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REVENUE



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In what is new take on looted bronzes Nigerian artists offer artworks to British Museum

Cape Flats brothers feed one million mouths since start of Covid pandemic

'Museum board' appeals for national art gallery soon

WB VP to meet Samia, private sector players

By Guardian Reporter

WORLD Bank Regional Vice President for Eastern and Southern Africa, Hafez Ghanem, jets into the country for a two day visit early next week. The World Bank said in a statement yesterday that Dr. Ghanem will hold high level discussions with President Samia Suluhu Hassan, top level government officials and the development partners. He will also meet with private sector leaders and representatives of civil society organisations. Dr. Ghanem will be on his second visit in that post, with the visit meant to follow up discussions between the president and World Bank president David Malpass in New York, on the margins of preparatory climate talks ahead of the UN General Assembly annual conference.

The talks centred on Tanzania's efforts to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate vaccinations, the country's business environment and reforms being undertaken to facilitate private sector-led growth, the statement affirmed. The World Bank finances 21 national projects with total net commitments of US\$4.8bn, including transport, urban development, education, energy, water, social protection, environment/natural resources, digital development and governance, it stated. Tanzania is also part of five regional projects with its own total commitments reaching \$698.3m, chiefly directed at energy, environment and education sectors. Dr. Ghanem, who holds Egyptian and French nationalities, is a development expert with over 30 years of experience, heading the bank's activity in 26 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa that includes over 280 projects taking up

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TRA raises CSOs tax liabilities

By Alima Nkwong, HMC



President Samia Suluhu Hassan signs a memory book at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Thursday, witnessed by UN Secretary General António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres, shortly after addressing the ongoing 76th session of the world body's General Assembly. Photo: State House.

THE stalemate over what taxes non-governmental organisations (NGOs) should pay is now over after lengthy consultations that began in 2019, the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) said yesterday.

TRA launched a tax guide to be distributed to all NGOs, outlining the types of taxes NGOs are supposed to pay and when to do so, where the tax body indicates that NGOs will henceforth be subjected to eight taxes.

Before the outcome of consultations, civil society organizations (CSOs) were liable to pay four taxes, namely 'pay as you earn' (PAYE), the skills development levy (SDL), withholding tax on services that is identified with value added tax (VAT), apart from customs duties.

CSOs will now pay corporate tax—charitable organizations, withholding tax on rent, return on investment and stamp duty, the tax document affirmed.

The simplified guide outlined that CSOs are required to make payments for corporate tax in quarterly instalments each quarter for the year of income and file an estimate of tax payable for the year of income by the end of the first quarter. That is also the date for payment of the first tax instalment, it affirmed.

Filing return of income should be effectuated not less than six months after the income year elapses, accompanied with a certified financial statement, as failure to submit tax return by due date and paying the relevant tax (if any) will attract penalty and interest, it cautions.

The hand-out stipulates that NGOs renting premises or other spaces are required to withhold tax before making payments to landlords/managing agents and then remit that tax amount to TRA as specified by the law.

Regarding the tax on return on Investment, TRA specifies that NGOs owing property/ building and using it to derive income or hold investments in finan-

“We expect that relationship between TRA officials across the country and CSOs be enhanced, optimizing CSOs tax compliance,

Health insurance vital with hospital costs rising - NHIF

By Francis Kajubi, Dodoma

MEMBERS of the public have been urged to obtain health insurance cover as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) increase, associated with high costs of treatment.

Christopher Mapunda, the director of membership services at the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) made this appeal at a two-day training session with journalists to shed light on achievements and challenges of health insurance services growth.

He said that more needs to be done to encourage the public to take up health insurance cover, as by March

“The fund now clears service claims in two weeks from the previous two months following ICT apps being used, enabling easier processing of claims from service providers, he stated.

this year, only eight per cent of Tanzanians had NHIF based health cover, and another six percent with other insurers - just 14 per cent of the country's roughly 60 million people.

Treatment costs for non-communicable diseases are rising rapidly, with cancer treatment taking up 70m/- in total costs of extended treatment for one person. Dialysis services need 35.81m/- per person and specialised heart surgery is conducted at a cost of 12.52m/- per per-

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Govt backs guidelines on district strategic ventures

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government in collaboration with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) has launched national guidelines for preparation of local government authorities (LGA) strategic investments.

It is a new manual for LGA project teams that provide a step-by-step technical guidance on how to

“Tanzania set a target of becoming a middle income country by 2025 and to ensure its implementation we are supporting the government to localise sustainable ...

identify, develop, finance and manage income generating infrastructure investments.

Ummy Mwalimu, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments) officiated at the launch of the guidelines here yesterday, saying that the document is important for LGAs as the government looks forward to increase investments at the district

level. Describing the guide book as historic, she highlighted the fact that it has directly aligned a five-year development plan, with the UN agency conducting various activities to support investments by local government authorities.

She saluted UNCDF for its work

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Health insurance vital with hospital costs rising - NHIF

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son, he stated.

Those holding NHIF membership stood at 691,774 members in 2001 and rose to 4.341 million beneficiaries by March 2021, making up eight percent of the population. Around 46 per cent joined by legal requirement and 54 per cent joined voluntarily, he stated, emphasising that the membership database needs to be vastly raised from current levels.

The training was themed '20 years of NHIF: Guaranteed health care services for all,' where this awareness raising training was meant to bring the fund closer so that the media can play a critical role in educating the public to take up health insurance voluntarily.

Charles Lengeju, NHIF director for human resource and administration, said that ICT innovations have enabled the fund to deliver its services more efficiently, improving its outlook for a bright future.

Online verification of membership enables a patient to obtain health services by checking up in a health facility desk top computer, while an online special approval system for issuance of permits for special case services is also available, he stated.

The claims management information system for processing claims and controlling payments for claims is especially designed to sniff out unqualified ones, while another system is customer relationship management that enables stakeholders to send complaints if they arise, he elaborated.

Two million beneficiaries get health insurance services at dispensaries and district hospitals, another one million at health

centers, regional hospitals and zonal hospitals. Around 0.8m beneficiaries visited the Muhimbili National Hospital for treatment," he specified.

At its establishment in 2001 the fund had 3,197 health centers registered with its services, inching up to 3,913 in 2005, then climbing to 8,970 health centers registered at the end of 2020, where 6,202 are government facilities and 905 service providers are run by religious institutions, while 1,863 are privately owned centers.

The fund now clears service claims in two weeks from the previous two months following ICT apps being used, enabling easier processing of claims from service providers, he stated.

In 2005 the NHIF board of directors approved zonal referral hospitals, where the Bugando facility in Mwanza serves Kagera, Mara, Shinyanga, Tabora and Kigoma. In 2009, it broadened the modality with zonal offices backed by referral hospitals, with the northern zone centred in Arusha with its main facility being KCMC in Moshi, serving Arusha, Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Tanga. The eastern zone with several referral hospitals and the national hospital serves Dar es Salaam, Coast, Mtwara, Lindi and Zanzibar.

In the southern highlands zone, the zonal referral hospital is in Mbeya, also serving Ruvuma, Iringa and Rukwa, and implicitly Katavi, Songwe and Njombe regions.

The central zone in Dodoma also covers Singida and Morogoro with its referral hospital as the Benjamin Mkapa facility in the capital, while NHIF pursues better liaisons within its ICT systems to ease services delivery, the director added.



Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and his wife, Mary Majaliwa, console Tanzania Labour Party national Chairman Dr Augustino Lyatonga Mrema (2nd-L) following the recent death of his wife, Rose Mrema. This was beside the deceased's grave at Mrema's home village of Kiraracha in Kilimanjaro Region yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Wolinde Shizza

WB VP to meet Samia, private sector players

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US\$49bn worth of projected investments. "Under his leadership, the World Bank has supported inclusive growth and poverty reduction by financing projects that boost human

capital, support private sector development, raise agricultural productivity, improve access to infrastructure, build resilience to climate change, and promote regional integration," the statement noted.

The bank has also been

intensifying assistance for fragile and conflict-affected states, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, with expanding access to electricity and digital services to promote economic development being the core vision for the bank's

efforts in the sub-region, it asserted.

Dr. Ghanem has also served as World Bank Vice President for the Middle East and North Africa from 2015 to 2018, overseeing its engagement with 20 countries, the statement added.



Felician Nkane (2nd-R), Tanzania Revenue Authority's acting deputy commissioner (tax investigations), cuts the ribbon in Dar es Salaam yesterday to launch taxation toolkits for non-profit organisations. Others are Wajibu Institute of Accountability representative Jackson Mmari (L), Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) national coordinator Onesmo Olungurumwa (2nd-L) and TRA's Director for Taxpayer Services and Education, Richard Kayombo. Photo: Courtesy of THRDC

Govt backs guidelines on district strategic ventures

FROM PAGE 1

in developing the guidelines up to this point, underlining that investment and innovation is the key to development, welcoming such efforts to enable investments.

Peter Malika, the head of UNCDF Tanzania, stressed the fund's commitment

to pushing further the country's development agenda and improving livelihoods by enhancing investments.

UNCDF has prioritized building national capacities and investing in local development, he stated.

"Tanzania set a target of becoming a middle income country by 2025 and to

ensure its implementation we are supporting the government to localise sustainable development by solving the most critical challenges prevailing," he declared.

The guidelines launched will pave the way for preparing investment ready projects capable of accessing development capital, he

stated, elaborating that UNCDF works with the UN system in Tanzania and the government of Sweden.

It shall continue working with the government to achieve inclusive economic growth, he said, noting further that it is important for PO-RALG to beef up ties with UNCDF for collaborative approaches for

investments.

The book was launched for the benefit of local authorities and the entire country, he emphasised, having outlined its prerogatives to the PO-RALG working session for recently appointed local government directors, along with ministry officials and those of other UN agencies.

TRA raises CSOs tax liabilities

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Tasking them with being TRA ambassadors, she said that if people will pay taxes without being forced, "we are also going to spend less on tax administration.

Onesmo Olungurumwa, the national coordinator for the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders

Coalition, expressed the hope that the simplified toolkit offers solutions for existing challenges facing both parties, thus strengthening collaboration.

"We expect that relationship between TRA officials across the country and CSOs be enhanced, optimizing CSOs tax compliance," he added.

781 vendors in Morogoro get ultra-modern business stalls worth 100m/- at main market

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

THE government has handed over 781 business stalls worth 100m/- to vendors in Morogoro municipality in an effort to ease revenue collection, stimulate businesses at the main market, and enable them to access loans from financial institutions.

The facilities donated recently comprised of different sizes, with a cost ranging from 238, 400 to 476, 800/ per year.

Handing over the stalls, Minister of State at the President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), Umy Mwalimu congratulated the regional authorities under the supervision of Morogoro District Commissioner, Albert Msando for constructing 652 stalls during the first phase.

She also expressed hope that the second phase will benefit all vendors in Morogoro municipality and the council will have permanent revenue annually as the number of vendors will be identified which then were not charged.

The Minister promised a special team through the ministry of industry and trade assigned to deal with business and industries' matters as well as vendors across

the country. He also said that they would entitle to collect revenue with hopes of improving the living standard of the people.

"A special team will arrange meetings just twice annually to estimate to what extent intended objectives per each council are achieved," she intoned.

Mwalimu called for a hard-working spirit for public officials across the country while citing the Morogoro District Commissioner as an example who managed to solve long term conflict between municipal council and vendor's, a situation which created endless strikes and led to the dismissed of two government officials namely Bakari Msulwa District Commissioner and District Executive Director, Sheila Lukuba from their post.

For his part, Industry and Trade minister Prof Kitila Mkumbo who also participated in the donation exercise urged councils in the country to encourage local industries to access simple processing machines to ease business transactions amongst small-scale merchants. "Government offers simple machines like that of cane processing, it's an opportunity for Morogoro residents to form trade unions as to be loaned, and that is among strategies towards the provision of job opportunities to all Tanzanians," he advised.

Govt threatens to de-register substandard nursing colleges

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has threatened to de-register nursing colleges that do not meet the set operational standards in a move to promote professionalism in the health sector.

Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Dorothy Gwajima issued the warning recently when she tasked the Tanzania Nursing Midwifery Council (TNMC) to remove from registration any college that do not abide to the rules.

She was speaking at official launching of the new TNMC Council that was held in the Coast region that there has been mushrooming of nursing and midwifery colleges across the country.

The minister said there has been mushrooming of nursing and midwifery colleges across the country hence the need for emphasis on professionalism.

The minister said unless they are regulated there is a possibility of producing graduates who are not competent and do not meet the standards.

"I call on TNMC to list all colleges that meet all criteria to enable the students to make informed decisions. All those that did not comply should be withdrawn from the list," she said.

Furthermore, the council must ensure that all those graduated and given a chance to serve in the hospitals or health centres observe all codes of ethics. According to the minister, the move will help to eliminate all those who tend to distort the reputation of the profession by misbehaving or working unprofessional.

"Despite the great contribution made by the nurses and midwives in the country, their contributions are not well known to the community," she said.

"It is your responsibility to ensure the visibility of the professionals and ensure the colleges follow all curriculums, added.

For her part, the Director, Division of Nursing and Midwifery Services Chairman Ziada Sellah said that mushrooming of nursing and midwifery colleges that cannot be monitored is one among the big challenges.

"The council will ensure that nurses and midwives work according to the ethic all the time in either hospitals or health centres across the country," she said.

The outgoing TNMC chairperson Abner Mathube said between 2018-2021, the council deregistered 25 fake certificates/licenses.

He said in the same period of time, the council registered 8983 nurses and midwives and three new colleges.



Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdullah (2nd-R), who is also CCM patron for Tanga Region, addresses a meeting at Kibirashi in Kilindi District on Thursday while on an official tour. Seated left and second left (foreground), respectively, are Tanga regional commissioner Adam Malima (L) and regional CCM chairman Henry Shekifu. Photo: Correspondent Hamida Kamchalla

Iringa plans to embark on mobile vaccination clinics

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Iringa

AUTHORITIES in Iringa Region are planning to embark on mobile vaccination clinics so as to enable more people access the COVID-19 vaccine for their protection.

Regional Commissioner Queen Sendiga acknowledged that there is lower uptake of the Covid-19 jab in the region and the government

through the health department is thinking of switching to mobile vaccine clinics.

Sendiga told The Guardian in an interview that Iringa Region has recorded a lower turnout of people coming for the Johnson and Johnson vaccine but the government is still pushing for the education of the people so they can increase the uptake of the vaccine.

She explained that the Iringa Region received the Johnson and Johnson vaccines where a total of 30,000 doses have been received along with 135,000 syringes and needles through the Medical Stores Department (MSD) vaccine distribution system, but only about 7,800 people have taken up the jab.

Sendiga said that the exercise of administering the COVID 19 vaccine to the mass vaccination being is conducted in a total of 15 health facilities across the region.

She also asked the journalist to join the campaign of educating and sensitizing the community about the importance of people getting vaccines, hence reducing the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. RC Sendiga has also observed that a lot of people who are found with infection of Covid-19 are the people who have not been vaccinated, so they need to continue taking education to people so that they can come for the vaccine.

"Getting vaccinated is very important because even the cases of Covid-19 we get in the Iringa Region are people who have not been vaccinated at all, so vaccines help reduce infection so people should stop spreading propaganda here and there," she observed.

However, RC has called on the general public not to drop the guard on COVID-19 pandemic because the disease is real as people are still being admitted daily at the hospitals, adding that people should not stop following health regulations and guidelines like wearing masks, sanitizing or hand washing and social distancing.

Sendiga observed that community engagement is essential as health messages and vaccine distribution strategies must be sensitive to local communities, hence COVID-19 vaccine uptake increase. Community forums should include engagement with trusted sources such as healthcare workers, and scientists from within the target community to respond to concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy.

Dar authorities to come up with a 'one stop centre'

By Getrude Mbago

DAR ES SALAAM Regional authorities are working to come up with a "one stop centre" so as to further shape-up the delivery of services to investors.

Amos Makala, Regional Commissioner said this in Dar es Salaam yesterday during the meeting with industrialists and other investment stakeholders.

According to him, the move will enable a number of government services to be accessed at the centre thus making it easier for investors to access easily and bar them from traveling from one government office to another seeking for service.

He said once the stop centre is launched, investors and other stakeholders will be able to access services provided by all regulatory authorities and other related entities in one area.

RC Makala assured industrialists that the government is committed and will continue protecting them and facilitate smooth investments in the country.

He said Dar es Salaam has been blessed with plenty of land and raw materials suitable for establishing various investments including processing factories.

Makala acknowledged that inclusive and proper public-private dialogues is crucial to improving business environment and strengthen the sustainable economic development of a nation.

"The government recognizes your importance in the country economy, I hope today, we will discuss heavily on the challenges facing you and later come up with resolutions to further improve this sector," he said.

He said that government will continue taking robust measures to facilitate and support establishment of more factories and other investments for the country's development.

He warned public workers on corruption and bureaucracy saying that the sixth phase government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan will not tolerate anyone who will be found oppressing investors.

"Regulatory authorities should work as a team and address Investors issues together so as to further facilitate smooth implementation of the government's priorities including serving investors," he added.

Makala wanted regulatory authorities to be more polite, have a good approach when serving investors.

Leodegar Tenga, executive director of the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) said they have organized a consultative meeting with the Dar es Salaam regional government to discuss best ways to enhance industrial development in Dar es Salaam and the country at large.

"These consultative meetings are important avenues for our members to exchange ideas and views for the wellbeing of the industrial sector and economy at large," he said. Tenga highlighted several challenges facing investors in the city something that affect development of the industrial sector.

The industrialists also piled the blame on what they term as 'unfavorable tax regimes' and high numerous fees and charges levied by regulatory bodies calling on the government to act on it.

"Investors have raised concern on high parking fees posed by the city authorities, for example a vehicle with 2 to 3.5 tonnes of cargo pays between 20,000/- per day and 150,000/- per month. Those exceeding 4 tonnes can pay up to 100,000/- day as parking fee, this a very high amount and it affect transportation services," he said.

Tenga said that most of the industrial areas do not have conducive infrastructures including those of roads, water and sanitation something which

thwarts operations and transport of goods and raw materials.

He said that having conducive laws and policies will attract more investments thus stimulating the pace of economic growth and job creation.

He said industrialists are calling upon the government to speed up the implementation of recommendations that in the 'Blue Print on Regulatory and Licensing Reform' to facilitate easy of doing business and thus stimulate industrialisation drive in the country.

Tenga however commended the government for its continued efforts to improve business environment through dialogue and engagement with industrialists.

"Since it came into power, the sixth phase government has been willing to meet and discuss with local and international investors particularly, the manufacturers with the objective of addressing challenges that hamper the development of the industrial sector, we hope that all these challenges will be addressed," said Tenga.

DKT INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020		
	2020	2019
	TZS'000	TZS'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	384,400	647,281
Intangible assets	197	2,187
Right of use of asset	215,691	55,264
Deferred tax	67,175	38,144
	<u>667,463</u>	<u>742,876</u>
Current assets		
Trade and other receivables	501,473	425,944
Inventories	2,200,152	1,856,980
Cash and bank balances	3,530,376	2,434,240
	<u>6,232,001</u>	<u>4,717,164</u>
Total Assets	<u>6,899,464</u>	<u>5,460,040</u>
FUND BALANCE AND LIABILITIES		
Fund Balance	(241,065)	(237,640)
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Capital grants	384,597	649,468
Deferred income grants	6,232,423	3,227,305
	<u>6,617,020</u>	<u>3,876,773</u>
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	317,876	1,688,921
Lease liability	173,177	73,799
Current tax	32,456	58,187
	<u>523,509</u>	<u>1,820,907</u>
Total Fund balance and Liabilities	<u>6,899,464</u>	<u>5,460,040</u>

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020		
	2020	2019
	TZS'000	TZS'000
Income		
Grant income	2,920,302	3,783,989
Capital grants	344,888	244,380
Other operating income	154,461	33,606
Sales	2,595,349	2,507,830
Cost of Sales	(2,541,580)	(2,657,034)
Gross profit	<u>3,473,420</u>	<u>3,912,771</u>
Marketing expenses	(585,751)	(456,787)
Administrative expenses	(2,875,701)	(3,658,922)
	<u>(3,461,452)</u>	<u>(4,115,709)</u>
Surplus/ (Deficit)	<u>11,968</u>	<u>(202,938)</u>
Finance Cost	(11,968)	(14,659)
Deficit before income tax	<u>-</u>	<u>(217,597)</u>
Income tax expense	(3,425)	(20,043)
Deficit	<u>(3,425)</u>	<u>(237,640)</u>

FUND ANALYSIS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021	
INCOME	TZS'000
Grants received – DKT International Inc.	1,724,149
Other operating income	6,182
Total Income	<u>1,730,331</u>
EXPENDITURE	TZS'000
Marketing expenses	131,450
Other Program expenses	434,932
Other Administrative expenses	1,019,794
Depreciation & Amortization expense	159,824
Purchase of Capital Equipment	42,000
Commodity procurement	485,606
Total Expenditure	<u>2,273,597</u>

Somali President addresses the 76th session of the UN General Assembly

NEW YORK

DESPITE the heavy impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Somalia has continued on the path to economic reform, President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed said in a pre-recorded speech to the 76th session of the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

Not only did reform efforts enhance trust between the Somali people and government, he added, but international financial institutions also provided funding to help mitigate the worst of the crisis.

