a marriage and childbearing service center in Xiping county of Zhumadian city, wrote in a journal.

As of November 2020, Zhumadian city had more than 3,000 psychological consultation rooms, covering most of the departments, schools, hospitals, and marriage and childbearing institutions in various counties, townships, and villages of the city.

The city has successfully brought public psychological services into various aspects of people's lives, according to Chen Xing, secretary of the CPC Zhumadian municipal committee.

However, the results didn't come easy. As an innovation in social governance in China, the public psychological service system had to be built from scratch.

"When we started to introduce psychological services into our work in 2016, it was like crossing the river by feeling the stones as we didn't have sufficient manpower or material resources," said Wang Xing, then member of the standing committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Xiping county committee and head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Xiping county committee.

According to Wang, who is now a re-



Psychological counselors play with children in a community in Huai'an city, east China's Jiangsu province, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Feb. 24, 2020. File Photo

searcher with the Zhumadian Municipal Health Sports Commission, Xiping county mobilized all the people with psychological counselor certificates to set up a team of social volunteers for public psychological services.

By joining hands with professional psychological service organizations, the county has integrated psychological services into the daily management and services of various townships and departments under its administration, and preliminarily established a public psychological service system that covers large areas and can re-

spond promptly to people's needs.

In April 2017, Lu Xiaohui (pseudonym), a resident in Cuihuang village, Songji township of Xiping county, caught the attention of public psychological service volunteers as well as Wang.

Lu was so depressed after a painful break-up that he dropped out of a university in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province, and just idled the days away in his bedroom.

To help him feel better, Wang often visited Lu to talk with him, and took professional psychological counselors to help

him.

After finding that Lu was interested in artificial intelligence (AI), Wang brought Lu some books in the field and encouraged him to continue with his study.

These efforts gradually helped Lu walk out of his negative emotions. The man has now secured a job in Fuzhou, southeast China's Fujian province, and got married.

As he has never forgotten those who helped him when he was down, Lu decided to pass on the warmth he felt to more people by becoming a social volunteer himself. He therefore obtained a certificate for

psychological counseling, and started to give psychological services via the Internet as one of the volunteers of Xiping county.

In 2018, Zhumadian city started to promote the experience of Xiping county in building a system of public psychological services in other parts of the city.

The city has established an experience center for public psychological services, which is equipped with private chat rooms, psychometric room, and other facilities.

It has also built volunteer groups made up of selected and trained volunteers from various industries, who carry out regular activities to promote mental health knowledge.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the city's public psychological service system has played a positive role in relieving people's anxiety and stress.

Through various channels including WeChat chat groups, volunteers have been able to comfort and soothe residents in their neighborhoods and communities in a timely manner.

In addition, the government of Zhumadian city set up a hotline for psychological services promptly, and established a professional hotline service team which mainly consists of psychological service workers who had received relevant training and volunteers with experience in psychological crisis intervention for public emergencies.

Members of the professional hotline service team have conducted psychological intervention for key groups including confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases, patients with high fevers, close contacts, and medical workers, and provided psychological assistance for residents amid the outbreak.

By providing timely psychological services, they have helped lift up the spirits of residents, said Zhu Shixi, mayor of Zhumadian city.

People's Daily



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CRDB says ready to bankroll SGR contractors doing Mwanza-Isaka section

By Smart Money Reporter

CONTRACTORS and suppliers which will implement the over 340 kilometres standard gauge railway project between Mwanza City and Isaka in Uganda, can access all types of financial support from CRDB Bank Plc.

Managing Director and CEO, Abdulmajid Nsekela said last week in Mwanza when addressing the SGR stakeholders meeting organised by Tanzania Private Sector Foundation that CRDB has already supported contractors and suppliers undertaking construction of the Dar es Salaam to Dodoma SGR section.

Nsekela whose bank sponsored the event, said over the years of sustained growth, CRDB has put in place a massive financial muscle to help in implementing strategic government mega projects such as the SGR by provide bridge financing, letters of credit and bond guarantees.

"Our bank has in place strategic plans to ensure that we support the government, contractors and suppliers to implement strategic mega projects by direct intervention or otherwise as per clients' demand," he said while unveiling that in 2019, the bank disbursed US\$40 million to back the SGR project.



TPSF chairperson Angelina Ngalula addresses an SGR stakeholders meeting in Mwanza last week.

He named some of the financing opportunities available at CRDB as contractors guarantee, bid guarantee and performance guarantee targeting mainly local contractors. "But we also offer advance payment guarantee to contractors," he added while noting that purchase order financing and invoice discounting are also some of the products on offer.

Speaking at the event, TPSF's Chairperson, Angelina Ngalula said CRDB has been one of the major partners to the private sector in providing financial solutions which has led to smooth implementation of the mega projects including SGR.

"I urge all contractors to seize these opportunities being provided by CRDB Bank so that we can deliver as per contract agreements," Ngalula told the audience which comprised of senior officials from Tanzania Railways and Mwanza Regional Commissioner, John Mongela

CRDB bank has also contributed financing to Nyerere Hydro-electric Power Project on Rufiji River, Rural Electrification Agency's projects to provide power to thousands of villages and construction of Julius Nyerere International Airport Terminal III in Dar es Salaam.

S. African climate finance report tracks R62.2bn on economy decarbonisation

JOHANNESBURG

OVER the past two decades, South Africa has also adopted a range of national and sectoral policies, plans and strategies that aim to decarbonise the economy while meeting broad developmental objectives.

As the country moves to implement its national climate goals it faces important domestic challenges that need to be addressed. One of these key domestic challenges is the lack of climate finance data and analysis necessary to support national climate policy, mobilise public and private partnerships, and promote resilient economic growth.

"A clear understanding on the providers of climate finance, financial instruments used to channel investments, key sectors where finance is flowing, and the role of different stakeholders can help to scale up investments to achieve South Africa's nationally determined contribution," highlighted Dr Angela Falconer, director at Climate Policy Initiative (CPI).

A recent South African Climate Fi-

nance Landscape report published by GreenCape and The Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in partnership with Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), has tracked R62.2bn in annual climate finance invested in SA for 2017 and 2018. This is a baseline of what is possible in catalysing the financing and investments required to proceed towards the low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

"It was inspirational to see the amount of work that is already underway in the climate finance landscape in South Africa. Our analysis benefited from close dialogue and interaction about specific climate finance flows with the National Treasury, the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, fund managers, investors and industry experts. Experts in these organisations, and many other private and public stakeholders, were critical in helping us better understand the available data, and our work has benefited substantially from the many discussions," said Jack Radmore, energy and green finance programme manager, GreenCape.

The South African Climate Finance Landscape looks at detailed project-level data, understanding in detail the source, disbursement, instrument and use. The insights can support public and private role-players with information to shape sectoral strategies and selected policies and improve coherence and coordination between public and private level spending in the sectors.

The sources of finance tracked included public finance (-R22bn tracked), private finance (R35.3bn tracked) and blended finance (R4.9bn tracked) for 2017 and 2018. The end uses of the tracked climate finance included mitigation activities (81% of the finance tracked), adaptation activities (7% of the finance tracked) and dual benefit activities (13% of the finance tracked).

An International Finance Corporation (IFC) study estimated that the total investment needed to achieve South Africa's NDCs is R8.9trn over a 15-year timeframe (from 2015 to 2030). This translates to a required annual investment of R596bn to achieve South



Jack Radmore, energy and green finance programme manager at GreenCape.

Africans NDCs by 2030. This points to a rather substantial gap between required annual investment and actual tracked investment.

"There remains a clear need to move beyond business as usual, increasing annual investments into targeted sectors, if South Africa is going to achieve its agreed climate goals and initiate a genuine systemic

transition across the economy," highlighted Natasha Dinham, senior project manager impact investing at the Bertha Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

"This is a baseline of what is possible in catalysing the financing and investments required to proceed towards the low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, which remains a vital

challenge for the country," she added.

The project team identified several challenges in creating a South African climate finance landscape and although the numbers and trends identified represent the available data, further work is needed to continue to improve the accuracy of the South African climate finance landscape.

Ryanair posts Q3 loss of €306m as lockdowns hurt traffic

DUBLIN

RYANAIR, Europe's biggest discount carrier, posted a third-quarter loss of €306 million (\$371.06m) as Covid-19 travel restrictions and lockdowns hurt passenger traffic. The loss for the three months ending December 31 compares with a profit of €88m in the same period a year earlier, Ryanair said on Monday.

The airline carried 8.1 million people during the third quarter, 78 per cent fewer than the prior-year period. In December alone, traffic slumped 83 per cent to just 1.9 million passengers due to bans placed on UK flights by European Union governments seeking to curb the spread of a new virus strain.

Quarterly revenue fell 82 per cent year-on-year to €340m as traffic shrank and load factors - a measure of how well an airline is filling available seats - fell to 70 per cent from 96 per cent a year ago. "Covid-19 continues to wreak havoc across the industry," Ryanair said. "Christmas and New Year traffic was severely impacted by UK travel bans imposed at short notice by many EU governments on 19 and 20 December."

The Dublin-based carrier held €3.5



Ryanair CEO Michael O'Leary.

billion in cash by December 31. Looking ahead, Ryanair forecast a net loss of up to €950m in its current financial year ending March 31 as travel restrictions curb traffic.

While fourth-quarter visibility remains limited due to uncertain and constantly changing Covid-19 travel restrictions, European government lockdowns, the timing of the rollout of vaccines across the EU and "a very close-in" booking curve, the airline gave guidance for a net loss of between €850m and €950m.

The low-cost carrier expects to transport between 26 million and 30 million passengers in the full year, down from previous forecasts of 35 million.

"FY21 will continue to be the most challenging year in Ryanair's 35 year history," the airline said.

In December, the airline ordered an additional 75 Boeing 737 Max aircraft, increasing its firm order to 210 jets. This was the biggest order that Boeing received for the model since it was grounded following two fatal crashes. Europe's safety aviation regulator cleared the jet for commercial flights in January.

Ryanair expects to take delivery of up to 24 new aircraft before its peak summer season. Deliveries will start over a four-year period between spring 2021 and December 2024, it said.

"As we look beyond the Covid-19 crisis, and vaccinations roll out, the Ryanair Group expects to have a much lower cost base and a strong balance sheet, which will enable it to fund lower fares and add lower cost aircraft to capitalise on the many growth opportunities that will be available in all markets across Europe, especially where competitor airlines have substantially cut capacity or failed," it said.

M-Pesa customers set to share 3.9bn/- 'dividend'

By Smart Money Reporter

THOUSANDS of M-Pesa subscribers will share a staggering close to 4bn/- in 'dividend' thanks to Vodacom Tanzania Plc's impressive performance last year.

