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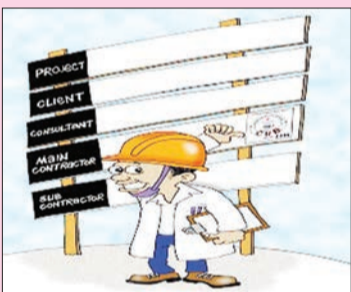
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New fund to anchor agro-finance thrust

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

THE government intends to set up a fund which will be exclusively channelled to financing agriculture projects at low interest rates so as to enhance productivity.

To achieve this, some dismally performing financial institutions will be merged to create one robust fund tasked with funding agriculture from smallholder level to commercial farms.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa made this announcement in the National Assembly yesterday during the weekly questions and answers session, when responding to Jacqueline Kainja (Special Seats) who asked what the government was doing to address the problem of high interest charges in commercial banks.

"The government is working on coming up with a system which will bring all these funds that we have at present for one big fund tasked with providing capital to farmers," he said.

The fund shall work hand in hand with the Tanzania Agriculture Development Bank (TADB) and the Tanzania Investment Bank (TIB), he stated, directing commercial banks to establish special desks "which will help farmers with proposals on how to get capital for

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A WHOLE DECADE OF RESTLESS WAITING



Jackson Masinga (R) of Chukuyu B in Buigiri ward, Chamwino District, complains to Chamwino District Council leaders yesterday about "the authorities concerned having defaulted on paying compensation to 119 residents of the suburb" he said had been forced to desist from developing their farmland for a whole ten years or so as they awaited official instructions on their fate. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila



'Hippo movements tied with anthrax outbreaks'

CALIFORNIA

'HIPPOPOTAMUS' isn't the first thing that comes to mind when considering epidemiology and disease ecology. And yet these amphibious megafauna offered University of California at Santa Barbara ecologist Keenan Stears a window into the

progression of an anthrax outbreak that struck Ruaha National Park, Tanzania, in the dry season of 2017.

Through surveys and GPS monitoring, Stears and his colleagues, Wendy Turner, Doug McCauley and Melissa Schmitt, revealed that reduced dry-season flows in the Great Ruaha River indirectly spread the disease by affecting hippo movement. The results, which appear in the journal *Ecosphere*, present a unique perspective on disease ecology and illustrate how anthropogenic changes can impact wildlife and human health.

The ecology of wildlife disease was far out of mind during the dry season in 2016, when Stears and his team outfitted 10 male

TIE, DIT to write vocational books for secondary schools

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

THE Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) and the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for joint coordination and writing of 32 textbooks on vocational education to be used in secondary schools beginning next year.

TIE Director General Aneth Komba said at the signing event in Dar es Salaam that the MoU gives the institutions the responsibility to coordinate the drafting and eventual publishing of the books in line with the 2019 updated syllabus.

Vocational subjects will be taught from form one to four starting next year,



We are going to work closely with TIE in making sure that the exercise is finished on time and the books reach the students so that they start learning as targeted

with the textbooks slated to cover eight vocational education subjects listed as engineering science, civil engineering, surveying, architecture draughting, building construction, woodwork and painting, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and electronics, and communication engineering, she said.

At present TIE does not have specialists in these subjects, she elaborated, noting that considering that these books are important teaching and learning tools and as DIT has the specialists, they will do much of the writing.

The pact provides that the work starts Tuesday next week and takes 160 days

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VP: Ministry should alter adoption rules

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has advised the Ministry of Health,

Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children to review the procedure on adoption of children in order to mobilise Tanzanians and other

people with good intentions to adopt children and reduce their numbers at the National Children's Home.

The VP made the remarks on Wednesday when launching the National Children's Home at Kikombo area near the capital, tasking the ministry to revisit procedures to enable members of the public adopt children living at the centre.

He appealed to those with ability and sympathetic to children living in

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'Hippo movements tied with anthrax outbreaks'

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hippos with GPS collars. The researchers sought to track the animals' movements to better understand their behavior and ecology, especially in light of reduced flows along many of Africa's major rivers. The resulting study was the first to track hippo movement and land use, and finally uncovered some of the basic facts about hippos' spatial ecology.

Then the anthrax came.

"This wasn't something I actually set out to study," said Stears, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology. "You can't plan for an outbreak to occur; it just happens."

Stears was in the field from 2016 to 2017 conducting hippo counts and maintaining equipment. The GPS tracking collars had been on the animals for about a year, roughly as long as they're supposed to last before dropping off. Noticing one of the collars hadn't moved for a couple of days, he figured it had fallen off. It appeared to be in a nearby pool, so Stears hiked out to retrieve it. "I turned around a bend in the river, and there was a hippo pool with about six or so hippo carcasses," he recalled. Stears had stumbled upon an anthrax outbreak.

Anthrax is an infection caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, which can manifest in a variety of ways depending on how it's contracted. The bacterium is notable for its ability to produce spores that can lie dormant in the soil for years. Notably, in outbreaks like the one in this study, animals can only spread the disease once they die.

Although he isn't a disease ecologist, Stears quickly realized his GPS data could illuminate aspects of the outbreak. There didn't seem to be any existing studies that combined a spatio-temporal account of an active anthrax outbreak with wildlife movement, he explained. "So this was really a unique opportunity to answer some questions that hadn't really been answered before." "We can't predict when an anthrax outbreak will occur, so it's impossible to plan such a study," added co-author Wendy Turner of the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "This project is in part a fantastic bit of luck (for understanding disease transmission, not for the hippos), and in part very clever and quick thinking by Keenan and Melissa at UCSB, to capitalize on such a unique opportunity."

"I have been studying anthrax for years in Namibia, with many more GPS-collared hosts monitored than the 10 in this study," she continued, "and I still haven't had any of our individuals succumb to the disease."

The team first had to determine how many hippos in this population had interacted with potentially infected pools. That meant identifying which of the many disconnected pools along this stretch of the Great Ruaha River were infected. Stears' colleagues at Ruaha National Park conducted sampling for the pathology to confirm the anthrax outbreak.

Stears and his team conducted daily counts of both live and dead hippos in these pools. The surveys enabled them to track the disease's spread, its rate and direction. The scientists were also curious where the hippos were coming from, where they were going and whether the outbreak was influencing their behavior.

The researchers linked this information with the hippo movement data they had from the GPS collars. Four of the 10 hippos they had tracked could have caught the disease, Stears said, and of those, three died.

The team found that infection had no noticeable effect on a hippo's movement. Infected individuals roamed just as much as healthy hippos. "This has important implications for how far a single individual could potentially vector the disease before its death and create new infectious reservoirs," Stears said. Under certain conditions, wildlife can succumb to infection

within a few days. Even if this is the case, a hippo can walk about seven kilometers over the course of a night in search of water. Thus, hippos can quickly move the disease over large distances.

What's more, the animals didn't appear to actively avoid carcasses. Why? Well, dry times are not good times to be a hippo. Normally, species avoid the bodies of their own kind. But with suitable ponds so scarce, the amphibious animals were forced to remain in pools alongside the dead.

"The drying of rivers is one of the major reasons why these outbreaks have gotten so bad over the years," Stears explained. "As the river dries, hippos are forced to congregate in the remaining river pools. Now this paper's showing that their movements spread the disease as well."

Anthrax outbreaks are a natural occurrence, but drying rivers are making them worse. As pools dry up, hippos either pack into those that remain or move to find new ones. Increased crowding and social interactions can drive up physiological stress, which scientists have linked to a greater susceptibility to infection.

Additionally, altered hippo movements as they search for new pools raise the risk of exposure to anthrax reservoirs as well as the duration that they interact with these reservoirs. Aggressive interactions around the remaining pools mean that hippos frequently visit several in a given night. All these factors have exacerbated anthrax outbreaks in hippo populations.

Stears noted that hippos also appear particularly susceptible to these outbreaks, aggregating as they do in small, dirty pools during the dry season. Other animals avoid drinking from hippo pools during these times because of all the dung that has accumulated due to the lack of river flow. Instead, they seek out shallower puddles that are cleaner, which potentially protects them from contracting lethal doses of the disease.

"Understanding disease outbreaks in hippos is especially important," said co-author Doug McCauley, an associate professor of ecology, evolution, and marine biology (EEMB) at UC Santa Barbara. "People don't often realize that hippos are a vulnerable species that has declined in many areas. There are far less hippos, for example, than African elephants. Their outlook is further complicated by potential impacts that climate change may have on rivers and how this change might amplify disease outbreak risk."

Stears plans to start looking at historical records of river flow across Africa and linking changes in hydrology to past anthrax outbreak timing and severity. There hasn't been much research on anthrax and river flow, he said; most of the work has been terrestrial. The historical records could be a treasure chest of information.

Shedding light on the factors that influence disease dynamics helps scientists predict how disturbances might affect future outbreaks. With this information, they can begin to assess how future circumstances could affect the extent and severity of an anthrax outbreak, as well as the probability that it jumps to other species of wildlife, livestock and even humans.

"Hippos can be considered the canary in the coal mine," added co-author Melissa Schmitt, an EEMB postdoctoral researcher. "Their sensitivity to adverse conditions makes them a good indicator of how global change may influence disease dynamics and overall wildlife health."

In all, the paper represents a confluence of events that offered an unparalleled opportunity to explore novel disease dynamics. "You can only get this kind of information from having an animal that is collared and actually infected," Stears said. "So this unique situation allowed us to answer questions that you just can't normally answer without having everything lined up," he added.



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi escorts Turkey's Ambassador to Tanzania, Mehmet Gulluoglu (R), after talks at Zanzibar State House yesterday. Photo: Zanzibar State House

New fund to anchor agro-finance thrust

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improving agriculture."

The government was also mobilizing financial institutions so that they fund the sector at lower interest charges, he stated, reckoning that high charges are placed on loans by financial institutions. The government

was doing everything possible to ensure the situation is reversed, the premier intoned.

Past reports indicate that by end of last year TADB had issued 148bn/- is loans in four years to farmers aimed at addressing various challenges in the agriculture subsectors.

The bank embarked on a

feasibility study to examine areas to work on in the coming year, including setting up industries for value addition to cashewnuts, reviving cotton ginneries and sisal decorticating plants.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan told the legislature in a sixth phase inauguration speech that the government would empower

TADB to enable it to issue more loans to smallholding farm units to boost production.

In a series of comments on the 2021/22 national budget, interviewed economists urged stimulating growth in sectors that provide gainful occupation for the majority of the population.



Works and Transport minister Dr Leonard Chamuriho (2nd-L) pictured in Mwanza city yesterday heading for the venue of a two-day consultative meeting for Tanzanian contractors organised by the Contractors Registration Board, where he was the chief guest. He is with CRB chairperson Consolatha Ngimbwa (L), vice chairman Joseph Tango (R) and registrar Rhoben Nkori (behind Tango). Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

TIE, DIT to write vocational books for secondary schools

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to completion, with the printing commencing by December 1, which will take the whole month followed by distribution before schools in January next year.

She added that soon after the completion of the task, the institution will work with DIT and other technical colleges to train teachers in vocational schools so that they can implement the curriculum.

She further explained that TIE has completed the task of writing and distributing all textbooks at the level of pre-primary and primary education from first to seventh grade for schools that use English and Kiswahili as teaching languages.

TIE has also focused on the availability of textbooks for students with special needs, the blind or visually impaired and

for this group the institution has distributed textbooks up to grade five. It is currently completing the printing of textbooks that are specific to visually impaired pupils in sixth and seventh grade, she stated.

The institution was put on a 3bn/- budget to fund the writing of textbooks for primary and secondary schools in the country, the director affirmed.

DIT Principal Prof Preksedis Ndomba said that they are ready to work with TIE in making sure that students take up vocational studies in secondary education, easing future enrollment in universities or taking up technical vocational occupations.

"We are going to work closely with TIE in making sure that the exercise is finished on time and the books reach the students so that they start learning as targeted," he added.

VP: Ministry should alter adoption rules

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Building the children's hazardous environments to take steps to adopt and rear such kids, so that they develop self-esteem and a loving neighbourhood like other children.

He also thanked religious leaders for the great job they do in teaching and insisting on good behavior in the society, emphasizing on the need to continue such education, as the issue is permanent agenda in houses of worship and other gatherings.

He congratulated supervisors at children's homes for their commitment and volunteering to rear the children, after the minister, Dr Dorothy Gwajima had explained the importance of June 16 as the Day of the African Child.

She said that as part of the celebrations, the government has inaugurated the Kikombo Children's Home, while urging the community to conduct soul searching on why street children numbers were increasing.

Building the children's sanctuary shall help the government to solve some of the challenges facing the other children's homes especially those under the Kurasini facility in Dar es Salaam.

The new facility cost \$5.5m (12.7bn/-) and so far around 31 children are housed there, 19 boys and 12 girls.

Stanislaus Nyongo, the chairman of the standing committee of the National Assembly on community services, said there was a big problem regarding street children missing appropriate care and upkeep, thus the facility would help rectify the situation.

"We have 20m children but three million are malnourished, hence there is need to provides education to families," he said.

For his part, Dodoma MP Antony Mavunde said that during evenings many children at Nyerere Square spread cardboard to sleep on, in which case such children will benefit from the new facility.



NMB Bank Plc staff guide women in Mtwara municipality yesterday at the launch of a local branch of the bank's NMB Jasiri Club, the thrust of the initiative being on the empowerment of women in business. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Advertise attractions in southern tourist circuit'

By Guardian Correspondent, Iringa

TO ensure the numbers of domestic and foreign tourists rise, Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) has called upon various stakeholders in the tourism sector to work together with the government to advertise the country's tourist attractions in southern Tanzania.

The call was given here mid this week by TTB's Conferences and Events Manager, Irene Mvile at a strategic meeting for advertising southern tourist attractions.

Mvile said stakeholders from the southern regions were the ones knowing the locations of the tourist attractions and how to advertise them, hence they are supposed to give adequate cooperation to the government towards that end.

She said in case the attractions are advertised and the number of tourists visiting them increase, the national income would be increased to enable the government meet its obligations in the development of the people.

Mvile said as for now there are experts who can assist in advertising the tourist attractions

in southern Tanzania by conducting training seminars for tourist stakeholders on how to do the job.

Earlier, speaking at the same event, Iringa Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga said TTB's strategies to advertise the southern tourist attractions will spur speedy economic development.

Sendiga said TTB has displayed efforts to advertise the attractions through various ways both inside and outside the country and the efforts were paying off substantially.

"I praise TTB for the efforts, Iringa regional government is with you to ensure we have a friendly environment for incoming tourists, and we are refurbishing the Nduli airport for the purpose," she added.

She said Iringa Region is among regions with many tourist attractions and is easily reached.

On their part, some tourist stakeholders who attended the meeting praised TTB for its efforts to advertise the area's tourist attractions, saying the move will increase the number of tourists.

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

Govt to check abuse of investment incentives

AS the government reviews tax laws and policies to attract investments into the country, it will at the same time ensure that incentives given to investors are not abused.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said this in parliament during a question and answer session to the Prime Minister yesterday when responding to a question by Ukonga legislator Jerry Slaa.

In his question the MP asked what was the government doing to ensure the country's laws are not abused by investors giving example of the aviation sector

which he said has more foreigners.

In response, the PM said the government was reviewing various laws to attract investors into various sectors in the country but also doing the same to ensure the laws are followed including the non-citizens employment act 2015.

"The aim is to ensure that investors do not feel offended but also Tanzanians benefit from various employment opportunities," he said.

Earlier, Mlalo MP Rashid Shangazi asked the PM when the government will finalize the process to take electricity to rural

areas.

In response, the Prime Minister Majaliwa said the government is committed to take electricity to all villages in the country adding that the move will go far by taking electricity to each household.

"We are doing this in phases and this phase is in stages, we want to

take electricity in every corner of this country including Isles such as Mafia," he said.

The PM assured the nation that the process to take electricity to villages has been completed in big part of the country and that there are only a few villages remaining.

In 2016 REA announced the beginning of implementation of the Rural Electrification Program Phase III, a project that aims to electrify more than 7,873 villages in rural Tanzania for 5 years. 7,697 villages will be connected to the national grid, while the remaining 176 will be connected to other energy sources.

The project is implemented by private contractors and supervised by REA, the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO) and a Trust Agent.

As of June 2016, 4,395 villages in Tanzania were connected to electricity during Phase I and II of the project.

China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Boosts Infrastructure Development in Tanzania

On June 14th, President Samia Suluhu Hassan laid the foundation stone for Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) Construction Project Mwanza to Isaka section, which is implemented by China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC).

This project is one of the 5 sections of SGR Project, connecting Isaka, a major town in Northern Tanzania, with Mwanza, the second largest city in Tanzania. After completion of the Standard Gauge Railway, Tanzania's railway infrastructure will be dramatically improved, with transportation capacity considerably enhanced and coastal and inland areas promptly connected, which is of great significance to the promotion of economic development, industrialization and improvement of people's livelihoods along the line.

President Samia also inspected other projects implemented by CCECC. On June 13th, she attended the inauguration ceremony of Bank of Tanzania Branch Office Building in Mwanza. On the following day, she inspected the implementation of JPM (Kigongo-Busisi)



Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project for Mwanza City, Misungwi Town



Construction of Ubungo Interchange and Associated Works under the Dar es Salaam Improvement Project (DUTP)

Bridge project and attended the launching ceremony of the Water Supply Project in Misungwi. President Samia delivered inspiring speeches when inspecting the above projects, fully affirmed the quality of the projects officially handed over and put into use, and expressed satisfaction with the construction progress of the JPM Bridge project.

The Contractor, CCECC, in 1968

commenced the construction of Tanzania-Zambia Railway, reputed as the Railway of Friendship and Uhuru (Freedom) Railway. It has been developing in Tanzania for more than 50 years. Over the years, CCECC has always regarded Tanzania as its second hometown, insisted on putting the local requirements into priority, contributed to infrastructure construction and economic development in Tanzania, and did practical and good deeds for the Tanzanian government and people.

Zhang Junle, Managing Director of CCECC Branch Office in Tanzania, told us, CCECC has always been sticking to the principle of Quality Supreme, Reputation First. Nearly a hundred engineering projects implemented by CCECC in Tanzania are highly recognized by the Tanzanian government and people. It has become a strong, branded, and reputable state-owned Chinese enterprise in Tanzania, with its scope of business covering railways, highways, bridges, water supply, housing construction

and other fields. Among projects implemented by CCECC, important and well-known ones include Railway Track and Structures (Bridges & Culverts) Rehabilitation Works, Shinyanga and Kahama Water Supply Project, Kijazi (Ubungo) Interchange, Rehabilitation of Bububu - Mahonda - Mkokotoni (31km) and Upgrading of Matemwe - Muyuni 7.58km, Fuoni - Kombeni 8.59km and Pale - Kiongele 4.61km to Bituminous Standard in Zanzibar, Construction of Water Supply Systems and Sanitation Facilities for Sengerema Town, Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project for Mwanza City, Misungwi, Magu and Lamadi: Satellite Towns, Construction of Waste Stabilization Ponds in Arusha, and the JPM Bridge Project which is under construction.

He further added that CCECC attaches great importance to fulfilling its social responsibilities. It creates more than 4,000 local job opportunities every year and trains local employees in business ability and professional skills through

project construction, cultivating a number of talents in local infrastructures that understand management and technology. In addition, CCECC takes initiative in helping local areas to rehabilitate roads interrupted by floods, building school buildings, donating office and daily supplies, and carrying out wildlife rescue and protection, etc. It fully respects local folk customs, safeguard the legal rights and interests of local employees, and strive to build harmonious community relationship.

CCECC will actively and carefully organize and spare no effort to mobilize various resources to outstandingly implement the SGR project, to ensure the quality, safety and progress of the project, and to provide more employment opportunities and skills training for Tanzanian people during the construction. CCECC will work hand in hand with Tanzanian people to build this railway, open up the vessel of local transportation, and contribute to the development of Tanzania's economy.



Donation of Football to Local Schools

UNFPA beefs up GBV fight against children in Kigoma

By Correspondent Adela Madyane,

Kigoma

THE United Nations Sexual and Reproductive Health Agency (UNFPA) has handed over three gender desks and police station buildings worth 200m/- in Buhigwe and Uvinza districts, Kigoma Region.

Speaking during the handing over ceremony, Director of Children's Dignity Forum (CDF) Koshima Mtengati said the vision behind this goodwill gesture is to combat sexual violation against children in the western region.

He recounted that the region is known for its high involvement in sexual ills in favor of these little ones and in most cases are reported to be violated by those close to them including relatives, teachers, guardians and neighbours.

"Apart from children being abused by the people around them, the children also abuse themselves," he intoned.

Mtengati added that, apart from Kigoma, other regions like Shinyanga, Mara, Dodoma, Singida, Manyara, Dar es Saalam, Kilimanjaro, and Tabora for the past five years have also been championing incidence of sexual violence including rape and sodomy.

He said that 36, 940 cases of sodomy and rape from 2015 to 2019 have been reported to the police stations nationwide. Adding that in 2020, 45 offenses were reported from 13 regions in Tanzania and only 13 cases received court sentences.

A senior police officer who represented the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Dr Musa Ally called on the gender desk personnel to use the received statistics to reach areas affected by the occurrence of violence.

"We should use the received statistics to get to the areas that show the existence of such acts

and provide education on the elimination of sexual violence to the community of concern and not to wait for the victims to come and report while you're seated in the office," he encouraged.

Kigoma Regional Commissioner (RPC), Thobias Andengenyne said he is aware of the challenges facing gender desks, but they should use the resources available to govern desk activities and other government activities in the districts which include the use of the car. "The gender desk personnel is complaining about the lack of transport, at the same time, the health officer is using the district car going to the village for work why can't they integrate, they should plan and go together for they are all civil servants," intoned RC Andengenyne.

A resident in Mnanila village Mwanaisha Ramadhan, said as for now, people are ready to provide information on the violence issues for the organ of law is now stationed ready to hear and solve their problems per laws and regulations of the country, hoping that necessary action will be taken against the suspects.

"The presence of a gender desk in our district will help people to report sexual violence incidences done at home and the suspects will be dealt with legally including taking them to the court for the hearing and other law procedures," she said.

A citizen from Uvinza District Juma Rashid said, lots of criminal cases were not reported because facilities of law and order were absent but we believe the trend will come to an end because we now have the required authorities present within our locality.

"Criminal incidences seems not to exist, that's not true, there are lots of criminal incidences but they are not reported, with the presence of gender desk, many of citizen will publically report on the hidden criminal offenses," he guaranteed.