"Economic reforms are crucial to the sustainable recovery and development of Somalia," said President Mohamed, who is known as 'Farmajo'.

"In this regard, we are determined to continue growing our domestic revenue base, strengthening transparency and good governance, as well working even

more closely with our people and all our development partners to ensure that Somalia's recovery from COVID-19 is swift and sustainable."

This latest UN General Assembly is being held under the theme of building resilience through hope in the wake of the pandemic.

President Mohamed noted that people across the world have suffered during the crisis, describing this as a very uncertain period in human history.

"However, uncertainty and inability are different: I strongly believe that we as a community of nations are capable and must recover together by remaining hopeful," he said.

"Throughout history, mankind has been challenged but never has our collective spirit and determination to learn, share, progress and prosper through effective partnership been beaten."

Yet, the pandemic has exposed



President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed Farmajo of Somalia addresses the general debate of the UN General Assembly's 76th session.

frightening inequalities in the world, and the different rate of response has highlighted the vast

gap between developed and developing countries.

"It is fundamental to recognize

that responding to COVID-19 requires renewed commitment to vaccinations for all," he stated.

"Human safety is the cornerstone of any sustainable recovery from this disastrous health pandemic."

President Mohamed also addressed the urgent need to protect the environment. Somalia's economic reform relies on its natural resources, which include one of the world's longest coastlines and vast tracts of arable land.

However, the country continues to experience the painful results of global warming, he said, pointing to recurring cycles of destructive and deadly droughts and floods.

"Looking forward, it is the collective duty of all states, communities, and individuals to respond to the needs of the planet," said the President. "We must all do our absolute best to cooperate to protect the future of our planet and our source of life, wealth, and well-being."

AGENCIES

Covid-19: 3 deaths and 79 new cases

MAPUTO

AFTER four days in which no deaths from COVID-19 were reported, the disease claimed three more victims on Wednesday.

According to a Ministry of Health press release, the victims were two men and a woman, all of Mozambican nationality, and aged 33, 34 and 67. All of them died in northern Mozambique - two in Nampula province and one in Cabo Delgado. This brings the total Covid-19 death toll in Mozambique to 1,906.

Since the start of the pandemic, 893,707 people have been tested for the coronavirus that causes Covid-19, 1,596 of them in the previous 24 hours. 1,517 of these tests yielded negative results, and 79 people tested positive for the virus. This brought the number of Covid-19 cases diagnosed in Mozambique to 150,280.

Of the new cases identified on Wednesday, 47 were men or boys and 32 were women or girls. Five were children under the age of 15 and seven were over 65 years old.

26 of the new cases were from Cabo Delgado and 13 were from Cabo Delgado. Between them these two northern provinces accounted for 49.4 per cent of the new cases. There were also 18 cases from Maputo city, eight from Gaza, five from Niassa, three from Inhambane, two from Tete, and one each from Zambezia, Manica, Sofala and Maputo province.

The positivity rate (the percentage of people tested who prove to be carrying the coronavirus) on Wednesday was five per cent. So one in 20 of those tested was positive for the virus. The positivity rates over the previous week were as follows:

Tuesday, 21 September eight per cent Monday, 20 September 5.9 per cent Sunday, 19 September 3.7 per cent Saturday, 18 September four per cent Friday, 17 September 4.9 per cent Thursday, 16 September 6.5 per cent Wednesday, 15 September 7.8 per cent

The overall trend is downwards and the last time the positivity rate went above ten per cent was on 14 September (with a rate of 10.8 per cent).

The provinces with the highest positivity rates on Wednesday were Cabo Delgado (14 per cent), Nampula (12.6 per cent), and Gaza (eight per cent). The lowest rates were recorded in Manica (0.5 per cent) and Maputo province (0.8 per cent).

In the same 24 period, seven Covid-19 patients were discharged from hospital (four in Nampula, two in Cabo Delgado and one in Maputo), and ten new patients were admitted (five in Nampula, four in Niassa and one in Niassa).

Between Tuesday and Wednesday, the number of people under medical care in the Covid-19 treatment facilities remained unchanged at 44. 21 of these patients (47.7 per cent) were in Maputo. There were



Jenista Mhagama (R), Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Employment, Youth and Persons with Disability), pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday opens a stakeholder's forum on workplace violence and abuse against women. The event was organised by the Tanzania chapter of Women in Law and Development Africa (WILDAF), a pan-African women's rights network out to promote and reinforce strategies linking law and development so as to increase women's participation and influence at the local, national and international levels. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

also nine patients in Nampula, eight in Niassa, four in Inhambane and two in Zambezia. No Covid-19 patients were hospitalised in the other six provinces.

Over the previous 24 hours, 205 people were declared fully recovered from Covid-19

(97 in Niassa, 89 in Cabo Delgado and 19 in Zambezia. The total number of recoveries now stands at 146,090, or 97.2 per cent of all those ever diagnosed with Covid-19 in Mozambique.

The number of active Covid-19 cases fell

from 2,409 on Tuesday to 2,280 on Wednesday. The geographical distribution of the active cases was as follows: Maputo city, 884 (38.8 per cent of the total); Nampula, 527; Maputo province, 297; Cabo Delgado, 264; Gaza, 92; Zambezia, 71; Niassa, 66; Inhambane, 57; Sofala, 10; Manica, eight; and Tete, four.

Meanwhile, Rwanda's President Paul Kagame arrived in Mozambique yesterday for a two-day state.

The visit comes two-and-a-half months after Rwanda's deployment of a 1000-strong contingent, made up of the army and the police, that recently launched offensive attacks against insurgents in Cabo Delgado province in the north east of Mozambique.

In July, Rwanda, under a bilateral arrangement, was the first to send troops to Mozambique. Botswana followed with a contingent of 296 and South Africa deployed 1,500 soldiers.

Despite initial opposition to the deployment by some members of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), both Presidents Nyusi and Kagame have defended the move.

They said it was necessary to counter the rising threat of terrorism and insecurity after the insurgents linked to the Islamic State (IS) group had taken control of most of the five districts in Cabo Delgado in four years since 2017.

Lightning strike kills four from same family

By Guardian Correspondent

FOUR people from the same family were killed by lightning on Thursday night on Lake Victoria's Bumbile Island - northwestern district of Muleba in Kagera Region

"The victims were a couple and their two children," Muleba District Commissioner Thoba Nguvulla told a news conference, adding that they were hit by the lightning while they were asleep.

The official said the deceased family was engaged in farming and fishing on the island.

Robert Musiibha, chairman of Buluyo village in the area, said the house of the victims, which was roofed by iron sheets, was razed to the ground in the lightning strike.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH, JUNE 2020

Afya Plus is a local Non-Governmental Organization registered under NGOs Act No.24 of 2002 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Founded in August 2016 as a local affiliate to IntraHealth International to contribute towards high quality and equitable health systems, delivery of people's centered health services through evidence-based interventions, and ultimately have a community with better access to quality integrated health services. We envision a community with equitable access to quality health services through working in partnership with the Government of Tanzania, local communities and other key stakeholders. Afya Plus presents the Audited Financial statements for the period between 1st July 2019 and 30th June 2020 as approved by the Afya Plus Board of Directors for publication in accordance with the regulation 13 of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act (Disclosure) Regulations, 2018.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 TH JUNE 2020			
	2,020	2,019	
	TZS	TZS	
INCOME			
Revenue	426,872,541	-	
Total Income	426,872,541	-	
EXPENSES			
Operating Expenses	18,244,419	-	
Program Expenses	249,951,735	-	
Staff Expenses	158,676,387	-	
Total Expenses	426,872,541	-	

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 TH JUNE 2020			
	2020	2019	
	TZS	TZS	
ASSETS			
Current assets			
Cash at banks	45,026,467	-	
Other receivables	9,900,000	-	
TOTAL ASSETS	54,926,467	-	
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current liabilities			
Other payables	54,926,467	-	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	54,926,467	-	

FUNDING ANALYSIS BY PROJECT AS OF JUNE 30TH, 2020

S/n	Project Name	2020	2019
		TZS	TZS
1	Voluntary Madical Male Circumcision for HIV Prevention	426,872,541	-
	GRAND TOTAL	426,872,541	-



National Assembly deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (C) attends a Tanzania Commercial Bank business forum for women held in Mbeya city yesterday. Others are Mbeya district commissioner Dr Rashid Chuachua (L) and the bank's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Government reiterates its commitment to investors

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has re-assured its commitment towards collaborating with investors across the country by creating a friendly environment to spur economic growth.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam yesterday at a function to witness the signing of a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) (2021-2024) between Oryx Energy and the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE), Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Jenista Mhagama said the agreement was beneficial to employees.

CBA is a written legal contract between an employer and a union representing the employees.

She said the signing of CBA was a milestone achievement in promoting co-existence between employees and employers in the whole process of promoting a good relationship between employers and employees.

"I'm proud to witness the signing of the CBA (2021-2024) today this is great achievement in the employment sector," she said.

Mhagama said that CBA will help in stimulating company productivity adding that it aimed to reach a win-

win situation.

The minister further urged employees to work diligently and shun from corruption activities.

ORYX Energies (Gas) Managing Director, Benoit Araman said that the signing ceremony was not only a great success but it has made the company an employment choice.

He said the CBA was a testimony of excellent relationships between the employees, Oryx, government and ATE.

"I would like to thank the government for creating an enabling environment of business. We are fully committed to contributing to the country's development," he said.

ATE Executive Director Dr. Aggrey Mlimuka said CBA was a great achievement for sustainability and productivity of the company.

"We ATE are very happy and proud that Oryx was ready to hold and sign the CBA, it is an indication of good governance," he said.

ORYX Energies (Oil and Lubricants) managing director, Kalpesh Mehta said the CBA was true testimony that the company was the employer's choice.

"We are so impressed by the government policy on investment. We are committed to further invest," he said.

VP urges SIDO to enhance production modernisation

By Correspondent Adela Madyane, Kigoma

VICE President Dr Philip Mpango has called on the Small Industrial Development Organisation (SIDO) to increase innovation in their production that can create an enabling environment for the products to fulfill the needs in the market.

Speaking on Wednesday during the 3rd national SIDO exhibition in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region Dr Mpango (pictured) tasked SIDO to make sure that they produce materials internally and the products meet the standard of production and be sufficient for the use of all Tanzanians.

"It hurts me seeing us purchasing a sword from Brazil, SIDO has been existing since 1997, how come we can not make swords of our own, where is SIDO failing? Asked Mpango, mentioning that SIDO's contribution toward industrial development is not enough for the products do not meet the market criteria, as well as fulfill peoples need.

He, therefore asked the ministry of Industry and Trade, SIDO and other related institution to do intensive evaluation on how far SIDO has succeeded or failed on implementation of its inauguration objectives, and that they have to come up with a solution-based report and recommendations that will lift Tanzania into high middle income economy.

On his side, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) manager Venancy Mashiba said they will continue to connect entrepreneurs with large investors in the value chain so they can both gain economically for the entrepreneurs to be a centre of distribution of the products from large investors and for the large investors to purchase the raw materials.

He said: "We need to add value on our resources, so as to support entrepreneurs and investors to produce quality and sufficient products from the people within the country by giving priority to products from small industries within the country".

In overcoming the challenges the TIC manager said they always collaborate with the authorities to overcome challenges and meet the agreement, giving an example of how they have worked with TANESCO to



solve electricity shortage to enable entrepreneurs get enough power for their production.

The minister of Industry and Trade Prof Kitila Mkumbo mentioned profits that SIDO has managed to get from 2018 to 2021 as the introduction of new 1,581 factories which led to 22,726 employment opportunities.

On the area of education, SIDO has managed to do 48 trade conferences with 2,038 project to 57,118 entrepreneurs on entrepreneurship, fishing, manufacturing, markets, project management and proper technology, and processing that have also led to 10,085 employment opportunities.

"We have also managed to engage 6,571 entrepreneurs in obtaining markets through different exhibition, while 12,326 are using SIDO social networks and website to publish their products, and we have provided 17.174 billion/- to empower different projects like industries, fishing, animal husbandry and minerals," explained Kitila

Along with these success he also mentioned the main challenge facing SIDO as enabling infrastructure to reach high central economy.

TRA drills journos, teachers in Kilimanjaro Region on current tax laws and regulations

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

THE Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in Kilimanjaro Region has embarked on a special training to journalists and teachers on the new government tax regulations, changes on export and import duty for sustainable government targeted revenue collections.

TRA Regional Manager, Masawa Masatu said that teachers who are in the programme include matrons and patrons of school tax clubs in the region and the idea is create awareness on the matter

He said that the training involves journalists from various media outlets and some teachers from across the region.

"We brought on board teachers because they can spread the knowledge to the members of the community as their students who are the members of tax clubs within their schools," Masatu said, adding "As there are some changes and small amendments in various taxes, duty and tariffs that should be known by all taxpayers to avoid unnecessary tax disputes."

"In line with the ongoing public awareness

campaigns, we are also patrolling the borders with a view to identifying unofficial routes and seizing smuggled products which are sold in the market with fake tax stamps," he said.

Those who will be identified as dodging tax payments through the use of fake tax stamps, said Masatu, will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

He further noted that the training also aims at improving good cooperation with taxpayers in the region through different media houses.

"Media have been the main source of providing various information on taxes to big number of our clients, that's why we decided to provide this training to you so that you can spread accurate information to the public instead of misleading them," Masatu explained.

He applauded the role played by the Media Club of Kilimanjaro (MeCKI) of bringing together journalists for the sustainable development of Kilimanjaro region.

He warned Kilimanjaro region residents against tax evasion and illegal businesses, particularly the border residents who smuggled different kinds of products from Kenya using illegal routes famously known as 'panya routes'.



Advertisement

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION

Garbage Compressor Truck

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine ("the Company"), a fully owned subsidiary of Twiga Minerals Corporation, which is ultimately owned by Barrick Gold Corporation and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania requests the submission of Quotes from reputable, experienced, certified, and qualified parties to provide the following:

Garbage compressor JX5070ZYSXG2

Whole Vehicle

- Chassis models JX1054TG2R
- Wheel Base (mm) 3360
- Tyre 7.00R16 10PR
- Fuel type Diesel
- Fuel Consumption(L/100km) 10
- Front/rear axle (T) 2500/4500
- GVW (kg) 6900
- Kerb weight (kg) 5000
- Payload (kg) 1900

- Cycle time of one time work of jam device 15-30S
- Cycle time of unloading 258

Cabinet material - 0345 Thickness (mm)

- Side plate 3
- Top plate 3
- Base plate 4

Capacity

- Stainless steel dustbin volume 5m3
- Drain tank volume 300L
- Hopper capacity 0.8m3
- Hopper width 1550mm
- Bucket lifting 600kg
- Cycle time of one time work of jam device <=30S
- Cycle time of unloading <=45s

Key documents

- Clear and detailed Quotation
- Company registration documents i.e. Certificate of incorporation, business licence, TIN, VRN, Tax Clearance Certificate etc.
- A written statement indicating Tanzanian ownership percentage, Tanzanian management and below management employment percentage to determine classification as an Indigenous Tanzanian Company as per the Local Content Regulation, 2018;
- Applicable certification, accreditation, affiliated registrations, and letter of dealership as required;
- Approved Local Content Plan or acknowledgement of submission from the Mining Commissioner.

Dimensions

- Dimension (LxWxH)(mm) 66Qx2140x2600
- Minimum ground clearance (mm) 180

Rideability

- Top speed (km/h) 80km/h
- Minimum turning diameter (m) 13.6

Superstructure performance

- Working pattern Manual or PLC
- Compression Ratio 2.5:1
- Dustbin dimension 2990*1700*1430
- Stainless steel dustbin volume 4m3
- Drain tank volume 200L
- Filling-mouth volume 0.6m3
- Filling-mouth size 1400*1230*675
- Turnover mechanism lifting weight 300KG

Submission of Quotes

Please submit your quotes via email to bulvtender@barrick.com
The reference "BUL-RFQ-21-09- 01" must be quoted in the subject line of the email.

NB: The Company reserves the right to invite any other supplier(s) who did not submit a quote through this advertisement

Key Dates

- Last date to submit quotes September 29, 2021

Bulyanhulu Gold Mine Limited



Umyy Mwalimu, Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Governments), pictured in Dodoma city yesterday opening a meeting for directors of local government authorities. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

Tanzanians urged to buy locally produced goods

By Correspondent Prosper Kwizize, Kigoma

SMALL-scale industrialists have called on Tanzanians to buy locally manufactured products in order to boost the national economy.

They made the call here yesterday when speaking at the third national Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO)-sponsored exhibition held at Umoja grounds in Kasulu District, Kigoma Region.

"It's high time for Tanzanians to inculcate a culture of buying locally produced goods to support the economy as the money circulates within the country for national development," said Gwandumi Mpoma, sales manager of Mati Super Brand from Manyara Region.

According to Mpoma, Tanzanian factories produce quality products compared to other countries especially food and beverages along with agricultural implements but Tanzanians are not being given value compared to imported goods.

Mpoma noted that the cost of production in small-scale industries in Tanzania is high compared to China and India, which are the main competitors of the locally produced products.

"That's why we're encouraging people to be patriotic and buy our goods, which are equally good and probably better than the imported ones," he said.

Arusha-based food processor Jonia Karumuna suggested the need for government to put in place friendly policies that encourages local producers.

She said: "Despite encouraging the growth of small industries, business and marketing systems aren't friendly compared to neighbouring countries due to high-interest rates from local financial institutions, something which is unfair as it makes our goods expensive."

Recognise your rights, responsibilities, land transport 'consumers' told

Erica Kyomo, TUDARCO.

LAND transport consumers in the country are urged to recognize their rights and responsibilities when are on the road and avoid causing unnecessary accidents.

Acting executive secretary of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority Consumer Consultative Council (LATRA CCC), Leo Ngowi, said yes-

terday that it was important for passengers to know their rights when using road transport to promote safe and sustainable land transport.

In the pursuit of development people use private or community transport. This is a basic need for anyone who wants to get from one place to another, so passengers on all ground transport, including speed buses, intra-

regional buses, motorcycles, and taxis - regular and networks, should recognize their responsibilities and their rights.

In an interview with this paper Ngowi said that LATRA CCC is the voice of land transport users, so it is the council's job to educate the community about their responsibilities and their rights.

"Passenger rights are fundamental, but you can't have rights without fulfilling certain obligations. The most important thing for them is to fulfill their responsibility as a passenger, and the first responsibility of a passenger is to pay the appropriate fare as arranged by the authorities," said Ngowi.

"If a passenger pays the fare, is then entitled to the

transport and also has the right to travel safely to his or her destination. It is the primary responsibility of the driver and conductor to follow the rules on the road to ensure their safety and the passengers within their vehicle."

He mentioned some of the rights saying that passengers have right of compensation. "If a passenger is involved in

a disaster while enroute, he or she has the right to claim compensation. "There are bus owners who have a habit of harassing passengers. If a passenger complains and can confirm the harassment, then he or she has the right to be compensated," said Ngowi.

He further said there are guidelines also set by law enforcement agencies to con-

trol passengers' luggage.

"Legally the luggage that a passenger is entitled to travel with on a bus is 20 kilograms, more than that, the bus owner can lawful charge extra money to pay for the load."

Ngowi further urged passengers to create a habit of reading to know their rights and responsibilities as they continue to use land trans-

Congolese reporter charged with killings of UN experts

KINSHASA

A Congolese journalist suspected of having information about the 2017 killing of two UN experts in central Democratic Republic of Congo was charged on Wednesday, the military prosecutor's office said.

Sosthene Kambidi, who has been held since his arrest in the capital Kinshasa on Monday night, "is no longer being questioned as a witness, but as an accused," a senior prosecutor said, declining to be identified.

"The interrogation is continuing," the prosecutor added, declining to say what the journalist had been charged with.

American Michael Sharp and Swedish-Chilean Zaida Catalan, had been hired by the United Nations to probe violence in the Kasai region of central DRC. They were kidnapped and murdered in March 2017.

At the time, authorities said they were killed by members of the Kamuina Nsapu rebel group, which was at war with the state army.

A video purporting to show Sharp and Catalan being murdered by the Kamuina Nsapu has been broadcast on state television.

The prosecution is investigating how Kambidi came into possession of the video and who gave it to him.