Vodacom's M-Commerce Director, Epimack Mbeteni said the 3,928,312,789/- is payment covering the first quarter of the company's 2020 financial year. Speaking in Dar es Salaam last week, Mbeteni said that the profit will be paid to all individual customers, retail agents and other M-Pesa business partners who will get their share based on transactions made through their mobile wallets.

"Our mobile money service, M-Pesa, continues to be a remarkable success story, delivering significant social and financial value to Tanzanians. We have seen substantial growth on the platform with more customers, agents, merchants and institutions transacting around 100bn/- each day," he said.

The telco which is the largest in the market with M-Pesa also leading the mobile money platforms has over 11 million customers commanding a market share of 40n percent according to recent Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority figures.

Vodacom has so far paid out a total of 143.5bn/- as interest pay out since July 2015 when Bank of Tanzania enacted the regulation to share profits with subscribers.

"I line with regulations of Bank of Tanzania, interest earned from the deposit is periodically shared with customers. Today we are happy to share a dividend of 3.9bn/- with our over 11 million customers across the nation," Mbeteni said.

He added that the profit share per customer is calculated as per the BoT circular and will depend on, among other things, the level of activity that one has had on M-Pesa platform for the period. "We have already started distributing the money to customers through their M-Pesa wallets," he added.

In 2018 Vodacom M-Pesa was awarded the



Vodacom's M-Commerce Director, Epimack Mbeteni.

GSMA Mobile Money Certification (MMC) after passing by 100 percent in the following categories: safeguarding of customer funds, service security, safeguarding of customer data and privacy, and mitigation against money laundering, terrorist financing, and fraud risks.

M-Pesa as the very first mobile money product to enter the market in 2008. Today the innovation has helped the country attain its over 70 percent financial inclusion index up from 15 percent in 2008. "We will continue to lead in innovation, bringing more Tanzanians into an inclusive digital economy, increasing the number of customers using our mobile money offerings and expanding on our enterprise services, focusing on strategic partnerships and maintaining the widest range of services that make payments faster, easier and more convenient and safer for businesses and individuals alike," the Vodacom M-Commerce Director noted.

Rwanda e-passport project gets a boost

KIGALI

RWANDA on Friday became the 75th country to join the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Public Key Directory (PKD), a move that is expected to drive faster the implementation of the country's electronic passport project.

It is now more than a year and a half since the country began issuing e-passports also known as East Africa e-passport. The new document, among others, contains an electronic chip bearing a biometric (biological data) identifier, which allows fast and effective verification of the holder.

Following the adoption of electronic passports, former ones were given a two-year grace period, meaning that they will no longer be in use effective June 28, 2021. According to the Directorate of Immigration and Emigration, joining ICAO PKD is of great significance.

"Successful joining of ICAO PKD is a key milestone in the process of issuing and validating e-passport across the globe, and is indeed a mark of the final stage of e-passport project implementation," the institution said in a statement.

Defending the move, the institution said that the ICAO PKD will ensure quick and smooth clearance of holders of Rwandan e-passports across the globe. "The security and facilitation benefits of Rwandan e-passports can only be realized if the data that is written to the integrated circuit chip can be read and trusted," the Directorate highlighted.

"For the border control of a receiving state to authenticate the e-passport of foreign visitor they must have certain information from the issuing state. The ICAO PKD provides an efficient means for a state to upload their own information and download that of other states," it added.

According to the Directorate, by playing the role of central broker of this information, ICAO PKD ensures that information adheres to the technical standards required, maintains interoperability, and paves way for timely exchange of data between given countries. Currently, e-passports are applied for via the government service delivery portal Irembo, and receive their document in less than four days, after submitting all necessary details.

The fee levied upon applicants is dependent on the category. The categories include ordinary passport for minors valid for two years (Rwf25,000), ordinary 5-year passport with 50 pages (Rwf75,000), ordinary 10-year passport with 66 pages (Rwf100,000), service passport with 5-year validity (Rwf15,000) and diplomatic passport (Rwf50,000).



Rwandan e-passports.

Sputnik V an example of how sovereign funds can invest in 'breakthrough programming'

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S development of the Sputnik V vaccine is an example of "how sovereign wealth funds [can] mobilise their capital ... to invest in breakthrough projects around the world", the head of the Russian Direct Investment Fund said.

"We, from the beginning of the pandemic, really focused on how we, as a fund, can make the best contribution to fight the pandemic," Kirill Dmitriev, RDIF's chief executive said last week in an address to the Future Investment Initiative. "We believe ... sovereign wealth funds can be more and more socially responsible and really focus on solving some of the biggest challenges for the world, such as pandemics."

RDIF was set up in 2011 to make co-investments alongside other global investors and currently has about \$10bn of reserved capital under management. It began funding the development of the Sputnik V vaccine produced by Moscow's Gamaleya Centre last year.

More than 1.5 million people have already received the vaccine, RDIF said on January 21 after the UAE's Ministry of Health approved its use. Hungary became the first European Union nation to authorise the vaccine on the same day.

"We focused on having [a] vaccine that is not only more than 90 per cent efficient but also is safe, can be stored at good temperature and can actually be affordable for the world," Mr Dmitriev said. The vaccine can be stored at between 2-10 degrees Celsius and costs less than \$10 per shot.

The fund is working with a number of other countries, including Brazil, China, India and South Korea, to facilitate local production of the vaccine. It is also co-operating with UK-based pharmaceuticals company AstraZeneca on a trial "to increase the efficacy of their vaccine by using one of our shots", Mr Dmitriev said. RDIF is also seeking to deepen its relationship with Saudi Arabia, he said.

"We see major partnerships that we have built with Saudi Arabia through oil ... where we were able to stabilise energy markets. We enjoy \$2.6bn of joint investments with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia," he added.

Russia can do "many more deals" through the joint business council between the two nations covering new areas of technology, Mr Dmitriev said. "We believe the new horizons ... is about genetics, it's about artificial intelligence," he said.

"We are confident that by working very closely with PIF and with the Ministry of Investment of Saudi Arabia, we will continue to invest in breakthrough projects and technologies that will really transform the kingdom [into] being a consumer in some of those sectors to really being a producer and one of the most vibrant creators of technological content."



Azania Bank Limited's managing director, Charles Itembe (L), leads his peers in undertaking health check up including HIV and AIDS screening which ended with receiving of a Hepatitis fever vaccination during an exercise held in Dar es Salaam last week. Others in the photo include, the bank's human resources manager, Neema Masanja and Ocean Road Cancer Institutes health experts, Dr Crispin Kahesa (2nd R). Photo courtesy of Azania.

KCB seeks endorsement to buy banks in Tanzania and Rwanda

NAIROBI

KCB Group has made a formal application to the regional competition watchdog to be cleared for the Sh4.4 billion (\$40 million) deal in which it is seeking to acquire two banks in Tanzania and Rwanda.

Comesa Competition Commission said in a notice dated last week Monday that it had started collecting views from interested parties including competitors, suppliers and customers over the two deals.

"The Commission will determine among other things whether or not the merger is likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition within the Common Market and whether the merger is or would be contrary to the

public interest," said the watchdog.

KCB in late November last year announced that it would acquire 62.06 percent stake in Banque Populaire Du Rwanda (BPR) and 100 percent stake in African Banking Corporation Tanzania Limited (BancABC).

The lender, which already has presence in the two markets, signed a share purchase agreement with London-based Atlas Mara Limited and gave itself a six-month timeline to complete the deal.

The transaction will be settled in cash with \$32 million being incurred on BPR and \$8 million on BancABC. The actual cash consideration payable by KCB will, however, be determined based on the final book value of the two banks at completion of the transactions.

Diageo investment through SBL to implement SDGs paying off



Some of the students who are beneficiaries of Serengeti Breweries Limited's 'Kilimo-Viwanda' scholarship undergo training at Iringa-based Saint Maria Goretti College of Agriculture. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Smart Money Reporter

GLOBAL alcoholic manufacturer, Diageo through its local subsidiary, Serengeti Breweries Limited is investing heavily in community services and human capital development as part of efforts to help Tanzania implement the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs).

In 2015, United Nations member states made a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. They created a sustainable development plan consisting of 17 urgent development goals (2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in partnership with the global community.

In their quest to implement the SDGs, companies worldwide have drawn deliberate measures to successfully uphold some of those that are deeply rooted in their communities' corporate social responsibility programs. Most of the companies have committed to adopting them to reshape their consumers' future.

One of the critical SDGs is goal 2 which spells; to achieve zero hunger and goal 8; to inclusively promote sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all. Its success is heavily dependent on key solutions from the food and agricultural sector.

In this context, in addressing the two goals, companies such as Diageo - whose brands include Johnnie Walker, Bailey, Guinness and Smirnoff and has a stake in SBL, have been at the forefront in implementing such goals.

To achieve the goals locally, SBL is currently implementing 'Kilimo-

Viwanda' agro-scholarship program which aims at strengthening the existing pool of agricultural experts in Tanzania which is necessary to help farmers increase productivity and ultimately their incomes. In this regard, nearly 70 students have been enrolled in the scholarship program to gain skills and knowledge to serve the country's expert needs in agriculture.

Additionally, the company has helped grow 400 local farmers' incomes through cultivation of maize, sorghum and barley which the local brewer uses to make beers. These farmers supply up to 80 percent of the company's raw materials needs per year hence having a readily available lucrative market for their commodities.

The 'Kilimo-Viwanda' initiative conforms to Diageo's newly-launched ten-year sustainability action plan dubbed, 'Society 2030: Spirit of Progress' plan by promoting positive drinking; championing inclusion and diversity, and pioneering grain-to-glass sustainability.

Another important aspect of the SDG-2 is to curb water crisis that is projected to lead to a 40 percent shortfall in freshwater availability by 2030, mainly caused by the increase in global population.

The loss of water will be burdensome to most families, particularly women and girls, as the United Nations reveals that the groups are responsible for water collection in 80 percent of households without access to water on-premises worldwide.

Diageo signed a flagship water partnership with UK-based company, WaterAid, to support the goal and ensure access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene at all community levels.

The project has benefitted 10 million people in India and 21 countries in Africa.

In Tanzania, SBL has, since 2020, constructed 17 boreholes in eight regions, enabling women and girls, especially those of school-going age, draw water from close proximity to their homes.

Suffice to say, these SDG plans are critical to empowering women and girls and scores of under-privileged communities.

