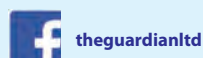




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Local finance development puts 96.5bn/- in credits for 2.8m people

By Francis Kajubi

DISBURSEMENTS from the Local Finance Initiative (LFI) programme, a franchise of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) have so far reached 2.8m Tanzanians, obtaining seed capital and technical assistance.

Peter Malika, the head of UNCDF (T) and LFI country manager said on Friday that the programme covered a number of projects relating to clean energy, women empowerment, building agricultural value chains and food security. The loans were disbursed during the past three years on the basis of a \$42m (96.57bn/-) investment.

LFI took up about 32 projects, 17 hosted by local government authorities and 15 hosted by non-government organizations, running from January 2017 to December 2019 and also absorbing ventures in public service delivery infrastructure.

"During the period 32 projects were successfully implemented with UNCDF seed capital and technical assistance to all beneficiaries, where 15 per cent of the funding went to seed capital and the larger portion financed access to technical assistance," he said, unveiling a report on the programme.

The beneficiaries were grouped into 1.5m women and 1.3m men, taking up

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To rise to the challenges of our time, we are working with private and public sectors to rebuild local value chains and industries so that value from the factors of production is retained in the local economy



NEC summons Lissu over rigging plot rant

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha



CCM presidential candidate's running mate, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan greets party members and residents of Engusero village in Kitemo district of Manyara region while on the way to Manyara yesterday for third phase of the party's campaign. Photo: VPO. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

ELECTION manager have expressed wrath over claims by Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu that CCM presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli recently met constituency returning officers and hatched a plot to rig next month's election.

The Director of Elections, Dr Wilson Mahera told reporters here yesterday that he had furnished Lissu with a summons letter requiring him to

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These claims are meant to paint a picture that the elections will not be free, fair and credible so that when they (Lissu's party) lose fairly, they persuade Tanzanians to create chaos to fulfill their own agenda

'CCM campaign will focus on election manifesto'

By Henry Mwangonde, Dodoma

CCM will today begin a third round of campaigns which will focus on informing voters

on the vision and policies that the party's presidential candidate will implement in the next five years.

Secretary Humphrey Polepole told journalists in Dodoma yesterday that for the past 30 days the party has been telling voters on all the development

These 30 days will be devoted to explain to voters how the party intends to execute the development projects indicated in the CCM election manifesto 2020/25

"These 30 days will be devoted to explain to voters how the party intends to execute the development projects indicated in the CCM election manifesto 2020/25," he said.

The CCM ideology secretary said the party expects to conduct strategic campaigns whereby it will introduce new faces in the campaign trail, to be dispersed countrywide.

The party has already reached all corners of the country so what was happening now is just a polish up, he stated.

Polepole used the platform to discount claims by Chadema presidential candidate Tundu Lissu who said the CCM presidential candidate summoned district executive directors and municipal council directors in Dodoma for a meeting on the coming general election.

Magufuli is expected to continue his tour in Iringa Region, addressing voters at the Samora Stadium.

The top CCM secretariat official expressed the party's sadness over the killing of a youth wing leader in Njombe and asked the police to carry out investigations so that the perpetrators can be brought to book.

He said large turnouts in CCM rallies in the past month engender confidence of CCM emerging winners in the polls.

CCM has divided its campaign trail into six phases where it has finished two phases, with the first journey starting in Dodoma all the way to Lake Zone regions.

Polepole used the platform to respond to some reports raised in opposition presidential campaigns, rejecting many of their claims.



Chadema presidential candidate's running mate Salum Mwalimu (C) greets elder Mohamed Salum when they met at a local coffee shop at Old Bus Stand in Kondoa town over the weekend, shortly after addressing a campaign rally.. Photo: Correspondent Francis Dande

Lipumba: Agriculture will unlock national economy

By Guardian Correspondent, Bukoba

THE Civic United Front (CUF) flag bearer, Prof Ibrahim Lipumba has pledged to strengthen the economy and improve provision of education if elected in the forthcoming general election.

Prof Lipumba (pictured) said that to strengthen the economy, his



government will put much effort in improving the agricultural sector, as the majority of Tanzanians complain over the sector's poor performance.

The CUF presidential candidate made the pledges yesterday when addressing a campaign rally at Bukoba municipality in Kagera Region. He appealed to the residents to vote for him as his party has the

best manifesto where education sector improvement and economic growth are well addressed.

He said that Kagera Region is strategically positioned with a number of agricultural potentials, where it can trade in cereals with Burundi, Uganda and Rwanda.

"We will create an enabling business environment that will allow

farmers to sell their food and cash crops in neighbouring countries," he stated, alluding to setting up irrigation schemes as Kagera is blessed with a number of rivers emptying into Lake Victoria.

He expressed concern that Lake Regions with a population of over five

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NEC summons Lissu over rigging plot rant

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appear before the ethics committee of the National Electoral Commission (NEC) tomorrow.

While addressing a campaign rally in Musoma, Mara Region on Saturday, Lissu charged that President Magufuli had convened a meeting with district executive directors (DEDs) in Dodoma whose agenda was how to rig the October 28 General Election, the polls director explained.

DDDs are empowered by law to act as constituency returning officers during general elections.

Dr Mahera said that the Magufuli-DEDs meeting claim was preceded by a document that made rounds on social media on Friday to the effect that director of elections also took part in the meeting.

"Both claims are false, unfounded and meant to cause alarm and confusion amongst voters," he said.

"These claims are meant to paint a picture that the elections will not be free, fair and credible so that when they (Lissu's party) lose fairly, they persuade Tanzanians to create chaos to fulfill their own agenda."

Dr Mahera said that on Friday and Saturday when the allegations on the said meeting were made, he was nowhere near Dodoma but was touring Manyara, Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions to coordinate preparations for the polls.

He said during his visits he met election returning officers at their workplaces to discuss matters of preparedness ahead of the polls and not a rigging scheme as charged by Lissu.

"We want him to come and shed light on this claim and give us evidence of the same if he has it," he said.

Dr Mahera appealed to politicians on the campaign trail to watch their utterances, abide by the set timetable and most importantly understand the election law and its regulations to avoid getting into trouble.

NEC databases show that some 29,188,347 people have been registered to vote in the upcoming election. There are 80,155 polling stations scattered in all corners of the country.

Dr Mahera also reiterated that NEC had concluded the hearing and determination of appeals and objections raised after the nomination of candidates.

This declaration comes in the wake of Chadema's complaint last week that NEC was mum on the fate of hundreds of its aspirants who were disqualified and sought to be put on the ballot box.

The party's director of elections Reginald Munisi told reporters in Dar es Salaam that the NEC had not formally communicated to them with regard to the fate of thousands of appeals its aspirants lodged objecting their disqualification from the race.

The official said that the party's 15 parliamentary aspirants and over 300 who sought councillorship have been barred to contest.

Lipumba: Agriculture will unlock national economy

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million people uses little of its irrigation potential, underlining that the residents will generate good incomes through agro-sector improvements.

Kagera is blessed with various resources in agriculture, livestock and fish farming which if properly tapped could lift the majority of the residents out of poverty, he asserted.

"If elected, I will make sure you benefit with available markets in the East African Community (EAC). For our economy to grow, we need to facilitate exportation of our agricultural and other locally manufactured goods to regional markets," the candidate affirmed. He promised to settle wage and benefits arrears of public servants, which would rejuvenate the circulation of credit. A CUF government will ensure timely payment of civil servants, he emphasized.

He also glanced in the direction of teachers, promising to improve teachers' working environment with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment spread in primary and secondary schools. A better working environment would boost teachers' morale and thus improve learning performance, he pointed out.

"We will connect all schools with internet services to facilitate e-learning. My government will invest more in developing skilled manpower to accelerate the country's development," he stated.

He said that if elected, he will form a government of national unity (GNU) to allow Tanzanians from different political affiliations to contribute in the country's development.

"One of our priorities will be to write a Constitution that will ensure justice and promote human rights," the former presidential economic adviser intoned.

Prof Lipumba is contesting for the Union presidency for the fifth time, starting from 1995 when he garnered 6.43 percent of the votes.

The CUF chairman also vied for the post in 2000 where he obtained 16.26 percent of the votes and in 2005 he secured 11.68 percent of the ballots cast, coming third in 2010 with 8.3 percent of the votes.

About 29m Tanzanians are registered to vote in this year's election, on the basis of data from the National Electoral Commission (NEC). In 2015, the electoral body registered 23m voters.

NEC has cleared 15 candidates to vie for the Union presidency, namely Dr John Magufuli (CCM), Leopold Mahona (NRA), John Shibuda (ADA-Tadea), Mutamwega Mwaywa (SAU), Jeremiah Maganja (NCCR), Cecilia Mbagwa (DM), Prof Ibrahim Lipumba (CUF) and Philipo Fumbo (DP).

Others are Bernard Membe (ACT-Wazalendo), Queen Sen-diga (ADC), Hashim Rungwe (Chaumma), Khalfan Mazrui (UMD), Seif Maalim Seif (AAFP), Twilib Kadege (UPDP) and Tundu Lissu (Chadema).



Former Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda speaks during the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) Arusha Road Parish Saccos members' 16th meeting in Dodoma yesterday. Second (R seated) is ELCT Dodoma Diocese Bishop Amon Kinyunyu. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

Local finance development puts 96.5bn/- in credits for 2.8m people

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over 5,700 households that got connected to electricity; 1.3m smallholder farmers accessed technical assistance to access markets. Residents in 17 districts also benefited from improved commuter buses infrastructure.

UNCDF work on local development finance seeks to spread benefits of economic growth to people in all regions and

locations, by solving localised development challenges in peri-urban areas and remote rural locations.

"To rise to the challenges of our time, we are working with private and public sectors to rebuild local value chains and industries so that value from the factors of production is retained in the local economy," the manager explained.

Using the LFI facility, UNCDF provided technical

assistance and seed capital grants of \$1.3m to 15 income generating projects whose value totals \$2.5m in storage/crop aggregation centers, cross border markets, fish processing and preservation, plus agro-processing at Muhange village in Kigoma region.

UNCDF supported women economic empowerment and mainstreaming of gender equality in projects, developing financially

sustainable projects with appropriate governance structures as part of project development, he said.

Those coming under this objective include Agricultural Marketing Co-operative Societies (AMCOS) and special purpose vehicles used by local government actors and small and medium enterprises in the region. They were used in reaching villagers to help them develop income generating projects

for uptake by the local finance initiative.

"Following the investment of \$120,000 as seed capital grants to build the main shed of the cross-border market at Muhange village in Kigoma, the project has raised over \$300,000 from public and private sector units being invested around the market area;

There are long term plans to upgrade an existing gravel to tarmac road at a cost of \$6m," he

stated. The new Muhange cross-border market supports around 150 youth and women allotted regular trading stalls, thus contributing to increased security and household income.

The market has attracted other public delivery organizations like Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), the Police Gender Desk as well as the Immigration Department, the manager added.



CCM women wing Arusha regional chairperson Yasmin Bachu (R) receives 100,000/- cash from Nailejleji Molell who is an instructor of Maasai women entrepreneurs of Nainyeye group from Tukusi village, Lokisale ward in Monduli District over the weekend as their contribution to the party's presidential candidate Dr John Magufuli. Photo: Correspondent Getrude Mpezya

'Come up with fish-farming project to fight poaching

By Guardian Reporter, Mbeya

VILLAGERS around the Ruaha National Park have suggested the need for the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) to come up with fish farming project to curb poaching in the conservancy.

In separate interviews villagers said that they've been illegally conducting fishing activities in the park because they don't have fish ponds to grow fish.

"Fish farming will not only provide food to the villagers; the project would be an income generator as well as help in curbing illegal fishing in the national park," said Alphonse Delile, Itipingi village chairman.

According to him, establishment of a fish farming project would also end disputes between villagers and the park.

He said the park authority has banned villagers from

conducting fishing activities in the reserve, but some villagers are secretly entering the park and carrying out fishing.

"The villagers are doing so to earn a living; having a fish pond at the village will completely end fishing in the reserve," said Delile when speaking to journalists who were on a field visit in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region.

The tour was organised by the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET) with support from the USAID PROTECT project.

Vikawe Village Executive Officer, Brastus Mnzini linked the illegal fishing activities in the reserve with life difficulties. He said some villagers were arrested and handed over to security organs, but yet similar incidences are reported repeatedly.

Tanapa Assistant Commissioner for Conservation

in the southern zone, Pius Mzimbe said that fish poaching has remained one of the biggest conservation challenges in the Ruaha National Park.

The assistant commissioner added that poaching for food is rarely practiced. He said the authority has been taking various initiatives to assist the villagers to establish income generating activities.

Mzimbe said they have urged them to write proposals and submit the documents to Tanapa zonal offices for implementation.

"We want them to choose their own projects which they are sure will improve their welfare," said Mzimbe.

Mbarali District Commissioner, Ruben Mfuno said his office will collaborate with TANAPA's southern zone office to ensure construction of the fish ponds. He said that it is upon the villagers to decide

where the project will be implemented.

"We are ready to assist them in establishing a fish farming project as well as providing technical support," he noted.

DC Mfuno commended Tanapa for contributing in development projects in the district whereas it has recently provided 30m/- to support the education sector.

He said the park has through its good neighborhood unit implemented various development projects in the villages surrounding the reserved area.

Some of the projects implemented by Tanapa include construction of classrooms and a headmaster's house at Igava and Madibila secondary schools.

Others are construction of a dining hall at Mawingi secondary school and a water project at Ubaruku secondary school.

TAWA collects 28.4bn/- fines in last four years

By Guardian Correspondent, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) has collected 28.47bn/- in the period of 2016/2020 which includes various fines as well as those over poaching issues.

TAWA Acting Commissioner for Conservation, Mabula Nyanda said on Thursday that the authority has put in place an arrangement where stakeholders dealing with wildlife conservation are also provided with funds to enhance their activities.

Nyanda said that out of the collected money, 15.55bn/- was given to communities within the Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) while 4.22bn/- was directed to the villages surrounding national parks.

"The authority provides the monies to boost wildlife conservation activities in WMAs as well as supporting development activities," he noted.

He said 8.82bn/- was submitted to local district councils that have conservation areas in them.

Nyanda further said that people should appreciate the benefits of conservation activities so that they involve themselves more in wildlife conservation.

He said they have also introduced a system which allows private companies and individuals to establish wild animal farms and butcheries as a way to ensure the community participates and benefit from conservation activities.

He said TAWA as well as its stakeholders have been contributing to development projects in villages surrounding national parks and WMAs whereas in the last four years it has spent an average of 350m/- which was distributed to 10

Govt commits to support and develop ICT experts

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE government has expressed its commitment towards supporting and developing information and communication technology (ICT) experts in the country, saying they are key people in the industrial economy drive.

It is on this ground that it has planned to start registration and certification of all ICT experts, saying there are many of such gurus whose activities go unrecognised.

This was revealed yesterday by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Communication and Technology, Dr Zainab Chaula during a media briefing ahead of the 4th Tanzania Annual ICT Conference (TAIC-2020) scheduled to take place on 7th to 9th October in Dar es Salaam.

She said the recognition of the ICT experts is in line with the National ICT Policy 2016 which recognises that ICT is central to a competitive social and economic transformation.

The PS said to start with, during the launch of the registration, some 100 ICT experts will be registered and given certificates, noting that it will be an ongoing activity.

Dr Chaula added that for a long time there have been many experts overseeing ICT infrastructure, service and systems whose credibility and integrity is not clearly known.

"The government recognises that effective use of information and knowledge is a critical factor for rapid socio-economic

growth," she said.

Speaking on the forthcoming ICT conference, she called all ICT experts in the country to attend. The conference has been organised by the ICT Commission (ICTC) will be held at the Julius Nyerere International Conference Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

TAIC-2020 organising committee chairman, Tumaini Magila said: "As with the previous last three conferences, TAIC-2020, aims at bringing together stakeholders includ-

ing academia, researchers, development partners, business industry, youth in digital innovation spaces and practitioners in the ICT industry to discuss about career path development, digital economy development and sector contribution to the national economy."

He said theme for this year's conference considers the current practices, challenges and opportunities towards the fourth industrial revolution. He said the industry is undergoing transformation and evolu-

tion toward complete digitization and the intelligence of production processes to ensure high efficiency.

"To achieve these goals, it is necessary to implement new technologies for the automation of industrial processes," he added. According to him, the TAIC-2020 therefore aims at providing a forum for researchers and practitioners in the ICT industry to share their latest practices, research findings and to identify future challenges and opportunities in the

broad areas of fourth industrial revolution, adding that it also aims at bringing together stakeholders including government decision makers and policy-shapers at the highest level together.

Others are academia, researchers, development partners, business industry, youth in digital innovation spaces and practitioners in the ICT industry to discuss career path development, digital economy development and sector contribution to the national economy.



Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) Angela Kairuki (R) gets a briefing from NBC Bank director of retail banking, Elibariki Masuke (2nd L) on the bank's participation at the Gold and technology exhibition in Geita Region over the weekend. Looking on are Minister of Minerals Doto Biteko (3rd L) and the bank's manager corporate affairs and government relations William Kallaghe (L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Kairuki wants NBC Bank to chart strategies to boost mining industry

By Guardian Correspondent, Geita

THE government has instructed the National Bank of Commerce (NBC) to submit views of stakeholders in the mining sector collected at the Geita Gold and technology exhibition through the bank's Biashara Clinic and present them to her office for implementation.

Angela Kairuki, the minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Investments) made the call over the weekend when she visited the bank's pavilion of the just-ended Geita Gold and technology exhibition.

Kairuki instructed the bank to ensure that it submits the views of stakeholders in the mining sector collected through the bank's Biashara Clinic and submit them to her office through the Ministry of Minerals for implementation.

"In addition to the basic achievements that NBC Bank has achieved in this exhibition, including training for mining industry stakeholders, I am also touched by the way the bank runs the successful Biashara Clinic where they gathered more than 150 views from stakeholders. I urge for the views comments to be submitted to my office as soon as possible," she said.

Giving an assessment of the exhibition NBC's director of retail banking Elibariki Masuke admitted that the bank recorded a tremendous achievement in the just ended Geita Gold and technology exhibition to stakeholders in the mineral sector and the government at large.

The bank is confident that it will continually implement all important matters in collaboration with various stakeholders to maximise the best customer service provision, he said.

He added that the bank which was the main sponsor of the exhibition managed to run several programmes including capacity building training to about 600 mineral stakeholders who included artisanal miners and entrepreneurs.

"Apart from banking services like opening new accounts, we have managed to run business clinics, and we managed to help businesspersons to meet with their clients, and above all we equally helped mineral stakeholders to exchange business ideas with various stakeholders including Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tan Trade), Mining Commission, Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Office of the Chief Government Chemist, Geological Survey of Tanzania (GST), TABWA, NSSF and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO).

Others are from the National Environment Management Council (NEMC), Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS), Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA), National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC), among other institutions.

He added that in ensuring that the training provided by NBC in collaboration with other stakeholders brought a useful success to mining stakeholders, adding that the bank was preparing a special plan to help all stakeholders in the mineral sector.

"The advices and views we collected from the exhibition will help us to improve new service delivery for miners, which is at the final stages before the official launching, stated Masuke.

The bank's manager corporate affairs and government relations, William Kallaghe said that through the exhibition the bank managed to have a fruitful dialogue with the government and major mining companies and they came into a conclusion that the major companies should have legal contracts with their bidders so that through the bank's unsecured loans issuance can capitalise on the contracts.

He further urged small scale miners to consider all the techniques they were given during the capacity building training so as they can have a proper system of managing their mining businesses.



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Apart from banking services like opening new accounts, we have managed to run business clinics, and we managed to help businesspersons to meet with their clients, and above all we equally helped mineral stakeholders to exchange business ideas

Over 1,700 tonnes of pigeon peas remain unsold in Lindi District

By Guardian Correspondent, Lindi

OVER 1,700 tonnes of pigeon peas in Lindi Region are lying in the region's various warehouses for lack of buyers, the situation that had put farmers at crossroads.

The peas come from Nachingwea and Ruangwa districts and are stored in warehouses owned by Ruangwa, Nachingwea and Liwale Cooperative Union Ltd (RUNALI).

This was revealed by the registrar of cooperatives in Lindi Region Edmund Massawe when responding to complaints from members convened here recently.

He said out of the 1,700 tonnes of the unsold peas, 540 tonnes were in Ruangwa District.

Massawe said there were buyers who wanted to buy the crop from

the farmers at 400/- per kilogramme on condition of not paying any levies, including local government levies, the condition that was hard for producers.

Nachingwea District Commissioner Hashim Komba wanted to know the fate of farmers of the unsold peas. In the last five years the price for the pigeon peas in the country had been dropping from an average of 2,700/- per kilo in 2014/2015 to 700/- per kilo in 2016/2017.

The situation is attributed to an increase of the crop's production in India, China and Brazil.

In addition, in August 2017 India, that had been Tanzania's big buyer of pigeon peas stopped importing the crop from foreign countries as they were producing more of their crop.



This was revealed by the registrar of cooperatives in Lindi Region Edmund Massawe when responding to complaints from members convened here recently



University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) lecturer Dr James Jesse (2nd R) listens to Genius Kings school students on how to filter water during the 9th graduation ceremony held at Tabata-Segerea school's premises in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. Right is the school director Julius Rutabanja. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwenda-pole

IAE launches national literacy, mass education rolling strategy

By Getrude Mbago

THE Adult Education Institute (IAE) has launched a special five-year national literacy and mass education rolling strategy, which is expected to reach over five million people across Tanzania.

Speaking during the launching event in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, the institute's director Michael Ng'umbi said the

strategy is part of the IAE to beef up the fight against illiteracy in the country.

He said that the strategy is the result of an extended participatory and consultative process of internal and external evaluation of the IAE activities.

"The strategy focus towards having a well literate society for the improved livelihoods by 2025," he said

It was launched when IAE

joined others across the globe to commemorate adult education week.

Ng'umbi said that the strategy has considered several reform measures and restructuring in order to effectively and efficiently deliver adult and non-formal education services in the country.

"The will focus on seven thematic areas which include investing in research, innovation

and creativity, strengthening teaching and learning, prepare more tutors and facilitators to reach more people, improve database of the adult education, put qualification standards to adult education programmes so as to enable graduates to be recognized in other areas once graduated, create more plans so as to promote education for all in the country as well as ensure availability of enough learning

equipment," he said.

In his remarks, deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology James Mdoe said that the government is mullied to ensure that it eradicates illiteracy in the country so as to enable everyone to contribute to the country's development.

"Despite various efforts to expand education, there are some people who do not know how to

write and write, so we still have a big role to ensure we bring education programmes close to people while creating an attractive environment for them," he said.

Mdoe added "We should invest more in technology and innovation to ensure that we reach as many illiterate people in the country."

According to him, in a bid to achieve the industrialisation agenda, the country has to pro-

duce enough experts to serve in various sectors.

Faith Shayo from UNESCO said that improving the access of numeracy is key in eradicating poverty in the country.

"This is part of the SDG goal number for which emphasizes education for all, we will continue to support efforts to ensure that more Tanzanians have access to adult education," she said.