Kambidi, who has worked as a freelancer for AFP and at the Congolese online news site Actualite.cd in Kananga, capital of Kasai Central province, calmly told journalists from both outlets on Wednesday about being questioned over the video.

The journalist said he had been questioned by a Congolese military prosecutor and, via video conference, "people from the UN mechanism set up to assist Congolese military justice".

Around 30 people have been accused of taking part in the UN experts' murder, but the trial that began in June 2017 has stalled and the UN has appointed a judicial expert to assist.

Kambidi was allowed to have a lawyer present. However, his lawyer could not be reached on Wednesday evening.

The conflict with Kamuina Nsapu - a rebel group centred on a local tribal leader - left an estimated 3,400 people dead and tens of thousands displaced between September 2016 and mid-2017 in the Kasai region.

AGENCIES

Kambidi, who has worked as a freelancer for AFP and at the Congolese online news site Actualite.cd in Kananga, capital of Kasai Central province, calmly told journalists from both outlets



Tanzania Revenue Authority commissioner general Alphayo Kidata opens a consultative meeting involving TRA officials and members of the business community in the Major Taxpayers category held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Africa needs seven-fold rise in COVID-19 vaccine shipments

By Special Correspondent,

Brazzaville

COVID-19 vaccine shipments to Africa must rise by over seven times from around 20 million per month to 150 million each month on average if the continent is to fully vaccinate 70 per cent of its people by September 2022.

The 70 per cent target was agreed at the global COVID-19 summit hosted by the United

States of America on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly this week.

At the summit, the United States pledged to share 500 million more COVID-19 vaccines to low-income countries over the next year, bringing its total pledges to more than 1.1 billion doses.

"The global COVID-19 summit was a dose of hope for Africa and we commend pledges to share more vaccines, save lives and build back better. It is the kind

of international solidarity that will help to end the pandemic. This is about life and death for potentially millions of Africans so there is no time to waste in getting these shipments moving," said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for Africa.

The COVAX Facility, the global platform to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, has been forced to slash planned deliveries to Africa by 25% this

year, due to global supply shortages and export bans. COVAX shipments are still coming into African countries - with 4 million doses received in the past week. However, only a third of the vaccines that wealthy countries pledged to share with Africa by the end of 2021 have been received.

"Actions speak far louder than words and African countries need clear delivery dates so they can plan properly. We also need

strong structures set up to ensure that all promises made are promises kept," said Dr Moeti.

WHO has assisted 18 African countries in conducting intra-action reviews, which analyzes all aspects of their vaccination campaigns and offers recommendations.

The reviews have shown that vaccine supply security and uncertainty around deliveries have been a major impediment for many African countries.



Arumeru district commissioner Richard Ruyango (2nd-L) presents one of 20 laptops to a Sing'isi Secondary School teacher on Thursday. It was a donation to the school by Reneal International Education Outreach through its computer delivery programme for government schools. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Aminex shares rise on awarding of seismic contract for Tanzania joint venture project

By Special Correspondent

LONDON-listed Aminex yesterday said that the Ruvuma joint venture in Tanzania has awarded the seismic acquisition contract to Africa Geophysical Services (AGS) something which witnessed rising of its shares.

The company said that the joint venture has been able to take advantage of favourable market conditions securing a lump-sum contract considerably below the expected budget for the activity.

AGS intends to start activities in the Ntorya location from next month. The acquisition will consist of approximately 338 km² of 3D seismic data focusing on the area of primary interest. It will focus on the proposed location for the Chikumbi-1 well, Aminex said.

"The Ntorya gas development is now entering operational activity through the acquisition of 3D seismic and well execution that represent major steps towards monetising this large gas resource into existing infrastructure and an established market in Tanzania," Aminex executive chairman Charlie Santos said.

The Africa-focused oil and gas company said that AGS intends to start activities in the Ntorya gas discovery well, located in the Ruvuma basin onshore southern Tanzania, from October.

Under the farm-out agreement completed with Omani-owned ARA Petroleum Tanzania in October 2020, Aminex is carried for its 25 percent participating share of the associated field development costs up to \$35mn, equivalent to gross development expenditure of \$140mn.

Ruvuma joint venture comprises ARA Petroleum, which is the operator, Aminex and Scirocco Energy. Scirocco Energy PLC is part of the Ruvuma joint venture.



The Ntorya gas development is now entering operational activity through the acquisition of 3D seismic and well execution that represent major steps towards monetising this large gas resource into existing infrastructure and an established market in Tanzania

UNGA 2021: Africa cannot outsource its health to the rest of the world, AfDB head says

NEW YORK

GLOBAL leaders, in a sideline event on health during the United Nations General Assembly, voiced the urgent need to scale up Covid-19 vaccine production and access in the wake of a pandemic that has caused unprecedented economic loss and bankrupted health care systems in Africa.

The Future Investment Initiative Institute hosted the virtual event on Tuesday, as part of a series of panel sessions around the themes of vaccines, resilience and global health.

Their voices were amplified by African Development Bank president Akinwumi A. Adesina, World Trade Organization

director-general Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, and Global Infrastructure Partners vice chairman and partner Jim Yong Kim. All three took part in a panel that looked at balancing the scales of global health and the consequences of the novel coronavirus.

The 76th UN General Assembly takes place this year against the Covid-19 pandemic, which has hit African economies badly, despite the overall lower death toll on the continent. GDP contracted by 2.1 percent in 2020, falling by 6.1 percentage points from the pre-COVID-19 forecasts. In addition, only a handful of countries have met their commitment to devote at least 15%

of their national budget lines to improving and maintaining adequate healthcare systems.

To shockproof the continent from future pandemics and other health crises, Adesina emphasized the need to build Africa's manufacturing and healthcare capacity. "Africa cannot outsource its health to the rest of the world. We've got to build Africa's indigenous manufacturing capacity...we need to secure ourselves," Adesina said addressing what he said was one of the biggest lessons from the pandemic - the need for Africa to rely on itself.

Asked in turn by CNN anchor Richard Quest, who moderated the session, what they

as world leaders were doing to close the dangerous health gap, Okonjo-Iweala said her top two priorities were to get countries who have an excess of vaccines to donate them to COVAX - the initiative led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Vaccine Alliance Gavi and the World Health Organization. The second, she said, was to "get richer countries to swap places with poorer countries on the waiting list for vaccines."

In the long term, Okonjo-Iweala said, it was about building Africa's capacity to manufacture. "We need to decentralize manufacturing," she stressed.

On the same issue, Jim Yong Kim decried the lack of leadership in the present global health crisis.

"Where is the coalition that will say this is an unprecedented challenge? What we now need is leadership...We had a similar problem treating people with HIV...we can solve them for the vaccine shortage," Kim said.

Adesina said the African Development Bank would contribute \$3 billion to the development of Africa's pharmaceutical industry over the next 10 years.

"What is needed in the long term is building Africa's pharmaceutical capacity," the African Development Bank head

stressed.

Standing in the way of that capacity are the various restrictions and trade barriers, intellectual property rights and lack of raw materials, which are making it even harder for African countries to get into the game.

"We are taking action...supply chains for vaccines are very complicated...making sure supply chains flow... We need to lift restrictions so that manufacturers can get what they need," Okonjo-Iweala said. "Vaccine nationalism doesn't pay... We've got to let technology be transferred. We can't be selfish in this pandemic. Lives are at stake."

Another theme running

through the day's sessions was the business case for investing in vaccine creation facilities and the benefits to financiers' bottom line. "You've got to have the conversation... it's in your interest that Africa gets vaccines," Kim emphasized.

In the opening panel, Carlyle Group co-founder and Co-chairman David M Rubenstein and BNY Mellon CEO Thomas Gibbons acknowledged that profits did not remove the moral imperative to address the inequality between developed and developing nations. "Vaccines are the most important tool - we have to make vaccine access for all," Gibbons said.

Govt calls for national approach to fight against GBV at workplace

By Guardian Reporter

THE government has called upon stakeholders to formulate a holistic national approach so as to accelerate the fight against Gender Based Violence (GBV) at workplaces.

Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Youth, Employment and Persons with Disability) Jenista Mhagama made the remarks in Dar es Salaam yesterday when launching a symposium to discuss violence against women at work place.

"The government has decided to stand firm on the war on violence at workplaces; therefore, what you are doing today is just part of the initiatives to end the problem," she said.

The minister hailed efforts by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) for being at the forefront in the war against the malpractice.

She said gender based violence has been one of the setbacks to women in achieving their goals hence the need for concerted efforts by all stakeholders.

The chairperson for WILDAF Monica Mhoja said the aim of the

symposium was to discuss and find solutions to various challenges facing women especially at workplaces.

The symposium will also propose a national plan to eradicate acts of violence against women at workplaces.

Data shows that in Tanzania, 51 percent of women work in the informal sector as employees and owners of micro and small enterprises. These women often depend on public spaces and social interactions which are now restricted to curtail the pandemic.

A United Nations Policy Brief on the Impact of the COVID-19 on women warns of different impacts on economic and productive lives of women and men.

This is attributed to the fact that across the globe, women earn less, save less, hold less secure jobs and are more likely to be employed in the informal sector.

Women who depend on cross border trade for livelihood are hit harder following the restrictions imposed on movement between countries and reduced consumer demand in export markets.



Consulting engineer Samwel Mtawa (L) of Ambicon Engineering pictured in Longido District, Arusha Region, on Thursday briefing Works and Transport deputy minister Godfrey Kasekenya (2nd-L) on the ongoing implementation of the Kimokouwa modern weighbridge construction project. Photo courtesy of Works ministry

Over 6,000 villagers in Mufindi given CCROs

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Mufindi

MORE than 6,000 people in nine villages in Mufindi District, Iringa Region have been issued with Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs).

This has been possible through the support made by Participatory Ecological Land Use Management (PELUM)—a network of NGOs working with smallholder farmers and livestock keepers in promoting participatory ecological land use management in Tanzania.

Iringa Region Assistant Commissioner for Lands, Wenceslaus Mtui revealed this on Wednesday when inaugurating distribution of the 472 title deeds to Kipanga villagers in Mufindi District.

He said that the CCROs were prepared by PELUM in collaboration with Mufindi District Council and distributed to the villages of Kipanga, Ilogombe, Kilosa, Ihanu, Nandala, Mkonge, Igoba, Udumuka and Ikwega respectively.

Mtui explained that the organisation enabled the Mufindi District Council to provide educa-

tion on land laws, prepare land use plans, survey the parcels of land and prepare the documents for the year 2020/2021.

He urged the people who received the Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) to ensure that they implement the rules they set for themselves when preparing land use plans to avoid land disputes that arose in their villages.

Mufindi District Council Director, Zaina Mlawa urged the people who received the CCROs to ensure they keep them well and use them for personal de-

velopment. She said that the documents should be a rescuer to them and not reason for division in the family after getting loans from financial institutions.

Mlawa added that the villages that the land were surveyed will reduce and eliminate land disputes arising from land use conflicts, and also it help conserve resources like rivers, water sources, reserve lands and land set aside for public use. She said that citizens also benefit from survey land and farms by obtaining customary title deeds and guaranteeing ownership of

their land. In addition, citizens can use these documents to apply for loans in order to increase capital for economic activities.

"Our existing banks in Mufindi District receive Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) as collateral for loans and financial services," said Mlawa. For their part, the people of Kipanga village in Kibengu Ward - Mufindi District have commended the government and Pelum Tanzania for funding and facilitating the documents.

Sophia Lubamba, a resident

of Kipanga village, said she would use the document for the benefit of her family, adding that previously it was difficult for a woman to own land due to existing traditions and customs.

She commended PELUM for partnering with the government in opening their eyes by providing land law education.

Winfred Kifyoga, a resident of Kipanga village, said he was happy to get his farm certificate and added that the certificate would help him in his life and family.

He said he had been confident of owning the land and

commended the government and various stakeholders for remembering the poor people owning the land.

Kifyoga clarified that the document will also help him expand his projects where he will use the document as collateral for a loan from financial institutions. In general, PELUM Tanzania has enabled the Mufindi district council to prepare land use plans in 15 villages and survey plots of land for the people and prepare 8978 Certificates of Customary Rights of Occupancy (CCROs) from 2016/2017 to date.

The Guardian

www.ippmedia.com

SATURDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Using sign languages an uplift battle for disabled

ACTIVISTS around the world were at midweek (September 23) making the International Day of Sign Languages, which chroniclers say was sponsored by 97 United Nations member states and adopted by consensus in the General Assembly on 19 December 2017. It is therefore among the newest world days being observed for reflection on what they stand for, and progress around the world to achieve their goals. It is an area of activity that has taken up plenty of energy among charitable people for several decades.

In the run to this year's marking of the sign languages day, it will be remembered that in the past few months there was a report on progress being made to shift from the manual Braille sign language (dots distributed over a keyboard) to make the tool a digital device. That will ease accommodating more material by shorter working time, the way the world shifted from the typewriter and desk calculator to the computer. This was likely to be among themes in the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) organizing a panel discussion on using sign languages, where states undertake to provide sign languages to all those who need it.

UN chroniclers say that the day is a unique opportunity to protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of deaf people and other sign language users. The 2021 theme, declared by WFD was "We Sign For Human Rights," highlighting how each of us - deaf and hearing people around the world - can work together hand in hand to promote the recognition of our right to use sign languages in all areas of life. It is at times a shock to hear that there are more than 70 mil-

lion deaf people worldwide, with more than 80 per cent of them live in developing countries, and collectively using more than 300 different sign languages.

This is not something everyone sees on each passing day but there are compact communities including families or schools where this is part of reality. There are areas where the blind for instance (who hear but can't read the usual script) have done well, for instance earning degrees and even higher degrees with Braille used where others write out texts. But they were not left behind and some became top officials in various government departments and in civil society, to the merited pride of our educational institutions.

At times local observers find it hard to grasp the view that sign languages are fully fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the spoken languages, even that there is an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings. They also use it informally when travelling and socializing, which experts say is a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon. It means most sign languages are rich in...vocabulary.

Learning these things in schools and in other areas of society helps to build an aura of normalcy when one meets those who use sign languages, and thus learn better how to live up to the Convention on the rights of People with Disabilities. To appreciate that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages and promote the linguistic identity of the deaf community is not easy. But it is an obligation to all of us.

Land bank for investments not a panacea for conflicts

AN idea is being floated by Investments ministry authorities, seeking that local governments move to profile land suitable for investment, and the land so marked out be made part of a national land database accessible to investors. That would replace the need to deal with village leaders and obviously the district authorities themselves as is the case now.

This idea doesn't look distinctly new as it has been in the air for a while, but for the minister, Geoffrey Mwanbe to actually address a press conference on the matter, implies the plan is being sharpened or efforts are being mounted to have it adopted at even higher levels.

It is easy to see that there is plenty of grain in the plan, as usually countries that have moved into large scale industrial programmed have had to acquire land on a grand scale from traditional users such that the plans can go ahead.

And on the basis of data that we have been exposed to of late, there are numerous companies which are trying to set foot in Tanzania and would not wish to start a tourist phase of talking to villagers on chances of obtaining land. In that context those vested with supervising investments need to seek a usable formula that can ease take up of investment projects, to have them rolling on the ground.

For one thing, the ministry is trying to improve existing land registration to facilitate investment uptake, instead of actually obtaining ready and tried formulas from elsewhere to use in the matter.

So it isn't easy to say what model (which maps out expectations and how any eventual contentions are solved within the

framework of the model, how it absorbs current and subsequent pressures on the use of land) the ministry is applying.

The two land acts were seeking to extract an option for the government to take up land for the use of investors if it is on village land, along with modalities of renting public land that isn't village land.

There seems to be at least two points of oversight in the ministerial proposal, one in its still-photograph view of land for investments, where there is open land featuring on a map, so it is available for use. Obviously there are issues of compensation where necessary and that can rapidly be met.

This is inadequate as land is public on the one hand and communal on the other hand, in which case land needs to be surrendered by villagers by their own free will, not just appear on a map. At the same time village leaders can only summon current consensus; if population expands, or cattle rearing migrants come in, there are problems.

When the land and village land legislation was made 20 years ago (and counting) investment needs were limited, unlike at present.

So the government has an option of either changing customary land occupancy to freehold titles so that anyone can sell on their own, and no migrants can come in, or set out specific zones for large scale investments.

If they take China's example in 1978, the whole of the coastal zone is declared a special zone, peasants paid out and shift, or shift when investors come. Here that would apply to Tanga, Coast, Lindi and Mtwara regions as areas best for investors, to avoid declaring all land private.

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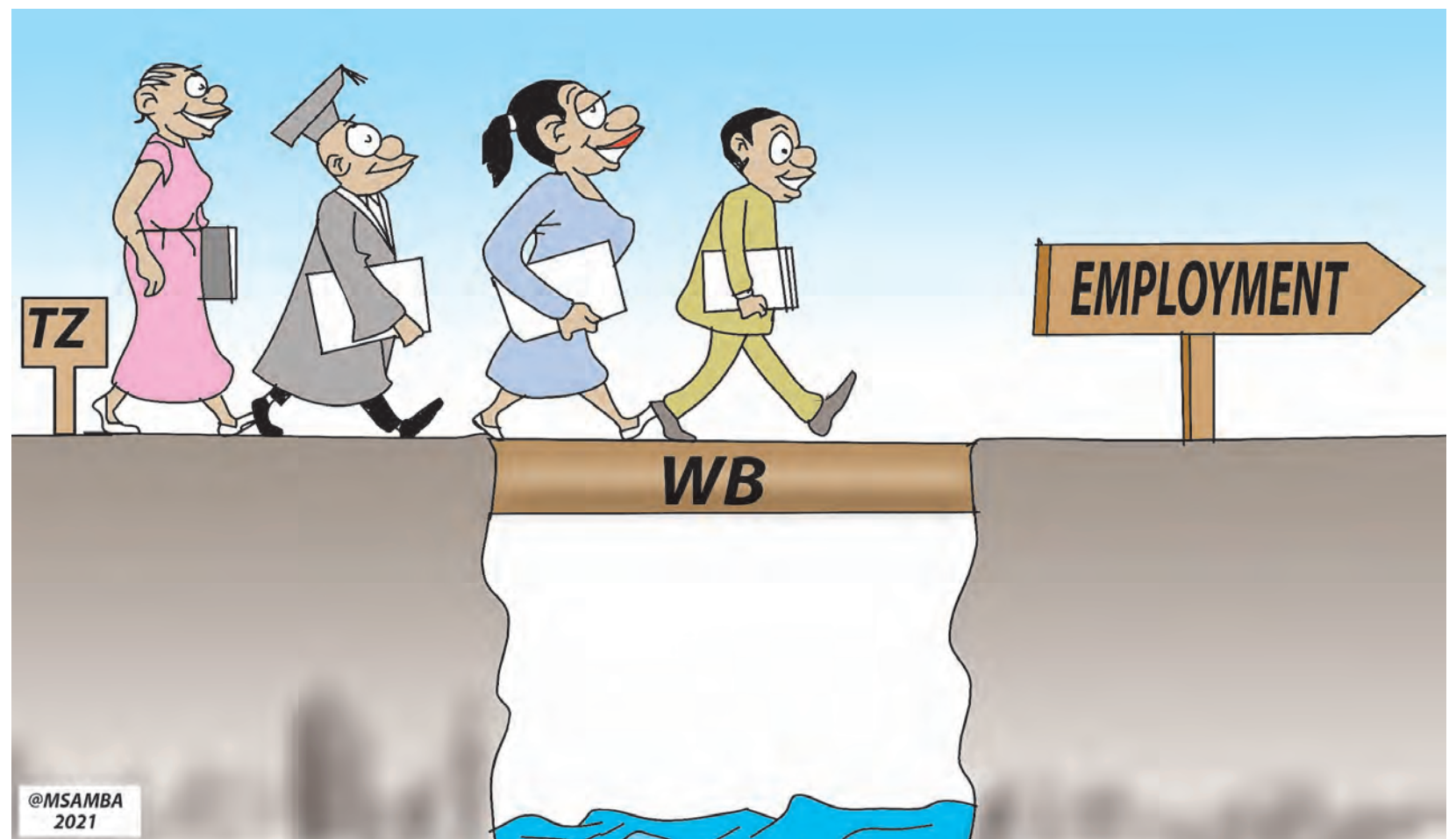
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Destruction of Africa Unity Square ought to be reversed

It is inexcusable that Harare should become so rundown in appearance in those areas where very little money is needed to present a decent face to the world.

Instead, as we recently highlighted, the central point of what is supposed to be a modern capital city of a country moving forward rapidly is a disaster.

Africa Unity Square, is the oldest and most central of the city's parks. While city parks staff do try and keep the place usable, they face an almost total lack of support from the city council and from senior officials as they battle against decades of neglect and vandalism and with no one seeming to care.

Yet so much could be done with very little money.

