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National Pg 4 EAC contributes to safe border posts



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Crash costs family fourteen members

By Guardian Reporter



Some of the 13 people, including eight former Bank of Tanzania senior officers, appear at Dar es Salaam's Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with six counts related to economic sabotage and illegal destruction of currency notes. Photo: Correspondent Hellen Mwangi

FOURTEEN members of the same family died and two were seriously injured after the mini-bus they were travelling in was involved in a collision with a lorry in Ikungi District, Singida Region.

Singida Regional Police Commander Sweetbert Njeweke said yesterday that the victims were coming from travelling from Mwanza to Itigi town in Ikungi District to attend a wedding.

He said that 14 people died on the spot after the mini-bus collided with a lorry on Sunday afternoon at around 3:30 pm, with the minibus hired specially for attending the wedding ceremony.

The mini-bus driver, who also died, was attempting to overtake another vehicle and met the speeding lorry, with the lorry heading to Kahama in Shinyanga Region from Dar es Salaam.

Following the accident, President John Magufuli sent a message of condolence to the Singida Regional Commissioner and the bereaved families.

A statement by the Directorate



Following the accident, President John Magufuli sent a message of condolence to the Singida Regional Commissioner and the bereaved families

of Presidential Communications stated that the president has directed responsible authorities to put more efforts into curbing road crashes, especially during this holiday season.

The president expressed concern that most road accidents occur towards the end of the year.

"My condolences go to the grieving families. May God give you strength during these hard times. May their souls rest in peace," the president mourned, wishing a quick recovery to those undergoing treatment in hospital.

Dr Magufuli appealed to road users to be careful and adhere to road traffic rules and regulations to avoid accidents.

Reports show that 80 percent of accidents in the country are caused by reckless drivers, 12 percent arise from mechanical problems, six percent from weather mishaps and around two percent of road accidents are traced to poor infrastructures.

The global figures as provided by WHO in 2018, indicate that each year 1.35 million people die as a result of road traffic crashes, while millions more are injured or disabled. Head injuries remain the leading cause of death and disability among motorcycle riders, the report indicated.

Minister moves in, revoking the licences of six gold smugglers

By Guardian Reporter, Chunya

MINERALS minister Doto Biteko yesterday revoked the licences of six gold dealers and fired three officials of the Chunya minerals trading centre on suspicions of gold smuggling.

The minister also ordered the immediate dismissal of the chairman of the association of gold traders at the centre, Gagala Paul, who is accused of conspiring with officials to facilitate illegal gold exports.

The sacked officers are barred from accessing their offices so as to pave the way for investigations, he said, listing them as Gabriel Masai, Edward Gavana and George Wandiga.

"We better remain with two faithful gold dealers instead of dealing with dishonest ones. The government is keen to work with respectful traders who operate in accordance with the laid down procedures, regulations, and laws," the minister declared.

Last week, when swearing in new

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Ex-BoT officials in court over destruction of notes

By Guardian Reporter

THIRTEEN people, among them eight former Bank of Tanzania (BoT) employees, yesterday appeared before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam charged with six counts of economic sabotage, including illegal destruction of currency notes.

The former BoT staff are Mariagoreth Kunzugala (29), Henry Mbowe (36), Asha Sekiboko (30), Cecilia Mpande (49), Agripina Komba (55), Zubeda Mjewa (50), Khadija Kassunumo (57) and Mwanaheri Omary (53), arraigned along with five other accused persons.

All the suspects are alleged to have caused the country a loss of 4.6bn/- by



All the suspects are alleged to have caused the country a loss of 4.6bn/- by destroying intact notes illegally

destroying intact notes illegally.

Before Resident Magistrate Godfrey Isaya, it was alleged that the accused committed the offense at various locations in Dar es Salaam between January 1, 2017 and September 30, 2019.

The prosecution was led by State Chief Prosecutor Paul Kadushi assisted by senior government advocates Wankyo Simon, Turumanya Majigo and Jaqline Nyantori.

Nyantori claimed that between January 2017 and September 2019, the BoT staff violated their work ethics and led a criminal gang.

In the second count, it was claimed that in the named dates in Dar es

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Interfaith committee urges post-polls national palaver

By Henry Mwangonde

A cross-section of religious and retired political leaders yesterday called for a national dialogue to reflect and address concerns which emerged during the just-ended general election, saying leaving them unattended threatens peace and unity, in a meeting organized by Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity.

Discussing the role of religious leaders in peacekeeping and development, the leaders said there is a need for the country

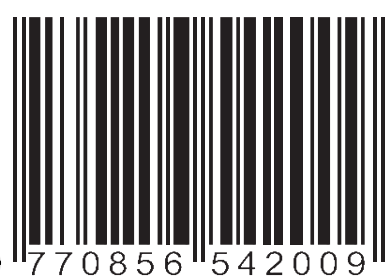


to reach a consensus on various issues that were triggered before, during and after the October elections.

Former Prime Minister Judge (rtd) Joseph Warioba (pictured) listed down a number of issues that have emerged and are threatening the peace, including the appointment of aspirants for political positions.

This role has been hijacked by political parties, he stated, intoning that political parties should go back to the drawing table and cross-check what

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Minister directs new push at TIC

■ Bossing over investors must now end, he cautions

By Henry Mwangonde

THE newly appointed Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment), Prof Kitila Mkumbo, has advised on a number of measures to be taken by the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) to facilitate the flow of investments.

In remarks upon a tour of TIC offices in Dar es Salaam, Prof Mkumbo said the centre needs to be more dynamic in marketing itself globally as a tool for investment facilitation in the country.

He said there is a need to collectively work with like-minded institutions like the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and others to address hitches encumbering businesses.

The visit was mainly intended to give TIC officials the government's vision for the next five years whereby we intend to create eight million jobs and work on boosting economic growth to 8.0 percent, he stated.

He elaborated his instructions to TIC officers that it is time to drop the 'bossing over investors' mindset and take investors as partners in the development of the country.

He pledged commitment to cooperate with the private sector in planning and implementation of sectoral plans, policies and revisions to various laws on investment and business, along with removing barriers and bureaucracy that hinder trade and investment.

"When we empower the private we are building a strong economy

because their operations mean our people are going to be employed and being able to build the country's economy," he said.

The minister's tour, the first since his swearing-in by President Magufuli last week was aimed at furthering the president's categorical statement that his government focuses on building an industry-driven economy.

The president is walking the talk by creating a good environment of doing business for local and foreign investors, where he has also been cracking down on corruption systems, ensuring smooth and quick clearing of consignments at the port and other entry or exit points.



When we empower the private we are building a strong economy because their operations mean our people are going to be employed and being able to build the country's economy



Prof Mohamed Janabi, executive director of the Dar es Salaam-based Jakaya Kikwete Cardiac Institute, speaks at the Ardhi University convocation held in the city at the weekend. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

FROM PAGE 1

Salaam, suspects Genand, Mchegage, Chengula, Chhipo and Ishengoma while no longer employees of the central bank, committed the crime in collaboration with BoT staff.

In the third count, it was claimed that on the same dates in Dar es Salaam, the accused destroyed Tanzanian banknotes totaling 4.5bn/- by breaking them into pieces which is an unpatriotic action.

Majigo further claimed that on different dates in Dar es Salaam, the suspects also obtained a 1.5bn/- profit from BoT after

Ex-BoT officials in court over destruction of notes

submitting the destroyed notes to the bank.

In the fifth count, it was claimed that the suspects engaged in a money laundering whereas the 1.5bn/- profit they acquired from the bank was transacted illegally while knowing that the funds were obtained due to the previous crime.

The sixth charge read that in the same mentioned dates in Dar es Salaam, the suspects engaged in a money laundering crime thus commissioning a loss of 4.6bn/- to the central bank.

The court however stated that it had no jurisdiction to hear the economic sabotage case so the suspects were sent to the remand

waiting for investigations to be completed.

The prosecutor said that the investigation on the case is yet to be completed, requesting the magistrate to fix a day for the case to be mentioned.

Magistrate Isaya said that the case will be brought up for mention on December 28.



Ardhi University chancellor former Prime Minister Cleopa Msuya confers a PhD upon a graduand at graduation ceremony held at the university's premises in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

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the constitution says about the power of citizens.

"There are actions which have taken us to this point and to get back we need to sit down and discuss these issues so that we have a common understanding for peace," he asserted.

Another issue that threatens the country's peace and unity was the removal of candidates from a list of aspirants even after endorsement by their respective parties, he stated, affirming that this was the same as disregarding the will of the people.

"Political parties represent people. It is very unfortunate for an institution like the electoral commission or its representatives

Interfaith committee urges post-polls national palaver

to remove them from the list just because they did not meet their requirements when their role is just to facilitate the will of the people," he emphasized.

Bishop Dr Stephen Munga of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Tanga diocese said the clerics' committee decided to bring the idea at this time as a way of promoting peace and national unity.

"There is no development without peace therefore we

should all agree that peace is at the centre of national development. Now there is need for a national evaluation of some of the happenings during the just ended political exercise to choose our leaders," he stated.

In his presentation, Sheikh Issa Othman Issa said religious ethics are crucial in determining the sustainability of the country's peace and stability, especially on the part of leaders.

Amon Kakwale, commander

of the Temeke police region who represented the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro said religious leaders play a key role in maintaining and keeping the peace, and the police will always work hand in hand with them to perform their tasks.

The chairman of the Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Foundation, Joseph Butiku said a national dialogue was vital to bridge gaps and heals wounds caused by differences arising from the general election.

Minister moves in, revokes the licences of six gold smugglers

FROM PAGE 1

ministers and deputy ministers at the Chamwino State House in Dodoma, President John Magufuli made reference to rampant illegal exports of gold from the district.

The minister directed officials in the district to register gold smelting plants, noting that the move will enable the government to know the amount of gold they produce and follow up on their market outlets.

He similarly directed Permanent Secretary Prof Simon Msanjila to reward whistleblowers facilitating the arrest of gold smugglers, appealing to gold dealers and miners to cooperate with the government in ending illegal exports of gold in Chunya. The aim is to ensure discipline as well as enhance productivity in the minerals sector, he asserted.

Gold miners and traders need to make sure the produce is traded at the centre, underlining that stringent measures will be taken against anyone conducting the business outside the ministry's official gold trading centres.

Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila assured the minister of enhanced security, noting that the regional administration has started to build special prison cells to accommodate suspected illegal gold exporters in particular. "We will no longer be taking them to Mbeya prison. Gold smugglers will now be imprisoned in Chunya District," he emphasized.

On Thursday last week, the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Biswalo Mganga ordered the arraignment of two police officers and five gold traders over suspicions of facilitating illegal exportation of gold from Chunya District.

The DPP alleged that the two cops facilitated the export after receiving a 150m/- bribe,

elaborating that they face six counts, including money laundering.

He similarly directed the prosecution of three gold traders claimed to be owners of the gold consignment that was being smuggled out of the country, and whose value was not immediately stated.

Police officers to be charged were listed as E.8970 Cpl Hassan Mohamed Njujilo and G.7757 PC Daniel Azael Mrema.

The gold traders to be charged alongside the policemen are Sabra Habib Ally, Malof Salum Nassor and Hamdun Stamily Mtafuni.

The charges include contravention of the Money Laundering Act (Cap 423) as revised in 2019, engaging in planned criminal activities contrary to the Anti-Sabotage Act (Cap 200- revised 2019 and receiving bribe contrary to the PCCB Act (Cap 329) revised 2019.

Other charges to be preferred include offering bribes contrary to the PCCB Act, abuse of office and exporting minerals without permit contrary to the Mining Act (Cap 123).

Giving account on the incident, Mganga said on November 24 this year the suspects - the policemen in collaboration with Hamdun Stamily Mtafuni, small gold miner seized a gold consignment that was being smuggled by big minerals traders, Sabra Habib Ally and Malof Salum Nassor.

Soon after seizure of the consignment, the two policemen solicited for 150m/- bribe from Sabra Habib Ally and Malof Salum Nassor, in close cooperation with the small miner Hamdun Stamily Mtafuni.

The gold traders paid the bribe money to the two policemen after which they returned the seized consignment of gold that had no permits or government levy paid in accordance with the Mining Act (Cap 123) as revised in 2019, the DPP added.



Manyoni District herders have an audience at Lusilile village at the weekend with the district's executive director, Charles Fussi. The thrust was primarily on finding ways out of commonly experienced challenges. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Minister suspends three Rural Water Supply, Sanitation Agency's officials

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

WATER Minister Jumaa Aweso has suspended three heads of department of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASA) over poor performance and misuse of office.

Aweso instructed the ministry's Permanent Secretary Antony Sanga to re-allocate the officials in other areas.

He took the decision in Dar es Salaam yesterday when he visited the Agency to review its performance on the ongoing wells drilling project in rural areas.

The minister expressed his dissatisfaction ongoing progress of the project.

The three suspended officials include the head of research unit Fadhili Saulo, the Agency's technical manager Abdallah Abdulrahman, and the head of procurement and supply unit, Hamadi Msuya.

"I am disappointed with the agency's performance especially on water projects, this agency is supposed to be on top of all well drilling projects in the country but it has been lagging behind with people struggling to access the service," he said.

The agency had to drill 508 water wells this year, but it had so far drilled only 102 water wells something which is not right.

The minister also said that the officials have been misusing the office for their own benefit which includes deploying their own machinery for water well drilling claiming the government-owned drilling machinery were defective.

"These officials might have been sabotaging the machines provided by the government so

that they can be able to use their own equipment and thus get more financial gains. This behaviour is intolerable and unacceptable," the minister said adding: "It is not possible for all four drilling equipment to be defective at the same time and not unrepaired while heads of departments are juts there doing nothing."

Aweso said that the government is committed to increasing the agency's performance to make sure that they are purchasing new water plants so they can cope up with the government plans to supply water in rural areas.

He also reminded the RUWASA director-general Clement Kivegalo to ensure that he implements his responsibilities efficiently and bring the required results or else be ready to leave the post.

The minister also instructed Water College Board chairman Prof Felix Mitalo to work with RUWASA to ensure that the experts from the Water College are deployed to work in various government water sustainability projects, especially in the rural areas.

"We have a number of highly qualified engineers from the Water Institute who can oversee different water projects that are ongoing in the country but we have not been utilising them enough which leads to many projects remain substandard due to poor monitoring," the minister added.

"It is not possible for all four drilling equipment to be defective at the same time and not unrepaired while heads of departments are juts there doing nothing."

9 veterinary physicians given stern warnings

By Guardian Reporter

NINE veterinary physicians from different district councils have been given stern warnings for non-submission of reports on livestock diseases to the responsible authorities, whilst 10 others were given one-week to submit their reports.

Speaking at the weekend on the sidelines of the 38th Tanzania Veterinary Association (TVA) conference held in Arusha from December 10 to 12, this year, the Veterinary Council of Tanzania (VCT) Registrar Dr Bedan Masuruli said nine veterinarians are required, in a period of one

year, to submit their reports to the Livestock Services Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries on a weekly and monthly basis.

Dr Masuruli explained that on December 9, this year the Council convened an emergency meeting to discuss claims on various veterinary experts who have failed to submit weekly and monthly reports of veterinary diseases to the Livestock Services Department whereby about 40 per cent of the experts out of 184 local councils do not do so.

He said 78 experts were not submitting reports, however after initial interrogation, 34 experts

were discovered not to have submitted their reports at all, and the Council, at the meeting summoned veterinary experts from various local councils, whereas 19 responded to the summons.

He said during interrogation, 10 veterinary experts who said they had evidence of reports submitted were given one week to give the evidence.

He said the nine others who did not have any evidence of reports submitted were given stern warnings and to ensure that in the coming one-year they should not fail to submit both weekly and monthly reports on livestock

diseases.

The VCT Registrar said the council, in collaboration with the Livestock Services Department, will continue to provide training to veterinary experts on the importance of submitting reports on livestock diseases from their local councils.

Livestock Services Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has been receiving both weekly and monthly reports on livestock diseases to enable the ministry to assess the situation of livestock diseases in the various areas of the country for appropriate action to eradicate the diseases.



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**JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA
WIZARA YA KILIMO
MAMLAKA YA UDHIBITI WA MBOLEA TANZANIA**



**TAARIFA KWA UMMA
MABADILIKO YA BEI ELEKEZI KWA MBOLEA ZA DAP NA UREA**

Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Mbolea Tanzania (TFRA) ni Taasisi iliyochini ya Wizara ya Kilimo yenye jukumu la kusimamia uzalishaji, uingizaji na biashara ya mbolea na visaidizi vyake. Pia, TFRA imepewa mamlaka ya kusimamia bei za mbolea kulingana na mazingira ya biashara kwa wakati husika.

Kutokana na kuwa kiwango kikubwa cha mbolea zinazotumika hapa nchini huagizwa kutoka nje ya nchi na hivyo bei zake hapa nchini huathiriwa na mazingira ya uzalishaji katika nchi wazalishaji. Aidha, uwepo wa Ugonjwa wa Homa ya Mapafu unaosababishwa na Virusi vya Corona (COVID-19) uliozikumba nchi nyingi duniani, umeathiri uzalishaji katika sekta nyingi ikiwemo uzalishaji wa mbolea na kusababisha bei za mbolea katika soko la dunia kuongezeka. Kufuatia athari hizo na kupitia kifungu cha 4(1)(u) cha Sheria ya Mbolea Na. 9 ya Mwaka 2009 na Kanuni zake; Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Mbolea Tanzania (TFRA) imefanya mabadiliko ya bei elekezi kwa mbolea ya kupandiana na kukuzia. Bei za mbolea aina ya DAP zitakuwa wastani wa kati ya shilingi 60,900/= hadi 71,700/= kwa mfuko wa Kilo 50 na kwa mbolea aina ya Urea itakuwa kati ya shilingi 47,700/= hadi 58,200/= kutegemea umbali wa kituo cha mauzo kutoka Dar es Salaam. **Bei hizi mpya ziliaanza kutumika kuanzia tarehe 30 Novemba 2020.**

Mamlaka inasitiza kuwa hizi ni bei kikomo cha juu (ceiling prices), na hivyo kuwataka wafanyabiashara wote

wa mbolea kuzingatia bei hizo kwani hatua kali za kisheria zitachukuliwa kwa yeyote atayekiuka bei hizo. Hivyo, wafanyabiashara wanaruhusiwa kuuza mbolea hizo chini ya bei zinazotangazwa ambazo zinapatikana pia kwenye tovuti ya Mamlaka (www.tfra.go.tz), tovuti ya Wizara ya Kilimo (www.kilimo.go.tz) na katika maduka yote ya kuuza mbolea.

TFRA inawaomba viongozi wa Mikoa na halmashauri kusimamia bei hizi na kutoa taarifa za mahitaji ya mbolea kulingana na eneo husika. Aidha, wakulima kupitia vyama vya ushirika wanashauriwa kuagiza mbolea moja kwa moja kutoka nje ya nchi kupitia mfumo wa ununuzi wa mbolea kwa pamoja (BPS) ili kufanikisha upatikanaji wake kwa wakati. Zaidi, TFRA, inawaomba wataanzania wenyewe uwezo kuwekeza katika ujenzi wa viwanda vya mbolea.

Dkt. Stephen E. Ngailo
MKURUGENZI MTENDAZI
15 Desemba 2020

BEI ZA REJAREJA KWA MBOLEA YA UREA NA DAP KWA UZITO MBALIMBALI

Kituo cha Mauzo	Urea			DAP		
	Kilo 50	Kilo 25	Kilo 5	Kilo 50	Kilo 25	Kilo 5
Arusha	53,009	27,505	6,101	66,566	34,283	7,457
Arumeru (Usa River)	52,560	27,280	6,056	66,122	34,061	7,412
Arusha CC	52,560	27,280	6,056	66,122	34,061	7,412
Arusha DC	52,555	27,277	6,055	66,117	34,058	7,412
Karatu	53,309	27,655	6,131	66,871	34,436	7,487
Longido	53,018	27,509	6,102	66,579	34,290	7,458
Makuyuni	52,983	27,491	6,098	66,545	34,272	7,454
Meru	52,325	27,162	6,032	65,887	33,943	7,389
Monduli DC	52,780	27,390	6,078	66,341	34,171	7,434
Namanga	53,143	27,572	6,114	66,705	34,353	7,471
Ngorongoro	54,861	28,430	6,286	68,423	35,211	7,642
Dodoma	51,728	26,864	5,973	65,290	33,645	7,329
Bahi DC	51,769	26,884	5,977	65,330	33,665	7,333
Chamwino DC	51,319	26,660	5,932	64,881	33,440	7,288
Chemba DC	52,159	27,080	6,016	65,721	33,860	7,372
Dodoma MC	51,517	26,759	5,952	65,079	33,539	7,308
Kondoa DC	52,362	27,181	6,036	65,924	33,962	7,392
Kongwa DC	51,405	26,702	5,940	64,966	33,483	7,297
Mpwapwa DC	51,565	26,783	5,957	65,127	33,563	7,313
DSM	47,791	24,896	5,979	60,973	31,486	6,897
Dar es Salaam CC	47,727	24,864	5,573	60,909	31,454	6,891
Ilala MC	47,785	24,892	5,578	60,966	31,483	6,897
Kigamboni	47,826	24,913	5,583	61,008	31,504	6,901
Kinondoni MC	47,779	24,890	5,578	60,961	31,480	6,896
Pugu	47,837	24,918	5,584	61,018	31,509	6,902
Temeke MC	47,753	24,877	5,575	60,935	31,467	6,893
Ubungu	47,831	24,916	5,583	61,013	31,506	6,901
Geita	55,644	28,822	6,364	69,205	35,603	7,721
Bukombe DC	55,198	28,599	6,320	68,760	35,380	7,676
Chato DC	55,738	28,869	6,374	69,300	35,650	7,730
Geita DC	55,016	28,508	6,302	68,578	35,289	7,658
Geita TC	55,674	28,837	6,367	69,236	35,618	7,724
Mbogwe DC	56,113	29,056	6,411	69,674	35,837	7,767
Nyang'hwale DC	56,123	29,062	6,412	69,685	35,843	7,769
Iringa	52,297	27,149	6,030	65,859	33,929	7,386
Iringa DC (Mlenge)	52,304	27,152	6,030	65,865	33,933	7,387
Iringa MC (Nduji)	51,859	26,930	5,986	65,421	33,711	7,342
Kililo DC (Masisiwe)	52,282	27,141	6,028	65,844	33,922	7,384
Mafinga TC (Isalavanu)	52,325	27,162	6,032	65,887	33,943	7,389
Mufindi DC (Kiyowela)	52,715	27,358	6,072	66,277	34,139	7,428
Kagera	57,163	29,581	6,516	70,725	36,362	7,872
Biharamulo DC	56,531	29,266	6,453	70,093	36,046	7,809
Bukoba DC	57,161	29,580	6,516	70,722	36,361	7,872
Bukoba MC	57,537	29,769	6,554	71,099	36,550	7,910
Karagwe DC	58,179	30,089	6,618	71,741	36,870	7,974
Kemondo	57,025	29,513	6,503	70,587	36,294	7,859
Kyerwa DC	58,144	30,072	6,614	71,705	36,853	7,971
Misenyi DC	57,867	29,933	6,587	71,429	36,714	7,943
Muleba DC	57,190	29,595	6,519	70,752	36,376	7,875
Ngara DC	56,619	29,310	6,462	70,181	36,091	7,818
Nyakanazi	55,848	28,924	6,385	69,410	35,705	7,741
Rulenge	56,690	29,345	6,469	70,252	36,126	7,825
Katavi	57,395	29,697	6,539	70,957	36,478	7,896
Mlele (Ilunde)	55,713	28,857	6,371	69,275	35,637	7,727
Mpimbwe (Majimoto)	58,114	30,057	6,611	71,676	36,838	7,968
Nsimbo DC (Ugalla)	57,614	29,807	6,561	70,981	36,491	7,898
Mpanda MC (Mwamkululu)	57,420	29,710	6,542	71,676	36,838	7,968
Mpanda DC (Mishamo)	58,114	30,057	6,611	71,176	36,588	7,918
Kigoma	56,522	29,261	6,452	70,084	36,042	7,808
Buhigwe DC	56,508	29,254	6,451	70,069	36,035	7,807
Kakonko DC	56,207	29,104	6,421	69,769	35,885	7,777
Kasulu DC	57,614	29,807	6,561	71,176	36,588	7,918
Kasulu TC	56,761	29,380	6,476	70,322	36,161	7,832
Kibondo DC	56,478	29,239	6,448	70,040	36,020	7,804
Kigoma DC	56,355	29,177	6,435	69,916	35,958	7,792
Kigoma MC (Ujiji)	56,508	29,254	6,451	70,069	36,035	7,807
Uvinza DC	55,748	28,874	6,375	69,310	35,655	7,731
Kilimanjaro	52,077	27,038	6,008	65,639	33,819	7,364
Hai DC (Bomang'ombe)	52,266	27,133	6,027	65,828	33,914	7,383
Kahe	51,950	26,975	5,995	65,512	33,756	7,351
Moshi DC	51,972	26,986	5,997	65,534	33,767	7,353
Moshi MC	52,132	27,066	6,013	65,694	33,847	7,369
Mwanga DC	51,849	26,924	5,985	65,410	33,705	7,341
Rombo (Mkuu)	52,475	27,237	6,047	66,036	34,018	7,404
Same DC	51,571	26,785	5,957	65,132	33,566	7,313
Siha (Sanya juu)	52,400	27,200	6,040	65,962	33,981	7,396
Lindi	51,833	26,916	5,983	65,394	33,697	7,339
Kilwa Masoko	51,565	26,783	5,953	65,127	33,563	7,313
Lindi DC	51,555	26,777	5,955	65,116	33,558	7,312
Lindi MC	51,522	26,761	5,952	65,084	33,542	7,308
Liwale DC	51,945	26,973	5,995	65,507	33,753	7,351
Nachingwea DC	52,339	27,120	6,024	65,801	33,901	7,380
Ruangwa DC	52,170	27,085	6,017	65,731	33,866	7,373
Manyara	53,990	27,995	6,199	67,551	34,776	7,555
Babati DC	53,550	27,775	6,155	67,112	34,556	7,511
Babati TC	53,459	27,730	6,146	67,021	34,510	7,502
Hanang (Katesh)	53,834	27,917	6,183	67,395	34,698	7,540
Kiteto (Kibaya)	54,583	28,291	6,258	68,144	35,072	7,614
Mbulu DC	53,914	27,957	6,191	67,476	34,738	7,548
Simanjoro (Orkasumet)	54,599	28,299	6,260	68,160	35,080	7,616
Mara	57,292	29,646	6,529	70,854	36,427	7,885
Bunda DC	56,766	29,383	6,477	70,328	36,164	7,833
Butiama DC	56,307	29,154	6,431	69,869	35,935	7,787
Musoma DC	57,149	29,575	6,515	70,711	36,355	7,871
Musoma MC	57,167	29,583	6,517	70,728	36,364	7,873
Rorya DC	57,643	29,822	6,564	71,205	36,603	7,921
Serengeti (Mugumu)	57,879	29,939	6,588	71,440	36,720	7,944
Tarime DC	57,761	29,881	6,576	71,323	36,661	7,932
Tarime TC	57,667	29,833	6,567	71,229	36,614	7,923
Mbeya	53,840	27,920	6,184	67,402	34,701	7,540
Busokelo DC	55,102	28,551	6,310	68,663	35,332	7,666
Chunya DC	53,892	27,946	6,189	67,454	34,727	7,545
Kyela DC	54,149	28,075	6,215	67,711	34,855	7,571
Mbarali (Rujewa)	52,849	27,425	6,085	66,411	34,205	7,441
Mbeya CC	53,502	27,751	6,150	67,064	34,532	7,506
Mbeya DC	53,518	27,759	6,152	67,080	34,540	7,508
Mbeya MC	53,871	27,936	6,187	67,433	34,716	7,543
Rungwae (Tukuyu)	50,927	26,464	5,893	64,489	33,244	7,249
Morogoro	50,773	26,387	5,877	64,335	33,168	7,234
Gairo DC	50,934	26,670	5,934	64,902	33,451	7,290
Ifakara	50,934	26,670	5,934	64,902	33,451	7,290
Kidatu	50,950	26,675	5,935	64,912	33,456	7,291
Kilombero (Ruaha)	51,089	26,545	5,909	64,651	33,325	7,265
Kilosa	50,180	26,090	5,818	63,741	32,871	7,174
Malinyi	52,148	27,074	6,015	65,710	33,855	7,371
Mang'ula	51,030	26,515	5,903	64,592	33,296	7,259
Mikumi	50,773	26,387	5,877	64,335	33,168	7,234
Milmba	51,378	26,689	5,938	64,940	33,470	7,294
Morogoro DC	50,131	26,066	5,813	63,693	3	