Social welfare officer Suzan Mdesa (2nd-R) addresses children during African Child Day celebrations held at Kitunda Primary School in Dar es Salaam on Wednesday. Others include ALARM Tanzania country director John Wambura (R), Kitunda ward education officer Festo Mlimila (C), Kitunda Centre of Information and Knowledge chairperson Claudia Gabriel (2nd-L) and the centre's secretary Asha Maamudu (L). Photo: Beauty Mwakatobe, TUDARCO

Blood scarcity seen as main reason for maternal deaths

By Guardian Correspondent,

Dodoma

ACUTE shortage of blood at hospitals and various health centres in the country is said to be among main reasons for maternal and accident victims mortality.

In addition, due to the shortage, the Mt Master Church in Dodoma

city has mobilised its followers to cooperate in a special event to donate blood to save lives of patients.

Speaking yesterday, the church's Bishop, Silvanus Komba said due to many hospitals being faced with blood shortage, they decided that there was need for the church to assist in blood donation to those in need. He called upon

Tanzanians to understand that it is the responsibility of every person capable in donating blood to offer themselves to do so to help those in need.

One of the church's followers who donated blood, Irene Ngongi said the move taken by the church was a big offering to those in need.

"Today the church had the opportunity to donate blood, and

no one knows whose lives it is going to save, I therefore call upon all Tanzania to offer themselves and donate blood to save the lives of the people."

For his part, an expert from Dodoma Safe Blood Centre Charles Ndahani said in addition to efforts in collecting blood, there was still a great need for the essential supply in many areas.



Tanzania Livestock Research Institute chief researcher Dr Jonas Kizima (C) pictured on Wednesday showing board chairman Prof Sebastian Chenyambuga (R) "special" leaves planted at the institute's headquarters in Dodoma and recommended as pasture for livestock. With them is deputy director (research) Dr Daniel Komwihangilo. Photo: Correspondent Mbaraka Kambona

900+ children in Mbeya subjected to violence, abuse in 2019/20 - RAS

By Guardian Correspondent, Kyela

MORE than 900 children in Mbeya Region were subjected to various kinds of child abuse including sexual abuse, being abandoned by parents and guardians and being denied the right to education in the period of 2019/20.

The remarks were given mid this week by Mbeya Regional Administrative Secretary Dr Angelina Lutambi during the commemoration of the Day of the African Child, the event held here at regional level.

She said the children subjected to abuse were those aged zero to 14 years, adding that 196 children were subjected to sexual abuse, 222 to bodily violence, 296 psychologically and 84 abandoned.

"These statistics are outrageous, they show how the society is not accountable and not abiding by the laws in the protection of children, as acts of violence begin at family level, we must change and become more accountable in children's upbringing," she added.

She added that adverse effects that could result if the parents fail to give children better upbringing is the large number of orphans, children living in difficult environment many of who end up in streets including in crime.

She said these acts violate the 1990 International Resolution, the 2009 children's development policy (Section 21), hence it is the responsibility of every one to have a strategy to ensure children get all their basic rights.

In fighting child abuse in Mbeya Region, Waltread Organisation has established various programmes aimed at empowering children economically and oppose child abuse.

Waltread Representative in Tanzania, Emmanuel Bahema said they continue to provide education against HIV/Aids in vulnerable groups.

However, Mbeya Region's Children's Platform praised the government by enacting the 2009 law on children, saying it was a robust pillar in demanding and protecting the rights of children.

The Platform's Chairman, Eva Mwasonge, a Form III student at Ikama Secondary School in Kyela District said the law has given them much strength to fight for their rights.

Religious bodies, charities told: Obey import laws

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

RELIGIOUS and charitable organisations in the country have been asked to abide by government's directives when importing goods into the country to avoid delays and charges which they incur at entry points.

Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said in parliament during a question and answer session to the Prime Minister in Parliament yesterday.

PM Majaliwa was responding to a question by Kilolo Member of Parliament Justine Nyamoga who

asked what was the government doing to help religious institutions who face various challenges including storage charges at ports and airports.

PM Majaliwa said the law stipulates that importers of products must write to relevant bodies indicating what exactly they are bringing into the country to benefit from the exemption.

"The problem is that some religious institutions indicate different goods contrary to what is being brought into the country and this makes the whole process long," he said.

The PM said the government has put in place strategies for religious institutions to help them import goods to facilitate development.

He said another challenge according to the PM includes delays by the importers to request exemption permission prior to arrival of the goods.

On this he said the government has issued directives to institutions in all entry points including airports and ports to fast track the clearance of the goods by religious institutions.

Charitable organisations are

exempted from tax with respect to goods imported into Tanzania.

There are a number of charitable organizations including schools, hospitals and religious organizations which generate charitable business income from services rendered.

Under the Income Tax Act, a charitable organisation should include in its income from its charitable business for a particular year gifts and donations received by the entity as well as any other taxable amounts.



Vodacom Tanzania Foundation manager Sandra Oswald (R) pictured earlier this week briefing Selemani Jafo (L), Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment), on how the foundation has been sensitising people on the importance of safeguarding the environment by planting trees. This was at the climax of World Environment Week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

Govt out reviewing 2003 national policy for elders

THE government says it is reviewing the 2003 national policy for the elders that will safeguard their security.

It also intends to continue with the implementation of its strategy to eradicate violence and killings of older people in the country.

This was revealed here on Tuesday by the Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Mwanaidi Ali Khamis when launching celebrations to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

She said the move aims at realising the intention to continue protecting older people and other services for them.

He said the reviewed policy aims in the strengthening the inclusive security systems in the community to protect older people from abuse and violence, as well as investigative machinery

and cases prosecution.

"Due to the fact that low income considerations contribute to abuse and violence against elders, the government aims to ensure elders are empowered to invent and engage in entrepreneurial activities through small groups to increase their incomes.

She also said older people will be empowered to participate in sports and entertainment activities to improve their health.

However, she said following great government efforts in collaboration with other stakeholders, acts of abuse and violence, including killings of elders have significantly dropped.

The Deputy Minister said according to police statistics, killings of elders have dropped from 577 cases in 2014 to 34 in

December last year.

She further said through the government plan in boosting health services, it has continued to make sure that all hospitals and health centres have special windows to serve the elders, adding that so far there are a total of 2,335 such windows.

Programmes, Rights and Stakeholders Cooperation Manager from HelpAge International Tanzania, Joseph Mbasha said his institution believes that the strengthening of the inclusive rights for elders will enable them live healthier lives and in security.

She said the move aims at realising the intention to continue protecting older people and other services for them



AZANIA BANK LTD
The One Stop Financial Centre

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

The Bank is seeking to recruit a highly motivated, result-driven, and qualified candidate from within to fill in the position of a **Manager Agribusiness**, the job profile and the required qualifications and competences are as follows: -

1. JOB TITLE –MANAGER AGRIBUSINESS

1.1 Nature and Scope: -

The position involves getting appropriate markets and marketing options for agricultural produce and their linkages to various value chain stakeholders. It will also oversee various funding options for agricultural activities and devise sustainable linkages with financial service providers aimed at ensuring reliable cashflows sufficient to cover financial commitments to the funders.

The objective is to have adequately funded agricultural sector capable of generating reliable and sufficient cashflows that guarantee creditworthiness customers who use and deploy banking services for mutual development of the parties, namely the players in agricultural projects and their value chains as well as the financier – a banking institution.

1.2 Tasks and Responsibilities:

- Take the lead in identifying, developing and growing credible agricultural projects capable of utilizing bank services for efficient agro projects.
- Enable the bank to extend banking services to agricultural sector players and use the opportunities to grow customers from the sector and grow the bank's balance sheet and revenue generation from the sector.
- Conduct a comprehensive financial analysis and evaluation of various agricultural projects and recommend to the Management for funding as well as devising appropriate terms and conditions for offering various products and services to the sector.
- Work closely with Bank Management to develop a funding systems approach to support the agriculture and its value chains to be supported by the bank and other appropriate partners and engage them for optimal allocation of resources aimed at growing business of all related parties.
- Define short term, medium and long term strategy for the bank to finance the agriculture sector taking into account interests of various stakeholders including optimizing risks and other engagement options.
- To provide active agricultural sector portfolio management and advisory services for the bank.
- To initiate and devise appropriate policy, procedures and processes necessary for guiding agriculture sector funding, credit accommodation as well as business development within the bank.
- Create, utilize and maintain strategical business collaborations, alliances, synergies and arrangements between bank stakeholders aimed at boosting and maintaining business growth between the parties.
- Initiate and recommend relevant improvements in the agri-business enterprises that would enable the bank realize better returns on their investments.
- Initiate and create publicity and awareness programs on agribusiness available at the bank and engage various stakeholders aimed at raising consumption levels of accompanying bank products and services.
- Perform any other duties as assigned by Management from time to time.

1.3 Qualification, Experience and Competences

- Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics & Agribusiness or similar field.
- Minimum of five years working experience in similar field in Tanzania.
- Positive attitude and mind toward business sense and pushing bank interest ahead.
- Additional qualifications in business related studies will be an added advantage.

Mode of Application

Applications must be attached with detailed resume, Copies of relevant certificates. The deadline for submission of applications is one weeks after the appearance of this advert.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please apply in confidence to: **MANAGING DIRECTOR,**
AZANIA BANK LIMITED,
MAWASILIANO TOWERS,
SAM NUJOMA ROAD
P. O. BOX 32089
DAR ES SALAAM.

Tel No.: 2412025/26/27,
Fax No.: 2412028

Or email: hra@azaniabank.co.tz



AZANIA BANK LTD
The One Stop Financial Centre

JOB ADVERTISEMENT

The Bank is seeking to recruit a highly motivated, result-driven, and qualified candidate from within to fill in the position of a **Relationship Manager Government Business**, the job profile and the required qualifications and competences are as follows: -

1. JOB TITLE – RELEIIONSHIP MANAGER GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

1.1 Nature and Scope: -

Shall be responsible for supporting the growth of bank business by developing and maintaining strong relationship with Government and its ministries, authorities, and agencies.

1.2 Tasks and Responsibilities:

- To actively participate in the creation of strategies for the growth of business with Government entities through preparation of annual budgets and implementation by clearly defined activities.
- To identify potential government business leads and to prepare strategies and timelines for conversion.
- To maintain strong and harmonious relationships with the converted business lines.
- To cross – sell other Azania Bank products to institutions and individuals under the portfolio to in order to maximize revenue.
- Work closely with Branches, Credit, Insurance, Trade Finance and Treasury units to maximize revenue growth opportunities.
- Promoting and maintaining the highest standards of customer services, efficiency and Turnaround Time in order to maximize the return from existing and new business opportunities.
- To comply with Bank policies and procedures as per given manuals.

1.3 Qualification, Experience and Competences

- Bachelor's degree in Banking/Finance/Marketing or similar field.
- Minimum of five years working experience in similar field in Tanzania.
- Positive attitude and mind toward business sense and pushing bank interest ahead.
- Additional qualifications in business related studies will be an added advantage.

Mode of Application

Applications must be attached with detailed resume, Copies of relevant certificates. The deadline for submission of applications is one weeks after the appearance of this advert.

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Or email: hra@azaniabank.co.tz



VACANCY

ABOUT GEITA GOLD MINING LTD

Geita Gold Mining Ltd (GGML) is Tanzania's leading gold producer with a single operation in Geita Region. The company is a subsidiary of AngloGold Ashanti, an international gold producer headquartered in South Africa, with operations in more than ten countries, in four continents. The mine is situated in the Lake Victoria Gold fields of North Western Tanzania, only about 85 km's from Mwanza City and 20 km's South East of the nearest point of Lake Victoria. The company has its head office in Geita, only 5 Km's west of the fast-growing town of Geita, and also a supporting office in Dar es Salaam. Applications are invited from ambitious, energetic and performance driven individuals to fill in vacant position(s) mentioned below:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Position: | Senior Manager Technical Services |
| Contract type & Duration: | Unspecified time contract |
| Department: | Mine Technical Services |
| Reporting to: | Operations Manager |
| Number of Positions: | One (1) |

PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

The role exists to build, develop, and lead an effective team capable of delivering industry leading practices within both the open pit & underground mine planning & technical support functions to achieve business objectives/targets. The role coordinates the activities of the Technical Services Department to deliver the GGM mining budget in a manner consistent with the Company's vision and Values. Senior Manager Technical Services is accountable for the mine planning work required to improve productivity thereby reducing unit costs and improving profitability. The role incumbent is also responsible for growing the mining reserve and improve mining flexibility.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- BSc Mining / Engineering Degree or equivalent.

EXPERIENCE:

- Eight (8) to ten (10) years' proven experience in mine planning in both underground and open pit mining environment of which at least three (3) years in managerial position within a mine planning/technical department.
- Proficient with Mine Planning Software.
- Ability to create and manage budgets for own team but also the entire site.
- Ability to sign off ore reserves as a competent person for Geita Gold Mine.
- Excellent Communication Skills.

MAIN OR KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

- Identify and interpret safety risks and resolve emerging issues; and ensuring that appropriate focus and resources are available to achieve safety objectives.
- Establish and maintain processes to provide a safe workplace to all employees and external service providers undertaking work within area of accountability
- Establish and maintain processes to ensure that all environmental risks and emerging issues are identified and mitigation plans to put in place.
- Develop Life-of-Mine (LOM) options to assist the Managing Director develop and manage the five-year Life-of-Mine (LOM) plan, ensure consistent and predictable delivery of the GGM LOM plan.
- Establish and maintain processes to ensure the development of optimised short term, medium and long term plans that ensure delivery of the budget requirements and the operations strategy.
- Build department capability (people, structure,) to deliver on Technical Services budgets aligned to GGM goals and LOM strategy.
- Construct and deliver the Mining annual department budget based on business plan objectives set by the Managing Director, to achieve targets in terms of operating costs, capital costs and project deliverables.
- Develop systems for the Technical Services department work, integrating processes managed at the superintendent level to provide effective planning of work, efficient and safe work practices, and monitoring
- Report performance to plan, identify and rectify variances to the plan (MTP), providing feedback to, and seeking input from, the Managing Director, Operations Manager, Geology Manager and Mining Managers, keeping management informed of any foreseeable risks or impediments to plan and budget delivery and steps taken to ameliorate identified risks in order to maintain sustainable operations.
- Develop and manage Operational Excellence initiatives in the Technical Services Department to develop continuous improvement and add value to the operation.
- Manage geotechnical risk across the mining operations.
- To provide a safe work environment, implement and deliver compliance with SHE&C department plans, management systems and processes within Technical Services Department.
- Accountable for generation and annual sign-off of the ore reserves.
- Accountable for applying the Managerial Leadership practices that embody the company values
- Understand financial reports and comprehend the relevance/impact to the total operation
- Actively look for ways to manage costs without impacting on planned outcomes
- Strong knowledge in contract management practices and demonstrated ability in managing contracted technical consultants and operational mining contracts.
- Lead minor projects and interact with test work and engineering consultant / service providers
- Understand AngloGold Ashanti (AGA) project management standards and apply them in a minor project to conceptual level.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

- The ability to work across all disciplines, where rigorous engagement and interaction is expected
- The ability to handle conflict resolution
- The ability to utilise equipment, office software -MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint) to prepare correspondence, reports, forms, mailings.
- The ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing with good presentation and facilitation skills.
- The ability to use statistical methods to analyse, validate & verify analytical data with a strong attention to detail.
- The ability to work and communicate with people at all levels/good interpersonal skills.
- Be physically fit and be able to pass pre-employment and medical examinations / screening.

MODE OF APPLICATION:

- Please apply through our recruitment portal by following the link below. Please click the link or type the URL address on a website browser to access the application portal.
- On the portal you will be required to upload your detailed CV, copies of relevant certificates, e- mail and telephone contacts, names and addresses of three referees. Please do not attach certificates that are not related to the qualifications stated above.
- You will also be required to upload a cover / application letter addressed to "Senior Manager Human Resources, Geita Gold Mining Ltd". Subject should be "Senior Manager Technical Services"

Application Link: <https://career5.successfactors.eu/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=16157&company=AGAprd>

- Candidates may also apply through our jobs email at jobs.geita@AngloGoldAshanti.com. Email subject should also be "Senior Manager Technical Services"

- You will be required to present original certificates if you are contacted for interviews.
- Internal Applicants (those currently employed by AngloGold Ashanti) must have their application letter endorsed by their Head of Department (HOD) or Manager once Removed (MoR).

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

- Applications should reach the above on or before **30th June 2021 at 5:30 Pm**
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

BEWARE OF CONMEN! GGML does not receive money in exchange for a job position. Should you be asked for money in exchange for a job offer or suspect such activity, please report this immediately to our Security Department, Investigation Unit, by calling +255 28 216 01 40 Ext 1559 (rates apply) or use our whistle-blowing channels by sending an SMS to +27 73 573 8075 (SMS rates apply) or emailing 24cthonesty@ethics-line.com or use the internet at www.tip-offs.com

More than 100,000 TASAF beneficiaries registered in electronic payment system

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

AT LEAST 111,000 beneficiaries of the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) in some 60 district councils in the country have been registered in the electronic payment system, it has been revealed.

This is part of the initiative to ensure that all those registered in fund's Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN) get payments electronically unlike in the past where they used to get cash disbursements.

The new initiative works in three ways; mobile money transfer, bank accounts and over the counter. Over the counter allow those who are not able to have bank accounts or phones to get payment by fingerprint signals at the bank or mobile money agents.

Speaking here yesterday, TASAF acting Director of Internal Audit, Shedrack Mziray said the aim is to ensure that all beneficiaries countrywide are connected to the electronic payment system in the next 13 months.

He made the statement while officiating at the opening a two-day training on the new payment system for some 134 participants from 31 district councils of accountants, TASAF coordinators, monitoring officers and data entry

officials.

The training, he said, was to enable the participants, who are the key players in the beneficiaries' payment, to understand how it works and the government's commitment to make the system work better.

He said while there have been some challenges realized during the pilot phases of the electronic payment system in some 16 district councils, the government has made it clear there is no other alternative mode of payment.

"We have to adopt the hard way of implementing the new payment system since there is no alternative," he said, calling on the participants to take challenges positively and help in finding solutions.

He cited Bahi, Siha and Arusha as some of the councils that experienced challenges with registration into the new system and the ratio of those receiving cash payment is bigger than the electronic payment system.

On the other hand, Mziray expressed disappointment with how some of the officials handle the new technology, saying some district councils are not willing to adopt it.

He said there is a high rate of payment name mismatch due to poor registration by the relevant fund officer. The acting director

added that the system is linked to the government electronic payment gateway (GePG) whereby any mismatch of information leads to payment rejection.

The other challenge, he said, is that some of the districts do not have communication networks, making it difficult to effect payments, adding that the government is working hard to change the situation.

Sharing his experience, Bahi District TASAF Coordinator, Joseph Kileo said only 23 percent of the beneficiaries have been registered in the new system due to several challenges.

He said the majority live very deep in the villages where communication is a big challenge while others use different names in various national identification cards.

Jajiel Mahega, TASAF Coordinator in Arusha city noted that despite challenges in the past, they have so far reached 70 percent in enrolment into the new system.

She attributed the success gained to close cooperation among leaders from village, ward, district and regional levels. "It is a strong team work that has made us reach this far and we are determined to attain full enrolment," she said.



Ileje district commissioner Joseph Mkude harvests maize in a Mbebe villager's farm earlier this week when launching 'harvesting week' under Ekari Moja Company, which routinely provides farmers with training and loans for the purchase of inputs. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

By Correspondent Christina Mwakangale

TANZANIAN parents and guardians have been urged to nurture children talents, because that can be the one way of reaching life goals.

Genesis Schools' company manager Joachim Jovin, made the call yesterday when speaking in Dar es Salaam during one-day innovation exhibition that involved few selected primary school pupils. The showcasing event was part of the preparation for the upcoming open exhibition to be held by June 30, this year. The proposed exhibition will include all pupils and parents are expected to attend.

According to Jovin, the aim of that exhibition is to compliment government's efforts of nurturing children's talents and make them to self-reliant and be able to create their own employment in future.

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MEDIA practitioners have been challenged to observe children rights and dignity when reporting stories involving them as victims of injustice in order to not upset them.

Clouds Media Group, Chief Editor Joyce Shebe said this during the Media and Civil Society Organization (CSO) roundtable meeting about Day of the African Child (DAC) that was organised by the Internews via virtual conference.

She said this year theme for the DAC 2021 was "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children". She said journalists must therefore observe regulations and Child Act that protect them when reporting issues related to abuse in the court or other legal entrusted boards.

Foster children's talents, Tanzanian parents urged

"So, it is high time for parents to recognize children's talents because everyone has, and always the talent starts from early age," he said. "To us, we believe that every child counts, every moment matters. We support our pupils to reach their talents and show it by giving them chance to brainstorm which project and title that can manage him or to do practically."

"Here in our school in every June, we prepare an open exhibition and anyone can participate to see how our children prepares their own projects," Jovin said.

According to him, early recognition of children's talents will help them to fulfill their dreams and becoming competent in different fields in the future.

He added: "We promote society

to recognise the talents of their children even at home and us, as guardians, teachers through lessons in the classes and practice will develop those talents."

The academician also said the best pupil who will do better and show good idea and project, in that exhibition will get a prize including study sponsorship and trophies.

Jovin said that prizes will be in three categories including Best Research Model, Best Model and Overall Winner, who will get trophy and discount of school fees.

One of the pupils Marcus Mmbaga, has designed a sample of robot folk lift that if developed will be used in future Tanzanian industries.

Journalists told to observe dignity, rights of children while reporting

Shebe said that when reporting, they must also ensure that the community was aware about children rights including education and protection and fight against all types of harassment and abuse.

"Media have a big role to shape the community by reporting children injustice in order to have future leaders who have abided by morals and ethics," she said.

For his part, the Assistant Director (Children development), Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Sebastian Kitiku said that media have not given priority children issues hence they are not reported until a child face abuse or harassment.

"A big number of newsrooms

have special desks for sports, environment, women but children desks are yet to be established for unknown reasons," he said.

He said the training of journalists on child reporting stories can have a positive impact on the media fraternity to reorganise and start establishing child desks to report issues related to child injustice.

Furthermore, the training should be a one stage ahead to the scribes to report more issues about child abuse and harassment occurring in different places of the country.

He said it was time for the journalists to publish or air programmes that can increase awareness about children's rights to curb ongoing harassment and abuse habits.

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole,

Mwanza

Minister asks contractors to expose corrupt govt officials

THE government have asked local contractors in the country to reveal names of government officials who solicit bribe as criteria to offer them construction tenders and promised to protect the whistle blowers.