Tanzanite stakeholder Japhary Matimbwa speaks to mines owners and stakeholders meeting at Mimerani township in Simanjiro District, Manyara Region yesterday. Right is Manyara Miners Association (MAREMA) treasurer Nene Lyimo. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

Youth group makes a fortune from strawberries cultivation

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

A YOUTH group based in Dodoma Region has embarked on large scale strawberry plantation in a project aimed improving livelihoods of its members.

The project launched by Tusumuke Youth Entrepreneurs Group targets to curtail production shortage, as well as tapping into economic fortunes of the cash crop.

Group chairman, Christopher Dioniz said they had decided to venture in the farming project after becoming aware over expanded demand for strawberries within and outside the country.

According to him, the group has opened a 1000 square meter greenhouse farm at Mbabala area of least 3,000 seedlings.

"Growing strawberries is not complicated since the crop is disease-free and it can be harvested after only two months," he said. Moreover, he added that the crop was attracting lucrative prices at the market, currently at 10,000/- per one kilogramme.

"Thanks God as we have started to receive good market responses from different parts within the country though we're encountering some challenges," he observed.

Dioniz, who is a graduate from Mbeya-based Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATI)

Uyole, however raised concern over poor access to required packaging to enable the group transporting strawberries to far markets, outside the country.

He added: "In order to export strawberries outside the country there's a need of having professional packaging systems, including refrigerators and freezers."

He urged the youth in the region and the country to venture into strawberries cultivation in order to generate profits and escape from shackles of poverty.

"This is our pilot project, but in the near future, we're planning to expand our farming scope in order to generate more profits since the market is very available," he said.

Strawberries are potential in production of diverse items, ranging from jams, yoghurt, juices, cookies and perfumes for ladies apart from being consumed as a sweet fruit.

Most of the strawberries that are used in the Tanzanian market are imported from neighboring Kenya, South Africa and other countries, which means there's high demand for mass production of the crop in Tanzania.

Other regions that support cultivation of strawberries in Tanzania include Morogoro, Mbeya, Arusha, Iringa, Kilimanjaro and Coast.

National parks realised nearly 2trn/- in ten years

By Correspondent Marc Nkwame, Arusha

A TOTAL of 9.54 million tourists have visited the country's national parks within the last ten years and managed to bring into Tanzania revenues to nearly 2 trillion/- into the national coffers.

That is according to official tourism figures from the Arusha-based, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), a state institution which oversees the operations of the country's now 21 national parks.

Speaking during the annual observation of the 'World Tourism Day,' in Arusha, the TANAPA deputy Conservation Commissioner in charge of conservation and business development, William Mwakilema stated here that in the period spanning a decade, between 2010 and 2020 the local national parks has been getting a cumulative figure of 9,536,135 tourists.

The visitors have been generating more than 9.5 billion/- annually, which can be nearly 200 billion/- per year. This applies to national parks only, discounting conservation areas and game

reserves.

"Out of the figure, we recorded 5.6 million foreign visitors and 3.9 domestic tourists," stated Mwakilema. Apparently when citing domestic tourists, this group includes visitors from East African countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi that are usually charged local entry fees at national parks' gates.

It was explained that, from the tourism earnings, the Tanzania national parks had managed to contribute into community development projects to the tune of 26.2 billion/- benefitting a total

of 1270 villages located around national parks and game reserves.

According to Mwakilema, a total of 73 villagers that have formed local entrepreneur groups, had also been receiving supporting funds amounting to 862 million/-.

The World Tourism Day 2020 which was marked with special symposium held at the National Tourism College of Arusha was under the theme of 'Tourism and Rural Development,' celebrating the sector's unique ability to drive economic development and provide opportunities

outside big cities, including in those communities that would otherwise be left behind.

The International 'World Tourism Day 2020,' was also meant to highlight the important role tourism plays in preserving and promoting culture and heritage all around the world.

The Karatu District Commissioner, Abbas Kayanda graced the occasion here and stated that the tourism sector in addition to pumping 17 per cent of gross national income, is also a goose which lays golden eggs by attracting 25 per cent of foreign earnings.



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TANZANIA SHIPPING AGENCIES CORPORATION
TASAC



PUBLIC NOTICE

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC), is established under Section 4 of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 as a maritime administration to oversee maritime safety, security, environment; regulator of maritime transport services; and mandated to carry out shipping agency, clearing and forwarding agency and ship tallying services. In executing its regulatory mandates, the Corporation is charged with a function of registering and licensing regulated service providers in the maritime transport sector, among others, in accordance with section 12 of Cap. 415.

The Corporation is hereby inviting interested companies and existing licensees for registration, licensing and renewal of licence in accordance with relevant Regulations as follows:

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR:

1. LICENCE AND LICENCE RENEWAL OF-

- i) SHIPPING AGENTS;
- ii) MISCELLANEOUS PORT SERVICE PROVIDERS;
- iii) CARGO CONSOLIDATORS & DE-CONSOLIDATORS;

2. REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF-

- i) CLEARING AND FORWARDING AGENTS; AND
- ii) GROSS MASS VERIFIERS.

Applications for the above-mentioned licences/registration or renewals are invited in accordance with the following respective Regulations:

1. Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Agents) Regulations, (GN. No.: 339 of 2018);
2. Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Miscellaneous Port Services) Regulations (GN. No.: 343 of 2018);
3. Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Cargo Consolidators and De-Consolidators) Regulations (GN. No.: 337 of 2018);
4. Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Clearing and Forwarding Agents) Regulations (GN. No. 340 of 2018); and
5. Merchant Shipping (Verified Gross Mass of a Container Carrying Cargo) Regulations (GN No.: 197 of 2016).

In view of the above, new applicants are guided to submit their applications by filing-in prescribed forms on-line after obtaining a link from TASAC Head Office and Regional Offices while Applicants for licence renewal or registration are guided to use their previous accounts and update their information.

Every application must enclose certified copies of relevant documents as shown below:

1. SHIPPING AGENCY LICENCE

- i) Certificate of Incorporation in case of new applicant;
- ii) Agency fees and commissions payable by principals to the applicant, which comply with the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Agents) Regulations, 2018;
- iii) Share Certificates of named shareholders to confirm ownership. This requirement is applicable for renewing agents only where there is change of shareholder;
- iv) Principal – Shipping Agent Agreement/Contract, duly approved by the Corporation where the principal operates regular liner services;
- v) Commitment letter to furnish to the Corporation with copies of charter parties or agency terms for each vessel handled where the applicant deals with a principal who operate tramp services;
- vi) Latest Bank Statement;
- vii) Birth Certificates/affidavit of shareholders and employees. This requirement is applicable for renewing agents only where there is a new shareholder or employee;
- viii) Evidence of professional staff possessing appropriate qualifications in accordance with provisions of the Tanzania Shipping Agencies (Shipping Agents) Regulations, 2018;
- ix) Valid business licence;
- x) Tariff/ Charges to be applied for services to be rendered in 2021, which conform to approved tariff;
- xi) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate;
- xii) Latest Audited Accounts in case of application for renewal;
- xiii) Annual Returns Showing Shareholders with percentage of ownership as well as the Directors in case of application for renewal;
- xiv) Previous Shipping Agency licence in case of application for renewal;
- xv) Memorandum and Articles of Association in case of new applicants;
- xvi) Lease agreement or proof of occupancy of land for office premises in case of new applicants or where previous lease agreement is expiring;
- xvii) Customer care procedures including customer inquiries and complaints handling system;
- xviii) Proof of ICT applications/systems relevant to shipping agency business in case of new applicants; and
- xix) Evidence of payment of licence application fees;

NB: Please take note that an applicant should not apply for shipping agency licence in contravention of exclusive mandate of the Corporation.

2. MISCELLANEOUS PORT SERVICES PROVIDER LICENCE

- i) Memorandum and Articles of Association in case of new applicants;
- ii) Certificate of Incorporation/Compliance as the case may be;
- iii) Valid business licence;

- iv) Tax Clearance Certificate;
- v) Share certificates of company shareholders;
- vi) Proof of business premises;
- vii) List of available cargo working equipment, working gear and working tools;
- viii) Customer care procedures including customer inquiries and complaints handling system;
- ix) List of available safety gear for operational workers; and
- x) Evidence of payment of application fee.

3. CARGO CONSOLIDATORS AND DE-CONSOLIDATORS LICENCE

- i) Certificate of Incorporation in case of new applicants;
- ii) Valid insurance cover for third party liability;
- iii) Valid fire safety certificate;
- iv) Proof or availability of business premises, including customs bonded area or warehouse;
- v) Valid Tax Clearance certificate;
- vi) Proposed rates and charges which conform to approved tariff;
- vii) List of names and addresses of local and foreign counterparts;
- viii) List and proof of available cargo handling equipment owned or available on outsourcing arrangements;
- ix) List of information and communication technology facilities;
- x) Previous Cargo Consolidator/ De-Consolidator licence in case of renewing applicants;
- xi) Proof of existence of cargo tracking system;
- xii) Latest Bank Statement;
- xiii) Proof of qualified staff in compliance with the Cargo Consolidators and De-consolidators Regulations, 2018;
- xiv) Customer care procedures including customer inquiries and complaints handling system; and
- xv) Evidence of payment of application fee.

4. CLEARING AND FORWARDING AGENTS CERTIFICATE

- i) Certificate of incorporation or certificate of compliance, as the case may be;
- ii) Memorandum and articles of association in case of new applicants;
- iii) Valid business licence;
- iv) Lease agreement or proof of ownership of the premises where the applicant's office for clearing and forwarding agency is located;
- v) Proof of ICT applications by the applicant for clearing and forwarding agency;
- vi) Customer care procedures including customer inquiries and complaints handling system;
- vii) Valid Tax Clearance Certificate;
- viii) Evidence of payment of application fees set out in the Third Schedule to these Regulations;
- ix) Proof of qualifications of staff in compliance with Clearing and Forwarding Agents Regulations, 2018; and
- x) Evidence of payment of application fees.

5. GROSS MASS VERIFIERS CERTIFICATE

- i) Valid Business licence;
- ii) Certificate of Incorporation in case of new applicants;
- iii) Valid calibration certificate of the weighing equipment issued by the Weight and Measures Agency;
- iv) Tariff rates/Charges to be applied; and
- v) Evidence of payment of application fees.

The Tanzania Shipping Agencies Act, Cap. 415 and its Regulations are available on the TASAC website (www.tasac.go.tz). Applicants are advised to access the legislation for detailed guidance on requirements for licence application and conditions of licence in order to ensure full compliance.

The Corporation may publish names and other details of applicants for licence, registration or renewals to enable members of the Public and stakeholders to provide information to TASAC which may enable the Corporation to make appropriate determination of applicants for licence or registration.

For any enquiry, please contact TASAC at the address indicated below –

DIRECTOR GENERAL,
Tanzania Shipping Agencies Corporation (TASAC)
PPF Tower – 8th Floor, Plot No.:20/21
Ohio Street / Garden Avenue,
P.O. Box 989, DAR ES SALAAM
TANZANIA
Telephone: +255 222127314 ,+255 22 2127313
E-mail: dg@tasac.go.tz; info@tasac.go.tz

TCCIA drills students on entrepreneurship skills

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Dodoma

FORTY youth from different universities and high learning institutions in the country are undergoing a special training on business and entrepreneurship skills at the Dodoma based Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA).

The vital initiative, under the Chamber's Youth Club Programme, among others, gears to impart the participants with helpful knowledge over how to translate their university professionalism into reality through employing themselves into different income generating projects after graduating.

Moreover, the six-week training and mentorship programme has been tailored to help mould the envisaged graduates to become potential human resources so that they can play a vital role in fostering key national developments.

Briefing The Guardian over development of the program, TCCIA Dodoma regional director, Idd Senge, said the focus was to create a fresh generation of active young traders and entrepreneurs.

"Entrepreneurship is a belief, just like other religious belief. We want to create generation of full-minded traders who will execute their trade activities in a faithful spirit, by observing relevant regulations and policies, in-

cluding pay taxes accordingly as well as spending part of their proceeds to assist communities in needs," he expressed.

Throughout the training, he detailed that the involved youth are being trained on life and soft skills, how to develop business proposals, but also possible ways to start businesses from zero capital.

"The major problem facing the youth in the country is not lack of capitals, but poor awareness over entrepreneurship mindsets and skills. It is very unfortunately that the country's education system has very little to impart its beneficiaries with knowledge and readiness to venture into self-reliance activities," he observed.

As per the training system, he said the youth who are using the training as part to fulfill their colleges' field studies, have been placed into two major categories.

"The first group comprises those who wish to be employed after graduating, whereby the remaining are those who seek to employ themselves," he explained.

He said graduate youths in the country were facing hard times due to challenges of lacking employment in the country, the situation which saw most of them experiencing 'second childhood life' (tendency of remaining home after graduating and depend each and everything from parents).



Kiranyi secondary school students in Arumeru District participate at a debate on adolescent reproductive health organised by TCI-Tupange Pamoja project at the school premises last week. Photo: Correspondent Allan Isack

IAA urges youth to participate in contest to show economic and business talents

By Guardian Correspondent,

Arusha

THE institute of Accountancy Arusha (IAA), through its IAA Business Startup Centre, has urged the youth in the country to participate in

the Arusha innovation summit contest in order to show their economic and business talents from their activities.

Pamella Chogo, IAA Business Centre supervisor said through the contest, the centre provides opportunities for the youth to show their vari-

ous activities, including creativity and innovation in the business and economic fields.

She said the centre was established in order to assist the youth who start businesses to attain their goals as well as finding solutions to the country's unemployment teaser.

"What we do to the youth who are at our college is to help and breed them to start creating self employment ventures at the college," she said. She said the contest will bring together youth and various other stakeholders, hence it will assist then to

exploit economic opportunities. "The contest opened on September 24 this year and the last date for receiving applications from applicants will be October 23, this year," Pamella added.

However, she said the contest will incorporate IAA stu-

dents as well as other colleges in the country including non-student youths.

She said the contest concentrates in plans to develop creativity and innovation in the economic and business sectors. The contest's coordinator, Sunday Massawe

said people qualified to participate are youths from the country's all regions.

He said the contest is divided into two parts namely ICT innovation and social and business innovation and that the contest will give priority to female youth.

New initiative to use tech to solve African problems

By Guardian Reporter

A NEW initiative has been launched to apply technology to solve African development challenges African way.

Launched in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Smart Foundry will be designing, developing, and scaling up tech products for partners looking to invest in solving African challenges.

A statement released yesterday by its founder, Smart Lab, said the innovation lab firm has poached ex-Uber business development manager Johannes Lutainulwa to spearhead the initiative.

"Smart Foundry is on a mission to use dedicated product teams and partner with local developers to build connected products and companies that solve African challenges the African way," reads the statement.

Speaking at the launch on Friday, Lutainulwa said the idea was necessitated by the need for product teams that understand how the local market works coupled with pressure of deliverables and return on investment that companies put on startups that have little industry experience in the marketplace.

"With Smart Foundry, corporations and investors can trust proven teams and products that are built to function ideally with the local market in mind," he said.

Smart Lab manager Rachel Mzengi said the gap identified in the need for corporations to own the products they invest in is what led to the inception of Smart Foundry.

"Within this subsidiary, investors can invest and acquire local driven products and grow them across Africa while working with African developers who are passionate about technology," she said.

Lutainulwa further elaborated on the types of activities expected from the initiative, adding that it depends on the availability of fully capable teams that deal with product ideation, growth and investment readiness.

He said the platform is meant for corporations and investors that need to introduce and build products or solutions in the local market but aren't entirely sure about the market's needs and its reception.



Kilimanjaro Women Against AIDS (KIWAKKUKI) executive coordinator Dr Adela Materu (L) speaks with Lawate residents in Siha District over the weekend when she introduced the Rural Initiative for Participatory Agricultural Transformation (RIPAT) project which is implemented by her firm and funded by Denmark based Civil Society in Development (CISU). Photo: Correspondent James Lanka

Fish processing industries in Lake zone urged to restore natural vegetation in fishing islands

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda, Mwanza

OWNERS of fish processing industries in the Lake zone have been urged to help restore natural vegetation in fishing islands whose environment had been affected due to fishing and processing activities.

The executive chairperson of Fishers Union Organisation (FUO), Juvenary Matagili said that fishing activities and processing industries had contributed a lot to the destruction of the natural envi-

ronment in the area.

Matagili noted that before the establishment of the fish processing industries in the early 1990s, islands in the lake had been covered by natural vegetation and were green.

He mentioned some of the islands as Zilagula, Yozu, Kasalazi, Gembale, Nyamango, Nyamuguma, Chemagati, Chembaya, Biswa, Juma, Lyakanyasi, Nyazune, Ikulu and Ito all of them situated in Sengerema District, Mwanza Region.

"All these islands had natural vegetation but fishing for commercial purposes to supply fish to processing industries had caused the vegetation to nearly disappear, he noted.

He pointed out that fishermen have been cutting trees to establish fishing camps and some of them do not use toilets as well as baths, a situation that can lead to environmental degradation.

According to him, if that situation is left to escalate uncontrollably the islands may turn into desert sooner or

later that is detrimental to the environment.

Matagili further stated that it is important for the processors to improve the environment of the islands as these are areas which they mostly depend on getting fish to process in their firms.

"The natural vegetation on the islands was also supporting the lives of other living organisms for the ecosystem of the areas", he said.

The chairman said that the best practice the processors could do is to

see how they can restore the natural vegetation by supporting tree planting campaigns and helping to put systematic residential plans on the islands for environmental protection.

He also urged the government to also ensure that processors seriously protect the environment in the areas for the better future there.

Headquartered in Mwanza, FUO has been registered to operate all over the country but it currently works in the Lake zone.

Lyra in Africa builds modern dormitory for female students in Kilolo District

By Correspondent Friday Simbaya, Kilolo

A Nonprofit Organisation, Lyra in Africa has built a dormitory for female students at Lundamatwe secondary school in Kilolo District, Iringa Region in a new drive to improve children's performance and addressing school drop-outs.

Receiving the donation over the weekend, Kilolo District Commis-

sioner Asia Abdallah commended organisation for complementing the government's efforts to improve access to quality education, saying Lyra constructed a number of dormitories in various schools in the district, which in-turn benefited hundreds of girls.

DC Asia said that the construction of girls' dormitories in Wards secondary schools would help alleviate the major challenges facing girls which include

walking long distances, early pregnancies and marriages.

According to her, lack of hostels in the school usually fuel absenteeism and drop-outs among students resulting into early pregnancies and marriages.

The district commissioner pointed out that the challenge of teenage pregnancy, truancy and drop-outs for both male and female students was compounded by the lack of hostels or dormitories for female students, especially in secondary schools.

Roselyne Mariki, director of Lyra in Africa said that the organisation has been cooperating with the communi-

ty and the government in implementing various social projects including the construction of girls' dormitories in ward secondary schools in Iringa Region. She said that Lyra in collaboration with the government and the community has built a total of eleven dormitories in eight schools located in Mufindi, Kilolo and Iringa District Councils.

Roselyne said that the dormitories have capacity to accommodate a number of students from 72 to 96 students and so far, all dormitories are occupied by at least 1,000 students.

In addition, she said that the Lyra, being a major stakeholder in ensur-

ing the girl gets a safe place to live and study to increase her performance; they received applications and agreed to work with the community in ensuring the student house is built and completed as soon as possible.

"The total cost of the construction of the dormitories, toilets and bathrooms is 60,575,000 / -, of which Lyra has contributed 54,575,000 / and the Irole community actively participated in donating stones, sand, crash stones and labour all worth 6m /-.

Students at Lundamatwe hailed the organisation for building two dormitories for their school, saying the dormitories will help reduce student

pregnancies, rape and thus increase their academic performance.

"It is more beneficial for students staying in hostels compared to students who walk long distances to school, living in hostels stimulate attendance and performance in examinations," said Lillian Kiteki, a Form Three student.

She said that many students, especially girls, are facing various temptations along the way, many of whom are given favours by people, and at the end of the day they pay tribute to those who gave them lifts and as a result are given unintended pregnancies at a young age.

Be proactive, increase coverage, reporting on tax matters, TRA tells media personnel

By Correspondent James Lanka, Moshi

MEDIA practitioners have been urged to be more proactive, increase coverage and reporting on tax matters so as to deepen public awareness to broaden voluntary tax payment in the country.

Opening a one-day media training here recently, Kilimanjaro Regional manager of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), Gabriel Mwangosi said that journalists have a great responsibility to change the society due to their daily work.

The training aimed to capacitate journalists on tax issues reporting.

He said that media people have a very important role in pushing the country to the next level of development if they will prioritize reporting on tax and its importance.

"We have brought journalists from various media stations to equip them with more skills on tax for them to spread the knowledge to the public through accurate reporting for sustainable government tax collections," he said.

Mwangosi also said that training aimed at improving relation with taxpayers in the region through different media houses.

"Media stations and platforms are the main source of providing various

information on taxes to our clients, that's why we decided to organize this training to educate journalists, equipping them with more knowledge on accurate reporting," he said.

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

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

Odupoi Papaa, a TRA official and one of the facilitators said that the training is vital for journalists as they are trusted by the community members, so if they mislead them with wrong information on taxes, people will not pay government taxes friendly.

"Today we learnt a lot, we learnt on TRA basic issues such as tax regulations, export procedures, Gaming tax, Value Added Tax (VAT), Taxation of Extractive Industries, and Income taxes for individuals and entities, among many others, my appeal to you all is to provide accurate tax information to the taxpayers for sustainable development of our nation," he said.



Lyra in Africa director Roselyne Mariki (L) shares a light moment with Kilolo District Commissioner Asia Abdallah shortly after the handing over ceremony of the second girls' dormitory at Lundamatwe secondary school in the district yesterday. Lyra in collaboration with the Michael Mathews Foundation, the government and the community had built a total of eleven dormitories in eight schools located in Mufindi, Kilolo and Iringa districts in Iringa Region. Photo: Correspondent Friday Simbaya



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR RENOVATION OF BAYLOR TANZANIA CLINIC BUILDING AT MBEYA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE.

1. Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Tanzania (Baylor Tanzania) is a comprehensive HIV prevention, Care and Treatment Non-Government Organization (NGO) supporting the needs of HIV infected Children and their families.
2. Baylor Tanzania, Mbeya Center of Excellence has set aside funds for the operation during the financial year 2019/2020. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the fund will be used to cover eligible payment under the contract for **Renovation of Baylor Tanzania Children's Clinic Centre of Excellence Building in Mbeya.**
3. Baylor Tanzania, Mbeya Centre of Excellence is now inviting interested Building contractors to submit the Tender bids as per instructions issued in the tender documents found at <http://baylor-tanzania.or.tz/renovation>
4. Interested Contractors are invited to visit the building for thorough work inspection and obtain more information before preparation and submission of their bids from **October 05, 2020 to October 09, 2020 between 0900hours to 1300 hours.**
5. Tender Bids should be delivered to: -

**The Executive Director,
Baylor College of Medicine Children's Foundation Tanzania
P.O. Box 2663,
Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital
Mbeya, Tanzania.**

6. The deadline for submission of the tender bids is **27 October 2020 at 1630hours.**
7. Tender bids will be opened in public and in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend in the opening ceremony on the **28 October 2020 from 0900hours.**
8. Late Tender Bids, portion of tender, electronic tender bids, and tender bids not received, shall not be opened at the opening ceremony and shall not be accepted for evaluation irrespective of the circumstances.
9. Baylor - Tanzania shall not be responsible for any cost and overheads incurred by the bidder in response to this invitation or submission of tender bid, regardless of whether Baylor -Tanzania accept or uses the proposal.