Precisely, with more than 100 member states taking action to allocate budgets for gender equality, Diageo is setting an industry-lead ambition to have 45 percent representation of leaders from ethnically diverse backgrounds by 2030 of which 50 percent will be women.

Ivan Menezes, Diageo's CEO, said: "By setting both gender and ethnicity goals for the business to achieve by

2030, I believe we can truly break down barriers and help shape a more diverse and successful long-term business and society."

On the other hand, climate change (SDG goal No. 13) continues to have devastating effects worldwide. Some problems such as rising temperatures and sea levels are occurring much faster than anticipated.

Therefore, as governments are formulating and adopting plans to reduce vulnerability - companies have also set far more ambitious plans to tackle the unprecedented changes. For instance, Diageo has agreed to align by working towards a low-carbon future, harnessing 100 percent renewable energy to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across direct operations and working with suppliers to reduce indirect carbon emissions by 50 percent.

Further, the brewer launched 'Sustainable Solutions,' a global platform that will provide non-equity funding to start-up and technology companies to develop and therefore, help it continue to embed sustainability in its supply chain and brands. It is designed to support small companies and entrepreneurs in developing and commercializing their innovations. In this respect, Diageo will share global resources and experience to unlock future potential for both partners.

Granted, to align and implement SDGs, companies require a sharp look into their consumers' future, in which they are involved in reshaping it by prioritizing critical areas that need urgent solutions. To this end, companies have to tailor their products and services to fit into the shifts to suit their consumers' wellbeing and health.

French billionaire puts Mozambique leader at heart of debt scandal

LONDON



PRIVINVEST Shipbuilding SAL and its billionaire founder Iskandar Safa have placed Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi at the centre of the nation's \$2 billion debt scandal.

Court documents filed in London reveal that the shipbuilding company and the French-Lebanese businessman made payments to Nyusi (pictured) and other senior officials after negotiating contracts for government maritime projects. They denied the remittances were bribes or illegal, and said they were understood to be campaign donations or for investments.

The allegations about the payments are contained in court filings in London that Prinvest and Safa submitted in response to a case Mozambique's attorney general brought in 2019. The case relates to \$2 billion in loans Mozambique borrowed from banks including Credit Suisse Group AG in 2013 and 2014 to pay for a coastal-protection system and a tuna-fishing fleet.

Nyusi, who was the ruling Frelimo party's candidate for president at the time a payment was made to him in April 2014, was "at the very centre" of matters that the nation's attorney general raised in its case, said Prinvest and Safa. The two are among 12 defendants in the case.

'President exempt'

Nyusi wasn't president at the time the payment was made and under Mozambican law was allowed to receive political donations, Frelimo spokesman Caifadine Manasse said by phone on Friday, responding on behalf of both the party and Nyusi to requests for comment. Mozambican law prohibits public servants from receiving personal payments.

"President Nyusi is exempt from hidden debts and the Frelimo party has nothing to do with hidden debts," Manasse said. A spokesman for the attorney general's office declined to comment while the case is still in court. Will Bowen, a spokesman for Credit Suisse in London, declined to comment.

Mozambique revealed in 2016 that it failed to publicly disclose the majority of the \$2 billion of foreign loans it raised to finance the maritime projects, breaching conditions of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) accord. That led the IMF and a group of European donors to halt financing to the government, and the following year the nation defaulted on its debt.

US investors

US prosecutors in 2019 said the projects were part of a fraud and money-laundering scheme that victimised US investors. Nyusi, who was elected president in 2014 and won a second term five years later, hasn't been charged with any offence.

"President Nyusi was at all material times aware of the projects, the financing thereof, and the nature of the goods and services supplied by Prinvest," the company and Safa said in the court filings.

"He requested political campaign contributions from Prinvest, met directly with Mr Boustani in relation to those contributions and the projects more generally, and was directly involved in the conception of the projects in his then-role as minister of defence."

Mozambique's government has claimed that the maritime projects were fraudulent because Prinvest paid bribes to senior officials including then-finance minister Manuel Chang.

Prinvest says that if payments to Chang were bribes, then Nyusi is guilty too.

"Nyusi himself received and/or benefitted from payments made by Prinvest, with the consequence that it is dishonest and/or misleading to now present them as bribes unless the republic is to suggest that the payments to President Nyusi were also bribes," the company said in the filings.

Land Cruiser

Prinvest said that in addition to the \$1 million it paid Nyusi in April 2014, it also paid for a Toyota Land Cruiser for him to use while campaigning, according to the filings. Nyusi also asked Boustani in an August 2014 meeting at Paris-Le Bourget Airport in France for "further campaign contributions and/or assistance from Prinvest," it said. That was after the company had already paid Frelimo \$10 million to fund campaigns, the filings show.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Crypto's young believers stoke a craze for bitcoin penny stocks

NEW YORK

MARKO Vulicevic, just 19 years old, has accounts on eight different trading platforms, spends his free time reading blockchain whitepapers, and has a portfolio of ETFs, crypto coins and cannabis stocks.

His best bet so far: a 1,400% gain on bitcoin miner Argo Blockchain Plc, he claims. Vulicevic, who lost his job in retail during the pandemic, is one of the many individual investors behind a frenzy for crypto trading - lured by the thrill of big returns and a belief that blockchain technology is on the cusp of revolutionising the world of modern finance.

Vulicevic says he first got hooked trading foreign exchange on a demo Trading212 account, but then started using his savings to buy stocks and crypto coins, doing his own research on Reddit boards like r/pennystocks.

"When I started to see the price fluctuations, it was like a dopamine rush," said Vulicevic, who lives in Surrey, a county southwest of London. "But when I started to learn more, like understanding the technology, the under-the-hood stuff and how it could perhaps change the world, that is when I realised this could be a serious

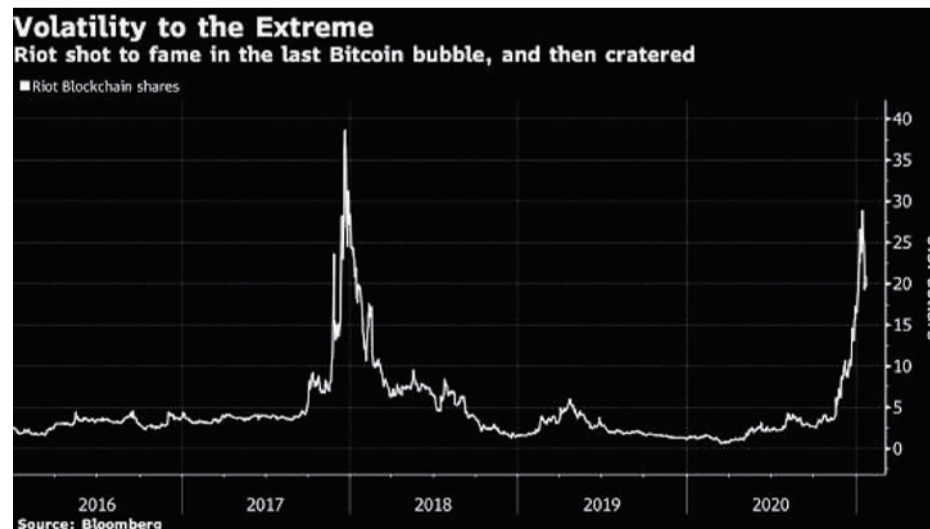
chance for me to profit on a technological evolution event."

Even though blockchain technology is still relatively niche, Vulicevic said he's confident in the potential for it to create more trustworthy, transparent financial system, like "smart contracts" that directly connect counterparties. "We don't know how our banks lend out our money, who they give that money to or just in general how they operate in terms of risk management," he said.

There's only a handful of listed crypto-related stocks worldwide, most of them like Argo run high-speed computers working on time-intensive puzzles to "mine" coins. Speculative investors are gravitating to the mining stocks and more obscure crypto assets, with names like Dogecoin and SushiSwap, as a way to mint bigger returns. And the fact that bitcoin miners tend to be unprofitable or just barely in the black isn't much of a deterrent.

Argo was the most-active stock on UK trading platform Hargreaves Lansdown last week, making up 4% of all purchases and 3% of sales. The stock has pulled back along with bitcoin, but still up some 500% since December.

While bitcoin prices tend to move in the



Riot crypto's performance graph.

realm of 5% to 10% a day, it's not uncommon for the mining stocks to swing 20%. The volatility cuts both ways, and when crypto prices fall, the miners crash. In the 2017 run-up, Riot Blockchain Inc. peaked at \$38 and sank to \$1.50 a year later.

The popularity of crypto stocks has mirrored the rise of GameStop Corp. and other small companies on Reddit's boards, where a get-rich-quick attitude and distaste

for the financial establishment lures new traders into some extremely risky bets.

"The typical crypto investor is young and male, which means that they are more predisposed to take risk than the median investor," said David Yermack, finance department chair at New York University Stern School of Business. "The volatility of crypto doesn't faze them, and to many, it's actually part of the attraction." Here's a

look at some of the most popular bitcoin-related stocks:

Argo blockchain

Founded in 2018, Argo counts itself as the only crypto miner listed on the London Stock Exchange. The company runs data centers in North America, including a 40,000-square-foot facility in northern Quebec. Market value: \$280 million; 12-month return: 1,100%; and Financials: \$91,000,000 profit in six months to June.

Riot blockchain

The Castle Rock, Colorado-based company was formerly a biotech firm called Biopix before rebranding in 2017 to focus on crypto. It has a mining facility in Massena, New York. Market value: \$1.3 billion; 12-month return: 1,500%; and Financials: \$16.6 million loss in the nine months to September.

Marathon patent

Marathon Patent Group has computers in Montana and North Dakota, and recently announced it bought \$150 million worth of bitcoin for its Treasury reserves. Market value: \$1.7 billion; 12-month return: 1,800%; and Financials: \$5.2 million loss in nine months to September.

WORLD

Myanmar military seizes power, detains elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi

YANGON

MYANMAR'S military seized power yesterday in a coup against the democratically elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, who was detained along with other leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party in early morning raids.

The army said it had carried out the detentions in response to "election fraud", handing power to military chief Min Aung Hlaing and imposing a state of emergency for one year, according to a statement on a military-owned television station.

A verified Facebook page for Suu Kyi's party published comments it said had been written in anticipation of a coup and which quoted her as saying people should protest against the military takeover.

The coup derails years of Western-backed efforts to establish democracy in Myanmar, also known as Burma, where neighbouring China also has a powerful influence.

The generals made their move hours before parliament had been due to sit for the first time since the NLD's landslide win in a Nov. 8 general election viewed as a referendum on Suu Kyi's fledgling democratic rule.

