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ISSN 0856 - 5434 ISSUE No. 8159• PRICE: Tsh 1,000, Kenya sh100 TANZANIA WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH, 2021

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400bn/- French loan for DART Phase V

By Guardian Reporter

FRANCE has extended a euro 150m (over 400bn/-) loan to Tanzania for the development of the fifth phase of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport (DART) project.

A pledge to that effect was made by the French Ambassador to Tanzania, Frederic Clavier, in a meeting with Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi earlier this week.

Prof Kabudi said his discussions with Ambassador Clavier dwelt on the implementation of projects that were discussed when he visited France last month.

"Our discussions dwelt on implementation of what we agreed on in France, including speeding up procedures at the development agency AFD (French Agency for Development) to release funds for execution of the fifth phase of the rapid transit project," he stated.

The talks also covered the quickening of projects in energy, water, health and agriculture sectors, he elaborated.

"We also discussed on ways of helping the Union and Zanzibar governments' blue economy efforts, intended to empower Tanzania to fish, process and ex-

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'Poor, disabled left out in Africa's key healthcare drives'

By Guardian Reporter

THE poor, disabled and other marginalized groups have been left out in various Universal Health Coverage (UHC) efforts undertaken by African countries. The state of UHC report released yesterday by the independent Africa Health Agenda International Conference (AHAIC) commission attributes this situation to poor governance and economic challenges on the continent's health policies.

"Africa's health systems are poorly attuned to meet the health care needs of the poor, the disabled and other vulnerable groups," the report affirms, noting that coverage of essential health care services in Africa stands at about 48 per cent of the population, about 615 million people receiving the health care services they need. The quality of health care services provided in African countries

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Works and Transportation minister Dr Leonard Chamuripo pictured in Mwanza city yesterday climbing a ladder aboard the state-of-the-art US\$39 million MV Mwanza 'Hapa Kazi Tu'. The ship is being built at the Mwanza shipyard by Gas Entec, a South Korean engineering and design firm with shipbuilding experience. Sources say the vessel's capacity will be 1,200 passengers and 400 tonnes of cargo alongside 20 small vehicles and three trucks, this qualifying it as the largest in Africa's Great Lakes region. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Tanzania seeks Kiswahili formalisation in SADC use

By Guardian Reporter

TANZANIA has made another push to see Kiswahili formally approved as an official language in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

The appeal was submitted by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Brig Gen. Wilbert Ibuge at a virtual meeting of SADC permanent secretaries early this week.

"We in Tanzania have recommended Kiswahili to be used as a working language from the ministerial level to the SADC heads of state and government meetings to enable the language to formally become one among official languages in SADC operations," he said.

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SADC has been using colonial languages for a long time and from the wisdom of SADC Heads of State and Government, they decided to use Kiswahili at the ministerial level and Heads of State meetings, he elaborated.

The meeting was preparing the agenda for the SADC ministerial meeting slated for Friday this week via video conferencing, and chaired from Dar es Salaam, he stated.

Tanzania's push for the acceptance of the language saw SADC adopt Kiswahili as its fourth official language in 2019 but the process was not formalized to allow its use in formal meetings, with other SADC official languages - English, Portuguese and French.

The decision was announced at a summit

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'Some NEMC staff collude in importing banned plastics'

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has warned its officials not to collude in the importation and distribution of banned plastic bags from neighbouring countries.

Addressing journalists here yesterday, NEC Director General Dr Samuel Gwamaka said that unscrupulous officers tasked with enforcing the ban on plastic bags are part of a syndicate that facilitates entry and sale of the bags.

"NEMC staff have a duty of ensuring that the banned plastics do not get into the country; they are not supposed to work with the criminals,"

"NEMC staff have a duty of ensuring that the banned plastics do not get into the country; they are not supposed to work with the criminals," he warned.

He urged the public not to leave the enforcement task to state agencies alone but be good citizens by reporting to authorities any act of importation and sale of plastic carrier bags.

"Everybody has a role to play and one big part each of us can play is to stop using illegal items smuggled into our country through illegal means," he further stated.

Dr Gwamaka's comments follow last week's seizure of a consignment of prohibited tube plastics at Buswelu area in Ilemela district, Mwanza region.

From 1st June 2019 all plastic carrier bags, regardless of their thickness were prohibited from being imported, exported, manufactured, sold, stored, supplied or used in the country.

However, enforcement of this ban, while

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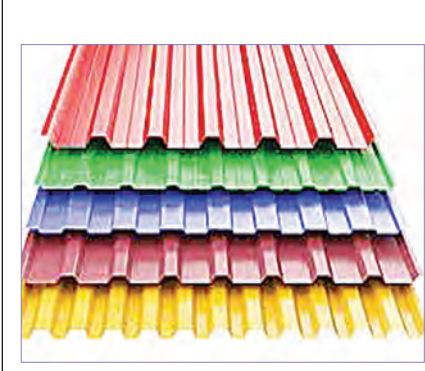
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400bn/- loan due for Phase V of DART project

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port the commodity, also empowering small and medium scale fishermen with needed skills.

This will bring in large investors in the fisheries industry to develop the blue economy, he said, noting that the two countries similarly agreed on auxiliary aspects to blue economy like culture, language, socio-economic development of ordinary people where carrying out the project.

In his meeting with European Union Ambassador Manfredo Fantì, the minister aired a number of cooperation issues with the EU, and obtained pledges for six projects which will obtain funding from the EU.

"We also agreed to reinforce our relations in industrial development, improving the business environment, tackle climate change, enhance agriculture, water, infrastructure and ensuring that Tanzania improves energy production capacity," he specified.

For his part, Ambassador Frederic Clavier said that talks with Prof Kabudi had ushered in a new step in relations between the two countries.

"Our conversation was warm, and shows that Tanzania is the best friend and ally in this era. The country is democratic, stable and peaceful and France will continue to work closely with Tanzania in a win-win situation," he declared.

After AFD showed interest in investing in the fifth phase of DART, six French senators toured the DART corridor from Morocco bus stop to the Kivukoni terminal a year ago to familiarize themselves with the project before making a final decision on its financing.

Phase III covers 24.2 kilometers of road stretches including Nyerere Road, Uhuru Street, Shaurimoyo Street, Lindi Street, Bibi Titi Road, Azikiwe Street, and Maktaba Street and is financed by the World Bank.

Phase IV which covers 26.4 kilometers proceeding from Bagamoyo Road at Tegeta to Ali Hassan Mwinyi Road, Bibi Titi Road and Sam Nujoma Road was also discussed.

The conceptual design of the DART project in six phases was done in 2005 with the first phase starting in 2010. Completion of the project was set for February 2016 followed by the start of bus operations in May 2016 under an interim service arrangement, officials noted.



A virtual preliminary meeting of the ministerial permanent secretaries of Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) member states in session in Dar es Salaam yesterday. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Poor, disabled left out in Africa's health drive'

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is also low and is considered the poorest performing indicator of UHC, meanwhile as when quality of health care services is considered, service coverage scores across African countries are even lower, it stated. Coverage of essential services needed by women and girls in Africa is similarly low, with data indicating that from 2015 to 2019, around 49 per cent of African women had their demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods.

Compiled from November 2020 to March 2021, the State of UHC in Africa takes stock of Africa's progress in fulfilling commitments made by African leaders, such as the Abuja

Declaration (2001), the Africa Health Strategy (2007-2015, 2016-2030) and the Addis Ababa Call to Action on UHC (2019).

It acknowledges the impact of colonial legacies, poor governance and economic challenges on the continent's health policies and outcomes, detailing the performance of African countries on key UHC indicators. These include effective coverage with needed health services, financial risk protection and health outcomes, the report underlined. Despite the dismal performance on some indicators, a number of data indications were positive, even with the proportion of individuals pushed into poverty due to out-of-pocket health care payments each year remaining high. About 15 million people representing around 1.4 per cent of the continent's population fall into poverty this way, but the number is gradually declining, it specified.

Despite these challenges, the

21st century has seen African leaders show stronger political will to achieve UHC, creating an opportunity for countries to push the needle on change. The commission highlights key opportunities that African countries can leverage to accelerate progress towards UHC, including political will, well-trained and competent health professionals and projected economic growth. In its recommendations, the commission proposes several actions to ensure steady progress towards UHC, including re-orienting health system priorities to respond to population health needs. Other recommendations include strengthening primary health care as the foundation for UHC; investing in strengthening health system inputs by boosting the number of skilled health workers especially in primary health care. "This involves investing in health technologies to enhance the performance of all

health system functions plus strengthening governance and accountability," it asserted.

Dr Githinji Gitahi, Global CEO for Amref Health Africa, said that the COVID-19 pandemic has pointed out the glaring gaps in African and global health systems, making a strong case for urgent achievement of UHC. "While progress towards achieving health for all has been slow, current reality has reinvigorated countries' efforts to ensure better access to quality, affordable health care," he stated.

"Through the State of UHC in Africa report and AHAI 2021, we are hoping to provide a realistic roadmap that will guide African countries on their journeys to UHC and to ramp up support for greater multi-stakeholder collaboration across the continent, so that we can move from rhetoric to sustained action," the director added.

'Some NEMC staff collude in importing banned plastics'

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largely successful on carrier bags, has been facing challenges on the wrappers or tubes that NEMC is still struggling to get off the streets of major cities and towns.

After realizing that tubes were being used largely despite the ban, NEMC issued a statement in November last year giving December 2020 as the deadline for use of plastic wrappers.

NEMC points out that plastic covering has emerged in diverse sizes in local markets and are now being used as carrier bags, implying that the same environmental impact as the banned plastic bags is afoot.

The key issue that raised trouble in regard to this situation is that having plastic packing or covering material in the market is at variance with Regulation 4 (b) (c) of the National Environmental Act (EMA) of 2004, he stated.

The provision imposes a blanket removal of plastic wrapping or packing for commercial products, with the regulation having been made, gazetted and promulgated in order to protect the health and lives of consumers, along with protecting the environment from potential harm posed by the use and disposal of flimsy plastic bags or coverings, he added.

Tanzania seeks Kiswahili formalisation in SADC use

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of 16 southern African heads of state convening in Tanzania, where Kiswahili is the leading language, while it is an official language in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and in the African Union. It's also used in large portions of central Africa including the Democratic Republic of Congo, and some areas of southern Africa.

The summit had resolved that Kiswahili would be adopted at the level of the council and the

summit, first as a language for oral communication, and eventually being adopted for written communication within the bloc.

A summit communiqué at the time said the leaders approved Kiswahili as the fourth SADC official working language, "in recognition of the contribution of the Father of the Nation Julius Kambarage Nyerere to the liberation struggle in southern Africa."

The Pan South African Language Board, which promotes multilin-

gualism, reacted to this decision by saying that the inclusion of Kiswahili would help prevent the marginalization of African languages.

"Africa is the only continent where the majority of children start school using a foreign language. Across Africa, the idea persists that the international languages of wider communication including Arabic, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish are the only means for upward economic mobility," the board intoned.



WWF for a living planet

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – RFP PROVISION OF HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES TO WWF TANZANIA STAFF FOR FY 2021/22

1. WWF Tanzania Country Office is a Non- Government Organization dealing with environmental protection in Tanzania since 1990 and it has supported the Government of Tanzania in implementing various projects on Marine, Forest, Fresh Water, Energy and Wildlife. WWF global mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity;
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption

2. WWF TCO now wishes to engage a highly experienced firm in medical insurance industry, reputable and well established to provide Health Insurance services to WWF Tanzania staff. The qualities needed will be but not limited to:

- Comprehensive best services offered on both in-patient, outpatients, emergency evacuations as well as international referrals (Coverage/Benefits of Proposed Policy)
- Geographical coverage of the firm both local and international (providers network)
- Associated costs for the services rendered (Premiums/Pricing)
- Any other service niche competitive compared to the rest

3. All registered, eligible and reputable firms are advised to submit both technical in term of services offered and financial section in terms of premiums and services pricing and forwarded to procurement email at procurement@wwftz.org.

4. Each applicant should attach current License from TIRA and other related Licenses and certificates from recognized Authority and will be verified by WWF during evaluation process.

5. The Application prepared by the Applicant, as well as all correspondence and documents relating to the Application exchanged by the Applicant and WWF shall be written in English and currency used shall be Tanzanian Shilling – TZS and not any other. Supporting documents and printed literature provided by the Applicant may be in another language provided they are accompanied by an accurate translation of the relevant passages in English, in which case, for purposes of Interpretation of the Application, the translation shall govern.

6. Due to the current situation of COVID 19 breakout, all proposals will be sent electronically to the procurement email that provided in para # 6 below;

7. **Submission of Applications:** Interested applicants are requested to submit their electronic full proposals (both technical and financial) addressed to:

Secretary, Procurement Committee, WWF Tanzania Country Offices
Kiko Street, Plot 252 Mikocheni – Off Mwai Kibaki Road
P. O. Box 63117
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
email: procurement@wwftz.org; website: <http://www.panda.org>

- This advert is also accessible on WWF website <https://tanzania.panda.org/news/>

8. Evaluation of the tenders will be done based on WWF procurement guidelines

9. WWF Tanzania is not bound to accept any lowest or highest proposal submitted

10. All applications should reach us by or before **1000hrs** Tanzania local time **Thursday, 25th March 2021**

11. Evaluation will be conducted based on WWF procurement guideline

12. Only successful applicant shall be contacted.



Muheza district council chairman Erasto Mhina (2nd-L) presents cement to Masuguruni Primary School head teacher Hassan Juma Wema on Monday. It was an International Women's Day donation by women in support of the construction of dormitories for special needs pupils at the school. Photo: Correspondent Steven William

Govt nods to Mbeya-UWSSA plans on reparations for Kiwira water project

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE government has given its go-ahead to the Mbeya Urban Water Supply and sanitation Authority (Mbeya-UWSSA) to begin the 70bn/- Kiwira water project that is expected to solve water woes for Mbeya and Songwe regions.

The project's implementation will begin in FY 2021/22 and the Authority has been instructed to start groundwork including purchase of equipment to ensure it is completed in the given time.

Water ministry Permanent Secretary Eng. Anthony Sanga issued the instructions at the weekend during his visit at Kiwira river water source, saying the project would be completed within 24 months beginning July this year.

"We must implement this project and requires a lot of

money, now you must begin preparations as when the coming Financial Year starts it has to kick off in order to solve water woes for the residents of the two regions," he said.

Mbeya-UWSSA Managing Director, Gilbert Kayange, said as for now some areas of Mbeya City the water was being rationed due to the insufficient capacity of the water sources.

He added that when completed, the project will completely solve the City's water woes and extra water would be channeled to other urban centres in Mbeya and Songwe regions, adding that Kiwira River has sufficient water for the purpose.

He promised to immediately start implementing the PS instructions by starting early preparations by purchase of various equipment including water pipes.

Mbeya-WSSA Technical Manager Eng. Barnabas Konga said the water source has the capacity to satisfy water demand for residents of Mbeya City and other towns to be served by the project for a period of 20 years without the need for other water source.

He mentioned other district to benefit from the project as including Rungwe Mbeya and Chunya for Mbeya Region and Mbozi, Momba and Tunduma for Songwe Region.

He said the project will have the capacity to produce 366,000 litres of water per day, and the demand for Mbeya City was only 79,000 cubic metres.

Rungwe District Administrative Secretary Mnkondo Bendera requested the government to ensure all villages in the district along the way of the project to part of those to benefit as they also lacked water service.

Dr Mwinyi tasks Zanzibar Works ministry on accountability for improved service delivery

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi yesterday tasked the Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport to strengthen transparency and accountability so that they effectively contribute to Isles' socio-economic development.

Dr Mwinyi made the directives yesterday when he met the ministry's leadership at State House.

He said that the ministry has to take deliberate measures to ensure that all its institutions deliver to compliment the government's efforts to boost the Isles' economy.

"Most of the institutions in the ministry are yet to achieve the required target towards stimulating and contributing to the economic growth, so, as leaders you have to go and remove all unnecessary barriers the hinder the country's economic growth," Dr Mwinyi

told the leadership.

According to him, the ministry has a big role to ensure that the country's roads, airports, ports and communications infrastructure are well and improved and this cannot be achieved without having proper implementation plans in place. Dr Mwinyi also wanted the ministry leadership to supervise the renovation of Ole-Kengeja road in Pemba which is reported to have been badly destroyed. He also expressed his dissatisfaction on the revenue collections trend at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport directing the ministry to install friendly infrastructure to support smooth and clear collections of taxes.

"Same applies to the port of Zanzibar where a lot of government revenues are lost. I want the ministry to supervise this and ensure that all public revenues are collected electronically," he said. Dr Mwinyi further

emphasised the ministry's staff and officials to be efficient, observe ethics when executing their duties so as to bring out required outcomes.

Minister Rahma Kassim Ali assured the minister that they are going to work hard, supervise the implementation of all the directives for the country's socio-economic development.

"We will continue supervising the development projects, fight recklessness and embezzlement of public funds, su-

pervise collection of revenues so as to stimulate economic growth," she said.

Isles' Chief Secretary Eng Zena Ahmed Said stressed that more attention is needed when implementing various projects under the ministry so as to ensure that they are all implemented on time.

Earlier, the ministry's Permanent Secretary Amour Hamil Bakari said that they have already written to the Controller and Auditor General (CAG) so

as to inspect the quality of various projects including the Ole-Kengeja road in Pemba.

"We also formed a special technical team which comprises engineers and ICT experts so as to supervise the construction of the passengers building (Terminal 3) at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, the port is currently also working 24 hours serving 10-11 containers per hour compared to the previous 5-7 containers," he said.



Dodoma City Lands officer Leonard Machunde responds to questions at an open meeting held at Mnadani in Dodoma Region at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Peter Mkwavila

'Transparency is key to better governance'

By Guardian Reporter

TRANSPARENCY is widely supposed to make institutions and their office holders both more trustworthy and more trusted. Transparency improves trustworthiness.

Officials in the country's communication institutions with offices in the mainland and Isles have been called upon to be transparent to the people by explaining in depth about various laws, procedures and guidelines in order to remove any misunderstandings over services provided by the institutions in both sides of the Union - namely the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited (TTCL) and Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC).

The call was made by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications and Technology Dr Zainab Chaula in a meeting on Monday that brought together permanent secretaries of the Mainland Ministry of Communication and Technology and the Zanzibar Ministry of Works, Communication and Transport

Dr Chaula said the institutions are required to fully understand various laws, procedures and guidelines governing service delivery, including educating the public to abide by the laws without coercion.

"We had eight issues, and after going through them, five remained which basically are issues to for enforcing our laws, regulations and procedures as well as to increase our understanding thereof because the main aim for their establishment was to ensure they are adhered to," she said.

Dr Chaula said the meeting was well conducted and the experts were well mobilized when communicating

whereby various challenges tabled have been adopted and improved for submission at the ministerial meetings of the two ministries for decision.

For his part, the Zanzibar Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Works, Communications and Transport Amour Bakari said the meeting was the continuation of joint meetings among communication institutions from the both sides of the Union which earlier begun at officials' levels.