Farmers in Kigoma urged to collect, plant improved oil palm seedlings

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

FARMERS in Kigoma Region have been challenged to turn out in big number to collect improved oil palm seedlings of TENERA variety for planting in their farms before the rain season ends.

The massive hybrid seedlings were collaboratively produced between the institutions and Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) and are being disseminated to the farmers and other stakeholders.

Speaking here over the weekend during the distribution exercise, farm manager at the Kigoma-based Bulombora JKT Major Godfrey Mwakabole said the

speed of collecting the seedlings is very slow; a situation which has prompted some institutions to slow down massive production, fearing that they might be wasted.

He explained that there are sixty five thousand seedlings staying idle at the camp waiting for the farmers.

He said for the farmers to collect the seedlings, they need to follow government process and procedures from the local governments.

"We have slowed down production and kept some seeds in the store until the current seedlings which are staying idled on the ground have been collected," he said.

Bulombora Camp has produced more than eighty thousands of improved seedlings of TENERA variety. The Camp will need only fifteen thousand to plant on the Camp's 300 acres of land, the rest have been given to the farmers as per the government's directive.

"This time, the camp has planned to grow the oil palm improved seedlings of TENERA variety on 300- acres in which only fifteen thousands of the oil palm improved seedlings will be sufficient enough to cover the whole area.

"We have a surplus of sixty thousand oil palm improved seedlings waiting for the farmers and other agriculture

stakeholders to come and collect them as directed by the government," he said.

He also invited farmers and other agricultural stakeholders from other regions such as Katavi, and Coast region where the crop thrives well to go and pick up the seedlings.

He said the military has played its role of production but it is up to the farmers and other stakeholders to collect the seedling for planting.

"Since we announced that the seedlings were ready, the speed of collecting these improved varieties which produces five times higher than the traditional Dura is very low," he said.

He said the farmers should understand that unlike the traditional Dura type, the new hybrid varieties takes only three years to mature. Citing an example, he said: "Here at our Camp we planted these hybrid

varieties in 2017 and this year we already started harvesting," he said.

The Officer in Charge- Kwitanga Prison, Senior Superintendent of Prisons Dr Uswege Mwakahesya said that the Prison has produced massively and so far there are more than 1,7800 seedlings at different stages which are being planted by the Camp.

"We have enough seedlings, we are continuing with planting exercise, we are planning to plant a total of 2,000 acres, the surplus will be distributed to the farmers as per the government's directives," he said.

TARI Director General Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo said the Ministry of Agriculture through TARI has been directed to speed up production of the improved Tenera variety to meet demands of the farmers and other stakeholders.

"When producing these

improved seedlings, we collaborate with district councils and public institutions like military institutions like Bulombora JKT, Kwitanga Prison and ASA. As we are speaking now, we have already produced more than 4.2 million improved seedlings," he said.

He said this mean that we want to make sure that we deploy all the potential area for palm oil production in Tanzania by planting Tenera variety.

"Tenera variety produces five times higher palm oil compared to Dura which produces only 1.6 per hectare. Most farmers in Tanzania grow exclusively Dura type with low yielding potential in old farms. This is one of the main causes for low oil palm yield in Tanzania. So our intention is to get out of shortage of edible oil by increasing research and production of these improved oil palm of Tenera variety," he stressed.



Feza Schools kindergarten student Bijan Khorshi Hassan hands over a message to chief guest Biharamulo legislator Ezra Chilewesa after delivering it at graduation ceremony held at the school in Dar es Salaam at the weekend. Others are Feza Schools acting director Albert Simon (L), Feza Primary School head teacher Mustafa Ceric (R) and Feza Kindergarten head teacher Arzu Yilmaz (in headscarf). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Govt executes 5-year framework to strengthen healthcare services

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government is implementing a five-year Quality Improvement Strategic Framework for Healthcare (2020-2025) to improve healthcare services delivery in all public and private health facilities.

Acting Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Chrisogone German disclosed this over the weekend on the sidelines of the health stakeholders meeting from the private and mission hospitals met in Dar es Salaam to share experience on how they achieved quality of healthcare.

He said the move follows the expiry of the previous framework (2011-2016) adding that the new one aimed to further ensuring that the standard of care is the same in all facilities.

The meeting been organised by the PharmAccess Foundation in collaboration with the Christian Social Services Commission (CSSC) focused also to achieve excellence in quality experience from the field.

In his presentation "Tanzania

Quality Improvement Strategic Framework For Healthcare 2020-2025: What is there for the private sector?, he said it aims at ensuring that the standard of care is the same for both public and private healthcare facilities in the country.

"Currently, we are in the final stages of signatures, however, there is room for small inputs from the private sector if any," he insisted.

He noted that the framework has come up with quality improvement structures in all levels to strengthen quality improvement structures at national, regional and council levels by establishing national (QI) committee and quality improvement sub-committee under Regional Health Management Team (RHMT) and Council Health Management Team (CHMT).

Other objectives were to institute and monitor adherence to standards of care at different levels of health care delivery as well as strengthen the certification and accreditation system.

Nikole Spieker from PharmAccess International (PAI) -Tanzania pointed out

that healthcare service should mean both access and quality of healthcare.

"It is again a time for the private sector to comply with the regulation and policy in order to improve the quality of health care. The private sector should not only comply with the country's regulations and policy but also strive to meet excellence in service provision," she advised.

Another participant, Dr Peter Makanza, from Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre said commitment among staff was key towards the improvement of healthcare delivery.

"Effective, communication among all staff is very important to achieve quality improvement healthcare delivery in our health facilities," he insisted.

Seconding the argument, another participant from the Agha Khan Outreach Centre Bahati Temakela said regular internal auditing is very important to know the standard of healthcare services. "Strong relationship with staffs and commitment among them is one of major tools to make healthcare services sustainable," she said.

UDOM embarks on HIV/AIDs, NCDs test campaign

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE University of Dodoma (UDOM) has embarked on a three-day campaign aimed at testing HIV/AIDs and chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) among the institution staff and the community.

Speaking at the launch of the campaign yesterday, the acting Director of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dr Fabian Nyenyembe, noted that the country is witnessing a sharp increase in cases of NCDs both in rural and urban towns.

He said such cases are pushing backward the government's efforts to improve social and economic wellbeing among its people. "All these diseases used to be reported in developed countries but today we live with people who have been affected and this includes civil servants,"

he said. According to the director, the government's efforts to battle HIV and NCDs hasn't brought any tangible results calling on the general public to change their lifestyle as an attempt to tackle especially chronic NCDs.

"NCDs can be prevented by 80 percent and HIV/AIDs can also be prevented by 90 percent," he said, adding that such diseases paralyze the national workforce, slows GDP, and increases the health burden.

Prof Said Vuai, Acting Vice-Chancellor said the university is launching the campaign hoping it will help people understand their status as well as lower the infection rate.

Dr Matobogolo Boaz, UDOM Hospital Medical in-charge HIV, and NCDs have a substantial effect not only on individuals but the institution and the country. He said the campaign dubbed "Know

your health test HIV" will also include the screening of chronic NCDs including high blood pressure, diabetes, and body mass index. "All the screening will be voluntary and it is not compulsory to screen all the diseases," he said.

Dr Hafidh Ameir, Public Inspection Response Officer at the Tanzania Commission of AIDs (TaCAIDS) told the university community that 60 percent of civil servants are at high risk of contracting non-communicable diseases and those efforts need to be taken to avoid the disease.

He noted that the government has been working on eliminating the health challenge, hailing the university for initiating the campaign that he believes could add value to the global goal on HIV and AIDs.

Over 72,000 people contract HIV annually in Tanzania of which 40 percent of the population and youth.



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Chief Executive Officer

Management and Development for Health (MDH) is seeking for suitable Tanzanian candidates to fill the vacant post of **Chief Executive Officer** to lead the organization in advancing its mission and vision. MDH is an independent local non-governmental organization focusing primarily on public health service and research in the United Republic of Tanzania. MDH seeks to promote collaboration among government and academic institutions, as well as the private and non-profit sectors to advance public health and health care interests of the people of Tanzania. MDH works together with its partners to address the problems of tuberculosis, malaria, HIV/AIDS, chronic non-communicable diseases and other various health conditions in Tanzania. The organization also seeks to improve nutrition, maternal, neonatal and child health, while undertaking initiatives to advance public health research, education, and services to improve the lives of Tanzanians.

Job Summary:

The CEO is primarily responsible for the implementation of the strategic goals and objectives of MDH as established and approved by the Board of Directors. The CEO will provide direction and leadership towards the achievement of MDH's mission and vision as well as the strategies, annual goals and objectives as outlined in the MDH Strategic Plan. The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board of Directors.

Role & Responsibilities:

- Be answerable to the MDH Board of Directors for all functions of the organization including administration, finance, human resource and programme activities in order to enable it to play its overall governance role.
- Provide close leadership in the implementation of the MDH Strategic Plan to advance the mission and objectives and to promote growth of the organization. Report progress on the overall Strategic Plan and specific strategic initiatives to the Board.
- Work collaboratively with senior staff to develop departmental goals and objectives and align them with the strategic goals.
- Evaluate the performance of the senior staff for compliance with established policies and procedures, achievement of annual goals and objectives and overall contribution in support of the vision and mission
- Approve MDH operational procedures, policies and standards and ensure sound management practices to support programmatic, budgetary and regulatory compliance.
- Approve the annual program work plans and budgets.
- Oversee the design, marketing, promotion, evaluation, delivery and quality of MDH programs and services.
- Ensure MDH and its mission, programs, products and services are consistently presented in a strong, positive image to the community, government, local partners, donors and other relevant stakeholders. Serve as the interface between MDH and stakeholders.
- Oversee fundraising strategies and their implementation, including identifying resource requirements, researching for funding sources, establishing strategies to approach funders; identifying appropriate funding opportunities and submitting proposals for fundraising.
- Perform any other duties that may be directed by the Board.

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor of Arts or Science and a Masters or other post graduate degree in health sector is a requirement. Possession of a PhD in any health related field will be an added advantage to the applicant.
- Must have ten or more years of experience in a leadership role, working with outside institutions, including NGOs, other not-for-profits and government organizations; and experience in working in Africa or other international settings
- Candidate should have strong professional written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to communicate and interact with officials at all levels of government and to work effectively with a wide range of constituencies in a diverse community
- Ability to motivate teams and simultaneously manage several projects
- Experience in strategic planning and execution
- Knowledge of contract negotiation and change management
- Skills in examining and re-engineering operations and procedures
- Experience in formulating policy, and developing and implementing new strategies and procedures
- Ability to analyze and interpret data-financial and non-financial and qualitative factors
- Knowledge of public relations principles, practices, techniques and communication
- Ability to develop and deliver presentations
- Ability to identify and secure funding sources
- Demonstrable evidence of understanding government systems;
- Excellent management and personnel skills to enable the motivation, encouragement and participation of the Organization's operational departments and local partners;

How to Apply

Interested candidates for this position should submit an application letter, a detailed copy of their CVs, names and contact information (email addresses and telephone numbers) of three strong work-related referees.

Application letters should be submitted not later than **Friday, January 15, 2021 at 1600hrs**, to the Human Resource Director through e-mail to recruitment@mdh.or.tz.

Kindly note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Govt launches campaign to sensitise public to register with improved CHF

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo,

Dodoma

THE government has launched a special campaign to encourage the public to join with the improved Community Health Fund (iCHF) insurance scheme, through uses of media outlets.

The timely health initiative targets to educate and attract more Tanzanians to join with friendly health services.

The improved CHF (iCHF), has been introduced by the government for national-wide rollout as part to push for the country's policy to move towards Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC).

iCHF gears to increase access to quality healthcare for people in the informal sector, mostly rural and low-income groups.

Relevant statistics show that only 3.3 million people have so far registered with the health insurance scheme in the country.

Director of Health, Social Welfare, and Nutrition Services at the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Dr Ntuli Kapologwe yesterday told a press conference in Dodoma that the campaign was part of efforts by the government to ensure Tanzania attain universal health coverage.

"Studies show that many people who do not have insurance get into trouble when they need health care for lack of instant money, but this fund will allow them to get treatment in any government hospital anywhere in the country," Dr Kapologwe observed.

He added, that the campaign comes as the government makes significant investments in the health sector by building dispensaries, health centers, district hospitals and improving infrastructure as well as medical equipment, insisted that it was prudent for the majority to join the fund to get quality treatment.

"We want a large number of citizens to join so that these health facilities can be self-sufficient and self-sustaining due to the contributions of the people and the government is also filling some

amount," he explained.

Dr Kapologwe unveiled that, so far the government has rolled out at least 2.3bn/- to ensure the fund offers professional services, while on the other hand, the members have so far contributed to at least 14bn/-.

And he added, the need for citizens to still benefiting from the fund is very high as statistics show that 86 percent of citizens within the country have not yet joined any health insurance fund.

Also, he said the fund has now undergone many improvements including increasing benefits such as small and large surgeries, radiation services, exercise therapy for stroke sufferers, and appeals to major hospitals in the country.

Similarly, during a special survey conducted, many people recommended that a household of six people to pay 30,000/- per year and for the city of Dar es Salaam a household of six people to start with at least 150,000/-

However, Dr Kapologwe instructed the district's chief medical officers to ensure that they oversee the provision of health services in the country including providing education on the importance of joining health insurance funds.

"Under the 'improved CHF' (iCHF), people can enroll and get all health services offered at all public health, from levels of dispensaries, health centers as well as regional hospitals," he expressed.

Among service packages that iCHF members can get include all laboratory examination services, diagnosis, treatments, and medication as well as operations.

According to circular number one for the implementation of iCHF, provided by the Prime minister's office- RALG, members are entitled to get all health services offered at the mentioned health facilities, and not otherwise.

iCHF also offers a more extensive benefits package, covering primary care and referral for inpatient care for up to 5 days of admission. The co-premium has now been actuarially calculated and raised to 30,000/- (less than USD 14) per household per year.



Residents of Yara village in Mbarali District have a tricky time at the weekend moving a motorbike across a makeshift bridge of sorts deep inside an area under the Kapunga Farm irrigation scheme. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Illicit brew, marijuana land 7 people in police custody

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

POLICE in Mbeya Region are holding seven people after being found with illicit brew, popularly known as 'gongo' including marijuana.

Ulrich Matei, Mbeya Regional Police Commander told reporters here at the weekend that the seven were arrested from five different incidents.

RPC Matei said the first incident happened at ZZZK in Mbalizi Town area involving one Sikujua Obasi (19) arrested with five litres of 'gongo' including its processing plant.

He said in the second incident, the police arrested Yusuph Segereti aka 'Masuba' (54), Geoffrey Mwangoso (38) and Atufigwege Oscar (38) all residents of Kyimo in Rungwe District with 16 litres of the illicit brew.

He said the five were both sellers and users of the illicit brew and were arrested on December 11 this year. "But also our operation seized 40 litres of the illicit brew and a 'Boxer' motorcycles with Reg. MC 587 CLM used to transport the stuff, the incidence that saw the motorcycle owner run away abandoning both the brew and the bike," said RPC Matei.

He said in that operation they arrested one Tubone Robert (35) a resident of Ipinda in Kyela District and Musa Ayoub (28) a Mahenge Primary Scholl teacher as they were found drinking a prohibited illicit brew.

He said they were arrested with 20 packets of WIN liqueur with 41 percent alcohol content that was prohibited by the government.

In the last incident, RPC Matei said the police arrested two youth- Alex Hezron (21) and Ibrahim Hezron (19), both residents of Sae in Mbeya City after they were found with 65 gms of marijuana.



Our Farm Zanzibar founder Ives Montel (L), founder of has a word at the weekend with former workers of tourism hotels in Zanzibar retrenched owing to the Covid-19 crisis and now engaged in farming. Photo: Rahma Suleiman

Gender stakeholders express concern on GBV rates

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

GENDER and human rights stakeholders in the country have expressed concern on the gender-based violence, calling on authorities to closely monitor the problem.

They described it as acts of gender-based violence that are committed, abetted or aggravated, in part or fully, by the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), such as mobile phones, the internet, social media platforms and email.

Speaking during a conference organized by Haki Maendeleo, a local Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that advocates for entrenchment of human rights, good governance and democratic culture in Tanzania.

The conference brought together representatives from CSOs, women's rights activists, digital rights experts, journalists, private sector and technology professionals.

Haki Maendeleo director, Wilfred Warioba said the conference was part of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

"At this meeting we are reiterating the importance of having conversations on cyber harassment and the other new forms of violence faced by women and girls in the digital age," he noted.

He added that it is time to speak out about intimate image abuse and why the public need to raise recognition and awareness that this is abuse.

According to Warioba, in a world where the digital landscape is rapidly changing the way we access information, the extent to which technology can help or hinder those affected by gender based violence (GBV), remains a challenge.

He cited the 'African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms' developed in response to this challenge, endorsed by 42 African countries, Tanzania included.

The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) Chairman Judge (Retired) Mathew Mwaimu while officiating at the opening of the conference noted that there are a lot of new forms of gender-based violence in the digital age.

"Technology revolution has brought

new types of gender-based violence including online discrimination, cyber bullying, cyber stalking, blackmail and hate speech among others," he said.

He added that social media and other platforms provide information that are sometimes not good, misleading thus the need to uphold digital rights and responsibilities.

He thanked Haki Maendeleo for convening the meeting, saying it has come at the right time and that the most affected by this kind of violence are women.

In a presentation with the theme 'Freedom of Information and Requirement of new Online Content Regulations' Advocate John Mhangate however reminded the participants that the government has put in place legal measures to ensure digital rights.

He said through the regulation anyone who violate the digital rights of others is likely to face the law and punishment.

Dr Halima Kilugu from Haki Maendeleo stressed on the need to respect, protect and promote human rights towards ending gender-based violence in digital age.

SUGECO, Cuso International partner to help women, youth agricultural groups

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

THE Sokoine University Graduate Entrepreneurs Cooperative (SUGECO) and the Cuso International have entered into an agreement to support women and youths agricultural groups in Morogoro and Coast Regions with knowledge, skills and technologies on smart agriculture.

To achieve this, Cuso will initially issue US\$10,000 (23m/-) to facilitate mapping of farms for creating Kizimba Business Model (KBM) for women and youth. The amount will also facilitate meetings of different organizations and stakeholders to share knowledge and experience.

Speaking at Mkongo SUGECO incubator hub centre in Rufiji District, Coast Region when exchanging the signed partnership agreement, the country representative for Cuso International Romanus Mtung'e, said one of the key components of the agreement is to help SUGECO to reach many young farmers and enable them benefit from commercial agriculture.

"The intention is to create a competent human resource in the agribusiness sector relevant to market demand and potential to improve productivity and self-employment through the provision of effective market driven and gender responsive business development services," he said.

He said the starting point is to facilitate two initial activities for accelerating Kizimba Business Model (KBM) - supporting women and youth to invest in green and sustainable climate smart agribusiness value chains in the two regions.

He said that the initiative will also attract financial service providers to provide loans to approximately 2,000/- Small Scale Entrepreneurs (SMEs) for the next three years. "Cuso will keep supporting SUGECO in the entire business ecosystem for SMEs including bringing in country expert international volunteers to support the farming groups on access to market, access to finance, access to technology and business formalisation processes," he added.

Kizimba Business Model (KBM) is a real estate business approach in agriculture and agribusiness development that originates from Local Government Authority's Business Infrastructure and facilities development. The facilities are developed with necessary infrastructure divided into units called KIZIMBA.

According to him, this initiative is targeting two crops; Mango and Beans Business value chains opportunities because the initiative has identified market demand and off takers and has the projected investment and employment opportunities.

Mtung'e further said the KBM - development value proposition includes to ensure youth and women employment creation increase farmers connection to Global Value Chain, increase contribution of agriculture to national GDP, enhance stable and inclusive economic growth and substitution of importation of industrial raw materials. "It should be noted that, this initiative is coming at the right time as Mango account for about 50 percent of traded tropical fruits - globally, Tanzania ranks 17th in the world mango production, ranks 4th in terms of Mango pulp importation in Africa after Sudan, Egypt and Kenya and for the past 10 years in Tanzania the volume of mango pulp importation grew by over 200 percent. Therefore, this initiative is very well positioned to support Tanzania's industrialisation strategic approach for becoming a middle income country at a higher level," he said.