Phone and internet connections in the capital, Naypyitaw, and the main commercial centre of Yangon were disrupted and state television went off air

after the NLD leaders were detained.

Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and other NLD leaders were "taken" in the early hours of the morning, NLD spokesman Myo Nyunt told Reuters by phone. Reuters was subsequently unable to contact him.

A video posted to Facebook by one MP appeared to show the arrest of another, regional lawmaker Pa Pa Han.

In the video, her husband pleads with men in military garb standing outside the gate. A young child can be seen clinging to his chest and wailing.

Troops and riot police stood by in Yangon where residents rushed to markets to stock up on supplies and others lined up at ATMs to withdraw cash. Banks subsequently suspended services due to poor internet connections.

The detentions came after days of escalating tension between the civilian government and the military in the aftermath of the election.

Suu Kyi's party won 83% of the vote in only the second election since a military junta agreed to share power in 2011.

The pre-written statement uploaded on an NLD Facebook page quoted Suu Kyi as saying such army actions would put Myanmar "back under a dictatorship".

"I urge people not to accept this, to respond and wholeheartedly to protest against the coup by the military," it quoted her as saying. Reuters was unable to reach any NLD officials to confirm



Aung San Suu Kyi

the veracity of the statement.

Supporters of the military celebrated the coup, parading through Yangon in pickup trucks and waving national flags but democracy activists were horrified.

"Our country was a bird that was just learning to fly. Now the army broke our wings," student activist Si Thu Tun said.

NLD voters were angry.

"The NLD is the government we voted for. If they're unhappy with the result, they can call another election. A coup isn't acceptable," said one woman, who declined to be identified, whose husband works for the military.

Senior NLD leader Win Htein said in a Facebook post the army chief's takeover demonstrated his ambition rather than concern for the country.

POTENTIAL FOR UNREST

Condemnation of the coup came from Australia, Britain, the European Union, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and the United States. China called on all sides to respect the constitution and uphold stability.

The White House said President Joe Biden had been briefed on the arrests, while the U.S. embassy in Yangon issued an alert warning U.S. citi-

zens there of the "potential for civil and political unrest".

"The United States stands with the people of Burma in their aspirations for democracy, freedom, peace, and development. The military must reverse these actions immediately," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the coup and the imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi and others.

"The vote of the people must be respected and civilian leaders released," he said on Twitter.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the detentions and urged the military to respect the will of the people, a spokesman said.

European Council President Charles Michel said all those detained must be released and the outcome of the election respected.

Japan said it had long supported democracy in Myanmar and opposed any reversal of that process. It also called for the release of Suu Kyi and others.

KILLING DEMOCRACY

Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi, 75, came to power after a 2015 election win that followed decades of house arrest and struggle against the military, which seized power in a 1962 coup and stamped out all dissent for decades.

While still hugely popular at home, her international reputation was damaged after she failed to stop the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya Muslims in 2017. Rohingya refugees in neighbouring Bangladesh also condemned the takeover.

"We Rohingya community strongly condemn this heinous attempt to kill democracy," Rohingya leader Dil Mohammed told Reuters by phone.

The November vote faced some criticism in the West for disenfranchising some ethnic groups including Rohingya but the election commission rejected military complaints of fraud.

Agencies



Muslims gather in Id Kah mosque in Kashgar, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, for Friday prayers. File photo

Xinjiang officials refute rumors, welcome foreign visits

BEIJING

A SENIOR official of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region yesterday denounced former US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's allegations of "genocide" and a "crime against humanity" as the biggest setup in human history and welcomed foreigners to visit the region to discover the real situation themselves.

"Pompeo's vicious remarks have seriously trampled upon international law and basic norms governing international relations, interfered in China's internal affairs and damaged the sentiments of people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

His 'determination' is nothing more than wasted paper," Xu Guixiang, deputy head of the Publicity Department of the Xinjiang Regional Committee of the Communist Party of China, said at a press briefing in Beijing.

"We welcome foreigners from all walks of life, including relevant officials of the new US administration, to visit Xinjiang and see for themselves the real situation so as to avoid being deceived by Pompeo's lies," he said.

"However, we also have principles and a bottom line, and will not accept the so-called investigation with a presumption of guilt," Xu said.

The United States and Britain have recently issued a series of sanctions against Xinjiang on the grounds of forced labor, including banning imports of cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang and adding some Xinjiang enterprises to the US export control entity list.

In response, Xu said the United States has neither verified the relevant information nor had any contact with relevant enterprises and employees. It has used so-called "forced labor" in Xinjiang as an excuse to implement long-arm jurisdiction and illegal detention, and to abuse export controls.

Xu said that such barbaric acts gravely violate international trade rules, severely damage global industrial and supply chains, and seriously infringe upon the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises and employees in Xinjiang. "We express strong indignation and stern condemnation."

"In response to the unreasonable sanctions imposed by the United States, we will, in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of China and the United States, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of enterprises through legal channels and resolutely recover losses," he added.

Xu said that Xinjiang's enterprises have huge space for foreign trade and many partners, and just being without the United States won't leave them bankrupt.

"We will actively help these enterprises to explore emerging overseas markets, make them stronger and bigger, and provide high-quality and affordable Xinjiang products to the international market."

The achievements in the development and progress of human rights in Xinjiang are obvious to all.

The political rights, economic rights, social rights and freedom of religious belief of the people of all ethnic groups have never been as protected as they are now.

Xinhua

Navalny's foundation confirmed its foreign agent status after sanction calls - Kremlin

MOSCOW

THE Anti-Corruption Foundation (non-profit organization recognized as foreign agent in Russia) created by Russian opposition figure Alexey Navalny has reaffirmed its foreign agent status by calling on US President Joe Biden to introduce sanctions against several dozens of Russian businessmen and politicians, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"As for this foundation and all these letters and calls, the foundation de jure and de facto demonstrated its status of foreign agent," the Kremlin spokesman stressed.

When asked about the Kremlin's view on the West's sanction policies, Peskov noted that this opinion "is well known." "We reject these sanctions. We believe them to be absolutely unacceptable, we believe that it is a profoundly wrong way of engaging in relations between states. There are no prospects in this method," he underlined.

On Saturday, January 30, Anti-Corruption Foundation Executive Director Vladimir Ashurkov posted an address in his Facebook account to US President Joe Biden to urge the US administration to impose sanctions against several dozens of Russians.

Agencies

By Wang Xiaodong

WHO team visits medics in Wuhan

AN international expert team from the World Health Organization has had exchanges with medical workers and early COVID-19 patients in Wuhan, Hubei province, the National Health Commission said on Sunday.

The team has visited several places in Wuhan over the past few days, including Hubei Provincial Hospital of Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine and Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital, where some of the earliest COVID-19 patients were treated, commission spokesman Mi Feng told a

news conference in Beijing.

The team, on a visit to Wuhan for scientific cooperation with its Chinese counterparts on tracing the origin of the novel coronavirus, completed a two-week medical observation in quarantine according to local epidemic prevention and control regulations on Thursday afternoon.

The Chinese side and the WHO team have reached an agreement on future efforts, and the two sides will continue to conduct joint research, which will involve visiting

related disease control and prevention facilities, scientific research institutes and trade markets, Mi said.

China will, as always, continue to cooperate with the WHO with an open, transparent and responsible attitude, and make contributions to better prevent future risks and protect people's lives and health, he said.

In a tweet on Saturday, Peter Daszak, a zoologist and member of the WHO team, said: "2nd day on-the-ground in Wuhan meeting with lead-

ers & staff at the famous Wuhan Jinyintan Hospital that treated large numbers of severe COVID cases early in the outbreak. Important opportunity to talk directly with medics who were on the ground at that critical time fighting COVID!"

The two sides have kept exchanging information on the latest progress in tracing the origin and worked together to formulate a plan on cooperation under a broader plan for global cooperation on origin-tracing of the virus.

Xinhua

Kushner, Berkowitz nominated for Nobel peace prize for Israel deals

WASHINGTON

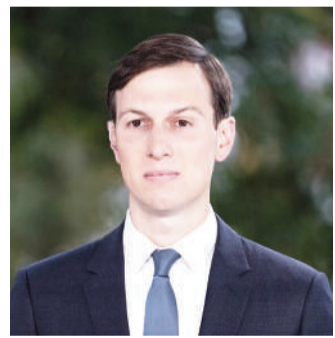
FORMER White House senior adviser Jared Kushner and his deputy, Avi Berkowitz, were nominated by a friendly attorney on Sunday for the Nobel Peace Prize for their role in negotiating four normalization deals between Israel and Arab nations known as the "Abraham Accords."

The deals were announced in a four-month span between mid-August and mid-December and were the most significant diplomatic breakthroughs in the Middle East in 25 years as the region grinds for a prolonged confrontation with Iran.

Nominating the pair of former deputies to then-President Donald Trump was American attorney Alan Dershowitz, who was eligible to do so in his capacity as a professor emeritus of Harvard Law School.

Dershowitz had defended Trump in his first impeachment trial last year and said in a Jan. 20 comment in the Wall Street Journal that the Senate should dismiss the article of impeachment against Trump over the Jan. 6 storming of the U.S. Capitol as he is no longer president.

In his letter to the Nobel committee, Dershowitz also



Jared Kushner

cited the work of former U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and former Israeli ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer in the normalization deals. He seemed to suggest his nomination could be controversial.

"The Nobel Peace Prize is not for popularity. Nor is it an assessment of what the international community may think of those who helped bring about peace. It is an award for fulfilling the daunting criteria set out by Alfred Nobel in his will," he wrote.

Kushner, who is Trump's son-in-law, and Berkowitz, who was the Middle East envoy, were key figures in negotiating deals between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

In a statement, Kushner said he was honored to be nominated for the prize, which will be awarded in October.

President Joe Biden's administration is expected to review all national security deals struck during the Trump administration, including arms packages for the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

Some lawmakers have complained about the Morocco deal because, to win the nation's agreement, the United States recognized its sovereignty over the disputed Western Sahara.

Trump left office on Jan. 20 under a cloud of controversy, potentially affecting whether the two aides would be awarded the Nobel.

Agencies

China speeds up development and utilisation of renewable energy

AS China ramps up efforts to make its energy sector clean, low-carbon, safe, and efficient, the country is seeing fast growth in the scale of development and utilization of renewable energy resources nationwide.

By the end of last August, its cumulative installed capacity of hydroelectric projects, wind power projects, and photovoltaic power projects had reached 360 million kW, 220 million kW, and 220 million kW respectively, the highest in the world.

As of the end of 2019, the country's nuclear power plants in operation and under construction recorded a total installed capacity of 65.93 million kW, ranking second in the world.