This was said yesterday in Mwanza by the Minister for Works and Transport, Dr Leonard Chamuriho when opening the 4th consultative meeting between local contractors in lake zone organized by Contractors Registration Board (CRB).

The minister said there is evidence that when contractors are given tenders by using corruption means they fail to complete projects within agreed time and standards something which deny citizens the rights to use the expected project.

"Give us names of those officials so that we can deal with them and we assure you full protection

because we know that your fear is to lose other tenders in the future but that would be not the case just cooperate with government and you will be safe. Corruption in construction industry cost the government a lot," he said.

He also urged local contractors to go for joint ventures so that they can be able to gain strength to implement big construction projects adding that the government is not happy to see that many projects which cost billions of money go to foreign companies.

He said government will be happy to see many construction projects that cost billions of money are implemented by local contractors because the money will remain in the country and used in other projects.

"Don't be selfish and go for joint ventures because if you

join hands it is where you get muscles to compete with foreign companies because even those foreign companies that secure big projects it is because they are in joint ventures," said Dr Chamuriho.

The minister also commended CRB Registrar engineer Rhoben Nkori and chairperson engineer Consolatha Ngimbwa for the efforts they undertake to build capacity to local contractors so that one day they will be able to implement big constructions projects like standard gauge SGR and Julius Nyerere Hrd Power Project (JNHPP).

On her side, the chairperson of CRB, engineer Consolatha Ngimbwa commended the minister for officiating this year's consultative meeting organised by the board despite busy scheduled he has in his office.

Bank reaffirms commitment to provide citizenry with quality insurance cover

By Joseph Mchekadona

THE Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) has reaffirmed its commitment of reaching out to more Tanzanians with insurance cover.

TPB chief Executive Officer (CEO) Saba Saba Moshingi made the commitment in Dar es Salaam yesterday when the bank partnered with Alliance Life Assurance to launch a product known as Nishike Mkono.

He said currently only 15 per cent of Tanzania population are insured by all insurance companies in the country, the development he said is not good for the country.

Moshingi said TPB has partnered with Alliance Life Assurance with the hope of reaching out to many Tanzanians.

"Insurance penetration in the country is very low as only 15 per cent of the country population

is insured, even insurance contribution is also very low, but as Tanzania Postal Bank we are committed to see that many Tanzanians are insured, we have partnered with Alliance Life Assurance as they are experienced and their distribution network in the country is impressive," he said.

He said the Nishike Mkono product was developed to ensure that TPB account holders and all groups of their clients are covered.

"The Nishike Mkono product has been priced to suit the pockets of all Tanzanians, it will cover them when it comes to protecting their lives and lives of their families in the unfortunate events of death or permanent disability," he said.

On his remarks TPB head of Insurance Francis Kaaya said the newly launched product is good to Tanzanians as it is affordable.

He said the partnership will be

instrumental in making insurance products more accessible and affordable to Tanzanians, thereby contributing to increased insurance penetration rate. "The Nishike Mkono product is the best as it is affordable, it is in two categories of groups and individuals, for death claim it is for all individuals with an account with our bank, they will pay no extra money to benefit from this, the beneficiaries of this are spouses of our customers, four children, parents and parents in-law while for permanent disability the beneficiaries are the victims of the accident," he explained.

Alliance Life Insurance CEO Byford Mutimusakwa said the launch of Nishike Mkono in partnership with TPB augurs well with their mission of being a leading life assurance provider that provide superior products and services for the better of Tanzanians.

Date 18th June, 2021.

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

DETAILED TENDER NOTICE

NAME OF WORK: CONSTRUCTION OF 541 METERS LONG WALL FENCE TO ENCLOSE MUGUMU SPECIAL NEED PRIMARY SCHOOL.

- Right To Play** is a global organization committed to Protect, educate and empower children to rise above adversity using the power of play. Established in 2000, Right To Play has pioneered a unique play-based approach to learning and development which harness that power to deliver impact in five outcome areas namely: Quality Education, Gender Equality, Child Protection, Health and Well-Being and Peace.
- Right To Play is currently implementing the project namely Enhancing Quality and Inclusive Education (EQIE) at Serengeti and Tarime Districts in Mara. The project aims at improving children's minimum proficiency level in reading focusing on pupils from Pre – primary to Grade 4 and increasing access and retention of out of school girls and children with special needs. To achieve its intended objectives, Right To Play Mara Project in collaboration with Serengeti District Council has set aside funds for **construction of 541 meters long wall fence to enclose Mugumu special need primary school.**
- Therefore, the organization invites applications from various interested and potential bidders for **construction of a 541 meters long wall fence at the mentioned school.** The following conditions and qualifications shall apply for all the applicants: -
 - The applicant must have a valid business license.
 - The applicant must be registered as a taxpayer (with a TIN / VAT number).
 - The applicant must be registered with the Contractors Registration Board (CRB) and have registration certificates
 - The applicant should clearly indicate the cost analysis for accomplishing the whole construction exercise.
 - The applicant must state the time at which he or she will complete the task.
 - The applicant will be required to visit the project site at his own expense.
- Tendering will be conducted through the Competitive Quotation procedures specified in the Public Procurement Regulations, 2013 – Government Notice No. 446 and is open to Tenderers only as defined in the Regulations unless otherwise stated in the **Tender Data Sheet.**
- Interested eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the Tendering Documents at the Right To Play Mara Project office based in Misitu area P. O. Box 96, Mugumu - Serengeti from **9:00 am to 05:00 pm** on Monday to Thursday and from **9:00 am to 02:00 pm** on Friday.
- A complete set of Tendering Document(s) in English may be free purchased to interested Tenderers on the submission of a written application to the address given under paragraph 5 above.
- All Tenders must be accompanied by a Tender **Securing Declaration**, in the format provided in the Tendering Documents.
- All Tenders in **one original plus two copies** properly filled in, and enclosed in plain sealed envelopes must be addressed to Project Officer, Right To Play - Mara Project, P. O. Box 96, Mugumu - Serengeti and should be hand delivered to the Right To Play office premises based in Misitu area at or before **11.00 am on Thursday 8th July, 2021.** Tenders will be opened promptly thereafter in public and in the presence of Tenderers' representatives who choose to attend in the opening at the Right To Play office.
- Tender Validity will be 45 days after tender opening exercise.
- Late tenders, portion of tenders, electronic tenders, and tenders not received, tenders not opened and not read out in public at the tender opening ceremony shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstance.

Project Officer
Right To Play – Mara Project.

For any enquiries call 0736 985983 or email to info.tanzania@righttoplay.com



Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tanzania

About VOTO

Mobile technology is revolutionizing how organizations engage with their end-users. More than 96% of the world's population has access to a mobile phone, meaning it is now **possible to reach nearly every single person on the planet.** Yet **3 billion people living in emerging markets** still lack access to relevant, timely, and engaging information in their local languages, and their voices remain unheard. The organizations that serve them lack the technology and capacity to reach them, and many are unaware of **the power of mobile technology** to meet their organizational goals.

We are locally known as Voto Mobile Limited and globally we are recognizing as Viamo.

Viamo **connects** individuals and organizations using **digital technology** to make **better decisions.**

With more than **30.5 million people reached in 2020** alone, we are well on our way to meeting our goal of reaching 50M people annually by 2023.

About the role

You will be our representative in the country and a leader within the M4D movement. Your role is to ensure that every large development organization knows about our organization and our offerings, to design digital engagement strategies with these organizations, and supervise our program implementation. In Tanzania, we already have partnerships in place with UNICEF, Care International, Rijk Zwaan, Girl Effect, Ubongo Kids, MEDA, and more. The CEO will work closely with the Country Manager, Product Managers and Project Managers

Key Responsibilities

- Work with local and international partners to design and launch effective mobile engagement projects. This includes building relationships, co-designing projects, preparing budgets, and responding to RFPs.
- Delight our partners with quality, timely execution of program deliverables.
- Manage the 3-2-1 Service, expanding the content available, developing commercial partnerships to diversify revenue
- Manage relationships with Mobile Network Operators to ensure the infrastructure is in place to connect with all mobile phones in Tanzania
- Represent the organization to national government agencies and ensure organizational compliance with national regulatory bodies
- Run the country office, ensuring invoices are paid, salaries are processed, and banking is managed correctly.
- Managing the Viamo Tanzania team: Country Manager, 3-2-1 Product Manager, Finance & Administration Officer, Program Manager
- Represent the organization at local events advocating for the use of our mobile technology

Key Performance Indicators

- Impact: number of unique listeners and engagements
- Bookings: Value of secured partnerships
- Revenue: Execution & invoicing of program deliverables

Team and Reporting Structure

- Reports to Regional Director East Africa
- Line manages Country Manager, 3-2-1 Product Manager, Finance & Administration Officer, and Program Manager.

Profile

- Experience of 8+ years in any combination of social enterprise, INGO, mobile network operator, ICT4D

Why We Love Working for viamo

Make an impact



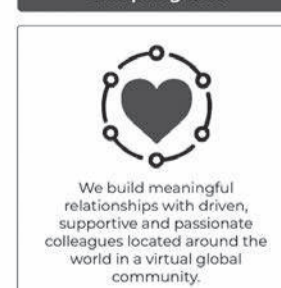
Learn and grow



Deliver exceptionally, work flexibly



Be a part of our passionate & inspiring team



- Proven business development skills - proposal writing and partnership building - with a history of submitting winning applications
- Project management experience, including reporting and budgeting. (Experience implementing USG-funded projects desirable)
- Excellent problem solving and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated self-management/entrepreneurial skills; adaptability and resourcefulness.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Kiswahili preferred
- Experience living and working in the country/region, as well as internationally (desirable)

Viamo is a n Equal Opportunity Employer. We value diversity and encourage applications from all candidates. We believe that diverse perspectives help our teams to create innovative solutions and understand our global clients' needs. In alignment with our values, we are committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse global workforce without discrimination.

Apply now with a CV and a short cover letter at: hannah.metcaife@viamo.io donatus.nshange@viamo.io

Deadline of submission 30th June 2021.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

FRIDAY 18 JUNE 2021

**Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995**

Budget has measured welfare input within financial stability

PROPOSALS raised last week by Finance and Planning minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba as he tabled the government's draft Budget for fiscal 2021/2022 in the National Assembly in Dodoma are especially keen on one thing: meeting popular welfare expectations and maintaining fiscal stability.

This also applies in the wider exposition of the annual development plan, tabled in the House as part of the third national five-year plan.

The manner in which this has been done is by selective welfare uplift on the basis of intensely examined eligibility, thus elevating income expectations of ward executive officers and providing formal allowances to councillors.

Government employees have been assured of accessing long delayed promotions, revisions of rank, etc.

That kind of selective accession to welfare demands where the rationale is much easier to accommodate than blanket income revision, as was heard this May Day, doesn't look like it can ignite fiscal balances or 'dominoes'.

This is in the sense of its being unlikely to trigger price rises when all employees have more money in their pockets as the traditional demand would have it.

This is therefore an example of responsibility in budgeting as the two groups of officials, on the basis of the minister's remarks, had specific levels of disaffection that was interfering with project implementation and work design. That should now end.

That the government has set aside 400bn/- for civil servants' promotions during the coming fiscal year, plus servicing more energetically debts owed to social security funds via budgetary funds and issuing non-cash Treasury bonds maturing from two to 25 years, was also a good step for

welfare.

It means that there is a scaled approach of levelling off the debts as the funds were cracking under the burden of central government debts, and that is negative for overall monetary balance.

As interesting from a welfare perspective but with a pragmatic touch in an economic sense is the value added tax waiver on smartphones, tablets and modems to encourage the use of telecommunication services.

The government is seeking to lead 80 per cent of the adult population into becoming internet users by 2025. However, as the rate of use now stands at 46 per cent at present, stretching to 80 per cent is a tall order. Still, even the longest journey indeed starts with one step.

The telecommunications sector has definitely become a key link in expanding the scope of economic activity and wider financial inclusion.

So, instead of creating incomes by raising minimum wages across the board, the government focuses on further enabling individuals to initiate earning activities by lessening start-up costs, thus removing structural impediments for the market.

That doesn't guarantee a win for each initiative or proposal but it stands to help public servants get somewhat elevated incomes and the private sector benefit from enhanced flows in investments.

All new investment projects need plenty of local procurement in the form of putting up facilities, staffing, absorbing routine office and domestic supplies with the wages they get. It is this sort of balanced initiative and value addition in fiscal terms across the board that makes for a sound policy standpoint in such matters generally.

Traditional demands for higher wages have their cornucopia of inflationary push and consequent layoffs to reduce the burden of wages. It is not of much use.

Missing out on Olympic Games for lack of fare is flabbergasting

TANZANIA has at least a handful of athletes in such games as judo or swimming who have worked hard enough to qualify for the upcoming Olympic Games in Tokyo. However, arrangements for their facilitation to travel to the Olympic village seem to be faltering.

This is the impression one gets as the media follow up preparations and travel arrangements for our athletes, and there is a possibility that scarcely anyone may travel - save, perhaps, through private arrangements.

This is the sad situation despite the fact that the Games were earlier scheduled for mid-last year and are now set to getting under way this week.

One pundit received information from a stakeholder that the ministry responsible for sports had extended 2m/- support in advance, apparently to the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), for the purpose.

At the same time, in the National Assembly session legislators traditionally use to seek answers from the government on various needs in the country, rapid information is given that some 200m/- has just been sent to a specific district or constituency for a "much-awaited" facility.

This just shows that the government values such needs, while there is an attitude that there are so many rich people out there who could convincingly beef up the relevant associations or authorities.

Such an impression doesn't arise from a clear public-private partnership where the National

Sports Council or TOC for that matter actually partners with a sponsor, and the team thus carries that logo in all such games.

This has been noticed in soccer, but can scarcely work for athletics and field games with a few spectators or fans.

In that sense there is a sort of no-man's land when it comes to sports facilitation, or competitive facilitation, and thus we are in danger of simply missing out.

There are moves at the level of budgetary allocations to include sports organisations, especially with regard to national teams.

For the moment it is business as usual, and the begging task facing TOC is harder this year than obtained previously. This is for the simple reason that 'easy money' that used to sort of linger around was rapidly absorbed in the past few years and those concerned would have to pack with the government to extend guarantees in one regard or another, including tax waivers.

It is scarcely visible on a routine basis that we even have an athletics and games squad that may feature in the Olympics, as for long such readiness and quality of competition has slid out of public attention.

The longer or medium-term plans notwithstanding, we could echo observations by our audiovisual colleagues that it is possible that something can still be done to assure the presence of at least a few athletes in Tokyo.

One might suggest that, indeed, it just needs the relevant ministry to do the needful.

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Obituaries are important, worth rethinking and reviving - Part I

By Kristen Hare

BEFORE the famous and powerful die, notice of their death is often already written. When death comes - the details are polished, dates added, and their stories get shared.

When regular people die, that work falls to family or friends, scrambling to make final arrangements and remember details while grieving.

But there's always been a middle space - where newsrooms can recognize lives lost through reported obituaries on regular people. As newspapers shrink and close, that space has gotten smaller and smaller.

Two and a half years ago, I started an experiment with Poynter and the Tampa Bay Times to test a couple theories - and discovered that people will read feature obituaries in a digital format.

Those stories can drive loyalty through digital subscriptions or membership. And they can help us remember what we have in common.

That experiment turned into a 2020 fellowship with the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri. And that fellowship has brought data and some conclusions to my hypothesis. It's also shown me that I'm not alone in believing that feature obituaries are important, worth rethinking and reviving.

"We all know people who we think are so cool, or interesting, or exciting, but a lot of times those stories vanish if no one is there to tell them," one person told an advertising class of students I worked with last semester at MU.

"That's why obituaries are important - because they preserve those stories and highlight those ordinary people that make the world a better place," the person said.

This report details three pieces of this work so far: the numbers case for feature obits, lessons from writing feature obits, and how we launched an obits newsletter.

I hope this work can offer a blueprint for newsrooms, reporters and anyone who thinks remembering the stories of the dead matters.

From this, I learned that our audiences respond to a few types of obits consistently. They reflect specific communities, whether that's an industry, a hobby, an identity or a place; the people

behind places we all know; and people whose lives we can learn from.

I wrote an obit a Guyanese immigrant who died of Covid-19 in July 2020, and it's my most-read piece so far. This is a community I have some understanding of because I lived in Guyana for two years with the Peace Corps and I'm married to a Guyanese. This story continues to get read each month. It has a total of 27,348 pageviews.

My second most-read obit so far captured another community - law enforcement. The story about a longtime Tampa police lawyer who'd worked with the last five police chiefs (including Tampa's current mayor) brought in 25,344 pageviews.

The story of a well-known Orlando drag queen who died of Covid-19 also fits in this category. It had 14,609 pageviews.

Obits can have an "oh I know that place" allure. A local restaurateur was behind the success of chains that are now part of most communities. That story brought 17,257 pageviews.

China City was a St. Petersburg staple for decades, and I previously wrote an obit about the man behind it. When the new business going into the same spot reached out to me, it led to a story of the China City family connecting to the people making their dad's building into a new restaurant. It earned 15,369 pageviews.

Lives worth learning from

Obits remind us that we're alive, and often the lessons from one person's life are what makes it resonate. That was the case with the story of a Tampa pastor who grew his church from 25 to 2,000 by living the kind of life he preached about. That story got 8,073 pageviews.

The story of a young man, first in his family to go to college, was also a story about the work that happens when one person can change the trajectory for his family. It brought 8,606 pageviews.

Pass-a-Grille is a historic St. Pete Beach community, and the obituary of the wise woman who ran an iconic motel and restaurant connected with readers, too. It earned 9,957 pageviews.

Not every story brought tens of thousands of readers, but each story continues to be read months after its run. That shows value that extends long after publication.

Lessons from writing about

the dead

I used to dread calling a family member after someone's death to start the reporting process. It took me some time to realise that it was so simply because that isn't where the process should start.

There are several steps I've learned to take. One: Read the obits. I open up the Tampa Bay Times' site and go to obituaries. The Times uses Legacy's platform, and it's easy to skim over the obits in search of great stories.

I find a lot of stories to report this way, including the woman who wrote a thriller based on her groundbreaking career in the federal government at 88; a beachfront regular who carried the warmth of Hawaii with him in Florida; a world-renowned concert pianist; and a woman who ran a local Thai restaurant for 14 years.

I scan the websites of local funeral homes regularly for obituaries that aren't in the newspaper. This step helps me find the stories of people whose families don't take out lengthy and expensive obituaries in the paper.

I also get suggestions for people to feature from the newsroom and people in our community, who reach out and share ideas pretty regularly. To encourage this, my stories include a call to action that invites suggestions and a link to my email.

Two: Make the pitch. If you're cold-calling someone who is grieving, lead with empathy. I'm sorry for your loss. Explain what you're doing with this work. And be explicit that you're a journalist and this is not a paid obit. Don't assume that people understand how journalism works. Explain the process upfront.

Three: Slow down. This won't be a popular opinion among some news desks, but I think it's fine to give people a little time before reaching out to write about their loved one.

If someone's death doesn't warrant a news obit because they're not famous, I usually try to give the family a few weeks or even a month. Grief comes with fog and a long to-do list of arrangements and obligations.

I've found that giving people some time to process leads to better stories and a more humane experience for many who've never talked with a reporter before. I might be sacrificing pageviews for that, but it's worth it.

Four: Research background. I'm lucky to get to work with Poynter's Caryn Baird each week. I send her a name and any details I have about a person, and she sends me back any background info I can't find on Google, including police, traffic and court reports.

This rarely deters me from writing about a person, but if we're devoting space to telling their story, I want to make sure that there's nothing hiding, like a history of abuse.

I Google them, too, to get a sense of them from a digital footprint. This also often helps me find family members, who are my first point of contact.

Five: Search the archives. The Tampa Bay Times' online archives and Newspapers.com are rich resources for me each week. I often find photos and even a person's own voice. I use these regularly and loved, for instance, hearing a drag queen's young voice as she tried to get out of her hometown while bound for the stage in Orlando. I let old news stories show a concert pianist's life as a child prodigy.

Six: Cast a wide net. When I started this reporting, I asked a question again and again that always clunked - What are the stories you'll tell about this person in a few years?

I was trying to get past the platitudes people share after someone dies and capture what made them who they were - not just brave and giving and creative, but someone who broke gender barriers in her career or helped her students navigate their industry.

I want specifics, and those are hard to grasp just after death. My question about the stories they'd tell came from my own experience with my own father's death. The stories my sister, step mother and I tell embody who he was, and that's what I want these obits to do. But no one I interviewed could ever answer it.

I finally realised that's because I was so much farther away from death and grief that it was easier to see. So, I started asking different questions, and I've found the stories I'm hoping for bubble up naturally. I always start with this: What do you want me to know about this person?

Kristen Hare covers the people and business of local news and is the editor of Locally at Poynter. To be continued.

There is polygamy in Russia, and here is how it works

By Victoria Ryabikova

“LOOKING for a second wife: A Slavic woman with blue eyes from a large family, who wants to give birth to as many children as God grants”.

Advertisements like this one are quite common on the Russian social network VKontakte. Here you find out how the Russian equivalent of Tinder for polygamous relationships works, why some Russian men need several partners and how they all get along in one family.

Ivan, a 46-year-old man from the town of Sergiyev Posad outside Moscow, has a VKontakte account full of photos of motorcycles and his wife. He has been married for six years.

Ivan says that he has a happy marriage, but in May 2021 he joined a small online community called “Looking for a second wife” and posted an advertisement there in search of one more wife, whom he is prepared to maintain.

He wrote in response to my query: “You will be provided with accommodation, food, clothes, cosmetics and, if you want, facials and other procedures. As for gifts, everything will be done individually and at will. Accommodation can be in a single or a shared room. There is a cinema hall and a swimming pool in the house.”

Officially, polygamy is banned in Russia but is not punishable, explains lawyer and family law specialist Yuri Kapshtyk.

“In the 1969 Family Code, polygamy was a criminal offence punishable by a prison term of up to two to three years, depending on the number of marriages. Later, that norm was abolished. Now the Family Code does not touch on this issue at all,” says Kapshtyk.

At the same time, there are over a dozen Russian-speaking communities on VKontakte and Instagram dedicated to polygamous marriages.

There, men and women discuss and promote the ideas of group relationships, and look for second and third wives to join their families. Interestingly, advertisements for additional wives are posted not only by men, but also by their ‘first’ wives.

One might think that most of the members of these communities are Muslims, since Islam allows men to have up to four wives. However, the bulk of the group are Orthodox Russians. They believe that polygamy is an ancient Slavic custom that should be observed to this day.