Revocatus Kimario, SUGECO executive director said the organization's mission is to prepare, enable and support knowledge-intensive, innovative entrepreneurs as they build successful businesses along agricultural and agribusiness value chains.

"So, the partnership agreement will capacitate the youth engagement in agribusiness so that they can employ themselves and be able to employ others. We have been working with different stakeholders in this agriculture field helping us to train our youth on hands-on-skills and we have been getting experts from Canada for this work.

He hinted on the note that through the partnership agreement, the money received will facilitate mapping of farms for creating KBM for women and youths as well as meeting of organisations and stakeholders to share experiences.

"SUGECO has been doing its best to change youth mindset on agriculture, we have trained a number of young people in the country and this has managed to transform their lives through embarking on modern agriculture, so I hope if these efforts will be accelerated, the country could witness rapid change of the sector," he said.



Industry and Trade minister Geoffrey Mwambe (R) has a quick word with Mtwara regional administrative secretary Alphayo Kidata on the sidelines of a Masasi District Council meeting yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Hamis Nasri

Morogoro farmers, herders get shot in the arm from SAT

By Correspondent Michael Sikapundwa, Morogoro

THE Sustainable Agriculture in Tanzania (SAT) has issued 2.3m/- to 16 groups of farmers and pastoralists in Morogoro Region so as to support them improve production of organic crops in their localities.

The farmers are those benefiting from the implementation of two projects—Farmers and Pastoralists Collaboration (FPC) and Uluguru Spice Project (USP) which is implemented by SAT in Mvomero and Morogoro Rural.

SAT's chief executive officer Janeth Maro, said that increasing the production of organic food to the groups will improve their standard and strengthen relationships and cooperation which were living in hostile due to land disputes.

Speaking at the SAT's 7th Agroecology forum held here recently, Maro named some of the benefited groups as Mkombozi from Vianzi village in Mvomero District, Mazimbu station from Kimambila village in Mvomero, and Numbini vanilla group from Lugeni village in Morogoro Rural District.

The event was graced by the Morogoro Regional Agricultural Advisor, Evance Gambishi, and attended by 1000 farmers and pastoralists from Mvomero, and Morogoro Rural districts.

In his remarks, Gambishi called for more coordinated relationships between SAT, farmers, pastoralists, and extension officers so as to overcome challenges facing them.

He commended SAT officials for conducting research whose results helped over 1000 to improve production after gaining

new modern agricultural practices like control pests, selection of best animal breed, and food storage.

"Farmers and pastoralists in the region have benefited with essential skills and knowledge required for increasing spice production like ginger, cinnamon, vanillas as well as animal breeding, whose demand is high in the United States and within the country since majority has transformed from chemical to organic consumption," he said.

Some of the beneficiaries like Muselem Kinyozi were sent abroad to learn agronomic and animal husbandry practices.

"After coming back from the training, I was able to apply the skills in my farming and I am now selling cattle at a more profitable price where a calf can be sold from 200,000/- to 400,000/-," Kinyozi narrated.

He commended SAT supporting the small scale farmers because through their support, he has also imparted the knowledge to his fellow farmers and livestock keepers in the villages of Dakawa, Mtakuja, Lubungo and Mangahe in Mvomero District.

Alex Nguzo, chairman of spice producers at Tawa village in Morogoro Rural, said the group has increased the production of spice from five to 10 tonnes due to closer support from SAT.

SAT holistic group's operation officer, Adam Nabic said the organisation also established a special factory to process dairy from farmers as the majority of them were selling the product at a low price.

"The factory has the capacity to process over 500 liters of milk per day, so I call upon pastoralists not only in Mvomero District but even Kilosa to utilise this opportunity," he said.

Students in Dar given hearing aids worth 31m/-

By Correspondent James Kandoya

STUDENTS at Buguruni Primary School for the deaf in Ilala Municipal Council have reason to smile after receiving hearing aids worth over 31m/- from the Dar es Salaam-based paints' manufacturer—Kansai Plascon Paints (T) Ltd.

Speaking while handing over the renovated school kitchen over the weekend, the Kansai Plascon Executive Director Khusein Jamala said the aim of his company was to make pupils happy.

He said his company made the donation after visiting the school where the management requested for the support, he also

said there are plans to paint the whole school.

Jamala revealed that the company renovated the school kitchen at 3m/- to enable students to use it in a hygienic environment.

"Our main duty is to build happiness for the children and reduce school dropout. We promise to donate more to the school from time to time depending on their demand," he said.

According to him, the company was ready to further support the school including dispatching a team of experts to the school vocation center to give painting skills to students who completed their education and are yet to be

employed.

School Head teacher, Yahya Maftah said his school has a total of 25 teachers and 236 children, out of them 134 live in hostels.

He said the school is a home for the deaf, disabled, children from vulnerable conditions, and orphans noting that more support is needed.

"Concerted efforts from stakeholders are highly needed to support the government to build happiness for children in this particular group," he said.

Maftah added that the school is facing a number of challenges including poor infrastructures, laundry, teaching materials, and other related challenges. He invited more stakeholders to

advance support.

"I would like to thank the management of Kansai Plascon for the support to our children. In doing so, they have built happiness in our children. We call on other good Samaritans to join us," he said.

Representing the Director of Education - Ilala Municipal Council, and the Education Officer (Adults) Khamis Mlangale called upon other stakeholders to donate to children with disabilities.

"Kansai Plascon has shown the way, therefore it is our duty to join their efforts by donating to the school to create a conducive environment for the pupils," he said.

Chinese embassy donates 80m/- sanitary pads to Kongwa school

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

THE Chinese Embassy, through Agri Thamani, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has donated sanitary towels valued at 80m/- to Bwaga Secondary School students in Kongwa District, Dodoma Region to assist in reducing truancy at the school during menstruation periods.

Such assistance targets over 3,000 students in secondary schools in Tabora, Tanga, Lindi, Kigoma, and Kagera regions.

Speaking at the handing over event, Neema Lugangira, Agri Thamani director said the aim of the assistance was to reduce inconveniences facing girl students while at school.

"These towels are important for girl students as they help them attend class even when they enter their menstruation periods," Lugangira said.

Lugangira, who is also a Special Seats MP representing Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) said among the institution's responsibilities was to ensure students and the society, in general, do away with inconveniences facing girls.

She said the towels donated would enable girls to use them for one year.

She said many girl students fail to attend school when they enter their periods due to lack of sanitary towels. "At this school, we have started providing 95 towels but we will reach all students after the school is opened, while we will take more towels to other

secondary schools," she added.

Wang Ke, Chin's Ambassador to Tanzania said in order to supplement the government's efforts towards free education, they will sponsor students to study in China.

He said this was the implementation of the agreement between the Embassy and Agri Thamani and will start with students who will complete Form VI next year from Dodoma and Kagera regions.

He said girl students doing science subjects who will score high marks will get the opportunity to be sponsored to study for a degree in China.

Speaking on behalf of fellow students, Rose Michael thanked the institution for the assistance and pledged to use the towels for intended purposes.



Some of the beneficiaries of the Women Economic Empowerment and Children's Rights project, who are widows from Ukeleli Village in Mufindi District, share experiences with SOS Children's Villages Tanzania staff from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Iringa and Mwanza regions at a meeting held in Iringa yesterday. The project, which comes to an end this month, is funded by Finland's Foreign Affairs ministry. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TENDER TITLE: FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE DIGITALISATION OF TRADE PROCESSES IN SOMALILAND

TENDER NUMBER: PRQ20200454

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organization funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. As part of scaling up its support to the Government of Somaliland, and in line with its strategic objective of reducing barriers to trade, TMEA intends to support trade digitalisation efforts in Somaliland targeting both public and private agencies that are directly involved in the regulation of trade.

Terms of reference for this consultancy and the Request for Proposals (RFP) document can be obtained at <https://www.trademarkea.com/procurement/>. All queries quoting the above Tender Title and Number should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

Only applications from **firms/consortiums** shall be accepted. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2021 at 5.00 pm** (Nairobi time).

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



TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

High-coverage immunisation will eliminate polio globally

POLIO MYELITIS, commonly shortened to polio, is an infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. In about 0.5 per cent of cases, it moves from the gut to affect the central nervous system and there is muscle weakness resulting in a flaccid paralysis. This can occur over a few hours to a few days. The weakness most often involves the legs, but may less commonly involve the muscles of the head, neck and diaphragm.

Many people fully recover. In those with muscle weakness, about 2 to 5 percent of children and 15 to 30 per cent of adults die. For all those infected, in up to 70 per cent of infections there are no symptoms. Another 25 per cent of people have minor symptoms such as fever and a sore throat, and up to 5 per cent have headache, neck stiffness and pains in the arms and legs. These people are usually back to normal within one or two weeks. Years after recovery, post-polio syndrome may occur, with a slow development of muscle weakness similar to that which the person had during the initial infection.

Poliovirus is usually spread from person to person through infected fecal matter entering the mouth. It may also be spread by food or water containing human feces and less commonly from infected saliva. Those who are infected may spread the disease for up to six weeks even if no symptoms are present. The disease may be diagnosed by finding the virus in the feces or detecting antibodies against it in the blood. The disease occurs naturally only in humans.

The disease is preventable with

the polio vaccine; however, multiple doses are required for it to be effective.

A new polio vaccine that could tackle mutated strains of the disease has passed phase II clinical trials, according to two studies published in medical journal *The Lancet*.

The vaccine administered orally, is the first that works against poliovirus type 2, a mutated form of the virus that has been responsible for outbreaks in Africa and Asia.

The development follows a surge in cases of type 2 poliovirus and amid warnings that millions of children are missing out on vital vaccinations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The vaccine has been tested in 1,200 adults, children and infants and has received an Emergency Use Listing from the World Health Organisation (WHO), meaning it can be deployed in global health emergencies. It will now be used in the field to combat polio outbreaks in central Africa until enough studies have been done to approve it for wider use.

The new vaccine candidate may also help alleviate another problem – that of vaccine hesitancy. The fact that a component of the existing vaccine had to be withdrawn due to the risks of creating mutated polio strains has reportedly made parents around the world more reluctant to get their children immunised.

Claudia Martinez, research programme manager for the Access to Medicine Foundation, said: "New strains from vaccines can cause concern for parents. The necessity to ensure vaccines are safe and effective has to be paramount concern."

Japanese tourists arrival big boost to stimulate the country's tourism

A group of 37 visiting Japanese billionaires has expressed satisfaction with the country's friendly business and investment environment, showing interest in starting projects in the tourism, transportation, health, manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

The 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report ranked Japan 4th out of 141 countries overall, which was the highest in Asia. Japan gained relatively high scores in almost all of the featured aspects, such as health and hygiene, safety and security, and cultural resources and business travel.

The tourists, part of a 'Billionaires Club' business travel arrangement, landed at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) in December, featuring top executives of some leading Japanese companies, for a week long stay in the country.

Domestic tourism remains a vital part of the Japanese economy and Japanese culture. Japan attracted 31.19 million international tourists in 2018. Travelers from China have been the highest spenders in Japan by country, spending an estimated 196.4 billion yen (US\$2.4 billion) in 2011, or almost a quarter of total expenditure by foreign visitors, according to data from the Japan Tourism Agency.

According to the Japan National Tourism Organisation in 2017, 3 out of 4 foreign tourists came from other parts of East Asia, namely South Korea, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The Japanese government hopes to receive 40 million foreign tourists every year by 2020.

Japan has 21 World Heritage Sites, including Himeji Castle, Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto and Nara. Popular foreigner attractions include Tokyo and Hiroshima, Mount Fuji, ski resorts such as

Niseko in Hokkaido, Okinawa, riding the shinkansen and taking advantage of Japan's hotel and hot spring network.

Upon arrival, the group had an opportunity to listen to presentations from top management at the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) and the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB).

TTB board chairman, Judge (rtD) Thomas Mihayo said the government has embarked on a plan to promote conference tourism, noting that the 2020-2025 CCM election manifesto lays accent on conference tourism promotion to obtain more foreign investors and boost revenues, projected at \$9bn annually.

"We are working closely with our embassies and we have already started to implement the pledge. We aim at increasing the number of tourists to five million by 2025," he declared.

Representing the billionaires, the director of a company producing artificial limbs, said they are impressed with available investment opportunities especially in the health sector.

The Japanese tourists' visit follows efforts by relevant authorities to promote the country's tourist attractions, with TTB organising the tour in liaison with the Tanzania embassy in Japan.

They also lauded the peaceful atmosphere, noting that this is a key factor in having many foreign visitors choosing Tanzania as their most preferred tourist destination.

The tourism sector is a leading source of foreign exchange where last year it contributed close to \$2.6bn to the country's economy, as it contributes 25 per cent of total exports, providing direct and indirect employment to over 1.5m people.

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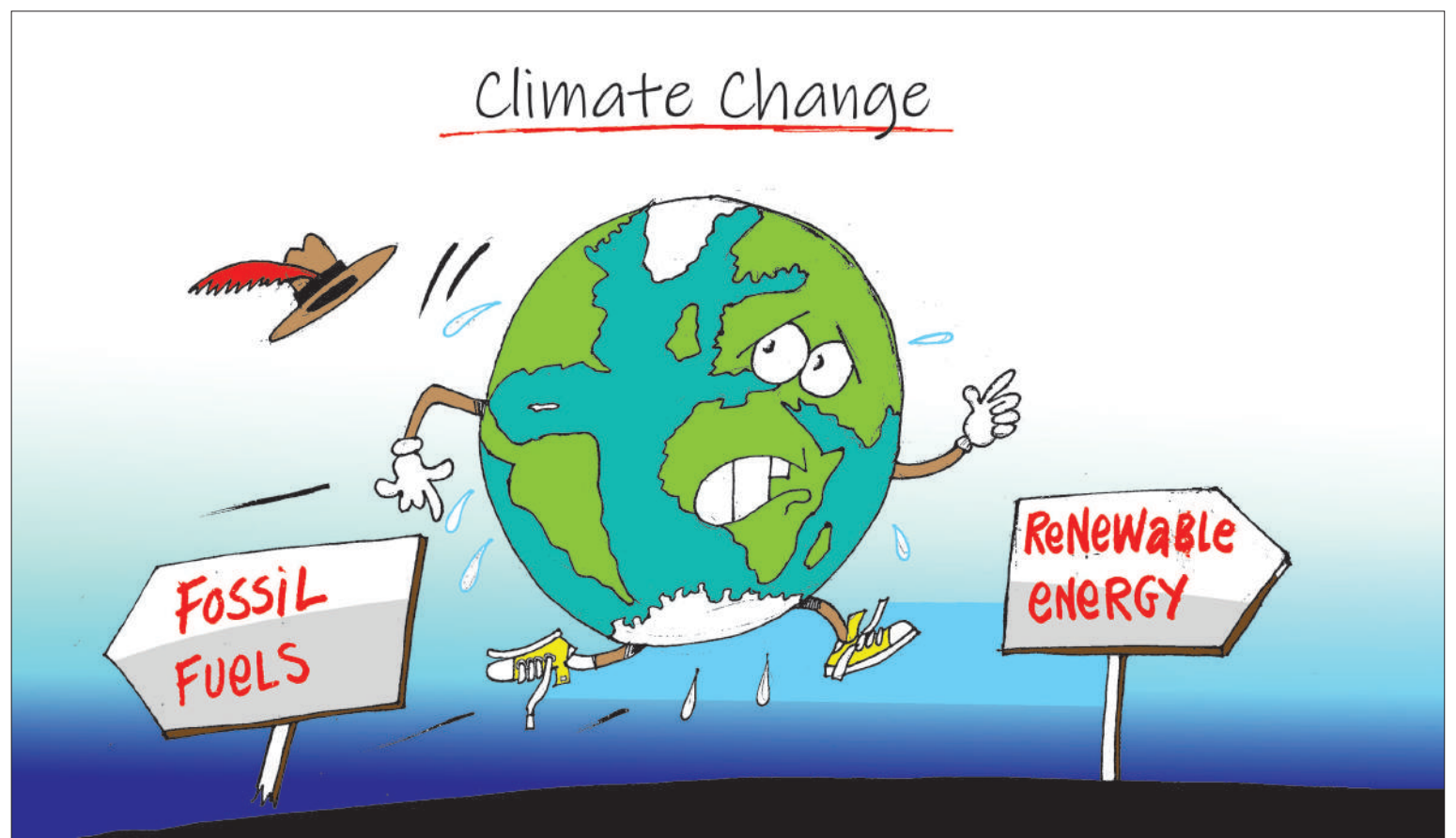
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What human rights framework can manage big data?

By Kate Gilmore and Stefan Germann

WE live in a digital age where data collection is continuous, relentless and expanding. Whatever we buy, wherever we travel and whomever we befriend on-line is all "byte-sizeable" and open for business.

Our personal preferences, priorities and peculiarities reducible to mere binaries and then, under power of chip and code, aggregated and interrogated for commercial, security and political purpose - whether it be for profit, surveillance or strengthening of borders.

As we mark World Human Rights Day it is clear that the world today is facing challenges as grave as those faced when the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created over 70 years ago.

Big Data collection can have huge benefits for society; from helping doctors identify at-risk people before they have symptoms, to helping circumvent corruption. Amnesty International has even shown that its algorithms can help predict, identify and expose violence against civilians and humanitarian devastation.

In the global effort to further

human rights, big data is both the biggest challenge and greatest opportunity

These benefits have been underscored by COVID-19, where the world has relied on technology to increasingly enable remote access to education and health care. Data also has the potential to shed light on issues that might otherwise go unnoticed.

However, the greatest opportunities and challenges for Big Data are less in its capabilities and more in our answers to fundamental questions: Who gets to control Big Data and how? And whose interests does it ultimately serve? In the context of technological innovation, the big challenge is how to give our common humanity the final say.

With little oversight as to where our data goes, data collection has the potential to threaten the human rights of billions of people across the globe - particularly young people who are potentially most exposed to data collection, yet often not informed enough to claim their data-rights.

Human rights play a key role in this, not as an obtuse legal compendia but as a lodestar for our common humanity. This may sound fanciful, but in the midst of war's devastation 70 years

ago the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set out the dignities that are owed to each of us, including non-discrimination and protection from abuse of power.

The trajectory of Big Data must ultimately be shaped by this common humanity. We have resisted other reductions of our physical selves to mere commodities by the cruel trades of slavery, organ harvesting and human trafficking. Today we must also mount resistance to commodifications of our digital selves that strip us of informed consent and privacy; that foster fear, intimidation and hate; that entrench rather than dismantle inequality.

We face the challenge that in the digital domain our current governance systems are inadequate - as is the political will to secure human rights for all. But, those urgent tasks fall to us all lest we too sleepwalk our children into irreversible consequences.

Ultimately our children - adolescents and young people - may be the answer. The youth of today are more digitally savvy and intellectually agile. However, this generation - the largest in human history - is both un-mindful and undermined. Their rights to

sexual and reproductive health are often dismissed, the right of access to quality education sidelined in public budget and their right to participate in public decision making even ridiculed.

Through a sincere intergenerational dialogue, we must accelerate young people's access to the tables of power, to ensure they have a say in those fundamental questions about our relationship with Big Data. That is why Fondation Botnar is calling for tools and governance frameworks that better correspond with our digital reality, created by and for young people, which have human rights at their heart.

We need to consider our understanding of human rights in the digital age through the importance of relationships between individuals, societies and even the environment; digital could be a powerful enabler to unlock these relationships. These efforts must be supported by coordinated efforts from the global community to harness the power of digital and AI and make systems work for the public good.

Kate Gilmore, Former United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Stefan Germann, CEO Fondation Botnar

Pandemic is Africa's golden digital opportunity

By Njenga Hakeenah

AFRICA rarely positively leads on the global scene but this does not mean that nothing good is happening on the continent.

Even though the Covid-19 has hot the continent leading to massive losses just like elsewhere in the world, it is noteworthy that 19 of the top 20 fastest-growing countries in the world are in Africa. The continent has registered increased urbanization where an increasingly young and educated population is driving higher consumption of online services.

In addition, the continent is on the cusp of witnessing the implementation of the world's single largest free trade zone through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), enacted in May 2019.

Despite the negative macroeconomic outlook as a result of Covid-19, the African Internet economy is expected to be resilient.

One of the largest overlooked investment opportunities of the past decade for the African continent is the Internet economy which has the potential for

profound impact on development.

The mobile Internet is transforming lives across the continent with the support of growing local connectivity and mobility and a dynamic, young urban population.

With a potential to add up to US\$180 billion to Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025, depending on the usage intensity of digital technologies by businesses, the Internet economy is improving productivity and efficiencies across large swaths of the economy, including agriculture, education, financial services, healthcare, and supply chains.

The Internet economy's potential to play a pivotal part in Africa's GDP growth has led to burgeoning investor interest. Buttressed by increasingly large liquidity events in African technology, even in the wake of the pandemic, venture capital funding in Africa reached an all-time high in 2019.

There are signs that African venture capital funding is continuing its forward momentum, despite the near-term disruption caused by Covid-19.

The total amount of invested venture capital is still a fraction

of total global venture capital funding, especially relative to the size of Africa's population, but this gap presents potential first-mover advantages for investors.

The Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated that digital startups in Africa are able to provide innovative solutions when they are needed most. For example, public sector partnerships with private healthcare startups are increasing the availability of testing and have expanded the capacity for medical recordkeeping.

The continued operation of the informal sector - a major portion of Africa's economic activity - is supported by e-Logistics and e-Commerce supply chain startups. New partnerships and business models like these will likely continue to influence startups across all industry sectors, even beyond the Covid-19 pandemic.

Online shopping. In Africa, Covid-19 has forever changed online shopping behaviours. [Photo/Pexel] Covid-19 has forever changed online shopping behaviours, according to a survey of about 3,700 consumers in nine emerging and developed economies conducted by UNCTAD and Netcomm Suisse eCommerce Association.

The survey shows that consumers in emerging economies have made the greatest shift to online shopping.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the shift towards a more digital world. The changes we make now will have lasting effects as the world economy begins to recover," said UNCTAD Secretary-General Mukhisa Kituyi.

He said the acceleration of online shopping globally underscores the urgency of ensuring all countries can seize the opportunities offered by digitalization as the world moves from pandemic response to recovery.

Africa has the world's youngest, fastest-growing, and increasingly urbanized workforce.

These demographics, coupled with improved longevity and education levels, have led to a rise in the consumption of online services. Additionally, heavily concentrated populations in Africa's cities are supporting developer communities that attract new investors and talent pools.

Rural populations also benefit from digital startups, and the Internet economy is critical to reaching and supporting the continent's 1.3 billion people.

Self-sustaining irrigation systems needed to achieve food security

By Correspondent Daniel Semberya, Dodoma

SMALLHOLDER irrigation schemes in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) have performed badly and failed to lift farmers out of poverty, enhance food security or improve local or national economies. At the same time, limited land and water resources have been used inefficiently and contributed to environmental degradation and detracted from other opportunities for sustainable development.

Governments and donors across Africa are investing in massive expansion of irrigated agriculture, assuming this will reduce poverty for smallholder farmers and increase food security.

Speaking in Dodoma last week during a one-day seminar on transforming smallholder irrigation into profitable and self-sustaining systems in Southern Africa (TISA), that went concurrently with the launch of a research report and national policy dialogue that was organised by the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF), Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture Gerald Kusaya apart from commending ESRF and Ardhi University for implementing TISA Project.

He said the main objective of the project was to enable smallholder farmers to be self-reliant and increase their participation in administering small scale irrigation systems in SADC regional, in particular.

Kusaya said that the Fifth Phase Government by knowing the contribution of agriculture for the growth of the economy and development has done a lot of improvements in agriculture sector, particularly in irrigation agriculture.

He said that when President Dr John Magufuli was closing the 12th Parliament, he showed his real intention and commitment of increasing productivity and transform agriculture into commercial and promised to increase the area of irrigation from the current 561,383 to 1.2 million hectares by 2025.

Kusaya said that the main objectives being to minimise dependency on rain, to ensure there is food security and nutrition, to increase the availability of raw materials for industries and sell the access in foreign markets.