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Oil, gas stakeholders in Z'bar push for law on local content

By Getrude Mbogo

OIL and gas stakeholders in Zanzibar have called on the government to come up with the law on local content, which will stimulate greater engagement of Zanzibaris in the lucrative oil and gas sector.

Speaking during the stakeholders meeting held in Zanzibar early this week, the chairman of the Association of Tanzania Oil and Gas Service Providers (ATOOGS) Abdulsamad Abdulrahim said by having the laws, will guarantee more locals to participate in various strategic projects and thus enhance their incomes.

The meeting was aimed to

discuss the process towards establishing an association of the Zanzibar's Association of Oil and Gas Providers (ZAOGS) which will be responsible for policy advocacy for the promotion of local content in the development of the oil and gas industry, and creating a trusted and credible network of providers to facilitate local and international partnerships.

Abdulsamad said that the association aims to bring together Zanzibaris, encourage them seek to provide services in the lucrative oil and gas sector.

He also urged legislators to also get prepared to approve laws that ensure the oil and gas' wealth benefits all citizens

in the Islands of Zanzibar.

He said that late last year, Zanzibar President Dr Hussein Mwinyi wanted the oil and gas service providers to form an association which would enable them to engage more in the sector and thus produce employment opportunities to benefit the locals.

Abdulsamad expressed ATOOGS and the expected ZAOGS keenness to collaborate with the government and other private sector players in Zanzibar and Tanzania at large in order to fast-track the country's economic growth through the oil and gas sector in particular.

He said it is imperative that

Zanzibar under its newly launched 2020-2050 Blue Economy version benefits from the emerging sector. So the establishment of the association will contribute much to the economy and improvement of people's livelihoods.

He also wanted companies working in the oil and gas sector to seek services from locals instead of importing them from outside Tanzania.

Arafa Salim Rashid, a lawyer from Zanzibar Petroleum (Upstream) Regulatory Authority (ZPRA) said that the government will continue reviewing and amending various laws to govern the oil and gas sector so as to enable investors and

stakeholders conduct their activities smoothly.

She urged Zanzibar's to grab opportunities available in the sector to improve their lives and contribute to the country's economy.



He also urged legislators to also get prepared to approve laws that ensure the oil and gas' wealth benefits all citizens in the Islands of Zanzibar.

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Janeth Shango (3rd-R, foreground), NMB Bank Plc's southern zone manager, presents corrugated iron roofing sheets worth 5m/- yesterday to Mtwara district administrative secretary Thomas Salala (2nd-L) for use by the Mtwara regional hospital – Ligula. Left is a medical officer with the hospital, Dr Robikieki Kisambu. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

3 villages without road link in Mbeya

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of three wards of Utengule Usangu, Luhanga and Igurusi in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have been cut off, with the road linking them washed away by heavy rains.

The disconnection of the road has brought businesses to a standstill as no transport facility has been able to pass through including an ambulance which was carrying a patient who was referred to Chimala mission hospital.

Speaking during an event to try to bring the road to normal, the residents requested the government to help them rehabilitate the road which requires massive resources.

One of the residents Haji Bakari said the road was very significant to the district because they use it to transport farm products to markets.

"Apart from having a health centre at a nearby ward, we have a market which we sell our harvests to improve our economic life but now we cannot due to the various reasons," he said.

He said the government loses a huge amount of money because they fail to collect revenues from business people who sell the products.

Another resident Mwina Mfumbilwa a resident of Utengule Usangu said she is afraid of being pregnant because they fear they may not be able to reach the hospital on time when the time comes.

Some of the youth in the area said they use the road for their various economic activities adding they expected loses this time because of the villages have been cut off.

The Member of Parliament for Mbarali Francis Mtega said the rains that have hit the area have caused damage to infrastructure.

He said apart from the Igurusi-Luhanga road there is another from Chimala-Ihai which has also been washed away by the rains.

Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) manager for Mbeya region Eliazary Rwekiza confirmed the road being washed away adding that the agency was about to work repair it.

Go for science subjects, schoolgirls challenged

By Guardian Correspondent

SCHOOLGIRLS have been encouraged to select and engage in science subjects and hence consider technology as a career path to accomplish their dreams.

Tanzania data lab training coordinator, Somoe Mkwachu made the call when speaking at the four-day intensive training program named "Codelikeagirl", for girls aged 14 to 18 years from various secondary schools in Dar es Salaam which are in need and those who are having IT training in their schools.

The training was conducted by dLab in collaboration with Vodacom Tanzania with the purpose of helping girls

to engage with the technology industry and also ending the misconceptions that Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is for boys.

Mkwachu said that dLab realized that girls don't like science subjects especially when selecting them at advanced secondary level and universities and find that during job interviews, male candidates are the ones qualifying for various posts for Information technology opportunities than female.

"We saw this challenge for many girls hence come up with this idea of this program to solve this challenge. The program intends to help more women and girls feel inspired to get into coding

and be more involved in the creation and development of tech. The main goal of the training is to encourage girls to participate in STEM activities" said Mkwachu.

Mkwachu said that as women remain significantly underrepresented across all STEM studies and careers, how do we make strides to close the gender gap and fuel the next generation of female innovators? At a time when technology continues to transform the way we live, work, and learn, the need to close the STEM gender gap is more critical than ever.

She said that for the technology aspect of STEM, it is believed that more young women need to realize

the career opportunities - whether this is working for a tech company, building their own start-up or becoming a developer.

"To do this, more young women need to be equipped with the hard skills that will enable them to take these kinds of roles. It was also found that women account for less than one-fifth of the IT workforce in Tanzania. Culture, stereotypes, and unconscious bias all play a role in this shortage of women in the industry," said Mkwachu adding that not only that but also the training will help girls to create a fun atmosphere and excited about all the career paths that's available to them.

She said that during the

four days, girls are trained on how to design a website something which can encourage them to see that IT is something normal and easy and can be done by girls.

She said added that during the last day, girls will be making presentations and come up with creative ideas and design websites well and therefore the winner will be awarded various prizes to encourage them further.

Kihomo Mwela from St Francis Secondary school (Mbeya), said that the "Codelikeagirl" program has opened her eyes and she has managed to design a website, something she didn't know before.

Mwela said advised her fellow girls to stop the mentality that science subjects are for boys only, and yet girls can settle and do better than boys who always think they are the best when it comes to science subjects.

She also urged other girls not to give up and grab various opportunities like "Codelikeagirl" programs once announced so that they can be able to know more about IT and other related issues which can help them in their future career and life at large.

Shenazi Hamisi Alpha High school in Kinondoni said that it's not true that science subjects are difficult and can't be handled by girls, but rather they need cour-

age, determination and time therefore girls should go for science subjects.

"You can't learn something and understand it well or know it all at once, one must be patient, and have courage to learn. Girls can do wonders if they are given chances. I will take this knowledge have acquired from dLab and spread it to my friends and the society I am living in" said Hamisi.

The program started in the year 2019. To date the program has reached more than 700 young girls. The program has been implemented in Dar es Salaam and Arusha. It is planned that in this year, the program will be conducted in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma and Mwanza.

RC orders region's local councils to allocate areas for investment

By Guardian Correspondent, Tabora

LOCAL councils in Tabora Region have been directed to allocate areas for investment in order to mobilise and attract investments from within and outside the country.

The directive was given early this week by Tabora Regional Commissioner Dr Philemon Sengati when opening the Region's Consultative Council (RCC) that met to review 2021/22 Budget proposals.

Dr Sengati said the areas should be offered to investors without any payment and that there should be no objections that lack basis.

"We want to prepare a conducive environment for them, they should come in big numbers, we want to have big factories that will develop our region and provide employment for our youth...in this we must have the same view as a region to woo many investors," stressed the . He said apart from allocation of the investment areas, it would be better to have large block farms for cashew nuts, mangoes, sunflower and areas for beekeeping for industrial raw materials.

The RC also praised Karangasi Village in Uyui District that has begun setting aside large areas for investment in cashew nuts cultivation.

Contributing to the topic, the Head of TPDF 202 Brigade, Brig Gen Julius Gambosi said in the exercise for survey of land for allocation to various development activities, it would be better for the Councils to allocate areas for the Military for security purposes including huge development projects. He said it would also be better that in every area with many development projects, there should also be areas allocated for security in regard to the projects' sustainability.



Iringa regional CCM chairman Dr Abel Nyamahanga (R) joins forces with members of the party's political committee in the region and Rural Water Sanitation Authority officials in helping to move to safe ground a motor vehicle stuck in a pond on Monday. They were due to visit a water project in Migoli ward. Photo: Correspondent Francis Godwin

MV Mwanza is scheduled for completion in March next year

By Guardian Reporter, Mwanza

THE construction of MV Mwanza 'Hapa Kazi Tu' by South Korean firm GAS Entec Shipbuilding Engineering at 89.76bn/- is expected to be completed in March next year.

Inspecting the ship's building, the Works and Transport minister Leonard Chamuriho told journalists here yesterday that the construction of the

ship was now 39.3 per cent complete and that by October this year it will be lowered into the water for the remaining work and trials.

"I'm satisfied with the development of the ship's construction, especially the fact that it was being built by 150 Tanzania youth who are experienced in engineering and supervised by only 14 Koreans," he said.

He added that the construction of the ship has provided opportunity for Tanzania students to conduct

practical training whereby so far the ship has 25 students engaged in practical training in ship building.

Naval Architect from GASEntec Shipbuilding Engineering Rasmus Bayer said the work has reached the stage for the installation of the piping system for fuel, clean water and effluent including the welding up the ship's hull, and when completed it will have the capacity to carry 1,200 passengers and 400 tonnes of cargo.

Marine Services Company Limited (MSCL) Chief Executive officer Eric Hamisi told reporters that his company has a total of 14 ships, out of which nine were in Lake Victoria, three in Lake Tanganyika and two in Lake Nyasa

The minister was in Mwanza Region from Kigoma to launch MSCL Workers Council and to inspect the development of the building of the new MV Mwanza.



Puma Energy Tanzania staff Rehema Migambile (L) pictured at the firm's Upanga filling station in Dar es Salaam on Monday refuelling a Bajaj tricycle taxi operated by Jasmine Milanzi, who has disability. This was a special International Women's Day offer by PET to women motorists. Photo: John Badi

Thousands of Handeni villagers need 3,713 acres of land for agriculture

By Correspondent Beatrice Philemon

THOUSANDS of villagers in Handeni District, Tanga Region, have appealed to the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS) to give them 3,713 acres of land from Kwasumba Forest Reserve to do farming activities, hence improve their livelihoods.

The villagers are requesting the plot of land as they have no place to conduct farming something which affects their economic development.

Kassim Bakari, chairman of the Madebe village said in an interview that for many years, the villagers have been relying on the forest's piece of land for farming, but recently the agency wanted them to vacate the areas for conservation purposes.

"There are 6,792 residents here in the village, and most of them depend on farming to survive, we do not want to invade the forest reserve that TFS has allocated for environmental conservation in accordance with the law, we only need at least 3,713 acres of land that have been used by farmers since 1986," he said.

He said: "Right now there is no food in our families and schools, food shortage is very high, people don't have cash that in turn gives them hectic time when it comes to getting basic needs such as health services, food and others," he said.

Madebe village was officially registered in 1975 and had all the legal right to be in the place for farming activities since 1986 because villagers who were involved in farming activities at Makweli, Holusonga and Walambe areas close to Kwasumba Forest Reserve got permit from TFS.

So far more than 220 households who were engaging in the production of maize, sesame, sunflower and other cash crops have been affected due to the ongoing land dispute between TFS and them as they have

no land for farming.

"All crops and wells were destroyed by TFS's staff in the farms without even consulting the villagers, they just went there and destroy it, right now villagers are not sure of their life because they don't have land for farming," he said.

Although the village has already allocated a total of 2,564 hectares of land for village land reserves at Mkuzi area for CBFM, they will not engage in Community Based Forest Management (CBFM) because they don't have land for farming and they are not allowed to do farming activities in such area because it has been allocated for cattle grazing.

They called for the district council to assist them to get land for farming so that they can engage fully in CBFM at Mkuzi area.

According to him, despite the village being endowed with natural forests, residents do not benefit from them.

Responding, TFS' district's Forest Conservator, Majaliwa Maginga acknowledged that they removed the villagers from the forest as they were conducting agricultural activities inside the forest reserve which is against the law.

The KwaSumba Forest Reserve was officially gazetted as a forest reserve by the government since 1961 and it is prohibited to conduct any human activities including farming inside the forest.

"We have decided to destroy crops and wells after discovering that they invaded the forest reserve illegally and this area is not allowed for any human activity," he noted.

According to him, in 2017 TFS in collaboration with the Safety and Security Committee, carried out patrols inside the forest to keep out encroachers who invade the forest and they found villagers who invade the forest.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Researcher IITA-TZ-2021 - IRRI-004 -NRS- DAKAWA -MOROGORO

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) invites applications for the position of Researcher.

Background: The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is a nonprofit independent research and training organization. IRRI is a member of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural research (CGIAR) Consortium. IRRI develops and promotes new rice technologies such as high yielding varieties, climate and stress resilient varieties and technologies that offer the promise of increased productivity with optimum resources and hence ensure the welfare of farmers.

Duty Station: The position will be based Dakawa - Morogoro, Tanzania.

Criteria for Success / Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture
- Minimum 2 years of relevant work experience in plant breeding

Skills and knowledge

- Familiarity with quality control tools
- Proven technical proficiency in conducting research experiments preferably in the field
- Strong analytical skills
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Strong organizational and interpersonal skills

Responsibilities

1. Plan the implementation of routine experiment(s) in the field of Plant Breeding to support projects goals of the Organizational Unit's (OU's) research objectives related to breeding
 - Coordinate with collaborators on their research activities as required
 - Plan the support/manpower needed and set up work schedule
 - Prepare the material and equipment needed based on research outline provided
 - Assist in applying methods/techniques that guarantee the success of the experiments
2. Assist in supervising the implementation of experiments in the field of Plant Breeding
 - Oversee the work of research technician and/or contract workers to ensure that research activities are implemented according to plan and specific standards
 - Coordinate with collaborating OUs the timely supply of material needed
 - Contribute to the preservation of research areas and direct the maintenance of technical equipment (repair and replacement)
3. Collect and analyze research data in the field of Plant Breeding
 - Collect and process data to its required form
 - Identify inconsistencies in the data collection and/or missing information
 - Carry out graphical and basic statistical data analysis
 - Update database for storage and retrieval of information/data
4. Contribute to the preparation of reports and publications, and presentations in the field of Plant Breeding
 - Provide appropriate data and information about experiment(s)
 - Contribute to manuscripts/write —ups for annual reports and publications in referred journals as well as presentation/posters for national and international conference
5. Support the training of scholars, partners and on-the-job trainees as required
Act as resource person for training courses and visitors
6. People Management
 - Supervise the work of Research Technicians
 - Provide feedback on performance of Research Technician to immediate supervisor
 - Assist Students and Trainees
7. Perform any other duties as assigned by Supervisor from time to time

General information:

The duration of contract for the position is two years. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikochoeni Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org.

Applicants are requested to please indicate the reference number for the position as indicated on the heading of the announcement in your application as well as on the subject of your email if sending by email. If sending by post or hand delivery, please indicate the reference number on your application as well as on the left-hand side of your envelope. Please note that any applications without the reference number indicated will be automatically disqualified.

Closing date:

Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Seed Systems Specialist IITA-TZ-2021 - IRRI-003 -NRS-MOROGORO

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on behalf of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) invites applications for the position of Seed Systems Specialist

Background: The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is a nonprofit independent research and training organization. IRRI is a member of the Consultative Group of International Agricultural research (CGIAR) Consortium. IRRI develops and promotes new rice technologies such as high yielding varieties, climate and stress resilient varieties and technologies that offer the promise of increased productivity with optimum resources and hence ensure the welfare of farmers. There is a need to scale up the adoption of these varieties/technologies for faster impacts. Farmer-to farmer exchange of seeds is considered to be the main mechanism for the widespread dissemination of varieties. The dimension of farming system has changed in terms of the preference of the farmers, use of mechanized agriculture, men moving out for work and women holding the charge for farming. It's important to conduct research that can suggest interventions for awareness creation, demand creation, adoption and impact of new varieties. It is also important to compare and find the pros and cons of different delivery/extension approaches for dissemination of these varieties.

Under the supervision of Seed Systems and Product Management Lead - Africa, the Seed Systems specialist will work around, strengthening seed systems and extension research, promoting rural innovation, partnership and liaisoning, monitoring and evaluation of seed systems' development. Monitor the strategic collaboration around seed systems and extension research, conceptualize, design and execute research with the aim of evaluating the ongoing seed systems activities across different key projects in Tanzania and strengthen the same; and interact cohesively with the regional team in relevant activities.

Duty Station: The position will be based Morogoro, Tanzania.

Criteria for Success / Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture/ Agri business/Rural development with minimum 4 years of relevant work experience around agriculture extension, rural livelihoods, sustainable agriculture/development and project management.
- Master's degree in Agriculture/ Agri business/Rural development with minimum 2 years of relevant work experience around agriculture extension, rural livelihoods, sustainable agriculture/development and project management.

Skills and knowledge mandatory

- Knowledge and extensive experience in the field of agriculture extension, agri-business planning, rural development
- Strong oral and written communication skills and scientific documentary skills
- Strong organization and interpersonal skills
- Experience of working with government stakeholders (Ministries, national partners)
- Experience of extensively working with and managing partners
- Experience with gender and rural development approaches
- Experience on data analysis and relevant statistical tools

Preferred

- Working experience in stakeholder management, development research, and applied agri-economics
- Work experience with international organizations
- Good understanding of rural livelihood systems

Responsibilities

3.1. Purpose

- Monitor and manage the strategic collaboration around seed systems and extension research. Conceptualize, design, execute collaborative research to evaluate and improve good quality seed demand creation approaches across various regions in Tanzania
- Promote, manage various rural development and innovation models around extension/seed systems/climate

smart technologies engaging various institutions, change agents and stakeholders

- Identify gender- and market-responsive seed systems interventions and extension approaches for enhancing livelihoods, including demonstration of new varieties to generate demand and capacity building of local institutions
- Recommend approaches for promoting seed entrepreneurship amongst women and youth and their collectives
- Design, manage and monitor research activities including necessary protocols, research tools, data collection, analysis and interpretation

Establish and promote strategic partnership, innovation forums and partner management for key projects

3.2. Engagement

- Consult and collaborate with NARES/ Govt and non-Govt extension agencies, and private sector partners for strengthening seed systems and extension research and new approaches in seed and delivery systems
- Work closely with partners, facilitators, enumerators for executing surveys and various research-oriented interventions
- Collaborate with NGOs, Community based institutions, women's groups for innovation in extension approaches, gender-responsive interventions and piloting seed entrepreneurship models
- Engage with knowledge agencies, training institutions and experts for stakeholder capacity building and strengthening partnership
- Monitor and manage field technical staff for strengthening outreach programs, monitoring, evaluation, action research and experiments

3.3. Delivery

- Research studies designed, managed, analyzed and interpreted
- Documentation of research findings including data collection, analyses and reporting, measured outcomes, impacts
- Technical literature and publication in scientific journals/websites
- Knowledge and communication products including website, blogs, newsletters, etc
- Various extension models and interventions for farmers, women farmers and key stakeholders executed, monitored and evaluated
- Contribute to the development of concept notes and projects for funding or technical collaborations for research and development jointly with relevant IRRI staff
- Develop and contribute towards documentary outputs like knowledge products and research document/publications/scientific writing/policy briefs

General information:

The duration of contract for the position is two years. This is a nationally recruited position and IITA offers a competitive remuneration package.