Northwest China's Qinghai province boasts rich clean energy resources. It has 100,000 square kilometers of desertified land that can be used as the sites of photovoltaic power generation facilities and wind farms, with the amount of exploitable solar energy exceeding three billion kW and that of exploitable wind energy 75 million kW.

On Dec. 30, 2020, the Qinghai-Henan 800 kV ultra-high voltage (UHV) direct current (DC) power transmission project passed the test on full-voltage, full-current, and overload operation, and officially started 800 kV full-voltage operation.

Stretching from the Tibetan au-

tonomous prefecture of Hainan, Qinghai province, all the way to Zhumadian city of central China's Henan province, the Qinghai-Henan power transmission project is the first UHV DC power transmission project planned and built by the State Grid Corporation of China (State Grid) for large-scale development of new energy resources in Qinghai.

With a total length of 1,563 kilometers, the project runs through Qinghai province, northwest China's Gansu province and Shaanxi province, and Henan province.

As the world's first all-clean energy UHV power transmission project, it has served as a bridge between the abundant energy resources in Qing-

hai and the huge demand for energy in Henan.

On Jan. 22, a branch company of State Grid Henan Electric Power Company in Henan province carried out a fire drill to simulate emergency response procedures in case of fire caused by converter transformer malfunction at a converter substation of the power transmission project.

As the 16th fire drill carried out at the converter substation since the project was fully put into operation at the end of last year, the emergency drill was further guarantee of safe and stable operation of relevant equipment in the project.

As of Dec. 31, 2020, the project

had accumulatively delivered 3.41 billion kWh of "green electricity" to Henan, saving the world from the emission of 2.53 million tons of carbon dioxide and the consumption of 1.54 million tons of raw coal, according to Li Qingjun, deputy director of the construction department of State Grid Qinghai Electric Power Company.

The "energy artery" has not only provided Henan province with access to clean energy from Qinghai, but also benefited central China's Hubei and Hunan provinces and east China's Jiangxi province.

From July to August last year, Hubei and Jiangxi purchased 76 million kWh electricity via the

Qinghai-Henan power transmission project.

China's green energy development has played an important role in reducing carbon emission intensity.

By 2019, carbon emission intensity in China had decreased by 48.1 percent compared with that of 2005, which exceeded the target of reducing carbon emission intensity by 40 to 45 percent between 2005 and 2020, reversing the trend of rapid carbon dioxide emission growth, said a white paper titled "Energy in China's New Era" released in December 2020 by the country's State Council Information Office.

People's Daily

US to phase out privately operated federal prisons

WASHINGTON

THE United States is phasing out the use of private prisons in a move advocates are applauding but also criticizing as not shrinking the federal prison system but just transferring inmates to public facilities. The country has the largest prison population in the world.

US President Joe Biden signed an executive order directing the Justice Department not to renew its contracts with private prisons, to "reduce profit-based incentives to incarcerate".

The order also notes the disproportionate impact of mass incarceration on people of color.

Biden's presidential campaign made some commitments on criminal justice reform, one of which was ending the use of private prisons, with few details yet to be made public. Private prisons have long been used by state and federal authorities. Advocates decried the use of the private detention sector, arguing the facilities put inmates at greater risk for abuse.

A 2016 report by the Justice Department found private prisons to have high rates of assault, use of force incidents and lockdowns.

More than 2 million people are incarcerated in the US, representing 698 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than any other country, a 2020 Prison Policy Initiative report said.

Private prisons are a US\$1 billion industry in the US. GEO Group and CoreCivic are two of the biggest private prison companies, operating a majority of the facilities under the Bureau of Prisons, or BOP.

Agencies

Ethiopia to investigate gender-based violence in restive northern region

ADDIS ABABA

THE ETHIOPIA Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Ethiopia Ministry of Women, Children and Youth (MoWCY) have formed a joint taskforce to investigate gender-based violence in the east African country's northern Tigray region.

The formation of the joint taskforce on Sunday to investigate gender-based violence was announced during a meeting between Ethiopia Minister of Women, Children and Youth, Filsan Abdullahi and officials from the Ethiopia Ministry of Defense.

The joint taskforce is expected to send a fact-finding mission soon to investigate and ascertain facts on the ground, especially regarding reports of gender-based violence in the war-torn Tigray regional state, reported state media outlet Fana Broadcasting Corporate (FBC).

Allegations of violence against women including rapes in the ongoing war in Tigray regional state have caused widespread local and international concern.

The Ethiopian government has recently pledged to investigate and bring to justice any security forces found to have committed sexual violence in Tigray regional state.

Months of fighting in Tigray between the ex-ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) and the Ethiopian Defense Forces have reportedly left thousands of people dead, hundreds of thousands displaced, and millions in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Ethiopia's federal government has been undertaking military operations in the country's northernmost Tigray regional state since November 4 against TPLF, which used to rule over the region, following the TPLF's alleged attack on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian Army.

The Ethiopian government has been blaming the TPLF, which was one of the four coalition fronts of Ethiopia's former ruling party the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), for masterminding various treasonous acts across different parts of the country with an overarching goal of destabilizing the East African country.

Three of the former four EPRDF coalition members had in late 2019 joined other regional parties in establishing the Prosperity Party, as the TPLF refused to join.

The mounting differences between the federal government and TPLF exacerbated in September last year when the Tigray regional government decided to go with its planned regional elections, which the Ethiopian parliament had previously postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Ethiopian government figures the Tigray region conflict has resulted in the displacement of around 2.2 million people, while 4.5 million people in total are in need of emergency aid.

Xinhua

Putin orders to verify reports of unlawful pressure on targets of criminal investigations

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Russian Prosecutor General's Office to verify reports of unlawful pressure on targets of criminal investigations, the Kremlin website informed yesterday.

This forms part of the list of Putin's demands on the outcomes of the session of the Russian Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights held on December 10, 2020.

"The Prosecutor General's Office of the Russian Federation is to verify the information contained in the reports heard during the session of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights on putting unlawful pressure on targets of criminal investigations," the document reads.

Russian Prosecutor General Igor Krasnov must provide this report to the Russian leader until June 1, 2021.

One of the members of the council, Yevgeny Myslovsky, informed of numerous violations against subjects of criminal investigations during the council's session in December.

Agencies

US COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations drop while deaths still increase

WASHINGTON

AMID a slow and uneven rollout of vaccines and increasing concern about new coronavirus variants, key COVID-19 indicators show ease of the pandemic across the country, according to a weekly report of The COVID-19 Tracking Project.

For the second week in a row, new cases and hospitalizations dropped nationally, 14 percent for cases and 12 percent for hospitalizations.

However, cases and hospitalizations remain much higher than at any point before the fall and winter surge, according to the tracking project.

A total of 164,876 new cases and 3,532 deaths were reported across the country on Friday, according to the data updated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Saturday.

Currently the country averages over 153,000 daily cases and over 3,200 daily deaths, CDC data show.

There were a total of 97,561 COVID-19 hospitalizations as of Saturday, the first time below 100,000 since Dec. 1 last year, according to the tracking project.

Tests have also declined for about 3 percent, which may mean that more cases are being missed.

COVID-19 deaths rose 7 percent this week, with states reporting a total of 22,797 lives lost to COVID-19, according to the tracking project.

Deaths lag behind cases. Even with cases falling across the country, there may be another week or more of very high death numbers to come, according to the project.

Nationwide, new cases among white and African Americans are down more than 10 percent compared to the previous week, and among Latino people more than 20 percent, the second week in a row with fewer new cases for all three groups.



Motorists line up to receive inoculation at a COVID-19 vaccination site at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, California, the United States, Jan. 15, 2021. (Xinhua)

In California, the most populous state in the United States, COVID-19 deaths surge at record pace as cases decline.

An average of 544 people died every day in the last week, and on Saturday the state reached the grim milestone of 40,000 deaths overall, according to data compiled by Johns Hopkins Uni-

versity.

The vaccine rollout in the United States has drawn great public attention since it started on Dec. 14 last year.

Health experts and officials have blamed states for slow vaccine rollout.

About 29.6 million doses have been administered as of Jan. 30, according to CDC data.

The United States has recorded more than 26.09 million COVID-19 cases with over 440,000 related deaths as of Sunday noon, according to the real-time count kept by Johns Hopkins University.

Xinhua

London's Hong Kong intervention reflects colonial mentality

BEIJING

THE Sun has set on the British empire, but it seems that some in London have yet to wake up from their colonial dreams.

Beginning on Sunday, Hong Kong residents who hold the so-called British National Overseas (BNO) passports can apply for settlement and British citizenship.

Such a political manipulation driven by a colonial thinking is a flagrant interference in China's internal affairs, which will take another toll on bilateral ties and further hurt Britain's own long-term interests.

As an immediate countermeasure, China said it will no longer recognize the BNO passport as a valid travel document or for identification from Sunday and reserves the right to take further actions.

Britain's tailored policy for Hong Kong residents reflects that the outdated mentality of colonialism still doggedly persist in the minds of some decision-makers in London.

They are still pretending that they have some kind of a special responsibility for Hong Kong, which is handed back to China more than two decades ago.

The truth is that from the moment the handover of Hong Kong was done, all the rights and obligations regarding Britain in the Sino-British Joint Declaration were fulfilled.

It means that Britain has no sovereignty, jurisdiction or right of "supervision" over Hong Kong since then, and the "historical duty" it claimed it has to the Hong Kong people is as misleading as it is fictional.

Obviously, there are at least three cal-



People wearing face masks walk on a street in Hung Hom, Hong Kong, south China, on Friday. (Xinhua)

culations behind its new BNO policy: to cash in on those immigrants from Hong Kong, who could bring considerable economic benefits to Britain; to sow more seeds of chaos and divisions in Hong Kong; and to force Beijing to compromise on issues related to Hong Kong, particularly the national security law.

In the past two and half years, London has repeatedly tried to make waves in Hong Kong. The Chinese city, in its eyes, is no more than a geo-political leverage.

The birth of the law to safeguard

national security in Hong Kong is the constitutional obligation of the Chinese government and a fundamental move to restore stability in one of the world's most robust financial hubs. Beijing will not give in for doing the right thing.

Those British politicians who are strategizing to profit from fueling instability in Hong Kong and challenging China's sovereignty, may feel "immensely proud" about their BNO tactic.