In order for that good intention to materialise, according to Kusaya the President has called upon all Tanzanians, everyone in his/her capacity to protect water sources and their infrastructures.

For his part, Dr Luifred Kissoy, Lecturer at Ardhi University, who collaborated in the TISA project said that across Africa, governments and donors are investing in a massive expansion of irrigated agriculture in order to reduce poverty and increase food security for smallholder farmers.

Existing smallholder irrigation schemes on the continent have largely failed to significantly reduce farmers poverty, use the land and water sustainably or maintain the irrigation infrastructure.

There is a complex array of reasons for this, among others are: Lack or inadequate farmers' skills, lack of capital, poor markets, weak institutions, among many.

He said the project focus was to "Increasing irrigation water productivity in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe through on-farm monitoring, adaptive management and agricultural innovation platforms."

And their approach was through: Agricultural innovation Platforms: facilitates the identification of challenges, their root causes and opportunities to address the challenges through context-specific measures identified by interested stakeholders.

Smart water management (SWM) technologies (Tools): Introduced to monitor soil moisture and nutrients to facilitate farmer learning to increase produc-



tivity.

The overall results of the TISA Project-I, was that agricultural innovation platforms (AIPs) combined with soil moisture and solute measuring and monitoring substantially increase the productivity and incomes of farmers and make irrigation schemes more self-sustaining.

TISA-II: Follow-on research project, focused on how best to spread the findings beyond individual irrigation schemes to many other irrigation schemes and countries.

Project aim was to improve farmer livelihoods, equity and community management in smallholder irrigation schemes in southern Africa.

And the project objectives were to determine how the package of AIPs and simple tools for water and land management can best be scaled out and up;

Identify what institutions lead to inequity among farmers in water supply and financial benefit from irrigation schemes, and how this inequity can be reduced.

Develop irrigation policy options for governments and multi-lateral agencies so that smallholder schemes can be more profitable, equitable and self-sustaining.

In his presentation Ag Deputy Vice Chancellor, from Ardhi University, Dr Makarius Mdemu said that activities initiated by agricultural innovation platforms (AIPs) increased yield in two ways: Supported and accelerated the learning process, both for farmers with and without the soil monitoring tools through demonstration plots for higher yielding varieties, soil analysis for better fertilizer application, and focus groups to discuss the learning from the monitoring tools; Connected farmers to providers of better quality fertilizers, seeds and pesticides.

"Introducing the tools and the AIP improved smallholders' income and food security. The interventions increased yields and reduced resource use, including labour for irrigation and fertilizer use, raising gross margins and farm income," he said.

The evidence from Kiwera that suggests outcomes are greater when both interventions are introduced together.

However, there was still great value in the implementation of the AIP on its own at Magozi which increased efficiency of the system through improved market access, local level organisation and

strengthened linkages to actors to address challenges irrigators face.

These findings have significant implications for policy makers and water managers planning to revive existing irrigation schemes or invest in new schemes.

Any investment in small-scale irrigation schemes should be associated with the introduction of both technical and institutional mechanisms to increase water use efficiency and productivity.

Higher productivity must be converted to higher profitability to enable farmers to pay for water and inputs and self-organise to engage in collective action, such as irrigation scheme maintenance.

Self-sustaining irrigation systems are needed to achieve food security and improve viability for rural households and schemes, and simultaneously achieve the developmental goals of governments and investors.

Presenting a paper on the current and future strategic interventions for smallholder irrigation in Tanzania, Engineer Nyamhanga Chacha from National Irrigation Commission (NIRC), said that Irrigated agriculture has a great opportunity to contribute to the national income and also to ensure

Gerald Kusaya Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture (4th-R), speaks on the importance of irrigation at the launch of a research report and national policy dialogue in Dodoma recently. Photo: Daniel Semberya.

food security in the country. "Irrigated agriculture requires significant investment and its productivity is high for the nation. Thus the desire to invest in irrigation infrastructure is now needed to increase water use efficiency in order to adapt climatic change."

The irrigated area has increased from 461,000 hectares in 2015 to 694,715 hectares in 2020.

Rice production has increased in irrigated areas from 714,000 tonnes (1989 / 1990-1990 / 2000) to 2,009,174 tonnes (2018/2019); the Commission has established an Irrigation Development Fund (IDF).

The commission has constructed and rehabilitated a total of 179 irrigation schemes.

Productivity has increased from an average of 1.8 - 2.0 tonnes per hectare to 4.0 - 8.0 tonnes per hectare for rice crops.

Maize crop production increased from 1.5 tonnes to 3.7- 5.0 tonnes per hectare; onions from 13 to 26 tonnes per hectare; and tomatoes from 5 to 18 tonnes per hectare;

The commission has registered 185 irrigator's organisations; and has also prepared some comprehensive guidelines for irrigation schemes development; and has achieved to own a total of 56 heavy equipment's for irrigation schemes development.

Senior Research Fellow Economic or RARIS Coordinator, ESRF, Dr Oswald Mashindano, representing ESRF Executive Director, said that 80 per cent of Tanzanians depend on agriculture, of which also depend on rain-fed agriculture, which is a major challenge.

Climate change has led to drought, and poor agricultural productivity. Dr Mashindano said that the object of that workshop was to share what they had learnt from finding results from the TISA project with their governments. And launch finding results of that project.

He said that the task they did was similar to other researches done that were evaluating the performance done by National Irrigation Commission (NIRC).

"We need to work hard to ensure our farmers benefit from our irrigation value chains," he noted.

Dr Mashindano thanked Australian Government, Australian Center for International Agricultural Research, Australian National University, CSIRO, University South Australia, Ardhi University, FANRPAN, Mozambique Ministry of Agriculture and ICRISAT, for their collaboration and support in ensuring the TISA Project becomes a reality and has positive impact to farmers.

Félix Tshisekedi moves to take charge in DRC

By ISS Great Lakes Region Team

ON 6 December 2020, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) President Félix Tshisekedi delivered probably one of the most anticipated and courageous speeches of his term in office to date.

He exposed some of the main grievances raised during his consultations with political and social actors. He explained the ongoing political impasse and laid out options to clear the obstacles that have prevented him from delivering on his programme for the country.

In the address, Tshisekedi announced the end of the Front Commun Pour le Congo-Cap Pour le Changement (FCC-CACH) alliance, sealed during the controversial 2018 presidential elections. This came after more than two years of clashes that have prevented the government from reforming and improving governance and service delivery.

Both the FCC (the party of former president Joseph Kabila) and CACH (pro-Tshisekedi) have been embroiled in political scheming

ahead of the 2023 elections. Reforms that are desperately needed for peace and stability in the DRC quickly became tools to shift the balance of power, to the detriment of running the country in the interests of its citizens.

The president laid down a two-pronged approach as a way to break the deadlock. He announced the appointment of an 'informateur', a sort of mediator, to come up with a new majority in parliament. Tshisekedi, who has minority support in the National Assembly, hopes the move will reconfigure the political space to his advantage.

How exactly this will happen is not clear. The DRC's electoral laws allow neither floor-crossing in parliament nor defections from one party to another in the course of a presidential term in office.

However, some observers have argued that a number of Members of Parliament (MPs) are willing to break ranks to support the president's vision. They suggest that cracks are forming in Kabila's FCC coalition as some MPs feel their political survival is at stake. Some analysts even believe that the FCC's grip on key national institutions has been dwind-



President Félix Tshisekedi

ling for some time.

A procedure has been initiated by Tshisekedi supporters in Parliament to remove the bureau of the National Assembly, particularly FCC president Jeanine Mabunda, who has been at loggerheads with Tshisekedi on several occasions. 281 out of the 481 MPs voted in favour of moving Mabunda out. This no-confidence vote in Mabunda and her bureau is a good indication that Tshisekedi is likely to succeed in poaching FCC MPs to his side of the house.

Recent reshuffling of senior army officers and a ceremony held to renew army loyalty to state institutions send a clear message to Kabila and

will test his hold over the security apparatus. Tshisekedi might also rely on new political allies such as Jean-Pierre Bemba and Moïse Katumbi, who were quick to praise the 6 December decision to end the ruling coalition. The president also indicated the possibility of dissolving parliament and calling for fresh elections if the move to gain a new pro-Tshisekedi majority fails. The FCC has argued that there's no 'persistent crisis between government and parliament' that would justify dissolving the National Assembly. They also indicated that general elections would need to be held, not just parliamentary ones.

The FCC-CACH alliance has stymied the government's ability to capitalise on the momentum present-

ed by the country's first peaceful transfer of power. Attention has been diverted away from structural issues that need focused political effort and resources to solve. The country faced the prospect of wasting five years of a Tshisekedi presidency characterised by power battles in Kinshasa, while developmental and security problems worsened.

Tshisekedi has now drawn a line in the sand. His speech opened a new battlefield in the DRC and the country has effectively descended into a political crisis. Violence that erupted after the announcement of the end of the FCC-CACH coalition shows what could lie ahead.

In the best-case scenario, the decision could pave the way for a realignment of political forces with leaders more inclined towards governance and service delivery rather than accumulating power. But the complexity of the process makes this unlikely. In the worst-case scenario, new political conflict could drag on, adding to the deep security concerns in the Kivu and Ituri provinces where foreign and local armed groups remain a serious threat to civilians.

The coming days and weeks are likely to be turbulent and the DRC's partners should be prepared for any surprise. The FCC's reaction to the presidential address shows that the coalition will not go down without a fight. In a public declaration, FCC spokesperson Néhémie Mwilanya Wilondja took note of the decision and called for the withdrawal of pro-Tshisekedi CACH representatives from regional and provincial governing bodies.

Over the years, violence has been the preferred tool for most political leaders in the DRC to win and maintain power. It remains an option given the volatile security situation in which links have been established between some political actors and armed groups still active in the DRC. There is always a chance that the split in the ruling coalition could produce a leadership committed to peace and reform, but as things stand, the likelihood is slim. **DM**

Experts warned 21 times that Covid-19 would get this bad

By Robert Roy Britt

THE skyrocketing Covid-19 death toll in the United States – more than 3,000 on a single day last week, or about two per minute – is exactly what experts expected would happen given the lack of any coordinated federal effort to rein in the pandemic.

And, yes, the ever-increasing, grim tidal wave of new cases, hospitalisations, and deaths could have been largely avoided.

While many Americans willingly mask up, avoid indoor crowds, and practise the suggested six-feet or more of social distancing, the White House and many federal and state political leaders have long downplayed the seriousness of the disease and its impact on lives and loved ones.

Meanwhile, they have been simultaneously spreading Covid misinformation and falsely suggesting that the death toll is inflated – while, if anything, data reveal that it's actually an undercount.

In the meantime, with new cases continuing to soar in the wake of Thanksgiving gatherings and ahead of another wave of expected holiday get-togethers, daily deaths are nowhere near their peak, and sure to push above 3,000 on average, then beyond.

Deaths lag new cases and hospitalisations – which are also rising dramatically – by weeks, and will only begin to come down a few weeks after the daily case count curve begins to decline.

To get a sense of how frequently and consistently scientists and health experts have been in predicting the exact scenario unfolding right now, I sifted through my own article archives. Here are just a handful of the many warnings that were offered up across the months:

Deaths likely to double

November 13: Deaths will continue to rise on the heels of any growth in new cases, after a weeks-long lag – it typically takes two to eight weeks for a person to die after the onset of Covid-19 symptoms.

A projection published recently in the journal *Nature* on October 23 – based on a pace of infections that is now way out of date – projected that the total Covid-19 deaths in America would exceed 500,000 by the end of February.

"We've really painted ourselves into a corner as a nation. The people should be in an uproar for not having a strategy," said Michael Mina, MD, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

The pandemic is about to get much worse

October 18: "We face rapidly accelerating increase in Covid-19 cases across much of Europe, the USA, and many other countries across the world," reads an October 14 open letter published in *The Lancet* journal and signed initially by about 80 of the top infectious-disease experts in the United States and around the world, and hundreds more since. "It is critical to act decisively and urgently."

Don't have big Thanksgiving gatherings

October 12: "The last thing we want to do is put people at risk during the holidays because we were so hell-bent on having a large gathering," said Saskia Popescu, PhD, an assistant professor at George Mason University. "It's risky. So I would say, really, don't do it."



October 7: Think of the coronavirus as a wave that went into a pool and now it's sloshing around, likely to move into every untouched corner of the country and flow back into places it's already been, pushing the number of daily new infections back up near the highs seen during summer, possibly higher.

Where the coronavirus hasn't been, it will go

"The places where it hasn't been, it will go," said Roger Shapiro, MD, an associate professor of immunology and infectious diseases at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "The places where it has already been, it can go back."

September 28: "Restaurants are among the higher-risk activities because you're indoors with other people without masks for some of the time at least," said Linsey Marr, PhD, a scientist at Virginia Tech and an expert on the transmission of the coronavirus through the air.

Avoid indoor dining, please

September 27: While the growing and horrific US coronavirus death toll exceeds 200,000, Covid-19 fatigue is spreading even among people least affected by the pandemic, according to more than a half-dozen experts interviewed for this article...

Now's a lousy time for Covid fatigue

August 30: There are so many false Covid-19 claims floating around – more than 2,000, according to a recent study – that even the sharpest minds can be excused for a little coronavirus confusion amid this great global infodemic, fuelled by hucksters and pranksters and facilitated by social media.

August 17: "Wishful thinking just doesn't help," said Marc Lipsitch, PhD, a professor of epidemiology and director of the Center for Communicable Disease Dynamics at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

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Well into the five stages of a pandemic

July 28: "We truly have great knowledge of how we can control the virus," said Yonatan Grad, MD, an assistant professor of immunology and infectious diseases at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

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Headed in the wrong direction at top speed

June 26: Scientists who know what will happen next, if something serious isn't done soon to slow the spread, are sounding alarm bells like never before.

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Surge in younger infections portends poorly

June 25: While new US cases of Covid-19 spike to record highs, a worrying trend is emerging: Diagnosed infections are soaring among younger people, with the majority of new cases in several regions now being seen among people under age 50, with significant increases among teens and young adults.

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Summer will be bad

June 10: The nationwide decline in "the curve" of daily new cases, from a peak of 35,000 in early April to around 20,000 in recent weeks, has been obfuscated by the fact that four states with 40 per cent of the nationwide case total – New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Illinois – experienced significant declines.

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False sense of security in middle America

June 4: "Most of America's rural counties have had just a sprinkling of Covid-19 cases, and I worry it is giving residents a false sense of security," said Rodney E. Rohde, PhD, a professor of clinical laboratory science and an infectious disease specialist at Texas State University. "Complacency and a false sense of security are a microbe's best friend."

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erion, PhD, an immunologist and medical researcher in the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio, said.

"I share some of the optimism in planning a return to some everyday activities, but to do this at the peak of an outbreak, no matter how flat the curve has become in some states, is inviting a second wave." And if the virus is unleashed in a second wave, whether now or this fall, Cameron says the ramp-up could be much quicker.

"It would be crushing. We won't have the slower city-by-city spread pattern we experienced this spring as the first wave of the pandemic ran its course. It will seem like it is hitting us from all directions. ... The clock would be reset to zero, and the same precautions would need to be put back in place. It will feel like a bad game of Whac-A-Mole."

It's only just begun

April 4: While the worst Covid-19 outbreaks in the United States so far have occurred in a relative handful of large cities and other locales, experts say the steep rise in cases – the curve – will come to communities large and small across the country in coming days and weeks.

We've known since 1918...

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Time for Americans to prepare

February 25: "I had a conversation with my family over breakfast this morning," Nancy Messonnier, MD, director of the CDC's National Centre for Immunisation and Respiratory Diseases, told reporters. "And I told my children that while I didn't think that they were at risk right now, we as a family need to be preparing for significant disruption to our lives."

The next pandemic

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A Medium Coronavirus Blog dispatch. Robert Roy Britt is an independent health and science journalist, author and former editor-in-chief of LiveScience and Space dot com.

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Covid-19: Learners risk a double blow as literacy projects struggle

By Marcia Damons for GroundUp

LEARNERS who have already lost many months of schooling because of the Covid-19 pandemic are being dealt a second blow, as donor funding shifts away from literacy initiatives at a time that schools need these most.

Lunga Nqadolo, managing director of The Bookery in Cape Town, says donors have understandably been focused on school nutrition and protection against Covid this year. Yet this is a time learners need books, libraries and literacy initiatives more than ever, to help them catch up lost time.

"We need to feed them and then teach them," she says.

The Bookery, founded in 2010, has been building and

stocking libraries at poor schools in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Gauteng. So far, it has opened more than 80 libraries and distributed more than 300 000 books countrywide. But this year, says Nqadolo, like other similar organisations, The Bookery has not been able to use traditional fundraising.

"Last year we had a big Mandela Day Carnival. That was a big fundraising event where a lot of corporations and foundations participated." This year only 35 people showed up.

Because funds are tight, the organisation has had to re-trench staff.

The Bookery recruits young adults from the school's community, trains them as library assistants and pays them a stipend for three years. They

are taught not only how to administer the library and check books in and out, but also how to create a reading club, how to run library classes and how to work with teachers so that the library becomes the centre of the school.

After three years the school gradually takes over the payment of the stipend. "We continue supporting the school, whether it's with books or training," Nqadolo said.

Library assistant Amanda Nzeku who has been at Intshayelego Primary School in Khayelitsha since 2018, says there are many creative ways to encourage young children to read. For grades R to 3, Nzeku says: "We normally take the best parts of the story and make a song. In some cases, I give them pictures and they look at the picture and write down what they think the book or story is about."

Intshayelego is one of nearly 90 disadvantaged schools to have benefited from The Bookery's library initiative.

"We need individuals and corporations to support us, financially or by donating books, or taking time to come and cover

books and to work with the kids," says Nqadolo.

"Kids need access to a wide variety of books: age-appropriate books, representative books, culturally-relevant books and books that foster a love for reading," says Bookery trustee Zephne Ladbroke, who is also chief executive of the Otto Foundation. The foundation partnered with The Bookery in 2017 and focuses on improving early literacy and fostering a love of reading among learners from poor communities.

Ladbroke said children must be able to identify with the characters in a book to develop a love for reading. "If you give a ten-year-old boy a fiction book with a character he can't identify with, he's not going to read it. We cannot say he's not a reader. That's not fair. We need to find out what he likes reading," Ladbroke said.

A study by educational researcher Dr Stephen Krashen found that children who read for enjoyment have better academic outcomes and better results in reading, vocabulary, grammar, writing style and

spelling.

Referring to a 2016 International Reading Literacy Study report which showed that 78% of grade 4 learners cannot read for meaning, and listed South Africa last out of 50 countries, Ladbroke said: "These kids are being excluded from being active citizens if they can't read basic things around them like a road sign or a newspaper headline or instructions at a hospital. It's frightening."

Kannemeyer Primary School in Cape Town also partnered with The Bookery in 2017. According to principal Ridwan Samodien, the library now has a catalogue, scanner and monitoring system, and a library assistant.

Every teacher also has a billboard outside their classroom with a photo and a quote on why reading is important. Quotes are also placed along the corridors. The idea, says Kannemeyer, is that the learners

are "bombarded with words" – the names of roads, the school's values.

The words, he says, are on doors, in the toilets, "everywhere they go".

"As they walk across the school, they are bombarded with words... just to instil a love of reading and to get them to read."

DM

Early detection key in preventing diabetes complications - specialist

By Guardian Reporter

A DAR ES SALAAM-BASED medical specialist has suggested the need for Tanzanians to change their lifestyles by avoiding the use of foods that contribute to excess weight and imbibe a habit of regular screening, which are among the ways to protect against non-communicable diseases including diabetes.

Internal medicine physician, head of prevention and control of infection (PCI) at

the Dar es Salaam's Aga Khan Hospital, Dr Samina Sadrudin Somji, encouraged people to undergo early detection and prevention of complications is the key to avoid this dreadful disease and its complications.

Dr Somji said that type-2 diabetes is a treatable and preventable non-communicable disease that is rapidly increasing in numbers worldwide. But, the challenge, she said that the problem is that many people go to seek medical

treatment when the disease is in advanced stages.

According to the expert, diabetes may not initially show any symptoms but excessive thirst, hunger, tiredness, urination may develop over time as well as weight loss, numbness in the feet and hands, infections or injuries that heal slowly.

"Diabetes can be prevented at household level, families should be careful with the foods they take in daily, we recommend seeking doctor's

advice whenever feels uneasy or with symptoms of the diseases because if not treated early, the diseases may cause several negative impacts on the patient or even death," she said.

Dr Somji said that the American Diabetes Association (ADA) suggests that diabetes checkup should be conducted only if a patient is over the age of 45, overweight or those coming from the family with a history of the disease.

She said that this year's the

theme of this year's World Diabetes Campaign is "The Nurse and Diabetes." The campaign aims to raise awareness around the crucial role that nurses play in supporting people living with diabetes.

The number of nurses trained and employed needs to grow by 8 percent a year to overcome alarming shortfalls in the profession by 2030.

"The campaign reminds us of quality services, it reminds authorities of the importance of investing in health attend-

ants on diabetes, our hospital has a special clinic serving diabetes patients. The clinic has specialists such as doctors, dietitian, pathologist, and an optician," she said.

According to her, this enables regular patient monitoring and evaluation of other problems including kidney, eye and heart examination for best results.

The burden of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension is high in Tanzania. The prevalence

of diabetes in urban areas has increased from 5 percent in 2007 to 9 percent in 2012, while in 2012 a survey showed that the prevalence of hypertension was 26 percent, according to the available government data.

The expert reminded Tanzanians the global diabetes prevalence in 2019 is estimated to be 9.3 percent (463 million people) worldwide, rising to 10.2 percent (578 million) by 2030 and 10.9 percent (700 million) by 2045.

Tanzania national Mollé undergoes knee surgery

By Special Correspondent

CLEMENTINE Mollé (58) has been an active politician since 1992 at Dar-es-Salaam, the largest city and former capital of Tanzania. Excruciating pain in her knees since October last year, however, kept her bedridden and away from campaigning even ahead of a crucial election held in the country this year.

With the raging coronavirus pandemic, it was only in November that Mollé finally managed to obtain due permission from the Indian High Commission in Tanzania and came to Ahmedabad to get both her knees surgically replaced.

On Saturday, speaking over a video call, a delighted Mollé said, "I'm moving all around in my house, see!"

In November first week, Mollé accompanied by her 25-year-old daughter, took an Air Tanzania flight to Mumbai. They took a second flight to Ahmedabad, she said. "My first visa was for March when I was supposed to fly down to Ahmedabad to get knee replacement surgery done at Zydus Hospital. Due to Covid-19, the visa was cancelled. I went to the Indian High Commission, begged them, 'please, you can see my condition', but they said no. (They) told me that only Indian-origin people are being taken on special flights. My Air Emirates ticket, too, was cancelled and they refused to give me a refund so I had to engage a

lawyer. I went to the Indian High Commission a second time. I told them I will not move and finally, I was then given a visa in November. My daughter and I took an Air Tanzania flight and went straight from Ahmedabad airport to the hospital," Mollé said.

Her daughter, Queen said, "When we thought about the healing (relief) that we will get with the surgery, we forgot about the coronavirus. We only wanted her to get better, so we took the risk."

The duo left for Dar-es-Salaam on November 21 after 11-day hospitalisation and another 10 days stay at a hotel in Ahmedabad, and "dazzled by the modern machines, customer care and post-operation follow-ups" and biryani here.

"Customer care is excellent. They still call me to follow-up. Last year, my aunt underwent the same operation at Zydus Hospital in Ahmedabad and she had given us glowing feedback. We see a lot about Indian hospitals in magazines here. Some popular hospitals have become saturated with post-procedure care not being as good," Mollé said.

For Mollé, who weighed 125 kgs at the time of the surgery, what stands out in the healthcare system in Ahmedabad from Tanzania is the advanced machines.

"We have never seen the variety of machines (and diagnostic tools) as we did here. Our doctors, too, are not familiar with the advanced procedures.



A Tanzanian national Clementine Mollé after her surgery at a private hospital in Ahmedabad.

My doctor in Tanzania could not believe that both my knees were operated on in a single go and I could walk on the second day after surgery."

Dr Daria Singh, senior joint replacement and orthopaedic surgeon at Zydus Hospital who conducted the three-hour surgery on Mollé on November 5, said the 58-year-old had been suffering from osteoarthritis since the past decade and her weight was key in the progression of the disorder. Doctors also found that her knee alignment was not normal, which is dependent on genetic predisposition.