Applications: Applications including curriculum vitae, copies of certificates, telephone number, email address, and names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Country Representative, IITA-Tanzania, Plot No. 25, Mwenge – Coca-Cola Road, Mikochoeni Industrial Area P.O. Box 34441, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania or by email to IITA-Tanzania@cgiar.org

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Closing date: Two weeks from the date of advertisement appearing in the newspaper.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Poor roads make Mbeya villagers transport their dead in stretchers

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of Maendelo and Tembela wards in Mbeya are being forced to transport their dead and pregnant women by using stretchers on their shoulders due to poor roads joining the two wards that are impassable by motor vehicles.

The residents also claim that apart from transporting their dead in stretchers, poor road condition was also hindering them to transport their crops to markets, especially potatoes, the area's main cash crop.

Speaking to reporters at the weekend, the residents claimed as for now road communication was cut off especially during the current rainy season, with women claiming that sometimes they are forced to deliver on the roadside.

Maendelo ward Councillor Daniel Nyamwale said the 27-km Simbabwe-Shamwengo road was in pathetic condition especially between Muungano and Shamwengo villages.

He said apart from poor roads, the bridge over Mawe River poses danger to the residents due to lack of guiderails on one side.

He appealed to the government through TARURA to repair their road to enable the residents to engage in the development activities.

For his part, Tembela ward Councillor Juma Mwakalobo said the residents are forced to lower their dead down to Simbabwe village and begin transporting them on shoulder borne stretchers. He said the road was very dangerous as it passes through mountainous areas and narrow bridges, with some vehicles failing to negotiate the steep gradients, some of which backtrack, thereby endangering peoples' lives.

He said a man fell over the Mawe River bridge and drowned due to lack of guiderails, and they have been complaining about the bridge from time to time.

Some of the women said being transported in stretchers was torturous but there was no alternative due to failure of vehicles to pass through the poor road.

Editha Mwanjila, one of them said motor cycle (boda boda) transport was costly and was hazardous to those pregnant, and that is why they find it suitable to be carried in stretchers.



Implementation of the second phase of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transport construction project is making steady progress, as found yesterday along a stretch of Kilwa Road. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

CCBRT, Sun Pharma conducting free eye screening in efforts to fight glaucoma

By Guardian Reporter

THE Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) in collaboration with Sun Pharma is from today to Saturday, conducting a free eye screening and consultation in efforts to fight glaucoma.

The exercise is part of the commemoration of the World Glaucoma Week which is held from March 7 to 13.

Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that damage the optic nerve, the health of which is vital for good vision.

Dr Cyprian Ntomoka, Head

of CCBRT's Eye Department said: "Glaucoma is a silent thief. We often receive patients at an advanced stage of the disease without them even knowing."

He said the free eye check-up and consultation will also draw attention to this serious condition, which can be treated and managed if caught early.

Dr Ntomoka said glaucoma which is the second leading cause of irreversible blindness in the world; occurs when fluid in the eye cannot drain properly, increasing inside pressure and puts stress on

the optic nerve. As the condition progresses, so can damage to the optic nerve, leading to impaired vision and even blindness.

"The condition can neither be cured nor can the visual damage be restored, but through treatment the eye can be stabilized and further damage prevented. People aged 40 and above are at higher risk, as are those with glaucoma in the immediate family," he noted.

Dr Ntomoka explained that in Tanzania many people rarely go for routine sight check-ups, so detecting the disease in the critical early stages is

difficult. Glaucoma can also develop slowly, at first causing only peripheral vision loss, which can go unnoticed.

"By the time a patient notices a change in vision, the disease can be at a late stage. CCBRT patient numbers at different stages of the disease are high: "We receive between 40-45 patients at our dedicated glaucoma clinic thrice a week, but many others come throughout the week without appointment into the specific clinic".

He said that the mainstay of treatment is medication to lower pressure inside the eye

to within normal parameters: 10-21mm Hg.

"The most important thing is to prevent optic nerve damage. If someone presents with severe damage, we are keen to get pressure back to the lowest possible reading within the normal range, and if there is moderate optic nerve damage, we can bring it down to the middle of that range", he said.

The most commonly available drugs here in Tanzania, he explains, are Timolol and Latanoprost. This single-strength medicine reduce pressures moderately mak-

ing them far more useful in early stages of the disease, advanced stages need some other combined drugs. Combined anti-glaucoma eye drops are now available though at a prohibitively higher cost relative to the economic status of most of these patients Dr Cyprian's patients.

Dr Ntomoka further said, surgery is another intervention, but patients with severely damaged optic nerves pose a significant challenge during operation.

He pointed out a big challenge with this approach that

some patients who undergo surgery assume afterwards that they are cured completely - so they disappear, and cease to come for follow-up.

"We occasionally get these patients coming back blind. The reality is that glaucoma is a chronic disease requiring regular check-ups and management," he stressed.

He appealed that the biggest thing anyone can do to prevent glaucoma and eye damage is go for routine eye checks, especially if you are over 40 years old and a first-degree relative of someone with glaucoma.

Tanzania vows to cooperate in Africa's standards harmonisation

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

MORE than 500 types of various standards in East African countries have been harmonised since the exercise started more than twenty years ago, it has been learnt.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam over the weekend, Director of Standards Development at Tanzania Bureau of Standards, David Ndbalema, said that they are doing well with standards harmonisation exercise.

"We are doing fine in the exercise, and Tanzania has pledged not to be a stumbling block in the business development," he said.

Ndbalema said his directorate has many functions, one being to prepare and announce all the national standards and review them. Narrating, he said before a standard is prepared a team of technical experts is set down to discuss its formation. They include experts from higher learning institutions, ministries, producers and other unions such as Confederation of Trade Industries (CTI).

He said up to now TBS in collaboration with experts has formulated a total of 3,334 standards since it was established in 1975. According to him the exercise of formulating and reviewing standards is sustainable.

Explaining, he said standard is published and declared by the minister responsible for Industry and Trade as mandatory or compulsory after passing all the stages for Standards Development.

A compulsory standard prescribes obligatory requirements or essential characteristics that are needed to ensure the usefulness of a product. Compulsory standards requirements are incorporated in technical regulations.

Whenever a standard covers a product that can affect health, safety, the environment or with significant impact to the national economy, such a standard is published as a compulsory standard. All other standards apart from the described are recognized as voluntary standards.

According to him, any interested stakeholder, consumer organisations, industrial units, industry associations, professional bodies, members of Tanzania Bureau of Standards and members of its technical committees may submit proposals to TBS for establishing a standard or for revising, amending, or cancelling an established standard by making such request in writing.

The work of formulation of standards on any specific subject shall be undertaken when the Divisional Committee concerned is satisfied as a result of its own deliberations or on investigation and consultation with concerned interests that the necessity for standardization has been established.

When the subject has been so investigated and the need established, the Divisional Committee concerned shall assign the task of formulating the standard to an appropriate Technical Committee or the Director General shall appoint a new technical committee for the purpose, he said.

He added that when a request for establishing a standard for any specific subject has not been accepted after its due consideration, the proposer is informed of the decision.

A draft standard prepared and duly approved by a committee is issued in draft form and widely circulated for a period of not less than two months (60 days) amongst the various interests concerned for critical review and suggestions for improvement. The wide circulation may be waived if so decided by the Sectional Committee where the matter is urgent or non-controversial.

Special attention is given to multidisciplinary areas such as energy conservation, environmental protection, rural development and safety.

The appropriate Technical Committee thereafter finalizes the draft standard giving due consideration to the comments that may be received. After approval by the specific committee, the draft standard is submitted to the TBS Board of Directors for approval as Tanzania Standards for publishing in the National Gazette by the Ministry for Industry

and Trade.

Ndbalema said all established standards are reviewed periodically, at least once in five years, to determine the need for revision or withdrawal. Standards which in the opinion of the Sectional Committee need no revision or amendment are reaffirmed by the Technical Committee.

TBS coordinates participation of Tanzania in standards harmonization activities at these levels in order to ensure that Tanzania's interests are taken into consideration in the process. The coordination is achieved through committees such as the TBS/SPS Committee, EAC, ISO, ARSO National Mirror Committees, National Codex Committee, and National Electro technical Committee of IEC.

He said the participation of Tanzania's stakeholders in this process is discussed through the national technical committees who may nominate representatives. Stakeholders who express interest or respond to TBS call to participate nominate their representatives through the technical committees. The committees agree on national positions on the agenda of the regional or international subjects before the representatives participate.

Apart from national standards, TBS is also a member of East Africa Standards organisations and that of SADC.

Narrating he said in SADC region they have harmonised few standards due to challenges from some of its member countries.

However he said the African Standardisation organisation (ARSO) has started new initiatives to harmonise all standards in the continent.

"We expect to have similar standards to be used in all the continent, and this work will be done by the ARSO in collaboration with all African countries and we are ready," he said.

Another role of his directorate is to provide training to small and medium entrepreneurs on standards and its requirements. He said the training department has provided various training to traders and various officials in other ministries.



Consumers Choice Limited salesperson Dorine Mtedzi (R) shows bioethanol stoves developed by the UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) to facilitate cooking. This was at an International Women's Day exhibition held in Dar es Salaam on Monday. The introduction of the technology is part of the UN agency's contribution to reducing the drudgery in kitchen work through clean energy technologies. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

490 edible oil producers, dealers trained on proper storage

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

A TOTAL of 490 edible oil producers and dealers in Mbeya and Songwe regions have received special training in proper storage of the commodity to make it maintain its quality.

The training was provided by Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and among the training's subject was to avoid selling the oil while displayed in the sun, the practice that makes it lose its quality and pose health

hazards to consumers.

Speaking to The Guardian here at the weekend, TBS Public Relations Officer Roida Andusamile said the Bureau was providing the training in every district of Mbeya district to producers and dealers.

She said they provided the training to 94 participants in Mbeya district, in Kyela District to 101 participants, in Rungwe to 62 and in Chunya to 62.

In regard to Songwe region, Roida said the training was provided in two districts - Tunduma and Mbozi to

61 and 119 participants respectively.

"As supervisors we have seen the importance to contact these stakeholders in various areas to be trained and the few who have attended will act as ambassadors in other areas by educating others," she said.

She said TBS officers were divided in two groups - others were in Iringa and Njombe regions and others in Mbeya and Songwe regions.

TBS Acting Director General Hamis Mwanasala said the training aimed at educating traders to abandon the

practice of displaying edible oil in the sun as it loses its quality.

He said apart from losing its quality, the commodity can pose health hazards to consumers.

He also called on the stakeholders to prepare the commodity in clean surroundings to protect the health of the consumers.

He said some of TBS duties were those done by Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA).



A health officer sprays a microphone with sanitiser shortly before Mbeya district commissioner William Ntinika used it at a just-ended exhibition of items made by people living with Aids. Photo: Correspondent Nebart Msokwa

Young Africans create software, thanks to UN-backed bootcamp

By Special Correspondent, Brazzaville

THE just-ended third African Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (ARSTI2021), which was held in the Congolese capital and online, saw several innovative young Africans, among 200 who took part in a bootcamp, create software projects and print objects in 3D.

They learned basic techniques in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), artificial intelligence and robotics. Convinced that young Africans were more interested in social sciences, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNESCO, and other partners initiated the bootcamp to arouse interest in scientific and technological careers among young people on the continent.

It is a question of imparting practical knowledge to the youths, so as to let them easily find professional niches in the future, according to the Executive Secretary of the ECA, Vera Songwe.

'The STI sessions remain important for girls and boys, because if they are the ones who would find an effective cure for malaria tomorrow, it would be a relief for the whole continent,' she said.

Songwe encouraged exchanges between knowledge institutions and African universities to mobilize the entire continent around developing STI. During the four-day bootcamp, young innovators, mainly from African high schools and universities, linked theory to practice.

After the training, many succeeded in creating software and printing objects in 3D. 'I am now able to create big data software that allows the management of telephone, banking, Internet and other data,' said Claude Candide Moukala, a student in Master 2 mathematics.

Training young people in STI is also seen as essential by Salah Khaled, who heads the Central Africa Office of UNESCO.

'The bootcamp brings together young people to give them pre-requisites. The ultimate idea is to generate enthusiasm among these young people for scientific professions so that they become ambassadors of STI in their respective environments,' he noted.

Congo hosted ARSTI2021 after Morocco in 2019 and Zimbabwe in 2020. The country will chair this Forum until 2022.

TIB donates roofing materials to Itende Sec School in Mbeya

By Guardian Reporter

TIB Development Bank has supported the government's efforts in the education sector by providing a total of 324 galvanized iron sheets to help roofing six classrooms of Itende Secondary School, Mbeya region which does not have a secondary school.

The support was hand-

ed over by the Director of Strategic Planning and Corporate Affairs of TIB Development Bank, Patrick Mongella.

During the handover, Mongella said the bank has handed over the grant in order to increase the prosperity of the education sector in Mbeya City Municipality and the nation as a whole as well as recognizing bank's

mandate in development spectrum.

Mongella said the issue of education is one of the strategic areas supported by the TIB Development Bank.

"Recognizing the fact that the issue of education is one of the areas we support, we saw the need for our bank to contribute by supporting Mbeya City Council to complete the education

infrastructure for students selected to join form one," Mongella said.

He added that he believes the support will contribute to the government's efforts of continuing to improve the education sector provided that it can provide sufficient knowledge and skills to graduates in all fields of education in the country.

Speaking during the event, the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Tulia Ackson, who was the guest of honour, said that the donation supports the efforts of President John Magufuli who aims at continuing to build and rehabilitating education infrastructure to continue improving the education provided that it can provide adequate knowl-

edge and skills to graduates.

Dr Tulia thanked TIB Development Bank for supporting Itende ward which does not have a secondary school something that forces children to go far to seek such education.

Dr Tulia took the opportunity to ask other stakeholders/banks to come forward to help other wards that do not have secondary schools

such as Izawa ward and Itagano ward both from Mbeya city.

"I would like to take this opportunity to call on other financial institutions to support the government's efforts to further improve the education sector in the country," she appealed.

According to the deputy speaker, Tulia school is expected to start in 2022.

'Corruption impedes EAC integration'

By Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

A MEMBER of East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA), Adam Kimbisa has cited corruption as one of the key challenges thwarting the East Africa Community (EAC) integration agenda.

Kimbisa who is also the leader of the Tanzania Chapter revealed this over the weekend in Dar es Salaam when speaking to reporters about the achievement of EALA.

He said that most of the partner states are said to have lost the war against the corruption, urging them collectively address the vice for the wellbeing of the East African people.

Other challenges according to Kimbisa include lack of political commitment among partner states, weak institutions that lack the capacity to enforce sanctions against member countries that fail to implement protocols.

He also described the selection process of the members of EALA is not democratic as they are handpicked by partner states with the absence of the citizens' views.

Non-tariff barriers, poor infrastructure and energy shortages, limited private sector engagement are other impediments to economic growth in the region, the EALA member said, citing the issue of peace and security as another challenges facing the trading bloc with more than 177million people.

He however said that EALA has successfully established itself into a strong and effective regional legislature and registered a number of achievements.

"Legislative is an important arm of the community. Since its inception in 2001, the Assembly has passed over 70 pieces of legislation, a number of which are very fundamental in the EAC integration process," he said.

Laws enacted by the Assembly take precedence over similar national ones on matters pertaining to the community, he said.

Kimbisa added that the regional law making body is determined to ensure that the necessary laws that facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the treaty for the establishment of the EAC and other attendant agreements that will drive the integration process are have been, and will be enacted. Apart from an oversight body, EALA serves as democratic link between the institutions of the East African Community and the people of East Africa.

"EALA, like any other legislature is the peoples' voice for the citizens of East Africa about the commitments and policies of their governments to the EAC. It has done this through Public Hearings, workshops, seminars, and public rallies on all major stages of integration and legislations," said Kimbisa

Assembly according to him has also been successful in the area of liaison with National Assemblies of Partner States. He said there is constant interaction between the Assembly and their counter parts in the National Assemblies of the Partner States through various forums such as Speakers Bureau and Assembly Committees on EAC Affairs among others to discuss matters of regional integration.

The former Mayor of Dar es Salaam City noted that EALA is expected to engage itself to the various stakeholder groups in the EAC by undertaking the sensitisation activities in the partner states. He said the activities also create an opportunity for participants to be better informed on the processes of regional integration and role of EALA within the dispensation.



National Assembly deputy speaker Dr Tulia Ackson (2nd-R) with Mbeya district commissioner Paul Ntinika (R), Mbeya City mayor Dourmohamed Issa (L) and TIB Development Bank's strategic planning and corporate affairs director, Patrick Mongella (2nd-R), pictured in Mbeya city yesterday lifting one of 324 galvanized corrugated roofing sheets donated by the bank. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

African countries encouraged to join climate coalition

By Special Correspondent

THE UK has called for African countries to join the UK-Egypt lead Adaptation Action Coalition, which commits to act on climate adaptation, integrate climate risk into all decision making and increase the availability of adaptation financing.

UK Minister for Africa James Duddridge called for participation during the second Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development.

Held in the first week of March, the forum, under the title "Shaping Africa's New Normal: Recovering Strong-

er, Rebuilding Better", calls for building back better, stronger and greener. Climate security was a key consideration, with Duddridge reiterating the risks of climate change and the need for action. As a result, Duddridge encouraged participation in the coalition, launched by UK prime minister Boris Johnson in January.

Africa is the most vulnerable to climate change - and as such, the United Kingdom will work with African countries to encourage greater climate adaptation planning and encourage donors to increase access to climate finance.

The UK, the host of this year's COP26, is hosting the

Climate Development Ministerial on 31 March. The meeting will identify practical steps to support the delivery of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This is one of many such collaborations that the UK has in place. The latest being the Energy Transition Council which hosted its first national dialogue with Egypt to find ways to support Egypt in its clean energy transition. "We are proud to support the Aswan Forum for sustainable peace and development," said UK Ambassador to Egypt Sir Geoffrey Adams, "bringing together African countries to explore African-led solutions to issues affecting the

future of the continent."

"It is vital that discussions like this take place, and especially so at present, as we all strive to ensure a resilient, sustainable and equitable recovery from COVID-19," Adams added. "This year and last at the Aswan Forum, the issues discussed have a direct bearing on the lives of millions, whether regarding climate security, or the role of women in society."

"I am confident that UK-Egypt partnership on these issues will continue to strengthen, and that we will continue to find ways to work together to meet the challenges, and seize the opportunities that Africa presents," he said.

The Guardian

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WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 2021

Taking A New Look
At The News
ESTABLISHED IN 1995

Buzwagi mine closure has a variety of opportunities

JUST what must be done to ensure that the Buzwagi gold mine - and other mines in future whether in gold or other ventures - closes safely at the expiry of what Barrick Gold Corporation feels is profitable cycle of investment, is attracting debate.