Each woman should have a husband with a wife

One of the oldest polygamy communities, called “Polygamy as it is”, was created in 2013 by Oleg Pokrovsky – a St. Petersburg resident. He has been married since 1982 and is not looking for a second wife. He made several attempts to find one, but they failed for “physical reasons”.

However, since childhood, Oleg has been enthralled with Arab fairy tales, in which men had several wives at once – so, the idea was imprinted on his mind from the age of 13 and has been with him since.

He explains: “In a long marriage, men go through different crises, and they seek change. At the same

time, a man may love his wife and have no intention of leaving her, so there arises the idea of inviting someone to the family.

“I have many married guys among my acquaintances, and they were very appreciative of my conversations about polygamy. It was to meet this demand that I have set up the group.”

The main motto of the community is: “Every woman should have a good husband, even if she shares him with one or two other women.” The majority of the community’s subscribers are women (55 per cent) aged 21 to 24 and 30 to 35; the rest are men aged 30 to 45 and older.

Between 1990 and 2019, the birth rate in Russia fell by 34.2 per cent, according to the official statistics agency, Rosstat; while the sex ratio in Russia is 866 men to 1,000 women.

In their posts, the group’s administrators say that polygamy will help improve the country’s demographic situation, bring happiness to single women who want to get married, resolve the issue of male adultery and combat female jealousy and selfishness. Oleg has even penned a 12-page treatise exploring these arguments.

He argues: “Women can get along well together if they feel like sisters. Furthermore, female bisexuality is the answer to the question of how women can share one man.

“They do not have to be lovers, but certain movements, touching should not be a problem for them. For all my male acquaintances, the best cure for female jealousy is to have both women under one blanket.”

According to the community, polygamy was practised in Ancient Rus until the reign of Peter the Great. Natalia Mitsyuk, a PhD in History, says in a book entitled: “Brushing Taboos Aside: Essays on Russian Sexual Culture of 11th-20th Centuries”, that historical sources do contain evidence of polygamy, but they are too fragmentary to claim that polygamy was widespread in Russia. Furthermore, bigamy was condemned by the Church.

Oleg believes that the absence of polygamy in modern society is a kind of a global conspiracy. Companies benefit from single consumers, so that everyone buys a separate home, furnishes it and fills it with household appliances, and corporations make much more money on them than they would make on family units that share housing and everything in it.

Oleg sums up: “That said, I don’t advocate polyamorous relationships (unlike polygamy, polyamory allows intimate relationships with several partners without formal marriage or children, meaning that women can have several lovers, too) because it makes life even more complicated.

“One has to be quite adventurous to opt for it, although there are people who also have a need for experiments like these. I am in favour of polygamy when people think about children, about the younger generation and about improving the demographic situation in the country.”

“Duty to heaven”

In the majority of polygamy communities online, users, mostly men, post their profiles and share requirements that their future second or third wife will need



to meet.

Oleg Nikolayevich Dymkovets, a 42-year-old building dismantler from Krasnodar, has been looking for a third wife for his family since January 2021. The requirements are: a “Slavic woman” from a large family, with blue eyes and long hair, who knows how to look after a house and is ready to give birth to “healthy offspring”. Additional requirements include ability to sing and play musical instruments.

According to Oleg Nikolayevich, his two existing wives had different reactions to his decision to take a third one. He did not elaborate on how he had persuaded them to enter into a polygamous relationship. During his search for a third wife, he rejected some 40 applicants and was himself rejected by two.

Oleg Nikolayevich elaborates: “I believe families should have many children – 20 or more. People in Russia are not yet ready for the correct understanding of polygamy.

“Most of them think that polygamy simply means more sex. But in fact, a polygamous union is a world in which everyone lives only of their own free will; otherwise it is impossible to keep a family like that together. A family like that can be strong if the concept is based on honesty, truth, order, discipline, cleanliness, respect.”

Nikolai Kuznetsov, a 37-year-old farmer from Vitebsk, is also looking for a second wife, despite having a happy marriage of 15 years and four children: three daughters and a son.

He explains: “I want a lot of children – ten. I feel it as my duty to heaven. And I don’t want to waste my life and at the end to say that I chickened out.

“My wife, of course, did not like this idea, but her re-

action is changing since she understands that she herself will not be able to give birth to so many children. I am looking online, but so far I have not yet found a woman who would not be jealous of the first wife and would be serious about children.”

One of the community members, Irina Ushakova, a mother of two and a third wife, met her husband in 2010, when she was 36. She worked in a canteen (she prefers not to specify the city), and he was one of the customers. They fell in love at first sight and, soon afterwards, the future husband told her that he already had two women living in his family and invited her to become a third.

“My husband gave me a choice. Love and respect for his choice overpowered jealousy and anger. Well, I also had to battle my jealousy. In the end, I came to the wise decision not to fight it but to accept it as something that should be,” she says.

The first wife gave birth to a daughter, but in the end she couldn’t stand a third woman in the family and divorced her husband, while the second wife died of a stroke. Irina herself was looking for new wives for her husband, but the search has so far been fruitless. She says that all the applicants have been either mercenary women or pervers.

Irina complains: “Men are very strong and smart, but they meet unsuitable women, brought up by patriarchy. They want to completely own and command their husband, and are not prepared to share him with anyone. So poor men suffer, although they could make many women happy.”

“With time you get used to anything”

Polygamy is also prac-

tised by Muslims living in Russia. Instagram stories of 29-year-old Anisa are full of pictures of flowers, multi-coloured scarves, occasionally her happy smile, but never her face. She became a second wife four years ago. Since then, she has given birth to three daughters. Anisa recalls: “I worked at a dressmaker’s in Chechnya. Once my colleague and I went out shopping, and my future husband noticed me in the crowd. He approached my colleague, found out my address from her, and several times came to my place with his cousin to ask for my hand.

“It was only after a few meetings that he said that he already had a wife and children. I was shocked and said that I didn’t want to hurt his first wife’s feelings and asked him not to bother me anymore.”

But he still continued to seek her hand and persuaded her family to give permission for their marriage, Anisa said, adding that his first wife also gave her consent for their wedding.

Anisa and the first wife live in different houses, and the husband visits each of them every other day. Anisa spends her time with her children, makes clothes to order and earns money from advertising on Instagram.

“When the husband is with the first wife, I try not to think about it. I go to bed early so that morning comes faster. With time, you get used to anything,” Anisa said in her blog.

Khadidzha Utkina, who runs a TikTok blog about Islam, meanwhile became a Muslim in 2020. She had spent several years looking for a religion that would work for her, started studying Islam, but soon fell ill with Covid-19. She says that during the serious illness, she converted to Islam and

she soon got better.

Khadidzha explains how she became a second wife: “Then I decided to get married, and I started looking for a Muslim husband. I posted about it on TikTok and I heard from more than 1,000 men who wanted to get married.

“Suleyman Polishchuk, my trainer in Internet promotion, also asked for my hand. Next came a formal introduction with witnesses. It took us two meetings to discuss all the details.”

Khadidzha says that she has not yet seen her husband’s first wife, since the latter is temporarily living in another city with her family, but they have spoken on the phone and have already divided their wifely responsibilities.

She shares her plans: “I wish we all lived together. Firstly, both my husband and my sister and friend would be near me. Secondly, I’d have more time for creativity and personal development. By the will of the Almighty, in the near future we will start up not only a family, but also a creative union – and we will launch new joint projects.” Khadidzha shares her plans.

According to Ali Kurbanov, a 27-year-old practising Muslim who is also looking for a second wife, it is difficult for a woman to agree to her husband’s second marriage.

But he says that if a woman manages to overcome her jealousy, she will be “rewarded in heaven” for this.

He adds that if a man is allowed to have a second and third wife, he will be responsible for all the women with whom he has an affair, while also satisfying his sexual appetite without cheating.

According to Kurbanov: “A man can take a second wife

in two cases: if the first wife has women’s health issues that prevent her from satisfying her husband’s needs, or if Our Creator has made the husband so lustful that he cannot control his urges and sleep with one woman all his life.”

“Is yours the first or the second case?”, I ask. “The second”, he replies.

Freedom from taboos

Proposals to introduce polygamy in Russia or its regions, like the North Caucasus, have been voiced several times: by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov in 2015; by the mufti (chief sheikh) of Moscow, Ildar Alyautdinov; and by the leader of the LDPR party, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, in 2019.

All the characters featured in this article approve of making polygamy legal in Russia but do not put forward direct demands to this effect. They say the main thing is that the state does not interfere in their family affairs.

In the absence of a direct prohibition and criminal or administrative liability, men can live and have an affair with several women at once, without being officially married to them and yet calling them wives. This is what Ivan, mentioned at the beginning of this article, is also seeking.

“My requirements include keeping things tidy and cooking together with the first wife, and sometimes with me,” he says, listing his requirements for a second wife.

“And what about sex?” I ask. “We can have it as a threesome, or I can have it with one after the other. We are ok with either option; after all we are free people,” Ivan replies.

The Dar es Salaam-based Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre e-mailed this Russia Beyond piece to The Guardian for publication.

Revisiting customer care services

IF you have lived long enough, you know that customer care isn't so good in most places.

I am a client of the 2 biggest banks in the country, and I have come to hate their customer care service. However, I need the banks, so I have nowhere to run to.

In the first bank, getting anything done takes hours of queuing. Getting an ATM card replaced just takes ages.

In the second bank, I recently queued for an hour to replace a card, then they asked me to bring a copy of my tax PIN certificate. I tried to give them a soft copy but they could have none of it. I had to go out, get somewhere to print, then come and queue again.

In the third bank, last time I went to withdraw money from over the counter they said that my account did not have a passport photo. "No big deal. I am here in person. Let's add one," I said. The response was that was not possible, and I needed to go to the branch where I opened the account to have that fixed. Only after threatening to close the account did a manager intervene.

Mobile phone customer care sucks. I had to replace

my SIM card twice, and pay customer care center a visit before they realized that the reason my SIM card was not able to receive a 4G signal was because of a 'small error' on their side.

You might also know that the first thing the Telcos customer care attendants tell you is to try restarting your phone, even when you have clearly told them that you have restarted it 72 times.

Have you ever tried contacting Paypal, Facebook or Google? You are likely to be attended to by a robot. Paypal once closed my account due to a non-existent transaction, and my attempt to appeal was always responded to with the automated message that their decision was final. Facebook erroneously charged me twice for a transaction, which they denied. When I reversed the first transaction which they claimed was not successful, they sent me a warning that any reversal of transaction would lead to my account being closed.

But why is customer care a problem? Because it is hard. First, I do not need any customer service help when everything is OK. When something is wrong, I try and figure it out. When I cannot fix it, I



turn to customer care support. With that, customer care ends up doing the most difficult tasks possible.

Second, customer care is just a necessary evil. If my bank had only ten clients, they would know us by our

faces and our names. They would solve all our problems on phone. They would not require us to sign anything, just

a word of mouth would be enough. That is not the case. With millions of customers, every institution now needs a dedicated people called customer support, with a well outlined plan on how to deal with customers. They have standard answers to most questions, and they are not the most tech-savvy people the telcos or banks have. Their desire to keep costs low ends up providing poor services to the people they want to serve.

Third, it is hard and costly to build a good company culture and empower employees to speak in one voice, and stand up for your core values. Small institutions are able to do that. The bigger an institution gets, the harder it becomes. This has also been the point where many institutions die. It is also the point where corporations risk being disrupted by new technologies and processes.

It takes a lot of input to offer excellent customer care.

So in a nutshell, how can an institution excel in customer support?

The best answer is simply to work hard. An institution should consider customer support as one of their main marketing channel, and do all it takes to ensure customer satisfaction. This can be achieved by ensuring availability of support team when needed, timely response to customer queries, ensure polite and friendly service, capacity building to ensure high quality support. Work on build a good customer experience, giving honest and caring response to clients. Never lie or give flimsy excuses. Offer what you promise, build a customer centric organization/business, where the needs of the customers drive your actions.

College Comfort Zone
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Algeria-France: Said Chengriha on secret mission to Paris to discuss the Sahel issue

ACCORDING to Jeune Afrique a monthly magazine of reference of the African continent, the head of the Algerian army paid in a secret way a visit to the French capital to discuss the new security situation in the Sahel, after the announcement of the end of the Barkhane Operation

This newspaper was outlined on 15/06/2021 that the Algerian Army Chief of Staff Said Chengriha (pictured) has been in Paris for a few days, as part of a mission.

The objective of the visit was to discuss with the French authorities the new security situation in the Sahel, after the announcement by French President Emmanuel Macron of the end of Barkhane operation, as well as the role that Algeria could play in this context.

Since the constitutional reform of November 2020, the Algerian parliament has been able to discuss sending troops abroad on the proposal of the head of state.

This magazine indicated that the Non-intervention outside na-

tional borders was until then a dogma of the Algerian army.

In early June, in an interview with Qatari channel Al-Jazeera, the Algerian president confirmed that the National Army (NPA) had been ready to intervene in Libya during Marshal Khalifa Haftar's offensive against the capital Tripoli between 2019 and 2020.

Also? Jeune Afrique reported that in January 2020, the Algerian presidency said the possible capture of the city by Haftar's troops was a "red line" not to be crossed.

The marshal finally had to withdraw from Tripolitania in the summer of 2020 after a series of setbacks Algeria also views with concern the instability in Mali, and has strongly criticized the payment of ransoms to jihadist groups in the north of the country, as well as the release of hundreds of jihadists in exchange for that of hostages Soumaïla Cissé and Sophie Pétronin.

According to Algiers, some of these jihadist elements have entered Algerian territory and threaten its national security.



In an interview with RFI radio on June 15, Amar Belhimer, Algerian Minister of Communication and government spokesman, addressed the issue of the end of the Barkhane mission,

and noted that "there are many more threats directed to the Sahel than at the start of the operation." He also spoke of the Algerian approach to the crisis in the Sahel: We have consolidated

the local state buildings and entities in the past, including providing military, security and logistical support to their armies and their security forces.

CAPITAL RADIO

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

Tembelea mitandao ya kijamii ya CAPITAL RADIO



CAPITAL RADIO

Africa facing urgent need of clinical haematologists

By Special Correspondent, Nairobi

THE acute shortage of haematologists in Sub-Saharan Africa has given rise to an urgent need for training to help address increasing cases of blood disorders, scientists say.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends one clinical haematologist per 100,000 people in every country to diagnose and treat patients with diseases of the blood and bone marrow. But African countries fall well below this target, according to Vernon Louw, head of the Division of Haematology at the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Groote Schuur Hospital, South Africa.

"Clinical haematologists have been needed for a very long time [in Africa] but there are very few training centres and training positions," Louw tells SciDev.Net. "Several medical schools do not have a single clinical haematologist."

South Africa, with a population of almost 60 million people, needs about 600 haematologists to meet the WHO target, but the country currently has fewer than 30 haematologists, according to a press statement by the UCT recently.

According to Louw, there is an urgent need to train haematologists on the continent.

"Angola, Botswana and Namibia do not have a single clinical haematologist ... while Malawi and Zimbabwe have just one each," he says.

Louw explains that haematologists treat a very wide range of disorders and conditions, including cancers of the blood and bone marrow such as myeloma, lymphoma, leukaemia, anaemia, and thrombosis, which are very common conditions.

"In the past five to ten years, eight clinical haematologists have completed training at the [Division of Haematology at the UCT]...and there are another four currently in training," he says.

The goal, he explains, is to train African clinical haematologists and increase the alarmingly low number of specialists on the continent who are equipped to help treat and manage blood disorders.

"There is a massive population of patients out there with treatable and oftentimes curable cancers and diseases. If they are not seen and treated by an appropriately trained person, these conditions are often fatal,"



Laboratory technician takes a blood sample.

Louw explains.

He says that the greatest challenge is inadequate funding for trainees, adding that in the past, his institution organised some outreach programmes in African countries to help train haematologists but it was not successful. He calls on policymakers to consider the selection of centres to train clinical haematologists in Africa by subregions including Southern, East and West Africa.

Walter Mwanda, professor of haematology and blood transfusion at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, says that one of the main reasons for this shortage is because there are no clear training paths for haematologists.

"Haematologists ideally belong to any of the following disciplines: internal medicine, obstetrics, paediatrics ... and general (medicine)," Mwanda says.

He adds that currently after post graduation, most clinical students tend to stick to subspecialties such as internal medicine, and are reluctant to specialise in haematology which would require further intensive training. "This situation can be improved by stating the pathways of becoming a clinical haematologist, what work is involved and upward movement," explains Mwanda, adding that there should also be sponsored programmes to incentivise trainees and trainers.

African ministers promise to work closer together to revitalise ailing tourism industry

By Special Correspondent,

Windhoek

AFRICAN minister attending the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Brand Africa Summit on Thursday released a communique, agreeing to work together to find a solution to revitalize the continental tourism industry currently financially battered by COVID-19.

The African ministers pledged that African member states will work together to establish a new narrative for tourism across the continent.

The pledge is meant to better realize tourism's potential to drive recovery, they said. "UNWTO and its members will also work with the African Union and the private sector to promote the continent to new global audiences globally positive, people-centered storytelling and effective branding," the UNWTO said in the communique.

With tourism recognized as an essential pillar of sustainable and inclusive development for the continent, UNWTO welcomed high-level delegates to the first Regional Conference on Strengthening Brand Africa, which featured the participation of the political leadership of host country Namibia, alongside public and private sector leaders from across the continent.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili welcomed the common determination to rethink as well as restart tourism. "African destinations must take the lead in celebrating and promoting the continent's vibrant culture, youthful energy and entrepreneurial spirit, and its rich gastronomy", he said.

As the Windhoek Pledge made by African ministers responsible for tourism puts people first on the back of a series of workshops and a ministerial think tank, UNWTO's African member states unanimously endorsed the Windhoek Pledge on advocating Brand Africa. "Under the terms of the Windhoek Pledge, members will engage both public and private sector stakeholders as well as local communities to build a new, inspiring narrative for tourism across the continent," they said.

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Vodacom gets set to use Innovation Week experience to end challenges

By Guardian Reporter

FOLLOWING the unquestionable success of the Innovation Tanzania Week 2021, Vodacom Tanzania and the Vodacom Tanzania Foundation are eager to get to work on the shared experiences and challenges that emerged in the many discussions and presentations.

One of the centrepieces of Vodacom Tanzania's participation this year was holding a Fireside Chat on the Africa.Connected campaign. Vodafone Group initiated the campaign with the intention of leading the conversation on accelerating the pace of digitization in Africa among all stakeholders in the digital space.

The session featured panellists from the private sector, representatives from the Ministry of ICT and Communications and Universal Communication Service Access Fund. The aim of this session was to familiarize the public and major stakeholders about the campaign and to start the conversation going on what the campaign aims to achieve.

The digital landscape, and thus digital connectivity, is absolutely vital to the healthy future of Tanzania's economic activity and social cohesion. We saw how digital platforms uptake rose sharply last year following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the use cases have not declined since. In fact they are going higher and higher.

More people are seeing the benefits of digital connectivity and transactions due to the innovations that users and service providers, such as Vodacom Tanzania bring to the market.

Collaboration and inclusion is key for efficient and relevant innovation. Efficient because collaboration allows partners to focus on their strengths and relevant because innovation is only useful if it addresses the needs of the community we all serve.

However, it must be acknowledged that despite all efforts made thus far, there exists a digital divide in Tanzania that needs to be addressed.

An insidious aspect of the digital divide, as was pointed out by Maharage Chande of Multichoice Africa, is that where there is a digital divide, there is also a much higher likelihood of social divides, such as inequalities in education, financial and health access.

Vodacom Tanzania Plc. is determined to play its part to foster inclusion in all spheres for the marginalized members of our society. Technology is a key enabler in this effort and Vodacom is in a unique position to bring technology to bear due to its unmatched investment in ICT infrastructure network among mobile operators in the country.

However, to make this network more relevant to users, Vodacom called on regulators and policy makers to review the current taxation and subsidy situation on smartphones, to allow more rapid smartphone penetration and also look at how to subsidize the upgrade of remote network locations to be internet capable, that is have more sites accessing 3G and 4G connectivity.

This is an on-going conversation with the relevant authorities as well as other stakeholders and Vodacom is optimistic for a positive outcome



from these deliberations

The communications sector is growing fast all over the world and Tanzania is no exception. The growth of the sector in the country has been driven to a great degree by the deliberate interventions the government has made in the sector in terms of policies, laws and regulations.

Key targets that these policies and regulations are designed to achieve, include broadband coverage to rise from 45% to 80%, increase handset usage to cover the whole country, making R&D in ICT a priority as well as making electrification a key component of the country's energy policy

Looking at that first target, it shows the sad truth that currently, we have 55% of our population not covered by broadband Internet connection.

Going deeper, the situation is even worse, because not all the 45% covered actually use broadband, for differing reasons, including affordability of bundles and handsets, affecting handset usage in turn.

Making R&D in ICT a priority is an area where tech companies, of which Vodacom is one, can also have an impact. We have seen and heard from the beneficiaries if Vodacom's Digital Accelerator programme how access to tech that they got through Vodacom was game changing for them.

Moreover, actions such as opening up the

M-Pesa API will have far reaching implications and Vodacom will be happy to share its experience with other players and regulators.

Financial inclusion is an area that digitization and increased connectivity can have a profound impact. Innovation in fintech has a unique opportunity to help.

Speaking during the fireside chat, Sosthenes Kewe, the Executive Director of the Financial Sector Deepening Tanzania (FSDT) had this to say: "For Fintechs, innovation is not just about addressing problems that exist but also about imagining future possibilities and getting the necessary support to take that journey."

An example he gave was in connecting East Africans in terms of food security. This is a question of trade, logistics and communications. It becomes essential to understand the motivations of all the players in this chain.

For instance, what are the interests and needs of the farmer in terms of access to inputs, market information and best practices, transporting their products or financing. A platform like M-Kulima addresses these and offers opportunity for other innovators to add even more value.

The same applies to the health sector. We always talk about student to teacher ratios, but what about doctor patient ratios?

In the past, everyone had to physically go to the clinics, but with tele-health and online services like Vodacom M-Mama, this becomes no longer necessary. We need to think about these opportunities so we can create new demands.

It is also time for the government to be recognized as a major driver. It is a customer in many ways and its role is much more than just a regulator. Considering that the government wants to raise incomes and deliver better services, this can be enabled by innovations in technology and online services that the government will also benefit from.

So how to tackle the inequalities caused by this digital divide? Something that was talked about by many during the Innovation Week was education and digital skills development. There is a saying that 'A rising tide lifts all boats'.

So the more people are empowered, the more people will get empowered. Vodacom believes that using the very digital network it is growing will be beneficial in this. Through programmes such as E-Fahamu Vodacom intends to reach IM students and provide them with free and high quality educational content.