It "was thus decided to conduct a bilateral knee replacement surgery, which was challenging given

her body-mass index," said Dr Singh. World over about six to seven per cent knee replacement procedure is bilateral. Among the pros of the procedure is lesser recovery time.

"There are some debatable issues where some available literature suggests that overall neurological and cardiac complications may develop, and in some, it says the opposite. Our experience has shown benefits," Dr Singh added.

With flights resuming tepid operations, medical tourism is regaining traction from its complete halt during the lockdown, although it is far from the normal statistics.

"Say, prior to lockdown, our hospital would conduct approximately 50 OPD procedures a month (on foreign patients) which now stands at 10-15 patients a month," Himanshu Sharma, head of international relations at Zydus Hospital, said. While Zydus Hospital representatives would have planned trips to other countries, holding health camps, nearly every other month, the system is yet to resume.

Mollé, who says that she was a member of parliament from the ruling party in Tanzania in 2015 Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCP), had hoped to contest from the reserved seat for women in Dar-es-Salaam this year, but severe knee pain rendered her immobile and unable to campaign, although this has now only encouraged her to work harder for 2025 elections.

Sharma says that a large proportion of Gujarat's foreign patients are from east and central Africa, more specifically from countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, partly because of several generations of Gujarati diaspora in these countries and also owing to periodic health camps held by private hospitals of Gujarat in these countries and years of liaisoning.

While there is no central database for an exact number of medical tourism patients, Sharma estimates that at least 600-650 such patients would visit per month on an average in Gujarat.

This has, however, now seen a decline by 85-90 per cent owing to restrictions in air connectivity since Covid-19 outbreak.

Tanzania's Ambassador Rajab affirms depth of Qatar relations

By Guardian Reporter and Agencies

TANZANIA'S Ambassador to Qatar, Fatma Mohamed Rajab, (pictured) has affirmed the east African nation highly values friendly relations with Qatar in an atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding existing between the two countries.

She expressed Tanzania's sincere gratitude to Qatar for its stance and firm support for Tanzania on the international stage.



In her statement ahead of the Qatar National Day, she said that the two countries have achieved a number of important goals in their bilateral relations on the political and economic tracks, expressing her hope for further expansion of co-operation in various fields.

Regarding Covid-19 pandemic, the ambassador stated that Qatar's foreign policy has become the most effective and decisive under the wise leadership of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, which has helped the country not only to overcome the critical challenges and the pandemic that it has encountered in the recent period, but also to secure and strengthen its position around the world as a reliable and trustworthy force, an important partner and friend to many countries in the world.

In this context, the ambassador commended Qatar for its firm commitment to protecting the health and safety of the people living in Qatar, hailing Qatar policies for working tirelessly to tackle the spread of Covid-19, and stressed that all citizens and residents must do their part to obey the rules and bring awareness to their communities to protect themselves.

She hailed the government of Qatar for its dedication in ensuring all necessities for its citizens and communities living in Qatar including the Tanzanian community, to have enough food and medical supply needed during the pandemic.

She extended congratulations and warmest greetings to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, His Highness the Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, and the people of Qatar on the occasion of Qatar National Day, wishing Qatar further progress and prosperity.



Kiteto legislator Edward ole Lekaita pictured at the weekend inspecting cattle in the constituency's Makame during a touring that saw him listening to grievance by residents of the ward relating to various challenges. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Cooperative societies leaders are selfish - Registrar Ndiege

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

SELFISHNESS among leaders of the cooperative societies in the country is one of the major problems facing the associations, it has been learnt.

The observation was made here by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Dr Benson Ndiege, saying that most cooperative union leaders do not like to empower members who later become leaders too.

Speaking while officiating at the opening of the 25th Tanzania Federation of Cooperatives (TFC) annual meeting here in Dodoma, he said despite the government efforts to revamp cooperatives in the country, there still exist leadership problems.

He said the government is dedicated to ensure cooperative unions are getting stronger every day since they are the ready source of comfort for farmers on the ground.

"As leaders we have got a lot of education and the best we can do is to empower members of the cooperatives" he said, noting that there is great challenge of leadership.

According to the registrar the unions have budget for education that can easily be utilized to empower members who are the future leaders but nothing is being done.

During the meeting Dr Ndiege has dissolved the committee formed to oversee establishment of National Cooperative Bank, calling on TFC to come with new strategies.

He said the committee has done nothing throughout the eight years of existence, adding that no one knows what the committee is doing and its chairperson even sign payments without knowing it is going on.

The committee has failed to come up with new ways of forming the bank, he said, explaining when the plan to start the bank was hatched in 2012, various stakeholders raised a total of 393 mn/-, the same amount available in the account to date.

According to the plans, the bank was to be established within four years but despite the committee meeting three times a year there is nothing to show and is just eating any profit earned by the existing start up capital.

"If you have failed to help establish the bank within eight years, how can you come up with new ideas?" he asked, declaring the committee null and void. He went further warning that the money in the account should be touched until when new measures are in place.

Dr Ndiege also ordered the dissolution of Ushirika Tower Joint Enterprise, a body formed to steer the construction of the Ushirika Towers at Mnazi Mmoja in Dar es Salaam.

The registrar noted that the enterprise is working under unclear environments, just waiting to get money from TFC and has siphoned between 600mn/- and 700mn/- being shareholders' money.

He explained when the construction of the Ushirika Towers was almost completed, some leaders of the cooperative societies audaciously teamed up and formed the organisation with intention to get money from the towers.

Here's how to decide who gets a Covid-19 vaccine first in South Africa

By Safura Abdool Karim and Aviva Tugendhaft for the Bhekisisa Centre for Health Journalism

SOUTH Africa's participation in the vaccine procurement mechanism, COVAX, is finally confirmed - but the details of a vaccine rollout plan for the country are still lacking. Such a strategy will, among other things, guide us as to who will receive Covid-19 jabs first.

As an upper middle-income country, we will have COVAX's help to secure vaccine doses from pooled supplies, but South Africa would have to finance the actual purchases itself. The Solidarity Fund - a private fund set up in South Africa to raise money from the private sector and individuals, to supplement funding for Covid-19-related initiatives - has agreed to make an initial payment of R327-million (\$22-million) to COVAX to secure vaccines for about 10% of our population.

But the process to decide which populations within a country should be prioritised for vaccines is not only urgent, it's also complex.

Why did South Africa join COVAX?

Equitable access to a Covid-19 vaccine is an increasingly important global issue. There is a real risk that poorer countries, including South Africa, are left behind in the race to obtain a vaccine quickly. Some wealthier countries, like the United States and United Kingdom, have been able to fund the development of vaccines and invest billions in candidates being tested, in exchange for securing in advance enough doses for their populations.

Less wealthy countries like South Africa, unable to do either of these, are almost certainly going to have more limited access to Covid-19 vaccines.

To help ensure that poorer countries are not left behind, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has brokered a global collaboration, COVAX - co-led by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI) - that is a part of the WHO-led Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator. Through the purchasing power of the wealthier countries among the 187 that have signed up for COVAX, the initiative will enable countries with fewer resources to secure enough vaccine doses for the "most vulnerable" 20% of their populations.

The way COVAX works to help poorer countries obtain vaccines, is through an "advance market commitment" (AMC) mechanism. This mechanism guarantees vaccine manufacturers an enormous volume of orders for their vaccines, along with upfront payments from the wealthier countries participating. As of late November, COVAX had raised \$2-billion of the \$7-billion it needs to buy and distribute its targeted two billion doses of vaccines to vulnerable groups in "AMC-eligible" countries by the end of 2021.

South Africa is too wealthy to qualify to be



part of the AMC mechanism - but it will, however, be able to benefit from COVAX's ability to secure enough vaccines and from potentially lower, pooled prices.

So who should South Africa vaccinate first once we have Covid-19 jabs?

There are opposing views on how vaccines should be allocated within countries.

For countries initially able to access enough vaccine doses to cover 20% of their populations, COVAX's suggested guidance says that "the most vulnerable" sectors or individuals should be inoculated first. International frameworks address issues of equity, evidence and varying disease burdens and risks. But South Africa - and every country - must make its own allocation decisions, taking into account context-specific issues.

Some countries have greater burdens of diseases considered "comorbidities" for Covid-19 and will have a harder time prioritising for the first 20% of people to receive jabs. For example, South Africa's population is fairly young (younger people are less likely to develop serious Covid-19 symptoms), but has a high prevalence of HIV (77 million HIV-positive people, according to UNAids), TB and non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension and obesity - all known risk factors for severe Covid-19.

Many people in South Africa with such comorbidities live in overcrowded informal settlements, do not have access to clean water or have structural obstacles that prevent them

from consistently practicing some of the public-health measures recommended to reduce the spread of Covid-19. Not being able to wash their hands or practice physical distancing leaves them vulnerable to infection and creates ongoing potential for infection hotspots.

Taken together, these circumstances cast the category of "the most vulnerable" in a different light to that envisioned by some of the global allocation frameworks. This is why South Africa needs to develop a context-specific way to allocate the limited number of vaccine doses among people in our vulnerable populations - whose total number substantially exceeds 20% of our population.

Equity is not a 'nice to have' - it's a requirement of our Constitution

In addition, our Constitution requires that the government takes action to protect citizens' rights to access healthcare. During our Covid-19 lockdown, in cases such as the Fair-Trade Independent Tobacco Association challenge to the tobacco ban, the South African courts ruled that measures that prevent disease are justifiable. A similar justification could be used to prioritise vaccine access for the most vulnerable groups in infection hotspots.

Human rights law requires equitable access to life-saving vaccines, which would include one for Covid-19, which the WHO is almost certain to classify as an "essential medicine". Most human rights frameworks would also prioritise access for marginalised and vulnerable groups - and our Constitution stipulates that groups

should be treated equally and equitably.

The South African Constitution upholds "public participation", in which "the public is actively involved in decision-making processes". But in reality, this often doesn't happen and sometimes results in government decisions that are disconnected from communities' needs. Meaningful public participation would make it possible for citizens to share their views about existing inequities and who should be vaccinated first. South Africans will also be able to voice their concerns about receiving Covid-19 shots.

Policymakers should consider all these inputs - because the ongoing vaccine allocation decisions are based on extremely difficult trade-offs, and public engagement could be a key component in the success of these decisions.

According to an online survey conducted by the World Economic Forum in August, one out of three South Africans don't want to get a Covid-19 vaccine. Delving further into the reasons for this would allow for an allocation strategy that is responsive to South Africans' views and concerns about the safety and efficacy of a Covid-19 vaccine. If people in South Africa feel included in the decision-making process - and the process is transparent - the government will generate greater buy-in and trust in both the vaccine and the allocation system.

Who could South Africa take lessons from? The Public Engagement Pilot Project on Pandemic Influenza in the United States in 2005 offers some lessons. The project addressed

gaps in allocating influenza vaccines that were in short supply during a pandemic and allowed experts and ordinary citizens to have meaningful conversations about how to prioritise which parts of the population to receive jabs first. The outcome was that the existing criteria for vaccine allocation changed so that the values of the public could be reflected more accurately. Engagement approaches like this are known as "public deliberation" and are useful when technical solutions alone cannot provide the best answer to difficult decisions.

The west African Ebola epidemic of 2014-2016 is another example to learn from. The West Africa Preparedness Project improved outbreak prevention and control with "responsive" programmes that changed depending on community feedback.

South Africa does not have established tools and methods for this type of public engagement, but decision tools like CHAT (Choosing All Together) could help. CHAT was originally developed in the United States and was previously used for designing microinsurance programmes in India. The tool is used to help low-income groups to make health-related decisions and enables people without experience of using health insurance to select benefits they feel would be suitable for them. Recently modified for rural use in South Africa, CHAT could now be used to help communities to make vaccine-related decisions.

A hybrid approach - where workshops are held with community representatives, including those from vulnerable groups, along with broader online surveys or forums - could be an option for South Africa; the outcome of such participation should be taken into account, alongside the scientific evidence and human rights law, in determining the final allocation framework.

In South Africa, human rights and public participation are not just nice ideas - they are a constitutional imperative. We will therefore be legally required to develop a vaccine allocation strategy aligned with human rights and sound equity principles. Global frameworks might offer some guidance for vaccine allocation, but our country needs a plan that is specific to the priorities and the needs of our people - and the only way to do that is to allow for meaningful input from the public.

DM/MC

What's behind Washington's frequent troop withdrawal orders?

WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon said that U.S. President Donald Trump had ordered the majority of American military forces out of Somalia by early 2021.

The decision was the latest among a series of troop withdrawal orders by the current U.S. administration. The Pentagon last month announced U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq would be reduced to 2,500 in each country by mid-January 2021.

Such orders, which have been announced with growing haste in recent months, not only seek to fulfill Trump's promises during his time in office but are an important component of the so-called "America First" policy, analysts say.

Still, accelerated U.S. troop withdrawals, which suggest that Trump is determined to downgrade U.S. participation in distant wars while cementing his political legacy before his presidency ends, will on the one hand face resistance from home and abroad, and on the other leave an even more daunting challenge for the next administration, according to experts.

TRUMP'S PROMISES

Analysts believe there are mainly three reasons behind Trump's troop withdrawal push.

First of all, Trump has

promised time and again to "extract the United States from costly foreign conflicts, bring U.S. troops home, and shrug off burdensome overseas commitments," according to a Foreign Affairs article published Tuesday. Back in December 2018, the Trump administration announced that it has started returning U.S. troops home from Syria after claiming a victory in the fight against the Islamic State militant group.

In June this year, Trump said to reporters at the White House that the number of U.S. troops deployed in Germany would be reduced to 25,000 due to Germany's insufficient defense spending. Five months later, he ordered U.S. troop pullouts from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Calling Trump's troop withdrawal orders "a central component of his 'America First' agenda," the New York Times said in an article published on Friday that "that appeal has particularly animated his base of populist voters, many of them veterans who have grown weary of their roles in longstanding wars."

Second, most of the pullouts were made to put an end to what Trump referred to as "endless wars" the country has been entangled in, cut U.S. spending for foreign aid, and reduce casualties for U.S. soldiers. For example, the Somalia pullout could be a decision made partly due to growing risk for U.S. soldiers



in the African country as its security has been, as the Brookings Institution pointed out in a November article, "slowly but steadily deteriorating."

Third, as Trump faces the end of his presidency, the orders could be "political," and "have more to do with President Donald Trump's legacy than concern for Americans," said news magazine *The Week* in a feature story published late November.

RESISTANCE HOME, ABROAD

Over time, U.S. troop pullouts ordered by the Trump administration have been met with resistance at home and abroad.

Those orders concerning the Middle East, Africa and Af-

ghanistan, in particular, have been strongly opposed by not only the federal government, but also the GOP and senior U.S. military officials.

In fact, following the administration's announcement of the Syria pullout in 2018, Trump himself and administration officials said in 2019 that there was no timetable for the withdrawal.

According to an article published in mid-November by the New York Times, "several hundred U.S. troops remain stationed in Syria."

Besides, among the U.S. troops that would be withdrawn from Germany, nearly half will be repositioned to other NATO countries like Belgium and Italy, while the rest will return to the United States with some beginning rotational deployment back to Europe, then Secretary of Defense

Mark Esper said in late July.

Furthermore, on the Afghanistan and Iraq pullouts, the Trump administration failed to win support not only from its NATO allies, but also senior U.S. military officials such as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley, and Republican members like Esper.

During an interview with U.S. media organization NPR this October, Milley said he was "not going to engage in speculation" on an Afghanistan pullout timeline. National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien had announced earlier.

According to a CNN report in mid-November, Esper had sent a classified memo to the White House, warning that "the necessary conditions had not been met for the Afghanistan pullout."

"Trump orders most American troops to leave Somalia. Impulsive, ill thought out orders will result in a bitter harvest for U.S. national security interests," Barry McCaffrey, a retired U.S. army general, tweeted on Saturday.

A CNN article published on Nov. 17 noted that Trump's order on the Afghanistan and Iraq pullouts "is the latest foreign policy move on a growing list in his final weeks in office that are meant to limit President-elect Joe Biden's options before he takes office in January."

Citing Charles Lister, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute, the article said Trump "is trying to put the Democrats in a tricky situation."

However, multiple media reports have showed that Trump's orders were often "slow-rolled" by Pentagon.

Xinhua



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'Buy goods made in Tanzania to protect jobs, support industrialisation'

By Smart Money Reporter

CONSUMERS have been challenged to buy locally produced goods to ensure that millions of jobs are protected but also support the government's industrialisation agenda.

Tanzania Growth Trust CEO Anna Dominick said in Dar es Salaam last week after visiting her institution's sponsored entrepreneurs attending the 5th Local Industries Exhibition, that apart from stopping job exports through purchasing local goods, consumers will help rapid economic growth.

"These small scale entrepreneurs are a product of Tanzania Growth Trust because they have been developed by our project called Mkuwba," Dominick said noting that the trust wants the small businesses to grow and graduate into manufacturing companies.

She pointed out that most imported goods which cost the country dearly in foreign currency, also kill local industries hence rendering many Tanzanians jobless. "Most of our locally made products are original and durable compared to cheap substandard imports flooding the markets," Dominick noted.

She explained that through Mkuwba Project, TGT has since 2009 built capacity and empowered over 10,000 entrepreneurs mostly women who are currently making high quality products which need to be purchased by consumers to support them.

"We trained these entrepreneurs practically by giving them skills on handicrafts making, soap making, food processing, sawing of clothes and poultry farming," the TGT chief executive added saying many of them make high quality produce which foreign tourist



Tanzania Growth Trust CEO, Anna Domick (R) admires products displayed by one of the trust's sponsored exhibitors, Lidya Makanda (L) at the 5th Local Industries Exhibition held in Dar es Salaam last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

buy. "We have sponsored 15 entrepreneurs to participate in these exhibitions as part of our efforts to expose them to markets but also enable them learn from big businesses," she

noted while stating that small and medium size enterprises employ the bulk of Tanzanians either directly or indirectly. She also stated that by taking part at the exhibitions, the TGT sponsored entrepreneurs were also linked with gov-

ernment's regulatory authorities such as Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Vocational Education and Training Authority, Tanzania Trade Development Authority and Tanzania Revenue Authority which directly deal with them.

One of the TGT entrepreneurs, Jonecia John said Mkuwba Project has assisted her by doling skills and also providing her with working equipment to produce goods. "We want our country to become industrialised but for that to happen we need small industries most which is what we are doing," John said.

She paid tribute to TGT saying the trust has invested heavily in empowering women hence needs both government and public support so that the investment made should not go to waste. "Consumers should support us by buying our produce instead of foreign imports which are cheap and substandard," she argued.



WMA acting CEO Stella Kahwa

Agency backs locally produced weighing scales, fuel dispensers

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

THE Weights and Measures Agency has certified locally made cheap weigh scales which many Tanzanian small business owners can afford to buy and use compared to imported ones.

WMA acting CEO, Stella Kahwa said in Dar es Salaam last week during an industrial exhibition for local produce, that the weighing scales are made using Tanzanian raw materials but also made by Tanzanian experts.

"These weighing scales meet international standards despite being cheap because we want to encourage Tanzanian businesses to use them to support their peers by buying locally made products," Kahwa

said.

She further revealed that Tanzanian engineers and technicians have also made a fuel pump which will help pump station owners to reduce their budget to buy imported substitute while also supporting their peers.

"The fuel pump also meets international standards hence buyers and sellers get exactly what they deserve when buying fuel," she said while urging all fuel vendors to buy the affordable but high quality dispensers.

The WMA acting CEO added that in the past, pump station owners used to import such gadgets paying foreign currency but now it has been made simple by Tanzanian engineers hence providing cheap alternatives in the market.

She said as a local regulator of

weights and measures in the country, WMA is accredited to International Bureau of Weights and Measurement which safeguards quality and standards of such equipment globally.

Kahwa said through collaboration with Small Industries Development Organization (Sido), WMA has been working with entrepreneurs on how they can improve their packaging to meet international standards.

"For example in the past honey retailers used to sell the commodity by estimating volumes but after sensitization, they are now using weighing scales," she explained adding that the agency will continue working with small business owners to ensure that they are utilising officially recognised gadgets in their businesses.

Covid-19 to continue negatively affecting tourism in Zanzibar

By Francis Kajubi

AS the world continues to struggle against the coronavirus outbreak, Zanzibar's tourism sector will continue experiencing a slowdown as countries where most tourists come from are facing restrictions.

Bank of Tanzania has said in its latest Quarterly Economic Bulletin for the period ended September this year that a big number of tourists' arrivals to the Spice Islands are Europeans whose countries are currently struggling against Covid-19.

"Tourism is an important source of income for Zanzibar's economy and its largest source of foreign exchange. But eruption of Covid-19 seems to have intense impact in this case. The number of tourist arrivals declined to 12,867 from 174,057 registered during a similar quarter in 2019," read part of the bulletin.

The Central Bank report stated that 61.5 percent of the visitors were from European countries mostly from Italy, United Kingdom, German and France while the US accounted for 14.3 percent.

Announcing his cabinet last month, Zanzibar's President Dr Hus-



Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi.

sein Mwinyi said apart from tourism, his government is determined to pursue blue and private sector led economy.

"I and my government are committed at working hand in hand with the private sector in realizing true economic prosperity of our nation. A focus on blue economy and attraction of major investments by the private sector are meant to spearhead collective economic growth," he said in an inaugural address to the House of Representatives.

The president pledged to turn the island into an attractive investment destination in the East African region with priority to boost tax collection to invest in provision of better social services.

According to the World Bank Group in 2017, tourism accounted for 68 percent of investments approved by the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority.

The sector created an estimated 22,000 direct and 50,000 indirect jobs out of the islands' estimated population of around 1.6 million. In 2018, the sector contributed an estimated 28 percent to the islands' gross domestic product and 82 percent of its foreign exchange earnings.

Mozambique's minimum wage negotiations back

MAPUTO

THE Labour Consultative Commission (CCT), the tripartite negotiating forum between the Mozambican government, the trade unions, and the employers' associations, on Friday resumed discussions about increasing the statutory minimum wage.

According to the spokesperson for the meeting, Emidio Mavila, the CCT, in addition to the minimum wage, will also analyse the performance of the National Social Security Institute (INSS), and the performance of the labour administration institutions, including the mediation and arbitration commission. "The government and its partners will reflect on the opportunity to resume negotiations to revise the minimum wages for 2021," said Mavila, at the opening of the CCT session "and to analyse the employment policy for the present five year period."

The representative of the country's main trade union federation, the OTM (Mozambican Workers' Organisation), Damiao Simango, said the country's workers wanted to see the question of the increase of the minimum wage definitively resolved. He admitted that there might not be time to increase the minimum wage this year "but we can start reflecting on what can be done next year. It must be recognised that the workers are going through difficulties, and those difficulties must be shared."

The head of labour policy for the Confederation of Business Associations (CTA), Antonio de Sousa, recognised the difficulties facing workers on low wages, but claimed that nothing can be done this year. He wanted 2020 to be regarded as "year zero," and all the discussions to be held in 2021.

BancABC lures clients to utilise new digital payment solutions



BancABC Tanzania's senior manager for digital and fintech, Lameck Mushi (C) in Dar es Salaam over the weekend when unveiling the bank's new 'Kubwa lao' 3D Visa card. He is the bank's head of retail and commercial banking, Joyce Malai (L), and head of agent banking, Mwita Rhoba. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

By Smart Money Reporter

IN a bid to speed up movement towards a cashless economy and boost electronic commerce, BancABC Tanzania has introduced a 3D secured Visa card for its clients.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam during the launch this week, BancABC Head of Retail and Commercial Banking, Joyce Malai said the new 3D secure technology comes with an added layer of protection that helps to prevent the unauthorised use of customers' Visa cards while shopping online.

"During an online purchase using any of electronic devices (such as your mobile phone, laptop etc) you will receive a onetime pass-code through a text message or an email that you are required to input to complete your transaction," Malai said adding that such a set up prevents any fraudulent use of the cards by any unauthorized person.

She said the bank which also launched contactless tap to pay feature on its card platform recently to ensure convenience and safety of its customers, is committed towards encouraging digital transactions in the mar-

ket.

"Now with this 3D secure technology enhancement, our prepaid cards remain a game changer in payments services since customers will now continue to enjoy a lot more secure, simple and very fast payments through both online and point of sale machines," she noted.