JOB VACANCIES

Job title: Child & Youth Development Officer - (1 post)
Duty station: SOS Children's Village - Arusha
Reporting to: Alternative Care Coordinator

The main responsibility:

The Child and Youth Development Officer is responsible for guiding SOS Youth (within the Village) towards independence, so that they may eventually become self-sufficient, contributing members of society. In achieving this, the Child and Youth Development Officer should be seen as a peer and a role model providing guidance, support and a positive example to the Youth. Planning and Implementing activities within Alternative care program

Roles & Responsibilities

- Conduct Psychological assessment to the children and youth during the admission process for the wellbeing of their lifetime in the program
- Provides counselling to children and youth to enable them to cope, with their status and find the opportunities within the program
- Provides youth and children with ongoing career counseling and job orientation. Encourages youth to take initiatives in researching career opportunities.
- Identifies and promotes community service opportunities among the youth. Administers the placement of youth in short or long-term programs. Maintains close contact with youth during such programs.
- Encourages youth to take advantage of opportunities which integrate them with the surrounding community, and which expose them to life outside SOS, such as clubs etc.
- Work with Monitoring and Evaluation Officer to make proper follow up on youth's academic development to schools and guide them through their youth life.
- Conducts regular Psychosocial Assessment and reviews for children and youth (at least half-yearly) and prepare reports which will guide the management on supporting children
- With support from Alternative Care coordinator ensure care plans and youth development plans are developed and reviewed twice a year
- In collaboration with Alternative Care team develop and implement appropriate life skills and entrepreneurship program for children and youth
- Design and implement Children Program activities in line with the age and capabilities
- Support Alternative Care coordinator to develop and implement reunification and integration strategy as per government policies and regulations

- Implement after care plan for integrated children and youth
- Provides guidance and mentorship on academic, career development and behavior change
- Work closely with SOS Mothers to play a significant role in their children's education, stimulating their interest in learning within the home.
- Conduct home visit and maintain positive relationship with children/youth family of origin
- Organizes educational and extra-curricular activities which the children will find interesting and enjoyable at the village.
- Prepare analytical child's educational progress report
- Supports and monitors children's academic performance and formulates strategies for performance improvement

Knowledge, skills and abilities

- Bachelor Degree in Social Work or Sociology from recognized Universities
- Fluent in English and computer literate
- Experience and skills in youth development work
- Passion with children/ youth and ready to work in a busy environment
- At least four (4) years' experience working with most vulnerable children (mvc)
- Ability to convince, mentor and coach the youth.

To apply for this position, send your application by letter or email describing how your experience, qualifications and competencies make you the right candidate for this position. Enclose a detailed updated CV, copies of academic & professional certificates, a passport size photo, telephone contacts and details of at least 3 referees to reach us to:-

**The National Director
SOS Children's Villages Tanzania
P. O. Box 80462 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
recruit.sostanzania@sos-tanzania.org**

Please Note: SOS Children's Villages Tanzania is an equal opportunity employer and committed to keeping children safe from abuse and harm, therefore candidates applying for this post will be subject to child safeguarding recruitment procedures and checks.

Deadline for receipt of applications is one week from the appearance of the advertisement.

- Only short listed candidates will be contacted

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Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Agriculture can advance Africa's economic growth

AGRICULTURE is the science and art of cultivating plants and livestock. Agriculture was the key development in the rise of sedentary human civilization, whereby farming of domesticated species created food surpluses that enabled people to live in cities. The history of agriculture began thousands of years ago. After gathering wild grains beginning at least 105,000 years ago, nascent farmers began to plant them around 11,500 years ago. Pigs, sheep and cattle were domesticated over 10,000 years ago. Plants were independently cultivated in at least 11 regions of the world. Industrial agriculture based on large-scale monoculture in the twentieth century came to dominate agricultural output, though about 2 billion people still depended on subsistence agriculture into the twenty-first.

Modern agronomy, plant breeding, agrochemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers, and technological developments have sharply increased yields, while causing widespread ecological and environmental damage.

Selective breeding and modern practices in animal husbandry have similarly increased the output of meat, but have raised concerns about animal welfare and environmental damage.

Environmental issues include contributions to global warming, depletion of aquifers, deforestation, antibiotic resistance, and growth hormones in industrial meat production. Genetically modified organisms are widely used, although some are banned in certain countries.

The major agricultural products can be broadly grouped into foods, fibers, fuels and raw materials (such as rubber). Food classes include cereals (grains), vegetables, fruits, oils, meat, milk, fungi and eggs. Over one-third of the world's workers are employed in agriculture, second only to the service sec-

tor, although the number of agricultural workers in developed countries has decreased significantly over the centuries.

The 2020 Africa Agriculture Status Report (AASR) has been launched at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) virtual summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

This year's AASR focuses on Feeding Africa's Cities by assessing the opportunities, challenges and policies required to enable African farmers and agribusinesses to serve the rapidly growing urban food markets. The report seeks to find ways for smallholder farmers to drive food security, rural prosperity, and inclusive economic growth.

"This report highlights the opportunity for all agriculture industry stakeholders to bring together viewpoints that define the transformation agenda while outlining the practical next steps to an agricultural revolution," said Dr Agnes Kalibata, President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

The report begins by outlining the opportunities provided by Africa's urban food markets to the continent's 60 million farms. It indicates that cities shape Africa's agribusiness environment by affecting patterns of agricultural production and inducing the rapid expansion of food processing and distribution plans.

Subsequent chapters touch on the opportunities in Africa's growing urban food markets while recognizing that the effective governance of urban food systems requires inclusive models that coordinate and harmonize the actions of the many diverse players now shaping African agri-food systems.

While recognizing the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and its role in exacerbating existing economic and social inequalities, the report defines five focus areas in a bid to overcome the problem of urban under-nutrition and accelerate the urgency of urban food system planning.

Advancement of access to information tangible tool for development

ACCCESS to information is an enabler of all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) facilitating both implementation and the measurement of progress. In addition to the fact that access to information is necessary for the realization of the 17 SDGs, it is also important to facilitate the measurement of progress being made towards the realization of these goals.

Setting aside of September 28 as International Day for Universal Access to Information provides an opportunity to raise awareness on the importance of the right to information, and create a platform for governments, civil society, citizens and development partners to reflect on challenges and ways to promote the advancement of access to information as a tangible tool for development and the realisation of the SDGs.

The International Day for Universal Access to Information was proclaimed on 15 October 2019 at the 74th UN General Assembly to be held on 28 September.

Initially the day (commonly called the Access to Information Day) was designated by the UNESCO general conference. It was inaugurated in November 2015 and was first held on 28 September 2016.

The day had been recognised as International Right to Know Day since 2002 and was developed by international civil society advocates beginning in 2012. The UNESCO resolution creating the day was pushed by African civil society groups seeking greater information transparency.

Currently only 17 African Union member states have adopted national right to information laws, and groups like Open Government Partnership hope that the recognition of the right to information will "provide an important platform for all stakeholders at national level to discuss the adoption and effective implementation of national right to in-

formation laws in line with continental and international standards and obligations."

Access to information is the ability for an individual to seek, receive and impart information effectively. This sometimes includes "scientific, indigenous, and traditional knowledge; freedom of information, building of open knowledge resources, including open Internet and open standards, and open access and availability of data; preservation of digital heritage; respect for cultural and linguistic diversity, such as fostering access to local content in accessible languages; quality education for all, including lifelong and e-learning; diffusion of new media and information literacy and skills, and social inclusion online, including addressing inequalities based on skills, education, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and accessibility by those with disabilities; and the development of connectivity and affordable ICTs, including mobile, the Internet, and broadband infrastructures".

There has been a significant increase in access to the Internet, which reached just over three billion users in 2014, amounting to about 42 per cent of the world's population. But the digital divide continues to exclude over half of the world's population, particularly women and girls, and especially in Africa. Further, individuals with disabilities can either be advantaged or further disadvantaged by the design of technologies or through the presence or absence of training and education.

Access to information faces great difficulties because of the global digital divide. A digital divide is an economic and social inequality with regard to access to, use of, or impact of information and communication technologies (ICT).

Inequities in access to information technologies are present among individuals living with a disability in comparison to those who are not living with a disability.

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts

MANAGING EDITOR: WALLACE MAUGGO
CIRCULATION MANAGER : EMMANUEL LYMO

Newsdesk

General Line: 0745 700710
News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON
0757 154767
E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz

Advertising

Cel: + 0782 253676 E-mails: Advertise@guardian.co.tz
Website: Ippmedia.com, epaper.ippmedia.com

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Reps and that evil called estimated billing

By Usman Baba Yau

FOR many decades, Nigerians have been grappling with the problem of what is called estimated billing in the power sector. Until nearly about a decade and a half ago, when prepaid metres were introduced in major cities of the country in 2006, electricity consumers in Nigeria had resigned to their fate.

So, what is estimated billing? Though all electricity consumers are familiar with what has now become an evil act, a rough definition may not be a bad idea. Estimated billing, simply put, and as the name implies, is a billing system where various electricity distribution companies (Discos) sit in the comfort zones of their offices and decide what a household or a business organisation consumes of electricity in a month without using any verifiable and known yardstick.

In other words, the Discos bill their customers based on assumptions, not minding the actual consumption within a particular period. A situation where citizens use their hard-earned money to pay for the electricity that they never consume should not be allowed by any society. Unfortunately, that has been the practice since the days of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) and the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), both of which are now defunct. This looks more like a heist going on for years.

Nigerians, from all walks of life, have complained bitterly about the exorbitant amounts they pay through the noses for electricity supply that has been epileptic. At some point, they had to surrender. The practice is so weird and bizarre that even unoccupied houses are billed.

Disturbed by the way Discos take advantage of millions of Nigerians through estimated billing, invariably reaping where they do not sow, fleecing the citizens in the process, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Femi Gbajabamila, introduced a bill that seeks to prohibit and criminalise the act in all instances except where a consumer's metre cannot be accessed by the service provider.

The draft legislation, first tabled before the House in 2018 when Gbajabamila was the House Leader, has the long title 'A Bill for an Act to amend the Electric Power Sector Reforms Act to Prohibit and Criminalise Estimated Billing by Electricity Distribution Companies and provide for compulsory installation of prepaid metres to all power consumers in Nigeria and other related matters.' Its short title is 'The Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill.'

Passed for the first, second and third readings by the 8th House of Repre-



sentatives, the Bill could not be assented to by the president.

Determined to ameliorate the hardships Nigerians go through in the hands of the Discos, Gbajabamila re-introduced the Bill in the current 9th Assembly. In fact, it was one of the earliest Bills introduced in the life of the 9th House.

What does the Bill say? It provides that Discos must install prepaid metres on the premises of a consumer within 30 days of receiving an application and payment from such consumer or face penalties.

Thus, the Bill states that any Disco that fails to provide prepaid metres within the stipulated time frame is prevented from refusing a consumer access to power supply, disconnecting them, where connection has already been granted, or reverting to estimated billing.

What this means is that once the Bill becomes a law, it will become criminal for Discos to issue estimated bills, and failure to comply with this provision attracts either a one-year jail term or a fine of N1 million or both.

Leading the debate on the bill during its reintroduction, Gbajabamila, who came down from the Chair, where he was presiding, noted that the action of the Discos was highly condemnable and unacceptable by every standard. He argued that: "This billing is not known by any scientific rule."

The proposed law vests the powers of ensuring that Discos comply with its provisions on the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

In October last year, the House concluded work on the Bill and transmitted it to the Senate for concurrence before it will be forwarded to the president for his assent. The bill is still in the Red Chamber.

At every forum, Gbajabamila voiced his opposition to the estimated billing system. On June 9 this year, when he inaugurated the House Ad-hoc Committee on Power Sector Reforms, the Speaker said "Estimated billing remains a no, no for me and members of the House. However, we need to do it, we have to do it."

On August 26, NERC, through its chairman, Mr James Momoh, came out with what was cheering news to Nigerian electricity consumers, saying President Buhari has directed the commencement of mass-metering programme nationwide. This, he said, was part of efforts to bring an end to estimated billing.

A day earlier, precisely on August 25, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Hajija Zainab Ahmed, announced that President Buhari had approved a one-year deferral of the 35 percent import adjustment tax (levy) imposed on fully built unit electricity metres.

She said the approval was to support NERC in rolling out three million electricity metres under the Metre Asset Provider (MAP) framework.

The minister said: "The 35 percent levy was imposed on the recommendation of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, to encourage local production, as well

as protect investments in the local assembly of electricity metres."

The two actions taken by the president are indeed laudable, coming at a time that Nigerians demand value for their hard-to-get money, not just in the electricity they consume but also in other aspects of their lives.

Matter-of-factly speaking, there is an urgent need for the Bill at this time that the Discos have hiked electricity tariff, which will leave more sour tastes in the mouths of their customers, especially those under estimated billing.

This is where the synergy and the good working relationship that exists between the Executive and the Legislature since the take-off of the 9th National Assembly could come to play.

The president has, between June 11 last year and now, signed into law several bills passed by the National Assembly, including the Finance Act, the Deep Offshore Sharing Formula Act, the Companies and Allied Matters Act, among others.

With President Buhari's posture on addressing the hydra-headed challenges in the power sector, it is given that once the Power Sector Reforms Act (Amendment) Bill gets to his table, he would not waste time in appending his signature to it.

When that is achieved, Nigerians can go to sleep with their two eyes closed, believing that they can get value for the electricity they pay and consume.

TaTEDO makes assessment of modern cooking energy market in Tanzania

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

TANZANIA modern cooking energy market is said to be underdeveloped and dominated by fuel wood and charcoal burned in inefficient stoves. The Three Stone Fire place remains the most commonly used fuel wood-based stove in 2019 in rural areas where about 95 per cent of the Tanzanians were using this stove. The traditional metal charcoal stoves dominate in urban areas where charcoal is used by the majority for cooking.

Executive Director of Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organization (TaTEDO) Eng. Estomiah Sawe explains that the government of Tanzania has set a long-term goal of having 75 per cent of households adopt clean cooking services by 2030. The clean cooking under consideration include LPG, biogas systems, electric cookers, and improved cook stoves to address the current overreliance on inefficient stoves and low-quality fuels. None of the above efforts have produced large scale satisfactory results.

Biogas have not been adopted on large scale due to a number of factors including high initial costs and the required tedious operational practices. Electric hot plate cookers' high initial costs and related high monthly bills have been major barriers to adoption.

Some efforts have been devoted to promoting improved cook stoves; however, success has been very limited due to mostly limited financing both for producers and consumers. In spite of such efforts, improved cook-stoves are best understood as interim measures, rather than truly long-term, sustainable cooking solutions. In the light of the rapid population growth anticipated in the country, reliant on wood fuels based cooking is likely to become less and less sustainable in the long term simply due to the underlying demographic trends, which will put an increasing burden on forest resources, exacerbate desertification, reduce access to water and put long term prosperity at risk.

LPG which is seen by some policy makers as the clean cooking solution is derived from fossil fuels and is also deemed unsustainable in the long term. First and foremost as it is non-renewable. Beyond the fact that LPG is non-renewable, it is inherently volatile in price as it is linked to oil price, this increases the risk of sudden reversion to wood fuels such as firewood and charcoal. LPG is also exposed to greater geopolitical and other risks, as Tanzania do not produce own LPG, making supply inherently interruptible in light of these and other factors. As such, LPG may be seen as a transitional fuel, its arguably not however, a

long-term solution to the challenge of achieving sustainable clean cooking in Tanzania.

Natural gas is available in Tanzania and efforts are ongoing to promote it as a cooking fuel, however, like LPG, it is not sustainable as it is non-renewable. Also, the required high cost of developing its supply and demand infrastructure makes it only accessible to a limited number of populations in the country. There has also been the questioning of the opportunity cost of using natural gas for cooking, as there are higher value products that can be made from the natural gas.

On the basis of the above, there is a need for the country to explore the potential for more transformational solutions that move beyond the above unsustainable fuels-based cooking altogether.

Eng. Sawe explain further that as the country is making major efforts on electrification, all efforts need to be made to link these efforts with sustainable clean cooking. The current technological developments on highly efficient electric cooking appliances such as electric pressure cooker (EPC), bring about a huge opportunity to now link electrification, not only for lighting, but also for cooking. Depending on the source of electricity, this is now considered by many as the long term ultimate sustainable clean cooking solution for Tanzania.

Citing an example, he said an electric pressure cooker (multi-cooker) is simply a highly insulated sealed pot which works on a simple principle, steam pressure. The steam enclosed inside builds up high pressure and temperature thus helping food to cook faster and stay tasty and nutritious. The timer switch and temperature and pressure sensors switch the power off as soon as it reaches the right point in the cooking cycle. The EPCs can carry out various cooking operations such as frying, boiling, steaming, pressure cooking and baking.

The EPC combines several familiar cooking appliances: fireless cooker (insulator), electric hot plate and pressure cooker.

"Advantages of Using Electric Pressure Cookers (EPCs) are many. Forexample, they save time - Cook food in a fraction of the time and it still tastes good, can boil, fry, steam and bake, retains nutrients - no steam escapes hence nutrients are retained, the kitchen is cooler - Since EPCs are insulated retain the heat and steam so that none of it escapes to heat up a kitchen, if allowed to depressurize naturally," he said.

He said it is very convenient - An EPC is automated, which means that it is very difficult to burn the food as it switches off the power when the



Training of women entrepreneurs on the use of high efficient electric cookers and market development. The training was organised and conducted by TaTEDO
Photo: Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

temperature in the pot gets too high. Also, once the time is set everything else is auto-regulated sparing precious time to do some other important things while waiting for delicious the meal. Cost saving - Highly energy-efficient, most dishes can be cooked with less than half a unit of electricity. Better flavors - obtained from steam prevented from escaping and locking the flavor inside. Cooks from frozen - If you forget to defrost frozen food, just cook directly. Consistent results - once you figure out the time required to cook a certain type of food, you are guaranteed to cook perfect dish every time.

Also in the list are improved health - avoid health problems caused by smoke and other hazardous emissions from combustion of biomass. Environmental protection - Saves forests by helping avoid overuse of green natural resource and Safety - EPCs have multiple safety features that prevent any unexpected scenarios.

Policy options and recommendations

Eng. Sawe explains that for clean cooking solutions to succeed in Tanzania, government commitment and strong leadership through effective and progressive policies, investment and multi-sector partnerships is required. Electrification and clean cooking are currently seen as two separate domains. The efficient electric cooking (ecook) study partners consisting of TaTEDO, Loughborough University, University of Surrey, Gamos Ltd, Innovative UK and the MECS programme confirmed that there is potential to unite the two. As noted above, to date, progress in electrification has been relatively rapid, whilst

clean cooking has lagged behind. Tanzania has a regional leading mini-grid sector and the market for solar home systems is developing rapidly. EPCs presents a transformative opportunity to leverage this encouraging progress to drive forward the goal of ensuring universal access to clean cooking by 2030, in line with the SDGs.

The following presents some recommendations for policy actors and other key decision makers to incentivize the development of a market for EPCs in Tanzania.⁵⁴

Promote highly efficient electric pressure cookers (EPCs) in areas with access to reliable electricity.

The government should begin by encouraging suppliers to import quality efficient electrical cooking appliances. Reduce the import tariff and value added taxes as is applied to LPG and solar PV products. Bring in financing to support private sector actors, for example through a results-based financing programme. Test and certify the best quality products. Price, durability, energy-efficiency, service delivery models and obtain support from Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

Once the market has developed, incentivize local manufacture. Begin with assembly, building up to manufacture. Encourage energy service companies to incubate start-ups, e.g. social enterprises such as SESCOM and others.

Support the establishment of service networks. Spare parts and expertise for repairs must be available locally. Package electric pressure cookers with spare parts such as rubber sealing rings, etc. Encourage energy service providers (utilities

and mini-grid developers) to prioritize delivering cooking services to their customers. Develop on-bill financing mechanisms that can enable customers to repay the high upfront cost each time they top up their electricity units and Use local offices as distribution channels to sell and support EPCs.

5.4 Support consumers to break down high upfront cost into affordable repayments Longer and more flexible repayment schemes with low interest to reach poorer households Create repayment plans aligned with how people currently pay for charcoal, firewood and kerosene (i.e. daily or even per meal)

Furthermore, consumers must be supported to understand the benefits and lower behavioral change barriers: Package (or repackaged international models) with: Advice on how to cook local foods example, stickers on appliance indicating cooking time for beans rice beans mixed with maize (maharage, makande, wali na ugali.), advice on energy efficient cooking practices, e.g. recipe book, community cooking demonstrations. Include electricity (in particular efficient electrical cooking appliances) in clean cooking social marketing, focusing on: How to save even more time and money by cooking efficiently Now Cost - cheaper than charcoal and even gas and Convenience - more time to do other things

Carry out piloting of battery-supported EPCs in weak and off-grid regions. Widen access to consumers in weak-grid (frequent blackouts & unstable voltage) and off-grid regions by supporting the import of lithium ion batteries and piloting of battery-supported electric cooking systems. Reduce the import tariff and VAT on lithium ion batteries sized for cooking (0.1-3kWh). Offering grants to carry out prototyping and piloting of battery-supported cooking systems, test and certify best quality products through TBS efforts.

Mind the gap: Here's how to stop the world's poorest students falling behind

By Manos Antoninis

INVESTING now in bringing students back to school and helping them catch up is far cheaper than providing a second-chance education for those who have fallen out of education due to COVID-19.

Never before have so many children been out of school, with the most disadvantaged at risk of never seeing the inside of a classroom again.

Distance education is not an option for at least 580 million students according to a UNESCO-UNICEF-World Bank survey. Even when there are distance learning options available, they only reach learners for a fraction of the time they were attending school before. The vast majority of students have now fallen behind. It is no exaggeration to talk of the risk of a lost generation: according to a UNESCO estimate, 11 million children may never go back to school. The life prospects of millions of learners from poor backgrounds hang in the balance.

Five years ago, the world committed to Sustainable Development Goal 4 - to ensure inclusive and quality education for all by 2030. The Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report estimated at the time what governments in low and lower-middle-income countries needed to spend to meet this goal and how much external financial aid was required to support them.

We concluded that, even before COVID-19, the total annual cost of universal pre-primary, primary and secondary education for these countries is US\$504 billion a year. Of that amount, US\$356 billion is projected to be covered by domestic resources, under plausible assumptions on growth, tax revenues, and the priority assigned to education. This means there is an annual funding gap of US\$148 bil-



lion between now and 2030.

Impossible, you might think. But that depends on your priorities. Global military expenditure per year is US\$1.8 trillion, for instance. Just one month of this spending could send all children to school around the world.

Priorities are coming into question with COVID-19 too, with governments weighing up health and economic benefits every day.

School closures, the GEM Report has found, risk increasing the funding gap by up to 30% because of costs related to remediation and re-enrolment programmes for students who have missed out. Also driving higher costs is the need to ensure children are safe when they return to school in a pandemic by allowing for additional spaces and proper hygiene facilities.