But Vodacom Tanzania cannot and should not be working alone in tackling the digital divide. We know how powerful and effective we can be when we collaborate and work with others.

It is with this spirit of collaboration and cooperation that Vodacom will engage in conversation with the government, corporates and individuals, knowing that we all have the best intentions for our country and its people.

Digital journalists in Zimbabwe offer crucial alternative to polarised media

By Derick Matsengarwodzi

AFTER years of working for various news outlets, Nelson Banyana and Ranga Mberi introduced their news website, newZWire, in 2018. In launching it, the duo sought to broadcast independent voices onto Zimbabwe's media landscape.

"Our desire was to provide a platform for news analysis and commentary," said Mberi, who has previously served as news editor at the Financial Gazette and worked in public relations. His co-editor, Banyana, has worked with Reuters and The Source.

They knew that there was a segment of the market hungry to read beyond the headlines and to have a firmer understanding of what was happening around them. "Some just want access to facts and calm, informed opinions that aren't too loud or toxic," Mberi noted.

But they weren't the only ones who had identified that need in Zimbabwe. The onset of online media platforms has made possible an alternative information source in the country's polarised media space, once dominated by state-controlled media and a few independent publications, as Kudzayi Zvinavashe from the Content Creators Network ZW, said.

"The Network was formed under the realisation that Zimbabwe's civic space and free expression online was under threat and content creators were being targeted by state actors for the work they do," said Zvinavashe.

According to his tally, the list of victims includes comedienne Samatha Kureya, award-winning journalist Hopewell Chin'ono and freelance journalist Frank Chikore.

Content Creators Network ZW encompasses various media houses including The NewsHawks, Kubatana, TellZim, and CiteZW, all independent establishments.

It further incorporates ZimFact, Bustop TV and Magamba Network, which runs Open Parly, the majority carrying content deemed critical of the government.

Bustop TV and Magamba Network are YouTube channels that broadcast satire taking aim at government excesses.

Though popular, this operation of online platforms faces serious financial obstacles. Mberi explains: "It is challenging, but exciting at the same time. The environment might not always be ideal economically, but the excitement is in finding the niche areas where we



can excel."

Mberi says data costs are high "so we strive to create content that is worth the trouble for those who read what we put out".

But even with limited resources, some online publications are pursuing investigative journalism. ZimLive.com, established in July 2018, boldly published leaked phone calls attributed to former Zimbabwean vice president Kembo Mohadi earlier this year. That created a sex scandal that ultimately led him to resign from his post.

For his safety, ZimLive.com editor Mduzuzi Mathuthu publishes from neighbouring South Africa. His website is fast gaining popularity.

However, the subdued economic environment translates into a lack of advertisers, though "a few con-

tent creators have found innovative ways of raising funds to meet operating costs", Zvinavashe said.

Some of the content creators' channels are monetised, which guarantees them a steady income to cover their overhead costs. Local advocacy groups will sometimes commission them to raise awareness about corruption, abuse and rape issues.

newZWire, for example, has no external funding and solely depends on Google as well as other commercial advertisements, according to Mberi.

Independent content creators believe that they are the future of content creation and are innovating to make it a reality.

Edwin Muparadzi (31) is a Harare resident and a regular consumer of online news. He is ecstatic about the arrival of independent content creators.

"Unlike before, when we were limited to the state broadcaster, we can now access a variety of news from independent content producers. Their newscast and skits are refreshing," he says.

The majority of their viewers are Zimbabweans based in the diaspora who enjoy unlimited internet access and wish to stay in touch with their country. Operating on a shoestring budget, most content creators including newZWire, rely on freelancers to generate content.

Every penny the website generates must be put to good use, Mberi said, elaborating. "We don't have the big money and staff of bigger organisations. So we have had to always be innovative in how to position ourselves

in the digital space and put the near-zero resources we have to good effect."

With the proliferation of misinformation from various unverified platforms, content creators seek to maintain credibility in their work output. "Whether one is at an established media organisation or an independent one, credibility of content is essential," Mberi said.

The editor added that they assume responsibility for what they publish: "One key difference is that being independent means, just as the name suggests, that you have sole and direct responsibility for what you publish. This means that your name is directly tied to the credibility, or otherwise, of your content."

Their local consumers are not spared by the surging data costs. In January 2021, five million Zimbabweans (or one-third of the population) had access to the internet. This low penetration is affecting online content creators.

"Because data costs are high, it is not always easy for consumers, especially those in Zimbabwe, to consume as much content as they want to," Mberi said, adding: "So we are always looking for ways to present our news content in the easiest ways possible for people to access it."

Barring their recorded clashes with the state, the independent creators maintain a healthy working relationship with their other media peers.

Mberi believes that online platforms ought to be given their due attention, unlike in the past when print outlets were given attention.

"Often, in Zimbabwe, online content creators are treated as second-class in terms of access to officials or the information they put out," the newZWire editor said, adding: "This is a hangover from the past and has to be challenged, especially given the work online platforms have produced over recent years."

The polarisation of the local media space also remains a threat to independent content creators. "We live in a polarised environment; often criticism of government policies is taken as a personal attack," Mberi said.

A dispatch by the International Journalists' Network, a project of the Washington-based International Centre for Journalists. Derick Matsengarwodzi is a content creator with experience in the media, public relations, advertising and marketing industries, including NGOs.

Darnella Frazier, the teen who filmed George Floyd's murder, wins honorary Pulitzer

By Errin Haines

DARNELLA Frazier, the teenage girl who whipped out her cell phone and recorded the police murder of George Floyd last summer, a video that rocked the nation, has received an honorary Pulitzer Prize for her courage.

Frazier, now aged 18, was honoured with a special citation for her video, which "spurred protests against police brutality around the world". She will receive a US\$15,000 award for the citation.

"Even though this was a traumatic life-changing experience for me, I'm proud of myself," Frazier wrote in an

Instagram post on the one-year anniversary of Floyd's murder, adding: "If it weren't for my video, the world wouldn't have known the truth."

On May 25, 2020, when Frazier saw Floyd pinned under the knee of former police officer Derek Chauvin outside a Minneapolis convenience store, she said she felt what she saw "wasn't right".

Frazier said that she didn't know Floyd but that she recognized that another human being suffering and in pain.

In that moment, she was the lone witness, a high school student and Black teenager with her cell phone camera trained on four police officers and Floyd taking his final breaths.



The act reflected many of the core tenets of journalism: afflicting the comfortable, shining a light on wrongdoing, bearing witness on behalf of the marginalized, speaking truth to power. It was not her job, but Frazier described it as her duty when she testi-

fied at Chauvin's trial earlier this year.

"Without Darnella, Derek Chauvin never would have been tried and George Floyd would have been blamed by the state for his own death," said activist Brittany Packnett Cunningham, adding: "It's powerful to see this act recognized for what it is - an act of journalistic truth-telling."

Frazier's video became exhibit 15, a key piece of evidence played repeatedly during the trial, where she also delivered emotional testimony and lamented that she wished she had done more to help Floyd.

Last summer, her video galvanized millions of people of all backgrounds to take to the streets, calling for an end

to the unrelenting killing of Black people at the hands of law enforcement and vigilantes.

Floyd's murder took a personal toll on Frazier, who described her ongoing trauma around witnessing his killing on Instagram.

"Everyone talks about the girl who recorded George Floyd's death, but to actually be her is a different story," Frazier wrote, adding: "My video didn't save George Floyd, but it put his murderer away and off the streets."

A NimanLab dispatch. Errin Haines is an editor-at-large at The 19th, in which this article was originally published.

RADIO One RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

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| 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS RADIO ONE DOCTOR 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS DAKIKA 45 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA SHERIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:30 AM NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS NEWS BULLETIN / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS CHAGUO LA DJ 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS AFRO TIZI 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS AFRO TIZI 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM MATANGAZO 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:10 AM MATANGAZO 07:15 AM TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI 07:25 AM UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI 07:40 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA II 08:00 AM HABARI NYEPESI 08:10 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA III 09:00 AM HABARI ZA BIASHARA 09:10 AM MATANGAZO 09:20 AM BRAND TALK 09:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA UKIMWI 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:10 AM YALIVOMO YAMO 10:30 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS DJ SHOW 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS HOJA YA LEO 18:30 HRS DIRA YA DUNIA BBC 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MATANGAZO / MUZIKI 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:05 HRS KIPIMA JOTO 23:00 HRS WEEKEND SHOW 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA KISWAHILI 09:00 AM WATOTO SHOW 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM MIWANI YA MAISHA 11:00 AM MTAU WA MAGOMA 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 15:00 HRS CHAGUO LAKO 15:00 HRS MUZIKI NA MICHEZO 16:03 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:15 HRS MIDUNDO MOTOMOTO 18:00 HRS BONGO TEN 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:15 HRS CHEMISHA BONGO 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW I 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS WEEK END SHOW II 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS WEEK END SHOW III 01:00-05:00HRS MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | 05:00 AM HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I 06:00 AM AMKA NA BBC 06:30 AM NIPASHE 06:50 AM COMMERCIALS 07:00 AM NEWS BULLETIN 07:15 AM NEWSPAPERS REVIEW 07:30 AM KUMEPAMBAZUKA - FAMILIA 10:00 AM NEWS BRIEF 10:03 AM DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15 AM SUNDAY SPECIAL 11:00 HRS TOP 20 13:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 13:10 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 13:30 HRS NANI ZAIDI 16:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 16:03 HRS DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS 16:30 HRS MAMBO YA PWANI 18:00 HRS AFRICAN PANORAMA 19:30 HRS SPOTI LEO 20:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN 20:10 HRS MIBAVU ZANGU 21:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 21:03 HRS MAMBO MSETO 22:00 HRS NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS) 22:15 HRS RAFIKI I 23:00 HRS NEWS BRIEF 23:03 HRS RAFIKI II 01:00-05:00 MUZIKI MCHANGANYIKO | |

BANK STARTS IMPLEMENTING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT AS SAMIA LAUDS CEO

By Property Watch Reporter

IN a bid to start implementing President Samia Suluhu Hassan's initiative to economically empower women after NMB Bank Plc CEO Ruth Zaipuna was named as one of the bankers to constitute a team to execute an initiative to be funded by France, the bank has kick-started the project in Mtwara this week.

Through 'Jukwaa la Mwanamke' initiative, NMB mobilised and sensitised women on basics of financial and business management as well as entrepreneurship skills ahead of issuing them with loans to run their own businesses.

NMB's Southern Zone Manager, Janet Shango said the 'Jukwaa la Mwanamke' club has liberation of women economically as its key objective in line with President Samia's thinking when French President Emmanuel Macron picked her during a virtual France-Africa Summit last month to suggest how can Paris help African countries.

President Samia made history mid March when she was sworn-in as the country's first female head of state following the sudden death of her predecessor, Dr John Pombe Magufuli on March 17 this year.

"NMB's initiative has come at the right because as you remember well we got the country's first female president this year when



NMB Bank Plc headquarters in Dar es Salaam.

Mama Samia Suluhu Hassan was sworn-in as head of state," Shango said while urging women to seize the opportunity and ensure that they liberate themselves when State House has a female occupant.

Shango said President Samia's decision to mention the empowerment of women economically as her priority during the France Africa Summit shows her commitment to uplift women who despite the key role in national development remain marginalised.

"Let's join forces with President Samia and NMB CEO Ruth Zaipuna to liberate ourselves economically because the time has come to do so and the opportunity has availed itself," she noted while pledging to ensure that all women being served by NMB in Southern Zone benefit from the new push.

During her first meeting representatives on women in the country held in Dodoma over a fortnight ago, President Samia urged stakeholders to support her government and French government's efforts to improve the economic situation of women in the country while naming Zaipuna as one of the bankers who will constitute her team to oversee implementation of the initiative.

"Therefore, I request stakeholders to join forces and work together on this initiative. I know that among female bankers, we have good young people like NMB's CEO who is one of the women I have chosen to take part in implementation," the head of state said.

Zaipuna made history last year when she was confirmed as the first Tanzanian to head a privatised NMB but also a woman leading the most profitable Tier 1 bank in the market. Last year, NMB made over 206bn/- net profit with shareholders approving a 68.5bn/- dividend payment for the period.

Ethiopia dismisses Arab League call for intervention by UN in Nile dam dispute

ADDIS ABABA

ETHIOPIA has rejected "in its entirety" an Arab League resolution calling on the UN Security Council to discuss its plan to fill a disputed Nile dam.

Ethiopia's foreign ministry accused the Arab League of taking a misguided position on the dispute and of embracing "baseless claims" made by downstream Egypt and Sudan. The two accuse Ethiopia of intransigence in the decade-long negotiations that have failed to produce a deal on filling and operating the dam.

The statement is likely to further stoke tensions between Egypt and Sudan on the one hand and Ethiopia on the other, as the clock ticks away before the start of the rainy season next month when a second filling of the dam is scheduled to begin.

"It should be abundantly clear that futile attempts like this to internationalise and politicise the Gerd [Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam] will not lead to sustainable regional co-operation in the utilisation and management of the Nile," an Ethiopian Foreign Ministry statement on Tuesday night said.

"The Nile is a shared resource and not an exclusive property of Egypt and Sudan," it said. Ethiopia contends that the hydroelectric Gerd, which is 80 per cent

complete, will lift millions of its people out of poverty and become an engine of development in the landlocked nation in the Horn of Africa.

It refuses to enter a legally binding agreement on operating and filling the dam as demanded by Egypt and Sudan, arguing that guidelines should suffice. It has on occasion suggested that any agreement on the dam should be part of a water-sharing agreement between all 10 Nile Basin nations. Egypt and Sudan rejected this proposal.

The most populous Arab nation with 100 million people, Egypt depends on the Nile for more than 90 per cent of its fresh water needs. It fears that the dam will significantly reduce its share of the Nile's water, costing hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Sudan, for its part, said its own power-generating Nile dams and water treatment plants would be affected without real-time co-ordination with Ethiopia on operating the dam. Meeting in Doha on Tuesday, Arab foreign ministers agreed on "steps to be taken gradually" to support Egypt and Sudan in the dispute, according to Qatar's Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani.

The ministers called on Ethiopia to negotiate "in good faith" and refrain from any harmful, unilateral steps, a reference to Addis Ababa's



An aerial view of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

declared intention to go ahead with the second filling of the dam without a prior agreement with Egypt and Sudan.

Ethiopia previously rejected calls from Egypt and Sudan to involve mediators from outside the African Union. It maintains that the dam dispute was an African issue that required an African solution.

"It is perplexing that the League of Arab States places particular emphasis on the water security of the two downstream countries in complete disregard of the interest of the rest of the Nile riparian states which are the sources of the Nile," said the Ethiopian statement.

The dispute over the dam was discussed

by the UN Security Council last year, but the 15-member body did not issue a resolution of any kind, recommending only that the African Union should persuade the three nations to negotiate an agreement. Nearly a year of AU sponsorship of the talks followed, but no progress was made. The last round of talks broke down in April.

NAIROBI

THE State is set to roll out a value index to make Kenya's land market transparent and cut wasteful public project spending due to speculative activity that drives up costs, the World Bank has said. The long-awaited index is also expected to boost own-source revenue collection by counties from land property.

Kenya currently lacks standardised land value information—a loophole that has been exploited by cartels over the years to entrench fraud and exploitation in property prices. Treasury Cabinet Secretary Ukur Yatani said the government would submit to Parliament a raft of subsidiary legislation on land valuation and compensation to pave way for the implementation of the index.

He said the regulations will include updated rules on land valuation Acts to ensure alignment with the Land Value Amendment Act 2019 and revisions to the Rating Act and Rating for Valuation Act to align them with devolution. The roll-out of the land value index is part of conditions of a Sh80.9billion loan from the World Bank to help Kenya recover from Covid-19 economic hardships and support the budget.

"The development of a valuation index which is reviewed regularly will inform the valid market price when the government acquires land for its development projects. It will also mitigate the risk that local communities are exploited, as it allows

Land value index to tame speculators



communities to know the value of their properties, a strongly pro-poor measure" the World

Bank said. The Land Valuation Amendment Act 2019 provides for the development of a land value

index for all 47 counties.

However, the lack of updated, relevant regulations despite the

A sign post advertising land for sale in Kiwani on July 22, 2015.

passing of the Act is impeding the roll-out of the land value index across counties.

To date, land value indices have been completed in only six of 47 counties, none of which have yet received MPs' approval. Further, the Rating Act and Rating Valuation Act, which provides the legal basis for counties to determine ratings for land valuation, is outdated.

"Together, these gaps contribute to significant forgone own-source revenues that local governments could generate from property taxation" the World Bank. Kenya has been trying to tackle the problem of inflated land prices when acquiring private property for state projects which have made them expensive to undertake.

WORLD VISION PROJECT DELIVERS INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MANYARA CHILDREN

By Property Watch Reporter

In a bid to improve the living standards and future of children in Babati District of Manyara Region, World Vision Tanzania has constructed pit latrines, classrooms and a vocational education and training authority centre.

Coordinator of the project christened, 'Gorowa AP' Esther Mushendwa said in Babati this week during commemoration of Day of an African Child that World Vision Tanzania has invested over 189m/- since last year in implementing the various infrastructure projects.

"This year, we have already handed over 44 modern pit latrines to three public schools in Endadmet in Babati District," she said saying the move is also aimed at safeguarding the health of the children mostly from pastoralist families.

Mushendwa revealed that last year, World Vision Tanzania also completed construction of VETA centre at Ayasanda also in Babati which targets to give vocational skills to young people to ensure that they employ themselves.

"Through Gorowa Project, we also fund water supply projects, irrigation and better nutrition for communities," she underlined saying the not-for-profit organization works in partnership with Compassion International to implement the project. Speaking at the event, Babati District Executive Director, John Nchimbi commended World Vision



Inauguration of part of Babati VETA centre building put up with funding from World Vision Tanzania and its global partners.

Tanzania for investing heavily in infrastructure that targets children but ends up benefiting entire communities.

"The government in Babati appreciates very much the role being played by World Vision because it is implementing develop-

ment projects benefitting the majority of our people," Nchimbi said while warning men against abandoning children with their mothers. He said the government's policy and national laws demand that both parents should cooperate in upbringing children

but experience has shown that most men neglect their responsibilities once children are born.

"These street children who sleep at bus stations, along the streets have parents who have unfortunately neglected them," the

Babati DC pointed out saying the state will take drastic measures against wayward parents especially fathers. This year's theme of the Day of the African Child is 'Let's implement 2040 Africa Agenda by protecting children.'

Rwanda journo builds Rwf50m ECD facility at his birthplace

KIGALI

RWANDAN radio presenter Jean Paul Bujacyera has on African Child Day inaugurated an Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) which he built for children in his birthplace of Ngarama Sector in Gatsibo District.

The journalist, locally known as Gutermann, works at Radio Isango Star, says he built the facility worth around Rwf50 million to help children from the area where he's born have a chance at a better life in the future. The facility has a learning and entertainment areas and will provide various services such as nursery school, nutrition services for children, education through sports, music and cinema and hygiene and sanitation.

The project was funded through an organisation he started in 2014, called "Nufashwa Yafashwa," which can trans-



Jean Paul Bujacyera speaks at the inauguration of an Early Childhood Development Centre, which he has built for children in his birthplace of Ngarama Sector in Gatsibo District.

late as "even a person who gets a support can provide support to others." The centre will also offer community services such as reproductive health education, and parents will learn how to prepare a healthy diet and other services related to fighting malnutrition.

The nursery section hosts 60 children, and they are soon increasing the number to about 100 children. "I grew up in poverty, we ate once a day, I could not get basic materials for school, I was expelled many times due to lack of school fees, I also suspended for one year because of failure to raise fees. I then had to start doing heavy work as a child to get the money," he said.

"I was supported throughout my studies, I cannot say that I did all things by myself. I was supported, and I can support others too," stated Bujacyera.

It was in 2014 that he started the organisation in Gatsibo, but his first thing to do was to help handle school dropouts in the district, whose numbers he said were too high at the time.

"In line with the national policy, in 2018, we got an idea to start an ECD centre, because parents here get busy with agricultural activities and their children lack early childhood development and education services," he said.

Ana Mukabihoyiki, 26, whose four year old daughter is one of the centre's beneficiaries, said that they get the services free of charge, while other schools are expensive and do not provide as many services. "To access nursery school, a child had to travel

to Ngarama trading centre, the roads are not safe for young children, there is always risky especially for road accidents," she said.

Gerard Moerman, member of the Flemish Rwandan Association "UMUBANO VZW", an NGO that promotes cooperation between Flanders and Rwanda, which linked Bujacyera to partners from Western Frandre and Waregem in Belgium for the funding of his project. He commended him for the hard work, saying that such initiatives have more impact than those started by foreigners.

Inaugurating the infrastructure on the African Child Day, also coincided with the campaign to screen children and give them medication to fight against worm infections amongst children. The screening activities will be done at the ECD, she declared.

"An ECD centre is a safe environment for children, where they get education, nutrition, among other services, but it also allows a parent to do their work without worries," said Mary Kantengwa, the vice mayor for social affairs in Gatsibo District.

Building industry confidence at highest level in three years

JOHANNESBURG

CONFIDENCE in the building industry rose to its highest level since the first quarter of 2018 but masked the difficult overall environment in the sector.

The latest FNB-Bureau for Economic Research (BER) building confidence index released on Monday revealed that confidence improved to 39 index points in the second quarter of 2021 from 27 index points in the previous quarter. Despite the improved confidence levels, more than 60% of industry respondents are still dissatisfied with current business conditions.

In addition, the improved confidence was driven largely by a sharp increase in sentiment among building material manufacturers and hardware retailers, whose confidence levels are being boosted by rising domestic sales.

"The higher composite confidence index, and main contractor activity, hides how difficult conditions in the sector still are. "If one were to recalculate the index without building material manufacturers and hardware retailers, confidence is at a lowly 25.

"As things stand, we are set to see the building sector once again far underperform the rest of the economy this year," he said. The latest GDP figures released last week confirmed the continuing depressed conditions in the construction sector.

Construction-listed market intelligence firm Industry Insight said the construction industry was again by far the worst performing sector in the economy in the first quarter



A perspective of the Takealot facility set at Richmond Park.

of 2021. It said according to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), construction GDP was down "a staggering" 18.1% year on year in the first quarter of 2021.

Industry Insight said this data "certainly dents the narrative that the construction industry is seeing some sort of robust recovery, which has been pushed by those who think the performance of one company [Raubex] applies to an entire sector" and the data is somewhat worse than expected.