In the 1990s there was an attempt to redesign the park, with a competition launched, to fill its function of bringing a small green lung into the middle of the city. Businesses around the park were prepared to help out, but leadership was required and decisions needed to be made. No one provided the leadership and no one made the decisions, so it just continued to fall to bits.

Many of the proposed designs allowed more people to use the area, but with less damage, some kept the central fountains, although with new piping and pump and a different sort of water design rather than the slightly odd double fountain on a timer that was there before everything broke down.

Some, although fewer, of the new designs kept the wing water features, although there was a lot of criticism of too much concrete with little benefit to show for it.

Most people recognised that the trees needed to be replaced over the next few years, and around half have now been chopped down, most of the cypresses being well past their safety age and the jacarandas starting to show signs of approaching death.

But almost any of the top half dozen or so designs would have served the purpose and kept the square attractive and useful for another century. But nothing was done and the decline continued.

The little park started out as a fort, the Fort Salisbury of the British South Africa Company. Someone paced out the boundary while holding a compass, so fixing the street grid in both direction and block size forever.

Our streets are aligned to the magnetic north-south of September 1891, in most of the city centre except in the kopje area, and our blocks are the width of the old fort and twice the height.



No one knew really what to do with the old fort in the early 1890s when the first rains reduced the height of the walls to less than a metre and the second rains basically washed them away.

It served as the first cricket field, although was on the small side, before getting its new role when the fanatic who was in charge of Harare's parks managed to get hold of it.

He was fairly smart. He knew people would walk across the park on their own routes, regardless of where he put the paths. So he put in three paths, two diagonal ones connecting the corners and one giving pedestrians in George Silundika Avenue a straight connection.

That gave him the space to plant his trees, and since at this stage all water came from wells he reckoned trees were required as lawns were not going to happen anytime soon. He had a few flower beds though.

Someone then added the central north-south path, which was not really needed, so the square would look like a Union Jack. But this did not stop the woodland planting. The trees still in the square are the survi-

vors.

As water and electricity became available lawns were planted and flower beds extended.

In the 1950s, the central fountain was built and in the 1970s another ideologue put in the long concrete water features, selling them as a central white stripe in the field of green so the park would look like the Rhodesian flag, rather than the Union Jack. But the changes did stop ideas of converting it to a parking garage.

What is needed now is to go back to those redesign ideas, if anyone bothered to keep them, or do another proper redesign. New trees need to be established now, in some areas because there is just bare earth and in other areas while the old jacarandas still have a few years left so there will not be a total desert.

Somewhere in that square is an old borehole, that someone needs to renovate and probably reline. The private attempt to restore seating with pure concrete seats needs to be pushed forward, since these are harder to vandalise and in any case cannot provide wood for fires lit by vagrants.

It should not be expensive to repair the pool of the central fountain and put in new pipes and a pump. But that does mean the square needs to fit some image, and a rundown mess fits no image.

Because so little has been done for half a century the square no longer fits modern needs and some of the colonial design with its insistence on making the square look like the flags of the time are no longer needed.

But we still need the trees; we still need decent paths; we still need shrubs and flowers; and we still need places where many people can just sit for a short while and reconnect.

A redesign could cut back on maintenance if that was a primary need, so that a decent looking park would still be there even if less money was spent on it.

The incredible thing is that fixing up Africa Unity Square could be done for surprisingly little money so long as there was a decent new design and a willingness to do whatever earth moving was now required. But what is needed is not so much a huge budget as a willingness to restore the central point of Harare so that it fits a modern capital city.

Hopes of sharing a peace pipe with Kenya remain premature as Somalia polls loom

By Mohamed Gaas, Senior Researcher, Horn of Africa Security and Analysis, ISS.

KENYA and Somalia share cultural and economic ties and common security interests which, if balanced, could benefit both countries and the Horn of Africa region. But the two states have had a turbulent relationship, and despite recent progress, rebuilding ties will be difficult until Somalia achieves some measure of political stability.

Several meetings in recent months aimed to restore diplomatic relations, which have reached a low point in the past few years. In May, three days after Kenya suspended all flights to and from Somalia, the countries' leaders met at President Ismail Omar Gelle's inauguration in Djibouti and again recently in London.

On 10 August, Somalia's Prime Minister Mohamed Hussein Roble travelled to Mombasa for talks with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and senior government officials. At the end of the meeting, they agreed to strengthen trade, people-to-people ties and movement, and collaborate on regional and international issues.

This positive development is generating a political mood among leaders in both countries for a rapprochement. It is fuelled by the need to stabilise ties and revitalise the ministerial technical committee for collaboration established by both states in 2015. The committee failed to take off due to constant disagreements between the countries, culminating in both their ambassadors severing ties until recently.

But will the latest steps deliver long-term results? Many Somali analysts believe that while Roble genuinely wants to rekindle relations with Kenya, his move may be part of a wider strategy to realign Somalia's ties with Kenya, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia and Egypt. This would boost his position in relation to his political rivals in President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed's (Farmaajo's) camp.

Given the deep divisions in Somalia's political leadership, the success of the rapprochement will probably depend on both internal and external factors. Internally, there's the unresolved maritime border dispute between the two – despite the case being deliberated by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for the past seven years. Kenya prefers an out-of-court settlement while Somalia wants an ICJ resolution. The court is expected to rule next month.

These opposing positions will be hard to reconcile. The maritime case has become a highly sensitive public issue in both countries, and backing down would be political suicide for any aspiring or current leader in Somalia.

The case could also destabilise Somalia by strengthening al-Shabaab's narrative that government leaders are puppets of foreign states and entities who act outside of the country's interests. Analysts speculate that war could break out on the maritime issue. This seems unlikely, though, considering that since the United Na-



Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta (centre) witnesses the signing of Kenya into the Adaptation Action Coalition. Tensions with neighbouring Somalia are unlikely to be resolved until after Somalia's general election. File photo

tions Convention on the Law of the Sea was signed in 1982, there have been more than 200 maritime border disputes, and none have resulted in war so far.

Whether the warming of relations bears fruit will also depend on the immediate resolution of several other disagreements over Somalia's election modalities, its conduct in the polls and its outcome. Given the stalemate within the country on these questions, a resolution in the short term seems unlikely.

Election-related issues combined with the timing of the rapprochement could deepen mistrust between the Somali president and his allies on the one hand, and Roble and his opposition associates on the other. There

is little tangible progress to suggest that the deadlock between the prime minister, opposition and president will be broken anytime soon. Just last week, Farmaajo issued a decree limiting some of Roble's powers after the prime minister had fired several allies of the president.

A further delay of Somalia's election is likely. The president and his allies who lead Galmudug, Hirshabelle and South-West states are determined to keep Farmaajo in power at any cost. This could explain the disagreement between the president and former prime minister Hassan Ali Khairre that ended with the latter being fired after a vote of no confidence in Parliament.

It could also be why Roble is trying to realign Somalia with Kenya and Egypt,

the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. In contrast to Farmaajo and his supporters, transparent elections are favoured by Puntland and Jubaland, along with Roble, the opposition, prominent individuals in Somali society and civil society.

Attempts by the rival political camps to solidify their positions could draw in external actors. Ethiopia, Eritrea, Qatar, Turkey and possibly Iran would probably side with Farmaajo while Egypt, Kenya, the UAE and some in the wider international community could support Roble. If tensions are left to escalate, violent conflicts between the two groups could break out.

In the interest of stability in Somalia and the region, unwarranted interventions by international actors, including

Kenya, in Somalia's election must be avoided, as that could ignite violence. It would also legitimise al-Shabaab's accusations of foreign interference in a sovereign state. Political stability in post-election Somalia is crucial to degrading the extremist group and enhancing security in the region.

The Horn of Africa's history shows that crises in one country can ignite conflicts and violence in others in the region. Somalia's internal politics are currently much too volatile to enable good relations with its neighbours.

Once elections have taken place, Somalia and Kenya can engage in building relations and trust gradually. Until then, external actors should avoid direct involvement in Somalia's polls, as that will neither facilitate the voting process nor help stabilise the country and the region.

DM

Uganda taking measures to cope with rise in childhood cancer cases

KAMPALA

THIRTEEN-YEAR old Raphael Ssajabi, a leukemia survivor, can not wait for schools to reopen after the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic subsides. The Ugandan teenage boy went through harrowing tales as his single mother had to take care of him as well as fend for his two other siblings.

Ssajabi had to drop out of school

to concentrate on chemotherapy amid talks in his neighborhood that there are no leukemia survivors. "I could hardly walk when I was brought here. My mother cuddled me as a baby on her back. Doctors gave us hope, but people were saying that leukemia cancer doesn't get cured," Ssajabi told Xinhua in a recent interview as the country joined the world to commemorate September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

The commemoration aims at increasing awareness on the achievements and challenges in caring for children and youth with cancer, their families, and survivors of childhood cancer.

Ssajabi is one of the increasing childhood cancer cases in Uganda, according to experts. The child is among the 652 children diagnosed with cancer in two years at the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI).

Peter Wasswa, a specialist

at Global Hematology Oncology Pediatric Excellence (Global HOPE), said the challenges affecting the fight against childhood cancer include lack of awareness, late diagnosis, lack of access to treatment and supportive care, among others. Global HOPE is a program between Texas Children's Hospital in the United States and UCI aiming at building capacity to treat children with cancer.

Wasswa said globally about 400,000 children are diagnosed with cancer each year and over 50 percent of these cases are in sub-Saharan Africa. Esther Wanyenze, a community awareness and advocacy program officer, said Uganda is making efforts to raise awareness about childhood cancers. Wanyenze said some of the measures include developing campaigns like virtual childhood cancer run which raises funds that go to supporting families affected by the scourge. She said there have been also community outreach programs as well as

training of medical staff on management of childhood cancer.

These measures, according to Wanyenze, have yielded results including increasing the survival rate of childhood cancer to 75 percent from 30 percent in 2019. She said parent-led counseling and support groups have been established to help families understand their child's diagnosis and clinical treatment plans.

"Some of the parents' support groups have been trained and equipped with information so that they help children and parents who begin their cancer journey and spread awareness of childhood cancer in their home communities," she said. Experts say the fight against childhood cancers has been affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has made access to treatment and diagnosis difficult due to the lockdown measures. Parents have to walk long distances to access treatment for their children as public and private transport is occasionally halted by government to contain the spread of COVID-19. "Most of the childhood patients are from upcountry, during the lockdown, transport fares are hiked, which forces some of them to miss their treatment session," Wasswa said.

UCI recently said it is working to improve cancer health care in the country as the cancer burden increases. The institute said it is continuing to decentralize cancer health care so that the population can access it within their localities.

"It is estimated that for every 100 new cases diagnosed, 80 of them die majorly because they come to our health facilities late," UCI said in a recent statement.

Several cancer services have been decentralized at least up to the regional level according to the ministry of health. Previously patients were traveling all the way to UCI in the capital Kampala to access care services.

According to the health ministry, currently 198 cancer experts are being trained in different fields to diagnose and manage cancer, undertake cutting edge cancer research and offer training in cancer across the country.

The country is also working on establishing a National Reference Laboratory for Cancer, which will improve cancer diagnosis and other non-communicable diseases, according to the ministry.

Xinhua



Children read storybooks at home at Seguku in Wakiso District, Uganda, on Sept. 8, 2021. (Photo by Hajarrah Nalwadda/Xinhua)

Donkey milk gains popularity in Botswana as treatment for post-Covid complications

GABORONE

WHEN Francinah Chennapragada recovered from COVID-19 in July, she experienced post COVID-19 complications that brought her to a point of paralysis.

"During the ten days of quarantine I was fine. But I experienced serious problems after that. I could not even walk, and was in constant exhaustion," Chennapragada told Xinhua.

After four weeks of being in and out of various hospitals, she still felt that something wasn't quite right with her body. "At hospitals, the doctors had taken blood tests and checked my kidneys but found nothing wrong," she explained.

However, after three days of consuming 6 bottles of donkey milk and taking lengana and purslane capsules which she bought from Secret Kahalari, Chennapragada said she started feeling normal for the first time since she tested positive for COVID-19.

"I can walk again. I am doing little exercises as well. I am even looking forward to going back to Francistown to re-join my husband," she said cheerfully.

The fact that people are resorting to traditional remedies in the face of COVID-19 has not come as a surprise for scientists such as Wame Boitumelo, a dairy scientist at the Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

"COVID-19 has encouraged a lot of people to look for alternative remedies, especially those that were used before. The older generation can even tell you that children used to be given donkey milk especially for ailments like whooping cough," said Boitumelo.

Though he said more research needs to be done to ascertain the benefits of donkey milk on human health, from their analysis he highlighted that donkey milk is closer to human (breast) milk.

As such, he said it contains more whey proteins and less fat, making it easier to digest. "The component protein is less casein than whey. The whey protein seems to assist in the bacterial infection fight. The lactose supplies most of the energy," he explained.

To increase the production of donkey milk in the

country, and to advance the manufacturing of donkey milk products in the event of the recent challenges, Boitumelo urged local scientists to undertake in-depth research on how to increase milk production per animal as one donkey produces about a liter of milk per day.

As founder of Secret Kalahari, a company that sells health-boosting products made from donkey milk, Visagie believes in the benefits of donkey milk that has been used throughout history for its cosmetic and medicinal qualities, and is hell-bent on ensuring the indigenous knowledge system is acknowledged by the modern world.

The indigenous company he created is now popular for its donkey milk products such as donkey milk soap, donkey milk lotion, and donkey milk face scrub and a diverse line of health supplement capsules for sugar diabetes, arthritis, high blood pressure, erectile dysfunction and other ailments.

Visagie's family has been using donkey milk for over 200 years, a practice which he said has given them long life and saved his life when he was diagnosed with an enlarged heart back in 2012. Visagie said he then consulted with his grandmother, who advised him to buy two donkeys and drink their milk.

"I did exactly that for four months," he said. When he eventually went for his final check-up before the surgery, his doctor scanned him and was amazed at his recovery.

"At first he fiddled with the machine thinking something was wrong, then he asked me what I had been using," Visagie said. Following this experience, Visagie's doctor did his own research and started recommending Visagie's donkey milk



A man shares a carrot with his donkey during the 53rd traditional donkey race in Tribunj, Croatia, on Aug. 29, 2020. File photo

for his patients.

"I did my own research too. I took the milk to the University of Botswana, where they did an analysis that shows that donkey milk contains 1 percent fat. And of this 1 percent, 40 percent consists of oleic acid which is very good for human health," he explained, adding that another 30 percent of that one percent consists of other properties that

dissolve the fats that clog arteries, thus reducing the risk of stroke and heart disease.

"Sales fell last year because of the pandemic, but this year things got better. Our immune booster combo has been raking in sales from those wanting to protect themselves from COVID-19. And that includes my own daughter who has now recovered," he said.

The booster is not a COVID-19 cure but is purported to be an immune booster that can help one fight off the virus better. Now,

Visagie is working with a European funder who is helping him set up a bigger factory and a donkey milking parlour that will enable him to meet local and international demand. **Xinhua**

Kenyan slum youth embrace martial arts to boost resilience amid hardships

NAIROBI

AT the sprawling Kiandutu slums located in central Kenya's industrial town of Thika, the dawn of a new day is a nightmare for Mike Walker and his youthful peers amid deprivation that stalks them with unrelenting ferocity.

Born and bred in the informal settlements sandwiched between factories and empty fields for grazing cattle, Walker had close encounter with hardships at a tender age, which has made him appreciate grit and ingenuity.

He is a proud graduate of Young Dragons Academy, a charitable organization that teaches martial arts skills like Karate and Kungfu to children and youth from slums in Thika town, enhancing their resilience and self-defense.

"The training on Karate, Taekwondo and Kungfu that we have been receiving at the academy is quite grueling but I have no regrets because it has boosted my self-esteem, mental and physical agility," Walker during a recent interview.

Besides gaining life skills courtesy of martial arts, I feel confident to confront any threat like an attack by armed criminals which is common in the slums."

Currently pursuing undergraduate studies at a local university, Walker said that joining the Young Dragons Academy at the age of five was a strategic decision that has yielded positive outcomes including frequent travels and exposure to life-changing opportunities.

With life skills acquired at the martial arts academy, Walker has escaped the snare of social ills like crime, drug and alcohol abuse that have taken a toll on slum youth.

The open grounds adjacent to Thika slums where children have been training for Karate, Kungfu and Taekwondo are currently a prized destination for parents keen to see the best outcomes from their offspring.

Elizabeth Rakwaro, the middle-aged founder of Young Dragons Academy, said her quest to transform



lives of disadvantaged children and youth has won accolades from parents, teachers and elected leaders.

According to Rakwaro, the academy since its inception in 2008 has trained more than 500 youngsters from Thika slums a mixture of martial arts, basic discipline and survival skills.

"I was driven by a desire to rescue slum children and youth from the snares of crime by imparting in them life skills. Other than training them to be self-reliant, I have also trained these boys and girls how to defend themselves in case of physical

attack," said Rakwaro.

She said that girls in particular have gained immensely from martial arts amid ability to fend off potential sexual predators who often take advantage of their vulnerabilities.

Rakwaro said that currently, there are 54 children who use the open grounds to get training from midmorning until evening during weekends and public holidays when they are not in school.

"The aim of Young Dragons Academy is to improve martial arts prowess among slum children and youth,

enhance their resilience in the face of economic hardships and social breakdown," said Rakwaro, noting that children between the ages of 5 and 18 who have embraced martial arts with gusto have reported improved academic performance and life skills.

Rakwaro disclosed that her academy has produced Karate and Taekwondo teams that have participated in national, regional and global tournament, where their performances were impressive.

An underage female trainee, who pre-

ferred to be addressed using her first name Agnes, said enrolling at the martial arts club at the age of 15 early this year has been a transformative experience amid new life skills gained and new friendships forged. "We are like a family bound together by pursuit of a shared interests and values.

So I'm happy to be a member of the martial arts club and have been encouraging my friends to enrol since the benefits are immense," said Agnes.

Her sentiments were shared by Peter Mwangi, a senior high school student who said that joining Young Dragons Academy at the age of 14 has nurtured in him the virtues of collective duty, courage, sacrifice and discipline.

"I can say authoritatively that all these genres of martial arts have been very rewarding to my academic and personal lives. Besides improving on my performance in class, I'm now able to relate better with my parents, teachers and age mates thanks to discipline that is a key virtue of Karate and Kungfu," said Mwangi, now aged 17.

Susan Nyambura, a parent of a child at the Karate team, said she was proud of her offspring's positive outlook, empathy, ability to build bridges of friendship and dedication to duty thanks to the teachings at the martial arts club.

Xinhua

CAPITAL RADIO

RATIBA YA VIPINDI JUMATATU - JUMAPILI

Rescuers pull villagers from flood waters in Xingyang city in China's Henan Province.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME	TIME PROGRAMME
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 KIPIMA JOTO 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 UMJUAVYO 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

Rural network connectivity facilitating digital society as well as financial inclusion

By Guardian Reporter

TECHNOLOGY and connectivity have the potential to create a more equitable and inclusive digital society. Internet access is a powerful facilitator of economic participation and financial inclusion.

This is why Vodacom Tanzania prioritises the expansion of coverage to rural communities that have never been connected to the network through its Vodacom's rural coverage acceleration program.

The company is determined to continue improving rural area network connectivity facilitates as part of its Africa connected initiative which is in line with its social contract - to ensure wide internet adoption among Tanzanians.

It has set itself a target of bringing broadband internet connectivity to 65 percent of the population by the end of 2021 and a final target of 90 percent by 2024. This is in line with the government's stated goal of raising broadband coverage from 45 percent to 80 percent.

As of now, broadband connectivity provided by Vodacom covers approximately 52 percent of the population in 1,184 villages across the country.

In partnership with Universal Service Access Fund (UCSFAF) Vodacom has extended its mobile network coverage in rural areas to cover 92 percent of the Tanzanian population and thus cementing its place as the leader for all communications solutions, providing

the best voice and data services as well as financial and social service products.

For over 2 decades now, Vodacom has been continuously investing and improving its network to make sure that it provides its customers with the latest cutting-edge technology as well as the most innovative products and solutions available in the market.

With investments worth over 171.4bn/- on 4G alone, the company currently maintains over 3,000 2G sites, some 2,800 3G sites and more than 2,000 4G sites, giving it the widest and fastest network coverage in the country that potentially reaches 92 percent of the population.

The government's strategy and policies go beyond merely having wide network coverage in the country, it also wants to ensure equitable accessibility of the network and services for its people.

Working with different government and private sector partners, Vodacom is contributing to this agenda by bringing affordable handsets to market, providing effective solutions to users with hearing or visual impairment as well as direct support to other government-led social initiatives.

This network reach is backed up by the latest in technological capabilities and innovative and relevant products and services thus allowing Vodacom users to truly benefit from the access they get. One such service is the M-Pesa mobile money platform. It has accumulated over 10 million users serviced by a nationwide network



of more than 107,000 agents.