There is an opportunity to prevent these

costs from spiralling further. Investing now in bringing students back to school and helping them catch up is far cheaper than providing a second-chance education for those who have fallen out of education. Upfront investment, the Report calculates, could reduce the potential cost of COVID-19 on education by 75%.

Stopping the education emergency that has fallen out of this health crisis requires, there-

fore, systemic change. One of the problems, however, is that education has long been losing ground as a donor priority. Its share of total aid fell from 14.8% in 2003 to 10.8% in 2018. Only about US\$7.4 billion goes to primary and secondary education in low and lower-middle-income countries. But, instead of increasing further to stop this education crisis, recent analysis from the GEM Report warned that total aid to education is likely to decline by up to US\$2 billion until 2022 as a result of the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Finance ministers are being convened this week by the United Nations Secretary-General to look at financing in the 'Era of COVID-19'. Our message to them is to see education as key to the recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

Education aid and education budgets must at the very least be maintained if not increased and targeted at the most marginalised countries and students. Education ministers need to work collaboratively with the finance and social protection ministries on programmes such as cash transfers aimed at the most vulnerable, to make it easier for families to send their children back to school.

Investing in education now is not just good will; it is also good sense: it will save funds in the long-term and is critical for getting our societies back to some form of normality.

Achieving SDG 4 is still possible, but it requires a strong commitment to investing in education for the world's most marginalized students. The coming months are critical if we want to prevent this student cohort from becoming a lost generation.

Peaceful transition to democracy in Ethiopia: Why is it so enigmatic?

By Walleign Shemsedin

IN December 2019 Ethiopia is going through a political transition to democracy that began under the incumbent Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), a coalition of four ethnic-based political groups that ruled the country since 1991. Despite its authoritarian past, the EPRDF initially committed itself to transition to democracy that is open to all opposition political parties. After a few months into the transition, the ruling EPRDF fractured following serious political differences between leaders of the party who support democratic reforms and those who want to retain the status quo.

On November 22, 2019, the chairman of the EPRDF, PM Abiy Ahmed, announced the decision to merge three of the four members of the EPRDF coalition to establish a new national incumbent successor political party named Prosperity Party. Other hitherto independent regional parties are also expected to join the Prosperity Party (incumbent successor party). This commentary reflects on why the birth of the new incumbent successor party is a step forward in the transition to democracy and highlights three major issues (ethnicity, dealing with the past, and personal rule) that are crucial for the strength and stability of the new party.

On April 02/2018 the outgoing PM Hailemariam Desalegn handed over power to the current PM Abiy Ahmed in what was hailed as the first of its kind peace transition of power. Two years and five months later, Ethiopia is back to its familiar territory: the road to authoritarianism.

Time and again our politics has been continuously squandering opportunities that could have otherwise facilitated the country's path towards a democratic rule. The 1974 revolution would have been a marvelous moment to initiate the long journey to democracy had it not been spoiled mainly by the military junta's (Derg) ruthless approaches to control power single-handedly. In its wake it left a gloomy juncture that took the lives of large number of selfless dynamic political champions and a dysfunctional political order.

Similarly, ending the longest civil war in the country, 1991 came as a harbinger for a multi-party democracy in Ethiopia. However, it too didn't take long before the EPRDF ruling coalition mustered power under its dominant one-party rule. Later on, the 2005 election, which constituted a radical turning-point in the country's election history, revealed a captivating instance of electoral democracy with extraordinary participation of opposition political parties. Nevertheless, it too was reversed by the ruling party when it showed results at odds with its expectations.

The recent development as well stirred hope for peaceful democratic transition. The widespread protests across the country that caused the dominant EPRDF ruling party to crack under pressure and comply with public demands led to its own initiate of unprecedented reform proposals; now it all seems hanging in the balance. Two years and five months later, we are yet to see the promised reforms for a stable country; on the contrary the country is forced to experience one crisis after another, almost entirely political in nature.

This op-ed will look into the recent opportunity, which is the last in the series and is peculiar in many aspects.

Transition from within

Considering the extent to which it controlled monopoly of power, it was hard to conceive a moment in which the EPRDF coalition would lose its momentum. Its engagement with the military structure, its privileged encroachment in the (then) booming economy, and its remarkable use of the security apparatus for political purposes could tell how daunting it was to see any peaceful transfer of power any time soon.

The Oromo protests, which began in April 2014 and ended with the designation of Abiy Ahmed as prime minister in April 2018, was consequential. Even though the external pressure from the protests and the discontent from every corner of the country, including the Amhara protest, had been instrumental, it was very hard to think



The eight parties constituting the new Prosperity Party signed the document marking the unification of EPRDF

of any shift in power had it not been for the rise of some reformist elements from within the coalition who embraced the people's demand for change. The role played by the familiar phrase 'team Lemma' in realizing this change was substantial.

For a country that had been tightly controlled by a single party, the crisis that might have resulted with its demolition would have been devastating. Moreover, the absence of competent opposition parties that could qualify to replace the ruling coalition, could have resulted in multiple crises of its own.

Nonetheless, the emergence of this reformist bloc from within the party was welcomed with a collective sigh of relief in a country which was on the verge of a complete collapse due to political, ethnic, religious and ideological divides. It was this group that sparked a lot of hope to the different actors in all sides of the spectrum and restored faith in the political process that followed.

What went wrong?

The first months of Abiy's leadership witnessed important developments, including but not limited to, the lifting of the state of emergency, release of political prisoners, opening up the media, and legalizing outlawed political parties. His attempts to make peace with Eritrea has earned PM Abiy last year's Nobel Peace Prize. Furthermore, his rhetoric of peace and reconciliation was acclaimed by many in spite of a host of differences across the country. The combined effects of these resulted in an unprecedented support for him and the incumbent regime which was hoped to direct the country to a better sociopolitical path.

However, it was only for about the first six months that the unanimous support PM Abiy enjoyed from all corners of the country could last. The security deterioration across the country was the first manifestation that caused many to question his ability to deliver the expected leadership the time has needed.

Even if his supporters justified the developments as an intentional compassionate gesture of avoiding the use of force, his critics presented it as his inability to enforce the rule of law in the country. However, many have already started to criticize his leadership in the early days due mainly to his lack of presenting a proper roadmap to guide the transition.

Even if several outlawed political parties came into the country, including those who were engaged in armed struggles, and many more proliferated anew, there was no clear plan for involving them in the supposed transition. His declaration and intransigence to lead the transition solo was also widely condemned. Many observers have noted skeptically the paucity of platforms for collaborative engagements with the opposition groups.

Later on, his decision to create a new party (Prosperity Party) to replace the

age old Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) was a significant development that provoked varied reactions. One of the parties in the coalition - TPLF, which was arguably taken as the original maker, questioned the development for its legality, eventually exiting membership of PP. Others accused the move as an attempt to deny different nations and nationalities in Ethiopia the institutional frameworks which could help them advance their group rights.

Lemma Megersa, who was considered the front runner of the reformist team, stood against the decision, creating the first signs of a consequential rift between him and Abiy. In less than a year, the exceptional unanimous support the new reformist group enjoyed began to get thinner and the political landscape deeply split up between polarized supporters and opponents.

Despite criticisms and the fragile political situation the incumbent regime continued in its own non stop, unaccompanied course. It was amidst these consequential developments that COVID-19 was reported as global pandemic for which the government declared a state of emergency followed shortly by the electoral board's decision to postpone Ethiopia's much anticipated election. The decision left in its wake a constitutional deadlock as the term limit of the incumbent would come to an end before elections were held.

The government's handling of the state of affairs in resolving this deadlock was very controversial. The use of the two houses, which are fully constituted with members of the incumbent itself, to instrumentalize a decision in its own favor escalated the tension between Abiy and key political actors; it also revealed the Prime Minister's reluctance for negotiated political settlement, including an all inclusive dialogue on how the incumbent should continue once its term in office came to an end.

The current crisis that we are witnessing after the assassination of legendary Oromo artist Hachalu Hundessa only heightened the existing tension as it was followed by the imprisonment of leading opposition political figures like Bekele Gerba, Lidetu Ayalew, Jawar Mohammed, and Eskinder Nega, and many others; by all accounts it can be taken as the last laps towards an obvious authoritarian rule. The excessive reliance on the use of force to cross the political frontier is becoming strongly evident.

Below, I will discuss the main factors that I believe have contributed to this authoritarian proclivity that PM Abiy's regime seems to settle on, despite high level of expectation, both locally and internationally. Without ruling out the contribution of many other intricate elements, these factors have impacted the current failure to a peaceful democratic transition that many of us optimistically anticipated.

Hierarchical and highly centered

power structure

Unlike other African states, which are mere post-colonial constructions, state structure in Ethiopia has longer history. It nurtured a hierarchical power structure with a formidable center. This in consequence helped to manipulate the power structure in one's favor for whomever controls the seat at the palace in Arat-kilo.

This creates a conducive political environment to pursue authoritarian ambitions. If we try to scrutinize those who seized power at different occasions, most of them precisely changed their declared interest to pursue power-sharing and democratic transitions and ended up with dictatorship and tyranny.

This highly centralized hierarchical power structure, in addition to helping in enforcing one's aspirations, made the acts of targeting and attacking whoever mistakenly or openly opposes this center. It has also been instrumental to subdue the public who often revolt against it. This dominance of central power structure has been highly conspicuous in all the regimes through the Emperor, to Mengistu and Meles.

The incumbent is simply capitalizing on this long established power structure. The failure for the current transition to democracy is mainly ascribed to this factor and PM Abiy, who inadvertently came to power as a result of the protests, has in time resorted to manipulate this state structure towards consolidating his grip and influence.

If we look back at the developments, had it not been the hierarchical power-center, it would not have been easy for him to continue exerting influence without such a formidable structural backing especially after his moves to demolish the EPRDF coalition, changing it into a single party PP (Prosperity Party) with Medemer as a political ideology. Without using this long established power structure, orchestrating constitutional interpretation to extend his term in office would have been much challenging too. This dynamic could represent a case of power structure reigning over agency, which are key notions in the conventional political science analysis.

What makes this factor interesting in this particular case is the fact that the major contributing factor for PM Abiy's ascent to power and the regime legitimacy was popular public demand articulated through the protests. One could say that it was the public agency that prevailed over structural dominance at the start.

This was different from Derg's case which was considered as military coup by the Emperor's own army, although it was preceded by popular public discontent. It is also distinct from the TPLF/EPRDF's 1991 power control, which followed the military defeat of the Marxist regime. That is why the use of similar hierarchical central power for authoritarian ambitions

seems paradoxical under PM Abiy.

In relation to this, some construe the ad hoc quietened public reaction against the center's dominance as a case of subservient political culture which is prevalent among Ethiopians. It is also presented as a major contributing factor for the recurrence of structural domination in Ethiopian politics. But that is not true.

This is essentialist reading of a political culture as static throughout history. This couldn't grasp the changes across generations and the diversity among the population within Ethiopia. Moreover, if we could look back how regime changes happened in the past, they were the consequences of public revolt and grievances - a demand for freedom. The public showed its capacity to say enough and opted for change.

Debilitated opposition

The vicious cycle of authoritarian rule weakens opposition; and as the last three decades of experience in Ethiopia show, a weak opposition never overcomes authoritarian rule. The EPRDF coalition tenure was known for mercilessly crushing the opposition and cracking the emergence of dissenting voices.

In general, intimidation and harassment were the norm towards major opposition parties, civic society and independent media. This ensued the opposition camp that went disarray characterized by lack of one thing in common: formidable strength that could competitively challenge the incumbent.

When PM Abiy came to power, he called for all parties to join the transition. But the only change on the ground was the proliferation in numbers of opposition political parties. For some who were able to make it, it justifiably took more than a year to make alliances and partnerships. The paucity of strong parties that could rally the public in favor of them was evident. (This proposition never refutes the emergence of one or two opposition parties which were heading in that direction).

But by in large we haven't seen them making strong commitments that could challenge the ruling party. This futile situation must have lured the ruling party, which have a good knowledge of their inefficiency, to manipulate that to remain in power. We have observed this from the insignificant attention the ruling party gave for the opposition in spite of their insistence for dialogue and reconciliation.

Even after the constitutional crisis event that signaled the regime's end of term, the PM and his party were stubborn enough to manipulate the legal system to extend their term in office despite the call from opposition parties to have an all inclusive dialogue, and establish a care-taker government.

The closest the incumbent has come to meet these demands was to invite

opposition parties (often in the eve) for a meeting without a shared agenda where the PM exerts the a maximum power asymmetry and pressure to his points acceptable. The four alternatives he delivered with regard to the differed election was the same; he even scorned them on their unpreparedness for "such critical national issue".

Their insistence to come with their own alternatives was categorically rejected. Giving deaf ear to opposition calls, the ruling party used the rather homogeneously established houses to pick one of its own alternatives and made the decision in favor of extending his term in office, as some interpreted it: ostensibly indefinitely.

Existential choice

When PP established itself as a new party with purportedly different ideological departure from that of EPRDF (excluding TPLF), individuals who were the members of the former party continued their status. All the structures that served the older party continued to serve the new one without laudable reform measures. Even among the higher officials, it was only Lemma Megersa, who had a leading role at the start of the transition, who stood up against it.

For a country that has been suffering high levels of unemployment and in a country where most government jobs are allotted based on political affiliation and party loyalty, loosing position from party membership is equivalent to loosing one's livelihood. This especially becomes very serious for party members who have been accused of rampant corruption at all levels, including the top officials. Allowing the transition to go forward may come with many uncertainties that they are not willing to face. The change may bring forth developments that may hasten their calamity.

Therefore, clinging to the party and dying for its continuity could be an existential struggle that many have opted to fight for. If not all, a good number of party members may not care about ideas and ideologies as much as the importance of keeping their position in the government.

They will work for whomever that may come with whatever ideological disposition as long as it does not imperil their life styles. The PP party exploited this ambivalent force in its favor. This certainly has benefited its newly minted President, PM Abiy, to consolidate his grip on power, at least for the time being.

Other players' priority for security. The role of some global powers, which have special geopolitical and economic interest in the Horn in general and in Ethiopia in particular, in influencing the current political dynamic has been substantial. There may not be direct king makers, but the impact of these third parties in influencing political changes, particularly in times of this transition, is visible.

Invest in education insurance, NBC Bank official tells parents

By Guardian Reporter

PARENTS and guardians have been advised to create a culture of investing in their children's education insurance that will ensure quality of their education even when parents fail to fulfill that responsibility due to various reasons including permanent disabilities or deaths.

The call was made by the head of NBC Bank's Small and Medium Entrepreneurs' Service Unit Mussa Mwinindaho while addressing the 16th graduation ceremony of Tusiime primary school held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam.

"Education insurance will enable parents to be confident in their children's education as the child will be able to study throughout his or her studies until he or she graduates even if the parents experience disasters that could lead to permanent disability or death," he said.

Citing the example of Educare insurance service offered by the bank, Mwinindaho said through the service a parent saves a small amount for their children's education for the amount they will plan on a temporary contract from seven to 18 years to fund his/her child's education.

"This education insurance is a plan that a parent saves every month thus bringing comfort to the heart that if anything happens be it a permanent disability or death before

that time then the insurance will cover their children's education," he added.

He added that investing in child education is the only thing in ensuring the child's educational goals are fulfilled while also using the opportunity to encourage graduates and students in general on the importance of education and the place of education in society.

"Education is the only immovable legacy in humanity. And the ultimate goal of education is to ensure that human beings have sustainable development in life so that they can protect and maintain their dignity and the society around them. Education expands the horizons of human thinking and is therefore an important tool in solving social problems," he enthused.

He said by recognising the importance of education, apart from education insurance, the bank also provides personal loans to enable parents to pay their children's fees for their educational development.

Mwinindaho commended the school management for their immense contribution to the growth of education in Tanzania.

On the school's side, the head teacher, Laurent Gama commended NBC Bank for being instrumental in implementing the government's commitment to increase private sector participation in the provision of quality education at all levels of education in the country, saying that the bank has been helping to raise investment capital, provide education on how best to plan and manage development



NBC Bank's head of SMEs service unit Mussa Mwinindaho (2nd L) speaks to Tusiime secondary school students, when he visited the school's pavilion at the school's 16th graduation ceremony held over the weekend in Dar es Salaam. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

projects, as well as provide various loans to parents to enable them to better afford the educational costs of their children.

"For us, the Tusiime community, we will continue our partnership with NBC so that together we can help our government achieve its goal of

providing quality education and training for Tanzanian youth in a clean and safe environment," he said.

SMEs urged to embrace quality for fast growth

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

SMALL and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have been called upon to produce quality products for them to grow into bigger ventures.

Eugenia Kibasa, the quality assurance officer at Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) made the call over the weekend when speaking at 'One Stop Jawabu' exhibition, which was organised by the office of the Dar es Salaam's

Temeke District Commissioner.

Held at Mbagala Zakheim and Mwembe Yanga grounds in the district, the exhibition is designed to address people's challenges kicked off from September 14, and ends today. Kibasa observed that entrepreneurs with high quality products tend to expand into big businesses as opposed to those with sub-standard products.

She said through the event, they are serving clients who visit their pavilion particularly those

who want to register business premises including cafes, hotel and grain milling machines.

Others are those who sell food stores, cosmetics and small and big supermarkets.

"Through the exhibition we inform them on procedures to register their premises, they have to send their applications online," said Kibasa.

She added that they inform traders regarding imported goods such as cosmetics, food because

they have to register through online first before importing to the country. She said they also direct them on registration of local products particularly entrepreneurs to channel their application through SIDO so that they can get a mark of quality license because the organization knows them much more than TBS.

She said after approval by SIDO, TBS receive their application so that they get a mark of quality licence free of charge for three years.

For his part, the TBS marketing Officer Mussa Luhomero, said that they have participated in the One Stop Jawabu exhibition because they are major stakeholders hence use the opportunity to inform citizens or traders to reach at their offices for services.

Regarding response, he said since starting the exhibition has attracted many people and it has been a major catalyst for them.

He said they are ought to reach citizens directly and inform on ser-

VICES such as registration of premises, food and cosmetics and give them procedures to get a quality mark licence so that to expand the market of their produce in Tanzania and beyond borders.

One of the officials who visited TBS pavilion identified as Peter Gwasi wanted to understand how the organization is implementing the roles done by former TFDA which were food and cosmetics.

Responding, Luhomero said they are in the final process to re-

turn the roles to the district councils, municipalities and city levels so as to help them in inspection.

"When this process finishes we will return to them, at the moment our officers are still conducting inspection to the various areas", he said.

He urged stakeholders and other traders not to hesitate to contact the standards watchdog in case they face any challenges regarding roles managed by the organization by using special free telephone numbers.

Modern amaranth farming project benefits about 150 small-scale farmers in Bagamoyo

By Getrude Mbagi, Bagamoyo

OVER 150 small scale farmers in Dar es Salaam and Coast regions are currently benefiting from an 'Amazing Amaranth Project' which is aimed to equip them with essential skills, techniques and knowledge to grow the crop to improve incomes.

Amaranthus is a cosmopolitan genus of annual or short-lived perennial plants collectively known as amaranths. Some amaranth species are cultivated as leaf vegetables, pseudocereals, and ornamental plants. Most of the Amaranthus species are summer annual weeds and are commonly referred to as pigweeds.

The project is funded by the German government through its Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the World Vegetable Centre.

Speaking during the 'Farmers' Field Day' held at Chambezi Research Centre in Bagamoyo District, project's coordinator Dr Ruth Minja said that to implement the project which commenced in 2018-2021, involves establishment of demonstration plots to create public awareness about different improved varieties of amaranth.

She said that among others, the project also aims to contribute to better livelihoods and better nutrition in the country.

Dr Minja said that majority of people are unaware of the importance of amaranth seeds

but the project has reached some of the farmers and are currently processing amaranth seeds to produce several nutritional products such as flour, snacks, tea and cake.

She said that through the project, farmers are trained on better farming practices, quality seeds, value addition and processing so as to improve their income.

According to her, amaranth can be consumed as a green vegetable or a grain. The crop is easy to grow, heat drought- and salt-tolerant and can be attacked by only few diseases.

Leaves are high in micronutrients, including vitamin C, pro-vitamin A, calcium, magnesium, potassium, iron and phosphorus, she said

"Amaranth is high in protein, has balanced amino acid content, calcium, potassium, iron, and vitamins A and C. Amaranth crop is also easy to grow. The vegetable is heat and drought tolerant and resistant to many diseases," she said.

She also said that the five-year 'Amazing amaranth project', which is also expected to benefit many people across Tanzania, including Kilimanjaro, Arusha, Mwanza, Iringa, Dodoma regions and other regions in the country.

Dr Minja noted that farmers have low awareness on best amaranth seeds and farming planting practices.

In her keynote address, Bagamoyo District Executive director Fatuma Latu urged farmers to utilize full opportunities

of the project by establishing small and big gardens to grow amaranth in their areas and thus earn income.

"The project is aimed to fight malnutrition, improve nutrition and food security. Majority of traditional crops are in danger of extinction, so more investment and promotion are needed," she said.

She urged the general public to take amaranth vegetable every day in their meals.

According to her, if strong programmes to promote amaranth farming will be invested, the country could fight or even eradicate stunting and malnutrition which currently stands at 34 per cent.

Latu urged researchers and extension officers and nutrition officers to reach farmers in rural areas on modern amaranth farming practices to transform lives.

Manager of TARI -Mikocheni Dr Zuberi Bira urged farmers to stop using pesticides in crops without seeking experts' advises.

He said the use of best farming practices is key if a farmer wants to reap big from the sector.

Dr Bira also urged farmers to invest in value addition and processing of amaranth so as to produce more quality products to win national and international markets.

"Tanzanians should also increase consumption of amaranth vegetable and its products so as to improve health and fight diseases," he added.



'Amazing Amaranth Project' manager Dr Ruth Minja has a word with farmers moments after she visited demonstration plots of amaranth at TARI-Chambezi centre in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region over the weekend. Photo: Getrude Mbagi

For his part, Kinondoni extension officer Saleh Hija urged farmers to utilize the opportunities of the project so as to improve their income.

"Make good use of any open area you have in your home to plant amaranth, it is very easy to grow and takes a short time before a farmer starts harvesting," she said.

This project has helped a number of farmers in Kinondoni where they learn a lot of procedures needed to grow the crop for more yields.

Edwin Philipo, amaranth farmer from Mabwepande in Kinondoni District commended TARI for implementing the project which has in turn brought positive impacts to many famers.

He however urged the government and stakeholders to help them find a reliable market for their products.

Edwin also urged fellow farmers to prefer using traditional pesticides and fertilizers to grow amaranth for more benefits.

PCCB in Nzega arraigns TRA official for soliciting a bribe

By Guardian Correspondent, Nzega

THE Prevention and Combatting of Corruption Bureau in Nzega District, Tabora Region has

arraigned Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) official, Dickson Ntandu (52) for soliciting 1.5m/- bribe from a guest house owner.

PCCB prosecutor for Nzega

District, Mazengo Joseph said the accused had contravened section 15 (1) (a)(2) and 3(a) of the PCCB Act (No 11 of 2007.

Earlier, before Nzega District

magistrate Joseph Mwita, Joseph alleged that between August 26 and 28 this year at different times, the accused while at Mary Pud area in Nzega Town solicited 1.5m/-

from Sahani Katuli as inducement so as not to take legal steps against him for not issuing EFD receipts at his Kipozo Guest House.