While the central issue is to stem environmental drawbacks if the mine closes in an unsavory manner, there is a cost analysis issue which cuts across issues of ownership of land as different from operating a mine, and corporate social responsibility.

That is what the government is apparently privileging, that it is dutiful for the company to close down the mine positively, not just run.

Depending on what mining sector analysis feel is the right cost margin for the business of mine closure, it is possible to justify one or other approach, as it can't be said that there is only one approach.

Again it is unclear what the law says in that regard as what happened at the weekend was a matter of ministerial visit and inspection, and issuing some directives.

It means that relevant agencies like the Mining Commission and even the jointly owned mining company between the Treasury and Barrick Gold weren't able to set out the right path to solving that issue, and merely inform the ministry what they intended to do, directly.

It would imply that there is a difference of perspectives, and if it can't be resolved say by a commercial court (the law says such disputes ought to be sorted out locally) then it would constitute a matter for renegotiation at the highest level.

But in the final analysis the crucial issue is technical, as to

whether there is one option of mine closure, refilling the massive pit with soil, sand, rock or gravel, and entirely with the mining firm bearing the cost.

The issue is, assuming that all land has value, is there no potential taker for that land who can assume occupancy rights from Barrick Gold and then use it fruitfully, quickly?

That comes down to asking what a company - or an individual - would do with a rather vast portion of land (taking up one or two villages, say) if he was handed a stretch of land which is marked by a massive hole in the middle of it, or rather constituting the main part of that plot of land.

Would such an investor say that this plot is useless as there is nothing one can do with a large hole, except that it endangers the lives of villagers surrounding the place as well as livestock? Is there no purpose that can be served there?

It would be astonishing if someone answered in the affirmative, that there is nothing useful that can be done with the land as it is, but it would not be surprising

if someone else answered that there is nothing useful that can be done by the government, or by the villagers, on that land.

Quickly it is seen that there is a problem of agency, as to who may take up that land after Barrick Gold Corporation leaves, and ex post facto such agent wants the company to prepare the land so that he can use it.

The company would say it is possible to get another agent who can use the land with presumably modicum investments, and fruitfully, like laying a pipe to Lake Victoria, fill it with water, and harvest fish, while a new wetland is also started.

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Green hydrogen economy is technology game-changer for sub-Saharan Africa

By Stanley Semelane

HYDROGEN can be deployed for various applications across the energy sector, for example, electricity generation, fuel cell electric vehicles and storage systems. This is a possible game-changer on how energy technologies could be deployed in South Africa and broader sub-Saharan Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa is endowed with renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, biomass and hydropower. I have previously highlighted the variable nature of renewable energy technology and the costs associated with storage as a major barrier to accelerating the adoption of renewables. Furthermore, a few weeks ago I indicated that there is a need to boost investor confidence as we write a new chapter in the South African renewable energy sector.

For this reason, we ought to reimagine what a South African just energy transition future should resemble. Which energy technologies can advance the objectives of a low carbon economy and decarbonisation? Can we have a decarbonised future based only on the energy technologies encircled in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)? What role can green hydrogen play in the just energy transition?

Many scholars recognise hydrogen as a major enabler for accelerating the decarbonisation agenda and, as a result, achieve the Paris Agreement objectives. Does this mean we are likely to see green hydrogen investments forming part of the energy transition future?

Technically, hydrogen is a proven technology energy source that has existed for many years. However, the renewable energy resources available in South Africa, together with the minerals petrochemical industry that exists, provide a unique value proposition for advancing the hydrogen economy.

Likewise, hydrogen can be deployed for various applications across the en-



ergy sector, for example, electricity generation, fuel cell electric vehicles and storage systems. This is a possible game-changer on how energy technologies could be deployed in South Africa and broader sub-Saharan Africa.

Is South Africa or sub-Saharan Africa ready for the hydrogen economy development? Do we have the required skills to advance a rapid hydrogen economy in a "just" manner? A hydrogen economy and jobs study conducted in the US shows a huge potential for green hydrogen-related sector employment opportunities. However, from the skills perspective, South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa might not be ready to fast-track the hydrogen economy.

Critics of the South African renewable energy sector have always argued that most of the coal value chain sector jobs would be replaced by freely available resources (wind and sun). Equally, a bigger share of renewable energy employment is associated with the construction phase, which only exists for 15 to 24 months per project. At most, the full-time renewable energy employees responsible for operations and maintenance account for about 19% of the South African renewable energy employment, in some instances, the renewable energy operations and maintenance creates about 3% to 5% of employment opportunities.

This makes the principle of just energy transition critically important, particularly for hydrogen development. Globally, many countries have committed to advance the adoption of hydrogen, however, South Africa is one of the few countries in sub-Saha-

ran Africa that is doing research for hydrogen economy development.

The major distinguishing factor of hydrogen is its "durability - a key performance factor... in terms of a fuel cell system lifetime that will meet application expectations". The durability targets for stationary and transportation fuel cells are estimated to be 40,000 and 5,000 hours, respectively, under unfailing operating conditions. This combined with electric vehicles that would be enabled mainly by distributed solar PV charging infrastructure provides a paradigm shift in how the energy sector will continue to transition.

At this stage, South Africa does not produce hydrogen components nor considerably process hydrogen material or assembly hydrogen components except for research purposes. Nevertheless, internationally, interest in hydrogen implementation as an accelerator for the decarbonisation agenda continues to gain momentum. Last week, we saw Sasol's plans to acquire 900 megawatts of renewable energy which will also include green hydrogen investments. Hydrogen can be utilised as an energy storage vector between periods of energy deficit and surplus. As such, fuel cells could be used to produce energy from the stored hydrogen, in which hydrogen is reacted through an electrochemical process.

What do these inevitable energy transition developments mean for those dependent on the coal economy? Are our institutions of higher learning ready and already preparing graduates who will provide skills needed in the green hydrogen economy?

The fundamental barriers to advance the hydrogen economy thus far have been setting up an enabling regulatory environment that would advance hydrogen adoption. We currently have no targets for hydrogen development although research work has been done in the area of hydrogen technologies.

Currently, from the policy standpoint, hydrogen is enabled by direct procurement of power from renewable energy independent power producers, though, the IRP is silent on hydrogen. This means that we are likely to lose out on localisation opportunities that could be derived from the hydrogen economy.

The renewable energy resources available in South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa resolutely position the continent as a potentially major role player in green hydrogen development. As such, increasing the green hydrogen benefits throughout the value chain will promote just energy transition and inclusivity.

This is an area that urgently needs attention as it has the potential to contribute to the most-needed energy diversification options that will ensure South Africa reduces its carbon emissions while sustainable development is stimulated. The country's just energy transition should be all about inclusivity and making sure that environmental sustainability and social equity are achieved.

China's word at WEF meet much relevant

CHINESE President Xi Jinping gave a speech to the online joining of the World Economic Forum's Davos conference, with the lofty title 'Let the Torch of Multilateralism Light Up Humanity's Way Forward.' It was important not because it offered new revelations about Xi's thinking or China's ambitions, but because it provided a handy summary of how China wants to be seen by others.

Although much of Xi's speech may have been completely honest and sincere, the public nature of the performance and some obvious inconsistencies suggest that it needs to be read with a careful and critical eye. How should it be interpreted, and what is the best way for other states to respond?

'The right approach,' he insisted, was to 'uphold the common values of humanity, i.e., peace, development, equity, justice, democracy, and freedom, rise above ideological prejudice, [and] make the mechanisms, principles, and policies of our cooperation as open and inclusive as possible.' To do that, he wants to 'build an open world economy, uphold the multilateral trading regime ... and take down barriers to trade, investment, and technological exchanges.' The World Health Organisation should be given 'full play' to build a 'global community of health for all,' and the World Trade Organisation should be reformed. A 'people-centered and fact-based policy orientation' should guide the development of rules on global digital governance. He once again

endorsed the Paris climate agreement and the concept of green development, and pledged that China was ready to 'work with other countries to build an open, inclusive, clean, and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity.'

The World Economic Forum (WEF), based in Cologny, Geneva Canton, Switzerland, is an international NGO, founded on 24 January 1971. The WEF's mission is stated as 'committed to improving the state of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas'.

The WEF hosts an annual meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in Graubünden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland. The meeting brings together some 3,000 business leaders, international political leaders, economists, celebrities and journalists for up to five days to discuss global issues, across 500 sessions.

The organisation also convenes some six to eight regional meetings each year in locations across Africa, East Asia, Latin America, and India and holds two further annual meetings in China and the United Arab Emirates. Beside meetings, the organisation provides a platform for leaders from all stakeholder groups from around the world - business, government and civil society - to collaborate on multiple projects and initiatives. It also produces a series of reports and engages its members in sector-specific initiatives.

Agony and its lessons



A COUPLE of days ago I had the good fortune of attending an entrepreneurs' Conference on Trade & Development.

Before inviting the keynote speakers, a few entrepreneurs were called upon to make short presentations on their businesses to not only market but also seek partnership with other entrepreneurs.

As expected, lots of businesses owners came up. I was thoroughly impressed by how lots of young people in this city have been able to identify opportunities in areas we often overlook, invested their time and resources, ultimately building enviable enterprises.

One particular man in his 50's caught my attention. He was easily the most active participant in conference. His businesses interests are in production, currently producing tomato sauce. He has tried his hand in manufacturing various products, injected substantial capital and failed a couple of times yet he never gave up or turned into a cynic like most middle-aged men would.

During the networking session, I walked up to him in an effort to learn more.

"Wisdom comes from being able to pick a lesson from every terrible life experience you go through and apply them in your own life encounters." He said to me.

These words have stuck with me since then.

See, every single person goes through a rough patch. Hardships is simply part of life. Your winning streak could extend for months or even years. You are happy, in good health, business is great and the family is happy. Then someday your fortunes change for the worst.

Things you used to take for granted escape you. Your health deteriorates, you can't seem to agree with your significant other or family members on virtual everything, business environment gets tougher that you can barely afford to meet your recurrent expenditures. You work long hours, implement new strategies but nothing changes. Your life seems to be going down the drain.

Now most people turn to religion during such moments. Pray, fast and devote more time to whatever religion they profess. Others blame there streak of bad luck on mystical powers. Black magic, bosses, family & relatives are usually the first victims. If such problems persist a good number sink into depression, alcoholism, drug abuse or turn pessimistic, spreading negative energy like a virus.

Perhaps due to conditioning by the society, outrageous testimonies, fake happiness & success exuded on social media you feel obliged to hide news about your struggles and put on a mask of contentment. Being a whiner isn't attractive, however, thinking of life problems as a curse, punishment or bad luck denies us the ability to learn from them. True wisdom comes

from being able to look into the mirror and see your true self devoid of the mask you try so hard to wear.

I have on several occasions taunted the importance of failing.

For a better part of the last hour, I have been revisiting all the painful experiences I have weathered in an effort to pick a lesson from each. It is unbelievable how I have been overlooking such a boundless treasure of wisdom.

Losing someone you care about teaches you that we are all on borrowed time so we should do right by everyone we care about.

The painful journey of recovering from losing all your savings while attempting to go enterprise teaches you that no matter how or what values you lose, you can always bounce back on your own two feet.

Becoming the laughing stock while on your first attempt to do public speaking makes you realize you didn't have to be born with certain skills to be great, with commitment and dedication you can learn absolutely anything and become prolific in it.

Spiraling out of control is meant to remind you that there is no shame in asking for help. That substance abuse, alcohol or meaningless coitus only provides a temporary reprieve to life problems. One has to face their demons head on if they are to break out of their psychological prison.

Getting depressed and lonely when you are the life of the party enlightes you to see through the facade and extend a helping hand to the friends going through tough times.

Since bad times and terrible experiences are bound

to happen, you and I need to shift our mindset in order to stop viewing challenges as problems when they are courses on life that seek to teach us invaluable lessons that will eventually propel us to greater heights.

Today, you too should revisit the not so colorful experiences you have had in the recent past and isolate lessons from each one of them.

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Kwitanga Prison distributes improved oil palm seedlings to other prisons outside Kigoma Region

By Correspondent Gerald Kitabu, Kigoma

KWITANGA Prison in Kigoma Region has started distributing improved commercial seedlings of oil palm, TENERA variety to other Prison institutions outside Kigoma Region.

This week the Guardian witnessed trucks lined up at the prison distributing commercial seedlings destined for Kimbiji prison in Dar es Salaam and Kalilankulukulu prison in Katavi Region.

Senior Superintendent of Prisons, In-charge of Kwitanga Prison Dr. Uswege Mwakahesya said the aim of taking the improved commercial seedlings to the Prisons is to extend production and eventually ensure the Prisons and the country are self sufficient of edible oils.

He said Kimbiji Prison in Dar es Salaam has cultivated four hundred acres of the improved commercial seedlings. The new consignment of the seedlings will be for replacing the seedlings which did not grow well. With well endowed fertile and potential land for the commercial crop, Kalilankulukulu Prison in Katavi has cultivated twenty five acres in which the improved commercial seedlings will be grown.

He said Kwitanga Prison is committed and determined to heed the Prime Minister's directive to ensure the exercise of multiplication of the seedlings is done around the clock adding that the seedlings are distributed to as many farmers, stakeholders and Prisons as possible.

"We have been working very closely with the Ministry of Agriculture through Tanzania Agriculture Research Institute (TARI) and Department of agriculture in Kigoma region. We are multiplying the improved seeds of oil palm variety called TENERA that will be distributed to all potential areas," he said.

As one of the Military Institutions with large farms, Kwitanga Prison has already cultivated three hundred and seventy acres of the improved seedlings of Tenera variety. The Prison is expected to cultivate five hundred and twenty four acres of improved commercial seedlings by April this year. "In total, we intend to cultivate six thousands acres of improved commercial seedlings by end of this year so that next year we can cultivate more acres," he said. "At village and Ward level there are extension officers who are training the farmers and providing advisory services so that they can grow the crop and increase productivity," he said.

Speaking during a working tour of Kwitanga Prison to inspect the progress of the improved seedlings and the ongoing distribution exercise, Director General of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) Dr. Geoffrey Mkamilo said that Kwitanga Prison is an Institution worth to emulate as far as production and distribution of seedlings is concerned.

The Prison was selected as a Centre of production



Senior Superintendent of Prisons Dr Uswege Mwakahesya (L), in-charge of Kwitanga Prison, updates Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute director general Dr Geoffrey Mkamilo on improved oil palm seedlings of the TENERA variety. Photo by Correspondent Gerald Kitabu

and distribution of improved seedlings of Oil Palm, TENERA variety. The Centre was selected by the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa when he first visited the Prison in July 2018 and the second visit in February 2019.

"Kwitanga Prison is an exemplary military institution because production is being done here, the efforts of multiplying and disseminating the improved seeds of oil Palm have reached the local government authorities, to farmers in Kigoma and beyond. Now, the Institution has gone as far as taking the improved commercial seedlings to other prisons in Kimbiji Dar es Salaam and Kalilankulukulu in Katavi. This is a great job indeed," he said.

"As you can see here there are a total of two hundred thousand im-

proved commercial seedlings of tenera variety which are sufficient enough to cultivate four thousands acres of the improved commercial seedlings. This is a great work going on," he said.

He said research, production and dissemination of the improved commercial seedlings of tenera in Kigoma and elsewhere is basically trying to address the issue of im-

portation of vegetable edible oil from Malaysia and some other countries like Costa Rica, which in recent years has cost the nation billions of shillings.

"Actually we import 365,000 metric tons of edible oil which cost approximately T.sh 443 billion annually. This should not be the case because Tanzania has a potential land to produce all types of vegetable edible oil that we need in this country," he said.

Citing an example, he said Kigoma alone has an area of about 114,000 hectares of land which is suitable for Oil Palm production saying if it can be utilized well, definitely the nation will be able to reduce or eliminate importation of vegetable edible oil in the country.

TENERA is improved seeds of oil palm variety being new variety after crossing two local varieties namely DURA and PISIFERA which are female and male respectively.

According to TARI-Kihinga Centre Director and National Coordinator for oil palm research in Tanzania, Dr. Filson Mbezi Kagimbo, TENERA variety is characterized by thick mesocarp, thin shell and high yielding potential.

Dr. Kagimbo said that the motive of TARI Kihinga is to produce more TENERA seeds which is the only improved oil palm variety so as to raise its production percent in Tanzania. Tenera variety is also considered as an improved commercial variety by large oil palm producing countries.

To boost oil palm production in Tanzania for increasing palm oil availability, among others, three most important interventions are being fulfilled: The first intervention is the production of improved commercial oil palm variety (Tenera) and supply to farmers.

The second intervention is to deploy all the potential area for palm oil production in Tanzania by planting Tenera variety. The third intervention is to replant the old oil palm trees existing in Tanzania with Tenera variety.

TARI Kihinga has a priority to produce improved oil palm variety (Tenera) and supply to oil palm growers at the same time sensitizing oil palm growers on the importance of replanting their old oil palm trees with Tenera variety.

Given the availability of improved oil palm variety, Tanzania has a potential to be a big producer of palm oil because there is ample land suitable for oil palm production.

Why are the media afraid to talk about sexual harassment?

By Melanie Walker

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day (March 8) presents an opportunity for media practitioners to think about gender equality and the long and often frustrating march towards societies that are truly equal.

As media, we are uniquely placed to drive forward this reflection and discussion. But while focusing on the challenges of gender in society, we owe it to our staff and the communities we serve to also take a hard look at the obstacles within our own organisations.

I'm talking specifically about the scourge of sexual harassment. It's likely to have happened in your newsroom. It has likely happened to a member of your team.

It happens to all genders but is disproportionately directed at women. It happens in every industry, regardless of country, culture or context.

This is because sexual harassment is driven by power, not sex. Wherever you have imbalances in power, you have individuals who are at risk of sexual harassment and those who abuse this power.

I've been sexually harassed. The many journalists and editors, friends and family members who I have spoken to over the years on this subject have also been harassed. Yet it is still hard for leaders to recognize that this could be happening within their newsrooms and boardrooms. Why does it continue to be such a taboo?

Sexual harassment is, simply put, bad for business. It can harm your corporate reputation. It is a drain on the productivity of staff and managers.

Maintaining and building trust in one's brand is an absolute imperative for media organisations globally. If and when a case gets out of control or is badly handled, this can directly impact your bottom line.

It is for this reason that we at WAN-IFRA Women in News has put eliminating sexual harassment as a top priority in our work around gender equality in the media sector.

This might seem at odds with the current climate where social interactions are fewer and remote work scenarios are in place in many newsrooms and businesses. But one only needs to tune into the news to know that the abuse of power, manifested as verbal, physical or online harassment, is alive and well.

Preliminary results from an ongoing Women in News research study into the issue of sexual harassment polling hundreds of journalists in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia indicate that more than one in three women media professionals have been physically harassed, and just under 50 per cent have been verbally harassed.

Just over 15 per cent of men in African newsrooms reported being physically harassed, and slightly less than one in four reports being verbally harassed. The



numbers for male media professionals in Southeast Asia are slightly higher than 25 per cent on both forms of harassment.