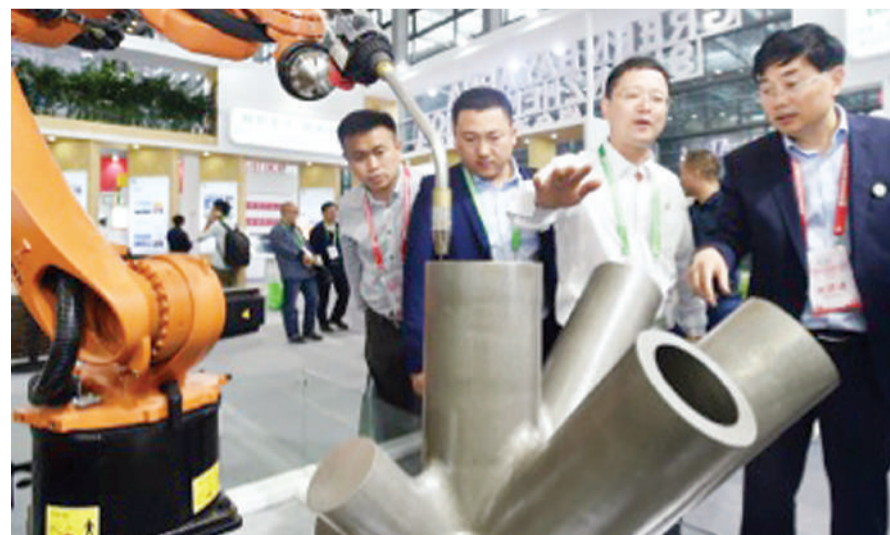
However, they are just penny-wise and pound-foolish. A healthy and stable

China-Britain relationship is vital for both. Creating tensions between the two countries will endanger their mutually beneficial cooperation and overshadow the prospect of bilateral ties in the post-pandemic and post-Brexit era.

London should drop its obsession with colonialism and call off provocations against China's core interests. Holding onto an inglorious past will not help with Britain's present-day global relevance.

Xinhua

Green construction boosts low-carbon cities



The 15th International Conference on Green and Energy-efficient Building and New Technologies and Products Expo was held in Shenzhen, south China's Guangdong province on April 3 and 4, 2019. (File Photo)

and energy.

Green constructions are vital for the comfort and livability of environment. To reduce buildings' pressure on environment, offer healthy living spaces for residents, and achieve sustainable development of buildings, mankind and environment are core targets of green constructions.

In recent years, China has rolled out poli-

cies to guide the development of the green construction industry, with authorities raising incentives for enterprises adopting green construction standards and enhancing the promotion of green buildings. In addition, energy-saving technologies are also being improved to fit the green construction requirements of low-carbon cities.

Today, while utilizing construction re-

sources in a rational manner, many regions are making urbanization plans more science-based, using low-carbon and environmentally friendly construction materials as much as possible, so as to empower the development of a recycling system of green energy.

As urbanization process goes deep, relevant industries and departments are introducing environmental protection into their designs to meet green construction targets. Besides, enterprises are also adopting low-carbon technologies such as solar energy and water recycling in their engineering designs, to achieve environmental protection goals and avoid garbage, noise, and light pollution during construction.

At present, the Chinese government is issuing more preferential policies to encourage green constructions, and local authorities are also rolling out relevant incentives and monitoring mechanisms. In addition, the concept of green construction is advocated by many non-governmental organizations and enterprises. The low-carbon awareness of the government, enterprises and the public is prominently improved in regions that have launched the demonstration program of low-carbon pilot cities, which has laid a solid foundation for realizing green and low-carbon development.

People's Daily

SPORT



Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC players feature in training in the city recently in preparation for a Vodacom Premier League (VPL) encounter with Namungo FC, to be played in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. The duel is one of the top flight matches that were put on hold to give room for Tanzania's national football team to battle it out in this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN) showpiece, hosted by Cameroon. PHOTO: COURTESY OF KMC FC

Azam FC to play TP Mazembe in friendly today

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

VODACOM Premier League (VPL)'s Azam FC, led by Zambian coach George Lwandamina, is today expected to play a friendly match against five-time CAF Champions League winners, Tout Puissant Mazembe of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam.

Tout Puissant Mazembe are among the major sports clubs in DRC and they are one of the most successful football teams in Africa.

They gained great notoriety when they defeated the Internacional of Brazil in the semi-final of the 2010 FIFA Club World Cup tournament and cruised to the final.

They are the most successful soccer outfit in DRC with 36 national and international titles won.

On January 30, Azam FC won 3-1 against fellow VPL squad Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in a friendly match played at the same venue.

Two Azam FC goals were scored by their striker, Prince Dube, and one was netted by midfielder Mudathir Yahya while KMC FC's defender Lusajo Mwaikenda netted the team's only goal in the friendly.

Azam FC assistant coach Vivier Bahati said: "It was a good game and every player was at a good time which has kept us in good shape for the upcoming Vodacom Premier League matches."

Tout Puissant Mazembe, who settled for third spot in the just concluded Simba Super Cup tournament, which was coordinated by Simba SC, are expected to rotate their squad heading to this friendly match as preparation for this season's CAF Champions League.

Heading into game against the all powerful TP Mazembe, Azam FC's information officer, Thabit Zakaria, noted that the aim of the game is to keep their players fit for the coming VPL matches.



Azam FC's players jubilate when the team scored against Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in a practice game, held in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: COURTESY OF AZAM FC

SPORTS

Sports bodies told sternly ample preparations matter greatly



National U-20 football squad, Ngorongoro Heroes.

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

MERCIFULLY for the long-suffering national sporting public, authorities have cautioned all domestic sports bodies in no uncertain terms to cease preparing for sporting spectacles merely a few days before the said major extravaganza is set to commence.

Expanding further, authorities expressly made it clear that the secret to sporting quintessence is ample preparation, which, let's face it, is one of the most patently obvious facts in the book!

Indeed, the authorities' stern advice is a timely reminder about the essentiality of meticulous and absolutely thorough preparations and might I add that this reminder is coming at a particularly significant hour for our ever-buzzing national sports patch.

It is incumbent upon me to note that next month in Mauritania, the national U-20 football team fondly dubbed 'Ngorongoro Heroes' will be hopefully flying our flag successfully at the prestigious U-20 Africa Cup of Nations finals.

And, it would be remiss of me not to nervously point out that the Heroes have been ruthlessly hurled by the characteristically unpredictable football gods into a

tricky pool consisting of: erstwhile U-20 AFCON champions, Ghana, Gambia and perennial continental football juggernauts, Morocco.

So, as I stated earlier, the authorities' cautionary reminders about the sheer importance of early preparations directly concerns the Heroes' looming participation in this illustrious U-20 AFCON championship.

Indeed, one must soberly note with alarm that the Heroes have not engaged in any warm-up encounters thus far geared at revealing any flaws or deficiencies that might be lurking in the shadows in their play.

And, it should be remembered that the Heroes need not only play friendly encounters against strictly foreign opposition.

In fact, if scheduling or other assorted constraints prove too daunting to surmount, friendly clashes can be more easily organized (one would hope) against local opposition ranging from any of our troika of aristocratic clubs: Simba SC, Yanga and Azam FC to the likes of even other top tier outfits like Mtibwa Sugar, for example.

The central message that I'm trying to ram home here is that it would help immensely if the Heroes played at least one or two warm-up football duels before the U-20 AFCON finals as the path

that they will soon tread upon is strewn with obstacles and fearsome hurdles aplenty.

Moving on, the Tanzania Professional Boxing Regulatory Commission (TPBRC) recently made an announcement that must have indisputably gladdened the hearts of many a boxing fan across the vast expanse of the country.

Indeed, in words that must have sounded as distinctly melodious music to many an ear, the TPBRC firmly said that it intends to clamp down severely on fake boxing championships, a lamentable practice that has sadly been rife for several years.

It comes as a source of enormous relief that the TPBRC has finally moved decisively to take action on this matter as the utterly regrettable practice of staging fake and wildly hyped boxing bouts has been a distinctly savorless and frustrating one for numberless boxing fans among the populace.

Not to mention too, such fake boxing bouts paint an especially unflattering image of our country which consists of teeming masses of boxing fans whose reverence for the sport is seemingly boundless.

Hats off then to the TPBRC for taking this heartening, bold and decisive move which will hopefully leave local boxing in rude health!

French Embassy in Tanzania to host 'Hip Hop Asili' festival

By Francis Kajubi

THE French Embassy in Tanzania, in collaboration with experienced hip hop artistes, painters, filmmakers and poem composers, is organizing a six-month competition, known as 'Hip Hop Asili', to find new talents across the country.

The competition is set to take place in five Mainland Tanzania regions, Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and Morogoro, and Zanzibar.

It will start on Friday in Dodoma, followed an event that will take place in Zanzibar next week.

The competition, which will take place in other four regions, will be organized between February and May.

Cecille Frobert, Head of Development Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy in Tanzania, told the press in Dar es Salaam yesterday the competition in the six regions will be presided by hip hop artiste, Fareed Kubanda, nicknamed 'Fid Q', who will lead the team in selecting the best upcoming hip hop artistes, dancers, rappers, beatboxers, Disc Jockeys (DJs), graffiti artists, streetwear designers and skateboarders.

She disclosed: "We are encouraging all the upcoming artistes to take part in this competition which is intended at showcasing the richness of hip hop culture in Tanzania." "The competition will be finalized by a three-day climax of the first edition of the 'Hip Hop Asili' festival to be held late in June this year at Nafasi Arts Space in Dar es Salaam," she stated.

According to her, the festival is sponsored the French Embassy in Tanzania, in collaboration with 'We Present', a French NGO from south of France, thus a business model needed to bring sustainability of the competition by bringing in other stakeholders for sponsorship.

According to him, the festival will not only link young artistes with the best managers, producers and beatmakers in Tanzania but also help the musicians forge connection with the best French Hip Hop entertainers. "Our vision is to create peace building platforms which empower



Hip Hop artiste, Fareed Kubanda, popularly known as Fid Q, speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday about a competition, known as 'Hip Hop Asili', and festival, scheduled for. Sitting (C) is Cecille Frobert, Head of Development Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy in Tanzania, and Risa Russell, a Hip Hop thematic filmmaker from France. PHOTO: FRANCIS KAJUBI

'Fid Q', a popular Hip Hop artiste, who leads the competition team's judges, said that the event's winners will be subject to mentorship and building skills training on how to develop their talents and scale great heights.

"The objective of the competition and the 'Hip Hop Asili' festival is to promote the value of art and expression by empowering youths to engage their gifts in a way that uplifts their communities and also inspire them to become accomplished hip hop artistes," 'Fid Q' noted.