Projects

Industry Insight senior economist David Metelkemp told Moneyweb last month they had noticed a relatively

robust increase in the number of CIDB Grade 9 projects, the bigger projects, coming out to tender but fewer being awarded.

However, Metelkemp said the building sector "is still in absolute disarray" while companies more involved in civils, such as Raubex, are benefitting from increased tender activity in the transport and logistics infrastructure space.

Industry Insight added that it noted in a breakdown of the gross fixed capital formation investment figures, which were released in conjunction with the GDP data, that investment/activity in the construction industry was down in every sector,

including the civil construction industry.

It said investment/activity in civil construction was somehow worse than the building segments and down by "a very disappointing 19%" year-on-year seasonally adjusted basis in the first quarter of 2021, while investment/activity in the residential industry was down by 18% and in the non-residential industry by 16.3%, which "was more expected."

Mkhwanazi said the resilience in demand for retail hardware in the second quarter of 2021 continues to surprise. According to FNB-BER survey respondents, sales volumes remain well supported, resulting in hardware retailer confidence regaining the losses in the first quarter to reach 65 index points, the highest level since the fourth quarter of 2007.

In the first quarter, confidence of hardware retailers slumped to its long-term average of 49 from 64 in the fourth quarter of 2020. "However, the caveat is that this represents a small subset of the building sector, namely the DIY and informal markets."

De Beers unit's gigantic diamond could become the third-biggest ever

GABORONE

DEBSWANA Diamond Co., a unit of De Beers Plc, unearthed a 1 098 carat stone in Botswana on June 1, the largest since the company began operations five decades ago.

Preliminary analysis suggests the stone is the world's third-largest gem-quality diamond ever after the Cullinan Diamond that was discovered in South Africa in 1905 and the Lesedi la Rona that was found in Botswana in 2015, according to Debswana acting Managing Director Lynette Armstrong.

Valuation by the Diamond Trading Co. Botswana is due in a few weeks and at this point, Debswana can't say whether the rock will be sold by De Beers or through the Okavango Diamond Co., a state-owned trader that also holds the right to buy Debswana stones, Armstrong said.

"Debswana will work with the gov-

ernment of the Republic of Botswana and De Beers to value and sell the diamond to ensure it returns maximum benefit for the people of Botswana," the company's spokeswoman, Rachel Mothibatsela, said.

The stone was discovered at Jwaneng, the world's richest mine by value, which is undergoing a \$2 billion expansion.

Debswana is a 50/50 partnership between Botswana and De Beers to mine the gems in the southwestern African nation. Last year, the company produced 16.6 million carats, compared with 23.3 million carats in 2019.

Botswana accounts for more than two-thirds of De Beers' output, while the country relies on diamonds for 90% of its exports. Last year, the nation's total rough diamond sales fell 30% to \$2.1 billion as mines suspended production due to the coronavirus pandemic.

TECHNOLOGY

CHINA AND RUSSIA REVEAL ROADMAP FOR INTERNATIONAL LUNAR RESEARCH STATION

MOSCOW

CHINESE and Russian space officials revealed plans to build the International Lunar Research Station at the Global Space Exploration Conference in St Petersburg on Wednesday.

The proposal involves sending several Chinese and Russian missions to the Moon over a 15-year period from 2021 to 2036. Officials said international partners would be required to make the project more cost-effective and boost the speed of research.

"This roadmap was formulated based on the multiple exchanges and discussions between Chinese and Russian engineering groups. It includes the definitions, functions, compositions and development path for the ILRS," said Yanhua Wu, vice administrator at the China National Space Administration.

"The station refers to very complex experimental research facilities to be constructed with the possible attraction of other countries, international organisations and partners. On the surface, or in the orbit of the Moon, there are designs for multiple multipurpose scientific research activities."

Facilities and timeline

Five facilities and nine modules are planned for the station, intended to support long and short missions to the Moon's surface and orbit. The facilities include a CisLunar transpor facility to support round-trip transfer between Earth and the Moon, lunar orbiting, soft landing, take-off on lunar surface and re-entry to Earth.

A long-term support facility on the surface will include a command centre, energy and supply modules, and thermal management. The lunar transport and operation facility will help modules to move - or hop - on the surface, and



The Long March-5 Y5 rocket, carrying the Chang'e-5 lunar probe, takes off from Wenchang Space Launch Center, in Wenchang in Hainan province, China, on November 24, 2020.

support excavation or sampling. The other two are the lunar scientific facility, which will enable in-orbit and surface experiments, and the ground support and application facility. Designs include a "hopping robot" and smart mini-rovers that would move around the surface of the Moon.

The plan is to launch six missions by 2025 during phase one of the station's construction. "We would like to cooperate with Russia by launching China's CE-4, CE-6, CE-7 missions, as well as the Russian Luna-25, Luna-26, and Luna-27 missions," Mr Wu said.

"Phase two is the construction phase. We have two sub-stages. Stage one refers to the period from 2026 to 2030 and we have two missions planned during this period, which are the Chinese CE-8 and Luna-28.

Stage two of the second phase involves completing the in-orbit and lunar surface facilities for energy, communication and transport. Phase three will take

place after 2036, when the ILRS has been mostly completed and humans can carry out research and exploration.

The need for a global effort

Sergey Saveliev, deputy director general for international co-operation at Roscosmos, said it was important to have international partners. Since the collaboration between Russia and China on the ILRS was announced in April, both countries have called on other nations to join the project.

"Russia and China are actively offering the idea of co-operation, and offering an option to participate in the ILRS project," Dr Saveliev said. "This option is offered to leading space agencies and high-profile organisations working in space."

An official invitation letter will soon be sent out to countries that are considering taking part. During the presentation, Chinese officials outlined ways in which other agencies could become involved, including collaboration in engineering,

testing, launching and assembly.

US space agency Nasa is building its own research station to orbit the Moon, called the Lunar Gateway. As part of that programme, an uncrewed mission to the Moon, Artemis I, is planned for this year, and a crewed mission by 2024.

Under US law, Nasa is prohibited from engagement with Chinese-affiliated organisations to protect American companies from espionage.

But Beijing has emerged as a space power using its own technology. It has landed a mission on the Moon, brought back lunar samples, sent an orbiter around Mars and landed on the surface.

A giant, poor-sighted bird stands in the way of India's green goals

NEW DELHI

THE majestic, endangered bird is massive, making it slow to maneuver in flight. It has poor frontal vision, and an unfortunate habit of scanning the earth while flying across the flat grasslands of India's western borders. That combination too often sets it on a fatal collision course with power lines. Pity also, if you will, the plight of India's renewable energy developers.

The wide-open region that's home to the rare bird has long been an ideal location for wind and solar projects. In an effort to save the great Indian bustard from flying into power lines, a Supreme Court order is asking for transmission lines in a large swathe of the region to go underground. The companies say the directive could cost an estimated \$4 billion in extra expenses, and jeopardise nearly 20 gigawatts of awarded solar and wind projects.

Before taking sides, though, be aware that the issue is more nuanced than a straightforward clash pitting industry against nature. The effort to save the bustard holds risks for what is arguably an even larger environmental cause: It could set back India's climate goals, which depend heavily on the availability of wasteland like the bustard's domain for putting up solar panels and wind turbines.

"The whole renewable industry, especially solar, could come to a standstill," said Parag Sharma, chief executive officer at O2 Power Pvt., a Temasek Holdings-backed developer that's building a 780-megawatt solar project in the western Indian town of Jaisalmer. "You won't find land that easily anywhere else in the country." Other companies that have projects in the region include Adani Green Energy Ltd., ReNew Power Pvt. and Acme Solar Holdings.

Certain extinction The April ruling was a result



Great India Buzzards in the Desert National Park near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India.

of a petition filed in 2019 by M.K. Ranjitsinh Jhala, a former bureaucrat turned wildlife activist. The judges based their order on a report by the state-run Wildlife Institute of India, which said that "unless power line mortality is mitigated urgently, extinction of GIBs is certain."

The court ruled that all low-voltage lines, including existing ones, need to be taken below the earth. It formed a three-member committee to examine the feasibility of also putting high-voltage cables underground.

The problem, according to the energy companies, is that the court went well beyond the report's prescription. While the WII advised burying cables in a region where most of the birds live, the court also called for action in potential habitats, expanding the protection area and the cost burden for the companies.

"We were taken by surprise," said Subrahmanyam Pulipaka, CEO of industry lobby National Solar Energy Federation of India. "We are discussing all options, including filing a review petition before the court, approaching the committee to present our case, or both."

'Slow bird'

Great Indian bustards – the name means "slow bird" in Old French – are among the heaviest flying creatures on earth. They stand about 1 meter tall (3.3 feet), have a wing span of about 2 meters, and weigh nearly 18 kilograms, more than twice the size of a peacock. The easily frightened, ground-nesting bird used to roam across 11 states in India, but their dwelling ground has shrunk to mostly Rajasthan.

A WII survey covering 80 kilometers of power lines across the Thar desert region of the state found four bustard deaths during a single year due to high-transmission wires, including some connected to wind turbines. The study found that the birds died either because of the impact of the collision or electrocution.

Besides the transmission wires, a rapid conversion of grassland for farming or industrial projects and a slow birth rate – bustards lay one egg every year or two – have also led to their depleting numbers.

"These birds are on the brink of extinction and are now confined to a very small area. Saving that ecosystem should be as much a

part of our climate goals as any other thing," said Sreeja Chakraborty, a Bengaluru-based environment lawyer. "If the industry finds it tough to comply with the court's order, they should move their projects to other locations."

Since the ruling, the power companies and government and state officials have scrambled to find a solution for both businesses and birds. In a meeting in early May, the participants discussed the technical difficulties of taking high-voltage lines below ground, the cost implications and even environmental hazards of below-the-earth cabling, according to documents seen by Bloomberg.

Taking lines underground can inflate project costs and power prices by nearly 20% and getting lenders to fund the additional expenditure, estimated at around 300 billion rupees (\$4 billion), could be a challenge due to regulatory delays, according to the solar lobby group's Pulipaka. "That means developers will have to put in their own equity money and then run around for years to get that reimbursed," he said.

Covid makes renting more cost-effective for British citizens than buying a home

LONDON

THE pandemic has made it cheaper for Britons to rent a home rather than buy for the first time in seven years, despite rents rising over the past year, according to Hamptons.

The average tenant in the UK spent £71 (\$100) a month less on rent in May than if they were servicing a 90 per cent loan-to-value mortgage on the same home, research from the real estate agency found.

In comparison, a buyer purchasing a property with a 10 per cent mortgage deposit before the pandemic started would have been £102 better off if they bought a home rather than renting one. Aneisha Beveridge, Head of Research at Hamptons, said the pandemic has reversed the trend of buying being more cost-effective than renting because of strong house price growth and higher mortgage rates.

"A year ago, lenders were either increasing their rates or withdrawing higher loan-to-value mortgages altogether," Ms Beveridge said. "For first-time buyers in particular this pushed up the cost of paying a mortgage, if they could get one at all, to well above the cost of renting."

Hamptons' cost comparison analysis between renting and buying is based on a consumer placing a 10 per cent deposit on a home to secure a 90 per cent mortgage on a two-year fixed rate. The average annual rate in May was 3.32 per cent, up from 1.94 per cent a year earlier.

The cost of servicing this mortgage is then compared to the cost of renting the same home. Britain's property market has soared since the start of the pandemic, after a total shutdown of the sector during the first lockdown led to pent-up demand for homes.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak's stamp duty holiday, first unveiled in July last year and set to expire on June 30, bolstered the market further. In May, prices surged to an average record high of £261,743, according to the Halifax House Price Index, up 9.5 per cent from the same month a year earlier – equivalent to £22,000 over 12 months.

Meanwhile, rental growth accelerated in May to a record high, with the average cost of a newly-let rental home rising to £1,054 per month, up 7.1 per cent from the same month last year, according to Hamptons' Monthly Lettings Index.

The regions recording the biggest rises included south-east England, where rents rose 13 per cent and south-west England, with an increase of 11.5 per cent, as many Britons moved out of cities in search of larger homes due to the pandemic. As a result, London was the only UK region where rents fell, declining 0.5 per cent on the year in May.

While it is currently more cost-effective to rent, Ms Beveridge expects the balance to swing back towards buying once mortgage rates edge down again, although this will be partly offset by rising house prices.



An array of 'to let' and 'for sale' signs in Birmingham, UK.

China's campaign to control commodities goes into overdrive

BEIJING

CHINA has stepped up its campaign to rein in commodity prices and reduce speculation in a bid to ease the threat to its pandemic rebound from soaring raw material costs.

State-owned enterprises were ordered to control risks and limit their exposure to overseas commodities markets by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The companies have been asked to report their futures positions for Sasac to review, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is confidential.

In a second development, the National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration will soon release state stockpiles of metals including copper, aluminum and zinc, the agency said in a statement Wednesday. The metals will be sold in batches to fabricators and manufacturers, it said, without giving the volumes to be released.

Most metals prices in Shanghai fell, as did the Singapore Exchange's iron ore contract. Shares of metals companies in China and Hong Kong declined, while Australia's metals and mining sub-index posted its biggest loss in almost a month.

Mining and steel stocks including Rio Tinto Plc, BHP Group and ArcelorMittal SA fell in Europe before paring losses. Base metal prices were mixed on the London Metal Exchange, with copper slipping as much as 0.8% before settling 1% higher at \$9 667 a metric ton at 5:51 p.m. local time.

Stocks of North American metal companies including Freeport-McMoRan Inc., Alcoa Corp. and Nucor Corp. also slumped, while a Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of global copper producers fell to the lowest in nine weeks.

Speculative risks

"We haven't seen the country release state reserves for years," said Jia Zheng, a commodity trader with Shanghai Dongwu Jiuying Investment Management Co. "This will boost short-term supply, sending a bearish signal to the market." The scrutiny on overseas commodities positions, meanwhile, is aimed at "curbing excessive speculation as prices are overheated and could bring risks to SOEs," said Jia.

The run-up in commodities prices has fanned concerns in China that factories will eventually need to pass on higher costs to consumers, hurting the economy. The role of speculators has drawn particular scrutiny from authorities.

WORLD

Russia and US stressed need for cybersecurity dialogue at Geneva summit, says Kremlin

MOSCOW

RUSSIA and the US both agreed that they need to establish cybersecurity dialogue, however, no cybersecurity agreements were reached at the Geneva summit, Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with the Echo of Moscow radio station.

"We agreed that we need to discuss cybersecurity, and this is of crucial importance," Peskov said. "There were no agreements reached, and they couldn't have been reached, as there wasn't such a goal," he added.

According to Peskov, in the near future, the sides will launch an expert dialogue mechanism on cybersecurity issues, during which they will discuss the attacks and the general level of cyber threats, as well as the issues in the sphere of critical infrastructure.

When asked whether the US provided any concrete proof of Moscow's involvement in the cyberattacks during the summit, the spokesman pointed out that such materials are never presented at the top level. He confirmed that the US side continues to insist that the attacks were carried out.

US not blaming Russian authorities for latest cyberattacks Peskov also noted that "Russia positively assesses the fact that the United States does not directly blame the Russian authorities for the latest cyberattacks."



US President Joe Biden (left) and Russian President Vladimir Putin during their meeting at the 'Villa la Grange' in Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday. (AP Photo)

"Before the summit and during the summit (the meeting of the presidents of Russia and the United States, Vladimir Putin and Joe Biden in Geneva on Wednesday - TASS), it was noted that no one blames the Russian government, and no accusations were made against the Russian side," Peskov stressed.

"This is very important. We take it very positively," he said. Peskov clarified that "some elements of these attacks, according to the US, could one way or another come from Russian territory." He noted that, according to

the US, these could be individuals or someone else. In turn, Putin noted that most cyberattacks in the world are carried out from the territory of other states, primarily the United States, Peskov added.

"And this also absolutely does not mean that the US authorities have anything to do with this, by no means."

But the fact that this requires bilateral interaction and cooperation is unambiguous. Potential readiness to talk about this has been confirmed," Peskov said, emphasizing the fact that this is an important outcome of the summit. **Agencies**

Diplomats laud CPC's governance

FOREIGN envoys have hailed the Communist Party of China's successful governance of the country as well as its contributions to promoting world peace and development, after visiting the Site of the First National Congress of the CPC in Shanghai on Wednesday.

During the visit, organized by the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, ambassadors to China from more than 40 countries learned about how the Party developed from its birth in Shanghai in 1921 and how it has since led the country and its people to where they are today.

Albanian Ambassador to China Selim Belortaja said he feels "very special" when visiting the CPC's birthplace. He said that many Eastern European countries, including Albania, previously were politically similar to

China, but no country was as successful as China.

"When we say 'successful', this is the reality that shows this success. China is functioning very well in all aspects, even compared to some highly developed countries," Belortaja (pictured) said.

"If you fly over China, you see the infrastructure of China, which is amazing and very impressive. The role of the Communist Party of China in all these achievements is obvious."

Milia Jabbour, the ambassador of Lebanon to China, said that the CPC is the "backbone" of modern China as it developed from a small party with dozens of members into the world's largest ruling political party with more than 91 million members.



"It has led China to develop through consistent reform and opening-up and made spectacular achievements. This is something we cannot see elsewhere. That's why I think everybody now is very interested to see the Chinese experience," Jabbour said.

She suggested people should

learn more about the history of the CPC and China. "This is very important because we have real stories here. So seeing by your own eyes, it's completely different from listening to what others might say. You can compare the two versions and see on the ground what the truth is in China."

Baudelaire Ndong Ella, Gabonese ambassador to China, said he was impressed by the CPC's strong commitment to staying true to its mission and its people-centered development philosophy.

"The CPC always reminds its members to 'never forget why you began'. That's very important. I think that's why until now China is always progressing," he said, adding the CPC also focuses

on the well-being of the Chinese people, has eliminated absolute poverty nationwide and keeps making efforts to enable the people to live a better life.

He also praised the CPC's great contributions to other countries, particularly in the fight against the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"We received vaccines, we received medical support, and most of the countries in Africa received them from China. Can you imagine one country helping almost one entire continent and providing its support to most of the countries in the world?" the Gabonese diplomat added.

"And the CPC's important contribution to the world is President Xi Jinping's vision of building a community with a shared future for mankind. That is very important." **Agencies**

India's Taj Mahal reopens for tourists as COVID-19 curbs ease

BENGALURU

INDIA'S iconic Taj Mahal reopened to the public on Wednesday as the country, still reeling from a disastrous second wave of the pandemic, rushes to lift restrictions in a bid to revitalize its economy.

The 17th century monument, built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the northern city of Agra, was closed in early April as India introduced strict lockdown measures in an effort to contain a surge in COVID-19 infections that is still killing thousands every day.

Only 650 tourists will be allowed inside the premises of the Taj Mahal at any point of time, District Magistrate of Agra Prabhu Singh said. The white marble monument normally attracts 7 million to 8 million visitors annually, or an average of over 20,000 people per day.

The state of Uttar Pradesh, where Agra is located, re-

ported 270 new infections overnight and 56 deaths. It is among India's hardest states in terms of total COVID-19 cases.

Other federally protected monuments, including New Delhi's Red Fort and Qutub Minar, were also re-opened to tourists on Wednesday, even as alarm bells ring in the world's second most populous country over a resurgence of crowds in major cities that threatens to fuel another spike in infections.

Indian media reported traffic jams and a surge in tourists this week to the northern hill station of Shimla, famous for its picturesque views of snow-capped Himalayan peaks, further raising fears about the spread of the virus.

India's health ministry reported on Wednesday 62,224 new COVID-19 infections overnight, slightly higher than the previous day's figures but still well below the May peak of over 400,000 daily infections.



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, on June 16, 2021, as it reopens to visitors after Indian authorities eased COVID-19 restrictions. (AFP)

The South Asian country's total COVID-19 caseload now stands at 29.63 million, while total fatalities are at 379,573, the data showed. India added 2,542 deaths overnight.

African tourism ministers pledge to work together to revitalize ailing

WINDHOEK

AFRICAN minister attending the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Brand Africa Summit on Thursday released a communique, agreeing to work together to find a solution to revitalize the continental tourism industry currently financially battered by COVID-19.

The African ministers through the UNWTO summit pledged that African member states will work together to establish a new narrative for tourism across the continent.

The pledge is meant to better realize tourism's potential to drive recovery, they said.

"UNWTO and its members will also work with the African Union and the private sector to promote the continent to new global audiences globally positive, people-centered storytelling and effective branding," the UNWTO said in the communique.

With tourism recognized as an essential pillar of sustainable and inclusive development for the continent, UNWTO welcomed high-level delegates to the first Regional Conference on Strengthening Brand Africa, which featured the participation of the political leadership of host country Namibia, alongside public and private sector leaders from across the continent.

UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili welcomed the common determination to rethink as well as restart tourism.

"African destinations must take the lead in celebrating and promoting the continent's vibrant culture, youthful energy and entrepreneur spirit, and its rich gastronomy", he said.

As the Windhoek Pledge made by African ministers responsible for tourism puts people first on the back of a series of workshops and a ministerial think tank, UNWTO's African member states unanimously endorsed the Windhoek Pledge on advocating Brand Africa.

"Under the terms of the Windhoek Pledge, members will engage both public and private sector stakeholders as well as local communities to build a new, inspiring narrative for tourism across the continent," they said. **Xinhua**

Nuclear deal must await new Iran government - IAEA chief

MILAN

REVIVING the 2015 Iran nuclear accord will have to await the formation of a new Iranian government, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog said in remarks published on Wednesday, adding a deal needed political will from all parties.

"Everyone knows that, at this point, it will be necessary to wait for the new Iranian government," Rafael Grossi said in an interview with Italian daily La Repubblica, in reply to a question about what stage negotiations on the deal were at.

Grossi (pictured), director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), appeared to be referring to Iran's presidential election, due today.

Two candidates have withdrawn from the election, state media reported on Wednesday, in moves apparently aimed at boosting the chances of leading hardline and moderate contenders. Last month, the Islamic Republic's hardline Guardian Council approved just seven presidential hopefuls to stand in the election.

Iran's new president is expected to name his cabinet by mid-August. The term of current President Hassan Rouhani ends on Aug 3, a government spokesman said.

The sixth round of talks to revive the deal resumed in Vienna on Saturday between Iran and world powers.

Iran said it may renew a key nuclear monitoring agreement with the IAEA, potentially buying more time for world powers to broker an arrangement between Tehran and Washington to revive their atomic deal.

Mahmoud Vaezi, Rouhani's chief of staff, said the extension of the temporary inspections pact with the IAEA will happen only if there's progress at the current round of talks in Vienna over how to restore the nuclear accord, according to a statement on the Iranian government's official website.