The first step in confronting sexual harassment is to talk about it. We need to strip away the stigma and discomfort around having open conversations about what sexual harassment is and isn't.

Media managers, it is entirely in your power to create dynamics in your own

teams that are free from sexual harassment.

Publishers and CEOs, you set the organisational culture in your media company. By being vocal in recognizing that it happens everywhere, and communicating to your employees that you will not tolerate sexual harassment of any kind, you send a powerful message to your teams, and publicly.

With these actions, you will help us overcome the legacy of silence around this

topic, and in doing so take an important first step towards creating media environments that truly embrace equality.

Melanie Walker is Executive Director of Media Development of the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA). She is a creator

of Women in News, WAN-IFRA's ground-breaking programme meant to increase women's leadership and voices in the news. It does so by equipping women journalists and editors with the skills, strategies and support networks to take on greater leadership positions within their media.

Women are key to development, so why aren't we centre-stage?

By Jane Godia

IN 1995, when the curtains fell in one of the largest meetings that have ever brought women together to discuss women in development, it was noted that women and media remain key to development.

Twenty-six years later, the relevant "Article J" of the Beijing Platform for Action remains unfulfilled. Its two strategic objectives with regard to Women and Media have not been met.

They are to increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication as well as to promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

Today, as we mark International Women's Day, it's an indictment on both media owners and civil society that women remain on the periphery of news-making. They cannot claim equal space in either the structures of newsrooms or in the content produced, be that as sources of news or as the subjects of reports.

Indeed, the latest figures from WAN-IFRA's Women in News Programme show that just one in five voices in news belong to women, be they as sources, as the authors or as the main characters of the news reports.

Some progress was evident several years back, with stand-out women being named as chief executive officers, editors in chief, managing editors and executive editors.

But these gains appear short-lived in most media organisations. Excitement has turned into frustration as one step forward has been replaced with three steps backwards.

In Africa, the problem is acute. The decision-making tables of media organisations remain deprived of women and where there are women, they are surrounded by men.

Few women have followed in the footsteps of Esther Kamweru, the first woman managing editor in Kenya and indeed in sub-Saharan Africa.

Today's standout women editors include Pamela Makotsi-Sittoni (Nation Media Group, Kenya), Barbara Kaija (New Vision, Uganda), Mary Mbebe (Daily Nation, Zambia), Margaret Vuchiri (The Monitor, Uganda), Joyce Shebe (Clouds Media, Tanzania), Tryphinah Dongwana (Weekend Post, Botswana), Joyce Mhaviile (Independent Television -ITV, Tanzania) and Tuma Abdallah (Tanzania Standard Newspapers). But they remain an exception.

The lack of balance between women and men at the table of decision making has a rollback effect on the content that is produced. A table dominated by men typically makes decisions that benefit men.

So today, International Women's Day is a grim reminder that things are not rosy in the news business.



Achieving gender balance in news and in the structure of media organisations remains a challenge. Unmet, it sees more than half of the population in our countries suffer the consequences of bias, discrimination and sexism.

The business of ignoring the other half of the population can no longer be treated as normal. It's high time that media leaders grasped the challenge.

This is not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it also makes a whole lot of business sense: start covering women, give them space and a voice in news-making and propel them to all levels of decision making within your organisation.

We can no longer afford to imagine that it's only men who make and sell the news and bring in the shillings to fund the media business. Women too are worthy newsmakers.

In all of our societies, there are women holding decision making positions and who are now experts in once male-only domains such as engineers, doctors, scientists and researchers.

Women can be deliberately picked out to share their perspectives and expertise and bring balance to the profile of experts quoted on our news pages.

The media are the prism through which society sees itself, and women are an untapped audience. So, as we celebrate International Women's Day, let us embrace diversity, which yields better news content and business products, and in so doing eliminate sexism.

We know that actions and attitudes that discriminate against people based on their gender is bad for business. As media, the challenge is ours. We need to consciously embrace and reach

the commitments made 26 years ago when the Beijing Platform for Action was signed globally.

As the news consuming public, you have a role to play too. Hold your news organisations to account and make sure they deliver balanced news that reflects the voices of all of society.

Jane Godia is Director for Africa at Women in News, a WAN-IFRA (World Association of News Publishers) programme.

South Africa's very first female black helicopter pilot teaches others to crush the glass ceiling

JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa's first Black female helicopter pilot Refilwe Ledwaba has some words of advice for anyone who fears discrimination will prevent them from achieving their dreams.

Refilwe Ledwaba, a pilot training young African women to become aircraft and drone pilots, poses for a photograph at the Grand Central airport in Midrand, South Africa February 28, 2021.

Instead of focusing on those who seek to do you down, find some of the many people who would be happy to see you doing what you love and join forces with them.

Growing up in apartheid South Africa with six siblings and a single, working mother, Ledwaba was very close to her local community but under no illusions about the outside world.

"When you are a female and a Black person, it is a double whammy," she said. "If you don't have the right people, you could be (Albert) Einstein, but you will never make it."

It was while training as cabin crew to help pay off her student loan that she found she felt more at home in the cockpit. Her white colleagues encouraged her to become a pilot and one, a pilot himself, offered to train her for free if she covered the cost of the fuel.

In 2005, she got the chance to learn to fly helicopters at a government school outside Durban, where she struggled with nerves and the idea women must always sit with legs together, something you cannot do while operating the controls.

Once again it was a white man who encouraged her not to give up, she said. The moment she flew solo, it dawned on her that she had broken



the race and gender barriers in one fell swoop. "(Flying) solo is one of the best moments in your life," she said

Months later she became the first female Black helicopter pilot to join the South African Police Service.

Now a certified flight instructor, she has run her foundation, Girls Fly Programme in Africa (GFPA), for over a decade, training hundreds of young women in aerospace and aviation. It now operates in four African countries and Ledwaba has her eye on others.

Reflecting on her career, she said she has always favoured optimists over cynics. The "number of people who are not happy to see you there are far less than those who want you to be," she said. "Partner with them."

WHO: Covid has worsened gender inequalities in Africa

By Guardian Reporter

COVID-19 is exacerbating inequities associated with gender in several key spheres of life and development, Matshidiso Moeti, World Health Organisation (WHO) regional director for Africa said in a statement issued in Nairobi ahead of International Women's Day to be marked on March 8.

WHO said that African women bore the brunt of income losses, social marginalization, and health risks that escalated at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the continent. Moeti pointed out that the pan-

demical's aftershocks had a disproportionate impact on women and girls in the continent amid the absence of a robust safety net to minimize their vulnerabilities.

African women despite accounting for about 41 percent of COVID-19 cases suffered immensely from social and economic disruptions linked to the pandemic including violence, job losses, and poverty. "The work that African women rely on for example in personal care and the informal sector came to a standstill for several months in some countries," she added.

"The aftershocks of COVID-19 pandemic

on women and girls have been profound, leaving many grappling with heightened risk to their health and safety," said Moeti.

"Our response must go beyond the clinical aspects of the pandemic and address the hidden crises that risk causing long-term effects to lives and livelihoods," she added.

An analysis conducted by WHO in 22 African countries says that ten of them reported a rise in maternal deaths linked to the pandemic with Comoros, Mali, Senegal, and South Africa reporting the highest toll between February and July 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

According to WHO, nine of the 22 countries reported a decline in skilled birth attendance carried out in formal health facilities alongside an increase in abortion-related complications amid disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Moeti said that WHO has partnered with African governments to minimize the negative impact of the pandemic on maternal health with a focus on expanding access to contraceptives and safe deliveries.

"We are working with governments to ensure the continuous delivery of essential gender-responsive services and we are pro-

viding training for health workers to support women suffering from gender-based violence," said Moeti.

Oulimata Sarr, regional director, Central and West Africa at UN Women said the pandemic slowed down progress towards gender parity in the continent amid poor health and economic outcomes for women and girls.

She said that harmful practices like under-age marriages and female genital cuts surged during the pandemic adding that empowering women and girls is key to realize a sustainable recovery.

Total talks of moving to mitigate environmental impact of programmes in Uganda, Tanzania

PARIS

FRENCH energy giant Total on Monday detailed steps it would take to mitigate the environmental and human impact from its Tilenga project in Uganda and a multibillion-dollar pipeline carrying oil from the country to Tanzania.

Total and its partner China National Offshore Oil Corporation plan to exploit oil reserves in Lake Albert in Uganda and construct a \$3.5 billion East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) to neighbouring Tanzania for export.

Environmental groups argue that the pipeline will threaten local communities, water supplies and biodiversity in both countries.

Total said on Monday it would voluntarily limit the Tilenga project's footprint within Uganda's Murchison Falls park.

While current permits cover nearly 10% of the park, develop-

ment will be limited to less than 1% of its surface area, and undeveloped regions will be voluntarily relinquished without delay, the statement said.

Total will provide support to increase by 50% the number of rangers ensuring the preservation of Murchison Falls park, and support a program to reintroduce the black rhinoceros in Uganda in partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Authority.

It said it would also work closely with The International Union for Conservation of Nature to protect chimpanzees, particularly by promoting the conservation of forest habitats.

The Tilenga and EACOP projects require the acquisition of 6,400 hectares of land, on which the primary residences of 723 households are located.

Each of these households will be given the choice between a new house or monetary compensation.



African Union urges end to violence against women

By Guardian Reporter

THE African Union (AU) has stressed the participation and representation of women in all decision-making bodies, calling for putting an end to violence against women.

"On this International Women's

Rights Day, I have a special and affectionate thought for all the African women in cities, and especially in the rural areas, who live in pain, suffer in silence, and are victims of physical or sexual violence," Moussa Faki Mahamat, chairperson of the AU Commission, said in a statement marking

March 8, International Women's Day.

"The African Union has made gender equality and the empowerment of women one of its priorities," Mahamat said.

Mahamat went on to say that the equality and empowerment of women are seen as an opportunity

to get African women "out of their deplorable conditions, made up of violence, exclusion and prejudice."

"Unfortunately, these wrongs exist and persist in most African countries. Women and girls continue to be the primary victims of the conflicts and crises afflicting our continent."

The AU's top official said the coronavirus pandemic marked a worrying setback in "gender equality and the empowerment of women."

Mahamat called for putting an end to acts of violence against women, hailing South African President Cyril Ramaphosa for

proposing an African convention on violence against women.

Mahamat praised the AU's new Chairman Felix Tshisekedi Tshilombo, president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for his commitment to pursue this action.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the man that changed the world, turns 90

By Yekaterina Sinelschikova

NOBEL Peace Prize laureate Mikhail Gorbachev, the first and last President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), turned 90 on March 2.

He was born in 1931, the year Joseph Stalin tried to eliminate the peasant class with his "iron hand" and banned private farms, instead creating collective ones, while implementing policies of terror against those who did not agree.

No one could have imagined back then that, six decades later, freedom would be enjoyed not only by private farmers but also by several dozen peoples and republics - all because of a boy from a Stavropol village in the North Caucasus.

Gorbachev (pictured) grew up in an ordinary peasant family, spending his youth in the field operating a combine harvester and all too familiar with the policy of collectivisation.

However, one of his grandfathers was actually the head of a kolkhoz (a Soviet collective farm), so the horrors of collectivisation - the hunger, the arrests and the forced labour - did not affect his family.

After the war (the family had spent four months under German occupation), Gorbachev graduated from high school with honours, became a komsomol (youth organisation controlled by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union) activist and even received the Order of the Red Banner of Labour for helping his combine-operating father gather a record-breaking harvest.

That experience would later be put to good use. Gorbachev ended up becoming the USSR's Agriculture minister. But before then, he would put himself through the country's best university, Moscow State University (MSU), where he studied to become a lawyer. This, according to him, was "the start of a prolonged process of re-envisioning the country's history".

In 1950, Gorbachev met his future wife Raisa, who would become his loyal partner and best friend. Their wedding took place three years later in the canteen of the student dormitory where he lived.

Gorbachev's party career took off from there. He garnered the loyalty of the "second and third faces" of the country under Leonid Brezhnev - as well as being in the leader's good graces. The Communist Party nomenclature unofficially referred to him as the "Boss of Stavropol".

Gorbachev assumed leadership in 1985. As the General Secretary of the party's Central Committee, he was very different from many of his predecessors. They did not have his strong health, nor his clarity of mind.

At 54, he was relatively young for the post and his "youthful" appeal, openness, education and willingness to mingle with the common people earned him sympathy from the West, as well as his own people, who yearned for change. "An all too unexpectedly nor-



mal human being," Francois Sagan said of him.

"Agreeing at the time to take up, as it were, the governmental post of General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, I understood, things that can't go on like this and I will not allow myself to keep this position, if I don't have support in implementing core changes," Gorbachev remembered. And change soon followed.

The first order of business was to renew "the fight for sobriety" with an anti-alcohol campaign, which was a huge problem for a country practically dying out from vodka and its substitutes.

Once at the helm, Gorbachev met with US President Ronald Reagan, marking the first time in many years that the two countries' leaders shook hands. This was the beginning of the end of the Cold War, as well as nuclear disarmament. A new day was dawning fast.

Gorbachev took away the Communist Party's monopoly on power and began to clean house. Elections were instituted, following in the footsteps of democratic nations. Censorship was eradicated, along with a number of other harmful practices, including a state monopoly on exports.

Gorbachev would meet with the American president a number of times. President George Bush would refer to the Soviet leader as "the architect of the perestroika" - or

On April 7, 1988, Gorbachev began withdrawing Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Two years later, he played a key role in German reunification and the fall of the Berlin

Wall. In March of 1990, he became the first (and only, as it turned out) democratically elected president of the USSR.

In recognition of his leading role in the peace process, Gorbachev received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991, forever cementing his legacy.

However, the policy of non-violence and democratisation had other consequences, as well: Gorbachev is still blamed for the ensuing internal conflicts between Soviet republics, resulting in the ultimate breakup of the USSR.

After resigning in 1991, Gorbachev left big politics and set up the Gorbachev Fund and the International Green Cross, strongly opposing the first President of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin.

In 2014, in an address to MSU students, he admitted responsibility for the breakup of the Soviet Union: "I sought to preserve it, but was unsuccessful... that is my burden to carry. Nobody took me off the job; I left of my own volition, because I just could not manage."

A Russia Beyond dispatch the Russian-Tanzanian Cultural Centre in Dar es Salaam e-mailed to The Guardian for publication.

Digitalisation offers high returns for emerging gas producers

By Grace Goodrich in Maputo

DIGITAL investment and uptake represents a billion-dollar opportunity for emerging LNG (liquefied natural gas) producers like Mozambique, as Covid-19 accelerates the demand for reduced-cost exploration.

The benefits of digital investment in the oil and gas sector are multi-fold: increased productivity, cost savings and improved performance all tend to follow investments in big data, the 'Internet of Things', artificial intelligence and other digital technologies.

Yet, according to Deloitte's digital maturity index published last May, upstream oil and gas significantly trails other industries when it comes to the pace and degree of digital adoption.

Resistance to digitalisation in the upstream energy space can be ascribed to several factors, some of which apply to hydrocarbon producers regardless of the maturity of their assets or the sophistication of their sector.

For example, the oil and gas industry imposes strict health and safety regulations to protect employees against high-risk environments such as offshore oil platforms. As a result, companies cannot be laissez-faire about implementing automated or robotic technologies without ensuring that the new technologies suf-

ficiently address safety precautions.

The sector is also dependent upon an extended global supply chain, in which labour forces vary in skill, capacity, size and cost. Compounding these factors is frequent market volatility, making digital transformations difficult to roll out in tune with ever-fluctuating oil prices.

However, one of the primary obstacles to digital adoption is exclusive to mature producers in that digital technologies must be integrated with legacy systems as well as with the oil and gas personnel operating them.

Such markets are often characterised by narrow exposure and high resistance to change. As a result, digitalisation represents a unique opportunity for emerging producers like Mozambique.

For the record, Mozambique discovered major offshore gas reserves in 2010 and took the \$20-billion final investment decision on its Area 1 Mozambique LNG development as recently as 2019.

The relative infancy of the sector - as the country prepares for first gas by 2023 - enables Mozambique to build technology into the DNA of its sector as it evolves in real time, rather than upgrade technologies and systems retroactively.

Oil and gas operations rely on highly technical, physical processes in which digital transformations must apply themselves to complex capital-intensive assets such as off-

shore platforms, LNG terminals or pipelines.

For its part, Mozambique has been at the forefront of spearheading large-scale gas developments that are the first of their kind both in the country and on the continent. These include the Coral South floating LNG terminal, the first newly-built deep-water floating liquefaction plant globally.

Mozambique has also leveraged German technological innovation with Siemens Energy's supply of four centrifugal compressors and six SGT-800 industrial gas turbines to provide on-site power generation at the Mozambique LNG facility.

In short, Mozambique has proven a worthy recipient of foreign expertise and remains in need of additional technology and knowledge transfer to apply to its range of world-class gas infrastructure projects.

As companies across sectors have had to adopt digital tools for remote work, Covid-19 has accelerated the need for digital rollouts - positioning technology as a means of coping with transformational changes facing nearly every industry.

Within the oil and gas sector specifically, digitalisation and optimisation of oilfield assets have emerged as principal cost-cutting mechanisms, as energy companies continue to face threats to efficiency, sustainability and profitability.

Well integrity, enhanced oil recovery, manufacturing execution

systems and cloud computing - such digital applications are capable of uniting real-time data with advanced analytics to improve decision-making and boost efficiency and sustainability.

This is especially as the need to allocate capital to assets with the highest returns and operational efficiencies becomes more pressing.

Now more than ever, Mozambique is in the midst of competing with other frontier oil and gas markets - both in and outside of Africa - to attract foreign direct investment into its budding energy sector.

Digitalisation represents a strategic competitive advantage, whether through advancing seismic surveys that enable companies to make better drilling decisions or by reducing data interpretation time and associated cost of exploration.

Indeed, for Mozambique, digitalisation represents a billion-dollar opportunity that it cannot afford to overlook.

Africa Oil & Power (AOP) is working with the Mozambican government to promote investment in energy and diverse sectors, including agriculture, industry, tourism, construction and logistics in 2021.

On March 8-9, AOP will host a Presidential Award ceremony and Workshops Day in Maputo, preceding the Mozambique Gas & Power 2021 conference and exhibition to be held later in the year.