According to him, the festival will not only link young artistes with the best managers, producers and beatmakers in Tanzania but also help the musicians forge connection with the best French Hip Hop entertainers. "Our vision is to create peace building platforms which empower

and unify people from diverse communities, and, in doing so, amplifying and creating a powerful awakening of the youths' voices in Tanzania," he added.

Risa Russell, a Hip Hop thematic filmmaker from France, said that Hip Hop artistes are the only ones who influence change in the communities they come from being it political or economic aspects.

She disclosed: "Hip Hop artistes have played a role of being voiceless since its establishment. From this perspective, it is essential to make films that really depict the culture of hip hop."

"At a community level hip hop is the only culture that can be used to make people think positively, have courage and understanding how arts can transform their lives" she said.

Whirlwind start takes holders Morocco past Zambia

DOUALA

SOUFIANE Rahimi and Mohamed Ali Bemammer scored within eight minutes of the kickoff to set up African Nations Championship title-holders Morocco for a 3-1 quarter-final triumph over Zambia Sunday.

The plight of the Zambians in Cameroon worsened when Zachariah Chilongoshi was red-carded for a studs-up tackle and they fell three goals behind before half-time when Ayoub el Kaabi converted a penalty.

However, if the Moroccans thought they could go on a scoring spree during the second half in port city Douala they were mistaken as Zambia showed fighting spirit that was absent earlier.

They not only prevented the defending champions scoring in the second half, but pulled one goal back with 10 minutes remaining through substitute Moses Phiri.

By winning, Morocco became the first title-holders in a competition reserved for home-based players to reach the semi-finals of the following edition.

They will face Cameroon in Limbe Wednesday in a potential blockbuster being labelled "the final before the final" by the local media.

Cameroon, who will be appearing in the penultimate stage for the first time, came from behind Saturday to win 2-1 against two-

time champions the Democratic Republic of Congo.

While the Cameroonians will enjoy home advantage, the Moroccans have improved considerably after a sluggish start in which they edged Togo and were held by Rwanda.

Having scored just once, from a penalty, in two outings, they netted eight times against Uganda and Zambia with Rahimi bagging three and captain El Kaabi two.

The other semi-final, also on Wednesday, will be a west African affair between Mali and Guinea, with both reaching that stage for the second time.

Several hours after Morocco advanced, Guinea defeated Rwanda 1-0 in Limbe thanks to a goal direct from a free-kick by Morlaye Sylla on 60 minutes.

Both sides finished a mainly scrappy quarter-final match with 10 men after Guinean Mory Kante and Rwandan Olivier Kwizera were sent off.

Both offenders were initially yellow-carded before the referee changed his mind after using VAR.

Kante was dismissed for a knee-high tackle on Jacques Tuyisenge after 14 minutes, which forced the Rwanda captain to come off, and Kwizera was expelled for a last-defender foul 42 minutes later.

On Saturday, Mali pipped Congo Brazzaville 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

AFP

Our history': Modest Doha stadium far cry from World Cup venues

DOHA

AWAY from the lavish air conditioning and hand-manicured turf of Qatar's World Cup Stadiums, two of which will host the world's best clubs from Thursday, sits Doha Sports Stadium.

The modest ground, the first in the Gulf with a grass pitch, nestles in the heart of the old city flanked by low-slung concrete villas, Doha's modest inventory of dive bars, and a bus station.

Despite its deceptively simple exterior of low walls it has hosted footballing titans including Pele as well as boxer Muhammad Ali, known as Cassius Clay until 1964, since opening its doors in 1962.

"This stadium means a lot to me. I grew up in this stadium. My start was on this stadium with the big stars," said retired Qatar and Al-Sadd star Hassan Mattar.

"It started here very beautifully at that time."

Four floodlights tower above the modest neighbourhood which is a far cry from the skyscraper hotels and office blocks clustered together on the opposite side of the West Bay.

A vintage yellow post box speaks to the district's history, a stone's throw from the coast and a dhow harbour as well as the Bidda area which has served as the ruling Al-Thani dynasty's seat of power.

The venue is open-air except for a small pavilion containing the VVIP toilets reserved for the great and the good of the emirate and beyond.

- 'A huge difference' -

By contrast, 60,000-capacity Al-Bayt stadium which will host World Cup matches in 2022 features hotel suites with views of the pitch and balconies in the stands.

"This was the main stadium in Qatar, and in those days the fans filled the stands," Mattar said of Old Doha Stadium's 4,000 capacity. "I have fond memories. This stadium was the only grass planted in the Gulf countries."

Mattar said that seeing the likes of Pele on his home turf had inspired him and many other Qataris, leading to the country's modern day infatuation with football.

Maintaining grass pitches is an arduous, water-heavy challenge in the country where summer temperatures routinely exceed 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit).

At the Khalifa Stadium 15 kilometres (10 miles) west, which opened in 1976 and will host World Cup games in 2022, groundsmen would "touch up" the turf with green paint to help overcome the brutally hot Gulf summers.

"Switching from this stadium to the new stadiums, yes, there is a huge difference," said Mattar.

Now Doha Sports Stadium wants for nothing and has received the support of Qatar's former ruler, the Father Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani according to those involved in the venue.

Its lush green surface is nowadays used to train Qatari FIFA-level referees as well as hosting smaller youth and exhibition matches.

But its vintage appeal and understated heritage value have been eclipsed by Qatar's seven new-build stadiums in recent years.

- Sporting ambition -

Criticisms of worker welfare on those projects and the environmental cost of air conditioning each of the open-roof stadiums which will host 2022 matches have dogged the jewels in Qatar's World Cup crown.

Another criticism of Qatar's hosting of the global soccer spectacle next year is that the country has limited footballing history and even more limited competition credentials.

A clutch of faded but proudly displayed photographs in the Doha Sports Stadium's pavilion speaks to a modest but distinct footballing tradition which predates the glitz and glamour of Qatar's petrodollar-fuelled international sporting ambitions.

"We used to go up to the stadium fence and put stones under our feet to watch matches," said local sports historian and journalist Sultan Jassem.

"As children, we didn't have money. When big stars like Pele, Clay and (Michel) Platini came along we were dreaming and in awe," he added, thumbing a black and white photograph of Ali at the venue where a ring was erected on the pitch, a stop on the The Greatest's tour of the Middle East before fighting Joe Frazier.

"Clay's show match in Qatar in 1971 brought a special sporting flavour and improved Qatar's reputation.

"It's our history."

AFP

Salah's decisiveness is ominous for Liverpool's title rivals

By James Olley, Senior Writer, ESPN FC

IT will be ominous for the rest of the Premier League if Mohamed Salah starts defining matches like this again. West Ham United were, if a little passive, holding their own as the game approached the hour mark at the London Stadium before the Egypt international produced two stunning moments 11 minutes apart to earn Liverpool a 3-1 win and move within four points of leaders Manchester City.

Salah had plenty to do when collecting a pass from Curtis Jones, on as a substitute for James Milner moments earlier, on the Liverpool right. He moved into the box with typical close control and mesmeric dribbling before gaining a yard on Hammers defender Aaron Cresswell and curling a shot past goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski.

What followed 11 minutes later was even better.

Jarrod Bowen took a West Ham corner and within 15 seconds, the ball was in their net at the other end. Andy Robertson headed the ball clear, Trent Alexander-Arnold hit a raking pass to Xherdan Shaqiri, who sent a first-time looping cross into the box for Salah. The control with his right foot was breathtaking, rendering the finish with his left a glorious formality. The entire move totalled seven touches and was a pure example of the devastating attacking football that has largely been missing from Liverpool's play since Salah's last Premier League goals, in their 7-0 thrashing of Crystal Palace on Dec. 19.

There have been signs of Salah stirring in the past seven days. A week earlier, he scored twice in an FA Cup defeat at Manchester United and had a goal disallowed upon VAR review in Thursday's 3-1 win at Tottenham Hotspur.

At the London Stadium, he elevated a Liverpool performance that had begun to look a little tired and toothless with Sadio Mane missing due to a minor muscular problem and Roberto Firmino dropped to the bench. It is only the second time this season - and the first since the opening weekend win over Leeds United - that Salah



Mohamed Salah scored two spectacular goals in Liverpool's win at West Ham on Sunday. (Agencies)

has scored the match-winning goal, turning a draw or defeat into victory through his contribution alone. Salah also became the first Liverpool player to score 20-plus goals across all competitions in four consecutive seasons since Ian Rush did so six times between 1981 and 1987.

The 28-year-old has nine goals in eight Premier League games against the Hammers, and he stepped up in the absence of Mane and Firmino, the latter entering the game as a late substitute to lay on Liverpool's third goal for Georginio Wijnaldum before Craig Dawson headed in a consolation for the home side three minutes from time.

Asked if he felt additional pressure with Mane and Firmino missing from the starting lineup, Salah told Sky Sports: "To be fair, yes. Before the game I knew they were not going to start. I know there is a big responsibility on me, but I try every game, not just now, to help the team. Of course, they both didn't play today so a big responsibility, but I play without them before and we win, so it's OK."

Klopp has been feeling the responsibility of late, too. He claimed after Liverpool lost their 67-game unbeaten home record against Burnley that, "If I make clear which movements make sense because it will hurt the opponent and we don't do that, then I need to make

it clearer," and a tactical tweak was required here to help Liverpool add potency to their 67% possession.

"Little adjustment at half-time, offensive positioning slightly different and it paid off," Klopp continued. "We scored wonderful goals and all three were unbelievable. I'm really happy."

"You can only play more direct when you are in the right positions. In the first half, too often we had all three midfielders on the wrong side of the ball. That means we'd found Shaq but Shaq turned and he had no options to pass about from passing back so we had to adjust that. We wanted a bit more in the centre and a double 10 with Thiago."

"I thought he passed the ball too early but what Mo made of it was unbelievable. We spoke a lot in the last few weeks as you can imagine, and maybe in the last week we spoke the right stuff. Maybe that was it."

"These boys are a really good group, and they are not happy with not being successful. They always have the right attitude, but they need the right information. I said it after the Burnley game, this was my fault. And now we found a way for us, how we can be uncomfortable again for other teams."

There was, however, another reminder of the issues at centre-back with Klopp forced to field his 12th different centre-back pairing this season with Nathaniel Phillips

and Jordan Henderson selected in the heart of defence. News filtered through during the game that the club are seeking to rectify the issue before Monday night's transfer deadline.

Klopp refused to confirm reports of the club's interest in 25-year-old Preston North End defender Ben Davies, but adding a centre-back - even a surprise name from a Championship club - will only enhance the sense of momentum they are generating, even if the Reds boss admits he is "constantly concerned about injuries" given the relentless schedule.

At least concerns about Salah's form are rapidly receding.