Mazengo further alleged that on

August 29 this year, the accused was arrested by PCCB officials when he was receiving 400,000/- bribe as part payment of the 1.5m/- bribe following a trap laid by

the Bureau. However, the accused pleaded not guilty and is out on 1m/- bail with two sureties until October 20 this year when the case will come up for mention.

An enabling environment will draw investors to Liberia

By Special Correspondent

In a conversation with Gulf News last November, Liberian President George Manneh Weah proclaimed that Liberia was opened for business. "Liberia is open for business and we are creating the right environment that makes it seamless for investors to get a head-start," the President declared.

According to the president, his administration has in recent reduced some of what have been described as hurdles in the way of starting a business in Liberia. "Large-scale corporations too have also been offered incentives for choosing to invest in Liberia. The arable land is vast and untapped. Young people, who make up the bulk of the population, are eager to work."

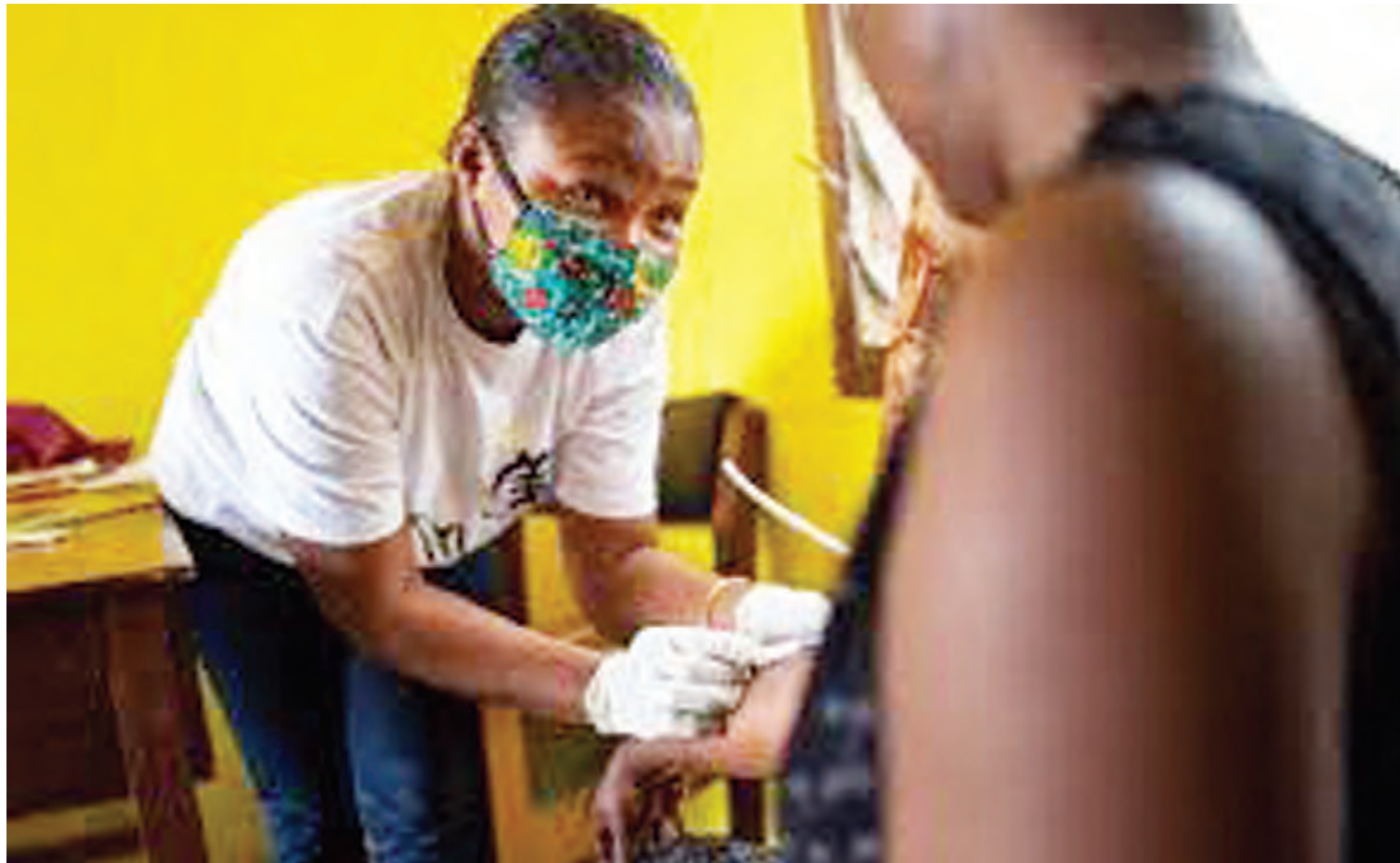
The president said the potential exists in various areas, including agriculture, mining, infrastructure and tourism, among others. "We have barely scratched the surface with each of these sectors. But like I said earlier, our tourism sector is beginning to gain international attention. It's an area where investment can yield enormous return. The agriculture sector too remains largely intact."

This was not the first time that the President had made the assertions. Following his inauguration in January 2018, the President declared the country open to investment and pledged to tackle entrenched corruption.

Ironically, President Weah's assertions appear to be only on paper and in words - and stakeholders are taking notice.

This week, the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia noted that an enabling environment is necessary to attract the kind of reputable businesses that will move Liberia's economy forward and create jobs. The embassy said that Liberia's productive soil, iron ore, diamonds, gold, and its ideal climate for growing rubber and palm oil cannot make up for an uncertain business environment.

The embassy observed with concern new challenges in Liberia's extractives and agriculture sectors in



the last few years, leading concessions here to either pause, streamline, or halt operations.

Charges d'affaires alyson grunder, speaking a policy dialogue on Promoting Transparency and Accountability in the Management of Extractive Industries to Enhance National Development in Liberia, said: "From the perspective of the U.S. Embassy, we have experienced a number of instances in which U.S. businesses have expressed interest in doing business in Liberia. But they invest their money and other resources elsewhere when they hear about perceived difficulties in negotiating contracts and retaining respect for them, obtaining permits, and maintaining good relationships with the public"

According to madam grunder Liberia's extractive industries are key to its economic development and to

the livelihoods of many, adding that transparent and open discussions of the necessary policy environment for businesses in the country to thrive will be advanced through dialogue that is inclusive of all stakeholders.

The US diplomat averred that while the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on global prices may be partly to blame for some of the recent economic downturn, a difficult local business environment also disproportionately affects investment, like is the case right now in Liberia. "Obstacles to doing business in Liberia as evidenced by the 2020 World Bank Doing Business report are a dissuading factor for individuals and corporations deciding on countries in which to set up shop", Madam Grunder said.

The sad reality is that since the end of the civil war and the ushering of democratic governance, Liberia has al-

ways been trumpeted as being opened for business.

Following her election in 2005, former President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf declared the country opened for business and launched an international effort to lure investors to the post-war nation.

Eyering the US business community because of its economic power and historical bond with Liberia, the Sirleaf administration

Liberia was founded by freed American slaves and the US dollar remains legal tender in the country. The Sirleaf administration, during its two-term in office also spread its nets as wide as possible for sources of investment, including those from Africa itself, such as South Africa and Nigeria, and with the world's rising economic power, China.

The problem though has always

been Liberia's inconsistency regarding governance and accountability issues.

In May 2013, for example, an audit of lucrative resource deals in Liberia found that almost all the concessions awarded by the government since 2009 were not compliant with the law.

In a damning report commissioned by the Liberian government, international auditors found that only two out of 68 resource contracts worth \$8bn (£5.1bn) were conducted properly. Concessions granted in agriculture, forestry, mining and oil - including a lucrative deal with oil company Chevron - were either wholly or partially flawed.

Today, the country remains entrenched in familiarities of the very problems that persisted then, and those which kept investors at bay.

Last year, Forbes magazine conducted a study of countries business climate and ranked Liberia as the first on the list of the top 10 worst destinations for doing business. In simple terms, the magazine is cautioning foreign investors not to venture into pouring their moneys into the country. The ranking is tallied after evaluation of the level of innovation, taxes, technology, corruption, freedom (personal, trade and monetary), red tape and investor protection of a particular country.

Liberia, which has a GDP of US\$2 billion, is below DR Congo, Mauritania, Togo, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Guinea, Libya, Gambia, and Chad on the index. South Africa, Morocco and Rwanda are three African countries that scored impressively on the list of countries suitable for investment.

While it is a good thing to trumpet a country as being opened for business, it is even better to strive to maintain an enabling environment that would lure investors and encourage investments in Liberia.

We agree with the US diplomat that strong oversight regime is necessary to ensure that Liberia receives the most revenue for its natural resources and ultimately its development.

The fact of the matter is that the Weah administration got off on the wrong foot in the way it handled the illegal removal of Mr. Konah Karmo, Head of Secretariat of the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (LEITI).

The administration rejected criticisms and condemnation at the time and lost a lot of points in the eyes of the donor community, dealing even more setbacks for the investment climate. But that is in the past.

Moving forward, President Weah and his team must work toward ensuring that the environment is safe, in terms of security for Liberians to reside; that investors are comfortable doing business in Liberia and that local as well as foreign businesses are able to operate in a relax business climate void of extreme bottlenecks and unnecessary demands.

A nation that is truly opened for business will leave no stone unturned in making sure that the climate is conducive for both investors and consumers.

When it comes to literacy in Africa, the internet is closing the gap

By Mojoaloluwa Aderemi-Makinde

WHEN it comes to literacy in Africa, in my opinion, there are three facts to consider. First, increased literacy in youths and adults has the power to change our continent as has been identified - as a goal - by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is directly connected to our capacity to solve our own problems from healthcare to the economy, promote sustainable development, build human capital and productive societies.

Second, literacy is not yet equitable, inclusive and freely accessible to all, due to a number of infrastructural and policy challenges. As such the continent lags behind, at roughly 70%, according to the African Union, compared to the rest of the world in literacy rates, which is at 90%.

Third, access to technology and the internet is critical to closing the gap between increased literacy rates and the challenges in the way. The continent's young population, who have shown a relentless digital savviness, is ready.

Over the last few years, at Google, we have matched the can-do spirit and aggressive uptake of the internet by Africa's young people, with the opportunity to maximize this resource, to accelerate learning and literacy. Our goal is not just to help people read and write.

We are committed to building information literacy, media literacy, digital literacy as well. It is increasingly clear that in today's world, the ability to read and write is a means and not an end. Being able to think and analyse critically, parse and evaluate information, access and create media, develop effective communication skills, being creative and solutions-minded; all form part of literacy.

And so, the results are in. From the young student to the middle-aged entrepreneur, the internet is the not-so-secret, key ingredient to accomplished learning, self-development. The solution is quite literally in their hands.

The barriers to literacy are being undone, steadily, surely. Permit me to share the story of William, Tochukwu and Amanda, three young children under the ages of 12 in Nigeria. All three are enrolled in schools, already on the path to learning and gaining the necessary skills to make a life for themselves and contribute to society.



But they all experience reading challenges. Their school contexts have proven insufficient in providing the tools they need to overcome these challenges. In William's case, his parents changed his school four times. The desired improvement did not materialise.

During the lockdown necessitated by the COVID19 pandemic, his mother discovered Read Along by Google, a verbal and visual reading app for children that employs speech recognition technology and is designed to make reading interactive and entertaining. Through using Read Along, William's ability to read increased significantly. So did Tochukwu and Amanda's. It turned out to be the educational supplement and intervention they needed to overcome reading challenges. So far, children in Sub-Saharan Africa have correctly read more than 10 million words since the app launch was launched in 2019.

This tool has proven particularly helpful as global school closures further widen the gaps in education on the continent. According to the UN, prior to the pandemic, sub-Saharan Africa had 47% of the world's out of school children. The gap further widened to disheartening proportions as due to COVID. Currently, 90% of children are out of school globally, due to the closures.

We have also set our sights on preparing Africans for the future of work via our Grow with Google programs including Digital Skills for Africa and CS First and our developer scholarships. This is in line with our commitment to training 10 million Africans on digital skills. So far, we have trained over 5million people with 60% of them reporting

impact on jobs, growing their careers and growing their businesses, across diverse sectors.

Beyond reading and writing, building skills for the future of work, young Africans are also able to learn on a day to day basis through apps available on the Play Store and products like YouTube and Youtube Kids. Africans can now learn new languages, participate in mind sharpening challenges, upgrade and expand competence, in photography, graphic design, coding; learn how to manage programs; gain confidence in decision-making; and other skills that serve them in their daily life and advancement.

It must be pointed out that alongside the aforementioned benefits that the internet and access to technology provide, it also helps address the social and cultural challenges associated with traditional learning methods. Currently, there are gender disparities in the literacy rates with women lagging behind.

Further, there are also disparities between literacy rates amongst adults and youths. Technology has proven to be an enabler in providing solutions that reverse these statistics. With more people unhindered, partaking in learning and skills development, the literacy rate further improves for all and the odds for transformation increase.

Google is resolute in its partnership with the stakeholders on the continent, working towards the goal of a more empowered, more literate Africa. The goal is well within our collective grasp. Once upon a time, to achieve it, you did need a book, a pen, one child, one teacher, to learn, to change the world.

These days, the internet has joined those ranks. And we are very proud to be a part of it all.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 140 00--

WORD FIT

In this puzzle you have no clues, only a list of words that all fit into the grid. The Guardian have given you a head start

3 letters
4 letters
5 letters
6 letters
7 letters
8 letters

YOD, SPA, TAN, TYE, GAY
ROME, EDEN, GO-GO, MEET, GEAR
SCAR, MOVE, TYRE, SPACE, TEDDY, GAMMA,
NYANZA, NONAGE, GREECE, SCARED,
RAMPANT,
STRAIGHT, SERENGETI, RAMPAGER

CROSSWORD

1 Interfere
6 a barrier constructed to hold back water
7 the time at which a military or other operation is set to begin
9 equipped with firearms
10 treat badly
13 the lowest part of something
14 a mental picture
17 say something in order to obtain an answer
18 the pearl of Africa
19 a state of hostility
21 move out of something and become visible
22 tiny drops of water that form on cool surfaces at night, when atmospheric vapour condenses

1 Maputo is the capital city
2 commercial city of Tanzania
3 a destructive flow of mud on the slopes of a volcano
4 placed below a line of text to indicate a proposed insertion
6 a legislative body in the ruling assembly of Russia
8 minerals
11 I'm
12 a sheep in its second year
15 tolerate
16 largest continent
19 marry
20 a number of people or things in a more or less straight line

By Mojoaloluwa Aderemi-Makinde @mojoaloluwa

BUSINESS

ENCOURAGING

Global trade recovers to 75% of pre-pandemic levels as monthly exports rise

GENEVA

Global trade has recovered to about 75 per cent of its pre-Covid-19 crisis levels as every region recorded a rise in monthly exports, although at varying degrees of speed and strength, according to Capital Economics.

China and the US recorded the biggest increases in monthly exports among all regions, Capital Economics said in its Global Monitor report on September 25. However, while China's exports had returned to their pre-virus levels by the end of July, exports from the US were still 13 per cent lower, it said, citing world trade data from the CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis. More recent data, including Purchasing Managers Index readings for September, indicate the recovery has continued throughout the third quarter.

"Given the encouraging signs from the timely hard data and survey evidence, we suspect that trade is currently three quarters of the way back to its pre-virus level," the report by Capital Economics' global economist Gabriella Dickens said.

The signs of recovery come after the Covid-19 pandemic hammered the global economy during the second quarter, disrupting international trade flows, supply chains and air travel. The virus has infected more than 32.7 million people and the death toll has exceeded 994,000, according to Worldometer statistics. About 24 million people have



August marks the first time since the Covid-19 shock with improving trade figures" across emerging markets, the report said. However, questions on the trade front remain with restrictions in place to contain the pandemic deemed a "drag on activity"

recovered so far.

In July, world trade had regained two-thirds of flows wiped out by the

Covid-19 pandemic, standing at 6.6 per cent below its December 2019 peak. This was an improvement from May, when world trade fell 17 per cent below its December 2019 level. World trade volumes jumped by 4.8 per cent in July following a record 7.8 per cent rise in June, Capital Economics said, citing CPB Netherlands Bureau data.

Trade among Asian countries - Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore - continued to recover in August with volumes just 1.2 per cent below pre-virus levels, compared to 4.8 per cent below in July, the report said.

September's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) estimates for advanced economies showed that exports for developed markets manufacturers jumped to 51.8, up from 50.8 in August - one of the only sub-components to rise.

World trade has performed better than gross domestic product declines as "strong demand for Covid-related products has partially offset weakness elsewhere", it said. For example, in China, exports of goods such as personal protective equipment, medical products and electronics has accounted for roughly half of the 10 per cent year-on-year growth in exports in August.

Similarly, the International Institute of Finance suggests that trade across emerging markets is also starting to recover this month, according to an EM Growth Tracker report published earlier this month.

"August marks the first time since the Covid-19 shock with improving trade figures" across emerging markets, the report said. However, questions on the trade front remain with restrictions in place to contain the pandemic deemed a "drag on activity" and US-China trade tensions continuing to weigh on the trade outlook for emerging markets, it said.

The global economy will contract this year by more than 4 per cent, with an estimated swing of 6.8 percentage points leaving a shortfall in global output by the year end of more than \$6 trillion according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Trade will shrink by around one-fifth this year, foreign direct investment by up to 40 per cent and remittances will drop by over \$100 billion, the UN agency said in its Trade and Development Report on September 22.

AMBITION

Geita, UDSM sign pact to manufacturing electric vehicles

By Guardian Reporter, Geita

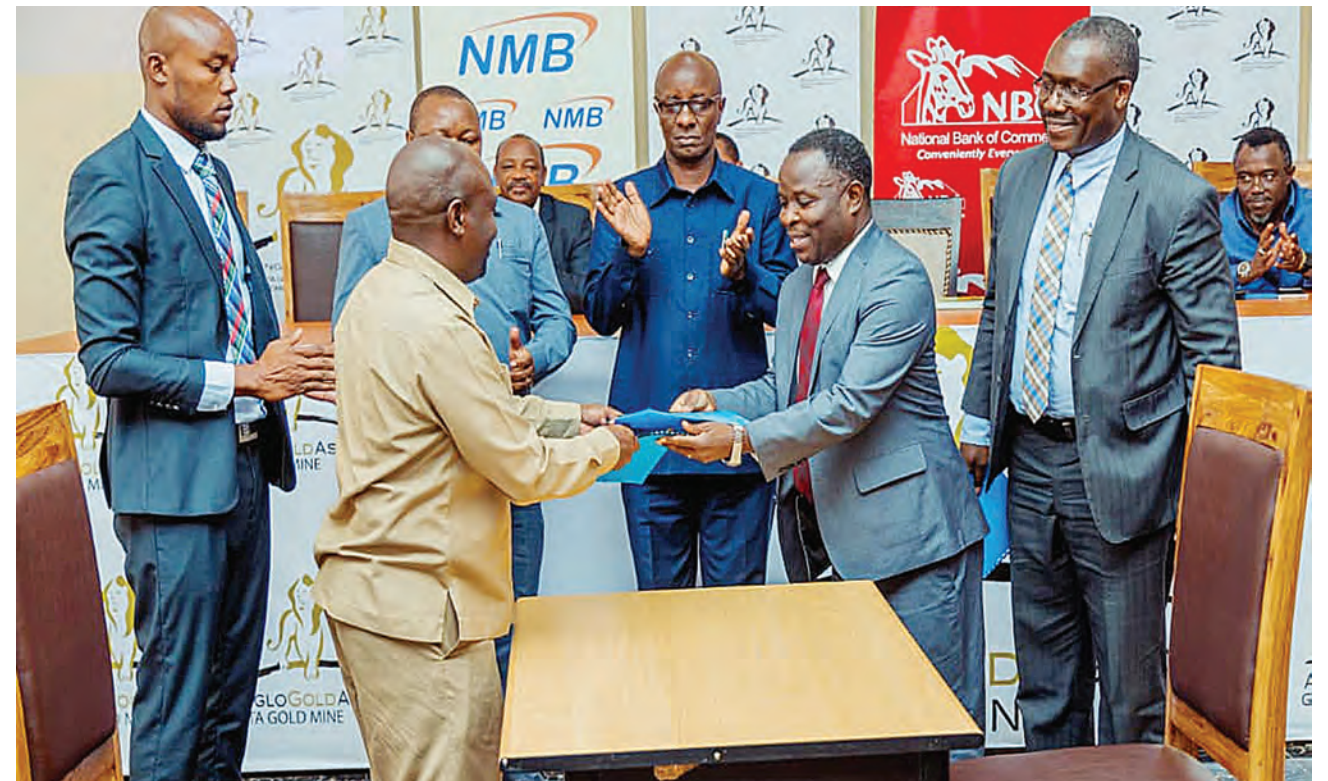
In a rare feat, Geita Region and University of Dar es Salaam have signed a memorandum of understanding to pave the way for an ambitious joint project to manufacture electric vehicles.

The first joint partnership project in the country and probably East Africa, will be implemented by Geita Town Council and UDSM's College of Engineering and Technology (CoET). Speaking after witnessing the two sides sign the MoU over the weekend, Geita Regional Commissioner, Engineer Robert Gabriel said the project will commence next month and the first EV roll out of the factory by February next year.

"We have collaborated with the University of Dar es Salaam to make sure that the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi's manifesto is well implemented this time around," he said adding that the world will see Tanzania have its electric vehicles made in Geita next year hence supporting President John Magufuli's industrialization drive.

In remarks after the signing, UDSM's College of Engineering and Technology's Manager for Technology Development and Transfer Centre Engineer, Dr Simon Marandu said in 2019, Technology Development and Transfer Centre (TDTC) of CoET pioneered to develop an electric vehicle. TDTC started the design and sought funds to develop the prototype. "TDTC could secure funds for developing the vehicle in a year," he said.

Eng Marandu added that in January this year, Geita Regional Commissioner, Eng. Robert Gabriel visited the university during which he met with CoET management under its Principal, Prof Bakari Mwyniwiwa where plans



Geita RC Engineer Robert Gabriel (C) witnessing the exchange of documents between Geita Town Council and University of Dar es Salaam's College of Technology and Engineering after the signing of a memorandum of understanding to jointly manufacture electric vehicles in the region. Photo courtesy of Geita RC.

to collaborate in developing the EVs were agreed.

"During the discussions, the RC agreed to support the design and development of two electric vehicle prototypes by investing 50m/- to which the CoET Principal agreed," Dr Marandu added.

He further explained that the design of the two battery electric vehicles started in February, 2020 with one of them being for police patrolling with capacity of carrying two officers while the second one is for urban transportation with capacity of carrying five passengers, including the driver.

"The design of the two EVs has been

completed and the signing of the agreement for funding to develop two prototypes," TDTC Manager noted while unveiling that estimated cost to develop the two EVs prototypes is 65m/-. UDSM through CoET will contribute the balance.

He pointed out that the prototypes will be developed at TDTC and undergo vigorous testing until they meet safety standards of the transportation sector in the country. The time frame for developing the two EV prototypes is six months starting October this year.