AOP

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 167 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

SOLUTIONS

BOUNDAIRES
CAFE A GAIN
KABODET
ALONGSEE
LRES
SOON ELECT
WARD
LEGALESE
IDEMSE
TATABIOOS

CROSSWORD

3 LETTERS: ART, APE, RID
4 LETTERS: MOOT, DIET, SURE, OVEN, NETA, WAGE, PAID
5 LETTERS: AROMA, TEASE, DAILY, ASANA, EVADE
6 LETTERS: ASMARA, ASCEND, KARATE, DENTAL, TYRIAN
7 LETTERS: FARANGA,
8 LETTERS: AGRARIAN
10 LETTERS: MADAGASCAR

CLUES: Across

1 Selling of black Africans
5 one of the two branches of Islam
7 consumed
8 a male honey-bee
10 a pen for pigs
11 Masai warrior
13 greater, further
15 total number of points made in a game
17 slaughterhouse
19 a way of acting
20 citrus fruit

Down:

1 neither very good nor very bad
2 sharp-tasting or sour
3 a thick cord made of twisted fibres
4 to give as a gift to charity
6 an expanse of land
7 molluscs having wormlike bodies and spiral protective shell
9 Chief city of Sri Lanka
12 soft, delicate
14 to go or come in
16 to adhere, to be attached
17 short for amplifier
18 fuss or difficulty

RADIO ONE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE



WEDNESDAY

TIME	PROGRAMME
05.00 AM	HALI YA HEWA / KUMEPAMBAZUKA I
06.00 AM	AMKA NA BBC
06.30 AM	NIPASHE
06.50 AM	MATANGAZO
07.00 AM	NEWS BULLETIN
7:10 AM	MATANGAZO
07.15 AM	TAARIFA ZA BARABARANI
07.25 AM	UDONDOZI WA MAGAZETI
07.40 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA II
08.00 AM	HABARI NYEPESI
08.10 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA III
09.00 AM	HABARI ZA BIASHARA
09.10 AM	MATANGAZO
09.20 AM	BRAND TALK
09.30 AM	KUMEPAMBAZUKA MICHEZO
10.00 AM	NEWS BRIEF
10.03 AM	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
10.10 AM	YALIYOMO YAMO
13.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
13.10 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
13.30 HRS	DJ SHOW
16.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
16.03 HRS	DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS
16.30 HRS	HOJA YA LEO
18.30 HRS	DIRA YA DUNIA BBC
19.30 HRS	SPOTI LEO
20.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN
20.10 HRS	UCHUNGUZI KAMILI
21.00 HRS	NEWS BRIEF
21.05 HRS	DURU ZETU
22.00 HRS	NEWS BULLETIN (24 HRS)
22.15 HRS	AFRO TIZII

FAHARI YA MSIKILIZAJI // THE LISTENERS PRIDE



WEDNESDAY	
05:00-09:00HRS	MORNING JAM
09:00-13:00HRS	LETE RAHA
13:00-14:00HRS	DW-RADIO
14:00-16:00HRS	CLUB 101
16:00-18:00HRS	DALA DALA
18:00-18:10HRS	HABARI
18:10-21:00HRS	BOZOUK TIME
21:00-22:00HRS	SPORTS
22:00-00:00HRS	DALA DALA(marudio)
00:00-04:00HRS	LETE RAHA(marudio)
04:00-05:00HRS	SPOTI(marudio)

BUSINESS

Mkalama District is endowed with precious stones, new study shows

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Geological Survey (GST) has presented the results of a preliminary study showing that the country is rich in gemstones that covers gold, limestone, copper, and gypsum abundant in Mkalama District, Singida Region.

Speaking during the disclosure of the results yesterday, GST Chief Executive Officer of Mining, Eng John Shija said that the results of this preliminary study is being categorised according to the type of minerals and their quantity of prevalence in the region.

He said for the case of limestone from Miganga mines the results of the study showed the quality of lime CaCO₃ level at 98.66 percent where according to technical and various studies conducted, the level is the highest quality to achieve the quality of pure lime.

According to him, in Mpambala sites research has revealed the presence of gold mines at the level of 2.089 g

/ tonne where this level needs to be researched to be satisfied with its quality to determine without a doubt whether the gold rocks are suitable for small scale miners.

"With gypsum minerals found in the Dominiki, research has shown that these minerals are present in the quality of the grade two where the minerals at that level of quality can be used for fertiliser," he said adding,

"In the case of copper, the results have shown that these minerals are in the 54 percent of quality which technology seems to be at the highest level."

According to Eng Shija, the Mining Act RE 2018 requires miners to add value to these minerals before they are exported.

Thus, small-scale miners are important to add value to the copper by building small value-added industries and providing employment to Tanzanians, especially those in rural areas where employment is scarce instead of selling them unprocessed.



EFG Hermes is named best investment bank in frontier markets

By Guardian Reporter

EFG Hermes the leading financial services corporation in frontier emerging markets (FEM), has been named the Best Investment Bank in Frontier Markets in 2021 by Global Finance magazine one of the most renowned international publications covering financial institutions.

The firm was also named Best Debt Bank in Africa by the publication's ranking of the World's Best Investment Banks in 2021.

The recognition highlights EFG Hermes' unrivaled frontier market offering, just four years since expanding its reach beyond its core MENA markets.

The Firm's achievements in the FEM space during the year ranged from top rankings in key markets to landmark investment banking transactions. In 2020, EFG Hermes ranked first on the Nairobi Securities Exchange and first in Pakistan by market share of international financial institutions trading the Pakistan Stock Exchange, and second by value traded on the Nigerian Stock Exchange; highlighting the strides made in newly entered markets.

The firm's Investment Banking division successfully completed advisory to Pakistan's United Bank Limited (UBL) on the sale of the assets and liabilities of its Tanzanian subsidiary, UBL Tanzania (UBLT) to Exim Bank Tanzania Limited. The UBL advisory is EFG Hermes' first cross-border M&A transaction in East Africa since entering the Kenyan market in 2017 as launching pad into the region.

"To receive these prestigious accolades speaks volumes as to how hard the team has worked, not only to enter these markets, but to gain the kind of foothold we have in just four years. This recognition is a testament to our unique footprint in these compelling markets in which we provide clients with unrivaled on-ground access to all markets across the FEM universe," said Ali Khalpey, CEO of EFG Hermes Frontier.

2020 was a landmark year for the Firm's Investment Banking team, which closed a record 24 transactions valued at USD 1.7 billion during the year, 14 of which were in the debt capital market space alone.

The division closed two Sukuk

deals in 2020 worth USD 165 million, five securitization transactions worth USD 139 million, and six debt arrangements worth USD 422 million as part of its drive to build its debt franchise across numerous industries.

In April 2020, the Firm acted as sole financial advisor, sole lead arranger, sole bookrunner, and sole underwriter for an EGP 2 billion Sukuk issuance for TMG Holding, Egypt's first ever corporate Sukuk issuance. The Firm also acted as financial advisor, MLA, and underwriter on the USD 10.9 million second issuance and USD 10.1 million third issuance of Premium International for Credit Services securitization program. It closed the fourth, EGP 170 million issuance in January 2021.

"We're incredibly proud of the strides the Investment Banking team has taken this year to diversify our service offering, not only to mitigate the impacts of the global slowdown affecting equity markets, but to offer world-class services and innovative deals that meet our clients' rapidly changing needs," said Mostafa Gad, Co-Head of The Investment Banking division. "We're thrilled to be receiving this recognition as

a leader in the African debt space, having paved the way for growth in new instruments such as Sukuk and securitizations in our home market of Egypt."

The success of the EFG Hermes team this year has allowed it to garner several accolades, including being named the top Frontier Research House on the Institutional Investor 2020 poll for the third consecutive year, with key analysts ranking 2nd and 3rd individually. It was also awarded the titles of Best Brokerage Services Award by Africa Global Funds as well as Best Broker in Kenya and Best Broker in Nigeria by EMEA Finance African Banking Awards and broker of the year in Nigeria by the Business Day Awards.

Global Finance editors, with input from industry experts, use a series of criteria including entries from banks, market share, number and size of deals, service and advice, structuring capabilities, distribution network, efforts to address market conditions, innovation, pricing, after-market performance of underwritings and market reputation to score and select winners, based on a proprietary algorithm.

DC calls upon women to more focus on business for more prosperity

By Guardian Correspondent, Arusha

ARUMERU District Commissioner, Jerry Muro has called on women to put more focus on their business undertakings if they are to prosper in life, hence contribute to the country's socio-economic

development.

DC Muro made the call here on Monday when he represented the Arusha Regional Commissioner, Idd Kimanta at the climax of International Women's Day.

"The country's development depends on you (women), so it's high time

for women to be committed in everything you do, taking into account that you're taking the lead in the economy," he told the gathering.

"I truly commend you for your efforts, as you have even contributed to Tanzania reaching the middle-income status," DC

Muro stressed.

He also commended the women of Arusha City Council for being united, urging them to continue working hard, and the government will continue to support them.

Every council in Tanzania allocates 10 percent of its revenue collections

to improve citizen's livelihood economically. These funds are provided as a loan with no interest to groups of women (4 percent), youth (4 percent), and people with disabilities (2 percent).

"So use that opportunity to scale up your business... the money is there at the

council go and ask for the loan," he insisted.

Arusha District Commissioner Kenan Kihongosi said women are a major contributor to the country's development and that's why President John Magufuli cares about them.

DC Kihongosi said he

supports President Magufuli's efforts to ensure a conducive environment is created for women to carry out their duties without harassment.

"But not only that, the government is at the forefront of intervening when it detects any woman being abused for no appar-

ent reason. In fact, I am joining my beloved President Magufuli in fighting for women," he said.

Women's celebrations in Arusha City were adorned with a variety of themes to build their self-awareness and awareness of the laws that protect them.

Tigo Pesa marks 10 years of revolutionising local mobile money market

By Guardian Reporter

AS it marks 10 years of Tigo Pesa success, Tigo Tanzania is boasting of having nine million active customers since its inception being one of the top three mobile money platforms in the domestic market.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam this week to mark the anniversary, Chief Officer for Mobile Financial Services at Tigo Angelica Peshu said the past decade has been an exciting journey of transforming lives of millions of Tigo Pesa subscribers in the country.

Peshu said the platform played a significant role in revolutionizing mobile money industry and contributing to the financial

inclusion agenda in the country. "Currently, Tigo Pesa facilitates more than one billion transactions every year, circulating over 27trn/- within the ecosystem therefore contribute significantly to the country's economy," she said.

Peshu pointed out that through its wider Tigo Pesa Wakala network, the platform has been able to reach the unbanked population and provide them with an easy, secure and affordable payment and saving system hence achieving a more financially included community.

"The Tigo Pesa service has created direct and indirect employment opportunities to more than 120,000 agents/wakalas across the country who make their daily income

through facilitating customers transactions. Today, these agents have received over 692bn/- in commissions. In addition, through our seamless financial transactions solutions, Tigo Pesa has enabled small and large businesses to increase business efficiency and productivity hence contribute to the growth of the digital economy," the Tigo Pesa chief noted.

"With the spirit of customer centric innovation, Tigo Pesa has managed to bring a number of first to the world solutions including; mobile money interoperability, international money transfer with currency conversion, self-care tools to give customers more control of their transactions and wallets, micro-insurance services, among

others," she added.

Tigo Pesa was among the first mobile money operators to be certified by global mobile services professional body, GSMA and thus being testimony to its secure, transparent and reliable world class services offered.

Present at the press briefing was Tigo Marketing Services Manager, William Mpinga who said the campaign to celebrate Tigo Pesa achievements, with a theme 'Jana, Leo na Kesho,' has been launched and that every Tigo Pesa customer will win cash bonuses, free airtime and megabytes if they make use of the platform to transact for the next 10 weeks.

"Throughout the 10 weeks of this campaign

customers will get cash bonuses of up to 10,000/-, free minutes, free SMS, or free MBs when they use Tigo Pesa to pay for bills, utility, goods and services, send or receive money from other Tigo Pesa customers and from the bank or other networks and other countries," Mpinga said.

"Customers will also enter a weekly draw where 10 of them will stand a chance to win 1m/- each every week and 10 grand winners will get a chance to win 10m/- each at the end of the campaign," Mpinga added. He paid tribute to loyal customers of the platform who have supported its growth in the past decade.

How Toyota thrives when the chips are down

TOKYO

Toyota may have pioneered the just-in-time manufacturing strategy but when it comes to chips, its decision to stockpile what have become key components in cars goes back a decade to the Fukushima disaster.

After the catastrophe severed Toyota's supply chains on March 11, 2011, the world's biggest automaker realised the lead-time for semiconductors was way too long to cope with devastating shocks such as natural disasters.

That's why Toyota came up with a business continuity plan (BCP) that required suppliers to stockpile anywhere from two to six months' worth of chips for the Japanese carmaker, depending on the time it takes from order to delivery, four sources said.

And that's why Toyota has so far been largely unscathed by a global shortage of semiconductors following a surge in demand for electrical goods under coronavirus lockdowns that has forced many rival automakers to suspend production, the sources said.

"Toyota was, as far as we can tell, the only automaker properly equipped to deal with chip shortages," said a person familiar with Harman International, which specialises in car audio systems, displays and driver assistance technology.

Two of the sources who spoke to Reuters are Toyota engineers and the others are at companies involved in the chip business.

Toyota surprised rivals and investors last month when it said its output would not be disrupted significantly by chip shortages even as Volkswagen, General Motors, Ford, Honda and Stellantis, among others, have been forced to slow or suspend some production.

Toyota, meanwhile, has raised its vehicle output for the fiscal year ending this month and jacked up its full-year earnings forecast by 54% percent.

The source familiar with Harman said the company, part of South Korea's Samsung Electronics, was experiencing shortages of central processing units (CPUs) and power management integrated circuits as early as November last year.

While Harman doesn't make chips, because of its continuity deal with Toyota,



The new Toyota Corolla Sedan Hybrid is displayed at the 89th Geneva International Motor Show in Geneva, Switzerland 1st Friday.

it was obliged to prioritise the carmaker and ensure it had enough semiconductors to maintain supplies of its digital systems for four months, or more, the source said.

The chips in especially short supply now are microcontroller units (MCUs) which control an array of functions such as braking, acceleration, steering, ignition, combustion, tire pressure gauges and rain sensors, the four sources told Reuters.

However, Toyota changed the way it buys MCUs and other microchips after the 2011 earthquake, which caused a tsunami that killed more than 22,000 people and triggered a deadly meltdown at Fukushima's nuclear power plant.

In the aftermath of the quake, Toyota estimated its procurement of more than 1,200 parts and materials might be affected and it drew up a list of 500 priority items

that would need secure supply in the future, including semiconductors made by key Japanese chip supplier Renesas Electronics.

The repercussions of the disaster were so severe it took six months for Toyota to get production outside Japan back to normal levels, having done so at home two months earlier.

It was a big shock to Toyota's just-in-time system because a smooth flow of components from suppliers to factories to assembly lines - as well as lean inventories - were central to its emergence as an industry leader for efficiency and quality.

At a time when supply chain risk is now front and centre in almost every industry, the move shows how Toyota was ready to throw out its own rule book when it came to semiconductors - and is reaping the rewards.

A Toyota spokesman said one of the goals of its lean inventories strategy was to become sensitive to inefficiencies and risks in supply chains, identify the most potentially damaging bottlenecks and figure out how to avoid them.

"The BCP for us was a classic lean solution," he said.

Toyota pays for its stockpiling arrangement with chip suppliers by returning a portion of the cost cuts it demands from them each year during the life cycle of any car model under so-called annual cost-down programmes, the sources said.

Inventories of MCU chips which often combine multiple technologies, CPUs, flash memory and other devices - are held for Toyota by parts suppliers such as Denso, which is partially owned by Toyota Group, chip makers like Renesas and Taiwan Sem-

iconductor Manufacturing, and chip traders.

While there are different kinds of MCUs, those in short supply now are not cutting-edge chips but more mainstream ones with semiconductor nodes ranging from 28 to 40 nanometres, the sources said. Toyota's continuity plans for chips has also cushioned it from the impact of natural disasters exacerbated by climate change, such as fiercer typhoons and rain storms which often cause floods and landslides across Japan, including the southern Kyushu region manufacturing hub where Renesas also makes chips.

One of the sources involved in semiconductor supply, said Toyota and its affiliates had become "extra risk averse and sensitive" to the impact of climate change. But natural disasters are not the only threat on the horizon.

Aircraft leasing shake-up looms as AerCap, GE unit discuss ties

PARIS

AIRCRAFT leasing is poised for its biggest shake-up in almost a decade as its top two players, AerCap Holdings and General Electric Co's GECAS, discuss a deal to forge an industry titan with more than 2,000 jets, people familiar with the matter said on Monday.

Talks over a tie-up follow years of speculation over a sale of GECAS and come as COVID-19 is expected to shift more of the world's jetliner fleet from the balance sheets of debt-laden airlines into the arms of the \$60 billion leasing industry.

Aircraft lessors, who typically rent out aircraft for up to 12 years at a time, already account for about half of deliveries of jets built by Airbus SE and Boeing Co.

The two sides have been in discussions since late last year, one of the sources said. If the negotiations conclude successfully, an all-stock deal could come as early as this week, another of the sources added.

The Wall Street Journal, which first reported the possible deal, said the transaction could be worth \$30 billion. GE said it did not comment on speculation. AerCap did not respond to requests for comment.

New York-listed shares in Ireland's AerCap ended trading on Monday with a gain of 13.2%. Shares of GE closed up 4.2 [percent], compared with a decline of 0.5% in the S&P 500 Index.

AerCap is the world's largest owner of commercial aircraft, with 1,080 jets directly on its books or managed on behalf of others. GECAS has 984 aircraft owned or under management, according to UK-based consultancy IBA Group.

The proposed tie-up would mark AerCap's most ambitious expansion under tenacious Chief Executive Aengus Kelly, who in 2013 struck a deal to buy its largest rival, Los Angeles-based International Lease Finance Corp, after the financial crisis.

It would also involve the latest move by GE Chief Executive Larry Culp to offload businesses and reduce debt since he took the reins of the struggling conglomerate in 2018. GE has already taken steps to reduce its exposure to aircraft financing.

Vertical Research Partners analyst Rob Stallard said the resulting behemoth would be the "mother of all leasing companies."

However, if a deal goes ahead, its sheer size could attract attention from antitrust regulators because AerCap and GECAS are already almost twice as big in fleet terms as the sector's third-largest player, Dublin-based Avolon, analysts said.

"The main question mark will be around the antitrust implications," said Bertrand Grabowski, a former senior aviation banker turned independent adviser.

"One option for AerCap will be to dispose of several hundred airplanes over time to comply with possible antitrust requirements," he added.

A mega-merger in leasing could also spur further consolidation in a sector that has featured multiple takeovers in recent years.

"They will all be thinking there's probably going to be more consolidation," IBA Group President Phil Seymour said of smaller lessors, adding that this was the "natural impact of a down cycle."

Major leasing companies are eyeing growth as airlines focus on repairing balance sheets wrecked by the drop in air travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, even though vaccines have prompted some talk of recovery.

Singapore bank DBS Group said it expected aircraft lessors would largely emerge stronger from the crisis, but it warned that the weak finances of airlines meant some lessors would face extra problems collecting money from carriers or be forced to accept payment delays.

Kelly last week told investors that the vast majority of AerCap's customers were paying their bills.

Tesla loses a third of its value for the third time in a year

CALIFORNIA

TESLA Inc's stock extended losses on Monday and is now down by a third from its January record high, making it the third time in about a year that the electric car maker's shares have corrected that dramatically.

With investors worried about rising interest rates and dumping high-valuation stocks in recent weeks, Tesla's market capitalization has fallen by almost \$300 billion since its Jan. 26 record high to \$550 billion, moving behind Facebook Inc, which it overtook in December after joining the S&P 500.