"He scored a goal at Tottenham but for VAR," Klopp said. "That goal was a good sign for him that things are clicking again. Tonight he played a superb game. He was really in the game, really involved, was flexible, all these kind of things, kept the ball, controlling the game was really good. The first goal is just super smart and the second goal, what a counter-attack. First touch Mo, outstanding and a nice finish."

"I work on a daily basis with him. He will never stop having a massive desire for scoring goals. He is a world-class player, and in the last few weeks when you don't score that many, the only thing you can do is try, try and try again and make good decisions."

Barcelona, Messi to sue over €555m contract leak

BARCELONA

LIONEL Messi and Barcelona will take legal action against Spanish newspaper El Mundo after it released the leaked details of the forward's record-breaking contract on Sunday.

El Mundo published documents relating to Messi's four-year deal, signed in 2017, and gave an intricate breakdown of the €555 million he would receive if all add-ons were met. The report claimed that Messi's contract is the biggest ever signed by an athlete.

Sources have confirmed to ESPN that Messi will take action against El Mundo and any Barca personnel involved in the leaking of the contract. There are only four copies of the contract - Messi has one, Barca have another, La Liga has a copy and so does Cuatrecasas, the law firm used by the Argentina international.

Barca, meanwhile, responded by denying any involvement in the leaking of the contract and said they would also take "appropriate legal action" against the newspaper.

"In view of the information published today El Mundo, in relation to the professional contract signed between FC Barcelona and the player Lionel Messi, the club regrets its publication given that it is a private document governed by the principle of confidentiality between the parties," the Catalan club said in a statement.

"FC Barcelona categorically denies any responsibility for the publication of this document, and will take appropriate legal action against the newspaper El Mundo, for any damage that may be caused as a result of this publication."

"FC Barcelona expresses its absolute support for Lionel Messi, especially in the face of any attempt to discredit his image, and to damage his relationship with the entity where he has worked to become the best player in the world and in football history."

After Barca's 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao, in which Messi scored on a free kick, manager Ronald Koeman said the leak was "was [done] with malicious in-



Lionel Messi

tent to do damage."

"More respect should be shown to a player that's given so much to Spanish football. We must try and find out how the contract's come out in the press," Koeman said after a news conference. "They are things that cannot come out. There are people that want to do us damage."

"If the leak is from within the club, that's very bad. If someone from inside the club has leaked it, they cannot have a future at the club."

El Mundo's report on Messi's contract used words such as "ruin" to suggest that the forward is in part to blame for the club's financial problems.

"I don't understand why they say he's ruined Barca," Koeman added. "He's

spent years and years showing his quality as a footballer. We must highlight what he's done for this club. He's helped make this club great and we have to stop with all this contract nonsense."

According to El Mundo, Messi would receive a maximum of €555,237,619 (\$673,919,105) over four seasons if a series of conditions were met.

Including image rights, the report explains that Messi was paid a €115m renewal bonus and a €77m loyalty bonus split into two payments - as revealed by ESPN in November.

Messi is also said to earn about €72m annually in addition to add-ons for playing more than 60% of games throughout the course of a season, Champions League progression, winning La Liga

or the Copa del Rey and winning FIFA's The Best.

A number of those performance-related add-ons have not been met and it should also be noted that Messi accepted a salary cut when the coronavirus pandemic first affected football last March.

Therefore, he will not earn the full €555m written into the contract, which expires on June 30.

Messi's future beyond then remains unknown. He tried to leave the club last summer but was shut down by then-president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

In a recent interview, he explained that he has not yet made a decision on his future and will decide his next step when the season ends.

Since pushing to leave, Bartomeu has left Camp Nou and a new president will be elected on March 7. All three candidates for the presidency - Joan Laporta, Victor Font and Toni Frixa - have expressed a desire to keep Messi at the club.

However, negotiations over a new deal will not be able to begin until March and the new terms will have to correspond with the club's new financial position.

The club's annual accounts, dated August 2020, revealed earlier this month that the Catalan club's gross debt has risen to nearly €1.2 billion.

ESPN

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Salah's decisiveness is ominous
for Liverpool's title rivals**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Tembo Warriors cricket team's Khalil Rehemtullah put impressive batting performance to catapult the squad to victory over Serengeti Giants in this season's Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Super League's match, held in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Tembo Warriors' cricketers bounce back in TCA Super League

By Guardian Reporter

TEMBO Warriors' cricketers have boosted their quest for clinching the inaugural Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Super League's top honour, cruising to 107-run victory over Serengeti Giants in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

The victory has moreover helped Tembo Warriors bounce back from 94-run loss to Kilimanjaro Aces in the city on January 17.

Senior players, Khalil Rehemtullah and Vishal Patel, put impressive performance and played pivotal role in Tembo Warriors' victory over Serengeti Giants in the Sunday match.

Tembo Warriors went on to score 187 runs all out in 44.5 overs of the 50-over clash, once they got the opportunity to bat first.

They had to come to terms with a somewhat frustrating start, which saw opener Ivan Ismail experience early dismissal with one run to his name, given he was caught by Serengeti Giants' Kelvin Anjelo from Johnson Nyambo's delivery.

Ismail's fellow opening batsman Issa Kikasi put good knocks to show, ending with 14 runs which consisted of three fours.

Rehemtullah that stepped at the crease after Ismail's dismissal made his presence felt given he notched 38 runs which consisted of five fours.

Skipper Riziki Kiseti also made his experience count, posting 21 runs which consisted of three fours.

In-form Patel significantly boosted Tembo Warriors' total, notching 38 runs which consisted of four fours.

Youthful players, Abdullah Jabiri and Salum Jembe, chipped in with double digit figures, scoring 16 runs and 15 runs respectively.

The batsmen had time to showcase their aggressiveness, notching two boundaries apiece in their respective innings.

Much as Serengeti Giants' bowlers, Kartik Syal and Issa Safari, gave their all, seeking to weaken Tembo Warriors' batsmen's resolve, the duo's efforts hit snag.

Syal had most wickets given he ended with three, leaking 35 runs in eight overs, Safari took two wickets, giving away 24 runs in seven overs.

In response, Serengeti Giants lost steam, given they posted 80 runs all out in 20.1 overs.

Middle order batsman, Zamoyoni Ramadhani, was so far the only player with significant contribution in the fruitless chase, recording 25 runs.

The side's plan to get down to successful was dealt a bow early, given the top order batsmen failed to withstand Tembo Warriors' challenge.

The experienced Seif Khalifa, slotted in at number four, ended one run short of double digit figure, whilst the remaining top order batsmen had shorter spells.

Syal, coming in as low order batsman, recorded 12 runs in what was seemingly Serengeti Giants's late surge, which nevertheless ended in vain.

Alhaj Sadick led Tembo Warriors' bowling onslaught, ending his spell with a five-wicket haul.

He registered two maiden overs in his nine-over spell, giving away 33 runs and settling for an economy rate of 3.67.

He was ably assisted by Jembe, who took four wickets and leaked 39 runs in 10 overs, to foil the chase.

Yanga's new forward starts training

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

YANGA's newly recruited striker, Fiston Abdulrazak, has already started training with the outfit for preparation for the Vodacom Premier League's second phase's fixtures and the Federation Cup.

The forward jetted into Dar es Salaam on January 29 and he was received by a crowd of Yanga fans.

After arriving in Dar es Salaam, Abdulrazak reassured Yanga fans they should expect their outfit to achieve a lot.

The Burundian striker claimed that his new squad will start with lifting the Vodacom Premier League title held by their hometown rivals, Simba.

The striker, who was registered during the mini transfer period that ended mid-January, said seeing to it Yanga lift titles is his main motive.

According to the forward, the achievement will be the best way for him to showcase his gratitude to the fans who showed up at the airport during his arrival.

"I will make sure I score goals as much as I can and I promise Yanga a lot, I will make sure I work hard so that we can achieve our goals," he said. He noted: "You should expect the best from me, I will not let you down."

Prior to joining Yanga this season, he was spotted by Yanga's age-old rivals, Simba, at a time he played for Burundi's national team in the CE-CAFA Senior Challenge Cup tournament in Kenya in 2014.

Yanga are at the top of the Vodacom Premier League's table with 44 points after playing a total of 18 matches for the 2020/21 season.

The club's coordinator Hafidh Saleh said they are ready for their upcoming matches and he believes they will continue to do well.

He disclosed: "We are ready for our upcoming matches and we believe that we will do well as everyone seems to love what they are doing."

He noted: "The players have been training since January 25 and our new forward Abdulrazak has also started training."



Fiston Abdulrazak

Didier Gomes confident Simba are ready for CAF Champions League



Simba SC winger Luis Miquissone (front), dribbles past DR Congo's TP Mazembe defender, Joseph Ochaya, during the climax of a special tournament organized by Simba SC, known as 'Simba Super Cup', which took place in Dar es Salaam on Sunday. The match ended in 0-0 draw. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC's head coach, Didier Gomes da Rosa, has said his club is ready for this season's CAF Champions League's group stage despite posting a 0-0 draw against DR Congo's TP Mazembe in a competition, known as 'Simba Super Cup', which took place at the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

The Tanzania representatives in the CAF Champions League have spent big to ensure that they do well in the showpiece, before establishing themselves among Africa's elite.

Four foreign players have been added to Simba SC's squad ahead of their group stage campaign which will see them take on defending champions, Egypt's Al Ahly, DR Congo's AS Vita Club and Sudan's Al Merreikh.

Simba SC organised a mini-tour-

namment to prepare for the CAF Champions League assignments. They invited TP Mazembe and Al Hilal.

Speaking after the match against TP Mazembe, the French coach stated he believes his squad is ready to fight for silverware domestically and continental front, where he is confident they can at least reach the quarterfinals.

The coach stated: "Very good performance, we played consistently. I appreciate what the players did on the field. Today, we had only one problem. We missed too many opportunities to score particularly in the first half. We had five or six opportunities to score but we missed."

"Generally, it was a very consistent match, I was very happy with all the players. They gave their best. I think we are in good form to start the Champions League but also to play the two matches in the league this week."

"You know that the Premier League is the main target, it is very important to win the league every year to continue playing in the CAF Champions League."

"It is very important, so we have to win the two next matches against Dodoma Jiji FC and Azam FC."

"These are two tough matches and we need to be ready to fight. We have high hope in the Champions League. When we see Simba like this afternoon against one of the best teams in Africa it is very encouraging. It is very good for the future."

"We are at the level to play in the group stage. I think I am confident this Simba team can reach the quarterfinals and go far in the competition."

Flexibles by David Chikoko

EATV
TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 BBall Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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