"Upon successful testing and commissioning, UDSM and Geita Region

through Geita Town Council will work together to develop a production facility in Geita Town where the EVs will be produced in mass," he elaborated.

Speaking at the sideline of the signing ceremony, Prof Simon Msanjila, the Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Minerals commended the partnership saying it paves way for collaboration between intellectuals and public institutions to develop the nation. "Since we have all the minerals that are essential in manufacturing of electric vehicles, my ministry will give all the support to make sure that this succeeds," Prof Msanjila said.



NMB Chief of Shared Services, Nenyuata Mejooli speaking during a Business Executive Network meeting that brought together over 100 corporate customers and government officials in Arusha City. Photo courtesy of NMB.

APPRECIATION

Arusha RC, business leaders salute NMB management on COVID-19 relief

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

THE government and business community have commended NMB Bank Plc for rescheduling loan repayment by clients in the wake of setbacks caused by the coronavirus outbreak earlier this year.

Speaking at an NMB Business Executive Network (NBEN) meeting for Northern Zone customers over the weekend in Arusha, government officials and business leaders said the bank's support has not only enabled many businesses to survive but also greatly benefited the country and the national economy at large.

In May this year, NMB Bank announced a package of relief measures to its customers in sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial reprieve provided by the largest bank in the market was meant to cushion businesses from collapsing as the virus forced the government to announce a partial lockdown.

The executive networking dinner was attended by over 100 top-end customers of the bank from Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Tanga regions.

Acting Arusha Regional Commissioner, Frank Mwaisumbe said tourism and the whole hospitality industry which had been affected by the virus received support from the bank saying the Northern Regions' main income earner has survived thanks to NMB.

He said the government in Arusha Region appreciates presence of banks such as NMB which are doing a very good job by providing financial support to businesses and individuals at such tough times.

"NMB Bank has been indeed supportive to its customers in different ways which is a good thing and monumental especially to the tourism industry that continues to suffer from the COVID-19 wreckage," Mwaisumbe who is also Longido District Commissioner, noted.

Andrew Makanga of Zita Tanzania Wild Company Limited said the bank

deserves credit for consulting its clients on various issues through forums like the Business Executive Network which are crucial platforms during austerity periods.

Briefing the participants, Nenyuata Mejooli who is NMB Bank's Chief for Shared Services, said the bank has been impressed by its customers' efforts and bravery to cope with challenges posed by COVID-19 on their businesses. Mejooli said the bank is aware of the hard times businesses in the travel and tourism industry are going through hence supporting them where necessary.

"On behalf of NMB management, I commend our customers for being strong and putting on a brave face to cope with the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Your endurance means a lot to us and an encouragement for continuing to work with you," she noted.

She called on other businesspeople to join the network, which since its formation six years ago has delivered

many financial and economic benefits to its members who currently number over 600. The NBEN comprises top-end SME customers of the bank in seven regions, namely Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Morogoro, Kilimanjaro, Mtwara, Mbeya and Dodoma whose annual turnover amounts to at least 10bn/-.

NMB's Head of Business Banking, Alex Mgeni told the participants that the government's stance on COVID-19 has played a vital role in mitigating the impact of the virus in ravaging the economy with the possibility of many businesses collapsing. He said the NMB will continue to support its customers to overcome the adverse effects of the virus but noted that it cannot offer total debt relief.

"Debt relief is not only commercially unviable but also against Bank of Tanzania regulations on banking business management," Mgeni noted when responding to some of the issues raised by customers during meeting on Friday.



While the largest monthly increases in exports were in China and the US, China's exports had returned to their pre-virus levels, but exports from the US were still 13% below.

EXPANSION

NCBA Bank extends branch network to Zanzibar

By Guardian Reporter

THE newly launched NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited has extended its branch network to Zanzibar with Finance Minister, Ambassador Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa congratulating the merged financial institution for its presence in the Spice Islands.

Ambassador Abdiwawa who officiated the launch of the new branch said the new bank which is a voluntary merger between NIC Bank (T) Limited and CBA Bank (T) Limited which began operations in July this year applauded NCBA Bank for good services and products.

He highlighted critical areas that the Isles government has achieved through its Development vision of 2020, which has just ended and called upon the bank to provide financial support in implementation of the new Zanzibar's Development vision of 2050.

"Over the past twenty years, our economy has been growing at an annual rate of over four percent which has been achieved along with developing healthy, diversified, resilient and competitive agriculture, industry, tourism, services and other productive socio-economic sectors," Ambassador Abdiwawa noted.

The Isles Treasury chief further added that the government also managed to put stringent systems and policies in place to cope with challenges of changing market and technological innova-



NCBA Bank Tanzania Limited managing director and CEO, Margaret Karume briefs journalists at the launch of the bank's new branch in Zanzibar over the weekend. Looking on are Zanzibar minister for Finance and Planning, Ambassador Mohamed Ramia Abdiwawa (2nd L) and the bank's director of commercial and digital services, Gift Shoko (3rd L). Photo: Guardian Correspondent

in the global economy.

"As such, the arrival of NCBA Bank in Zanzibar is timely and inspiring. It means that our economy has received a new player that can inject more vigour into transforming it into a blue economy as en-

shrined in our new Zanzibar Vision 2020/2050," he added.

The Minister underscored the importance of restoring affected critical sectors of the economy by the advent of the coronavirus pandemic. "Zanzibar as well as Main-

land Tanzania's tourism has taken a hit from the Covid-19 pandemic because tourist numbers dropped significantly in the last six months," he pointed out.

Briefing the Finance Minister on the merged bank, NCBA Managing

Director and CEO, Margaret Karume thanked Zanzibar's government for supporting the new bank as it works to enable Zanzibar's economy to accompany the bank towards greatness.

Karume promised that NCBA Bank will support the new and resilient economic reforms being undertaken through Zanzibar's 2050 Development Agenda. She said, "NCBA Bank is excited to launch our operations in Zanzibar when the government's new blue economy development vision of 2020-2050 has just been launched," Karume stated.

She added that the Dar es Salaam based bank is committed to support government's efforts to strengthen the economy and consolidate the middle-income status aspirations. "We remain steadfast in our ambitions to support critical sectors for economic development in Zanzibar. We are looking forward to holding constructive discussions with our customers and stakeholders to outline strategic plans that meet our people's needs and cushion them during this post-pandemic period as we look to foster significant economic growth," the NCBA Bank chief noted.

The new Zanzibar branch is among 12 new branches that the bank has across the country following the launching of new headquarters and branches in Dar es Salaam in August 2020 and two others in Arusha mid this month.

MOBILIZATION

Dar authorities partner EPZA to advance industrialization agenda

By Guardian Reporter

IN a bid to speed up industrialization of Dar es Salaam Region, its top officials have forged links with Export Processing Zones Authority to realise the objective rapidly.

Speaking when closing a one-day capacity building seminar of the businesses and the commercial capital's councils facilitated by EPZA, Regional Administrative Secretary, Paulo Makanza said there is need to establish special industrial areas in order to speed up industrialization.

"When we develop many special industrial areas in the city it will lead to more jobs being created, increase exports and foreign exchange earnings for the country as well as building a robust industrial economy," Makanza said.

He added that with more industries built in the region, municipal councils' revenue will also increase hence speeding up development projects. Makanza also called on city residents and Tanzanians in general, to cultivate a culture of seeking and getting information about investments opportunities in the industrial sector particularly those made under the EPZA.

Speaking at the event, EPZA's Director of Planning and Development, Lamau Mpolo said short term benefits of the capacity building training was for officials from the councils to improve on service provision to the current and prospective investors in the industrial sector.

"With the training we hope to see more friendly services to investors who come through the EPZA or other government institutions in search of areas to invest in the commercial capital," Mpolo said adding that in the long run, both EPZA and Dar es Salaam City will establish joint investment areas to facilitate rapid development of the industrial economy. "We have agreed in principle that each institution has a role to play in making the national industrialisation agenda a success," he noted.

A senior official from Dar's RAS office in charge of production and economy, Dr Elizabeth Mshote said through the training, officials from the councils have learned the best way to establish and develop industrial projects within their areas of jurisdiction.

"The capacity building training has helped to give skills to officials on the best way to facilitate establishment of industrial projects through public-private partnerships," Dr Mshote said.

ENTERPRISING

Kitchen gardens plan to cushion poor households

NAIROBI

The government is in the process of setting up kitchen gardens for vulnerable households in 21 counties in an effort to avert a looming food crisis following adverse effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The initiative being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture targets to establish one million gardens according to the Cabinet Administrative Secretary Anne Nyaga. Already, 200,000 households have been covered in the first phase while the second phase to cover a similar number is currently ongoing.

Other than receiving a startup kit of a 50 litre tank and a shade net, each household will get 10gms seeds of various vegetables including amaranthus, kales, black nightshade, cowpeas and spinach. To showcase technologies available for the establishment of a kitchen garden, the CAS indicated that the ministry has set up a demonstration and learning site at the ministry headquarters at Kilimo House.

Currently, the learning site has 12 kitchen garden technologies that households can choose from. "We are appealing to households to visit the site and implement the kitchen garden concept to collectively contribute to food and nutrition security," she said. Some of the kitchen garden plans include multi-storey, micro garden, moist bed garden, tire garden, simple drip irrigation garden cone gardens, staircase gardens, hanging gardens and aquaponics.

The project being implemented in partnership with the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Project, National Agricultural and Rural Inclusive Growth Project and the Small-Scale Irrigation and Value Addition Project will closely work with counties to identify the beneficiaries.



Measurements Officer with Weight and Measure Agency, Anyitike Tumaini briefs members of the public on the importance of having accurate measurement equipment during the commemoration of International Day for Deaf Persons held in Tabora last week. Photo: Guardian Correspondent.

COUNSEL

Commercial disputes mediators, arbitrators urged to shun bribes

By Guardian Reporter

MEDIATORS and arbitrators have been urged to avoid all sorts of corruption during their work to achieve successful outcomes which benefit of parties involved in commercial disputes, their businesses and the national economy.

Speaking during a three day course on mediation and arbitration conducted by the National Construction Council in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, two experienced resource persons, Engineer Samwel Msita who is also an arbitrator and Advocate

Rason Mbwambo said corruption is dangerous in any mediation.

Eng Msita warned that no successful mediation will be achieved if the mediator or arbitrator is compromised with bribes. He explained that corruption can make a good mediator or arbitrator compromise their positions and issue rulings in favour of their interested party hence worsening the conflict instead of solving it.

"Be it in areas of procurement or elsewhere, keep corruption out of your reach. When resolving commercial disputes follow the

guiding rules, otherwise you will not succeed," Eng Msita advised the participants of the NCC course.

Seconding Eng Msita's presentation, Advocate Mbwambo insisted that any good mediator or arbitrator will focus on being impartial with a goal of reconciling misunderstanding parties amicably with the of continuing to work together as partners.

He said, "If a mediator or an arbitrator thinks of getting money or any favours from any of the parties in a dispute, he or she must forget about solving it but



Head of Zantel in Zanzibar, Khamis Mussa speaking in the presence of the Isles minister for Land, Housing, Water and Energy, Salama Aboud Talib when the company announced its partnership with the Zanzibar Water Authority to enable customers pay water bills through Ezyepesa. On the right is permanent secretary of the ministry, Al-Khalil Mirza and the Zawa's director general, Mussa Haji. Photo courtesy of Zantel.

rather expect to extend it due to the unfair decision made."

Adv Mbwambo further added that mediators and arbitrators should consider the key role that they have in improving the country's economy hence should stick to mediation rules which are aimed at

solving commercial disputes in a manner that conflicting parties appreciate.

"There is no need for a mediator or an arbitrator to prolong disputes for any reason hence the need to be fair, follow rules and solve the conflict in a manner accepted by the conflicting

parties," Adv Mbwambo noted.

The course which was the 14th to be conducted by NCC, was geared towards empowering participants from different professions with skills to resolve commercial disputes by alternative resolution mechanisms other than courts of law.

WORLD

Trump nominates Barrett for US Supreme Court

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump announced on Saturday that he is nominating Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative federal appellate judge, for the Supreme Court.

"She is a woman of unparalleled achievement, towering intellect, sterling credentials, and unyielding loyalty to the Constitution," Trump said of Barrett from the White House Rose Garden.

"This should be a straightforward and prompt confirmation," he said, while calling for a "respectful and dignified" process for the Supreme Court nominee.

Barrett, who sits on the bench of Chicago-based US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, said that she has "no illusions that the road ahead of me will be easy, either for the short term or the long haul."

"I assure you that I will meet the challenge with both humility and courage," she continued. "If confirmed, I would not assume that role for the sake of those in my own circle, and certainly not for my own sake, I would assume this role to serve you," she added.

Trump selected Barrett to fill the seat vacated by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a leading liberal voice on the country's highest court.

Barrett, if confirmed by the Senate, would give the conservative wing a solid

6-3 majority at the Supreme Court. At age 48, she would also be the youngest member of the nine-justice bench and likely serve for decades to come.

Republicans, who enjoy a 53-47 advantage in the Senate, appear to have enough votes to approve Trump's third Supreme Court pick and they intend to hold a confirmation vote before the November election with an eye to energizing the conservative base. Only two Republican senators have said they would not support taking up a nominee prior to Election Day.

Democrats oppose moving forward with a vote on Ginsburg's replacement so close to the election, citing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's decision in 2016 to block then-US President Barack Obama's Supreme Court nominee because it was an election year, which all but ensures a fierce confirmation battle on Capitol Hill in the coming weeks.

McConnell and Senate Republicans have argued that this time is different because the Senate and the White House are held by the same party.

In a statement on Saturday, McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said that he looks forward to meeting with Barrett next week, adding that the nomination will receive a vote on the Senate floor in the weeks ahead.



President Donald Trump adjusts the microphone after he announced Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court, in the Rose Garden at the White House on Saturday in Washington. (AP)

The Senate Judiciary Committee reportedly plans to start the official process to confirm Barrett on Oct 12, which includes hearings, with a full chamber vote tentatively set for the week of Oct 26.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said he "will strongly oppose this nomination," calling it "shameless" efforts to replace Ginsburg less than 40 days before the election.

"This reprehensible power grab is cynical attack on the legitimacy of the Court," the New York Democrat wrote in a statement.

A mother of seven, Barrett was nominated by Trump for the US Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit in 2017 and was later confirmed by the Republican-led Senate with a 55-43 bipartisan vote.

The jurist previously served on the faculty of the Notre Dame Law School, teaching on constitutional law, federal courts, and statutory interpretation. Prior to that, she clerked for Judge Laurence Silberman of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and for Associate Justice Antonin Scalia of the US Supreme Court.

Barrett, who earned her bachelor's degree from Rhodes College in 1994 and her J.D. from Notre Dame Law School in 1997, also litigated constitutional, criminal, and commercial cases in both trial and appellate courts as an associate at a Washington, D.C.-based law firm.

Trump's announcement on Saturday came a day after Ginsburg became the first woman to lie

in state at the US Capitol. She will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery across the Potomac River from Washington, DC

A renowned champion of women's rights, Ginsburg died last week at the age of 87 due to complications related to metastatic pancreatic cancer. She was appointed to the Supreme Court by then-US President Bill Clinton in 1993 and was the second woman appointed to the high court.

"My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed," Ginsburg reportedly dictated to her granddaughter Clara Spera a few days before her death.

Trump recently suggested that it was Democratic politicians who wrote Ginsburg's dying wish, a claim that critics have called baseless. The president and the justice had traded barbs since mid-2016, when he was the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

Trump successfully appointed two conservatives to the Supreme Court, Neil Gorsuch in 2017 and Brett Kavanaugh in 2018, tilting it to the right with 5-4 majority.

US Supreme Court justices, who have life tenure and can serve until they die, resign, retire, or are impeached and removed from office, play an enormous role in shaping the country's legislation and policies on issues such as abortion, LGBT rights, gun rights, health care, climate change, and presidential powers.

Xinhua

China's education system withstands test of history with 242 million students returning to campus - MOE

A TOTAL of 242 million students in China from kindergarten children to college students have returned to school as of Friday, accounting for 90 percent of China's total students, showing that China's education system has withstood a major test of history amid the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the Ministry of Education.

It also marked the beginning of a safe, normal and full fall semester, Xu Mei, spokesperson of the ministry, said at Tuesday's press conference. In addition, the last batch of students will resume school after the National Day holiday in early October, Xu said.

In the next step, we will consolidate the hard-won achievements and continue to do a good job in education and teaching amid regular COVID-19 epidemic prevention and control measures, Xu said.

Chinese students have been flocking back to campuses in different batches, with control measures such as partial campus seal-offs, carrying out large lectures online and reducing group activities. Beijing universities requested that freshmen report their health situation 14 days ahead of classes, submit negative nucleic acid test results, and obtain a green code to enter the campus.

In comparison with Chinese schools, which welcomed the return of students eight months after the COVID-19 pandemic first hit China, universities in the US have gone back to online courses and canceled their tests, after an increasing number of confirmed cases involving students were reported since schools reopened in mid-August.

Global Times



More than 3,700 students returned to campus of Jiangsu University of Technology in East China's Jiangsu Province.

At UN, PMs, foreign ministers vow to resist unilateralism

UNITED NATIONS

PRIME ministers and foreign ministers on Saturday vowed to uphold the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and resist unilateralism through their pre-recorded speeches addressed to the ongoing 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

"It is important for all of us to reaffirm our conviction to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations which is the cornerstone of International law. This remains timeless, universal and an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world," Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth said.

"It is also important that the institutions that we have collectively created operate independently and their rulings are respected by all countries irrespective of their size and power," he added.

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the COVID-19 pandemic has indeed aggravated existing global challenges and reinforced the indispensability of multilateralism.

"On this 75th anniversary of the United Nations, our commitment to multilateralism as embodied in the UN Charter remains unflinching," she said. "At the national level, despite numerous challenges, we are committed to upholding the values of multilateralism and working towards building a 'Sonar Bangla' free of poverty and exploitation based on democratic principles with full enjoyment of human rights, as envisioned by the Father of our Nation."

Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Minnis told the virtual summit that his country will make "unwavering commitment" to the United Nations and always uphold the UN Charter principles "on which the organization was founded."

"The trend of unilateralism and the exertion of force against weak countries is on the rise, undermining international order and multilateralism," said Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen.

Xinhua

China is always ready to help others succeed - Wang Yi

BEIJING

CHINESE Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that as a good brother, good friend and good partner of its fellow developing countries, China is always ready to help others succeed.

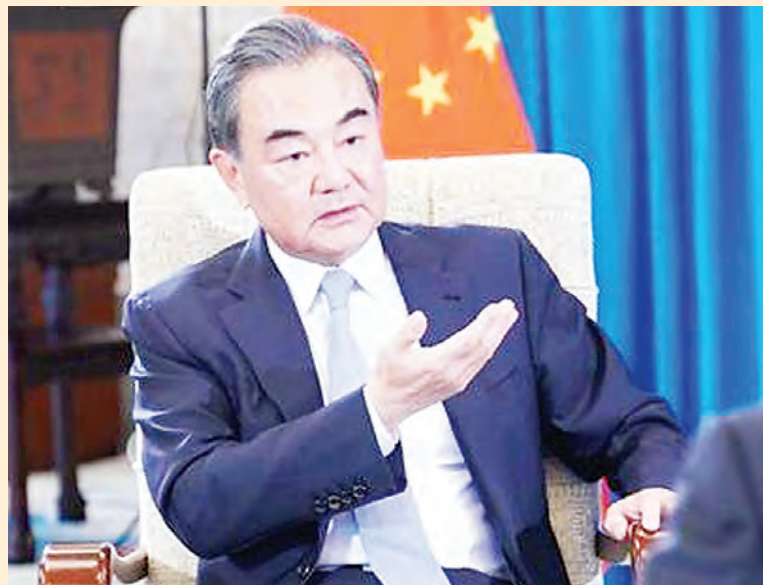
"In such efforts, China puts countries' shared interests first and always seeks to synergize its own development with the common development of all developing countries," said Wang, who is also Chinese state councilor, while delivering a keynote speech at the High-level Video Conference on Poverty Eradication and South-South Cooperation, co-organized by China and the United Nations (UN).

Wang said under the framework of South-South cooperation, China has provided more

than 400 billion yuan (about US\$58.5 billion) of foreign aid and built close to 3,000 complete projects.

Facing the sudden COVID-19 outbreak, China has sent out 34 medical expert teams to 32 countries, and provided 283 batches of anti-epidemic supplies to 150 countries and four international organizations, he noted.

Wang emphasized that China will comprehensively implement the anti-epidemic cooperation measures announced by Chinese leader at the 73rd World Health Assembly, such as providing US\$2 billion of international assistance over two years, establishing a cooperation mechanism for its hospitals to pair up with 30 African hospitals, and setting up a global humanitarian response depot and hub in China.



At the moment, several COVID-19 vaccines developed by China are in Phase III clinical trials. "As they become available for

deployment, these vaccines will be made a global public good and provided to developing countries on a priority basis," Wang said.

Xinhua

Russian fighter scrambled to intercept two US strategic bombers over Baltic Sea

MOSCOW

A Russian Su-27 fighter jet was scrambled to intercept two US strategic bombers approaching the Russian border over the Baltic Sea, Russia's National Defense Management Center reported on Friday.

According to the Center, Russian airspace control systems detected

two aerial targets over the Baltic Sea approaching Russia's state border.

"A Su-27 fighter from the Baltic Fleet's air defense quick reaction alert forces was scrambled to intercept the targets. The crew of the Russian fighter approached the aerial targets at a safe distance,

identified them as a US Air Force B-52H bombers and escorted them over the Baltic Sea," the Center said.

The Russian border was not violated. After the US aircraft moved away from Russia's state border, the Russian fighter safely returned to its home airfield.

"The entire flights of the Russian fighters proceeded in strict compliance with the in-

ternational rules of using the airspace," the Center stressed.

Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Valery Gerasimov told a briefing on Friday after the completion of the Kavkaz-2020 military drills that the United States and other NATO nations has been conducting military activities some 20-30 kilometers of the Russian border and cites as an example flights of NATO planes and the presence of NATO' naval forces in the Barents, Baltic, and Black Seas.

Agencies

COVID-19 threatens gender equality gains - UN Women chief

UNITED NATIONS

UN undersecretary-general and executive director of UN Women, Mlambo-Ngcuka, has called for action to carry forward gender equality and prevent a reversal of hard-won progress because of COVID-19.

Exactly 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, the significance of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is undimmed, she said in an exclusive written interview prior to a high-level UN meeting on the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference.

The outcome of the 1995 conference remains the most comprehensive and transformative global

agenda for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, she said.

Despite challenges, in the last quarter-century, countries in all regions have shown that change is possible, she said.

"We have seen the strength and the impact of collective activism grow and underline the importance of multilateralism and partnership. With laws to support women's equality, scaling up education, health and childcare services, and using gender quotas to boost women's representation, the world has found common solutions to shared problems."

However, progress for women in

many areas has been unacceptably slow and the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to reverse many of the hard-won advances made, said Mlambo-Ngcuka (pictured).

Violence against women continues unabated. Men still hold more than 70 percent of parliamentary seats, managerial positions, climate negotiators posts and represent almost all peace negotiators.