Over the years, the platform has evolved to reach rural customers who otherwise have no access to formal financial services as well as connecting farmers to vital information and payment systems through the M-Kulima service, with over 10,000 active users.

The data available backs up Vodacom Tanzania's claim to having the widest network coverage, best 4G speeds and largest number of users. With their current campaign dubbed "kimbiza na 4G ya ukweli," the company reiterates that network is not just about coverage and reach but also quality. Independent research has indicated Vodacom Network is well

ahead of its competition in terms of speed, reliability and efficiency.

Using its technological advantage over the competition, Vodacom leverages its network to provide vital services and reliable network connection with a user-friendly experience thus allowing more Tanzanians to experience the digital lifestyle.

This dedication has resulted in the most robust, reliable 4G network with the widest coverage in the country, running at 27mbps which is twice as fast as its nearest competitor.

The vast reach and unmatched technical capacity translate to an unequalled network that allows Vodacom users unparalleled ac-

cess to the internet, as well as the best voice and messaging services.

The country-wide reach of its network also serves as a basis for delivery of life-saving interventions to rural area users.

In collaboration with CCBRT for example, over 6,000 fistula patients have received surgical treatments, the vast majority being people from rural areas.

There are, of course many more benefits accruing from mobile connectivity.

A wide network affords diverse stakeholders, collaborators and innovators opportunities to create and deliver empowering products and services that all serve to

build up our communities and the nation as a whole both socially and economically. These products and services include education, health, commerce and even entertainment.

In working towards creating a connected, digital society, Vodacom Tanzania has built a fast and reliable national data network that promotes affordable internet for all users, contributes towards inclusion for all marginalized communities and even helping to mitigate against the negative impacts of climate change. All while also being the largest tax payer in the telecommunications sector, having paid 1.9trn/- in the period 2015-2020.

African small-scale farmers use radio, mobile phones to send messages to world leaders attending Food Systems Summit

By Special Correspondent

SMALL-SCALE farmers in sub-Saharan Africa are impacted disproportionately by climate change, poverty and under nutrition, yet a recent released report shows many remain optimistic about the future of farming.

Of the thousands of farmers taking part in the four-country survey, two-thirds believe their children can succeed in farming, though many cautioned that food systems will need to change in order to make living incomes possible, according to a report released by Farm Radio International (FRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Vision Canada and the Canadian Food Security Policy Group (FSPG).

Dubbed "On Air Dialogues: Listening to Rural People", the report includes data gathered over three weeks in June 2021 by six radio stations in four African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania, and Uganda).

The release is timed to bring the voices of rural small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa to the UN Food System Summit on 23 September - an event that includes global leaders, scientists, academics, policy advisors and UN officials - but few of the world's poorest food producers.

"There's growing global recognition that solutions can only be sustainable and relevant if they reflect people's local realities and experiences. But leaders often struggle with how to access the opinions of people, especially in remote areas. Radio, combined with new technologies, is a powerful tool that is too often overlooked," said Hélène Papper, an IFAD director of global communications and advocacy.

He thanked to the interactive radio shows and innovative mobile phone polling, farmers were able to directly voice their concerns and share their proposed solutions when it comes to global food systems. In response, 3,494 participants left 11,854 answers and 2,648 audio messages.

"With direct input from so many rural farmers, we now have greater insight into their challenges, and how we can support their strong desire to stay in their communities and build a future for their families in agriculture. These are the voices that global leaders gathering for this week's Food Systems Summit need to hear, and act upon."

"Small-scale farmers working on plots less than two hectares produce over 30 percent of global food and yet there are significant barriers to their participation in global discussions and decision-making processes," said Kevin Perkins, FRI spokesperson. "This report helps



change that. Our goal was to create a platform for rural people, especially women and youth, to share their concerns and solutions for a healthier, more sustainable, productive, and equitable food system."

Oscar, a small-scale farmer from Tanzania was among those who took part in the survey. His comment points to one of the many

inequities that exist across food systems. "Our crops are bought at a very low price," he said. "The businessmen and middlemen buy our crops at their prices and not at farmers' prices."

Respondents like Oscar called for better access to loans and credit, inputs, better markets, and more information, as well as better training on farming techniques and busi-

ness management. Women farmers, in particular, emphasized the need for access to loans, credit, and financial support as vital for their success.

"This is particularly critical for women smallholder farmers, who produce more than half of all the food that is grown yet continue to face discrimination resulting in limited decision-making power, ac-

cess to and control over productive resources that limit their participation in local food systems," said Angeline Munzara, World Vision International spokesperson. "Listening to their voices and solutions to transform the food system is essential to ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all."

Many respondents noted specific concerns about the effects of chemical pesticides and fertilizers on the safety of food, and emphasized the benefits of agro-ecological approaches and basing food production around local farming systems;

More than 90 percent of respondents felt there was something they could do in their community to cope with climate change. Fewer than 1 in 12 said the only way to cope with climate change would be to move away from their homes;

Compared to men, women were more concerned about household nutritional intake, were more likely to consider loans and credit as key to farming success, and relied more strongly on informal networks such as friends and neighbours for information.

On Air Dialogues: Listening to Rural People is an official submission to the Food Systems Summit (FSS) which scheduled for September 23. Under the leadership of Secretary-General António Guterres, the FSS is the culmination of 18 months of engagement with governments, food producers, civil society and companies on how to transform the way countries produce, process and consume food.

By Guardian Correspondent

AS nations today marks the World Pharmacy Day, medical experts in Tanzania have raised an alarm over rising antimicrobial resistance triggered by the wrong use of antibiotics, increasing chances for dangerous bacteria to outsmart the drugs designed to kill it.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global public health threat with the potential to kill 10 million people by 2050, let alone ravaging the economy, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The problem, which mostly affects poor countries in sub-Saharan Africa, occurs when bacteria, fungi or viruses become unresponsive to drugs and evolve to resist it.

In Tanzania, where cash-strapped people often rush to a local pharmacy to buy over-the-counter antibiotics at the slightest hint of a fever

or cold, the prevalence of infections with multi-drug resistant bacteria is high, officials said.

Weapons for specific targets
Deus Kitapondya, a renowned emergency medicine physician based in Dar es Salaam, said the use of antibiotics without a doctor's prescription is highly discouraged because the patient may be attempting to treat a symptom that is not caused by bacteria.

"Even if the symptom is caused by a bacterial infection, there are chances that the drug might be unresponsive to such bacteria, thus increasing the risk of antibiotics resistance," he said.

Kitapondya said antibiotics act like weapons designed to attack a specific target.

"Every antibiotic targets specific

bacteria. Therefore, medicines bought over-the-counter will definitely miss the target. In this case, bacteria will thrive unharmed or partially harmed," he told Anadolu Agency in an interview.

Kitapondya said bacteria which multiply quickly and attack very fast can resist antibiotics, forcing doctors to assign higher doses to harm or kill them.

"Random use of antibiotics has high chances of creating bacteria tolerance, resistance and mutation," he stressed.

In 2017, Tanzania launched the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance to curb antimicrobial resistance and deter misuse of antibiotics among its citizens.

The five-year initiative involves action to combat the looming threat

through raising awareness and changing behavior.

Although data on antibiotic resistance are hard to come by in Tanzania, health authorities are certain that resistance to commonly used antibiotics such as ampicillin, tetracycline and ciprofloxacin is significant.

In Dar es Salaam, residents in poor neighborhoods usually buy a few antibiotic tablets instead of the full prescribed dose to treat fever-like symptoms as they desperately try to save money.

"Over-the-counter antibiotics may ease the symptoms temporarily and a patient might feel relieved quickly, but the underlying illness will remain," said Linus Chuwa, a senior epidemiologist at St. Bernard Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

Antibiotic misuse drives drug-resistant bacteria in Tanzania

in a knee-length white lab coat, who listened attentively to Mtalaze as she described her daughter's symptoms and rattled off a buffet of pills he had earlier dispensed to her. "None of these medicines worked," she said angrily.

Like many quacks who provide on-the-spot diagnoses in this neighborhood, Kavishe is neither a trained pharmacist, nor does he possess any medical skills.

Driven by his natural instincts, Kavishe assertively picked some antibiotics that he had yet to sell to Mtalaze and slotted them in a white envelope.

"Let her swallow two tablets twice a day. Make sure she drinks a lot of water," he told the shocked mother. Despite his lack of expertise, Kavishe's hands-on experience informed his prescribing decisions, and he knows the antibiotics may not be working because they often don't cure the people who buy them.

BUSINESS

EMPOWERMENT

TCB vows to make finance work for women

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

THE Tanzania Commercial Bank (TCB) has vowed to use its recently formed Business Forum for Women to promote the group's economic prosperity by making finance work for them.

TCB which changed its name from TPB Bank Plc mid this year, remains the oldest bank in the country. TCB's CEO, Sabasaba Moshingi said here during a BFW meeting that the bank will accomplish its noble mission of becoming a market leader for advancing women's financial inclusion.

Moshingi said the ultimate goal of the undertaking, is to support efforts of the government to empower women economically and boost their effective engagement in productive activities.

He told participants to the second edition of TCB Business Forum for Women, that the endeavour revolves around catapulting women banking to unprecedented new heights.

The strategy to make that possible, he explained, mostly involves enlightenment on available economic empowerment and entrepreneurship opportunities at the bank.

It will also involve use of existing and new innovative financial solutions. The strategy will be backed by TCB's financial muscle and its unrivalled market outreach.

"We have an extensive branch network of 82 outlets comprising 46 main units and 36 mini branch-



Tanzania Commercial Bank CEO Sabasaba Moshingi.

es across Tanzania. Here in Mbeya City, we have three branches but we plan to have more so that we can serve you better," the TCB chief executive told the forum's participants.

He further stated that the inaugural TCB Business Forum for Women was held early this month in Dodoma City. Yesterday's event whose opening was graced by Deputy Speaker, Dr Tulia Ackson attracted 250 participants.

Similar roundtables will be organised in Zanzibar, Morogoro, Arusha, Mwanza and Dar es Salaam. The gatherings accord par-

ticipants a platform to see, hear and learn from successful businesswomen and get to know TCB and its products better.

Moshingi used performance figures during the past 10 years of the bank's transformation to illustrate its ability to make finance support the women's economic empowerment agenda.

During the period, the fortunes of the 96-year old lender blossomed tremendously with its balance sheet expanding from 136bn/- to over 1.04trn/- last year. Its revenue peaked 155bn/- from 20bn/- in 2010, Moshingi noted.

In terms of profitability, the TCB chief said the bank is currently among to most profitable in the market ranked sixth in all by 2020.

TCB's loan book surged from 65bn/- to over 618bn/- and to date, it has extended loans worth over 120bn/- to women who account for about 50 percent of its one million customers.

"When we took over the operations of Tanzania Women's Bank, we were directed to give women special attention and that is being done effectively. I call upon women in Mbeya to come and borrow from TCB which is ready to support you on that," Moshingi pledged.

Commenting on the forums themed: "The Role of Women in the Development of the National Economy," Dr Ackson said the focus of their deliberations was timely and augurs well with the government's efforts to leave no woman behind in creating a prosperous Tanzania.

"With this initiative, TCB is going to play a significant transformative role in changing the financial and economic status of women. I congratulate you for coming up with this idea and call upon Mbeya women to seize this rare opportunity," the Mbeya Urban lawmaker noted.

However, she cautioned the bank against lending without doing due diligence of the projects to be financed and enlightening borrowers on the best ways to invest the borrowed funds.



A military commander sculpture looted by British soldiers from the Kingdom of Benin in 1897 hangs on display in the "Where Is Africa" exhibition.

INCENTIVE

In what is new take on looted bronzes Nigerian artists offer artworks to British Museum

BENINI CITY/NIGERIA

A new guild of artists from Nigeria's Benin City has offered to donate artworks to the British Museum in London as a way to encourage it to return the priceless Benin Bronzes that were looted from the city's royal court by British troops in 1897.

Created in the once mighty Kingdom of Benin from at least the 16th century onwards, the bronze and brass sculptures are among Africa's finest and most culturally significant artefacts. European museums that house them have faced years of criticism because of their status as loot and symbols of colonial greed.

The Ahiamwen Guild of artists and bronze casters says it wants to change the terms of the debate by giving the British Museum contemporary artworks, untainted by any history of looting, that showcase Benin City's modern-day culture.

"We never stopped making the bronzes even after those ones were stolen," said Osarobo Zeickner-Okoro, a founding member of the new guild and the instigator of the proposed donation. "I think we make them even better now."

"Part of the crime that's been committed, it's not just ok, these were looted, it's the fact that you've portrayed our civilisation as a dead civilisation, you've put us among ancient Egypt or something," he said.

The artworks on offer, unveiled in Benin City in a ceremony attended by a member of the royal court, include a

2-metre-by-2-metre bronze plaque with carvings representing historical events in Benin, and a life-size ram made entirely from spark plugs.

Asked to comment on the offer, the British Museum said only that it was a matter for discussion between itself and the parties offering the objects. Zeickner-Okoro, who travelled from Benin City to London this month partly to advance his initiative, said he had a meeting coming up with curators from the museum's Africa department.

While Germany has said it wants to return Benin Bronzes from its museums to Nigeria, the British Museum, which houses the largest and most significant collection of the items, has stopped short of making a clear commitment.

It says on its website that its director, Hartwig Fischer, had an audience with the Oba, or king, of Benin in 2018 "which included discussion of new opportunities for sharing and displaying objects from the Kingdom of Benin."

But many people in Benin City see no justification for European museums holding onto loot. "They must bring it back. It is not their father's property. The property belongs to the Oba of Benin," said bronze caster Chief Nosa Ogiakhia.

Zeickner-Okoro, who grew up partly in Britain before moving back to Benin City, acknowledged that the Benin Bronzes' presence in European museums had allowed them to reach a global audience. But he said they should now return to the place and the people that created them.

ANGELS

Cape Flats brothers feed one million mouths since start of Covid pandemic

CAPE TOWN

Two Cape Flats brothers have managed to feed one million mouths across the Mother City after starting a feeding scheme when the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country.

Joe "Spaza" who had been working in the hospitality industry for many years, and his brother Faieck, who has a background in the financial sector, started the Invisible Hands feeding scheme last year in a bid to feed struggling residents affected by the impact of the pandemic.

On Saturday, the brothers celebrated the milestone of feeding one million mouths by cooking 105 pots of food (100 litres each) and distributing meals in various Cape Flats communities.

Joe and Faieck told News24 they cooked a "noodle broth" for the celebration and distributed it in several areas, including Wynberg, Muizenberg, Mitchells Plain, Delft, Hanover Park, Atlantis, Paarl, Worcester and Grabouw.

And even Cape Town Mayor Dan Plato managed to pop in for the occasion to congratulate the brothers for the work they were doing in com-



Wynberg brothers Joe and Faieck Samodien (bending) ready to feed everyone in Cape Town.

munities. Joe said it was "wonderful" to be recognised by the mayor of Cape Town.

According to the brothers, the mayor tried out their noodle broth and thoroughly enjoyed it. "The mayor was astounded that we are able to make pots and pots of food in the little space we have at my home," said Joe.

"Invisible Hands was started in Joe's garage at his house in Wyn-

berg. We literally just had 80 cents in our kitty. We had no idea how we were going to pull the food scheme off, but we knew we needed to feed people that didn't have the means to buy or get a plate of food," Faieck said.

According to Joe, Faieck had just received his salary and had sponsored the very first pot of food. "Our very first pot of food was a pot of chicken akni. We ended up feeding

250 people in the Parkwood area. It was wonderful to see so many people grateful for the food," said Joe.

Joe said even though they have managed to feed one million people, they still feel like the feeding scheme is in its infancy. The brothers manage to feed those less fortunate by generating donations through fundraisers, Joe's contacts in the hospitality industry as well as friends and family.

LOBBYING

'Museum board' appeals for national art gallery soon

NAIROBI

When Tony Wainaina speaks to friends of Kenya Museum Society tomorrow afternoon, one of Kenya's top financial consultants won't be focused so much on finances as on the future of Kenyan culture. As chairman of the National Museum's board of governors, he will be talking about the National Art Gallery and the need for Kenya to finally

establish one of our own.

"It's been [more than] a fifty-year journey since the need for a national art gallery was raised, but still it hasn't happened," says the man who is currently spearheading a struggle with the government that began as early as 1966 when Kenya's second vice president Joseph Murumbi proposed such an institution in Parliament.

"I'll be speaking about the

rationale for having a national art gallery comparable to the National Gallery in London and the Smithsonian in Washington, DC," says Wainaina. He might have referred to ones in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Nigeria as well. One point he says the government has yet to understand is that Kenya's creative economy is growing fast.

And while it may not yet

be equivalent to that of the US, India or even Nigeria, the revenues from the arts industries in all those countries are exceeding many of the traditional revenue spinners today. Just look at Hollywood, Nollywood, and Bollywood, all of which are reaping millions from the arts.

"If Kenyan politicians understood the economic value of the arts, they might stop pushing cultural

concerns to the bottom of their budgetary priorities," he adds. But a man like Murumbi was equally concerned about the development of Kenya's cultural identity.

A national art gallery would serve as a repository for the arts. It would also play a central role in conserving some of Kenya's finest artists' works which now reside overseas, everywhere from Russia, Italy, and the British Museum to

multiple museums in US and Europe.

Since the sixties, the visual arts scene has grown by leaps and bounds, starting with Kenya's first African-owned art gallery, Paa ya Paa in 1965. Other commercial galleries also have been active since the sixties, including Gallery Watatu, Studio 68, and the New Stanley Art Gallery.

Foreign cultural institutions have also played a role in pro-

moting Kenyan visual culture, starting with Goethe Institute followed by the French, British, Italian, and American. Yet none of them could fulfill the role of a national art gallery. According to artists like Etale Sukuro and Murumbi himself, the dream of a national art gallery nearly happened when the government bought the building that is now the National Archive in the late 1970s.

RELIEF

Ten things to know as bars reopen

KIGALI

The Ministry of Trade and Industries has released guidelines that should be followed by bars in order to be given permission to resume operations, key of which is the fact that all the employees of bars must have been vaccinated.

Announced on Thursday, September 23, the guidelines are coming after a cabinet meeting that sat on Tuesday, September 21 gave greenlight to bars to reopen in the City of Kigali after having been closed for a period of about 18 months, as the authorities sought to curb the spread of Covid-19. Here are 10 things you may need to know about the new guidelines:

All workers must have been vaccinated. The Ministry of Trade and Industry requires any bar that to make sure that its workers have been vaccinated against Covid-19, before applying to get permission for reopening.

Screening after every 14 days

Bar owners are required to have their workers screened for Covid-19 after every 14 days.

Only registered bars will be reopened



A waiter serves a customer in a bar in Kigali.

Another thing that the authorities will be looking for to reopen a bar is: an operation license from the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) or a registration documents from the

leadership of the sector in which it operates.

Observing hygiene standards and preventive measures

Here, bars have to put in place handwashing facilities at their entrances. Either soap and water or sanitizers can be used. People should sit observing a social distance of 1.5 meters from each other.

Digital payments encouraged

"The bars should put in place digital payment means, and should encourage their clients to use them," reads the statement from the Ministry.

Putting in place specific staff for monitoring the observance of preventive measures

Every bar has to have at least one worker that is responsible of supervising the implementation of the preventive measures. This worker or workers have to be dressed in yellow, according to the Ministry. Doors and windows should remain open.

The doors and windows of bars have to be open so that aeration bounces well within the areas where people are seated. The ministry also

encourages bars to serve clients in open spaces (outside) if possible.

Mandatory wearing of facemasks

All people that enter a bar should come with their face masks on. Bar employees must have their masks on all the time.

Bars that fulfil requirements ask seek permission to reopen from the sector authorities or RDB

A bar that meets the requirements seeks for permission to reopen from the sector in which it operates, or from RDB - for those that hold RDB's operating license. After inspection from authorities, a bar can be reopened. The permission that allows a particular bar to operate should be pinned in a visible place within its premises.

Punishments in case of non-compliance

Punishments in case of not adhering to the guidelines will apply. These will be stipulated by the relevant committees within the city of Kigali or districts. The City of Kigali or district authorities may put in place more guidelines that are not communicated in the Ministry of Trade's communique.

COUNSELLING

NAIROBI

During pregnancy, most women are careful about what they consume or activities they engage in to avoid harming the unborn. Even though exercises are considered beneficial during this time, many women refrain from sustained physical activity throughout the pregnancy for fear of hurting the baby.

Doctors note that exercises are fine, so long as they carry little risk of injury for the pregnant women. Swimming, brisk walking, indoor stationary cycling, and low-impact aerobics (taught by a certified instructor) make the list. For women, exercises during pregnancy can help reduce backaches, constipation, bloating and swelling that are common.