She pointed out that BancABC's 'Kubwa lao' Visa card is available in six different currencies which are the local currency, US dollar, South African rand, Chinese yuan, Europe's euro and UK pound sterling.

"You don't have to be a BancABC account holder to have one, all you need is your NIDA ID or any other government accepted identifications with supporting documents like driving license, passport, voters identity card to instantly get one," she added.

In remarks made at the same event, the bank's Senior Manager for Digital and Fintech, Lameck Mushi said BancABC is a reliable partner having won three consecutive Visa awards for being the market leader in e-commerce transactions.

"In the endeavour to promote safe and secure online transactions, anyone can own the

BancABC Visa card regardless of whether they have an account with us or not. BancABC prepaid card is an easily reloadable prepaid card that eliminates the inconveniences and insecurity of carrying cash around while shopping or travelling," Mushi argued.

Mushi further said that the local currency prepaid card is linked to BancABC Mobi which means customers can deposit and withdraw money at their convenience to and from all mobile money wallets available in the market.

"So, there is no need for a customer to visit our branches whenever they want to transact," he added noting that one can also request a bank statement, pay utility bills such as LUKU, water bills, government payments through Government electronic Payment Gateway.

Airtel, TRC team up to digitise train ticket purchasing online



Airtel Tanzania's director of communications, Beatrice Singano (L) speaks in Dar es Salaam at the weekend a new partnership with the Tanzania Railways Corporation. Right is TRC managing director, Masanja Kadogosa. Photo courtesy of Airtel.

By Smart Money Reporter

AIRTEL Money subscribers can now buy tickets using their mobile phone wallets thanks to a deal reached between Airtel Tanzania Plc and Tanzania Railways Corporation.

As the end of year festive season draws closer, its big relief for millions of travellers who will be travelling upcountry from Dar es Salaam to Arusha and Moshi, also vice versa. "We are happy to enter into another partnership with TRC that will add value to our existing services for the benefit of customers," said Airtel Communication Director Beatrice Singano when the partnership was announced end last week.

Singano said the agreement will ease TRC passengers the trouble of buying tickets manually as they can now do so using their mobile phones anywhere, anytime. "I call upon our esteemed customers to make use of this service in order to save time and make their ticket payment," she said.

Singano further noted that the new service is also convenient as millions of travellers have been cheated by middlemen who hoard tickets and sell them at hefty prices during this festive season due to spiralling demand.

"This partnership with TRC will be a relief to them as they will no longer go physically to TRC offices to book their tickets and also avoid buying tickets from dishonest agents," Singano added while stressing that Airtel Money is a safe, reliable and efficient platform to transact.

Commenting on the new partnership, TRC Managing Director, Masanja Kadogosa said TRC continues to focus on customer satisfaction in many ways especially in availing improved products in the market.

"Therefore, this partnership with Airtel Tanzania will allow our products to reach all customers through Airtel Money platform in purchasing tickets as it is convenient and user friendly and can be accessed from anywhere," Kadogosa said.

He pointed out that the partnership also ensures TRC passengers less challenges in purchasing tickets which means having access to reliable transport services. "Airtel Money is a convenient platform in making digital payments hence we at TRC have added the platform into our payment system so that customers will have more options and flexibility in purchasing their tickets across the market," he added.

US\$800m in funding behind Ethiopia telco licence, Liquid datacentre drive

ADDIS ABABA

A United States development funder, the Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has availed US\$500-million to back a consortium of regional and international telecommunication firms with their bid to acquire a mobile licence in Ethiopia, while also advancing US\$300-million to support Liquid Telecom's datacentre expansion across the continent.

Ethiopia is considered to be a lucrative growth frontier for telecommunications investment and the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has already opened investment bids for two private mobile telecom operators.

There are also plans to partially privatise the state-controlled Ethio Telecom, which has largely been criticised for cutting connectivity in the crisis ravaged Tigray region, currently at the centre of civil conflict.

There has been concern that the worsening humanitarian crisis would unnerve potential investors in the telecommunications market. However, the government of Ethiopia is pressing ahead with the processing of bids for the two mobile permits and the Finance Ministry has confirmed that bids will close at the end of March next year.

International telecommunication group Vodafone, along with Vodacom and Safaricom are bidding for the mobile license as a consortium and have previously said that they would need up to US\$1-billion to build and operationalise a mobile network in Ethiopia.

Their bid has now been strengthened with funding from the DFC. The loan, to be advanced to the Vodafone-led Global Partnership for Ethiopia, will be used to "finance the design, development, and operation of a new private mobile network provider" provider in the country as well as "the acquisition of a mobile network provider" license, according to the US funding organisation.

"The project is expected to have a highly developmental impact through the creation of a new private telecommunications network that will increase connectivity in Ethiopia while utilising trusted technology." Media reports show that the other bidders for the two Ethiopian licenses include South Africa's MTN, Orange, Etisalat from the United Arab Emirates and Strive Masiyiwa's Econet.

Ethiopian officials said the licences up for grabs does not include mobile financial services, which could have been a key strength for the consortium as Safaricom already has a pioneer mobile money service, M-Pesa.

The winning bids are scheduled to be announced two weeks after the process closes. The DFC is also supporting Liquid Telecom's quest for a bigger share in Africa's datacentre market and has availed US\$300-million into Liquid subsidiary Africa Data Centres.

The financing, earmarked for "supporting development of datacentres across Africa" will support ADC's "acquisition and expansion of existing datacentre assets in South Africa and Kenya" which are its current markets, in addition to Nigeria, a key hub for its West Africa expansion plans.

The DFC said, "This financing will also enable entry into new markets through the development, construction and operation of datacentres in DFC-eligible African countries, increasing connectivity and supporting economic development."



Strive Masiyiwa of Econet.

MPs to refund Sh1m each in illegal house allowance

NAIROBI

MPs have suffered a blow after the High Court on Thursday ruled that they refund Sh1 million each received as house allowance after judges termed the pay illegal. The 416 MPs had been paid the allowance for eight months before the High Court stopped the pay in May last year. The court directed clerks of the Senate and National Assembly, to recover the cash within a year.

The MPs had been paid 357 million for five-and-half months before the Salaries and Remuneration Commission (SRC) obtained a court order in May last year. The judges faulted Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC) for encroaching on the mandate of the SRC and granting the MPs house allowance of Sh250,000, backdating it to 2018.

"Flowing from our finding that the PSC's decision to set and facilitate the payment to the MPs is ultra vires its constitutional and statutory mandate," said justices Pauline Nyamweya, Weldon Korir and John Mativo. The court said the Constitution and statutes do not give the PSC powers to set the pay of MPs and parliamentary staff.

The judges said the PSC's role is budgetary, adding that the SRC acted within its mandate by directing the clerks of Parliament not to pay the allowance and the failure by PSC to seek approval of the SRC, which is mandated to set and pay salaries and remuneration of State officers, was illegal.

Activist Okiya Omtatah and a host of NGOs challenged the allowance in court. He said it would cost taxpayers more than Sh1.2 billion annually and gave the MPs double benefit as house allowance is already included by SRC in MPs' gross pay.

"The accounting officers for the PSC and Parliament are therefore also culpable for failing to undertake their obligations under the Public Finance Management Act in this regard. For this reason, we, therefore, find that the said accounting officers are under an obligation to recover the money paid to MPs," said the judges said.

For Zanzibar, the future is blue

By Godwin Semunyu

ZANZIBAR'S 8th Phase Government under President Dr Hussein Mwinyi is setting the pace towards attaining a robust 2050 vision, emphasizing on building an economy that capitalizes on marine-based products. "The blue economy," as is technically termed.

Zanzibar, a combination of Unguja and Pemba islands, has a total surface area of 2,550 square kilometres with a population of close to 1.6 million people. According to President Mwinyi, Zanzibar's population has grown in five folds within 50 years, from only 300,000 in 1964.

The number is expected to increase to over three million by the year 2040. Currently, Zanzibar's gross domestic product stands at 3.1trn/-, with tourism contributing 30 percent, agriculture 20 percent, industry 18 percent, and other sectors carry 12 percent.

The figures could increase significantly if strategic and deliberate efforts are employed to leverage ocean-based resources like offshore hydrocarbon, energy, tourism, maritime transport, shipping, and deep-sea fishing. Certainly, the rapid population growth will effectively increase density and consequently add pressure on land for settlements and production.

Understanding the blue economy vision

The ocean covers 72 percent of the earth's surface while constituting more than 95 percent of the biosphere. Human beings' livelihood is equally blue as it is green. However, less production is done on oceans than on land. Therefore, the blue economy is the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, job creation and better ecosystem health, from fishing to renewable energies, maritime transport, tourism, and waste management.

In Zanzibar, for instance, most of the fishing activities are taking place within fishing grounds in territorial waters, yielding around 1,806 metric tons annually. Comparatively lower to neighbouring Mombasa and Lamu that produce about 24,096 metric tonnes annually.

Plans should increase the yields through stern investment in deep-sea fishing to cater to local and international demands. There is a ready-made market in landlocked countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, Malawi, and Zambia.

Reports have indicated that the Eastern Africa region will increase fish consumption from 4.80 kilograms in 2013 to 5.49 kilograms by 2022. Rising population growth and income levels imply that the region will need 2.49 million tonnes of fish to fill the



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demand-supply gaps.

Kudos to the Zanzibar government for establishing the Fishing Corporation (ZAFICO) along with the construction of 26bn/- Malindi fish market that, apart from providing reliable stocking facilities with cold rooms, will also create close to 6,000 jobs.

Coastal tourism is another important aspect for Zanzibar's blue economy vision. Tourism contributes over 30 percent of the Spice Islands GDP and provides about 80 percent employment in addition to earning the country foreign currency.

The sector that enjoys about 500,000 tourists arrivals annually, boasts a wide variety of options ranging from the historical and cultural sites of Stone Town to white sandy beaches backed by several leisure activities including diving. Zanzibar has more than 500 hotels and guest houses, with a combined 7,500 rooms and a total of 114 tour operators, one of the best infrastructure in the region.

Zanzibar needs more marketing efforts to promote the Mantra Resort in Pemba, the only underwater hotel in Africa. The Mantra Resort rooms are four meters under the surface of the Indian Ocean, providing a unique experience to the tourists. If well promoted, the \$750 per night per person rooms will surely be making its way on to the top bucket list of millions of tourists from all corners of the world.

However, the Zanzibar tourism sector should not become complacent or rest on their laurels but rather be on their guard by creating more value to the industry. Zanzibar should always keep in mind the constant competition it faces from Seychelles, Mauritius, and the Maldives.

Another critical area of the isles' blue economy is

seaweed farming. So far, the sector has created more than 25,000 jobs making Zanzibar the third-largest exporter of the commodity in the world, after Philippines and Indonesia. The room for expansion in this area is immense.

Furthermore, there is light at the end of the tunnel for deep-sea gas exploration in Zanzibar. Recent development including the initial signing of the production sharing agreement between the isles government and United Arab Emirates based RAK GAS Company which has paved the way for further exploration of oil and gas reserves. This area is of significant importance also.

The future is blue

With resources like land for farming becoming scarcer, Zanzibar, like many other islands, ought to fully optimize all the resources presented by the Indian Ocean. The blue economy is, therefore, a way forward. President Mwinyi's decision to form a special Ministry for Blue Economy and Fisheries is a bold statement of intent that for the Spice Islands, the future is blue.

KRA, police get 'window' to track betting real time

NAIROBI

THE Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) and other State agencies like police and National Intelligence Service (NIS) have been offered a window to track betting activities real time via a proposed law.

State-backed amendments to the Gaming Bill sets the creation of a platform that will allow more government agencies to capture suspicious bets and punters in the latest drive to combat money laundering and flow of illicit money.

Changes to the law come amid increased concerns that betting firms are emerging as a vehicle to launder proceeds of crime and corruption, the so-called dirty money and so are under-declaring their earnings to the KRA and the Betting Control and Licensing Board (BCLB). The fresh amendments, which are before Parliament, are an upgrade of earlier changes that only gave the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) real-time access to betting activities.

Now, other agencies, including security teams and the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC)—which is mandated to track illicit cash—have been added to the list of institutions that will track the bets as they are placed.

"The Board (Gaming board) shall establish a framework to facilitate real time monitoring of online gaming activities which shall be accessible for monitoring by the Communications Authority of Kenya, the board and any other relevant government agencies," says the Bill. Gaming in Kenya mainly takes place online, allowing punters to place bets on games taking place across the globe.

If Parliament approves changes to the law, punters dealing in large transactions, those putting money in betting wallets and staking a small fraction of it as well as those making small, regular and suspicious bets will be in the radar of the State.

Kenya has been fingered for illicit money inflows from crime, drugs, corruption and shady business deals, which is used to buy high-end homes and luxury cars. Online sports betting companies had grown rapidly in recent years, riding a wave of enthusiasm for sports, before the government started a crackdown on their operations.

Licences of more than 15 betting firms were last year not renewed, especially due to fresh demands for taxes and the need for more shareholder disclosures, triggering court fights with firms like SportPesa and Betin.

The government reckons the rapid growth had seen the gaming industry achieve a combined revenue of Sh204 billion, offering a perfect market for criminals seeking to launder dirty money. Executives of betting firms reckon that criminals can feed their illicit money into their betting wallets, bet a small share of the cash before cashing out the bulk of the cash. "That's what turns dirty money clean," said the CEO of the betting firm, adding that a number of suspect accounts have been frozen and details forwarded to the BCLB.

Before the tax crackdown that has seen firms like SportPesa and Betin close shop, the State had introduced new gambling regulations, including banning advertising outdoors and on social media. This came after the Interior minister had highlighted how gambling had become a problem for the young and poor. Under the rules, any gambling advertising will need approval from the regulator and will be required to contain a warning message that must constitute a third of the actual advertisement.

The State has recently lost its bid to freeze betting accounts and seize cash that remains unused for three months in a row amid money laundering concerns. Parliament rejected changes to the Betting Bill to empower the Interior ministry to freeze the accounts and ask gamblers to show proof of the source of cash before accessing the money.

VIEW FROM THE TOP

Vodacom, MTN in 5G supremacy confrontation over devices

JOHANNESBURG

AS the country enters the lucrative festive season, SA's leading telcos Vodacom and MTN are clashing over fifth-generation (5G) wireless network devices, with both claiming market supremacy.

A tug-of-war between the telcos unravelled last week as both companies issued different statements, with both claiming 5G glory. Competition in the local telecoms sector has intensified in recent months, as the country is on the cusp of ultra-fast 5G networks.

5G is expected to shake-up everything and is the conduit that will create the interconnected world of the future, with billions of rands in economic benefit brought to companies that keep up with the technology.

The Vodacom and MTN clash comes as the country's mobile network operators are starting to deploy commercial 5G networks in some parts of the country. Local phone-makers have also been racing to rollout 5G-enabled devices and plan for future models that will run on 5G.

Samsung, Huawei, Nokia, Apple, Xiaomi and LG have all introduced 5G-enabled phones in SA. With Vodacom and MTN now at an inflection point of their 5G strategies, competition has become more severe.

Vodacom and MTN have both been hugely profitable in recent years and the 5G market presents more opportunities to continue on this path. Vodacom fired the first salvo, announcing the availability of the Apple iPhone 12 device line-up at its

stores last week.

"Vodacom is excited to soon offer the eagerly anticipated new iPhone 12 family, including iPhone 12 Pro, iPhone 12 Pro Max, iPhone 12 and iPhone 12 Mini. With a beautiful all-new design, iPhone 12 family models feature unparalleled new camera systems, edge-to-edge Super Retina XDR displays for a more immersive viewing experience, the biggest jump in durability with the Ceramic Shield front cover, and Apple-designed A14 Bionic chip, the fastest chip in a smartphone," it said.

MTN followed two days later with its own statement, saying it will offer the 5G-enabled iPhone 12 exclusively in SA. "MTN will be the only network authorised to enable 5G on the new iPhone 12, from December 2020, into early 2021.

"MTN will be launching the 5G-enabled version of the iconic Apple iPhone 12 in South Africa this month. This achievement is part of MTN's commitment to innovation and defending its position as SA's best mobile network that consistently brings next-generation technology to its customers," it said. "MTN delivers 5G connectivity on four different spectral bands across more than 100 sites around the country, with access to this new generation technology unlocking the full capabilities of next-generation services, like the latest iPhones, but also virtual and augmented reality, ultra-high-definition video streaming, artificial intelligence, robotics, automated cars and the Internet of things." This



Vodacom and MTN illustrations on mobile handsets.

MTN announcement immediately solicited response from Vodacom, saying the statement created a "misguided impression" to the market, claiming it is ahead of its rivals.

"Vodacom was first to launch a mobile 5G network in South Africa and has been first to launch a number of 5G devices. We can confirm that all Apple 12 devices purchased from Vodacom are 5G-ready and that 5G connectivity will be enabled through a simple software update in due course. We expect to expand our 5G

coverage footprint significantly once we get access to new spectrum as part of ICASA's auction process at the end of March." As the competition for 5G devices rages on, the fifth-generation wireless network is expected to remain patchy in the big metros for some time, as the telcos are still waiting for spectrum to be allocated by the Independent Communications Authority of SA (ICASA).

ICASA has promised it will auction the much-needed high-demand spectrum by March next year, and it is only after

this process is finalised that 5G networks will start expanding in SA. Analysts have warned authorities that spectrum allocation is now critical and the process must be fast-tracked.

Analysts that ITWeb recently spoke to said that due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the spectrum discussion has now shifted from important to critical, and the regulator must urgently license new spectrum, as mobile network quality would deteriorate significantly without access to additional capacity.

WORLD

Beware of holidays, says WHO chief

BRUSSELS

THE World Health Organization on Friday urged people to exercise caution in the coming holiday season and pleaded with governments to give more money to a vaccine facility launched by the UN agency.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that the festival season is ordinarily a time for people to relax and celebrate.

"But we must not relax our guard," he said at a virtual news conference from Geneva.

The WHO has reported the number of weekly deaths in the past six weeks has increased by about 60 percent, and most new cases and deaths are in Europe and the Americas.

"Celebration can very quickly turn to mourning if we fail to take the right precautions," Tedros warned.

He asked people to consider their plans carefully if they prepare to celebrate over the coming weeks, and they should take every precaution to keep themselves and others safe if they live in an area with high virus transmission. "That could be the best gift you could give the gift of health, life, love, joy and hope," he said.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on COVID-19, echoed his views, saying people need to follow through on all the precaution measures.

She warned that it is easy for the number of cases to go up but it takes a while for the number to go down.



World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Van Kerkhove, a US epidemiologist, said she will celebrate this year's holiday via the Zoom conferencing platform.

Tedros applauded a vaccine rollout in the United Kingdom and said he expects more countries to follow suit.

Filling the gap

He said that the greater achievement would be to ensure all countries enjoy the benefits of science equitably, but the global health agency faces an immediate funding gap of US\$4.3 billion to procure vaccines for the most needy countries.

"I urge donors to fill this gap quickly so that vaccines can be secured, lives can be saved and a truly global economic recovery is accelerated," he said.

He said world leaders have made a commitment for equitable access to vaccines, and he hopes to see commitment being translated into action.

The WHO-led COVAX vaccine facility, which is backed by 189 countries and economies but not the United States, has secured almost 1 billion doses of three candidate vaccines.

However, some drugmakers have encountered obstacles with their vaccines.

On Friday, GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi announced that the rollout of their jointly developed coronavirus vaccine will be pushed back after it failed to show a sufficient efficacy rate in older patients.

The plan is to delay the vaccine until the fourth quarter of 2021, instead of an earlier plan to roll it out in the year's first half.

Bruce Aylward, senior adviser to Tedros, said that COVID-19 vaccines have offered hope and let people see the light at the end of the tunnel.

"It's a long tunnel," said the Canadian physician-epidemiologist, referring to the challenges of distributing the vaccines to the wider population in the world and the still unsettled epidemiological situation of the novel coronavirus.

Agencies

EU-UK trade pact still possible as departure date nears

BRUSSELS/LONDON

THE European Union's Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, said yesterday that sealing a new pact with Britain was still possible as the date for the country's departure from the bloc edged nearer.

But a diplomat in Brussels said the chance remained that the the tortuous trade talks could collapse.

Despite missing multiple deadlines, Britain and the EU agreed on Sunday to "go the extra mile" to try to break deadlocks on access to UK fishing waters for EU trawlers and corporate fair play rules in order to avert a turbulent split in trading ties at the end of the month.

"We are going to give every chance to this agreement... which is still possible," Barnier told reporters on arriving to update envoys from the 27 EU countries in Brussels on the

talks. "A good, balanced agreement."

"Two conditions aren't met yet. Free and fair competition... and an agreement which guarantees reciprocal access to markets and waters. And it's on these points that we haven't found the right balance with the British. So we keep working," he added.

The estranged allies are racing to seal a new partnership deal to carry on trading freely and govern ties from energy to transport beyond Dec 31, when Britain leaves the EU's single market and customs union after Brexit.

Senior EU diplomats, who spoke under condition of anonymity after taking part in Barnier's closed-door briefing, said the negotiator relayed some limited progress on how to settle any future trade disputes but was "guarded" on prospects for a deal.



The sides remained at odds over state aid provisions and have moved further apart again on fisheries, with the EU rejecting UK's proposal for a three-year transition period from 2021 on access to British waters, they said.

"Patient still alive...but keep the undertaker on speed dial," said one of the diplomats of how the talks were going.

Britons voted to leave the world's largest trading bloc in a national referendum in 2016, and pro-Brexit politicians had claimed that reaching a deal would be easy.

While gaps have been narrowing after seven months of tortuous talks, it was not clear if Britain and the EU would be able to clinch an agreement with less than three weeks left, or face economic damage from a no-deal from Jan 1.

That would damage an estimated trillion dollars worth of annual trade, send shockwaves through markets, snarl borders and sow chaos in supply chains across Europe just as the continent struggles with economic havoc wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Folly'

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said on Monday Britain has the most to lose from Brexit.

"The British people will be the biggest losers from Brexit," he said, calling Brexit "a political, economic and historical folly".

In London, British business secretary Alok Sharma said the EU and the United Kingdom were still apart in Brexit trade talks but Prime Minister Boris Johnson did not want to walk away yet.

"We are of course apart on certain matters but...we don't want to walk away from these talks," Sharma told Sky. "People expect us, businesses expect us in the UK to go the extra mile and that's precisely what we're doing."

Johnson and the president of the EU's executive Commission on Sunday mandated negotiators to continue, although the British premier sounded a downbeat note on prospects for a breakthrough.

"Any deal that we get with the EU has to respect the fact that we are a sovereign country, an independent country and that's the basis on which we will do a deal if there is a deal to be

UN agency says more than 400,000 flee Mozambique militant attacks

HARARE

AT least 400,000 people have fled militant attacks in northern Mozambique, the United Nations refugee agency said, warning that the crisis could quickly spread beyond the country's borders if regional neighbours did not help tackle the insurgency.

Mozambique's northernmost province of Cabo Delgado, home to gas developments worth some US\$60 billion, is grappling with an insurgency linked to Islamic State that has gathered pace this year, with insurgents regularly taking on the army and seizing entire towns.

Valentin Tapsoba, the southern African head of the United Nations High Commis-

sion for Refugees (UNHCR), said families who were rebuilding their lives after the destruction caused by Cyclone Kenneth in 2019 have had to flee from militant attacks.

"This is a situation starting in one country but if all the countries don't get their act together to tackle it and wait too long, it could spread within the sub-region," Tapsoba told Reuters by phone from Pemp in Mozambique.

Zimbabwe presidential spokesman George Charamba said leaders from Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Tanzania were set to meet in Maputo on Monday over the insurgency.

Tapsoba said 424,000 peo-



Displaced women meet on December 11, 2020 at the Centro Agrario de Napala where hundreds of displaced arrived in recent months are sheltered, fleeing attacks by armed insurgents in different areas of the

ple have fled the insurgency to Niassa, Nampula and Pem-

authorities put the figure at 570,000.

On Friday the Mozambican government, together with UN agencies and other local non governmental groups, will launch an international appeal for funding to help those fleeing Cabo Delgado, Tapsoba said.

UNHCR had raised a third of the US\$19.2 million it requires for shelter, water and sanitation and food next year, said Tapsoba.

"The numbers are still growing ... so it is a very big concern," he said.