In addition, due to persisting inequalities such as women's uneven access to paid work, it is estimated that without change, 47 million women and girls will be pushed into extreme poverty in 2021, bringing the total to 435 million with women



between the ages of 25 to 34 especially affected, she noted.

Mlambo-Ngcuka named "four important catalysts" to ensure that progress is accelerated.

First, supporting women's move-

ments and leadership. This includes women in decision-making at all levels and a safe and enabling environment for civil society organizations.

Second, harnessing technology for gender equality. This includes closing the gender digital divide and ensuring that women have access to the digital economy.

Third, ensuring that no woman is left behind - by empowering and guaranteeing the rights of those who have been pushed to the margins by decades of structural discrimination, and ending all forms of violence against women, including cyber violence.

"In 1995, the Beijing Conference raised attention to global issues that

remain urgent today. Stepping up to this legacy, we must build back better, bringing women right into decision-making, and instituting the structural changes that intentionally enable this," she said.

A key to success is to support and promote the leadership of young people, she said.

UN Women has launched "Generation Equality" to mark this 25th anniversary and to engage young women and men in support of gender equality, in the hope that this process will mobilize and energize the world, in the same way that the Beijing Conference did, to create a clear path forward for the achievement of gender equality by 2030,

said Mlambo-Ngcuka.

As UN Women celebrates its 10th anniversary amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the human rights of women and girls have more prominence, universality and more urgency than ever before, she said.

"We have been working to demonstrate the central role women can play in economic and social recovery, and to raise the alert on the dangers of failing to do so. We are proud to be the global champion and ally for women and girls. We are 10 years strong and ready for the next 10 years in the UN's Decade of Action (on the Sustainable Development Goals)," she said.

Xinhua

'Faithfully implement CPC's policies on Xinjiang'

BEIJING

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping has called for efforts to build Xinjiang featuring socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era.

Xi (pictured), also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at the third central symposium on work related to Xinjiang, which was held on Friday and Saturday in Beijing.

Xi underlined the need to fully and faithfully implement the CPC's policies on governing Xinjiang for the new era.

Xi demanded law-based governance and long-term efforts to develop Xinjiang into a region that is united, harmonious, prosperous, and culturally advanced, with healthy ecosystems and people living and working in contentment.

Thanks to strenuous efforts from all sides since the second symposium in 2014, major progress has been achieved in the work related to Xinjiang, Xi said, citing a series of markedly improving key indicators from 2014 to 2019, such as a sound economic momentum with an average annual GDP growth rate of 7.2 percent, people's living standards

being significantly improved with an average annual 9.1 percent growth in residential per capita disposable income, and more than 2.92 million out of 3.09 million people being lifted out of poverty.

Such a sound situation where people live and work in contentment has laid a solid foundation for long-term peace and stability in Xinjiang, Xi said.

"Facts have fully proved that China's work on ethnic affairs has been successful," he said, noting the achievements are the result of the strong leadership of the CPC Central Committee, along with the concerted efforts of the whole Party and all the Chinese people including more than 25 million people from different ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

Facts prove that the Party's policies on Xinjiang in the new era, which were developed by the CPC Central Committee since the 18th CPC National Congress, are perfectly right and must be adhered to on a long-term basis, Xi stressed.

He demanded the entire Party make implementing the Party's Xinjiang policies in the new era a political task, always maintaining the correct political orientation of the work related to Xinjiang.

Xi noted that the banner of socialist



rule of law must be held high to maintain lasting social stability in Xinjiang, ensuring that the requirement for fully advancing China's law-based governance covers all areas of the work related to Xinjiang.

Xi stressed efforts to focus on heightening a sense of identity of the Chinese nation to constantly strengthen ethnic unity.

The education on the sense of Chinese identity should be incorporated into the education of officials and the younger generation in Xinjiang as well as its social education, helping

the officials and the general public of all ethnic groups develop an accurate understanding of country, history, ethnicity, culture and religion, to let the sense of Chinese identity take root in people, he said.

Noting that development is an important foundation for lasting peace and stability in Xinjiang, Xi stressed leveraging the region's geographical advantages to develop Xinjiang as a core area of the Silk Road Economic Belt and a hub of opening-up in the inland and border areas.

Xi urged efforts to consolidate the foundation and increase the efficiency of the industrial sector in Xinjiang, advance industrial transformation and upgrading, and boost urbanization in an all-round way while protecting the environment.

Stressing the need to coordinate epidemic containment with economic and social development, Xi called for ensuring stability on six fronts -- employment, the financial sector, foreign trade, foreign investment, domestic investment, and expectations -- while maintaining security in six areas: job security, basic living needs, operations of market entities, food and energy, stable industrial and supply chains, and the normal functioning of primary-level governments.

He also called for unremitting ef-

orts to eradicate poverty and promote employment in Xinjiang.

Xi pointed out that the original aspiration and mission of the Party is to seek happiness for the Chinese people, including people of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, including various ethnic groups in Xinjiang.

He urged continuous efforts to foster a contingent of high-caliber officials from ethnic-minority groups in Xinjiang who are loyal to the Party and have both integrity and ability, saying that the officials in Xinjiang are trustworthy and capable.

Underscoring the great significance of Xinjiang-related work to the whole Party and the entire country, Xi asked for improvement in working mechanism in which the CPC Central Committee exerts the unified leadership, the central departments offer guidance and support, other provincial-level regions render support and cooperation, and Xinjiang plays its principal role.

Other senior Chinese leaders also attended the symposium, which was presided over by Li Keqiang, Li Zhanshu, Wang Huning, Zhao Leji and Han Zheng were in attendance, while Wang Yang spoke to sum up the event.

Xinhua

Mexico issues arrest warrants for disappearance of 43 college students

MEXICO CITY

MEXICAN authorities have issued dozens of arrest warrants for police and soldiers whom they believe may have participated in the 2014 disappearance of 43 Mexican college students, head of the investigation said on Saturday.

Omar Gomez, head of the special prosecutor's office for the case, told a new conference in Mexico City the warrants had been issued for the "material and intellectual authors" of the crime, including military members, and federal and municipal police.

The announcement came during a news conference at the National Palace in Mexico City on the sixth anniversary of the students' kidnapping. During the event, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador and Mexico's Undersecretary of Human Rights Alejandro Encinas held fabrics embroidered by relatives of the victims, many of whom attended the ceremony holding large pictures of the disappeared students.

Saturday marks the first time in the case Mexican authorities have announced arrest warrants for military personnel. Reuters reported earlier in the week that arrest warrants were imminent.

The Mexican military did not respond to initial requests for comment.

The students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College disappeared on September 26, 2014, in the state of Guerrero. The remains of only two of the students have been positively identified so far.

The unsolved kidnapping of the young men who were training to be teachers convulsed the country, sparking massive protests in 2014 and garnering international condemnation as one of the darkest examples of the government's longstanding difficulty preventing violence or convicting those responsible.

Agencies

Afghan woman wins recognition, sparks Taliban opposition

HERAT/KABUL

AFGHAN woman Laleh Osmany has been campaigning for years for a change to the age-old custom of officially identifying people by the names of their fathers, calling for mothers' names to be included on identity cards.

But her "Where Is My Name?" campaign, which finally brought

a change in the law last week, has stirred heated debate in the conservative Muslim country where for some, speaking a woman's name in public is taboo.

The Taliban, who have just begun power-sharing talks with the Afghan government that could see them return to rule in some capacity, have opposed the reform in one of the first concrete stances they have re-

vealed on women's rights as they engage in the peace process.

"From the beginning of this campaign until now, we've encountered insults, humiliation, threats," said Osmany, a 28-year-old religious studies graduate.

For Osmany and many other Afghan women, a mother's name beside the father's on identity cards represents the rightful recognition

of women in society. "This right has been given to us by Islam ... we want to take back our rights."

Osmany's campaign, which she launched on social media in 2017, paid off last week when President Ashraf Ghani signed an amendment that would recognise mothers equally with fathers on identification cards.

But along with the recognition

from the president and the support of many women, the reform has provoked anger.

"The inclusion of the mother's name on electronic IDs would be a disgrace and a dishonour for Afghans," said Akbar Agha, who served as an official during Taliban rule, told a gathering to discuss reconciliation in the city of Herat last week.

Agencies

Photovoltaic power stations in NW China's Qinghai province help local villagers secure livelihood

LOCATED on plateau and boasting rich solar energy resources, northwest China's Qinghai province has seized the opportunities generated by favorable policies and vigorously integrated the development of the photovoltaic (PV) industry into its poverty alleviation endeavors, lifting impoverished local residents out of poverty and facilitating steady growth in their incomes.

So far, the total installed capacity of poverty-relief PV power projects built across the province has reached 731,600 kilowatts, and the annual power generation output value of these projects is expected to reach 880 million yuan (about \$130 million).

These PV power projects have generated 570 million yuan for poverty alleviation, helping secure livelihood for 283,000 poor people from 77,000 local households, accounting for 52.5 percent of the province's poor population.

"Our life is really good now," said Lhage Gya, a 56-year-old resident in Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Hainan, Qinghai province, who has benefited from the PV power projects a lot.

"I used to live in a shabby adobe house in the mountains and barely had a decent piece



Photo shows a beautiful view of the photovoltaic industrial park in Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Hainan, northwest China's Qinghai province.

of furniture," he said, adding that he needed to fetch drinking water from more than one kilometer away and his family could hardly make ends meet by raising cattle and sheep as the grass didn't grow well.

The man is now living in a cozy home with Tibetan-style couches and a side-by-side refrigerator.

In response to the call of the government, Lhage Gya's family moved to Qiezha village, Niandi township of Gonghe county, Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Hainan, in August 2017, and has gradually become better off ever since.

"Last year, I made over 35,000 yuan, including my wages, subsidies from the prohibition of grazing on grass-

land, as well as the dividends from the PV power projects," said Lhage Gya.

"The village-level PV power stations have guaranteed a stable source of income for local villagers," noted an official in Niandi township, explaining that 60 percent of the income from the power stations is used to develop collective economy in the village while the rest 40 percent is used to pay salaries of villagers on public welfare jobs.

The village has built hotels, shops and restaurants along national highways near the village in a bid to stimulate tourism, the official said, adding that the effort has helped villagers secure jobs near their

homes and gradually shake off poverty.

The PV power stations of Qiezha village are located in a poverty alleviation PV power station industrial park in Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Hainan.

The blue PV panels extending all the way to the foot of the faraway mountains on the green grasslands look spectacular like sparkling sea under the blue sky and white clouds.

The industrial park consists of five county-level PV power stations and 11 village-level stations, according to Dai Helou, chairman of a poverty alleviation and development company in Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Hainan.

As of the end of July, the industrial park had generated 133 million kilowatt-hours of electricity accumulatively, bringing nearly 100 million yuan in revenue to the locality, Dai said.

The income from each village-level PV power station is shared by several poverty-stricken villages, Dai disclosed, adding that these PV power stations have helped increase the income of the 173 poverty-stricken villages across the prefecture by an average of more than 570,000 yuan each.

People's Daily

French minister: Paris stabbing attack an act of terrorism

PARIS

THE stabbing attack in Paris on Friday near the former offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo was "clearly an act of Islamist terrorism," said French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin.

"It is clearly an act of Islamist terrorism," Darmanin told France 2 TV channel. "This is the street where there was Charlie Hebdo. It is the operating method of Islamist terrorists, of course, evidently, there is little doubt," he added.

France's National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor's Office said an investigation was opened for "attempted assassination in connection with a terrorist enterprise" after the attack that left two people injured.

A man armed with a meat cleaver attacked and wounded two people on Friday who had stepped out for a cigarette in front of the Paris office building where Islamist militants gunned down employees of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo five years ago.

Police soon after detained the man suspected of carrying out the attack, with bloodstains on his clothes, next to the steps of an opera house about 500 meters away.

The suspected attacker was from Pakistan, and had arrived in France three years ago as an



Police officers gather in the area of a knife attack near the former offices of satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, Son Friday in Paris. AP

unaccompanied minor, Darmanin said.

A second man, aged 33 and suspected of being linked to the attack, was arrested by the Railway Network Brigade at 1:30 pm in the Paris metro, officials said.

Five more people were taken into custody as part of the investigation, bringing to seven the number of people held in police custody in this case, reported local channel BFM TV.

"We are still in a war against Islamist terrorism," Darmanin said in a Twitter post.

He said he had ordered law enforcement agents to beef up protection at all sites where Islamist attacks had taken place in the past, and at synagogues,

where the city's Jewish community this weekend mark the Yom Kippur holiday.

The victims of Friday's attack were taken to hospital but their lives were not in danger, officials said.

The attack coincided with the start this month of the trial of 14 alleged accomplices in the 2015 Charlie Hebdo attack. The gunmen behind that attack killed 12 people.

Investigators said the militants at that time wanted to avenge the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad in the magazine. Charlie Hebdo republished the cartoons on the eve of the trial this month.

BRI a functional machinery in global economic recovery - Sri Lankan expert

THE continuation of protectionism by America, the largest economy body in the world, will only result in further contraction of the world economy and aggravation of unemployment, poverty and deprivation, said Luxman Siriwardena, president of the Sri Lanka-based Pathfinder Foundation.

In a recent interview with People's Daily Online, Siriwardena said that the unilateralism and protectionism currently being championed by the American administration goes against the values the West has promoted since the end of World War II.

"When I was undertaking graduate studies at an American university in

the 1980s, it would have been totally unacceptable for any of the economic professors to believe that the protectionism in trade and investment would enhance the welfare of the international community," he recalled, sharing that since the establishment of formal China-Sri Lankan diplomatic relations, China has been the most reliable, all-weather friend of Sri Lanka.

In recent years, Sri Lanka has taken an active role in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which, he stressed, is the most logical development strategy for Sri Lanka.

The successful completion of the three major development projects

in Sri Lanka under the BRI, namely Colombo Port City Project, Hambantota International Port and proposed Hambantota Industrial Zone, will have a transformative impact on the Sri Lankan economy.

In the post-pandemic era, the BRI is "a functional machinery which can substantially contribute to the recovery of the global economy," he noted, voicing hope that the initiative will have more inclusive and comprehensive programs encompassing a larger amount of countries.

While this is a decisive year for China to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and to end extreme

poverty, according to Siriwardena, China's development has been "unprecedented" in the history of the entire world.

"The process has been inclusive in the sense that China has uplifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty while achieving advancement in science, technology and culture," he said, adding that China has addressed the social, economic and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the recent past, citing the pollution management in the city of Beijing as an example.

Looking ahead, Siriwardena said the two countries will enhance their

cooperation in various fields, such as COVID-19 pandemic control and prevention, investment in manufacturing, logistics and services, infrastructure as well as economic digitalization, and people-to-people exchanges.

Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, Siriwardena pointed out that both China and Sri Lanka have managed to control the virus with relatively minimal loss of life, and praised China's commitment to distribute the vaccine to the rest of the world, which will contribute to the vision of building a community of health for all in the near future.

People's Daily

The process has been inclusive in the sense that China has uplifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty while achieving advancement in science, technology and culture," he said, adding that China has addressed the social, economic



Athletes from across Tanzania compete in the 1500m race's final of the 2020 National Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

Widening circle of athletics stakeholders a welcome development, at last

BY CORRESPONDENT JOHN KIMBU

ATHLETICS Tanzania (AT) has finally managed to hold the National Athletics Championships that had for a period been gathering dust, with a broad range of observers taking that tendency as indicative of incapacity at organizational and financial level to do better.

Nothing really changed by the fact of holding the championships earlier this month, with regard to the country's level of performance or range of abilities, except that the heart of athletics here is still beating.

It can thus be expected that coordinated efforts leading to holding the championships this year can solidify.

Press reports said that this year's event was jointly organised by the National Sports Council (NSC), the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC) and AT, where it was noticeably the first time in five years that this event had taken place.

The newly found success in organisation raises hopes that the momentum will not be lost, perhaps translate into more regular lower level competitions especially at school and regional level.

Youths seeing the chance to participate at district or regional events would put an effort, as athletics starts in lower schooling.

The latest event brought together upwards of 200 athletes from 28 regions, having been twice rescheduled, first to August from May, and then shifted to September as preparations like accommodation were as yet inadequate.

It is so far unclear if there was an outside push that helped to galvanise preparations for this year's tournament, as there is scant local reason why this year would be better for AT finances than it was previously.

There is an impression of some sort of regard from outside as to this requirement, for instance to sustain global membership, etc.

The AT officials said that World Athletics Council, the umbrella global body grouping fairly distinctive gatherings with the same abbreviation, the International Amateur Athletics Federation and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), had directed that members conduct National Championships not later than August.

It appeared that the reason for this extended instruction to all federations or national associations was the disharmony arising from the global pandemic.

But here it may have rung a different bell, that they know we do not have the tournament.

This kind of impression could predictably have sent top officials at AT and other agencies helter skelter to tie up arrangements for the tournament, so that the country does not come closer to de-registration for failure to live up to membership requirements.

That could explain why this year's National Championships secured support from the Tanzania Olympic Committee (TOC), after the AT requested the committee to assist the facilitation of the two-day championships.

This body was always aware of the startling lack of resources at AT and scarcely moved a finger till now. Traditionally TOC would take up preparations for an Olympic Games squad after the various national associations had presented a list of athletes qualifying for this or that event.

It did not usually oblige in assisting with financing of tournaments that help to pick eligible or potential qualifiers for the next Games, as each year up to another Olympics, All Africa Games or the Commonwealth Games ought to be a preparatory year.

This factum was not moving anyone there, as it appeared purely an administrative issue, that AT gets athletes and forward the list to TOC.

So it will not be part of history that it took a global pandemic and disarray at IAAF as to what is the state of athletics preparations around the world to send such a reminder, so that athletics bodies here get out of slumber.

It appeared to them that the message was singularly for Tanzania as a country that held no championships for four years in a row and was obviously going to chalk up another year in that slumber, until IAAF reminded the former athletes now in top offices that results of their championships ought to be filed by 10th September. It is what got them working.

The AT officials explained that TOC helped to facilitate the championships with support from another activist athletics group, Olympic Solidarity (OS) and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Since there are improved communications of a personal and direct sort, or group networking arrangements for instance in mobile phone applications like WhatsApp, it is not entirely clear why these groups suddenly discovered it was vital to get an athletics tournament underway in Tanzania this time round.

Was it because of Covid-19 that it was not difficult to elicit attention of potential stakeholders like these, or because TOC also acted?

Chances are that Covid-19 must have been part of the gamble as earlier not just TOC but also the ministry would scarcely take up appeals for assistance from AT or kindred organizations, left to fend for themselves whereas it is incomprehensible how athletics can be commercialized.

That is why observers and stakeholders ought not to celebrate quite yet, as making the collaboration this year a structured environment that can be reactivated each year is daunting. Seeing is believing!

How Serengeti Lite sponsorship is revitalizing Dar women soccer

BY GUARDIAN REPORTER

WOMEN soccer is gaining popularity in many parts of the world and so is to Tanzania that has various competitions, including Women Premier League, which is sponsored by Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) via the Serengeti Lite brand. Soccer fans in the country are now seeing more and more women develop interest in participating in the game as ever before.

For those who may not be aware, women's football has a longer history than most people would expect.

There were a number of women's clubs in the 1890s and one in North London was reported to have attracted 10,000 spectators to a game at Crouch End.

Preston was the stronghold of women's football in its early days, the famous Dick Kerr's Ladies being formed there in 1894 and earning a lot of money for charity.

We are told that their match with St. Helen's Ladies on Boxing Day 1920 had 53,000 fans inside Goodison Park and thousands of locked outside.

The FA banned women's football from the clubs' grounds but its view that football was 'quite unsuitable for females' changed towards the end of the 1960s.

The Women's FA (WFA) was formed in 1969 and, within three years, the first Women's FA Cup Final and England Women's international game had been played.

However, in many parts of the world including Tanzania, women soccer still does not get the attention it deserves.

In an interview with The Guardian, Tanzania Football Federation (TFF) Marketing Manager Aaron Nyanda said lack of sponsorship for women tournaments has been one of the serious problems facing the development of women soccer in the country.



Players, who are taking part in Serengeti Lite Women Premier League, take part in training session at Karume Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

"In Tanzania, the plight of women soccer is even much worse. Since its inception, the Mainland Women Premier League has been lacking in financial support to enable it to operate smoothly like its men's counterpart, that is, until Serengeti Premium Lite brand came on board that we are seeing a new lease of life to women soccer", Nyanda said.

On January 2018, SBL, through the Super Brands-winning beer brand Serengeti Premium Lite, entered into three-year sponsorship deal with TFF to support the Mainland Women Premier League.

Through the sponsorship, Serengeti Premium Lite became the first ever sponsor for women soccer in the country.

Nyanda said the sponsorship has enabled the federation to run the league in less stressful environment due to the financial support offered.

"Before this sponsorship, it was difficult for teams to go and play away matches because of financial problems," he said.

"The league is now gradually gaining popularity and we are even starting to hire professional players from outside the country," he noted.

The marketing manager noted that TFF recognizes Serengeti Lite as a worthy partner in football development in the country, not just as a sponsor, due to the brand's solid and continued support to the sport.

Notably, Tanzania is one of a number of Eastern African nations on the rise in regard to women's football.

The country is one of the first East African nations to qualify for the Women's African Nations Cup and more significantly, Tanzania won the 2016 CE-CAFA Senior Women Challenge Cup.

Since then, the nation has grown from strength to strength, launching its first ever top-tier women's league with an official sponsor on board.

Anitha Msangi, Serengeti Premium Lite brand's Head, noted that the brand is proud to engage with the Women Premier

League.

She disclosed that the sponsorship has also played a significant role in empowering women to increase their participation and performance in the sports sector in general.

She further said that Serengeti Lite believes that by giving more visibility to the numerous talented women in the sport, it can help to raise their profile and the attractiveness of women's soccer.

"Soccer is no longer just a form of entertainment to the fans, nor is it just a preserve for men only," she noted.

"It is also meant to unite and inspire people across the globe. It is also a source of steady income to the players," she said.

The company's sponsorship towards Serengeti Lite Women Premier League follows a long history of sponsoring the senior national men's soccer team, Taifa Stars.

Taifa Stars currently continue to enjoy the support of the company through the latter's flagship brand, Serengeti Premium Lager.



Genius Kings Primary School students entertain guests and fellow students with Bongo Flava songs during the ninth Standard Seven graduation ceremony held at the school's premises at Tabata Segerea in Dar es Salaam last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

JKT Basketball Club advances to 2020 RBA League last four

BY NASSIR NCHIMBI, TUDARCO

DAR ES SALAAM'S National Service (JKT) Basketball Club has successfully reached the semi-finals of the 2020 Regional Basketball Association (RBA) League after beating Ukonga Kings 68-60 in the last eight encounter played at the Bandari courts in the city last weekend.

The army team have advanced to the semi-finals of the league after winning the game two of the three-game series of the last eight stage.

The JKT had also won the first game of the last eight stage against Ukonga Kings.

Baraka Sadick, one of JKT Club's key players, scored 19 points and registered six rebounds and three assists as his club notched victory against Ukonga Kings.

The semi-finals will see JKT lock horns with either Vijana Basketball Club 'City Bulls' or Army Basketball Club (ABC).