Tesla shares fell over 4 percent on Monday and were down almost 35% from their peak on Jan. 26. The ARK Innovation ETF, which has 10 percent of its assets invested in Tesla, fell 6 percent.

Technology and other growth stocks have fallen broadly since Feb. 12, when the Nasdaq closed at its most recent record high. However, Tesla's decline during that time has been much deeper than Wall Street's other heavyweights.

Tesla's surge in recent months is rooted in expectations it will expand car production quickly and profitably. The stock's latest dip follows a tweet by Chief Executive Elon Musk on Saturday that an update on Tesla's planned Cybertruck pickup would likely be provided in the second quarter. Musk unveiled the Cybertruck in 2019.

The most volatile among Wall Street's largest companies, Tesla's shares have fallen by amounts similar to or greater than the current selloff twice since early 2020. The stock slumped over 60 percent in February and March

last year, when the coronavirus pandemic shocked global markets. After soaring to new highs in August, it dropped 33% before resuming its meteoric rise.

Tesla is now down almost 30 percent since the Nasdaq peaked on Feb. 12, reducing its gain in the past six months to about 43 percent. Since Feb. 12, Apple Inc is down about 13 percent with Amazon.com Inc, Microsoft Corp and Facebook Inc down less than 10 percent.

Since Tesla announced on Feb. 8 that it bought \$1.5 billion worth of bitcoins, its stock has steadily fallen, while the price of bitcoin has climbed over 10 percent. Tesla said it bought the bitcoins during January, and if it hypothetically bought them at the mid-point price of about \$45,000 for that month, its investment could now be worth around \$1.7 billion, according to Reuters calculations.



Tesla Motors Inc CEO Elon Musk

Investors seek \$1.2 billion from Vivendi

PARIS

A GROUP of investors will urge a French court on Tuesday to back its claim for 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) in damages from Vivendi, alleging the media giant made false financial statements during a merger deal two decades ago.

In their lawsuit, the 90 investors, represented by law firm Soffer Avocats, allege top executives at the time failed to fully disclose the extent of Vivendi's debt as the group oversaw a \$46 billion three-way tie-up with Seagram Co and Canal Plus. Vivendi's boss at the

time was Jean-Marie Messier.

"The investor group contends that Messier and other Vivendi executives presented fake financials to conceal the existence of a severe liquidity crisis at the company," a spokesman for the investors' group said in a written statement.

Vivendi's lawyer told Reuters the claim was groundless, citing a previous decision by a French criminal court that ruled Messier and other Vivendi executives didn't issue false information at the time.

"This case has already been judged several times in France, in

particular by the criminal judge, who ruled out that Vivendi issued any false information," said Hervé Pisani, managing partner of Freshfields in Paris.

The case will be heard at Paris's commercial court from 1300 GMT. The court can take several weeks or months before announcing a decision.

Caption

French media giant Vivendi's logo is pictured at the main entrance of the entertainment-telecoms conglomerate headquarters in Paris.



Trio eyes listing in Hong Kong to raise combined US\$5bn

HONG KONG/BEIJING

UNITED STATES listed Chinese electric vehicle (EV) makers Li Auto Inc, Nio Inc and Xpeng Inc plan to list in Hong Kong as soon as this year, tapping a growing investor base closer to home, said people with direct knowledge of the matter.

The trio each aim to sell at least 5% of enlarged share capital in the Asian hub, the people said. Based on their New York market capitalisation on Monday, proceeds could reach \$5 billion.

The companies have been working with advisors on the sales which could begin as early as mid-year, said one of the people, who declined to be identified due to confidentiality constraints.

Li Auto, Nio and Xpeng which have raised \$14.7 billion in U.S. markets since 2018 - declined to comment.

The plans come as the trio increase capital raising efforts to fund technology development and expand sales networks, to better compete in the world's biggest EV market where U.S. peer Tesla Inc is boosting sales of its China-made vehicles.

This year is set to be crucial for

EV makers to seize market share as the industry expects China sales of new-energy vehicles (NEVs) to jump almost 40% from last year to 1.8 million units.

"Despite much richer financial resources now compared with a year ago, EV start-ups still need to invest heavily in next-generation technology," said analyst Shi Ji at Haitong International. "Exploring a secondary listing much closer to their home market, if any, is a good move."

Selling shares in Hong Kong would also add the trio to a slew of New York-listed Chinese firms seeking a presence on more local exchanges amid Sino-U.S. political tension.

The rising number of such listings "has enhanced the status of Hong Kong's capital markets globally, and also helped issuers reach higher valuations and raise more capital," said Zhang Zihua, chief investment officer at Beijing Yunyi Asset.

Under Hong Kong rules, a secondary listing requires at least two financial years of good regulatory compliance on another qualifying exchange. Li Auto and Xpeng went public in the United States mid-last year so will likely apply in Hong Kong for a dual primary listing, said



An Xpeng P7 performance electric vehicle is seen outside the New York Stock Exchange ahead of the Chinese company's IPO late last year.

three people with direct knowledge of the matter.

As per Hong Kong's dual primary listing rules, firms are subject to full bourse requirements in Hong Kong and a second exchange, but are not bound by the two-year condition.

Xpeng is also considering a third listing on Shanghai's STAR Market for new-economy firms, said two other people.

"In the long run, it's helpful for consumer-focused companies like us to connect with domestic capital markets and domestic investors," Xpeng President Brian Gu told Reuters last week, declining to comment on any Hong Kong listing plan.

China's government has heavily promoted NEVs - such as battery-powered, plug-in petrol-electric hybrid and hydrogen fuel cell cars - in response to chronic air pollution, spurring interest from technology companies and investors alike.

Last month, Reuters reported telecommunications firm Huawei Technologies Co Ltd plans to market EVs as early as this year.

China forecasts NEVs will make up 20% of its annual auto sales by 2025 from around 5% in 2020.

Domestic vehicle deliveries last year totalled 32,624 by Li Auto, 43,728 by Nio and 27,041 by Xpeng. That compared with 147,445 vehicles by Tesla, industry data showed.

Asian stocks firmly recovering on firmer futures retreat in the market yields in US

SYDNEY

ASIAN stocks recovered from earlier losses on Tuesday, lifted by firmer U.S. equity futures and central bank comments aimed at soothing fears about rising bond yields and inflation.

A pullback in U.S. bond yields also buoyed equity markets. Japan's Nikkei rallied 1.02 percent yesterday afternoon, while MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was 0.10 percent higher. Chinese blue chips added 0.03 percent, after earlier hitting their lowest level this year.

People's Bank of China Vice Governor Chen Yulu told Yicai Global that China's money supply would grow only to match GDP growth and the country's central bank did not see a need for major stimulus support in the next five years.

NASDAQ futures bounced 1.1 percent and S&P 500 futures 0.73 percent. European futures were slightly lower, however, with EUROSTOXX 50 futures down 0.13 percent and FTSE futures 0.25 percent lower.

"I suspect that is what's leading the better tone in Asia," Stephen Miller, market strategist for GSFM Funds Management, referring to U.S. futures and the central banker's remarks.

"From time to time soothing comments coming from officials - whether PBOC officials, whether Fed Reserve, ECB or the Reserve Bank of Australia officials - might calm markets but I think all of those things would prove ephemeral if U.S. bond yields continue to march higher, and I think there's a significant risk of that."

Miller added that an easing in U.S. 10-year Treasury bond yields also helped sentiment. U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said on Monday that President Joe Biden's coronavirus aid package would provide enough resources to fuel a "very strong" U.S. economic recovery, and noted "there are tools" to deal with inflation.

Despite the positive cues, investors remain conflicted over whether the stimulus will help global growth rebound faster from the COVID-19 downturn or cause the world's biggest economy to overheat and lead to runaway inflation.

"The chance of our seeing more inflation in the economy is meaningfully increased by the monetary policy actions and the fiscal policy actions that we're seeing around the world," Goldman Sachs Chief Executive Officer David Solomon told a conference in Sydney via webcast. "There is certainly a reasonable outcome where inflation accelerates more quickly than people are expecting, and that will obviously have an impact on markets and volatility."

The technology sector and other richly valued companies have been highly susceptible to the rising rates.

Australian shares tracked overnight gains on Wall Street with the main S&P/ASX 200 index climbing as much as 1.04 percent on Tuesday. However, Australian tech stocks slid for the sixth straight session in line with their U.S. peers.

The index gave back those gains to be only 0.48 [percent] higher in afternoon trading following the tech declines. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 1.4 percent, while South Korea's KOSPI fell 0.74 percent.

U.S. economic data pointed to a continued recovery, as the Commerce Department said wholesale inventories increased solidly in January despite a surge in sales, suggesting inventory investment could again contribute to growth in the first quarter.

On Wall Street, the Dow advanced overnight while the Nasdaq shed over 2 percent, marking a more than 10 percent fall since its Feb. 12 closing high and confirming a correction in the index's value.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.97 percent, the S&P 500 lost 0.54%, and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 2.41 percent.

"If rates are grinding higher because people are getting optimistic about what economic growth looks like, that is still supportive for equity prices," said Tom Hainlin, global investment strategist at U.S. Bank Wealth Management's Ascent Private Wealth Group in Minneapolis.

U.S. Treasury yields have been advancing as investors price in higher inflation and more upbeat prospects for the U.S. economy as it emerges from the coronavirus pandemic.

ITV		MONDAY 08 March		WEDNESDAY 10 March		FRIDAY 12 March		SATURDAY 13 March		SUNDAY 14 March	
5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	HABARI	5:30	HABARI	5:30	HABARI	5:30	Uwanja wa Mazoezi	5:30	HABARI
6:00	HABARI	6:00	Kumekucha	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI	6:00	HABARI
6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha	6:40	HABARI	6:40	HABARI	6:40	Kumekucha
7:30	HABARI	7:30	Kumekucha Michezo	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI	7:30	HABARI
8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	HABARI	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	Kumekucha Michezo	8:00	HABARI	8:00	HABARI
8:55	Habari za saa	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI	8:55	HABARI
9:00	Kumekucha Kishindo	9:00	HABARI	9:00	HABARI	9:00	HABARI	9:00	HABARI	9:00	HABARI
9:30	Isidingo	9:30	HABARI	9:30	HABARI	9:30	HABARI	9:30	HABARI	9:30	HABARI
9:55	Habari za saa	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI	9:55	HABARI
10:00	Watoto wetu	10:00	HABARI	10:00	HABARI	10:00	HABARI	10:00	HABARI	10:00	HABARI
10:55	Habari za saa	10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI	10:55	HABARI
11:00	ITV Top 10 rpt	11:00	HABARI	11:00	HABARI	11:00	HABARI	11:00	HABARI	11:00	HABARI
11:55	Habari za saa	11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI	11:55	HABARI
12:00	Al Jazeera News	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI
12:30	Mtego rpt	12:30	HABARI	12:30	HABARI	12:30	HABARI	12:30	HABARI	12:30	HABARI
12:55	Habari za saa	12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI	12:55	HABARI
13:00	Mjue Zaidi	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI	13:00	HABARI
13:45	Art and Lifestyle rpt	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI	13:45	HABARI
13:55	Habari za saa	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI	13:55	HABARI
14:10	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI	14:10	HABARI
14:55	Habari za saa	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI	14:55	HABARI
15:00	Meza huru	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI	15:00	HABARI
16:30	Watoto Wetu	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI
17:00	The Base	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI	17:00	HABARI
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI
18:10	Aibu yako rpt	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI	18:10	HABARI
18:15	Mapishi	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI
18:45	Kesho leo	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI	18:45	HABARI
19:00	Afya ya Jamii	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI
19:30	Isidingo	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI
20:00	Habari	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI
21:05	Dakika 45	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI
22:00	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI
23:00	Habari	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI
23:30	The Base	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI
02:00	DWTV	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI
21:40	D' Salaam	21:40	HABARI	21:40	HABARI	21:40	HABARI	21:40	HABARI	21:40	HABARI
22:30	Chetu ni chetu	22:30	HABARI	22:30	HABARI	22:30	HABARI	22:30	HABARI	22:30	HABARI
23:00	Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje)	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI
23:30	Wild Skin	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI
23:45	Habari za saa	23:45	HABARI	23:45	HABARI	23:45	HABARI	23:45	HABARI	23:45	HABARI
00:45	Al Jazeera	00:45	HABARI	00:45	HABARI	00:45	HABARI	00:45	HABARI	00:45	HABARI
02:00	DWTV	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI
19:00	Usafiri wako	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI	19:00	HABARI
19:30	Chetu ni chetu	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI
20:00	Habari	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI
21:00	Malumbano ya hoja	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI
23:00	Habari	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI	23:00	HABARI
23:30	The Base	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI	23:30	HABARI
00:30	Al Jazeera	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI	00:30	HABARI
02:00	DWTV	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI	02:00	HABARI
11:40	Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	11:40	HABARI	11:40	HABARI	11:40	HABARI	11:40	HABARI	11:40	HABARI
12:00	Movie rpt: Hukumu ya Ndoa Yangu	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI	12:00	HABARI
14:00	Tamasha la Michezo	14:00	HABARI	14:00	HABARI	14:00	HABARI	14:00	HABARI	14:00	HABARI
15:30	Mwangaza	15:30	HABARI	15:30	HABARI	15:30	HABARI	15:30	HABARI	15:30	HABARI
16:30	ITV Top 10	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI	16:30	HABARI
17:30	Kipindi cha kikristo	17:30	HABARI	17:30	HABARI	17:30	HABARI	17:30	HABARI	17:30	HABARI
18:00	Jiji Letu	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI	18:00	HABARI
18:15	Mapishi	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI	18:15	HABARI
18:30	Matukio ya wiki	18:30	HABARI	18:30	HABARI	18:30	HABARI	18:30	HABARI	18:30	HABARI
19:30	Igizo: Mtego	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI	19:30	HABARI
20:00	Habari	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI	20:00	HABARI
21:00	Kipindi maalum: Biko	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI	21:00	HABARI
21:05	Kipindi Maalum: Reflexology	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI	21:05	HABARI
21:15	Mizengwe	21:15	HABARI	21:15	HABARI	21:15	HABARI	21:15	HABARI	21:15	HABARI
21:30	Mjue Zaidi	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI
22:45	Bongo Movie: Scola	22:45	HABARI	22:45	HABARI	22:45	HABARI	22:45	HABARI	22:45	HABARI
00:05	Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje)	00:05	HABARI	00:05	HABARI	00:05	HABARI	00:05	HABARI	00:05	HABARI
	Wild Skin		HABARI		HABARI		HABARI		HABARI		HABARI
21:30	Capital Prime News	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI	21:30	HABARI
22:00	Dakika 45:	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI	22:00	HABARI
22:45	The Décor	22:45	HABARI	22:45	HABARI	22:45	HABARI	22			

WORLD

British royals silent amid crisis over Meghan's claim of racist remark

LONDON

BRITAIN'S monarchy maintained its silence yesterday, after Meghan and Prince Harry accused a family member of making a racist remark about their son and said she had been alienated to the point of contemplating suicide.

Oprah Winfrey's tell-all TV interview with the couple has dragged the royals into the biggest crisis since the death of Harry's mother Diana in 1997, when the family, led by Queen Elizabeth, was widely criticised for being too slow to respond.

In the two-hour show, originally aired on CBS on Sunday evening, Harry also said that his father, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, had let him down.

"Worst Royal Crisis in 85 Years," read the front page of the Daily Mirror newspaper, while the Daily Mail's cover asked "What Have They Done?". The Sun columnist Trevor Kavanagh questioned if the interview meant the end for the royals.

"It could hardly be more damaging to the royal family, not least because there is little it can do to defend itself," The Times said in a lead article under the title "Royal Attack".

"The key to the monarchy's survival over the centuries has been its ability to adapt to the needs of the times. It needs to adapt again," The Times said.

Elizabeth, who is 94 and has been on the throne for 69 years, wanted to take some time before the palace issued a response, a royal source said.

Nearly three years since her star-studded wedding in Windsor Castle, Meghan gained sympathy in the United States by casting some unidentified members of the British royal family as uncaring, mendacious or guilty of racist remarks.

She and Harry have also had a torrid relationship with the British press, and in particular tabloids who have been critical of the couple.

For the monarchy, which traces its history through 1,000 years of British and English history to William the Conqueror, Meghan's bombshell has been compared to the crises over the death of Diana and the 1936 abdication of Edward VIII.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson avoided questions about the crisis, though he serves, in theory, as a servant of the crown and Elizabeth II is head of the British state as well as 15 other realms including Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Johnson said he had the highest admiration for the queen but that he did not want to comment on the interview. New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said her nation was unlikely to stop having the queen as head of state soon.

"DARK SKIN"

Opponents of the monarchy said the allegations made by Meghan and Harry showed how rotten the institution was.

"Now people are getting a much clearer picture of what the monarchy is really like. And it doesn't look good," said Gra-



Prince Harry and Meghan, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, give an interview to Oprah Winfrey in this undated handout photo. REUTERS

ham Smith, head of Republic, a campaign group which seeks to abolish the monarchy.

"With the queen likely to be replaced by King Charles during this decade the position of the monarchy has rarely looked weaker," Smith said.

Some royal supporters cast Meghan, a 39-year-old former U.S. actor, as a publicity seeker with an eye on Hollywood stardom.

But the gravity of the claims has raised uncomfortable questions about how the British monarchy, which survived centuries of revolution that toppled their cousins across Europe, could function in a meritocratic world.

Meghan, whose mother is Black and father is white, said her son Archie, who turns two in May, had been denied the title of prince because there were concerns within the royal family "about how dark his skin might be when he's born".

She declined to say who had voiced such concerns, as did Harry. Winfrey later told CBS that Harry had said it was not the queen or her 99-year-old husband Philip, who has been in hospital for three weeks while the crisis unfolds.

'DEFERENCE OVER'

Meghan's estranged father Thomas

Markle, who she has not spoken to since her wedding, said on Tuesday he did not think the British royal family was racist, and hoped that an alleged remark from a family member about the darkness of the skin of Meghan's son was just a "dumb question".

"The thing about what colour will the baby be or how dark will the baby be; I'm guessing and hoping it's just a dumb question from somebody," Markle told ITV. "It could be somebody asked a stupid question. Rather than being a total racist."

Harry said his family had cut them off financially, and his father Prince Charles had let him down and refused to take his calls at one point.

"The age of deference, already under strain, will vanish with her passing," Kavanagh wrote, questioning whether the royal family would survive beyond the popular queen.

Others pointed to the fact that the institution has survived crises in the past.

"It is obviously damaging because anything that tarnishes their reputation is bad," royal commentator Penny Junor told Reuters. "But I think overall it's a strong institution, it's a good institution. It has served Britain extremely well over the decades. I hope that it will survive this."

Ten years after Fukushima, Japan remembers 'man-made' disaster

TOKYO

When a huge earthquake and tsunami struck Japan on March 11, 2011, devastating towns and triggering nuclear meltdowns in Fukushima, a stunned world watched the chaotic struggle to contain the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

An onslaught of waves sparked by the 9.0-magnitude quake crashed into the northeastern coast, killing nearly 20,000 people and crippling the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant. More than 160,000 residents fled as radiation spewed into the air.