The onset of the rainy season could make it difficult to reach the camps where thousands are living, which would be "a nightmare for these people," he added. **Agencies**

Virus fight belongs to all, leaders told

NAIROBI

WITH most African countries battling a second wave of coronavirus infections, health authorities have urged governments to engage more closely with communities in an effort to control the spread.

"In fighting the second wave of the pandemic, there will be balancing of the need to save the economy and to save lives, to an extent that we have to count on the cooperation of the community as well as empowering them," said John Nkengasong, the director of the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, or Africa CDC.

Nkengasong, speaking at a virtual briefing on Thursday, called on governments across the continent to do more to increase community awareness of the need for social distancing and the use of face masks.

Governments should ensure that people wear masks consistently and keep up hygiene measures, especially as they travel in rural areas for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Nkengasong warned that failure to do so would lead to a steep increase in the number of new cases in January. He said the number of new cases has increased steadily and that February is likely to mark the peak of the pandemic in Africa.

"We should prepare for the second wave using the tools that we used in the first wave, but also hoping that we can get rapid access to vaccines so that we can use a combination of health measures and timely massive vaccination to bring the infection curve down," he said.

Rising numbers

Nkengasong said that for the week to Dec 6, the continent recorded 100,269 new cases and 2,181 new deaths. The figures, which are the latest reported for a seven-day period, translate to a 7.8 percent rise in cases and 7.8 percent rise in deaths compared with the previous week.

As of Sunday, Africa had more than 2.3 million confirmed cases, with more than 55,900 people dying of COVID-19, according to Africa CDC.

Over the past four weeks, Nkengasong said there has been a 3.5 percent rise in the average number of new cases reported. The Central African region led with an increase of 28 percent, followed by Southern Africa with 19 percent. In contrast, the Northern region had a 3 percent decrease in the number of new cases over the four weeks.

As of Sunday, according to the Africa CDC, five countries have surpassed 100,000 coronavirus infections: South Africa with 852,965, Morocco 397,597, Egypt 121,089, Ethiopia 116,297, and Tunisia 110,393.

The World Health Organization on Thursday called on African governments to increase collaboration with communities to enhance the uptake of vaccines once they become available.

Ethiopian government expresses concern over aid workers' unauthorised travel to insecure areas

ADDIS ABABA

The Ethiopian government on Sunday expressed its concern over "unauthorized travel" of humanitarian staff to insecure areas in the conflict-hit Tigray regional state after a recent reported attack on aid workers by armed forces.

"On December 6, a convoy carrying UN staff without authorized travel permits, ignored the repeated warning and pleas of security officials, in breach of the agreement between the government and the UN on humanitarian access," the Ethiopian government said in a statement issued on Sunday.

"Law enforcement personnel had to stop the vehicle and escort the UN staff to a place of safety," it added. Recognizing the need by international humanitarian organizations "to urgently" get aid supplies across the Tigray region, the Ethiopian government also stressed that it maintains a position that "proper authorization is required from federal authorities."

The Ethiopian government also stressed that as per the agreement made recently between the Ethiopian government and UN, "it is important that all humanitarian workers follow the security guidelines set out by the Government of Ethiopia."

It also reiterated its "obligation to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers and supplies seriously. We wish to once again remind all humanitarian workers to respect the agreed safety protocols and follow the advice of the law enforcement personnel."

The statement came after a reported attack on humanitarian workers by armed forces in Ethiopia's conflict-hit Tigray regional state by armed forces.

On Friday, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) said that it "regrets to confirm the killing of a staff member at the Hitsats Refugee Camp in Shire, Ethiopia."

The IRC, which works in Tigray to support 96,000 Eritrean refugees in four camps with a range of services, including clean water, sanitation, and education, further called on "all parties to the conflict to agree to an immediate ceasefire and ensure civilians, including refugees and aid workers, are protected and able to continue to access and deliver life-saving services." **Xinhua**

China's tweet about Australia's war crime in Afghanistan further reveals hypocrisy of Australian politicians

WHEN both the Australian society and the rest of the international community are sending strong condemnation to Australian soldiers who allegedly committed war crimes in Afghanistan, some Australian politicians, on pins and needles, accused China after Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian tweeted a satirical cartoon featuring an Australian soldier murdering an Afghan child on Monday.

According to a recent report released by the Australian military, some Australian soldiers were allegedly involved in murder of innocent civilians and prisoners during their mission to Afghanistan.

The severe crimes committed by these Australian soldiers in Afghanistan are irrefutably evident and undeniable.

The report, released by the Inspector-

General of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) on Nov. 19, said a total of 25 current or former Australian special forces soldiers had taken part in unlawful killings across 23 separate incidents and covered up what they did.

The findings of the report were based on a four-year inquiry into the misconduct of Australian forces in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2016. In total, 39 Afghan civilians and prisoners were killed and another two were cruelly treated, said the report.

What the report revealed is astonishing and appalling. In some cases, elite Australian troops shot adult men and boys in groups, blindfolded them and slit their throats, and forced new recruits to shoot prisoners for "practice."

Such cruel acts seriously violated inter-

national conventions and betrayed human conscience. They have sparked strong condemnation in Australia and the rest of the world.

Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister of Australia, said in a statement that those who are responsible for these crimes, and any efforts to conceal them, must be brought to justice. The families of those victims must be compensated for their unjust loss, he added.

Australian newspaper The Australian called the cruel acts "the most shameful page in Australian military history."

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova described the report as truly shocking, saying the unlawful killing by Australian soldiers has undermined Australia's international standing.

There were also voices made to support China's stand after Australia made groundless accusations against China to divert attention. Some internet users pointed out that Zhao's tweet was an accurate expression based on the Australian report and the war crimes committed against the Afghan civilians by Australian soldiers.

What the Australian government should do now is to reflect on its misconducts and hold the perpetrators accountable, make a former apology for the Afghan people, and make a solemn promise to never commit such horrible crimes again.

However, out of utter discomfiture, some Australian officials only shifted the blame to China, which fully revealed their hypocrisy. It seems like they believe those who killed innocent Afghan civilians and

prisoners are guiltless, while it is wrong to condemn the crime.

Some Australian politicians have always posed as so-called human rights defenders, but what they worship is only double standards. They should reflect on themselves and think more about what measures shall be taken to stop their country from violating human rights and justice, from interfering in other countries' internal affairs in the name of human rights issues, and from engaging in political manipulation.

The lives of the Afghan people deserve to be respected. Australia owes an explanation to them and the world. It's hoped that Australia can face the problem, rather than trying to divert attention or play the blame game. **People's Daily**



A 5G-based unmanned forklift works in a logistics base of Chinese e-commerce giant Suning.com in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu province, Aug. 11. File Photo

China handles over 70 billion parcels this year

CHINA had handled over 70 billion parcels as of Nov. 16, according to the country's State Post Bureau. The figure has surpassed the total volume in 2019.

Over the past three months, parcels handled by the express delivery industry saw an average monthly growth of about 10 billion.

The gigantic number came from the vibrant online consumption, as well as China's super large market that features huge potential.

Statistics indicated that "Double 11," the largest online shopping spree of China that falls on Nov. 11 each year, was joined by nearly 5 million merchants, 250,000 brands and hundreds of millions of consumers this year.

The rapid growth of the express delivery industry is a result of the vigorous development of e-commerce, said Yang Daqing, deputy head with the research office of the China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing. During the "Double 11," promotions launched on e-commerce platforms significantly boosted the business volume of the express delivery industry, Yang explained.

A total of over 3.96 billion parcels were handled during this year's "Double 11," which was extended from a 24-hour event to a 11-day carnival that started from Nov. 1, according to statistics. Express delivery firms processed 675 million parcels on Nov. 11 alone, up 26.2 percent from a year ago and hitting a record high.

China's efficient logistics system, as well as its express network that is currently going through accelerated digital and intelligent transformation, also contributed to the outstanding performance of the express delivery industry.

A man surnamed Li in Xiaoshan district, Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang province, was surprised by how fast the delivery was. According to him, he received his order just 5 minutes after paying the balance on Nov. 11 this year, at 00:35.

Such speed comes from digitization and intellectualization of the industry. Almost all Chinese express delivery firms have digitalized their parcels this year, giving each parcel a "digital ID" that makes it recognizable, trace-

able and distributable.

Besides, the industry is also profoundly changed by the full-cycle smart logistics. At warehouses, parcels are being sorted by smart robots; when it comes to line haul transport, big data technology weighs in to choose the best routes; at transfer centers, automatic sorting lines employed by each express company add up to over 6,000 kilometers, and 76,000 packages can be sorted each hour; at the delivery end, more and more unmanned vehicles, drones, smart lockers and wearable devices are being employed to improve efficiency.

Though 70 billion parcels were delivered in China this year, the Chinese society is attaching more importance on environmental protection. Tremendous achievements have been made in trimming, greening and recycling the packages of express parcels.

During the "Double 11," a recycling bin was placed near a parcel collection and distribution center at the west gate of the Communication University of China to recycle express parcel packages.

"After unpacking and checking the commodities, we can throw the packages in the bin," said Chen Yue, a student from the university.

A number of measures were taken to ensure environmental protection during this year's "Double 11," such as the use of recycled bags and boxes for transferring parcels, the reduction of the use of wrapping tapes, as well as the avoidance of secondary packaging.

So far, 94.3 percent of the parcels have reduced the use of wrapping tapes, and 68.5 percent of products sold on e-commerce platforms have been packed only once. In addition, 87.2 percent of the parcels were transferred to distribution centers in recycled bags. Besides, 35,000 stations have been built nationwide to collect package waste.

As the passion for online shopping continues rising and express services are more and more facilitated, China's courier sector is bound to hit new records. The State Post Bureau predicted that more than 80 billion parcels will be handled in total this year.

People's Daily

Over 300 students missing after gunmen attacked school in north Nigeria - official

LAGOS

A TOTAL of 333 students remained missing as of Sunday following Friday night attack by gunmen on a secondary school in Katsina, a state in north-west Nigeria, according to government authorities.

Aminu Masari, the state governor updated the information when he received a delegation led by the National Security Adviser Babagana Monguno on Sunday in Katsina.

The governor told his guests that the Government Science Secondary School located in the Kankara area

of the state has a population of 839 students, noting that those kidnapped cut across the state.

The boarding school houses children from all parts of the state and outside the state.

"Based on the available record we have, we are still searching for 333 students through either the forest or their parents to ascertain the actual number that has been kidnapped," said Masari.

"We are still counting be-

cause more are coming out from the forest and we are calling through the numbers of those parents that have phone numbers to find out whether or not their children have gone back home," he added. "We as a government are yet to be contacted by any group or person responsible for the kidnap of the students," the governor said.

Masari had ordered the immediate closure of all boarding secondary schools in the state. **Xinhua**

US lifts Sudan listing as terror sponsor after quarter-century



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (left) greets Sudanese Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok (right) in Khartoum. The United States yesterday formally removed Sudan's state sponsor of terrorism designation, 27 years after putting the country on its blacklist, the US embassy in Khartoum said. AFP

BY BLOOMBERG

The US rescinded Sudan's almost three-decade designation as a state sponsor of terror, paving the way for the North African country to rejoin the global community and boost its ravaged economy.

"The congressional notification period of 45 days has lapsed and the secretary of state has signed a notification stating rescission of Sudan's State Sponsor of Terrorism designation is effective as of today," the US Embassy in Khartoum said yesterday on its Facebook page.

The move was expected after President Donald Trump announced in October that Sudan had agreed to make a long-sought payment to US terror victims and their families.

Discussions also brought in Sudan's fledgling relations with Israel, a country Khartoum had never previously recognized and with which it agreed a peace deal just days later.

It's another step toward overturning the legacy of dictator Omar al-Bashir, who made the country an international pariah for much of his 30-year rule and was ousted by the army amid mass protests in April 2019.

The US named Sudan a terror sponsor in 1993, citing its links with international Islamist-militant organizations, and four years later enacted sweeping sanctions that lasted until 2017.

Sudan's transitional government, a civilian-military coalition ruling until democratic elections, had mounted a concerted campaign for the listing to be dropped. It said the rescission was crucial to rebuilding an economy battered by mismanagement, corruption and the loss of most of its oil reserves on South Sudan's secession in 2011.

The US's lifting of most sanctions didn't spur an improvement in Sudan's economic plight, which sparked the protests that eventually unseated Bashir, with the terror listing leaving international banks and other companies still wary of entry.

Chairman of Sudan's Sovereign Council Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan yesterday said the removal of Sudan from the US list of states sponsoring terrorism contributes to supporting democratic transition.

"This decision will contribute to supporting the democratic transition and enhance the opportunities for the success of the transitional period as well as the prosperity of the Sudanese people," Al-Burhan said on his Twitter account.

Kremlin comments on Putin's recent remarks about Boris Nemtsov murder

MOSCOW

KREMLIN spokesman Dmitry Peskov has commented on the question to clarify what Russian President Vladimir Putin meant when he recently said that it is "generally clear" who ordered the assassination of Russian politician Boris Nemtsov in 2015, suggesting that this question can be asked directly at Putin's upcoming annual press conference on December 17.

"No, I cannot [clarify that]," he told reporters yesterday. "The large press conference is coming, you are free to ask that."

Peskov recalled that the Russian leader had himself said that



he knows who ordered the assassination at the recent meeting of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights.

At the same time, the Kremlin representative added that

he could not "expand on these words."

On December 10, Putin held a meeting of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights. The Russian leader

World should learn results of probe into Iranian scientist's murder - Lavrov

MOSCOW

The international community is interested in the results of a probe into the murder of Iranian nuclear physicist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with Iran's state television and radio broadcaster on Saturday.

Russia resolutely denounced the scientist's murder at various levels, including an official statement by its Foreign Ministry, Lavrov (pictured) said.

"We consider this murder as a provocation aimed at destabilizing the situation in the region, which is burdened with a large number of problems and contradictions and has seen years-long attempts of interference from the outside," Russia's foreign minister said.

"I have heard that Iran has announced about some results of the probe into this murder. When the Iranian side considers it possible, it will be important for everyone to learn the results the investigators have come to," Lavrov added.

On November 27, Fars news agency informed that Iranian nuclear physicist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, who headed a research center under the Iranian Defense Ministry, had been killed in the city of Damavand in the province of Tehran.

According to Iranian Army's Commander-in-Chief Sayyed Abdolrahim Mousavi, Israel and the United States were behind the assassination. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani vowed that the murder would not go unanswered. **Agencies**



Water resources cooperation injects more vitality into Lancang-Mekong regional development

A website that shares water resources information among six countries along the Lancang-Mekong River was launched Monday in Beijing, aiming to enhance the sharing of hydrological data, information, knowledge, experience and technologies.

The Lancang River, which rises on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in China, is called Mekong after flowing out of the country into Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam. It finally runs into the South China Sea.

Sharing the same river, the Lancang-Mekong countries are indeed a community with a shared future. Therefore, water resource cooperation

is always a priority of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation mechanism.

This year, the Lancang-Mekong countries officially kicked off 20 pragmatic cooperation programs in coping with climate change, dam security, drinking water safety, and flood and drought control. From Nov. 1, China has formally started providing the Mekong River Commission Secretariat with year-round hydrological data of the Lancang River. Besides, the 95 proposals raised at the first Ministerial Meeting of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation held last year are also under implementation.

By carrying out cooperation on hydrological infrastructure construction, sharing water resource information, and establishing relevant professional organizations in the spirit of unity and mutual assistance, China and Mekong countries have improved their capability to allocate and manage the water resources in the Lancang-Mekong River and injected vitality into regional development and livelihood for the people along the river.

"The water level in the Mekong River and its tributaries rises every time the rainy season comes, which might lead to floods, debris flows and other natural disasters,"

said the director of the Lao national water information center. He told People's Daily that in the past, the water level had to be measured by staffs in the rain, while today the electronic devices in hydrological stations are able to finish the task, thanks to the water information center aided by China.

The center is a demonstration aid project of the Chinese government, as well as one of the early fruits reaped by the Lancang-Mekong cooperation. It has helped Laos preliminarily acquire the ability to collect, transmit, and process hydrological data, and to make hydrological warnings. China has always reiterated

to fully respect the legitimate rights and interests of each country to properly develop and exploit water resources, and take care of each other's interests and concerns.

At the end of 2015, the Lancang-Mekong countries suffered droughts due to a strong El Nino, which reduced the water level of the Mekong River to the lowest in 90 years. To take care of the concerns of the Mekong countries, the Chinese government decided to discharge water from a hydropower station in Jinghong, Yunnan province to downstream Mekong River for emergency use in March 2016, despite of its own difficulties.

The emergency discharge benefited Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. Three days after the outflow increase, the water level of the Mekong River in north Thailand's Chiang Saen went up to 3.29 meters from around 2.3 to 2.5 meters.

Close neighbors are better than distant relatives, said Sommad Pholsena, Lao Minister of Natural Resources and Environment during an interview with People's Daily. He called China a responsible cooperation partner, saying they would never forget China's assistance to Mekong countries.

The study of water resources have always been a focus

of the Lancang-Mekong cooperation. A joint work team has been established among the Lancang-Mekong countries, and the Ministerial Meeting of Lancang-Mekong Water Resources Cooperation has also been developed into a regular event. Besides, the Lancang-Mekong countries have implemented a five-year action plan on water resources cooperation and launched cooperation projects of dam security and flood warning, so as to improve comprehensive management of the river and the capability to manage water resources, and lift their water resources cooperation onto new levels. **People's Daily**

SPORT



Azam FC striker, Prince Dube.

Azam FC forward returns to Dar

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

AZAM FC striker, Prince Dube, who went to South Africa for treatment, was expected to return to Dar es Salaam last weekend.

Dube left Tanzania on November 29 for Cape Town to undergo surgery on his injured left arm, he had been injured when his side took on Yanga in a Vodacom Premier League's game, which took place at Azam Complex in Dar es Salaam November 25 and had Yanga winning 1-0.

Dube broke the ulna bone that extends from the elbow to the smallest finger of his left arm.

He, on December 3, underwent a successful surgery and he is set to be out of action for four weeks before returning to the field.

Azam FC had earlier stated the forward will be out of action for six weeks after suffering the injury the tie against Yanga.

Dube was taken out of the pitch on the 18th minute and he was flown to South Africa to get treatment at the Vincent Pallotti Hospital in Cape Town.

Azam FC's information officer, Zakaria

Thabit, stated after Dube had arrived at the hospital, he underwent tests and it was discovered he would be out for six weeks to heal the wound.

"Our striker Prince Dube will be out of action for six weeks after the results of tests he underwent at Vincent Pallotti Hospital yesterday had revealed so," Thabit said.

By the time Dube sustained the injury, he had already scored six goals and he is now behind Simba's forward John Bocco that has scored seven goals.

Azam FC is currently placed second place with 27 points after playing 14 matches in Vodacom Premier League, Yanga are placed first with 34 points.

Azam FC got off to a good start in this season's tournament and went as far as posting unbeaten record in seven matches and accumulating 21 points.

The club's then coach Aristica Cioaba, who was sacked on November 26, won the Best Coach award for September due to his good performance in the month, but Azam FC then fired him following the team's failure to post good results.

Zambian coach, George Lwandamina, is lately the Azam FC head coach, he signed a one-year deal with the outfit.

Charley Pride overcame racial barriers as country music star

NASHVILLE, Tenn.

CHARLEY Pride wasn't country music's first Black artist, but he reached heights that had not been available to early Black singers and musicians in the genre. And he did it by winning over millions of country music fans.

While Pride's career path was paved by artists like Opry pioneer DeFord Bailey, the Grammy-winner's success put him on par with his white peers, including Willie Nelson, Glen Campbell and Merle Haggard, in a way that had never been afforded to Black artists before.

Pride, whose hits include "Kiss an Angel Good Morning" and "Is Anybody Goin' to San Antone," died Saturday in Dallas of complications from COVID-19, according to his publicist. He was 86.

The pride of Sledge, Mississippi, was the son of a sharecropper who initially turned to sports as a way to a better life.

He was a pitcher and outfielder in the Negro American League with the Memphis Red Sox and in the Pioneer League in Montana.

After playing minor league baseball, he ended up in Helena, Montana, where he worked in a zinc smelting plant by day and played country music in nightclubs at night.

Baseball was Pride's first success, but it was the Grand Ole Opry that his father insisted everyone listen to on their home radio that would prove to be his lasting legacy.

"Everything we listened to was what he had tuned it to, so I got to listening to Grand Ole Opry and all when I was small and I got hooked on it and it just went from there," Pride told The Associated Press at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville in 2017. "I had no idea that I was preparing myself for this, but I'm glad, especially since I didn't make it in baseball."

After a tryout with the New York Mets, Pride visited Nashville and broke into country music when Chet Atkins, head of RCA Records, heard two of his demo tapes and signed him.

His first few singles were sent to radio stations without a publicity photo. After his race became known, a few country radio stations refused to play his music, and some promoters were hesitant to book him.

Until the early 1990s, when Cleve Francis came along, Pride was the only Black country singer signed to a major label. During his career, other Black country artists such as Linda Martell, O.B. McClinton and Stoney Edwards were also charting country songs, as well as Ray Charles and the Pointer Sisters. In 1993, he joined the Grand Ole Opry cast in Nashville.

"They used to ask me how it feels to be the 'first colored country singer,'" he told The Dallas Morning News in 1992. "Then it was 'first Negro country singer,' then 'first Black country singer.' Now I'm the 'first African-American country singer. That's about the only thing that's changed. This country is so race-conscious, so ate-up with colors and pigments. I call it 'skin hangups' - it's a disease."

Still, he remains the only Black country artist to achieve many of those heights, a sign that country music still has a long way to go to breaking down the racial walls, even decades later. Throughout his career, he sang positive songs instead of sad ones often associated with country music.

"Music is a beautiful way of expressing oneself, and I truly believe music should not be taken as a protest," he told The Associated Press in 1985. "You can go too far in anything - singing, acting, whatever - and become politicized to the point you cease to be an entertainer."

AP

SPORTS

Are Yanga entirely at ease with the 'people's club motif'?

By Correspondent Michael Eneza

THERE is something new in town, that all of a sudden, and perhaps out of nowhere, Young Africans SC (Yanga) have emerged the 'people's club' or rather the 'people's team' in the city of Dar es Salaam, which smacks of the proverbial hare, that the perched bananas are actually unripe.

Is the state of affairs in the club, its finances in particular where it has a stop-go sponsorship an ideal situation that the fans and their media fellow travelers wish to perpetuate as a steady, or permanent state?

Is praising this situation as a mark of resilience as the pundits appear to believe right, in peddling that concept - or a defect to be rectified later?

There is no outside chance that the people's team tag has to do with proximity of the club colours with the ruling party, as no such thing has ever existed, and no confusion - or pride - can arise thereof.

On the contrary, it is easier to project the 'raizoni' and 'kandambili' dichotomy that rent the club asunder in the mid-1970s into the current disparity of fortunes - and contrasts of organization - between Msimbazi Street and Jangwani Street, such that the champion side is 'raizoni' and the struggling side takes the 'kandambili' image, hence emerges as a 'people's club.' It is a poor man's club and seems quite relieved.

This sort of tag or psychological branding of the club has a problem, that it creates a quasi-permanent mental situation where Simba SC is a rich and Yanga are poor, and that this is how it should be.

Yet it is apparent that this psychological tag or branding is only tolerable as a temporary situation, and even as a falsehood, since a poor Yanga would more or less cease to exist, assuming that money makes a difference in soccer.

In that case the club supporters have an ardent interest in the club being awash with cash especially for registration and paying salaries and consequently they have little affinity with poverty.

Looking at the two clubs in their itinerary, there is no real difference but some perceptible psychological differences, where the tag 'people's club' or 'people's team, takes a distinctively different image.

One such aspect is organization,



Yanga players feature in training in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for one of their Vodacom Premier League clashes. PHOTO: COURTESY OF YANGA

where there is a greater incidence of chaos and mistrust of leadership at the Jangwani Street side compared to their main street archrivals, where both clubs have known periods of organizational instability and splits, for instance the formation of 'Pan-African' and then 'Red Star,' in the mid-1970s.

It was an illustration that forces at work in the two clubs are comparable, if not identical.

It is hard to say how far the two teams have parted company or when, but there were incidents in the earlier period - as both clubs have been dabbling soccer sorcery for decades - where inexplicable hiccups occurred at an individual level and even sweeping whole committees.