Exercises also help them to sleep better and boost their energy levels. Physical activity is also recommended to prevent excess weight gain and promote muscle tone, strength and endurance. Aside from the mother, new studies are increasingly providing evidence that exercise benefits go beyond the mother to her unborn baby.

A recent study presented at the 2021 European Respiratory Society International Congress indicated that pregnancy exercise improves the lung health of unborn babies, hence reducing their risk of suffering from respiratory conditions such as asthma. The study builds on others that have shown that individuals with low lung function in infancy have a higher risk of asthma, other obstructive lung diseases leading to improper functioning of lungs later.

"Therefore, exploring factors that can be associated with lung function in infants is important. If being physically active during pregnancy could reduce the risk of impaired infant lung function, it

Pregnancy exercise for healthy lungs of baby



A pregnant woman exercising.

would be a simple, low-cost way to improve the respiratory health of the offspring," noted Hrefna Gudmundsdottir, a paediatrician and one of the authors of the study, from the University of Oslo.

During the study, the researchers assessed data from 814 healthy babies born in Oslo and Stock-

holm between December 2014 and October 2016. The women were asked to complete questionnaires at around 18 and 34 weeks of pregnancy about their health, lifestyle, socioeconomic factors and nutrition. During this period, they reported how often they exercised, for how long and at what

intensity. Based on their responses, they were classified as either inactive, fairly active or very active.

Thereafter, lung function measurements were performed when the babies were about three months old. The assessment was done by measuring normal

breathing in calm, awake infants. Compared to babies of active mothers, the results of the study revealed that children of inactive mothers were more likely to have low lung function (with a measurement of less than 0.25 tPTEF/tE)

"In our study, we found that ba-

bies born to inactive mothers were more likely to be in the group with the lowest lung function compared to babies born to active mothers," stated Dr Gudmundsdottir.

"We observed a trend that adds to the importance of advising women of child-bearing age and pregnant women about physical activity. However, there may be factors that affect both maternal physical activity and lung function in offspring that we have not accounted for and could affect the results. So, more research is needed."

The researchers will be monitoring the babies as they grow to see how lung function progresses and how it relates to the development of respiratory diseases, such as asthma. "We also hope to explore associations between maternal physical activity and asthma, allergies and other non-communicable diseases in the future," she concluded.

Jonathan Grigg, a professor of Paediatric Respiratory and Environmental Medicine at Queen Mary University of London said: "There is much that we know already about the importance of expectant mothers staying physically fit and active."

But far less is known about the impact of this on their babies. This study offers a fascinating hint that increased physical activity of mothers is associated with better lung function in their babies and, therefore, possibly their health in later life. "More research is needed to confirm this link, but it is important that women feel supported by their healthcare providers to be active in a way that is comfortable and accessible to them."

PENALTY

Six landscaping company workers in trouble for illegally 'pruning' acacias worth R600 000

JOHANNESBURG

Six employees from a private landscaping company have landed in hot water after allegedly being caught illegally pruning acacias in Fourways.

According to the Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, senior horticulturist Joseph Ndou was conducting his morning site visits along William Nicol in Fourways when he came across a team of employees from a leading landscaping company, illegally pruning trees worth R600 000.

The acacias are believed to be between 20 and 30 years old. City Parks spokesperson Jenny Moodley said the Douglasdale police had arrested six people. They have been charged with

malicious damage to public infrastructure.

Shesaid: "The City has a standard fine for illegally pruning trees. In this case, an assessment will have to be done on the tree to see how much they will be fined. The cost will be determined by how much damage they have inflicted on the tree. It can go up to a maximum of R600 000." Gauteng police have not yet responded to a request for comment.

Moodley said that, over the next few months, the City would have to give the acacias extra attention to ensure they survived. According to the City, the workers were pruning the acacias on the instruction of a shopping centre that wanted to increase the visibility of their advertising

signage.

"For now, we are going after the landscaping company. They know the by-laws. They should have contacted the City to ask for permission or assistance." Moodley said the City took a serious stance against illegal tree pruning and felling.

"It takes a lot of time to get the trees that they pruned to survive. The tree loss in new plants is so much higher. If we want to replace the six that were damaged, we have to plant twice that number. The tree loss is a reality because of cars driving over them, natural diseases and weather conditions." Bryne Maduka, the managing director of Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo, agreed with Moodley that the tree population

in the city was in trouble, saying:

The City of Joburg's manmade forest is at risk. Species such as the Jacaranda are reaching their full life expectancy. The challenges are further compounded by climate change, giving rise to erratic weather resulting in trees being uprooted and the arrival of the diseases such as, the Polyphagus Shothole Borer infestation, which is accelerating the demise of trees mostly in historically lush green suburbs.

He said increasing urbanisation also meant that the city could not plant as many trees as they wanted. "Now more than ever, we need to hasten our resolve to plant trees and become more informed on why every tree in our city matters," he said.



Branches of an acacia tree at the Kruger National Park.

WORLD

'Death sentence': Low-lying states urge faster climate action at UN

UNITED NATIONS

FACED with what they see as an existential threat, leaders from low-lying and island nations implored rich countries at the United Nations General Assembly this week to act more forcefully against a warming planet.

The failure by developed economies to effectively curb their greenhouse gas emissions contributes to rising sea levels and especially imperils island and low-lying nations at the mercy of water.

"We simply have no higher ground to cede," Marshall Islands President David Kabua told leaders in a pre-recorded speech at the high-level gathering on Wednesday. "The world simply cannot delay climate ambition any further."

Countries agreed under the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change mitigation to attempt to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the threshold scientists say would head off the worst impacts of warming. To do that, scientists say, the world needs to cut global emissions in half by 2030, and to net-

zero by 2050.

"The difference between 1.5 degrees and 2 degrees is a death sentence for the Maldives," President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih told world leaders on Tuesday.

Guyana President Irfaan Ali criticized polluters for not delivering on promises to curb emissions, accusing them of "failure" and warning that climate change will kill far more people than the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We hold out similar hope that emitters of greenhouse gases that are affecting the welfare of all mankind will also come to the realization that, in the end, it will profit them little to emerge king over a world of dust," Ali told world leaders on Thursday.

He said small island states and countries with low-lying coastlines, like Guyana, will bear the full brunt of the impending disaster despite being among the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases.

Richard Gowan, UN director at the International Crisis Group, said there had been a "sense of existential crisis" running through the annual gathering at the



President of Republic of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih addresses the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly at United Nations headquarters in New York on Sept 21, 2021. AP

United Nations.

US President Joe Biden said on Tuesday he would work with Congress to double funds by 2024 to \$11.4 billion per year to help developing nations deal with climate change.

The funding would help achieve a global goal set more than a decade ago of \$100 billion per year to support climate action in vulnerable countries by 2020.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to stop building coal-fired power plants overseas, a move widely welcomed.

"We must act now"

Biden and Xi made their commitments less than six weeks before the Oct 31-Nov 12 COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, which UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said runs the risk of failure over mistrust between rich and poor countries.

President Chan Santokhi of Suriname, where much of the coastal area is low-lying, called for "ambitious and actionable commitments" to be made at COP26, urging developed countries to recommit to the \$100 billion per year.

Santokhi said that ideals and political commitments do not mean much if not supported by new financial resources.

"In the case of my country, Suriname, and the countries with low-lying coastal areas, we are committed to fighting climate change because we are particularly vulnerable even though we have contributed the least to this problem," he told the General Assembly.

The Pacific archipelago nation of Palau warned the world is running out of time. "Simply put, we must act now to ensure our children inherit a healthy and reliable future. We need to act now before further irreparable damage is made to our planet," Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr, said at the gathering.

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is preparing to host COP26, on Wednesday called on world leaders to make the necessary commitments and a collective pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Xi stresses safeguarding Communist governance

BEIJING

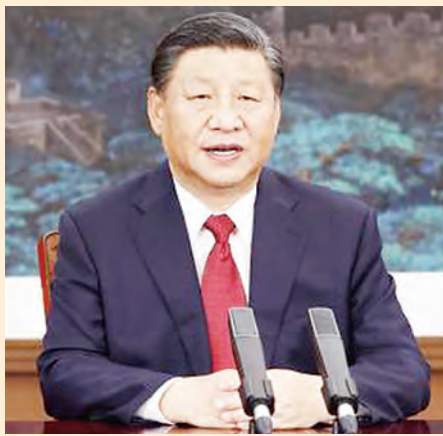
GENERAL Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday that it is the most fundamental common strategic interest of China and Vietnam to safeguard the security of their Communist parties' governance and that of their socialist systems.

Xi (pictured) made the remarks in a telephone conversation with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong.

Xi said he was glad to talk on the phone with Trong ahead of China's National Day, adding that so far this year, he and Trong have maintained close communication by multiple means, helping the two parties and countries deepen strategic mutual trust and consolidate traditional friendship, and jointly steering bilateral relations toward sustained and steady progress under new circumstances.

Facing the complicated and combined impacts of global changes and a pandemic both unseen in a century, China and Vietnam share many common interests and concerns, Xi noted.

He suggested that the two sides maintain the right direction, strengthen solidarity and cooperation, continuously develop the socialist cause, earnestly safeguard the fundamental interests of the two parties, countries and nations, and make positive contributions to regional and global peace



and development.

The Chinese side firmly supports Trong in leading the CPV and the Vietnamese people to advance on the socialist path suited to Vietnam's national conditions and realize the development goals set at the CPV's 13th national congress, Xi said.

The two sides, he added, should conduct institutionalized exchanges in such areas as theoretical discussions, cadre training and cooperation between local party committees, deepen communication and mutual learning between counterpart departments of the two parties and countries, and strengthen the guidance of public opinion.

They should also accelerate the coordination of their development strategies, create new bright spots in bilateral cooperation, and bring the people in both countries a greater sense of fulfillment,

Xi said, adding that China firmly supports the Vietnamese side in defeating COVID-19 and promoting economic and social development.

Meanwhile, they need to enhance coordination and cooperation in international and regional affairs, defend peace and stability in the South China Sea, oppose politicization of COVID-19 origins tracing, practice true multilateralism, and promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, Xi added.

For his part, Trong said that relations between the two parties and countries now enjoy a good momentum, featuring close high-level exchanges and fast-growing economic and trade cooperation.

Vietnam attaches great importance to the development of the Vietnam-China comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and always treats it as a top priority, he said, adding that his country is grateful for China's valuable support and assistance for Vietnam's fight against the pandemic and restoration of economic and social development.

The CPCV, he said, is willing to work with the CPC to strengthen inter-party exchanges, enhance political mutual trust, and deepen experience sharing on party and state governance.

China, Tonga to expand Belt and Road cooperation

Xi on Friday also held a phone conversation with Tonga's King Tupou VI, during which he said China is ready to expand co-

operation with Tonga in various fields within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative.

China will provide Tonga with economic and technological assistance without political strings attached, Xi said.

Facing the complicated and combined impacts of global changes unseen in a century and the pandemic, the two countries need to strengthen solidarity, coordination and cooperation, lift their comprehensive strategic partnership to new levels, and jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind, Xi said.

He stressed that China will continue to implement agritech cooperation projects and provide necessary assistance for Tonga's agricultural and fishery products to enter the Chinese market.

China welcomes Tongan enterprises to actively participate in the China International Import Expo and stands ready to continue to provide assistance within its capacity for Tonga's fight against the pandemic, Xi said. *Xinhua*

'Economic blackmail': Russian senator lashes out at US move taking aim at debt market

MOSCOW

DEPUTY Speaker of Russia's Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) Konstantin Kosachev took to Facebook on Friday and bashed Washington's defense policy bill for the next financial year, passed by the House of Representatives, as blackmail against Russia.

"We find it interesting because it contains another set of economic blackmail measures (which is what such unilateral sanctions usually are) against Russia. It's nothing new but on the whole, the implications are clear," he pointed out.

Kosachev noted that these restrictions were a weapon "since they are included in the defense policy bill."

"That said, the United States seeks to use its economic advantages, namely its influence on the global financial system, for military purposes, which particularly concerns the ban on American investors from purchasing Russian government bonds on the secondary market that is supposed to cause economic damage to Russia as a nation, and not specific officials.

Let's remember this regarding the flood of accusations against Russia for allegedly using its advantages in the gas industry against Europe," Kosachev emphasized.

He was confident that nowadays, these sanctions "have morphed into a tax on sovereignty." "It is the price that countries have to pay for pursuing an independent policy.

Their main goal is not to punish a country and set an example, but to intimidate nations that are on the fence: are you still pondering on how to behave in various situations, how to vote in the United Nations and from whom to purchase weapons? Here is the price of freedom, look at Russia," the senate speaker wrote.

He also said that the amendment concerning Russian bonds had been introduced in response to Moscow's alleged interference in US elections. "It seems absurd but it is no coincidence.

The Wall Street Journal has just published data, which makes it clear that the Russian election meddling story was made up and promoted by the Clinton campaign team. However, they still need to punish Russia," Kosachev noted. *Agencies*

Zambia set to make science, technology focus for economic transformation

LUSAKA

THE new Zambian government's move to create a ministry specifically responsible for science and technology is evident of its resolve to use science and technology in the country's economic transformation.

Former Finance Minister Felix Mutati, who is the minister of Science and Technology, knows the task ahead and believes that engagement with all stakeholders will be cardinal in making this a reality.

"Young people who are the future with their creative and innovative minds will be given space to translate their innovation and creativity into economic value," he said recently. Zambia can become the new Silicon Valley, said Mutati, noting that with a focused framework, the country can be at the cutting edge of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The Zambian minister said he is already taking the first step to actualize the bold and ambitious vision and promised that he will remain open-minded by interacting with scientists and innovators within and outside the country to ensure that science and technology becomes the driver of the country's economy.

Stakeholders believe that countries that have seen development have invested so much in science and technology.

"Science and technology can moderate socio-economic development goals, we can build key sectoral fundamentals from engulfing into the development process with full utilization of scientific methods and through advancement of technologies," Kelvin Chisanga, a social economist said.

While saying the creation of a ministry solely responsible for science and technology has placed Zambia at the right position of technological development, Chisanga added that the country has an opportunity to invent varied technological systems that may range from modifying hardware components to software developments.

Michael Mambwe, an information and communication technology (ICT) expert, suggested that the first step should be to set up ultra-modern physics, biology, chemistry as well as aerodynamic science laboratories in learning institutions in order to equip young people with knowledge in science and technology. And many analysts believe that there are more that need to be put in place before the country can realize the full benefits of science and technology. Among the measures should be the inclusion of the teaching of science and technology for school going children at an early age in order to create a generation savvy about science and technology.

The government should also provide adequate support for research and development as well as foster innovation and creativity in commerce and industry through financial incentives.

Xinhua

African nations asked to hasten energy transition in fight against climate change

NAIROBI

HASTENING the transition from non-renewable to renewable energy will help mitigate the effects of climate change in Africa, environmental activists noted on Thursday.

They, therefore, asked African governments to prioritize generation of power from renewable energy sources that include wind, solar and geothermal. Africa's energy

transition should be motivated by the need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and alleviation of climate change effects.

In Africa, energy poverty remains a significant concern with millions of people still lacking access to electricity," Ali Malekane, a South African climate activist, said during a continental online debate on climate change organized by

Climate Story Lab Africa as part of celebrations of Climate Week.

Malekane said Africa is rich in renewable energy sources that include hydro, solar and wind thus correct planning will lead to the right energy mix and at the same time assuage negative effects of climate change. Eugene Kwizera, a Kenyan environmentalist, said non-renewable energy is most expensive

though it is readily available, which has expanded its usage hastening effects of climate change. "Africa is not using wind and solar energy yet it has these resources in abundance.

Countries have the capability and the resources but political goodwill is missing. Priorities are not right when it comes to investment in renewable energy," Kwizera said.

Jeremy Atambo, a climate

activist from Kenya, said that to transition from non-renewable energy, African leaders should stop the debate on whether climate change is a crisis or not. Similarly, Maria Gitau, a conservationist, noted that if African nations invest in renewable energy, which is cheaper, their economies would take off as they will also be fighting climate change. *Xinhua*

Xinhua

First China-Africa rail-sea express train leaves Hunan

THE first train of a combined sea-rail transport service to Africa departed Zhuzhou, central China's Hunan province, on Sept. 15.

Carrying 86 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of rice aided by China to Africa, the train arrived at the Nansha port of Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong province the next morning, where the containers were transferred onto a ship before being transported to the Mombasa Port in Kenya by sea.

The train marked the launch of a new sea-rail logistics route linking cities in and around Hunan

province and African countries, effectively shortening the shipping time and lowering logistics costs.

The new logistics route covers 11 African seaports and 20 roads and railways to inland Africa. Compared with traditional sea-river shipping, the sea-rail mode reduces the shipping time between China and Africa by 15 days.

Besides, it can also shorten the logistics time to East Africa by 10 days and that to West Africa by 9 days, saving 3 percent of the transport cost.

Typically, cargos are shipped to ports by road for second-leg transport. Cargos now get to ports on rail tracks thanks to the sea-rail mode, saving nearly 60 percent of the first-leg cost.

To ensure a successful departure of the first train of the combined sea-rail transport service to Africa, the Changsha Cargo Shipment Center under China Railway Guangzhou Bureau Group Cooperation Limited, the operator of the route, enhanced its coordination and synergy on organizing, dispatching, and logistics cost to

optimize its working procedure and reduce the shipping time further, taking the combined sea-rail transport service as a priority of its work.

"We have learned our clients' demands for cargo handling in advance and then analyzed our shipping capability in a targeted manner to ensure maximum capacity," said Yan Minghui, director of the marketing department of the Changsha cargo shipment center.

"This is a new foreign trade channel of Hunan province and

will become an important logistics route linking central and western China with African countries," said Guo Ning, director of the Office of Port of Entry and Exit of Hunan province.

According to him, Zhuzhou is a major distribution center of the new logistics channel, and Hengyang, another city in Hunan province, serves as a sub-center. He said that the channel is seamlessly connected with the maritime transport services between the ports in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and

the African continent.

Logistics services will be extended to various countries in inland Africa via the channel, radiating Latin America, the Asia-Pacific region, and the Middle East.

Trains are expected to be running regularly for the combined sea-rail transport service, making it a vital logistics channel connecting central and western China with African countries. It will share the dividends of China's economic and social development with African countries.

People's Daily

Accelerating climate efforts: Actions speak louder than words

By Xin Ping

DESPITE the souring China-U.S. relationship and ravaging pandemic, China has received U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry twice. Climate cooperation seems to be a silver lining for the current China-U.S. deadlock.

However, the world should guard against the U.S. attempt to pay lip service or turn climate cooperation into another strategic leverage against China.

The fact that China currently releases more carbon emissions than any other country does not oblige it to bear the greatest responsibility for climate change. Common but differentiated responsibilities are much more reasonable criteria considering carbon emission per capita and historical debt.

The total emission rate from China has to be divided by its population to yield an apt comparison to developed economies like the U.S.. Combining 2019 data from the Global Carbon Project and Our World in Data, the U.S. is in the 14th place, with over 16 tons of CO2 per capita. China emits less than half of that per capita, tallying 7.1 tons, ranking No. 48th.

Above all, the U.S. is the greatest historical source of emissions. Most of the greenhouse gases it produced during its global rise are still heating the planet. An estimated 40% of the CO2 emitted by humans since 1850 has remained in the atmosphere, according to the Global Carbon Budget. Statistics from Carbon Brief, a UK-based NGO covering the latest developments in climate science, indicate the U.S. is the all-time largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world with 397 GT CO2 emissions. In other words, the biggest share of global greenhouse gases emitted since the Industrial Revolution comes from the U.S.. Recent promises in energy efficiency and emission cuts from the U.S. are far from offsetting the reckless greenhouse gases building up in the atmosphere over a century.

The U.S. is the only country not ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and once withdrawing from the Paris Agreement, undermining the global efforts against climate change. Currently, Biden's ambitious climate policies are once again falling hostage to Congressional backlash. The boom-and-bust cycle of America's call for urgency and slow action has exhausted its international credit in climate actions.

China is playing its part with concrete actions. It took EU 60 years and the U.S. 45 years to transform from emission peak to carbon neutrality. China, albeit with the world largest population, strives to make it happen within 30 years.

China did not fund any overseas coal projects in the first half of 2021, the International Institute of Green Finance counted, marking a milestone in the greening of the Belt and Road Initiative. In July, China published fresh guidelines encouraging its overseas enterprises to invest in greener projects and dump environmentally risky ones.

China is also about to promulgate "1+N" policy guidelines, a comprehensive central-government-level coordination mechanism specifying the timeline and roadmap to achieve emission peak and carbon neutrality goals.

"The relative peace and prosperity that the world experienced in the past 40 years cannot be explained without reference to the U.S.-China bonding", noted New York Times Opinion Columnist Thomas Friedman. And I agree.