The IAEA does not take any direct part in the negotiations but has been called on to verify them and continue inspections in the country.

"The discussions that have been going on for weeks have dealt with very complex and delicate technical questions, but what is needed is the political will of the parties," Grossi said. Vaezi said he hopes there will be "good news in the coming weeks" from the negotiations, and reiterated the parties have agreed on "many important economic issues," without giving details.

Rouhani, who helped broker the original deal, is seen to see it fully restored before August when he's widely expected to be replaced by a hardline conservative following Friday's election. **Agencies**

COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) is a global collaboration to ensure equitable global access to COVID-19 vaccines. It is co-led by GAVI, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO - working in partnership with developed and developing country vaccine manufacturers, UNICEF, the World Bank, and others. Its global initiative is working with governments and manufacturers to ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to both higher-income and

Guarantee global equitable access to vaccines

lower-income countries.

COVAX is undertaking the largest, most complex roll out of vaccines in history, delivering them faster, to more countries and in greater volumes than has ever been managed before. As of today, there have been over 77 million doses shipped through COVAX to 127 economies globally, including 75 countries eligible for support through the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment (COVAX AMC). This is a significant achieve-

ment, but there are enormous inequities, and we have much work ahead of us if we are to fulfil our goal of ending the acute phase of the pandemic everywhere. We also urgently need all countries that have surplus doses to share them so we can ensure those that are most at risk everywhere can be protected.

Nobody is safe until everyone is safe because infectious diseases do not respect borders. The International Chamber of Commerce published a

study in January 2021 showed that if advanced economies continue to prioritise vaccination of their susceptible populations without ensuring equitable vaccination for developing economies, the total cost to the world varies between US\$ 1.5-9.2 trillion. Therefore, global equitable access to vaccines is the only way to lessen the public health and economic impact of the pandemic on individuals, communities, and nations.

COVAX is already showing

that it is the right mechanism to make equitable access to vaccines possible, but obviously we need much more to meet the urgency of the pandemic. This is why we are calling on countries with much vaccine supplies to share doses and trade early places in production queues with COVAX, on governments to abandon all export restrictions on raw materials at a time when we need international cooperation to end the pandemic and a fully financed

AMC requiring at least an additional US\$1.6 billion by June in order to lock in supplies for 2021 and early 2022.

Gavi welcomes news that Sinopharm has recently been granted WHO Emergency Use Listing, as this means the world has yet another safe and effective tool in the fight against this pandemic. Gavi is open to procuring any vaccine so long as it has achieved necessary approvals and we very much hope that Sinopharm can play a front-line

role in COVAX's global push to end the acute phase of the pandemic.

During the 73rd Session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Health Assembly (WHA) last May, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced, "COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment in China, when available, will be made a global public good." China has joined COVAX and committed to provide 10 million doses of vaccines to developing nations. It is an important step towards the objective and we welcome China's commitment. **People's Daily**

Coronavirus was in US in late 2019, study finds

By Ai Heping

A United States government study published on Tuesday suggests that the coronavirus was infecting people in the US before causing a deadly outbreak in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

The outbreak hit Wuhan, Hubei province in late 2019. Officially, the first US infection to be identified was a Washington state man who returned from Wuhan on Jan 15 that year and sought help at a clinic on Jan 19.

The study's results suggest that the virus may have been circulating in Illinois, for example, as early as Dec 24, 2019, although the first case in that state was confirmed a month later.

The study was published online by the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* and was conducted by a team including researchers at the National Institutes of Health. They analyzed blood samples from more than 24,000 people across the country. The samples were collected in the first three months of 2020 as part of a long-term NIH research program called All of Us that seeks to track 1 million people in the US over the years to study Spokesman: US should work with WHO in tracing virus, the way China did their health.

The researchers found evidence of infection in just nine out of 24,079 participants whose blood samples were taken between Jan 2, 2020, and March 18, 2020, for the NIH research program. Seven of the samples came from blood donated before the date of the first diagnosis in their states-Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Mississippi and Massachusetts.

At least a couple of the participants had mild symptoms. One of those in

Illinois was infected as early as Nov 24, said Keri Althoff, an associate professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the study's lead author.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at the daily news briefing on Wednesday that the study proves once again that tracing the origin of the virus is a complicated scientific issue involving different countries and places.

He said it should be handled by collective efforts of global scientists to better prevent potential risks in the future and to protect the safety and health of people across the world.

According to Zhao, many health experts and media outlets from various countries have pointed out that the virus broke out in many places and regions.

The international community should respect this reality, he added, and research in the next phase of World Health Organization-led origin tracing should be based on a global vision and conducted in various places, rather than being limited to a certain region.

"We hope other countries can act like China to conduct cooperation with the WHO on virus origin-tracing study with an open, transparent and scientific attitude, so as to make due contribution to boosting global anti-virus cooperation and saving more lives," he said.

The NIH researchers haven't yet followed up with study participants to see if any had traveled outside the US before they were infected. But they found that the seven whose samples came from blood donated before the date of the first diagnosis in their



In this photo healthcare workers prepare a syringe with a vial of the J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at a temporary vaccination site at Grand Central Terminal train station on May 12, 2021 in New York City (AFP)

states didn't live in or near New York City or Seattle, where the first wave of US cases were concentrated.

Researchers at the NIH and studies by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention used multiple types of tests to minimize false positive results. Some experts said it is still possible that the 2019 positive samples were infections by other coronaviruses and not the pandemic strain.

Some experts also said the new study is flawed because the researchers didn't have travel information for any of the patients, and such information could have helped

explain the test results.

"This is an interesting paper because it raises the idea that everyone thinks is true, that there were infections that were going undiagnosed," Scott Hensley, an immunologist at the University of Pennsylvania, told The New York Times.

However, the small number of samples that tested positive made it difficult to be sure that they were true cases of infection and not just a methodological error, Hensley said.

Josh Denny, chief executive of the All of Us program, told the Times that "it's still very possible that some of them might be false positives", but that all of them being false positives "seems pretty unlikely with what we've done".

William Hanage, a Harvard University expert on disease dynamics, told The Associated Press, "While it is entirely plausible that the virus was introduced into the US much earlier than is usually appreciated, it does not mean that this is necessarily strong enough evidence to change how we're thinking about this."

Late last year, researchers at the CDC and the American Red Cross reported that there could have been isolated cases of COVID-19 in the US as early as mid-December 2019. The researchers said they found evidence of infection in a young man who gave blood in Northern California at that time, and in an individual who donated in Connecticut on Jan 10, 2020.

China-Africa solidarity, cooperation raise hope of overcoming COVID-19 globally

NAIROBI

THURSDAY marked the one-year anniversary of the Extraordinary China-Africa Summit on Solidarity against COVID-19, which has delivered an important message to the world that countries must stand together to rein in the devastating pandemic before it causes further harm.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, when addressing the summit on June 17, 2020, said that in the face of COVID-19, China and Africa have enhanced solidarity and strengthened friendship and mutual trust, reaffirming China's commitment to its longstanding friendship with Africa.

As the war against the coronavirus continues, especially when new waves of COVID-19 infections hit some parts of the world, the China-Africa solidarity throws light on the right way to fight a common enemy of mankind.

During the extraordinary summit last year, Xi said people and their lives must be put front and center, and that China and Africa should do whatever it takes to protect people's lives and health. As the developing world is still facing a huge vaccination gap due to a dire shortage of vaccines, China has been trying its best to supply vaccines to where they are most urgently needed, having donated vaccines to more than 80 developing countries.

China has pledged to make COVID-19 vaccines a global public good. Currently, more than 30 African countries have received or will receive Chinese vaccines. *Xinhua*

WHO: New virus variant of interest identified in 29 countries

NEW YORK / JOHANNESBURG / WARSAW

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said Wednesday that a new variant of COVID-19, named Lambda, was identified in 29 countries and notably in South America, where it was believed to have originated.

First identified in Peru, the Lambda lineage was classified as a global Variant of Interest on Monday due to an "elevated prevalence" in South America, the WHO said in its weekly update.

Lambda has been rampant in Peru, where 81 percent of COVID-19 cases since April 2021 were associated with this variant, authorities reported.

In Chile, it was detected in 32 percent of all submitted sequences in the last 60 days, and only outclassed by the Gamma variant which was first identified in Brazil. Other countries such as Argentina and Ecuador have also reported elevated prevalence of the new variant.

The WHO reported that the Lambda lineage carries mutations that might increase transmissibility or strengthen the virus's resistance to antibodies.

Variants of Interest, unlike Variants of Concern that have made headlines in newspapers worldwide, are monitored by health organizations but are not yet proved to be significant threats to public health.

France

French Prime Minister Jean Castex on Wednesday an-



This May 8, 2021 photo shows a sign of the World Health Organization (WHO) at the entrance of their headquarters in Geneva. (AFP)

nounced that people could stop wearing face masks outdoors starting from Thursday and the night-time curfew will also be lifted starting Sunday as the country's COVID-19 indicators continued to drop.

"The health situation in our country is improving faster than we expected," Castex said at a press conference after a cabinet meeting. "We are going to lift the general obligation to wear a mask outdoors."

Masks will still be required in busy public spaces such as public transport, stadiums and other crowded places, the prime minister said.

However, "if we are to face in the coming weeks an epidemic situation, we will not hesitate to take new measures to act quickly," he added.

France is now "below the

threshold of 5,000 (new) cases per day" and "no department reports worrying (epidemic) dynamics," according to Castex. The number of hospitalized and critically-ill patients - key indicators to evaluate the health system's ability to cope with the health crisis - has been falling for the sixth straight week.

Portugal

Portuguese health authorities began issuing the EU (European Union) Digital COVID Certificate on Wednesday, which will allow free transit in the bloc's 27 member countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland.

According to the authorities, the so-called "COVID-19 passport" will be granted to those who have already been vaccinated, recovered from the disease,

and those who present a negative result in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests.

The Certificate can be requested and received over the internet free of charge for Portuguese residents. It's also available through a smartphone application integrated with other EU countries.

Equatorial Guinea

The central African country Equatorial Guinea said on Wednesday that it has purchased more doses of Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine, which are ready to be shipped to the country.

On Feb 10, a batch of China-donated Sinopharm vaccines arrived in Malabo, capital of Equatorial Guinea, making it the first African country to receive COVID-19 vaccine aid from China.

Agencies

Russian ambassador to return to Washington within days – Peskov

MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov will return to Washington within days, presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said yesterday.

"Not yet," Peskov said on the Ekho Moskvy radio station, when asked if the Russian and US ambassadors were back to their work places after the corresponding decision was made at the Russian-US summit in Geneva.

"Possibly he will fly there within days," Peskov said, when asked when Antonov might arrive in Washington.

As he dwelt on the top priority tasks Antonov would have to address upon his return to the United States the Kremlin spokesman said that now "it is very important to make a check list" of questions that the Russian and US leaders discussed in Geneva.

"In the past, there were many examples of discussions and understandings that were eventually buried at the working level. Such things did happen.

Now it is important to understand which of the achieved results are viable and will be implemented and what the deadlines are," Peskov said.

Tensions in Russian-US relations soared after Joe Biden's controversial inter-



view in which he said that Moscow would have to pay a price for alleged intervention in US elections and also took the liberty of making harsh statements about Russian President Vladimir Putin.

After that Antonov was asked to arrive in Moscow for consultations. US ambassador John Sullivan left to Washington for consultations on April 22.

Functioning of Russian, US diplomatic missions to be discussed

"The functioning of Russian and US diplomatic missions was touched upon at the meeting of the two countries' leaders in Geneva and it will be discussed further at the working level."

"The functioning of diplomatic missions featured on the agenda. This issue was brought up," Peskov said when asked, if there was a possibility the two countries' embassies and consulates might expand their operation, including the issuance of visas.

"This is a no simple issue. It is a subject matter for contacts at the working level," the Kremlin spokesman said.

Earlier, the Russian Foreign Ministry said that all categories of Russian citizens experienced the "inadequacy of US visa policies." In the meantime, Russian visas continued to be issued to Russian citizens without procrastinations.

CPC has always sought to stay close to the people - British communist party chief

THE success of China in developing into a modern and technologically advanced country with social harmony and stability in merely several decades should be attributed to the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said Robert Griffiths, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Britain (CPB) during a recent interview.

The CPC is a party that emerged from the people, was created by the people, and has always sought to stay close to the people, said Griffiths, who considers China's tremendous achievements in economic development as epoch-making.

The past century is world-shaking and momentous for China and the Chinese people, Griffiths pointed out, saying that the enormous

success of China back to 1949, but even more so in recent decades, can only be achieved by a party that retains its close links with the people in its roots, in the working people of China, and enjoys the trust and support of the people.

The trust that the Chinese people obviously has in their ruling party and in their government means that together they are able to take drastic measures, which have proved to have been successful in overcoming huge challenges, such as containing the COVID-19 pandemic and eradicating absolute poverty, according to Griffiths.

Griffiths has visited China for many times since he was elected as the General Secretary of the CPB. He has been to many Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shenzhen, Urumqi and Ningbo, and his experiences in these cities remain fresh in his memory.

According to Griffiths, he took China's high-speed trains and observed the construction of the country's railway networks, visited huge wind farms providing electricity for cities, and saw hardworking people in many clean and beautiful towns and villages.

The CPC knows very well



the needs of the people and is farsighted, Griffiths noted, saying that the CPC always makes plans for its goals and then puts them into practice with effective execution.

China stresses integrating its new development

concept-innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development-into the whole process and various fields of the country's economic and social development, which shows its foresight, said the British communist leader, adding that he believes that the CPC has the capability to realize its goals for the new era.

During his visits to northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, Griffiths saw great changes in local economic and social development, met with many officials from ethnic minority groups in the region, and heard many

people of the Uygur ethnic group talk with each other in Uygur language.

He was indignant that some British media claimed that the use of Uygur language is banned in Xinjiang and all senior officials in Xinjiang are from the Han ethnic group.

Such claims are groundless, said Griffiths, who hopes more foreign people visit Xinjiang themselves to learn about the region and the conditions of the local people. In this way, they can easily see through the absurd allegations made by the Western media against Xinjiang, Griffiths pointed out.

There are some people in the world that don't want to see China, a socialist country, achieve success, and don't want to see the power of peace, Griffiths pointed out, noting that the CPC is a representative of the rational voices of people around the world and a source of hope. He hopes China will continue to play a leading role in creating a better, fairer, and more peaceful society.

In 2017, Griffiths attended the CPC in Dialogue with World Political Parties High-Level Meeting in Beijing. Bringing together nearly 300 political parties and political organizations from all over the world was an important achievement in itself, according to the CPB chief.

People's Daily

SPORT



Some golf players who emerged winners in one of the tournaments organized by Johnnie Walker brand in jovial mood after receiving trophies.

Johnnie Walker promotes leisure golf in Tanzania

By Guardian Reporter

KNOWN as a sport of leisure and a gentleman's game, golf is one of the most popular, well-received sports worldwide.

Played on a large outdoor course covering anywhere between 30 and 200 acres, the object of the sport is to propel a small hard ball into a series of holes with as few strokes as possible, using a variety of wood or iron-tipped sticks called golf clubs.

Just like in many other parts of the world, golf's popularity is growing fast in Tanzania with a lot of young and talented players coming on board to play this wonderful game.

With unflinching support by brands such as Johnnie Walker Scottish whisky, the future of golf in the country looks quite bright and rosy. Johnnie Walker, the world's number one Scotch whisky stepped forward to support golf in Tanzania in November last year when it became the official sponsor of the country's biggest golf competition, Waitara Golf Tournament, which saw over 200 local and regional golfers take part.

Being a brand that believes in progress, forwardness, quality, resilience, and perseverance and keeping the commitment, Johnnie Walker took a further step by becoming the official sponsor of the monthly Johnnie Walker Mug tournaments held on Tanzania's most popular golf courses, namely Gymkhana Club in Dar es Salaam, Arusha Gymkhana as well as Sea Cliff Golf Club in Zanzibar.

Marketed and distributed by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL), Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky was first produced in Scotland 200 years ago, growing in bounds to stand out from its peers globally to become the most preferred Scotch whisky.

Minga Lumuli, SBL Marketing Manager for Spirits, says the brand is proud to be supporting the development of golf sport in the country, a sport that is gaining traction rapidly, adding that Johnnie Walker would

remain steadfast in supporting golf as well as other sports in the country.

Lumuli said: "SBL, through its world class-whisky Johnnie Walker, is proud to be a major stakeholder in making golf move forward and our commitment in this space remains firm."

She added: "Johnnie Walker is proud to support golf because it is a very socially enjoyable sport. It can be a great way to keep in touch with friends, provide opportunities to meet new people, and help connect various communities. Studies have even shown that a great number of business deals are closed on the golf course!"

Johnnie Walker Scotch Whisky brand came into existence when Johnnie Walker (a Scottish businessman), started his grocery business in Ayrshire, and used various single malts, blending them to make his whisky tastier.

Eventually, he founded a new blended whisky which, now 200 years later, is a global market leader.

Some golf professionals and sports lovers have hailed SBL's deliberate move to catapult the game to its new heights and shared future.

One of the country's most versatile golf players and a veteran of the game, Joseph Tairo, disclosed: "We take great pride in Johnnie Walker's support of the game of golf that we love. We too are aware of SBL's unwavering quest to help the growth of the sports sector in Tanzania. This, therefore, makes us very happy to have the beer-maker as our partner in developing golf in the country".

Over the years, SBL has been a worthy partner in steering the sports industry in Tanzania, ensuring its progress through both financial and moral support.

The brewer's sponsorship permeates through athletics, music, and other sports.

For instance, there is a significant success in football since its involvement in sponsoring the senior national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars, and the Mainland Women's Premier League, both of which the alcohol producer respectively sponsors through its award-winning beer brands, Serengeti Premium Lager and Serengeti Premium Lite.

Betting company donates items to booths showcasing football games

By Guardian Reporter

SPORTS betting company, 22BET, has donated assorted items aimed at supporting street booths that showcase football matches in Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni and Ubungu districts.

Some of the donated items include state-of-the-art boards that are used for writing football match schedules, posters, and Covid-19 personal protective equipment (PPE) including masks.

The company's Public Relations Officer, Mored Kaisi, told reporters yesterday in Dar es Salaam that they have taken the initiative intending to improve booths' environment as well as create more employment opportunities for Tanzanians.

"We're creating a better environment for sports entrepreneurs and fans as well as encouraging public participation in sports debates," he said.

"We've visited fifty booths so far, and we worked with them in improving their premises and we've empowered them with working gear and we believe many true football fans who are meeting in these booths they are going to enjoy," he said.

Kaisi pledged to reinforce relations with the Tanzanian community through booths and improve their livelihoods.

"Entertainment industry creates many employment opportunities. We as a company support all those efforts to expand the scope of formal and informal employment," he added.

Kaisi stated: "We started this time to provide a better opportunity for football fans to watch the ongoing 2020 UEFA European Football Championship (UEFA EURO) in various cities across Europe, in the best possible environment and the ongoing soccer events in Tanzania."

One of the football booth owners in Manzese, Nasibu Ramadhani, commended the firm for remembering and support them.

He said the support would help increase the value of their business, as many customers will feel more secure when they meet to witness different football matches.

“

We're creating a better environment for sports entrepreneurs and fans as well as encouraging public participation in sports debates

SPORTS

Manyara Heroes thrash Ngorongoro Warriors in 2021 TCA Dar es Salaam U-18 League opener

By Guardian Reporter

ASHFAQ Imtiyaz nailed a half-century as Manyara Heroes opened their campaign in the 2021 Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Dar es Salaam U-18 tournament impressively, cruising to a nine-wicket victory over Ngorongoro Warriors last weekend.

Ngorongoro Warriors went in to bat first, posting 111 runs and dropping four wickets in 20 overs of the clash, which took place at Leaders Club ground.

They managed to wade off an early setback, which had opener, Avinash Patel, succumbing to an early exit with a run to his name.

Patel's brief spell at the crease was brought about by Manyara Heroes bowler Amaan Sameer.

The fellow opener, Harsh Khidkikar, put good knocks to show and scored 30 runs which included two boundaries.

Khidkikar's good performance with the bat pushed Ngorongoro Warriors' score to 72 runs after 14.6 overs, a time he exited the crease.

Faisal Mohammad Samir got his hands on the bat after Khidkikar's exit and saw to it Ngorongoro Warriors are still in control of their innings with other good displays.

Samir ended with 29 runs, which included a four. Dev Patel and Divyansh Tiwari ended the innings with the bat in hand, helping the team post a convincing score.

Tiwari notched 23 runs not out, clearing the boundary once, Patel ended with one run not out.

Amaan Sameer was Manyara Heroes' bowler with the most wickets, posting two and giving away 10 runs in four overs.

Needing 112 runs to notch victory, Manyara Heroes, led by Ashfaq and his brother Abdullah Imtiyaz, confidently got down to a successful chase, dropping one wicket in 13.5 overs.



Manyara Heroes' cricketer, Ashfaq Imtiyaz (R), receives a man of the match prize from Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA)'s official, Aneth Banali, after the player's club took on Ngorongoro Warriors in this season's TCA Dar es Salaam U-18 League's tie in the city last weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY OF TCA

The opener, Abdulrazak Sameer, had a relatively brief spell, as he notched 10 runs.

Sameer had Manyara Heroes reaching 51 runs after 71 overs when he was dismissed by Ngorongoro Warriors' captain, Patel, that bowled the former.

Ashfaq kept on executing good knocks and went on to register 52 runs not out, nailing seven fours.

He forged an unbeaten partnership with Abdullah, who took the crease after Sameer's dismissal, winning the game for Manyara Heroes.

Abdullah ended with 23 runs not out which consisted of three fours.

Patel took the only wicket Ngorongoro Warriors managed to post in their unsuccessful bid to defend their score.

The tournament, which has brought together the junior teams from across the city, will have all ties taking

place every weekday at the Leaders Club ground in Kinondoni District.

The Dar es Salaam U-18 League, according to TCA, has brought in over 100 youths going head to head to win the tournament's silverware.

Serengeti Blasters, Mikumi Hitters, Selous Smashers, Ruaha Titans, and Tarangire Masters are the other squads taking part in the tournament.

Government now set to revive Taifa Cup tourney



Minister for Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa.

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE government has stated it hopes to restore the national soccer tournament, known as "Taifa Cup", this year to achieve the goals of finding youngsters who will contribute to national teams' success.

Minister for Information, Culture, Arts, and Sports, Innocent Bashungwa, stated during the launch of the Misungwi District water project.

President, Samia Suluhu Hassan, graced the project's launch during her three-day visit to Mwanza, which saw her launch various development projects.