Not much can be said of how the two clubs have made fortunes in the past few years but the changes touched them differently, as one side has a sponsor with overly successful businesses, while the other lost a sponsor in an entangled web of the transparency broom of the past half decade.

Only in that sense are the clubs at present differentiated, but shifting from simple sponsorship recession to idealising the situation as a people's team is quite different.

There are two sorts of traps of this idealization, an inconvenience and a disfranchisement, where the idea of a people's team is going to be a slight problem if any of these days they get a

proper sponsor, now that the Jangwani Street club side is also professionally organized somewhat, with a CEO running the show rather than the club chairman.

Yet it is possible that Yanga gets active and proactive sponsorship and still remain a 'people's team' on the premise that the club would not sell shares, merely rights to using the club brand.

It is this issue of selling shares that pundits are harping upon, that their rivals have sold out, they are owned by someone, while the fans on the far end of Kariakoo own the club, or the team as such.

Assuming that Yanga can obtain hefty and proactive sponsorship and still not sell shares in a formal manner like Simba, then the tag would remain without its being out of date.

There is no need to speculate as to whether this shall be the case or onerous sponsorship as with Msimbazi Street club side at present shall of necessity require the formality of shares and setting out powers of the sponsor or investor, etc.

This does not appear to be an organizational but a psychological issue, as it depends on the sponsor the club would have identified, and what he sees as ideal structures with which he could operate.

In that sense Yanga can clinch better sponsorship and keep the people's team tag, but could also be pushed to retreat.

Tembo Warriors pip Kilimanjaro Aces in 2020 TCA Super League

By Guardian Reporter

TEMBO Warriors posted one-wicket victory over Kilimanjaro Aces in a pulsating Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) Super League's tie, which took place in Dar es Salaam last week.

The match's eventual winners were forced to dig deep to notch victory, as they faced stiff opposition from their opponents.

Kilimanjaro Aces were skittled for 102 runs in 29.1 overs once they got the opportunity to bat first, with senior performers, Jitin Singh and skipper Kassim Nassoro, playing a pivotal role in the side's ability to amass the score.

Opening batsman Baraka Robert had a frustrating day at the crease, facing early dismissal, his fellow opener Arshaan Jasani posted 12 runs which included two boundaries.

The quest for an imposing score came into view once the well-drilled Singh stepped up, in which he ended with 31 runs, which consisted of five boundaries.

After an early dismissal of Nassoro Zahoro that nothed six runs, Nassoro helped Kilimanjaro Aces pile more runs given he recorded 27 runs, which consisted of two boundaries.

With the rest of the outfit's batsmen failing to make their presence felt and facing early exits, Kilimanjaro Aces' efforts to end their innings with convincing score ended in vain.

Tembo Warriors' Suraj Pala, Riziki Kiseto, Vishal Patel and Jatin Darji had a field day with the ball, keeping the opponents' batting unit at bay with skilful deliveries.

Pala ended with most wickets, taking three and giving away five runs in 2.1 overs, Patel, Darji and Kiseto posted two wickets each.

Needing 103 runs to win, Tembo Warriors had to cover every blade of grass, they eventually got down to successful chase, dropping nine wickets in 37.4 overs.



Ismail Community cricket team's Khalil Rehemtullah reacts after executing a delivery in the previous season's GP Gymkhana Shield tournament's tie against Gujrat Lions, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Rehemtullah helped Tembo Warriors edge Kilimanjaro Aces in this season's TCA Super League clash, played in the city last week. : COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Opening batsman Ivan Ismail scored 12 runs as the side sought to wade off Kilimanjaro Aces' bowlers' threat.

They faced unexpected setback as Issa Kikasi faced early dismissal, Abdullah Jabiri later chipped in with 12 runs.

Tembo Warriors were unperturbed by several more early exits of their key performers, with Salum Jembe and Vishal Patel pushing the squad's score with 10 runs apiece.

They faced yet more scare as Kiseto could only score nine runs and was then sent back to the pavilion by Nassoro.

Tembo Warriors' senior player, Khalil Rehemtullah, in the end, steered them to victory, posting 17 runs not out which consisted of two boundaries.

Rehemtullah formed an unbeaten partnership with Pala to hand their squad the victory.

Kilimanjaro Aces' pace bowler, Ally Mpeka, and Nassor put up spirited showing with the ball and ended with three wickets apiece.

Spinner Athumani Siwa sought to also effectively play part in Kilimanjaro Aces' efforts to frustrate Tembo Warriors' chase, given he took two wickets and gave away 16 runs in eight overs.

Nassor had four maiden overs in his 10-over spell, giving away 18 runs, Mpeka gave away 27 runs in nine overs.

The trio's exploits, nevertheless, failed to weaken Tembo Warriors' resolve.

The league, hosted by TCA, has four sides, Kilimanjaro Aces, Ngorongoro Titans, Serengeti Giants and Tembo Warriors, participating in it.

The showpiece is further part of the pathway for capped and uncapped players to stake claim in the senior national squad for international tournaments in 2021.

Barca to face PSG in Champions League last 16

MILAN

BARCELONA will face Paris St Germain and former striker Neymar while title holders Bayern Munich are up against Italy's Lazio in the last 16 of the Champions League after UEFA's draw was held yesterday.

The clash of Lionel Messi and Barca with last year's runners-up PSG is a repeat of their remarkable meeting at the same stage in 2017 when Barca overcame a 4-0 first leg loss to beat the French club 6-1 in Spain with Neymar scoring twice for the Catalans.

"We know them (PSG) well, they've got some exceptional players. Paris want to fight for the Champions League, last year they came very close to winning it and they want to go one better this time round, but we've got something to say about that," said Guillermo Amor, Barcelona's Director of Institutional Relations.

Bayern will start as favourites in their tie but will be wary of Simone Inzaghi's Lazio team who have reached this stage for the first time in 20 years.

"Lazio are an uncomfortable opponent, you saw that in the group," said Bayern sports director Hasan Salihamidzic. "It is always uncom-

fortable against Italian teams."

Premier League champions Liverpool will play last year's semi-finalists RB Leipzig creating a match-up between Germany's most highly rated young coach Julian Nagelsmann of Leipzig with Liverpool's Juergen Klopp, the country's number one coach.

Liverpool are unbeaten in their last ten matches against German teams in all European competitions, a run going back to 2002.

13-times European champions Real Madrid face Serie A club Atalanta, who reached the quarter-finals in their first Champions League campaign last season. Real have won ten of their last eleven games with Italian clubs.

Atletico Madrid will face Chelsea in a game which could include the return of striker Diego Costa to Stamford Bridge.

Manchester City will take on Borussia Moenchengladbach, who are in the last 16 for the first time in the Champions League era.

Italian champions Juventus will face Porto, a game where Cristiano Ronaldo will return to his homeland Portugal.

The two legged ties will be played from Feb. 16.

REUTERS

Dortmund out to reverse slump after Favre dismissal

BERLIN

NEW Borussia Dortmund boss Edin Terzic will make his debut in the dugout when his team travel to Werder Bremen today, with the crisis-hit Bundesliga giants looking to pick up their first win in four league games.

After former coach Lucien Favre was sacked on Sunday, Dortmund are looking to bounce back from a humiliating 5-1 defeat to Stuttgart which saw them drop out of the top four and cost the Swiss coach his job.

Former Favre assistant Terzic will now take the reins as interim boss until the end of the season, starting with the trip to Bremen.

Dortmund have not lost a league game in Bremen since 2014, yet they travel north with just one point from their last three matches and several players out injured including Belgians Thomas Meunier and Thorgan Hazard and star striker Erling Braut Haaland.

Terzic is charged with leading Dortmund back into the top four after recent results saw them fall behind the leading pack of Bayer Leverkusen, Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig.

"We can't afford another performance like that," said captain Marco Reus after the defeat to Stuttgart. "We need to make a statement in Bremen."

Leaders Leverkusen, who leapfrogged Bayern with a 4-1 win over Hoffenheim to go top for the first time in six years on Sunday, face local rivals Cologne on Wednesday.

Peter Bosz's side have now won three games in a row and are unbeaten this season, but the Dutch coach warned against complacency on Sunday.

No panic at Arsenal, says Arteta

LONDON

ARSENAL slumped to their fourth defeat in five Premier League matches on Sunday after going down 1-0 at home to Burnley, and despite the club sitting just five points above the relegation zone manager Mikel Arteta is not pressing the panic button.

With 13 points from 12 games, Arsenal are off to their worst start to a season in almost 40 years and the pressure is building on Spaniard Arteta, who was brought in last season to turn around the North London club's fortunes.

"I wouldn't say there's panic. I can see in training the way they try and the energy they put in," Arteta said. "A team that is struggling normally you don't see them play the way we were playing, and the way they played

against Tottenham Hotspur.

"But we lost the game, we gave the opponents a chance and they scored and at this level it is all about winning football matches."

Arsenal's Granit Xhaka was sent off early in the second half before Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored an own goal. Scottish full back Kieran Tierney said the players had let Arteta down.

"We are not showing the manager what we can do and how much we believe in him," Tierney said. "Every game there are signs we are doing a bit better but it is still not good enough. "There are no excuses. There is nothing I can say that will make people believe a positive thing is going to come out of this."

Arsenal host fourth-placed Southampton on Wednesday.

REUTERS

Big money brings big disputes, but COVID-19 challenge met

MANCHESTER, England

EUROPEAN football pulled together against the odds to complete a season delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but off the field unity was harder to find as threats of breakaways and superleagues caused rancour in the game.

Competition across the continent came to a halt in March as the impact of the pandemic was felt, but by June domestic competitions were back under way across Europe -- albeit without fans and in controlled 'bio-secure' stadiums.

Liverpool won the English league title for the first time in 30 years while Bayern Munich won an eighth straight Bundesliga crown. Real Madrid won their 34th Spanish league while Juventus won Serie A for the ninth year in a row.

France was the only major league unable to complete their domestic season, with runaway leaders Paris St Germain declared champions.

The backlog of fixtures left European governing body UEFA in a quandary as it needed to complete the Champions League and deal with the issue of the planned Euro 2020 tournament.

UEFA opted to finish off its club competitions in mini-tournament formats while the Euros were postponed until 2021.

The Champions League was finally concluded in August with a 'final eight' knockout format in Lisbon, which was so successful it

led UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin to tell Reuters he would like to repeat that format in the future -- with fans.

An outstanding Bayern Munich were crowned European champions for the sixth time after beating Paris St Germain in the final having smashed Lionel Messi and Barcelona 8-2 in a stunning quarter-final.

Spain's Sevilla won the Europa League tournament in Germany as UEFA managed to keep their broadcast and commercial partners satisfied by getting the season finished.

SPIRIT OF COOPERATION

Yet the impressive spirit of cooperation that saw players and clubs accept flexibility and improvisation to avoid the financial damage of unfulfilled seasons -- and contracts -- did not last for long.

The domination, on the field, of European football by an elite set of clubs is nothing new, but it is now resulting in a push for greater power and revenue from that small group.

The behind-the-scenes plotting of the Premier League's 'Big Six' came to the fore in October when radical plans for major changes in English football were made public.

'Project Big Picture' called for the biggest six clubs in the Premier League, along with three other long-term members, to be given special voting rights that would effectively put them in command of the world's most commercially successful league -- and leave the rest as second-class passengers.

The plan was accompanied by a 'rescue package' for lower league clubs and was fronted by the Football League's chairman Rick Parry and sold as a way to deal with the financial troubles facing the 72 clubs in the three divisions below the Premier League.

Critics honed in on the proposal to reduce the size of the league from 20 to 18 and hand a bigger share of revenue and power to the top clubs, breaking the model that has served the Premier League so well since its formation in 1992.

The obvious problem was that in order to bring that power shift about, 14 votes out of 20 clubs were

needed and unsurprisingly the Turkeys did not vote for Christmas.

MOUNTING TENSION

Yet the plan did lead to the Premier League committing to a full review of the game's structures and also showed that the big clubs are now ready to throw around their muscle.

The refusal of smaller Premier League clubs to accept the temporary allowance of five substitutes per game rather than three, designed to ease the burden on players dealing with congested fixtures, added to the tension.

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp and Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola have both complained about the failure of Premier League clubs to follow UEFA and many European leagues in that respect.

Klopp has also been critical of the schedule set by broadcasters and a lack of unity was also evident in rows over pay-cuts for players during the COVID-19 stoppage.

UEFA also faces pressure from elite clubs as it goes through the process of agreeing the format and structure for the Champions League from 2024.

Media reports suggested some clubs were yet again considering a breakaway super-league, although it remains to be seen if that is anything more than a bargaining tool in negotiations.

One of the options on the table, which might satisfy the demand of some of those clubs for more European games, is the so-called 'Swiss model', which would see the group stage replaced by a 'league' of 32 clubs playing 10 matches.

FIFA are also braced for a row with agents as it looks to bring in strict new regulations on those who profit from the transfer market.

The world's most popular game managed to survive lockdowns and empty stadiums, but the money in the sport continues to ensure there will be no shortage of disputes, turf-wars and conflicts in the coming year.

REUTERS

Sport shows its resilience in times of trouble

LONDON

WHEN Yoshiro Mori, president of the Tokyo Olympics organising committee, claimed defiantly in February that the greatest show on earth would go ahead in spite of a looming pandemic few realised what wishful thinking that was.

Weeks later, with the novel coronavirus engulfing the planet, the mighty Olympic juggernaut was stopped in its tracks and the sporting calendar disintegrated.

In many ways the announcement on March 24 that the Games was postponed until 2021 came as a relief for the thousands of athletes left in limbo as Tokyo organisers and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) held out for a medical miracle.

It was the first time a modern Olympic Games had been delayed in its 124-year history.

The cancellation of a two-week sporting jamboree, albeit one originally costing \$12.6 billion, pales into insignificance compared to the toll of COVID-19 on lives and livelihoods.

The year is ending with vaccines offering hope of containing the virus but more than 1.5 million people have died from the virus and economies around the world are in turmoil.

A bunch of sports men and women forced to put their gold-medal dreams on hold appears trivial by comparison, yet the crisis has emphasised sport's benefit to society and not just because of its estimated \$756 billion annual value.

The Olympic Games, for all its faults, doping scandals and mind-boggling budgets remains, on the whole, a showcase for the human spirit, inspiring the world's youth.

Sport's stirring response to the Black Lives Matter protest also displayed its power to advance social justice.

By the time the Olympics succumbed to the inevitable delay an eagerly-awaited sporting year was already unravelling.

DOMINO EFFECT

A week before the Games were postponed, the European Championship soccer tournament, second only to the World Cup in size, was rescheduled until 2021 as UEFA accepted the futility of staging an event across 12 cities during a pandemic.

"The thought of celebrating a pan-European festival of football in empty stadia, with deserted fan zones, while the continent sits at home in isolation, is a joyless one," said Aleksander Ceferin,



Bayern Munich players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Champions League, as play resumes behind closed doors following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). (Agencies)

head of the sport's European governing body. Every major domestic soccer league ground to a halt while iconic events fell like dominoes.

For the first time since World War II there was no Wimbledon tennis championships. The revamped Fed Cup and Davis Cup finals both bit the dust as did city marathons from London to Boston.

Golf's Ryder Cup and British Open were cancelled, while the Masters was shunted to a spectator-less Augusta in Autumn, long after the azaleas had bloomed.

The Formula One season stalled on the grid in Australia where cricket's T20 World Cup was postponed until 2021.

The NBA and NHL seasons were both suspended for more than four months,

while MLB clubs cancelled more than 1,500 games, resulting in the shortest regular season on record.

The list of disruptions was endless and the financial implications enormous.

SPORTING MEMORIES

Yet out of the chaos, federations, event organisers and athletes displayed ingenuity and resolve to still provide incredible sporting memories in the darkest of years.

Spanish tennis player Rafa Nadal produced an extraordinary display to thrash Novak Djokovic and win a jaw-dropping 13th French Open title after a gloomy and cold fortnight in Paris at a delayed tournament in October.

It drew Nadal level with Roger Federer on 20 Grand Slams.

That a delayed Tour de France reached Paris without a major COVID-19 outbreak was a triumph in itself. Yet it provided one of the most astonishing finishes ever as Slovenian Primoz Roglic saw the yellow jersey slip from his grasp a couple of kilometres from glory with compatriot Tadej Pogacar winning an epic race.

Europe's soccer leagues resumed behind closed doors with Liverpool claiming their first English title for 30 years, while the business end of the Champions League from the quarter-final stage was condensed into 11 days in Portugal with Bayern Munich beating Paris St Germain in the showpiece match.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

**Big money brings big disputes,
but COVID-19 challenge met**

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



JKT Tanzania's striker, Adam Omary (R), dribbles past Biashara United's skipper, Abdulmajid Mangalo, during a Vodacom Premier League match, played in Dodoma on Sunday. JKT Tanzania won 2-0. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

JKT Tanzania forward steps up chase for VPL golden boot honour

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NATIONAL Service (JKT) Tanzania were at home in Dodoma to welcome Biashara United of Mara in a Vodacom Premier League's clash at the Jamhuri Stadium on Sunday.

The tie ended with JKT Tanzania walloping Biashara United 2-0.

Goals netted by JKT Tanzania's breakout star, Adam Omary, through a spot kick and Edward Songo were enough for the home side to record the victory.

Omary has, as a result, further added his goal scoring tally after netting his seventh goal of the campaign.

After netting against Biashara United, Omary is now behind Simba striker, John Bocco, who is now the leading goal scorer with eight goals after the towering striker scored against Mbeya City FC on Sunday.

It took JKT Tanzania just 14 minutes into the Sunday clash to get their first goal after a clean cross whipped in by Said Abubakar was blocked by Biashara United defender Abdulmajid Mangalo's hand.

The clash's referee awarded JKT Tanzania a penalty, which was converted by Omary, who made no mistake and put his squad 1-0 up.

Songo netted the second goal on the 17th minute with a left foot strike from inside Biashara United's 18-yard area after the outfit's defenders lost concentration.

The JKT Tanzania were making constant attacks on Biashara United but the later's defenders were clearing the balls and defending nicely after going down by the two goals.

The results have helped JKT Tanzania record 14 points and move to 15th place in Vodacom Premier League's table.

The Dodoma-based team are three points above Mbeya City FC.

Speaking about the tactics that led to their win, JKT Tanzania head coach, Abdallah Mohamed, said: "Our game plan was to attack from the very first minute of the game until the last minute, aiming at scoring an early goal in the first 15 minutes, which we achieved".

"We realized that Biashara United play very well away and they are very defensive, we decided to add a lot of numbers to the attacking force to win this game and we succeeded," he disclosed.

Vodacom Premier League mini transfer window officially opens

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THIS season's mini transfer window officially opens today allowing clubs looking to freshen up their squads via registering new players.

The transfer window is open for teams in the top three tiers of Tanzanian football to make new signings including the Mainland Women's Premier League and the First Division League (FDL).

Transfer deadline day will occur on January 15 next year with the window slamming shut at 11:59 pm.

The likes of Azam FC, Simba SC and Yanga could all be in the hunt for new signings as they aim to make sure of mounting a credible title campaign.

Some clubs had already agreed some deals in anticipation of the window opening, with Yanga signing Burundian international, Said Ntibanzokiza, while Simba SC snapped up Ugandan defensive midfielder, Thaddeo Lwanga.

Ntibanzokiza and Lwanga have already taken part in training sessions at their respective clubs' training ground.

They could be registered and be available in the upcoming weekend's games.

Yanga's head coach Cedric Kaze maintained he will be cautious in this window despite admitting he is prepared to sign new players to beef up his squad.

"We will sit down and discuss what to do, we don't want to bring a player for the sake of buying. We will add a player who improves the team. We are not going to panic and bring a load of players just because they have been linked with us," he said.

He noted: "They have to be the right players. We need to bring in players who are really going to improve our squad. If we can't do that, we won't be doing anything. We will be very careful."

Simba SC Chairman Mwina Kaduguda confirmed they are looking to sign two more players after the capture of Lwanga who has replaced the injured Brazilian Gerson Fraga.

"We want to win the league title for the fourth time in a row and also qualify for the CAF Champions League semi-finals. To achieve that, we need to strengthen our squad with the addition of a striker and a defender," Kaduguda said.

Azam are also reported to be in the market for two possible foreigners but they will have to let go of two foreign professionals, since a club is only allowed a maximum of 10 imports.

The side has already exhausted that quota in its current squad.

Vandenbroeck pleased to see Simba SC squeezes past Mbeya City FC in VPL

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

SIMBA SC head coach Sven Vandenbroeck has expressed his delight with his club coming through a tough duel to win 1-0 at Mbeya City FC.

Captain John Bocco scored the only goal in the first half of the Vodacom Premier League (VPL) clash to ensure his team cut the gap with league leaders Yanga to eight points with two games in hand.

Speaking at a press conference after the game against Mbeya City FC, the Belgian coach highlighted his team's performance and admitted they were at their best but was pleased they did enough to deserve the maximum points against an improved Mbeya City side.

He disclosed: "I think we played against an improved team but mentally and defensively we were strong enough to beat them. We didn't give them enough chances. We had problems in the second half, we could not get into our passing game because the man in black allowed a lot of rough fouls which kept us down in the rhythm."

"In the end I compliment my team because we said this was going to be a tough game and after the 90 minutes we were right. I am very happy with the defensive, mental and physical work they put in today."

"I am not happy with the technical part, I think we could have pulled down the game and have more con-



Simba SC head coach, Sven Vandenbroeck

trol. I am happy with three points and concentrating on the next game against KMC FC."

"At Simba there is one thing, that is winning trophies. You don't look at one game, you look at seasons. If you look at last season we did very well. If you look at this season, we are still competing on everything, we are still in the race for Champions League qualification, we are virtually two points behind in the title race and the Federation Cup has not started. Until now we can be happy with what we have."

Vandenbroeck's side will play eight times in December, including twice in the CAF Champions League, as the busiest stretch of the season comes to a head over the festive period.

They host Kinondoni Municipal Council (KMC) FC in a midweek VPL game tomorrow before taking on Zimbabwe's Platinum FC in their first leg of CAF Champions League first round on Tuesday next week.

Azam are Simba's visitors at Dar es Salaam's Benjamin Mkapa Stadium on December 27, while the month concludes with the latter's trip to Dodoma Jiji FC on December 30.

Dar Paralympic swimmers to feature in classification tourney next year

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

THREE Tanzanian Paralympic swimmers are expected to attend classification tournament next year.

Para swimming coach, Ramadhan Namkoveka, said the classification will help the three compete at events, which are recognized by World Para Swimming Association (WPSA).

He mentioned the trio as Gerald Sokolo, Amos Boniface and Ahmed Khamis.

The coach explained that Sokolo is the only local classified Para swimmer but he will attend another classification as he, in the first classification, was in U-18 category.

"We will have a classification event next year, our plans are to send three Para swimmers, without classification swimmers with disabilities can not compete at competitions either organized or recognized by World Para Swimming Association," he noted. "This year our swimmers were invited to attend a classification tournament in Germany but the event was cancelled due to coronavirus outbreak," he said.

Namkoveka said the three are currently attending training at Dar es Salaam's Stingrays Swimming Club, with the former serving as the Para swimmers' coach. He is assisted by Dennis Sizya and Nasoro Mtitu.

Namkoveka has been involved in Para Swimming since 2017 and, during this period, Tanzania has managed to make some strides in the sport.

The success include organizing seminars for coaches and having Sokolo as the only local Para swimmer classified by the WPSA.

Namkoveka scouts his athletes at schools and centers where the youngsters with disabilities are taken care of.

According to him, he, some times, identifies sporting talents in the streets but he faces a lot of challenges, which include lack of female Para swimmers and transportation.

“

We realized that Biashara United play very well away and they are very defensive, we decided to add a lot of numbers to the attacking force to win this game and we succeeded

EATV TUESDAY

TONIGHT @ 9:00

NIRVANA

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 MPYA
12:30 Msosi Kitaani (r)
13:00 Wanawake Live (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 DK 10 za Maangamizi
14:30 Bball Kings Highlights (r)
15:00 Funguka
15:30 5SPORTS (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 5SELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)

Nirvana explores the hottest trends in fashion, beauty, art and lifestyle as well as interviews with notable people from the entertainment, art and fashion industries.

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06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

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DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

You can't have your cake and eat it!



... BUT YOU CAN HAVE IT THEN EAT IT!