Climate change, a nearly imminent threat to humanity, in the coming 40 years and above cannot be mitigated without the collaboration between China and U.S.. Against all odds, China is well on its way towards its goals. The ball is now in the U.S. court. Playing it well, the Biden administration could make historic contributions to both bilateral relations and global fight against climate change.

Xinhua



John Kerry

Russia prefers to watch Taliban's actions in Afghanistan – Kremlin spokesman

MOSCOW

RUSSIA, just as most countries around the world, prefers to keep a close watch on the Taliban's steps in Afghanistan (the Taliban movement is outlawed in Russia), Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov told the media, when asked if Russia had any intention of inviting representatives of Afghanistan's new authorities to Moscow.

"Just as an overwhelming majority of countries around the world, we prefer to most closely watch what the Taliban have been doing in Afghanistan, what final shape the structure of power in that country will take, and how the given promises will be fulfilled. We are monitoring this very closely," Peskov said.

The Taliban movement (outlawed in Russia) launched a large-scale operation for establishing control of the country's entire territory after the United States last spring declared the decision to pull out its troops.

On August 15, the radicals entered Kabul without encountering any resistance. President Ashraf Ghani left the country.

On September 6, the Taliban declared they were in full control of Afghanistan. On September 7, the movement unveiled the composition of a transitional government.

Agencies

Developing countries need financial aid, influence in multilateral institutions - UNGA

UNITED NATIONS

DEVELOPING countries are suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic's economic effects disproportionately, world leaders have warned at the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

The debate continued on Wednesday with real-time and pre-recorded video messages from 29 heads of state and government, calling for more finance to and more say by developing countries.

Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa stressed the vital need to adopt more initiatives on development financing and debt relief to support developing countries so that they can emerge from uncertainty.

His country has suffered greatly from the pandemic, he said. Tourism in particular, a sector that supports nearly 14 percent of the population, has been devastated, along with small- and medium-sized businesses in many other sectors.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Ado also expressed concern about the current structure of global economic organizations, stressing that they have proved inadequate for developing countries and calling for a constructive review based on equity, sustainability, and collective prosperity.

Indeed, key multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund or World Health Organization (WHO), must be repositioned to reflect inclusiveness and representative coverage with diverse leaders at the table, he said, adding that admitting the African Union to an expanded Group of Twenty (G20) would have a galvanizing effect.

An increase in representation would redefine global policy and allow for a more inclusive, sustainable world, he noted.

Surinamese President Chandrikapersad Santokhi called for the development of a post-pandemic strategy, with a focus on improving vaccination levels, rebuilding economies, and setting up a recovery fund with the support of international financial institutions and the private sector.

"Access to concessional financing is of critical importance in rebooting our economy," he said, calling for support of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, as proposed by the Small Island Developing States. Some leaders reported on their own positive development solutions in the wake of the economic crisis, with Madagascar President Andry Nirina Rajoelina declaring: "We have seen we are



Madagascar President Andry Nirina Rajoelina addresses the general debate of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at the UN headquarters in New York, on Wednesday. Xinhua

not all equal" and countries such as his own have had to rely upon "home-grown solutions" as their "best weapon in this fight."

When people discuss developing countries, the "grim side of the story" is often foregrounded in the international arena. Speaking of Africa, there is a tendency to darken the reality. "It is time for this perception to change," he said. "We must stop making use of these prejudices and move into new ideas."

Mongolian President Ukhnaa Khurelsukh said that thanks to the COVAX facility and support from other nations, 65 percent of his country's population has been vaccinated. Meanwhile, the spread of COVID-19 is decreasing, and the government is working towards re-establishing normalcy in everyday life.

The COVID-19 crisis also revealed

that the health sector was just as important as defense, requiring better risk management and preparedness as well as greater investment, he noted.

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez raised concerns about fair access to COVID-19 vaccines and how countries were being treated unequally amid efforts to distribute doses in a prompt, effective manner, urging the transformation of the global health system, including the WHO, to improve the situation and guarantee timely and equitable access to vaccines.

Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera said the distribution of vaccines is the starting point to end the pandemic, as the world must now decide between a future of solidarity or one of greed, where states hoard life-saving doses.

Inoculation rates are less than 2 percent among least developed countries and the 16 member states of the Southern African Development Community, he warned.

With limited access to vaccines, Malawi turned to prevention, wielding a response plan that brought three waves of the pandemic under control without imposing lockdowns.

Describing another unlevel playing field, he said developed nations who pollute the planet must now pay the 100 billion U.S. dollars "cleaning fees" they pledged in the Paris Agreement.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that like tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, fixing the climate change problem hinges on science, innovation and breakthroughs made possible by capitalism and free markets.

For its part, Britain is keeping its promise to provide 11.6 billion pounds (15.8 billion dollars) to help the rest of the world tackle climate change, with contributions by other states bringing the 100 billion dollars pledged to developing countries within touching distance.

Looking ahead to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Britain in November, he urged that "it is time for humanity to grow up" and show its capability of learning, maturing, and taking responsibility for the destruction it is inflicting on the planet and itself.

Xinhua

Answer the questions of the times and make historical choice with confidence, courage and sense of mission

By He Yin

FACED with the combined impacts of changes unseen in a century and the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is once again at a historical crossroads. How to beat the virus? How to revitalize the global economy as early as possible? Can countries, especially major countries, coexist peacefully with each other? How should the UN play its central role in international affairs? Chinese President Xi Jinping recently gave answers to these questions of the times that concern the future of humanity.

On Sept. 21, Xi attended and delivered a speech titled "Bolstering Confidence and Jointly Overcoming Difficulties to Build a Better World" at the general debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly via video link. In his speech, Xi made suggestions on jointly addressing global threats and challenges and proposed a Global Development Initiative.

At the critical moment when the COVID-19 pandemic has brought profound changes to human society and the world has entered a period of new turbulence and transformation, Xi's suggestions and initiative have injected confidence into global solidarity against the pandemic, pointed the way to the common development of the world, drawn a blueprint for tackling global changes, and fully demonstrated the considerable insight of the leader of a major country and his solicitude for the wellbeing of humanity.

"It falls on each and every responsible statesman to answer the questions of our times and make a historical choice with confidence, courage and a sense of mission," Xi said in his speech.

Countries must beat COVID-19 and win this decisive fight crucial to the future of humanity, revitalize the economy and pursue more robust, greener and more balanced global development, strengthen solidarity and promote mutual respect and win-win cooperation in conducting international relations, and improve global governance and practice true multilateralism, Xi pointed out clearly in his speech.

Responding to the ardent aspiration of peoples around the world for peace and development, and their call for equity and justice and pursuit of win-win

cooperation, Xi's suggestions have been widely echoed by the international community.

Political leaders of many countries have called for cooperation and solidarity to create a better world at the general debate of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly.

To build a better world, countries must overcome global challenges and achieve common development.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging across the world, winning the battle against the virus is the most urgent task for countries at present.

"We should always put people and their lives first, and care about the life, value and dignity of every individual. We need to respect science, take a science-based approach, and follow the laws of science."

We need to both follow routine, targeted COVID-19 protocols and take emergency response measures, and both carry out epidemic control and promote economic and social development. We need to enhance coordinated global COVID-19 response and minimize the risk of cross-border virus transmission," Xi said.

His remarks clearly manifested China's firm will to pull through the hard times and defeat the pandemic with other countries and promoted the idea of building a global community of health for all, to which China has long been committed.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has seriously shaken the results of global poverty reduction and posed severe challenges to sustainable development of the world, Xi proposed the Global Development Initiative, which stresses staying committed to development as a priority, a people-centered approach, benefits for all, innovation-driven development, harmony between man and nature, results-oriented actions and advocates the idea of building a global community of development with a shared future.

The initiative has provided

countries with guidelines and spiritual driving force for focusing efforts on development, joining hands with each other for development, and pursuing common development.

To build a better world, countries must adhere to solidarity and cooperation and improve global governance.

Clinging to the antiquated Cold War mentality and zero-sum game mindset, certain countries have attempted to draw ideological lines to create small circles for geopolitical competition, leading to worse trust and governance deficit in the international community.

"Democracy is not a special right reserved to an individual country, but a right for the people of all countries to enjoy...One country's success does not have to mean another country's failure, and the world is big enough to accommodate common development and progress of all countries," Xi said.

By making such forceful remarks, Xi showed the right path to peaceful coexistence between countries, especially major countries, and reiterated the significance of building a new type of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice, and cooperation and win-win results, injecting stability into international relations troubled by growing uncertainties.

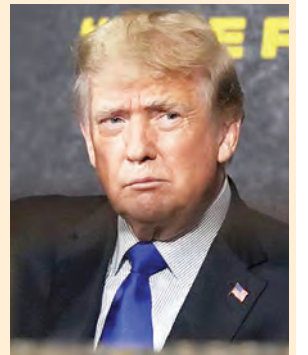
"In the world, there is only one international system, i.e. the international system with the UN at its core. There is only one international order, i.e. the international order underpinned by international law. And there is only one set of rules, i.e. the basic norms governing international relations underpinned by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter," Xi pointed out.

The UN should hold high the banner of true multilateralism and serve as the central platform for countries to jointly safeguard universal security, share development achievements and chart the course for the future of the world, he continued.

People's Daily

Trump allies subpoenaed in Congress' probe of Capitol riot

WASHINGTON



THE US House of Representatives Select Committee investigating the deadly Jan 6 riot at the Capitol has subpoenaed four former members of Donald Trump's administration, including Mark Meadows and Steve Bannon, the panel's chairman said on Thursday.

Former white house deputy chief of Staff Dan Scavino and former defense department official Kash Patel were also subpoenaed and instructed to produce materials and appear for depositions, committee Chairman Bennie Thompson said in a statement.

Meadows, a former congressman, served as Trump's White House chief of staff. Bannon was a White House adviser to Trump.

A representative for Meadows said he declined to comment. Bannon and Scavino could not be reached for immediate comment.

Patel said in a statement he was "disappointed, but not surprised" the committee issued a subpoena before seeking his voluntary cooperation.

A mob of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol on Jan 6 as Congress was meeting to certify Democrat Joe Biden's election victory, delaying that process for several hours as then-vice-president Mike Pence, members of Congress, staff and journalists fled from rioters.

Nearly 600 people have been arrested on charges tied to the attack. It was the worst violence at the seat of the US government since the British invasion during the War of 1812.

Thompson said Meadows reportedly communicated with state and federal officials as part of an effort to overturn the 2020 election or prevent Biden's certification. Meadows was also reportedly in communication with organizers of the Jan 6 rally, Thompson said.

'All hell is going to break loose'

In a letter to Bannon, Thompson noted that he had been involved with multiple conversations about persuading members of Congress to block certification of Trump's election defeat.

"You are quoted as stating, on Jan 5, 2021, that 'all hell is going to break loose tomorrow,'" Thompson wrote. "Accordingly, the select committee seeks both documents and your deposition testimony."

Bannon was fired by Trump August 2017 but they later mended fences and stayed in contact. Trump pardoned Bannon after he was charged with swindling the president's own supporters over an effort to raise private funds to build a border wall.

Meadows and Scavino have been instructed to appear for depositions on Oct 15 and Bannon and Patel on Oct 14.

Thompson said in his letter to Scavino that he was a witness to Trump's activities on the day of the riot. "You may also have materials relevant to (Trump's) videotaping and tweeting messages on January 6," Thompson said.

Agencies



Winger, Simon Msuva, celebrates after scoring for Yanga in a past Mainland Premier League duel held in Dar es Salaam.

Can Yanga current wingers fill Msuva, Ngassa boots?

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FOOTBALL is a game of tactics and systems. Each team has its system and its philosophy that the outfit believes will help it get results on the pitch.

Simba SC has its philosophy and has often been known for using the central midfielders that orchestrate a possessive game, while the side's age-old rivals, Yanga, have been famous for bringing pacy wingers on the bylines to initiate attacks.

The tendency of using fast wingers has not started yesterday, for many years Yanga has been using wingers to make the club strong in its plan in an area attacking from the sidelines.

From the 1980s there were fearsome wingers at Yanga, including Abubakar Salum 'Sure Boy Senior', who later paved way for the likes of Thomas Kipese, Edibily Lunyamila, Said Maulid 'SMG', Mrisho Ngassa, and Simon Msuva, just to name a few.

However, challenges in the area began to emerge at Yanga after Ngassa left the outfit in the 2015/16 season for Free State Stars of South Africa.

He made Yanga strong especially in that position and his departure did not please the side's fans who still needed to see his threat to the opposing team and, in the 2000s, he was among the dangerous wingers who dazzled Mainland Tanzania football.

It was his ability that made him rake in lots of cash from the three biggest and richest teams in the country that boast many followers.

Prominent soccer players in the country normally gain a lot from turning out for any of the three clubs.

Yanga signed Ngassa, who was by then on fire, from Kagera Sugar, the winger turned out for the former from 2007-2010 season, before landing at Azam FC in 2010-2013 and he was loaned to Simba SC in 2012/13 season, before returning to Jangwani Street outfit, a club he played for from 2013-2015.

While Ngassa was doing his wonders for Yanga, there was Simon Msuva who had yet to make his presence felt at the time until Ngassa left.

Msuva started to prove his worth at Yanga once Ngassa had headed to South Africa.

However, after Msuva moved to Morocco, his successors, Juma Mahadhi and Geoffrey Mwashuiya, failed to cover the area.

To alleviate the pain of the fans, which result from Yanga's failure to

recruit a competent winger, the club brought in Congolese winger, Tuisila Kisinda.

The fast-paced winger seemed to end the problem on the wing area, but according to the team's fans, the winger had not been able to showcase the potential Ngassa and Msuva had in terms of creating chances for others and score goals on some occasions.

Kisinda is currently in Morocco, having signed for RS Berkane, and has left Yanga with five goals.

His place was taken by another Congolese, Jesus Moloko, who has yet to show any signs of improvement.

Msuva had once spoken of Kisinda as a good player and he always follows what the Congolese winger is doing, his runs, and his ability to start attacks from the sidelines.

"We can all play the same role, but that doesn't mean we will have everything in common. Everyone has their quality and time," he says.

The outfit's former winger, Edibily Lunyamila, says they worked hard during their time, so he cannot compare himself with those who are playing in this generation.

"Playing in the past and now are two different things, although I see them work hard, Yanga is indeed believed to have good and pacy wingers," he says.

Former Yanga coach Kennedy Mwaisabula says there is a big difference in the number of wingers who have recently turned out for the club, including Ngassa, Msuva, and even Kisinda.

The coach states: "Everyone has their strengths and weaknesses, but Ngassa's gap has yet to be filled as the veteran was adept at scoring a lot of goals."

"Ngassa was also good in creating chances for his teammates, though Msuva tried to fill the winger's boots after leaving."

Mwaisabula discloses: "Msuva was also dangerous, as, despite his initial instability, he managed to catapult Yanga to success with the goals he scored and the assists he executed to his teammates, that's why it was no surprise he twice lifted the top-flight golden boot prize while contributing a large percentage of his club's goals."

"Kisinda is fast but he lacked the focus to score, the way Ngassa and Msuva did, with Moloko waiting for the first test in the Premier League, it is too early to start judging him," Mwaisabula discloses.

When city archrivals' derby brings technical bench shifts

By Correspondent John Kimbute

AFTER the city rivals drew at the weekend in a spirited verbal encounter played at two different pitches, there is now a return match when they meet on one pitch - the Benjamin Mkapa arena in Dar es Salaam - to sort out the charity shield contention.

As usual, the champions have an edge in the build-up and overall rating, with the Jangwani Street side far behind in terms of CAF rankings (of the best club sides in the continent) but when it comes to derbies, that ranking does not matter.

It is the factors of that particular moment that count, and it is difficult to set them out beforehand as psychology plays a big part, unpredictably.

It is easy to say that the Jangwani Street squad is preparing for the derby more than the Msimbazi Street squad is likely to be doing, and secondly, that there is not much either of the sides can do to improve their respective modes of play after their respective outings last week, against TP Mazembe and then against Rivers United FC.

Yet it appears that Yanga is doing more work on the issue as it matters - even if the Community Shield, unlike the Azam Sports Federation Cup, which at least projects continental competition.

Yet for the fans and really club cohesion, especially after the two-match debacle against the Nigerian champions, all must be done right.

One such precaution is enlisting city rivals



Yanga's tactician, Cedric Kaze.

veteran observer, Cedric Kaze, to feature on the technical bench though as an assistant to Nasreddine Nabi, especially for alternative insights he can give to the head coach on not just team formation but the manner of tackling the city rivals.

Experts were saying on FM radio stations talk shows that reading the match as it goes on is a field often left fallow in how the technical bench is organized, that someone has to read the match.

It is not just a matter for the technical bench to watch the match and later coming up with ideas, taking stock as to how the match went. It is a continuous spot assessment.

For one thing, it is evident that coaching openings at a high level

are not many, and at the same time, there is not a big supply of best coaches for premier league clubs, if one looks at the itinerary traversed by the Burundian coach so far.

Chroniclers say he was voted or otherwise declared the best coach in East and Central Africa in 2012, which by the looks evident in the chronicle he must have been quite young when receiving that honour, though he credits his methods to Pitso Masomane as a role model.

The legendary South African coach has not just attained the coaching peak of taking over Al Ahly, but winning the title in the CAF Champions League with that side - as befits any able coach for the giant Egyptian side.

At the time of his sign-

ing, he was expected to take over at Mtibwa Sugar, based on local chroniclers and Yanga appeared to make little mention of the signing even as the coach was being photographed with 'big bags' at terminal three of the Julius Nyerere International Airport, clearly not on a quick visit.

But that he had abandoned the Mtibwa Sugar offer was clear as they now landed on former Azam FC coach, Joseph Omog of Cameroon, as head coach, an appointment that also boosts the image of Tanzanian soccer.

At present his former club fields George Lwandamina, who has won trophies repeatedly with Zesco United in his home country of Zambia, and is back while Kaze is back at Yanga as

an assistant.

Pundits made fine points on this beefing up of the technical bench with experienced coaches and not just one head coach and trainers who cannot be called coaches for teams at that level, even if they have premier league coaching in their briefs.

For once, it appears that traditional mentalities of trying to figure out who is the boss or who knows best in this or that aspect are being eclipsed, and instead there is teamwork that clubs expect from the technical bench, to lend additional expertise.

For instance, how to handle the derby that does not make Yanga a much better team for having signed the Burundian coach, and the haste with which he has been recruited ahead of the derby may indeed pay limited dividends in that encounter, as to be it as it may, he will still be learning who is on the pitch and what they can do.

With any luck, he may offer a genuinely helpful tip to the head coach either on formation or selection, substitution, or shifting pattern of play which simply needs being on the pitch.

But more significantly, Yanga which needs to be beefed up coaching in the sense of team fitness and formation may have done the right thing in having a coach who will be regarded not in the selection - at it belongs to the head coach - but in the training.

He may just help the team to excel so that the side does not depend on the names it has on the list but their fitness.

TFF allots 50 airline tickets for fans to watch Taifa Stars vs Benin match

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

TANZANIA Football Federation (TFF) has set aside 50 airline tickets for fans who want to jet off to Benin to witness the African Qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup's clash between Taifa Stars and Benin, to be held in Cotonou next month.

A TFF statement said Taifa Stars will travel to Cotonou on a Tanzania Airlines (ATCL) Airbus flight for the clash to be played at General Mathieu Stadium on October 12.

The cost per person will include a return trip ticket, visa, and tests for the Coronavirus, amounting to US dollars 1,200.

The statement said the deadline for receiving payment is September 30. The traveler is required to have a valid passport.

In the previous African Qualifiers for the 2022 FIFA World Cup game, Taifa Stars notched a 3-2 win over Madagascar at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Taifa Stars consequently placed itself in a good position to occupy second place in the qualifiers' Group J.

In the game played on September 7, Taifa Stars were the first to score two goals with the opening goal notched by the defender, Erasto Nyoni, from a spot-kick in the first minute of the game.

The midfielder, Novatus Dismas, playing his second competitive fixture for Taifa

Stars, went on to score the second goal.

Before the excitement was over Madagascar came from behind to equalize both goals in the first half.

Madagascar's first goal was netted by Rakoto Marimalala Njiva, who was brought in to replace a teammate, while the second goal was scored from a free-kick by Fontaine Thomas in the 45th minute of the clash. It was 2-2 at the end of the opening period.

The second half started as fast as the first half and before Madagascar was well-organized, midfielder Feisal Salum

netted for Taifa Stars to put the squad 3-2 up.

Salum calmly slotted in, finishing off a clean pass threaded by now Belgium-based forward, Mbwana Ally Samatta.

Taifa Stars' head coach, Kim Poulsen, stated after the game that he congratulates his charges for their dedication and the ability to get good results which is a boost for the squad's battle for progression to the World Cup, despite allowing two goals in the first half.