The 'City Bulls' and ABC will lock horns in game three of the last eight, which will produce an

outright which will make it to the last four, after the latter had won the second game of the last eight stage against the former.

The ABC garnered 81-71 win over 'City Bulls' in the second clash, which also took place last weekend, to level the series at 1-1.

The 'City Bulls' had won the game one of the last eight.

The ABC had led in all four quarters of the game two, posting 23-12, 20-17, 19-16 and 22-21.

The army club's Emerico Augustine put stellar performance in the clash,

slotting in 26 points which included four three-point shots.

As the regional basketball league nears climax, some of the participating sides' coaches have said this year's quarterfinals have been a bit different from the previous year's.

The coaches pointed out the competitiveness seen in the knockout stage has come about, given there is either little or no difference between the sides in terms of level of performance.

Chriss Weba, JKT coach, stated since he started

coaching basketball, he has not seen a quarterfinal series that is as competitive as the clash that his club takes part in.

Pazi Club's coach Mohamed Mbwana, noted that questionable calls by referees is one of challenges facing the knockout stage duels.

"Actually, poor officiating is the problem facing the quarterfinals, some of the referees have not officiated properly, a situation that has led to violence in some of the matches," Mbwana disclosed.

Barca's Koeman: I always showed Suarez respect

BARCELONA

BARCELONA boss Ronald Koeman said it was the club's decision to get rid of Luis Suarez and that he showed the striker respect during their brief time working together.

Suarez, 33, joined La Liga rivals Atletico Madrid after six seasons at Camp Nou this week in a deal which could eventually be worth €6 million to Barca.

The decision to flog Suarez, who had one year left to run on his contract, was criticised by Lionel Messi on Friday. The Barca captain accused the club of being disrespectful with the way they forced him out.

Koeman was in charge of communicating to Suarez that he wouldn't have a role to play at the club this season but stressed the call had already been made by the club before he was appointed.

"It seems I'm the bad guy in this movie," the Dutch coach said at a news conference on Saturday. "But that's not the case."

"I have shown respect to Luis -- the player and the person -- from day one. I always said it would be tough to give him minutes but that if he stayed he would be part of the squad. I told the club that as well."

"But it was a decision made by the club. Before I came in as the coach, the club had already made decisions to change things. There are young players here. It wasn't a decision made by me alone, but also by the club."

Messi, who tried to force a move away from Barca himself this summer, used Suarez's exit to further criticise the Barcelona board. He said Suarez had been kicked out but that "nothing surprises me anymore."

The Argentina international's comments came after he raged against president Josep Maria Bartomeu in an interview with Goal earlier this month when he announced he would be staying at

Barca for the upcoming season.

"I think it's normal that a player is a little sad when a friend of his leaves the club after so many years together," Koeman said of Messi's unrest.

"The most important thing for me is how Leo has been in training and games. In training, he has been an example for everyone. I have not seen a single day when he has seemed affected. I have no doubts about Leo in that sense."

Barca kick off their season on Sunday at home to Villarreal in La Liga in Koeman's first competitive game in charge since he replaced Quique Setien in August.

Koeman said his side will be different to the Barca we saw last season but that financial problems at the club are hampering him from bringing in the players he would like to add.

"The style of play is going to be different, the system is going to be different and the way we press rivals going to be different," he said.

"[New] players? We have to wait. After Oct. 5, when the transfer window closes, I will respond to that question. We are looking for players to improve the team but what I want as a coach is not possible from a financial point of view."

"We have to understand that the economic situation is very, very difficult. But I accept that. I knew it before."

Sources have told ESPN that Barca would still like to sign a right-back to replace Nelson Semedo, who signed for Wolves last week. Ajax's Sergino Dest is their first choice.

Manchester City defender Eric Garcia, who is out of contract next summer, is also a target, while Koeman would like to bring in another forward. Asked if Lyon's Memphis Depay and Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez remained options, he said he would "rule nothing out."

(Agencies)

Man Utd win with penalty awarded after full-time

LONDON

MANCHESTER United earned a dramatic 3-2 victory over Brighton with a Bruno Fernandes penalty awarded after the full-time whistle on Saturday.

Neal Maupay scored Brighton's first goal of the game with a penalty in the first half which he delicately chipped into the goal while Marcus Rashford hit the target for United and Lewis Dunk scored an own goal.

Solly March thought he had earned the side a point with a last minute goal but Bruno Fernandes polished off a penalty on 100 minutes after a Maupay handball to secure United's first win of the season. Brighton shot out of the blocks at the Amex with Leandro Trossard hitting the post after just eight minutes with a left-footed shot.

The post was to prove to be Brighton's downfall with three shots in the first-half -- two from Trossard -- rebounding off either side of David de Gea's goal.

Despite Brighton's better start, it was United who found the back of the net first with Mason Greenwood on 33 minutes. However, replays show Rashford was offside in the build up and the goal was disallowed.

Brighton finally caught their break seven minutes later when Fernandes gave away a penalty for a clumsy challenge on Tariq Lamptey.

Maupay stepped up to take the spot kick and drifted a slow chip into the middle of the goal while De Gea dived to the left.

Brighton's lead only lasted three minutes though after a Fernandes free kick from outside the box was put in by Dunk for his fifth own goal in the Premier League as he battled with Harry Maguire.

It was a busy day for referee Chris Kavanagh. Two minutes into the second half he awarded a penalty to Brighton after Aaron Connolly went down under a challenge

from Paul Pogba. The decision was then overturned after VAR replays showed that the Ireland international stepped across Pogba.

Rashford thought he had put United ahead on 52 minutes but he was offside when Greenwood crossed the ball to him and the goal was disallowed. Rashford made up for it three minutes later though with a beautiful display of individual skill. A pass from Fernandes on the left sent him running into the box. He dummied and danced around the Brighton defence before hitting a left-footed shot into the net.

Brighton battered United defence in the final stages and March thought he'd got an equaliser with his close-range header at the far post found its way into the back of the net.

It wasn't to be Brighton's day, however, and an outstretched arm from Maupay saw the home side give away a penalty after the final whistle was blown.

Brighton thought they had survived the last minute drama when March cleared Maguire's header off the line and the final whistle went.

However, VAR replays showed that Maguire's shot had hit Maupay's raised hand before being cleared off the line. Kavanagh returned to the pitch from the sideline TV and awarded a penalty to United.

Fernandes stepped up to take it and in the final act of the game hammered the ball into the right-hand corner on the 100th minute.

"We got away with one," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer told BT Sport after the game. "Maybe one point we deserved, we didn't deserve more. But the character deserved more."

"They are a difficult team to play against. We don't have the legs and sharpness but we will get there. We have plenty of work ahead."

Brighton manager Graham Potter said he was "proud" of the performance his players displayed.

(Agencies)

Arsenal face acid test of Arteta revolution at Anfield

LONDON

MIKEL Arteta has "changed the mood" around Arsenal, according to Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp with the Gunners rejuvenated by winning the FA Cup, Community Shield and their opening two games of the Premier League season.

However, the toughest test of what Arsenal can aim for this season comes on Monday with a trip to Anfield, where Klopp's men have not lost in 60 league games.

Arteta described Liverpool's home as the "toughest place in the world" to go, but Arsenal can take confidence from two victories over the Premier League champions in the past three months.

AFP Sports looks at three key battles where the game will be won and lost.

Trent Alexander-Arnold v Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang

Aubameyang has been the key figure in Arsenal's revival, scoring twice in the FA Cup semi-finals and final to defeat Manchester City and Chelsea and his side's goal plus the winning penalty in the shootout against Liverpool in the Community Shield.

Arteta has followed Klopp's example by using his biggest goal threat cutting in from a wide area and Aubameyang will look to exploit the space left by Alexander-Arnold as he marauds forward.

"With the speed they have for the counter-attack, that can cause you some trouble," warned Klopp.

However, Liverpool could just as easily benefit from one of the league's most creative players in Alexander-Arnold not being tracked by Aubameyang.

A minor injury meant he missed the Community Shield and Aubameyang made the most of his absence against the inexperienced Neco Williams.



Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (left) and Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold were both included in the 2019/20 Premier League team of the year. (Agencies)

With the England international back, Liverpool are a different side.

Thiago v Granit Xhaka

Liverpool signalled their intent to defend their crown as champions by adding a world class talent in Thiago Alcantara to a team of winners.

The Spanish international gave a glimpse of what he will offer by completing more passes than any Chelsea player despite playing just the second-half of last weekend's 2-0 win at Stamford Bridge.

An injury to Jordan Henderson means Thiago is likely to make his first start on Monday and Xhaka has the unenviable task of stopping him dictating the game.

The turnaround in the Swiss international's Arsenal career is symptomatic of the changes since Arteta's arrival.

Seemingly on his way out of the club after tearing off the armband and swearing at his own supporters when substituted against Crystal Palace just less than a year ago, Xhaka has rehabilitated his reputation among the Arsenal support by

becoming the cornerstone of Arteta's midfield.

Mohamed Salah v Kieran Tierney

Salah's hat-trick on the opening day of the season against Leeds took his tally in Premier League games for Liverpool at Anfield to 51 in 57 home games.

That includes scoring against Arsenal in each of their previous three league trips, but Tierney is facing Liverpool away for the first time and has added more steel to the left side of the Gunners' defence.

The Scotland international is perfectly suited to his role as the left centre-back of Arteta's three-man defence, where he can also push into a more advanced role when in possession, like he did for Celtic prior to his £25 million (\$32 million) move to the Premier League.

Salah scored six times in his first six appearances against Arsenal for Chelsea and Liverpool, but failed to find the net the last two times the sides have met up against Tierney.

Meanwhile, Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta says he is keeping his "fingers

crossed" that next month's international break will not result in a spike in positive coronavirus tests in the Premier League.

So far a strict system of testing has kept the number of cases in the English top-flight low even as Britain faces a second wave of Covid-19.

West Ham boss David Moyes and players Issa Diop and Josh Cullen tested positive this week, while Ilkay Gundogan became the third Manchester City player to return a positive test this month.

But no Premier League game, all taking place behind closed doors, has so far been postponed since last season resumed in June.

Clubs are set to lose their players during next month's international window, which includes European Championship and South American World Cup qualifiers.

Top clubs reportedly held talks with world governing body FIFA this week over the next two international windows, in October and November.

Concerns are growing that players will be at greater risk of contracting the virus as they criss-cross the globe to represent their countries or being forced into periods of quarantine when they return to their clubs.

Arteta, who tested positive for Covid-19 days before the 2019/20 season was put on hold in March, said he had his "fingers crossed".

"We have a system that works, that has created a positive, really, really low across the league," said the Arsenal boss.

"Obviously when everybody starts to fly away to very different countries I think at the moment is a little bit of an experience and we don't know what the outcome is."

"We want to believe that they want to follow a lot of things that are implemented and are working well so fingers crossed that we don't get any bad news."

AFP

Messi and Barcelona: The inside story on how everything fell apart, and what's next - Part 2

BY MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS, ESPN

THE mechanism by which they thought they could pull off a deal had existed for years. Messi's long-term doubts led his advisers to insert a release clause in his Barca contract when it was renewed in 2017. At the end of the 2019-20 season, within a defined period, he could unilaterally rescind his contract and walk away.

And so, Barcelona's board nervously waited. In the end, the date -- initially widely reported as May 31, later corrected to June 10 -- fell when La Liga was about to resume. Nonetheless, when it had passed, the club were quick to brief the media. As far as they were concerned, Messi would be staying until 2021. Messi has since said he didn't inform the club before then because they were still involved in La Liga and the Champions League; one source, though, says the fact City were banned from European football before winning an appeal also complicated his route out of Camp Nou.

The original date in Messi's contract had been drawn up to coincide with the end of the season. But with the campaign extended because of the coronavirus pandemic, Messi's camp felt they had some wiggle room when it came to the interpretation of the clause.

Sources told ESPN that the feedback Messi received from legal experts was mixed. Only one law firm out of at least four consulted, Cuatrecasas, believed the argument had a realistic chance of success. That was enough and Messi decided to go ahead. If he stood his ground, perhaps Barca would blink first.

AUG. 24 BEGAN WITH A PHONE CALL from Koeman to Suarez. In a conversation that lasted around a minute, the coach told Messi's best friend in the squad that he was not in Barca's plans and should look for a new club. Vidal received similar treatment. Messi's allies were being pushed out and, in his view, disrespected.

Later that day, Messi took action. On advice from Cuatrecasas, the player opted to use a burofax -- a reg-



Messi's frustrations were amplified by the manner in which Barcelona lost to Liverpool the Champions League semifinal from 3-0 up in the first leg. (Agencies)

istered letter, used when legal proof of receipt is required -- to inform Barcelona that he wished to leave for free, exercising his release clause. Signed by Messi, it was sent just after 7 p.m. By mid-morning on Aug. 25, the letter had arrived at Camp Nou.

The first to read it, aghast, were Bartomeu and the head of Barca's legal department, Roma Gomez Ponti. "They could not believe their eyes," a source told ESPN. For them, there

was no debate: The clause had already expired. "Put aside everything else you've been working on and focus on this," Bartomeu told the club's lawyers.

Barcelona contacted two firms specialising in sports law -- Costa Torrecillas & Associates and Bufete Antras -- for advice. (The former had won the club a favourable judgment months earlier in their dispute with Neymar over a renewal bonus.) Both firms agreed Barca were in the

right and should not give in to Messi's demands.

Despite that, sources told ESPN at the time there were board members who supported letting Messi go. Not for free, mind you, but if it meant bringing in a large fee and removing his €90m salary from the wage bill, the club might be able to dig itself out of a €300m financial hole during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Messi has so much power at the club, both on a financial and sporting

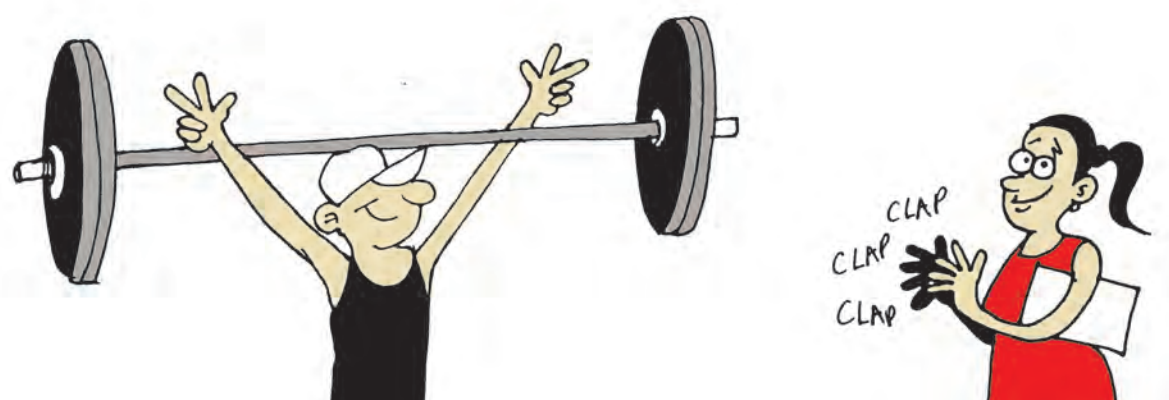
level," one source said. Another, close to the dressing room, went further. "It's the moment to sell him, it's a historic opportunity to be able to change things. There are players who will perform a lot better without him in the team."

Those voices believed a managed departure could be beneficial, but the president would not entertain the prospect. It was €700m from a buying club, or he stays. "Bartomeu doesn't want to be the president who agrees to the sale of Messi," a source told ESPN, even as another source said, "it's the best thing he could have done."

Bartomeu might have ruined his relationship with Messi -- the player called him a liar, claiming Bartomeu had assured him he would let him go -- but he got his wish. In the end, he won't be the president who oversees Messi's departure; after all, the club's presidential elections will happen on March 20 or 21 next year, before Messi's contract expires.

To be Continued

Gwiji by David Chikoko



Dar athlete wins USA scholarship

SPORT

Arsenal face acid test of Arteta revolution at Anfield

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19



Dar es Salaam's BAHATI Music Band's singer, Tina, performs a song at a music festival, known as 'Weekend Live Let's Meet Again', which took place at Nafasi Arts Space in the city last weekend. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

COAST Region's Filbert Bayi Schools' athlete, Regina Mpigachai, has secured a \$76,000 four-year scholarship at the University of Northern Colorado in the United States of America (USA) following her outstanding performance at local and international events.

Regina, who was spotted in 2012 by Filbert Bayi Schools in Geita during the inter-primary schools sports tournaments (Umishumta), was enrolled at the school the same year.

She went on to become a top athlete for both the institution and the national team.

Disclosing the news, Filbert Bayi Schools' Director, Tanzania's athletics



Female athletes take part in women's 1500m race final of the 2020 National Championships, which took place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam recently. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT JUMANNE JUMA

legend Filbert Bayi, said Regina has been offered the scholarship due to her outstanding performance both academically and in sports.

"I'm very excited, this is great news and achievement for Regina and our school, the scholarship will help her excel in both academics and sports," he said.

Bayi, who had in his youth days won scholarship to study for a bachelor's degree, asked the athlete to be disciplined and exemplary so that the University of Northern Colorado can offer more scholarships to other Tanzanians.

He said Filbert Bayi Schools believe she has the potential to become a top athlete at the international level in the coming years, as she is currently the best female athlete in the country, whilst being a role model.

"We are sure of your discipline and hardwork but I'm asking you to continue working hard both in academics and sports," Bayi told Regina at a contract signing ceremony, which was also attended by Regina's mother Hellen John, at Filbert Bayi Schools' premises last Saturday.

"Your performance at the

university can motivate the authorities there to offer more scholarships to other Tanzanians," Bayi stated.

The schools' athletics head coach, American Ron Davies, said Regina will be the next big thing in Tanzania's athletics.

"She is one of the best athletes and I believe she will reach great heights, she was spotted by University of Northern Colorado athletics head coach Wayner Angel at the All Africa Games in Morocco," Davies noted.

He said: "Since then, the university has been monitoring

her exploits, I'm happy that she has been offered the scholarship which will help her in both academics and sports."

"She will, through education, get in the USA she will positively contribute to development in Tanzania," he disclosed.

Davies asked young athletes in the country to work hard as there are five scholarships to be offered in the coming two years.

Regina's athletics talent was first spotted by physical education teacher at Ndelema Primary School in Geita, Aless Mdede.

Speaking at the ceremony, Aless thanked Filbert Bayi and Anna Bayi for playing parents' role to Regina, saying the love and care they offered to the athlete propelled her to work hard in academics and sports.

"I'm one of the first teachers who saw great talent in Regina, she was very young then, due to her talent, I drafted her into the district's Umishumta team, she became a dependable athlete for the district," Aless noted.

"I thank Bayi and Anna for the support they offered to Regina and I'm asking her to work hard wherever she goes," she said.

The athlete thanked Filbert Bayi Schools for taking care of her since 2012.

"I really thank Filbert Bayi Schools for being with me all the years, it is at this center that I made my name," she disclosed.

"I represented the country at many international athletics events and now I have been offered the scholarship, I promise not to let down my country, my parents, my guardians (Bayi and Anna), my teachers in sports and academics and all those who supported me," she said.

The athlete is expected to depart for the USA in January next year.

French Embassy set to sponsor Ongalla Festival, Sauti za Busara

By Guardian Reporter

THE French Embassy in Tanzania is set to sponsor a music festival, known as 'Ongalla Festival', to be held in Dar es Salaam in December, and the next year's Sauti za Busara Festival, to be held in Zanzibar in February.

The embassy said the support gears towards having traditional music stay alive in people's ears for generations to come.

Cecile Frobert, Head of Development, Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy in Tanzania, said that the embassy is interested in playing its part in making sure that both Tanzanian and African culture depicted through traditional music, dance and arts is restored for the future generation.

Frobert had graced the resumption of a music festival, known as 'Weekend Live Let's Meet Again', held in Dar es Salaam on Saturday night.

"We will support the two festivals in honour of the African culture. The 'Weekend Live Let's Meet Again' festival is being celebrated three times a year, the first festival was held in February and the second one was to be held in June but, due to COVID-19 eruption, it was postponed, today's night will be a Tanzanian culture night as we have joined together to celebrate it," Frobert said.

After a long term lockdown period brought about by the COVID-19 eruption in the country, she said it was pleasure for the embassy to host the festival once again at Nafasi Arts Space in Dar es Salaam.

Irene Themistocles, a Director for BAHATI Band and Dancers Group, said that it was the first time for her band to take part in the festival, noting she considered it as an opportunity for introducing her band to the music world.

"I call upon music festival organizers in the country to prioritize up-and-coming women music groups to participate in their events so that they can showcase their talents to the world of entertainment," she stated.

The festival, which brought together more than 500 people, featured five upcoming bands and more than 10 solo artists to perform traditional music and dance. The festival also featured painters.

"It's my pleasure to be one of the solo artists who are scheduled to perform for tonight's festival," Shabo Makota, one of the solo artists who took part in the festival, stated.

"I'm doing AFRO Fusion music and I am sure that most people never heard about it but today's night they are going to understand what this kind of music sounds like," the artist noted.

"I call it a night for introducing AFRO Fusion music to the world."

Other artists and visual artists, who took part in the 'Weekend Live Let's Meet Again' festival, are Vipaji Foundation painters and Wahapahapa band.

Caravans T20 Cup 2020 tourney launched in Dar

By Guardian Reporter

THE 2020 Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Caravans T20 Cup tournament was launched in the city last weekend, with the event set to start on October 4 and climax at the end of November.

The competition, which is an annual feature, is hosted by Caravans Club in cooperation with DC in a bid to improve promotion of the sport at the domestic level.

Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA) information officer, Atif Salim, stated that 10 sides will participate in this season's tournament.

The squads have been grouped into A and B. Union Sports, Shree Kutchi Leva Patel SC (SKLPSC), GP Pak Stars, Aces Club and Aga Khan Sports Club make Group A.

Group B is made up of Annadil Burhani, Dar Cricket Club (DCC), Gymkhana Club, Strikers and hosts, Caravans Club.

Salim noted that all of the DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament's matches will be played at Leaders Club's venue.

The tournament's launch



Caravans Club's players celebrate after one of the side's players had dismissed a Saint Gobain Strikers' batsman in the last year's Caravans T20 Cup tournament's clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

was attended by, among others, TCA officials led by the body's Chairman, Premji Pindoria.

According to Salim, the event featured an information booth set up by TCA, gearing towards having the public know cricket, as well as games

and other activities for children and adults in attendance.

He said there was also a procession, which took place around the Mlimani City Mall, involving National U-19 cricket team's players and some of senior national women team's

members.

There were also speeches by dignitaries invited to the launch and a draw for the competition's groups.

The DC Caravans T20 Cup tournament, which has participating outfits locking horns in 20-over

formatted duels, brings together the country's best cricket teams.

It is the only cricket competition organized by a private entity under the affiliation of TCA and the DC.

The showdown is regarded as the country's biggest T20 tournament and it is usually held during the last quarter of the year.

The competition is backed by several companies in the country which support the initiative as part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities.

Previous editions of the tournament have been graced by government officials and foreign envoys.

They include Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, his deputy, Juliana Shonza, and Director of Sports in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Yusuph Singo.

India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sandeep Arya, and top officials from various firms are other dignitaries that have graced the competition's previous editions.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