Bashungwa said his ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local

Government (Tamisemi) under Minister, Umyi Mwalimu, and Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology under Minister, Joyce Ndalichako, have started reviving sports from schools.

This year's primary schools' games, Umitashumta, which are taking place in Mtwara, substantiates the ministries' efforts.

The minister also congratulated the senior national soccer team 'Taifa Stars' for their 2-0 victory over Malawi in an international friendly clash, which was played in Dar es Salaam on Sunday.

Bashungwa pointed out: "First of all I would like to start by congratulating Taifa Stars for the team's 2-0 victory over Malawi, we have started reviving

sports in schools, with Umitashumta and Umisseta games taking place."

He stated: "This year we will bring back the 'Taifa Cup' competition to get players for national teams."

The minister added that his ministry's budget amounting to 1bn/- will help in the development of culture and arts.

He noted that five percent of revenues from betting companies will be channeled to improving infrastructure.

The 'Taifa Cup' tournament involves teams from all regions of Mainland Tanzania.

The showdown was taking place in the past, playing a pivotal role in developing the game.

Scotland's 'wee superstars' can become heroes against England

LONDON

SCOTLAND'S return to the major tournament stage may be off to a slow start, but a visit to Wembley to face England offers Steve Clarke's men the chance to write themselves into folklore for generations to come.

A 2-0 defeat by the Czech Republic at Hampden on Monday leaves Scotland realistically needing to avoid defeat against the Three Lions to maintain hopes of making it out of the group stage for the first time.

On paper there appears a full class for Clarke's side to bridge against the side ranked fourth in the world, who harbour ambitions of conquering Europe for the first time.

But no game means more to Scotland than beating the old enemy. The Scottish sides of 1967 and 1977 are still fondly remembered for victories at Wembley in the old British Home Championship.

Doing so at their first major tournament for 23 years would make the Scottish players legends back home.

"The English media would have you believe the gap is humongous," said Aston Villa midfielder John McGinn on Wednesday. "It's up to us on Friday to prove that wrong."

McGinn is one of a batch of proven Premier League players in Clarke's squad that have helped guide Scotland back from the wilderness in international football.

Andy Robertson has won the Champions League and Premier League at Liverpool, Scott McTominay has established himself as a regular at Manchester United and there are hopes Arsenal's Kieran Tierney could be fit to return from injury.

"We've got a population of five million, they've got a population of 55 million," added McGinn. "They've got worldwide superstars throughout their team so we're always going to be underdogs, but we've got a few wee superstars our-

selves."

- 'Hold our own' -

In total 14 of the 26-man Scotland squad ply their trade in England.

Rather than be starstruck by their more illustrious opponents, McGinn believes many of the Scottish team have already proven they can go toe-to-toe with the best England has to offer.

"We compete against the majority of these guys week in, week out and we seem to hold our own," added the 26-year-old. "We know if we play to our capabilities we'll give England a lot of problems."

If Scotland are to pull off the upset of the tournament so far, Clarke has a number of big decisions to make.

Tierney's return would be a huge boost as his presence on the left side of a back three was badly missed with and without the ball against the Czechs.

Despite never starting a previous international, there is also a clamour for Chelsea's Billy Gilmour and Nathan Patterson of Rangers to be thrown in at the deep end after impressing in pre-tournament friendlies.

Southampton's Che Adams is almost certain to start up front after being surprisingly left on the bench for the opening game.

Clarke is another of the Scottish contingent to have made his name in England, firstly as a player and then a coach at Chelsea as part of Jose Mourinho's backroom staff.

Never one to get too high in victory, or low in defeat, the 57-year-old has dismissed the reaction to losing to the Czechs as unnecessary "doom and gloom".

"You have to look only forward, there is no point looking back and thinking 'if only this, if only that'. We move on," he said. "We said before the tournament we need to get the points to get out the group, we've still got a chance to do that."

Getting out the group via victory at Wembley would be the Scottish way for Scotland.

AFP

Sergio Ramos leaving Real Madrid after 16 years

MADRID

SERGIO Ramos will leave Real Madrid after 16 seasons with the La Liga giants when his contract expires at the end of the month, the club announced on Wednesday.

Madrid have scheduled a farewell ceremony for their longtime captain in the presence of club president Florentino Perez on Thursday.

Ramos, 35, wanted a new two-year deal to stay at Madrid, but sources told ESPN that Perez was not prepared to break his policy of handing only one-year contracts to players over 30.

Conversations between Perez and Ramos have been ongoing throughout the past year and continued into June. However, neither party was prepared to compromise.

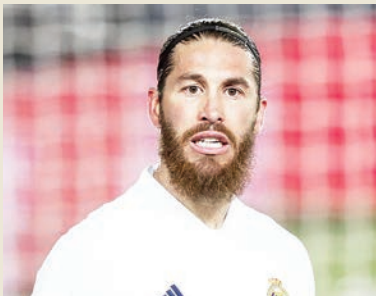
Despite reports to the contrary, sources told ESPN that Ramos did not demand a pay rise to stay at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Ramos, who made 671 appearances for Madrid, scoring 101 goals, has still not made a firm decision on his future and is not expected to announce his next destination at Thursday's goodbye event.

ESPN revealed recently that Manchester City are the front-runners to land his signature, although there are other options on the table.

The Premier League champions are prepared to offer a two-year deal until the summer of 2023. From there, depending on performances and Ramos' own plans, the defender could either continue for a third season at City or take up an option to join Major League Soccer side New York City FC, who are also owned by the City Football Group.

Ramos is a direct petition from City coach Pep Guardiola. The former Barcelona boss values the experience he would add to his squad and the competition and guidance he would provide for younger centre-backs Ruben Dias and John Stones.



City also have Nathan Ake, but they've lost Eric Garcia to Barca on a free transfer and Aymeric Laporte could also leave this summer after losing his place in the side.

Ramos turned 35 in March, but sources have told ESPN that City manage data that suggests he's still able to perform physically at the level of a player "aged between 28 and 30."

ESPN first reported on Jan. 4 that City were monitoring Ramos' situation. Guardiola's insistence has been the key to them continuing to follow developments with Madrid.

However, the player's camp aren't ruling anything out, with several clubs expressing interest in recent months.

Madrid signed Ramos in 2005 from Sevilla, paying his €27 million release clause.

He soon became a key member of the side and in 16 years at the club has won five La Liga titles, four Champions Leagues, four Club World Cups, three European Super Cups, two Copa del Rey and four Spanish Super Cups.

In that time, he has also won two European Championships with Spain and the World Cup, although injury problems in 2021 led to him missing out on Luis Enrique's squad for Euro 2020.

Ramos made just 21 appearances for Madrid in all competitions last season as Los Blancos ended the campaign without a trophy, missing out on the league title to rivals Atletico Madrid on the final day of the season.

(Agencies)

Italy emerging as serious Euro 2020 contenders

By Rob Dawson, ESPN Correspondent

IT'S time to talk about Italy.

After beating Switzerland 3-0 in Rome on Wednesday night, Roberto Mancini's men are the first to book their place in the knockout rounds of Euro 2020 but they are already looking like a team who believe they can go an awful lot further than that. This may not be a group packed with the superstars boasted by major tournament squads of the past but they are, crucially, a team. And a confident, well-drilled one at that.

While lots of the money has gone on France, Belgium or England to lift the trophy at Wembley on July 11, Italy's odds are steadily shortening.

They play Wales at Stadio Olimpico on Sunday to decide who finishes top of Group A ahead of a possible last-16 tie against Austria or Ukraine and then a blockbuster quarterfinal with in all likelihood Belgium. By then Marco Verratti should have recovered from injury but Italy have been so impressive in their opening two games that the talismanic Paris Saint-Germain midfielder has barely been missed.

Mancini's only concern at the moment is the injury that forced off captain Giorgio Chiellini early on against Switzerland, although the 36-year-old's hamstring problem was not severe enough to keep him from leaping up from the bench to celebrate Manuel Locatelli's fabulously worked opening goal midway through the first half. Locatelli's second of the night, a fierce left-foot rocket drilled into the corner of the net from the edge of the penalty area, was just as good and Ciro Immobile's late third was the icing on the cake.

There is a swagger about the Azzurri that should worry everyone else.



Italy are emerging as favourites to win Euro 2020 after two dominant group-stage wins. (Agencies)

"Switzerland are a strong side, we knew it would be a tough game and it was," said Mancini afterwards. "We created several chances and we deserved the victory. We were struggling in the opening minutes, but then we pressed them high and forced them to make mistakes. They did really well, it wasn't easy, their second game in five days and it's so hot."

Asked about Chiellini, Mancini said: "We'll see [Thursday] and hope it's nothing serious."

With such limited time together, it can be difficult for international teams to function as a unit but Mancini has made it look easy since taking the job in May 2018 in the wake of a disastrous World Cup qualifying campaign that ended in failure to make the tournament in Russia. Mancini has already been given a contract extension until 2026, but if his team keep playing like this he might have a job for life by the end of the summer. The former In-

ternazionale and Manchester City manager has got Italy defending like Italy and attacking with all the flair he had as a player. It is a frightening combination.

Victory over Switzerland, as comfortable as the scoreline suggests, was their 10th in a row while also extending an incredible unbeaten run under Mancini that stretches back to September 2018. The last goal they conceded was in October 2020 and judging by the way they defended in Rome, it was easy to see why.

The one time Switzerland broke through Steven Zuber saw his effort expertly saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma. The game was already won when the ball bounced up invitingly for Xherdan Shaqiri to whip in a consolation goal but the Liverpool forward was still met with a wave of blue shirts that crashed around him.

"I am interested in the wins, then if we concede or not is irrelevant,

as long as we keep winning," said Francesco Acerbi, who replaced the injured Chiellini. "We try to attack and defend as a team, that's why we score many goals and concede so few. It's been going well so far."

"There might be three or four sides in the tournament who have better talents or individuals, but I said before the competition started that there was something in the air with this group. I think we can go far."

The statistics speak for themselves.

In 2021, Italy's record stands at seven games, seven wins, 31 scored and none conceded. At Euro 2020, it's two games, six points and six goals.

Only France in 1984 and Germany in 1996 have started a European Championship with consecutive wins by at least a two-goal margin without conceding, and both teams went on to win. Italy's class of 2021 have every chance of joining them.

Denmark sends emotional message to Christian Eriksen after star's cardiac arrest

By Tom Hamilton, ESPN Senior Writer

ULRICH Ammundsen was stunned and confused about what he had seen and what he was feeling and what he was supposed to do. Christian Eriksen, the star player for Denmark, had collapsed on the field just before halftime of the team's game against Finland. Watching from the stands, Ammundsen saw the player crumple, saw him looking limp, saw his teammates circle around him as the medics pushed on his chest.

When Ammundsen arrived home here very late last Saturday night, he found himself staring into his bathroom mirror, unable to process what had happened a few hours earlier.

Even after Eriksen was taken to the hospital, and even after word came that Eriksen was alive and stable, Ammundsen - who is a host city manager for the fan zones in Copenhagen - struggled to process his emotions. He wanted to say something, wanted to express something about how he felt for Eriksen, wanted to tell Eriksen how much his incredible success means to Danish people. Wanted to make clear how hard he had wished for Eriksen to stand up again.

Ammundsen just didn't know how. So that night, as he finally drifted off to sleep, still turning over in his mind the roller-coaster of emotions he had experienced, he came up with an idea. There is a wall at the fan zone, he told his wife in the morning. Eriksen's picture is already on it. What if the wall, he said, was turned into a giant letter to Eriksen from every Dane who wants to sign it?

He drove to work. He told his colleagues. Everyone loved the idea, thought it would be meaningful and therapeutic. Then Ammundsen realized they didn't have any markers and hurriedly called his wife to ask her to pick some up. She went to the supermarket and dropped them off at the office near the port, and early on Sunday morning, the first person - a man who by chance was at the fan zone with a group of heart attack survivors - picked up a marker and wrote Eriksen a message. Then another fan did. And another. And another.

Ammundsen stood back and watched. "I wanted to give everyone a chance to send a message," he says now. "And here it is."

There is so much that still remains unclear about that Saturday, so much we don't yet know even as Denmark



People leave well wishes at a graffiti for Danish player Christian Eriksen on a wall at the fanzone in Copenhagen, Denmark, Monday, June 14, 2021. AP Photo

prepares to play again, against Belgium here on Thursday. What happened, exactly, that led Eriksen to suffer cardiac arrest? And after medics were able to heroically resuscitate him, what does it mean for his life going forward?

Those questions will take more time. What we do know for certain is the depth of feeling that rippled through this entire country as soon as Eriksen fell. Soccer here is a point of incredible pride for Danes, and Eriksen's success - first with Ajax in Netherlands, then Tottenham in the Premier League or this past season with Inter Milan in Italy - has long been something Danish fans could revel in. To have Eriksen - born, in 1992, the year Denmark won their only Euros, in the small town of Middelfart - leading the team in this tournament, where Denmark is able to play Euros games in its home stadium for the first time, was a source of national joy.

Then, suddenly, that happiness was cut. Patrick Hoff Sonne, a 32-year-old Danish fan, was sitting a half-dozen rows from the field on the side where the incident took place, and he says

he initially thought Eriksen might just have fainted or felt woozy because of dehydration. That lasted only a few seconds, though, because once the doctors began performing CPR, a horrible silence fell over the stadium - "a graveyard silence," he says - and Sonne felt sick.

"I saw Christian Eriksen's girlfriend" just a few rows away, Sonne says, and she was "carrying [one of] their children in her arms." A friend Sonne was with had recently had a child himself and began crying beside him. Sonne felt trapped. "I had to look away from the situation there."

Sonne left the stadium. He had to get out, he says, even once he heard that Eriksen was awake as he was taken to the hospital. For Sonne, the shock, disbelief and fear had all mixed together, and though there was a chance the game might continue (it eventually did), Sonne knew he was in no place to cheer.

In the days since, he has grappled, just as Ammundsen did, with how to come to terms with seeing a person he has strong feelings for in such a grave state. Thomas Delaney, a Danish de-

fensive midfielder, has said that he and his teammates have taken great comfort in talking openly with each other about how they're feeling ("We've all been struggling differently in our own ways"), but Sonne is among those who have preferred to avoid talking much about the situation.

"I'm trying to stay away from the updates and social media and everything," he says. "I haven't seen the wall yet."

He tears up. "I haven't been able to write on it."

One day earlier this week, a husband and wife approached Ammundsen in front of the wall. They had a picture in their hands and wanted to tape it up. Ammundsen asked what it was, and they explained that their son-in-law was one of the medics who had rushed onto the field to save Eriksen's life.

The photo was a picture of him leaving for work earlier that day, hours before the match began.

"When he got home that night, his 6-year-old was already sleeping," Irene Dahl explains. "The next morning, when she woke up, she told him, 'Daddy, you're my hero.'"

Ammundsen walked them over to the wall and showed them the markers as they taped up the picture. A grade school teacher, Pernille Hansen was also taking a moment to sign herself while some of her students were playing on the tiny soccer field nearby. She had seen the game, of course, but even more she had come into school on Monday morning and heard her students, most of whom are 14, talking to each other about what had happened. Some of them had come straight to the wall that day.

Agencies

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

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COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam Gymkhana Club (DGC) junior tennis player, Wazaino Mutale, battles it out in a past BO Open tournament that took place in the city. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Dar set to take part in Davis Cup next year

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA is expected to compete at next year's edition of the Davis Cup, Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) announced on Sunday.

Salum Mwamvita, a tennis coach and a member of TTA, said the International Tennis Federation (ITF) communicated to them that the country is now on Level B and eligible to compete at the event on a wild card.

He could not issue more details on the matter, saying more details will be available in the coming month.

He nevertheless said the local tennis coaches have started strategizing the national team preparations for the top tennis event which was previously known as World Cup.

He disclosed: "We received a communication from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) informing us that the country is on Level B and eligible to compete at 2022 Davis Cup."

He pointed out: "We are meeting on Wednesday to strategize on how we will prepare for the tournament."

He also told players who are U-20 to start training as the team will be made of mostly senior players.

Mwamvita's call on senior players to be active comes after the majority of the former players complained of being abandoned by TTA.

Recently former players, led by Justine Joseph, complained that TTA focuses only on junior players.

The TTA, he noted, soon abandons the players when they reach the age of 18.

Joseph said there are many international tournaments for senior players, seminars, and coaching courses, but the country can neither compete nor take part in the programs as TTA has no programs for players who are beyond 20 years.

He issued an example of former national team players, Shaaban Ibrahim, Tumaini Martin, Goodluck Shelemo, and Emmanuel Mallya, who, he said, are not considered by TTA despite being active.

Joseph said due to frustration, Martin is now a motorcycle driver, Shelemo spends his time at Arusha Gymkhana Club playing tennis on pay.

He disclosed Ibrahim is not interested in the sport and only Mallya, who is in the United States of America (USA) studying, is still playing the sport.

He stated: "In our country emphasis is given to young players, when you reach the age of 18 they abandon you, there is no even tournament for seniors."

He said: "The last time the country hosted a tournament for senior players was in 2017, TTA discourages some juniors who believe that they will only play the game at junior age and being abandoned when they reach the senior group."

However, Mwamvita defended TTA saying what they do is in line with the ITF directive that emphasis should be given to young players.

He disclosed: "It's not that TTA is not interested in senior players, we are strapped for cash and we ought to follow ITF and CAT guidelines."

"Their focus is on grassroots development, they don't give money to senior developments, but I'm asking the senior players to stay focused and keep on training as next year we will compete at the Davis Cup and others can try their luck in coaching, the country has a shortage of qualified coaches," he said.

ZIFF receives over 240 films from 25 countries

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

ORGANISERS of the 24th Zanzibar International Film Festival (ZIFF) scheduled to take place in Zanzibar from July 21-25, have received over 240 films from 25 countries.

The ZIFF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Martin Mhando confirmed the development.

He noted: "This year, we received over 240 films in total. We received films from 25 countries including for the first time a film from Estonia."

"Tanzania's representation at ZIFF this year is at an all-time high. Tanzania has 13 films while Kenya has nine and Uganda five. South Africa has five. There are 67 films selected for screening this year, with ten feature films, 5 feature documentaries, and 40 short films and animations in competition," Mhando said.

The festival aims at raising awareness and promoting international cinema as art, entertainment, and as an industry, promoting dialogue, human rights, and freedom.

Through its programs, the festival reaches a wide variety of audiences, which is what makes ZIFF different.

He said the festival makes a huge contribution towards a better understanding of cinema through its public forums, community screenings, music, and art platforms.

The festival has seen an increase in support from Europe with online training, masterclasses, and women-focused events being funded by the European Union Delegation to Tanzania.

He disclosed: "The EU is also supporting the festival program backed by Germany and the UK. ZIFF hopes to sign a media partnership with Clouds TV and radio, as we continue good relations between ZIFF and Clouds Media."

Through an imaginative media partnership with Clouds Plus, Clouds Channel 3, and Plus Radio, ZIFF will be able to reach more audiences. After three years, the Sembene Ousmane Awards return to ZIFF. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Entwicklung (GIZ) has revived its support of the awards at ZIFF. The festival will have both online and onset platforms (commonly known as hybrid).

These co-supportive platforms mean bigger audiences and reach as well as an opportunity to redefine the festival.

As the CEO of ZIFF always says, "No longer is a festival about a place alone, but a festival is also about its creative structures, its sustainability as well as its contribution to a multi-coloured garden of world cinema."

This year's festival theme is 'Sharing Our Heritage.'

Speaking about the theme, the Festival Chairman, Omar Chande, said: "The Swahili translation says it all. It is about acknowledging that any cultural heritage is indeed part of the world's heritage, and through ZIFF we share our heritage with others when they visit as tourists, as filmmakers or otherwise".

He disclosed: "Tanzania has seven World Heritage Sites nominated by UNESCO including Stone Town, but we have more heritage to share and we welcome the world to ZIFF for that."

"We, therefore, today, also launch our 24th Festival poster. The poster is an artistic view of the festival in the Blue economy, as well as a poetic rendition of cinema and culture. The poem, by master-poet the late Haji Gora Haji, a ZIFF Lifetime Achievement Laureate who passed away on June 11, underlines these links," he said.

The focus of the festival this year is on women. Gender issues have attained higher importance in Tanzania with our first female President.

TFF presidency contestant now accepts committee verdict

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

FORMER senior national soccer team and Yanga midfielder Ali Mayay, who was axed from contesting at Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) elections slated for August 7 in Tanga, has accepted the domestic football governing body decision.

Mayay, who is also one of the respected local soccer analysts, was axed for, among other reasons, lacking endorsement.

He was moreover said to have not presented his credentials to relevant authorities.

Speaking yesterday, Mayay said after being told that he has failed to have the endorsement of five relevant organs and present his authentic credentials, he has decided to accept the TFF verdict.

He disclosed he sees no need of delaying the elections by dragging the federation to either the court or the world football governing body (FIFA).

He disclosed he aims at seeing local football develops and due to that he will not take any action against TFF and he instead will let the elections go on as planned.

"It's true, there are some documents which I did not present to the TFF elections committee, I will not take any other action, all in all, let the elections go on as planned," he said.

Mayay was modest enough to say that it does not require a person to be a leader of TFF to contribute to the development of football in the country.

According to him, he will continue giving his advice and directions for the betterment of the sport.

"I'm a member of Soccer Players Union (Sputanza), as such, I will continue giving my advice and directions which are of betterment to the development of football in the country," he said.

The TFF election which is set for August 7 in Tanga has been embroiled in controversy as many people are complaining about the rules of the election.

Ally Saleh, who was also axed, threatened to take TFF to court on the matter.

The contestant stated he needs an interpretation on many things



Ali Mayay

which include the legality of Zanzibar being a member of TFF.

According to him, Zanzibar is a member of the federation but it does not have powers to endorse a candidate.

Recently, the TFF member of the board of trustees, Abdallah Bulembo, took it to the world football governing body (FIFA) seeking its interference on the

oppressive rules he alleged are being imposed by TFF elections.

Bulembo, who has been in football administration for many years, yesterday said he, through his advocate Stephen Masha of Neptune Law Attorneys, wrote to FIFA last Friday to order and called on TFF to review articles he said contravenes FIFA and CAF rules and statutes.

EATV THURSDAY

MORNING @ 11:00

DADAZ.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Bongo Hits
13:00 Msozi Kitaani (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Ujenzi (r)
14:30 DK10 Za Maangamizi
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Wagonga Ulimbo (r)
16:00 Ubongo Klds (r)
16:30 #HSHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:30 EATV SAA I
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

DADAZ A show that explores social and political issues from a feminine perspective.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