However, Poulsen said that the game is over now, and what lies ahead is better preparation for the next game against

Benin, as they prepare for the rest of the games.

The Danish gaffer revealed that his main goal is to win every game regardless of whether Taifa Stars is at home or away.

Poulsen was adamant for him a player who shows the most ability and dedication is the one who will be allowed to play, he would hardly base team selection on either a player's popularity or the club he plays for.

With that victory, Taifa Stars and Benin are now tied second in Group J, with the top spot being held by DR Congo, whereas Madagascar comes last.



Senior national soccer team Taifa Stars' players participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2021 African Nations Championship (CHAN) finals, which took place in Cameroon. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Embattled Koeman irked by refs in stalemate

BARCELONA

UNDER fire Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman blasted the standard of refereeing in Spain after he and Frenkie de Jong were both sent off in Thursday's goalless draw against Cadiz.

Dutch midfielder De Jong picked up two yellow cards in the second half and Koeman was dismissed in stoppage time for something he said to the fourth official.

The draw was Barca's second in LaLiga this week, following Monday's stalemate against Granda at Camp Nou, and further increases the pressure on Koeman.

The Dutch coach will now serve a touchline ban for Sunday's game against Levante, when another bad result could spell the end of his tenure at Barca, with sources telling ESPN earlier this week the club are already exploring replacements.

"I was sent off for telling the fourth official that there was a second ball on the pitch and the game should be stopped," Koeman said in a news conference after drawing with Cadiz.

"Everyone saw that except the referee. In this country, they send you off for nothing... They say [it's for] 'attitude, attitude'... It is better we leave it there because it's not my problem."

Barca are now without a win in three games in all competitions with sources telling ESPN the relationship between coach and president Joan Laporta has deteriorated.

Laporta turned down the chance to explicitly back Koeman before Thursday's match and said that "if decisions need to be made, we will make them" following Barca's slow start to the season.

"It's not just about the result, you have to analyse the attitude and the work rate," Koeman, who refused to take questions from the media on Wednesday, said when asked if he feared for his future after Barca's third draw in five league outings this season.

"I can't complain. We've had four or five chances and we haven't scored, so for that reason I am not happy. But what I will take with me is the attitude of the team and not my personal situation."

Defender Gerard Pique, meanwhile, claimed his "it is what it is" comment after the 3-0 loss to Bayern Munich in Champions League action last week was taken out of context.

"When I said that, it was because four players were missing in attack, Kun [Sergio Agüero], [Ansu] Fati, [Ousmane] Dembele and [Martin] Braithwaite," Pique told Movistar.

"People take a title and change the context. I also said we would compete this season. I'm not here wearing the Barca shirt to come second or third. I am here to compete for every trophy."

"And I am convinced, despite the start we've made, that we will compete. The team's motivated. Sometimes you have to go through these moments."

"We know the fans are with us despite the situation, which is complicated for everyone. It's been 12 years at the top. Now we all have to stick together. We will compete until the end, don't doubt that."

"This club has been riding the crest of a wave for many years and maybe we're not used to this. It's been a convulsive period, a change of president, coaches... we have to do all we can to provide stability."

"We all want to win. Let's not look for sides, we can all complain or we can all pull in the same direction. The players are here to pull in the same direction. We are focused on playing and winning."

Barca return to LaLiga action on Sunday against Levante at Camp Nou, with Ansu Fati in line to make his return following 10 months out with a knee injury. They then travel to Benfica and Atletico Madrid before the October international break.

Meanwhile, Barcelona will host Real Madrid at Camp Nou on Oct. 24 in what will be the first El Clasico since the departure of rivalry legends Lionel Messi and Sergio Ramos.

The match is set to kick off at 10:15 am ET (7:15 am PT).

The clash between LaLiga's most successful clubs will still have plenty of starpower on both sides, with Madrid striker Karim Benzema facing off against Barca defender Gerard Pique and United States youngster Sergino Dest.

Barca has struggled out the gates this season since Messi left for Paris Saint-Germain on a free agent move this summer, with manager Ronald Koeman already on the hot seat amid a lackluster string of results.

League-leading Madrid have started the campaign on solid footing under Carlo Ancelotti in his second stint as club manager following Zinedine Zidane's departure in the offseason.

The Catalan side will hope to stop a dubious skid against Los Blancos, with their only home victory over Madrid since 2015 being a 5-1 thumping in October 2018.

Messi won't be the only key figure now missing out on one of sports' greatest rivalries, with ex-Madrid stalwart Ramos having also made the move to PSG. Both players are tied at the top of most appearances in El Clasico with 45 each.

ESPN



Karim Benzema

Real Madrid's Benzema making a case to be the best in the world

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

THE ball dropped out of the night sky to where Karim Benzema had appeared, undetected again, between Martin Valjent and Brian Oliván. As it fell from high, he controlled it, ran to one side and, right-footed, scored his second goal of the evening, the ball taking a deflection on its way into the Mallorca net. A few minutes later, the man who can never be taken off was taken off, withdrawn to a standing ovation, the appreciation unanimous now.

None of which would have been particularly unusual except that Benzema had controlled that falling ball with his back. There is a neat photo of the moment he caught it, arms out, the ball hovering just above his left shoulder, eyes wide as if guiding it down with a glance, subjecting it to his will like some Jedi Master. It looks like a magic trick. Which maybe it is.

Maybe it is a trick, anyway. Maybe it's not entirely real. After Real Madrid's 6-1 win over Mallorca on Wednesday night, Benzema didn't talk. Teammates did but they didn't know or didn't give the answer to the question everyone was asking: Did he mean that? When it happened, there had been a kind of collective gasp, an "oooh" all around the stadium. "What the...?" "Did he just...? Did he really just take it down and past two defenders with his... back?"

As it sank in, in the stands at the Santiago Bernabeu, everyone wanted a replay to answer the same question --

and yet, when you think about it, there is no replay like the mind's eye, the imagination, nothing more meaningful than the moment. Better to suspended disbelief. You don't remember what happened so much as how it made you feel. If Benzema didn't mean it, would it mean less? Well, yeah, it probably would. Maybe. Or maybe not. Better just to believe he did.

And that's the thing: You could believe that.

The photo suggests he might have, you know, the gesture of a man providing a place for it to land. Besides, that they even asked said something. That they didn't just dismiss it. That it wasn't written off as an outrageous fluke. With others, it would have been. Not with Benzema. You could believe it, not least because you couldn't always believe all those other things he did, but soon you saw.

"He's the best striker in the world," Carlo Ancelotti said on Wednesday night.

That's not really something Ancelotti said last time he was at Madrid, in 2015. Nor, in truth, did anyone else. It may well be that they still don't, when perhaps they should. Back then he had Cristiano Ronaldo after all -- and he was. Partly because he had Benzema behind him. Nor is saying that something that is sufficient anymore, Ancelotti reckons.

"Calling him a forward feels like it stops short to me," the Madrid coach had insisted recently. "He's a very complete player. He's more complete than he was five years ago."

He's allowed to be, anyway. And the tan-

gibles are on his team now, too. The facilitator has become the finisher. Which isn't to say he has stopped being the facilitator. The everything, really: Watch him up close and it's startling how many moves don't just end with him but start with him, too. So often, his runs make the passes. So often, his passes make the runs. He tells others where to go, with his feet, every touch impeccable. He is, well, the footballer. There was always something of that, of course. And to listen to Benzema you would conclude that, far from him changing, football has -- like there has been a collective awakening, recognising something everyone else resisted rather than something he was yet to earn. He has talked a lot about how people, his father included, learn to "understand" his game. He has said he plays for those who "know" the game, the connoisseurs with refined palates.

Jorge Valdano, say. He wrote not long ago about how he had been reading of a farmer who mistook a puma for a smaller cat.

"The puma is skinny because the farmer fed him milk," the former Argentine international wrote. "Just as happened with Benzema when they mistook his style for evidence of a man who didn't care, his ability to apply pauses with laziness, his assists with a lack of ambition. No one recognised their error: in fact, they tended to think that it is Benzema who has changed, as if his class wasn't something he was born with."

He's always been good, all right. Former Ballon d'Or winner Jean-Pierre Papin once said: "He has the power of Ronaldo, the speed of Ronaldinho, the class of [Thierry] Henry, the instinct of [David] Trezeguet."

Benzema was 19 then; he is 33 now. But while he has always been a great player, different too, it isn't true that he has always been this player -- a timely reminder that football, as the phrase goes, is played in the head even if the ball is played by the feet -- that everyone plays within a context.

Benzema creates that context, constructs it. And that has shifted, which says much about him but which shouldn't

just say that it, that he is the same as ever. And now things are different. Now, he is better. Yeah, now maybe we are, too.

"He's the best," his manager said, but rare is the time when anyone else does. Or did, at least. For a long time, Benzema didn't really appear in the conversations about the top strikers in the world. Six years away from the France squad don't help, even more years alongside Ronaldo don't either. And think for a moment about what it means for a player who can do this to have done that. He has scored 30, 27 and 30 in the three seasons since Ronaldo left. In part because he has had to.

There are moments, too, and this is his: eight goals, seven assists. That's 15 of the 23 Real Madrid goals this season. No one in Europe's top five leagues has scored more. No one in those leagues has assisted more. In 2021, only Robert Lewandowski has been directly involved in as much scoring -- 23 goals, 11 assists for Benzema; 31 goals, three assists for the Pole.

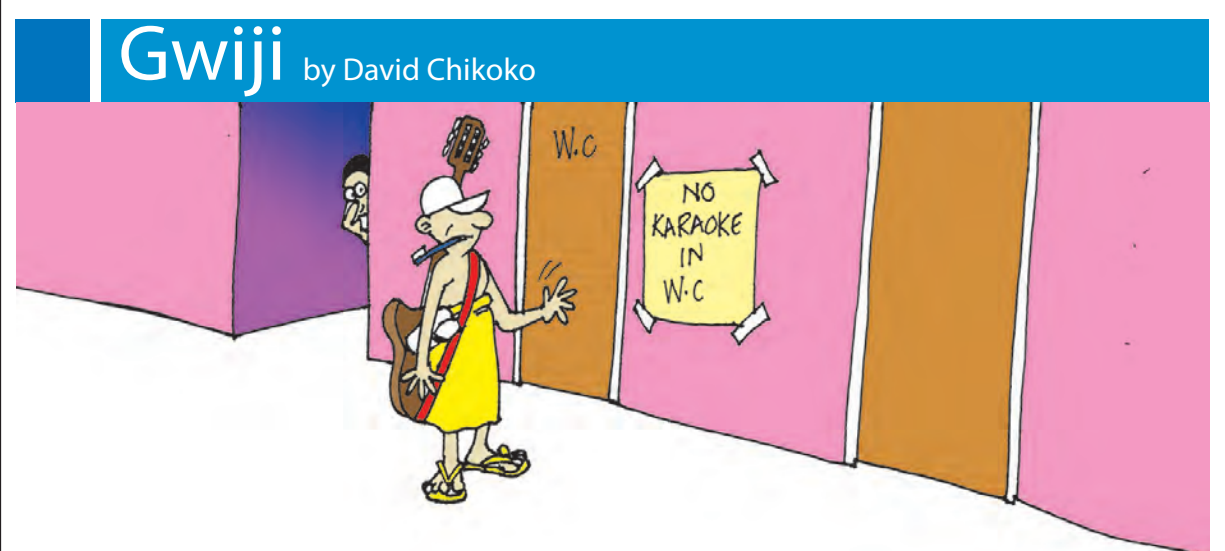
There is also some-

thing cumulative, a case building, which is what cases are supposed to do. This summer, aged 33, Benzema quietly renewed his Real Madrid contract until 2023. Two reflections here: Who lasts that long at Madrid? And: Can you remember a single rumour about him departing, a single leveraged moment? This was his place. It is his now, responsibility and reward. This week, he scored his 200th league goal for Madrid. He has 287 in total. Alfredo Di Stefano has 308.

Alfredo Di Stefano, though.

And it's not the goals: watch him, it's everything. The vision, the movement, the imagination and intelligence, the improvisation, the touch so good that, yeah, he might have deliberately controlled it with his back. Enough unbelievable moments that this moment when the ball dropped from the sky became believable.

"Is there anything more you can say about him?" Ancelotti was asked, down under the stand sometime after midnight, Wednesday. There was a smile and a pause. "No," he said.



SPORT

Real Madrid's Benzema making a case to be the best in the world

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TONIGHT @ 9:00

EATV MONDAY

11:30 DADAZ LIVE
14:00 Wanawake Live (r)
14:30 Sango Hills
15:00 Fungula
16:30 Copa Coca-Cola (r)
16:00 Ahili & Me (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELKET
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 #News
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 UJENZI
21:30 SPORTS LIVE
22:30 Sango Hills

TONIGHT ON EATV
Find out how using glass blocks from Conghui Traders Limited can improve your home decor
And Tanik Quality Choice has an innovative solution for wall fungus

It's all on Ujenzi at 9PM

eastafrica RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC's predicted lineup vs Yanga in Community Shield clash

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

REIGNING Mainland Tanzania Premier League champions and Federation Cup holders, Simba SC, faces age-old rivals Young Africans SC, nicknamed Yanga, in a Community Shield clash at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam today evening, raising the curtain for the 2021/22 season.

Coach Didier Gomes da Rosa has seen his team go toe to toe with Yanga in the last three months, losing one, and will be hoping to extend his winning streak against his Yanga counterpart to two games.

With no injury concerns to worry about, here is how the Simba boss could set up:

Aishi Manula (GK): The first name on the team sheet for Simba. Almost always plays if he is fit.

Mohamed Hussein (LB): The lack of competition at left-back will see him continue on that side.

The fullback has been an ever-present starter for Simba with little competition from Gadiel Michael.

Shomari Kapombe (RB): Despite the signing of a highly rated youngster, Israel Mwenda, the former Azam FC defender remains the undisputed first-choice right fullback.

Pascal Wawa (CB): He is likely to keep his place but will know that his place is under threat from summer signing, Henock Baka, if he cannot deliver.

Plenty of Simba supporters will want to see Wawa dropped but he offers rare playmaking skills in the defense to help the team build-up from the back.

Joash Onyango (CB): A crucial cog in Mainland Tanzania Premier League's best defense last season, the Kenyan international is no stranger to throwing his considerable weight around between flurries of technical talent.

Taddeo Lwanga (CM): He will be Simba's midfield engine and anchor, tasked with winning the ball back.

It was his sensational goal back in July that won the Federation Cup for the squad and fans will be hoping for a similarly inspired performance to kick off the new campaign.

Sadio Kanoute (CM): In what could be a frenetic game, especially in midfield, the Malian star needs to be at his best to help Simba stay in control.

Pape Sakho (LW): The Senegalese midfielder has impressed during the pre-season. He should be raring to go and looking to bag his first competitive goal for Simba.

Larry Bwalya (CAM): With the departure of midfield maestro, Clatous Chama, the Zambian is expected to act as a creative focal point for Simba this season.

Chris Mugalu (ST): The experienced and intelligent Congolese striker is still a threat to his opposition, and will aim to add to his goals and assists for the club after an exceptional first season.

Dennis Kibu (ST): Doubts surrounding forward John Bocco's fitness could see the new signing from Mbeya City FC get the opportunity to carry on after displaying an impressive showing in a friendly against TP Mazembe.

Yanga's predicted lineup vs Simba SC in Community Shield duel



Yanga players (L-R) Feisal Salum, Kibwana Shomari, and Yacouba Songne, participate in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for the 2021/22 Community Shield match against Simba, which is scheduled for Saturday in the city. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

TANZANIA'S Young Africans SC, popularly known Yanga, suffered a crushing blow last weekend with a 1-0 loss to Nigeria's Rivers United FC to send them crashing out of the 2021/22 CAF Champions League first preliminary round.

Yanga's head coach, Mohamed Nabi, finds himself under huge pressure heading into a massive fixture against Simba in the 2021/22 Community Shield tie, which takes place in Dar es Salaam today.

With his side in dire need of redemption, Nabi might be tempted to shuffle his pack for the match. Here is the starting XI he is most likely to put out:

Djigui Diarra (GK) - This is what he signed up for when he joined Yanga from Mali.

Yanga will rely heavily on their superstar goalkeeper, and he may be kept pretty busy. This will be the biggest test he has

faced so far.

Djuma (RB) - The Congolese marauding fullback was a big miss in the two matches against Rivers United FC.

Dickson Job (CB) - With each game, the youngster appears to grow in stature and importance for the Green and Yellow side. Job's performances are enough to maintain his spot in the backline.

Bakari Mwamnyeto (CB) - Now finds himself the senior center-back among the available defenders. He will be expected to lead by example on the pitch.

Kibwana Shomari (LB) - Fitness doubts surrounding new signing, David Bryson, and the performance of Adeyem Saleh against Rivers United FC could see Shomari being deployed on the left full-back despite being a right-footed defender.

It is a role he played against Zanaco in a friendly, which took place in Dar es Salaam last month.

Jesus Moloko (RM) - The Congolese midfielder has become Yanga's preferred right-wing starter despite not quite being as bright and threatening as was expected when he signed to replace compatriot Tuisila Kisinda.

Yannick Bangala (CM) - The Congolese import will likely be the main holding figure

in Yanga's midfield.

Khalid Aucho (CM) - A summer arrival from Egypt's Misr El-Makka, Aucho is expected to establish himself as a first-team regular this season. His tidy but progressive midfield play could be vital.

Feisal Salum (CAM) - The midfielder, who hails from Zanzibar, has firmly established himself as a fan favourite with his elegance on the ball. He is enjoying being deployed in a more attacking role.

Heritier Makambo (ST) - The man who carries the weight of Yanga's goal threat on his shoulders.

He scored against Zanaco in friendly but fired blanks in the two games against Rivers United FC. It could be a tough ask for the left-footed Congolese.

Fiston Mayele (ST) - Another of Yanga's Congolese contingent. It is hard to imagine Nabi not picking Mayele. He will want to win, after all.

Simba SC, Yanga fans in mind games heading into Derby

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

TOWARDS the 2021/22 Community Shield game that will bring together the traditional rivals of Simba SC and Yanga today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam, the two clubs' fans have warned each other heading into the game.

Simba SC fans have warned their Yanga counterparts not to expect an easy clash, even in absence of the former's side's midfielders, Clatous Chama and Luis Miquissone.

Miquissone was sold to Egypt's Al Ahly whereas Chama put pen to paper for Morocco's RS Berkane.

Mwanza's Simba SC followers from the Mkuuyuni Darajani branch disclosed to The Guardian that the absence of the two footballers in the game will not affect their club as they know they have a good squad which is better than the last season's.

One of the fans, Hussein Batenga, said the arrival of Sadio Kanoute, Peter Banda, Pape Sakho and others signals that Chama and Miquissone's successors have already been found.

Batenga, the branch's chairman, revealed: "We previously only heard about our side's players in broadcast media and read them in newspapers but on the 'Simba Day' festival we witnessed them at their best and we are not worried anymore because our rivals' fans were mocking us but we can assure them that we have a strong squad."

Another member, Mfaume Iddi, said their team gives foot-



A section of Simba SC and Yanga fans engage in a verbal spat after the cancellation of a 2020/21 Mainland Premier League match involving the age-old rivals, which had been slated for May 8 this year at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

ballers a chance to improve their performance and makes some of them quite successful.

Iddi moreover admitted that Simba's friendly against TP Mazembe on the 'Simba Day' festival was a tough test for the former and it was

good for their preparations.

A senior member of the branch, Mzee Ismail Fikirini, said he is confident the Tanzanian champions' squad is going to win while warning their compatriots not to fire their outfit's coach.

"I can't insult and talk sarcasm but I'm sure there are five goals, these are just greetings so they don't fire their coach, the team we saw last Sunday is fine, we have trust in our players and the technical bench," he said.

Some Yanga fans at Mwanza's Mkuuyuni branch warned their Simba counterparts that their squad will face demoralizing defeat because Simba is in turmoil after Chama and Miquissone left.

A Yanga fan, Emmanuel Mgesi, admitted that the midfielders were posing threat to Yanga when the club faced Simba.

The soccer fanatic stated the two midfield-

ers' departure from Simba should not be used as an excuse if Simba loses to Yanga.

"We have to win against them because they don't have to rely on the players that helped them enjoy success for four years, it's our turn now to win for six years because we have top players in our team, our fellows shouldn't expect anything this time around," he said.

Another fan, Salum Rashid, popularly known as 'Kiherehere wa Yanga', pointed out that the current Simba squad could be likened to a toothless dog.

Rashid revealed that if Simba emerges victorious then he should be taken to task.



Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Amos Makalla (Front Row, 3rd R), speaks to sports journalists in the city yesterday on a special soccer match involving religious officials and foreign envoys, which will take place before a 2021/22 Community Shield clash between home town rivals, Simba SC and Yanga, slated for today at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Flexibles by David Chikoko