At the time, some - including Prime Minister Naoto Kan - feared Tokyo would need to be evacuated, or worse.

"Fukushima is stamped for the rest of the history of nuclear energy," said Kiyoshi Kurokawa, head of an investigation that concluded the disaster was "profoundly man-made".

The government has spent about US\$300 billion (32.1 trillion yen) to rebuild the tsunami-devastated Tohoku region, but areas around the Fukushima plant remain off-limits, worries about radiation levels linger and many who left have settled elsewhere. Decommissioning of the crippled plant will take decades and billions of dollars.

Japan is again debating the role of nuclear power in its energy mix as the resource-poor country aims to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2050 to fight global warming. But an NHK public TV survey showed 85 percent of the public worries about nuclear accidents.

Energy policy was left in limbo after Shinzo Abe led his pro-nuclear energy Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) back to power the year after the disaster, ousting the novice Democratic Party of Japan, whose image was tainted by its handling of Fukushima.

"They sort of left things adrift," said Tobias Harris, senior vice president at consultancy Teneo and author of a book about Abe.

Kurokawa's commission, appointed by parliament, concluded in 2012 that the Fukushima accident was "the result of collusion between the government, regulators and Tokyo Electric Power Co" and a lack of governance.

Agencies

Lavrov to begin his Middle East tour with a working visit to UAE

MOSCOW

RUSSIAN Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov will begin his Middle East tour by paying a working visit to the United Arab Emirates yesterday.

His journey also involves visits to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

The schedule of the Russian top diplomat's visit to Abu Dhabi includes meetings with Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Russia maintains close ties with Persian Gulf countries. This winter, Moscow was visited by foreign policy chiefs of the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

New cooperation perspectives

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Lavrov's meetings in the UAE are to become an important part of bilateral political dialogue, during which Russian President Vladimir Putin maintains "regular trust-based contacts" with leaders of Arab monarchies.

Among other things, the sides will discuss ways to further increase business cooperation in line with agreements previously reached at the top level. Despite obstacles created by the novel coronavirus pandemic, Russia-UAE trade increased by 78% in the past year, reaching all-time high of \$3.27 billion. The Russian side also confirmed previously announced plans to hold later this year a regular plenary session of a bilateral intergovernmental commission on trade, economic and technical cooperation. The commission's previous meeting took place in October 2019.

The sides will also discuss new projects in a wide range of economic sectors, such as power generation, industry, agriculture, infrastructure and peaceful use of space. Special emphasis will be placed on cultural and humanitarian ties as well.

Use of Russian vaccines

Enhancing cooperation in tackling the novel coronavirus pandemic is expected to be among the main issues raised at the talks. When the Russian and UAE top diplomats last met in December 2020, Russia's Sputnik V vaccine against the novel coronavirus was undergoing the third stage of trials in the UAE. Now it is among the three vaccines approved for use in the country. With about 65% of its residents already inoculated, the UAE ranks third worldwide in terms of vaccinated population.

Agencies

Xi's vision of China's new development paradigm attracts global attention

BEIJING

CHINA'S "dual circulation" development paradigm, a major strategy championed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and featuring domestic and overseas markets reinforcing each other with the domestic market as the mainstay, is under the spotlight during the country's ongoing annual "two sessions."

The 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), a draft outline of which has been submitted to the country's top legislature and political advisory body for deliberation and discussion, will further clarify how China will implement the "dual circulation" strategy and achieve high-quality development.

Unleashing domestic demand is crucial to driving China's growth, but this new development paradigm does not mean China will backpedal on its opening-up, officials and experts have said.

STRATEGIC DECISION

In May 2020, the leadership of the Communist Party of China made a strategic decision to foster a new development pattern where domestic and foreign markets can boost each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay.

"Making the domestic market the mainstay does not mean we are developing our economy with the door closed," Xi told a symposium of entrepreneurs in July last year. By giving full play to the potential of the domestic market, both domestic and foreign markets can be better connected and utilized to realize robust and sustainable development, he said.

China will follow the new development philosophy, foster a new development paradigm, and pursue high-quality development by staying committed to deepening reform and opening wider to the world, Xi said when delivering a speech via video at the third Paris Peace Forum in 2020.

He stressed that China will also work with the rest of the international community to keep the global industrial and supply chains stable and to foster an open world economy.

China on Friday unveiled a draft blueprint for economic and social development over the next five years and clarified the long-range objectives through the year 2035, setting policy priorities for a new development stage that is crucial for the country to achieve socialist modernization.

The draft outline includes comprehensive and targeted



measures echoing China's new development philosophy, said Xin Ming, a professor at the Party School of the CPC Central Committee (National Academy of Governance).

PARALLEL EMPHASIS

Jochen Goller, chief of BMW Group Region China, said China's new development pattern of "dual circulation" is an effective strategy customized to the strength of the Chinese domestic market.

"Dual circulation" puts a parallel emphasis both on domestic and international circulation. A high-level opening up certainly serves this end, brings win-win outcomes both for Chinese and multinational companies," he noted.

Alexander Lomanov, deputy director at the Institute of World Economy and International Re-

lations of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said the transition to the "dual circulation" model is an important stage in the development of China's economic policy.

"It has its own internal logic and the Chinese leadership has stressed the importance of domestic demand for years," he noted.

WIN-WIN CHOICE

Dual circulation is seen as a strategic and win-win choice for China to reshape its international cooperation and new competitive edge, said Justin Yifu Lin, former World Bank chief economist and honorary dean of the National School of Development at Peking University.

"China's economy has been deeply integrated into the global economy. As China enters the

new stage of development, its ties with the world economy will get even closer," said Ji Zhiyi, former head of China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations who is also a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference.

Ji said the international capitals are optimistic about the Chinese market thanks to the country's business environment and economic resilience.

Zarko Obradovic, member of the Serbian parliament and president of the Friendship Group with China, said China's new development pattern featuring "dual circulation" would help the country take advantage of the development of the domestic market and make China an ideal economic partner.

Boga Thura Manatsha, senior lecturer at the Department of History of University of Botswana, said that China needs the world for its economy to continue growing and the global economy also needs China to make a sustained comeback.

"It is basically a win-win scenario," he said, noting that as the whole world, especially developing countries, has been hit hard by COVID-19, China has a critical role to play in reviving the world economy. *Xinhua*

UK PM says higher risk of virus transmission 'inevitable' as schools reopen in England

LONDON

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson said Monday that the increased risk of coronavirus transmission is "inevitable" as schools reopened and millions of children returned to classrooms across England.

"We do accept, of course, there will be increased risk of transmission, that's inevitable," Johnson said at a press briefing at Downing Street. But he added that "the greater risk is keeping children out of school longer."

On Feb. 22, Johnson announced his long-anticipated "roadmap" exiting the lockdown. The reopening of schools in England on Monday is

the first part of the four-step plan, which Johnson said was designed to be "cautious but irreversible."

Under the guidance, two people are allowed for recreation in an outdoor public space such as a park, which means they would be allowed to sit down for a coffee, drink or picnic. England is expected to see all legal social restrictions being removed from June 21.

Johnson said the British government can take the first step of easing lockdown with "confidence" because a third of the entire British population has now been vaccinated.

"At all times, we will be driven by the data," he added.

Joining Johnson at the press



briefing, Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England Jenny Harries acknowledged the impact of opening schools on the virus transmission.

"We do expect there to be an impact on R, but education is of critical public health importance," she said, referring to the coronavirus reproduction number.

More than 22.3 million people in Britain have been given the first jab of a coronavirus vaccine, according to the latest official figures.

Still, Johnson urged continued vigilance with the public as infections remain high.

"With the number of patients being admitted to hospital with COVID still eight times higher than the lows of last summer, it's more vital

than ever to follow the rules."

Another 4,712 people in Britain have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total number of coronavirus cases in the country to 4,223,232, according to official figures released Monday.

The country also reported another 65 coronavirus-related deaths. The total number of coronavirus-related deaths in Britain now stands at 124,566. These figures only include the deaths of people who died within 28 days of their first positive test.

To bring life back to normal, countries such as Britain, China, Germany, Russia and the United States have been racing against time to roll out coronavirus vaccines.

Xinhua

China constantly improves democratic institutions

By Xu Juan

IN recent years, China has continuously improved its democratic institutions, diversified its forms of democracy, and established more democratic channels, pushing forward with the development of its socialist democracy with Chinese characteristics constantly.

The country has upheld and improved the system of people's congresses and the system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation under its leadership, and bettered the system of self-governance at the primary level of society to make it full of vitality.

On Jan. 1, 2021, China's first civil code, the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China, officially took effect.

The draft civil code went through ten deliberations at the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, which solicited a total of over 1.02 million pieces of comments and suggestions on ten occasions and held special symposiums on issues with concentrated advice and major controversies during the compilation of the civil code.

China has 275 laws in effect. The country has ensured that every law is enacted, amend-



Photo taken on Dec. 29, 2020, shows procurators from the People's Procuratorate of Hanshan District in Handan city, north China's Hebei province, explaining legal knowledge in China's Civil Code to students. (Photo by Hao Qunying/People's Daily Online)

ed, or repealed in a scientific, democratic, and legally-compliant way. Last year, the country solicited public opinion on a total of 33 draft laws via the official website of the NPC, and collected ideas from more than 300,000 people.

In May 2020, NPC deputies submitted a record high of 9,180 proposals to the third session of the 13th NPC, with the number of proposals on epidemic prevention logging a 179-percent increase from 2019. All these proposals have been handled and answered, and 71.28 percent of the prob-

lems raised in these proposals have been either solved or will be addressed step by step.

In an effort to make it easier for residents to express their views, the NPC established grassroots-level legislation contact points in many cities across the country.

Residents' opinions and suggestions expressed via these grassroots-level legislation contact points can be submitted to the country's legislative bodies and even be adopted and written into laws, said Hou Xiaoyan, deputy leader of a detachment of Changning branch of Shang-

hai municipal public security bureau.

A legislation contact point in Changning district of Shanghai helps the NPC solicit public opinion on more than ten draft laws a year, according to Hou.

The main purpose of developing socialist democracy is to give full expression to the will of the people, protect their rights and interests, spark their creativity, and provides systemic and institutional guarantees to ensure the people run the country.

In recent years, people's congresses at various levels in China have established extensive



Members of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) committee in Chun'an county, east China's Zhejiang province, interview residents in Maoping village of the county, Dec. 22, 2020. (Photo by Mao Yongfeng/People's Daily Online)

mechanisms that facilitate communication between deputies and residents. So far, the country has more than 230,000 centers and contact points helping deputies to people's congresses communicate with residents.

The number of legislation contact points set up by the Legislative Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee has reached ten, further smoothing channels for reflecting opinions and suggestions from the grassroots level.

As an important form of people's democracy in China, the system of socialist consultative

democracy has been further improved in recent years.

On Aug. 19, 2018, China launched a mobile platform that allows members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body, to conduct consultations and deliberations online.

The platform has been used by more than 2,100 political advisers, accounting for over 97 percent of the country's members of the CPPCC National Committee. These CPPCC members have contributed

more than 130,000 pieces of opinions and suggestions via the platform.

On Jan. 21, the 13th CPPCC National Committee kicked off its 46th biweekly consultation session in Beijing, during which 11 CPPCC members and specially invited representatives contributed their suggestions on the subject of continuously improving China's business environment from different perspectives, and more than 100 CPPCC members expressed their opinions via the CPPCC National Committee's mobile platform.

China achieves remarkable foreign trade progress in 2020

By Du Haitao

CHINA delivered remarkable foreign trade performance in the past year. According to the country's General Administration of Customs (GAC), China's total imports and exports expanded 1.9 percent year on year to 32.16 trillion yuan (\$4.97 trillion), hitting a record high.

Exports rose 4 percent to 17.93 trillion yuan, while imports stood at 14.23 trillion yuan, down 0.7 percent, according to the GAC. Trade surplus reached 3.7 trillion yuan, rising 27.4 percent from a year ago.

China's foreign trade exceeded expectations and registered a historical high last year, when the country faced a grave and complex domestic and international landscape and a severe economic impact posed by COVID-19, said GAC spokesperson Li Kuiwen, adding that China was the only major economy to realize positive economic growth last year, which indicated its great resilience and comprehensive competitiveness.

From June 2020, China registered positive growth in foreign trade for seven consecutive months and hit a record high in total foreign trade volume and exports, which further consolidated China's role as the world's largest trader in goods. In 2020, ASEAN, European Union, the United States, Japan, and South Korea were China's largest five trading partners, and China's trade with countries along the Belt and Road reached 9.37 trillion yuan, up 1 percent.

Affected by the pandemic, international flights were suspended and significantly reduced last year, and the traditional shipping capacity plummeted. The GAC promptly issued ten measures to support the development of the China-Europe Railway Express, striving to



An oceangoing freighter is being loaded with cargos at a container terminal of Lianyungang Port, east China's Jiangsu Province, Aug. 7, 2020. (Photo by Wang Jianmin/People's Daily Online)

ensure the stability of industrial and supply chains, Li, who's also the director of the GAC's Department of Statistics & Analysis, introduced.

According to him, China ran 12,400 China-Europe freight trains throughout the year and delivered nearly 1.14 million twenty-foot equivalent units, up by 50 percent and 56 percent year on year, respectively. The combined heavy container rate reached 98.4 percent.

Global trade dramatically shrank due to the pandemic last year, while China's huge domestic market showed a more prominent advantage in stabilizing imports. In 2020, China imported 7.3 percent more crude oil and

7 percent more metal ore. Besides, exports of traditionally competitive products maintained growth. In 2020, China's exports of electromechanical products increased by 6 percent to 10.66 trillion yuan, and exports of laptops, home appliances, and medical equipment went up by 20.4 percent, 24.2 percent, and 41.5 percent, respectively.

"Exports of anti-epidemic supplies provided strong support to the global combat against COVID-19," Li noted. China has been playing its part as the world's largest supplier of anti-epidemic materials by proactively carrying out international cooperation to fight against the COVID-19 pandemic,



An employee of Chiaphua Components (Jiangxi) Limited in Fengcheng, east China's Jiangxi Province, assembles electric wheelchairs at a workshop, July 3, 2020. (Photo by Zhou Liang/People's Daily Online)

and making the utmost efforts to provide and export anti-epidemic materials to over 200 countries and regions.

From March to December 2020, customs authorities across China cleared major anti-epidemic supplies worth 438.5 billion yuan, including 224.2 billion masks with a value of 340 billion yuan, which is equivalent to providing nearly 40 face masks for every individual in the world outside of China. The country also exported 2.31 billion protective suits, 289 million pairs of goggles, 2.92 billion pairs of surgical gloves, 271,000 ventilators, 663,000 patient monitors and 119 million infrared thermometers.

According to statistics, China's

cross-border e-commerce imports and exports in 2020 were 1.69 trillion yuan, an increase of 31.1 percent, and market procurement exports were up 25.2 percent, becoming an important stabilizer for foreign trade.

"The new development pattern, in which domestic and foreign markets reinforce each other, with the domestic market as the mainstay, is now taking shape in China at a higher speed. The country is also promoting a higher level of opening-up and developing new advantages in international cooperation and competition. Thus, I believe China is expected to maintain its foreign trade growth in 2021," Li remarked.

Tianwen-1 probe's successful entry into Mars orbit represents China's ambitious endeavour to make innovations

By Yu Jianbin

CHINA'S first Mars exploration mission Tianwen-1 successfully slowed down for the third time near Mars at 06:29 a.m. on Feb. 24 Beijing time and entered the Mars parking orbit. The Mars probe will spend about three months conducting scientific surveys in the parking orbit.

Earlier on Feb. 10 Beijing time, the Tianwen-1 Mars probe reached the orbit around Mars after traveling in space for 202 days, becoming the country's first man-made satellite of Mars.

Tianwen-1 probe embarked on its journey to Mars on July 23, 2020. After flying 475 million km in space, the spacecraft conducted a "braking" operation to decelerate and make sure it would be captured by Mars' gravity, and then started to orbit the red planet.

The successful completion of such key steps during the space voyage laid a solid foundation for the Mars exploration mission of China.

As a prime target for planetary exploration, Mars bears great significance to humanity's dream of

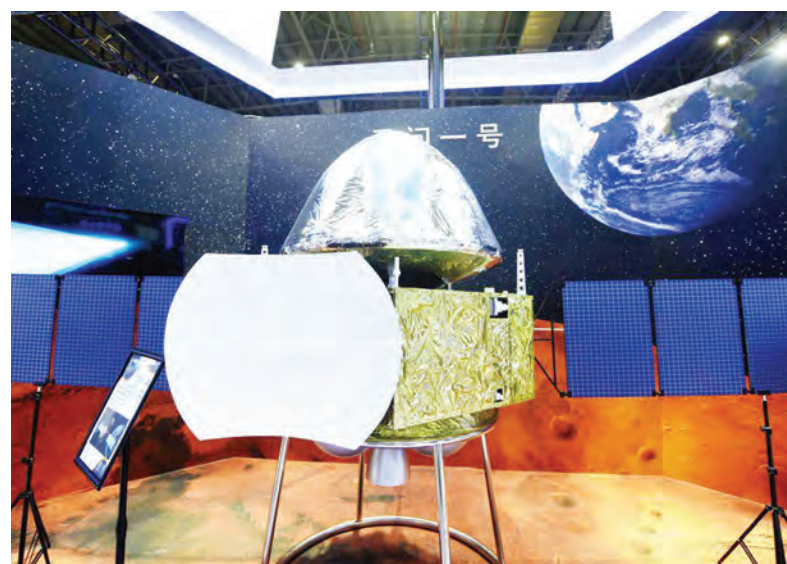
searching for extraterrestrial life and exploring mysteries of the universe.

The successful launch of the Tianwen-1 Mars probe marked China's first step in independent planetary exploration as well as a key step of the Chinese people toward deeper space.

From endeavoring to establish its space station hundreds of kilometers above Earth's surface to deepening exploration of the moon which is more than 380,000 km away from Earth and sparing no pains to explore Mars in spite of a long and arduous interstellar journey of several hundred million kilometers, China has achieved steady and solid progress in deep space exploration through persistent endeavors.

"Braking" in space is vital for the Tianwen-1 Mars mission. The successful arrival of the Tianwen-1 probe in Mars orbit has not only proven Chinese space scientists' technical competence, but also demonstrated their aspiration and courage to make innovations despite high risks.

Space activities are known for being challenging, and planetary exploration is particularly fea-



A model of China's first Mars probe Tianwen-1 is displayed to the public at the 22nd China International Industry Fair held in east China's Shanghai, Sept. 15, 2020. (Photo by Long Wei/People's Daily Online)

tured by high risks and extreme difficulties. Mars exploration missions, which have been launched since the 1960s, only have an about 50 percent chance of success so far.

For every Mars exploration mission, mankind needs to tackle a great number of challenges and cope with various unknown hazards through technological innovations, including challenges

posed by the fact that missions are only allowed to make one direct trip from Earth to Mars every 26 months due to the ever-changing positions of the planets, long space journeys of hundreds of millions of kilometers, delay in extremely long-distance communications, as well as a complex and alien environment that is entirely different from that of the Earth.

China, after a series of space endeavors, such as flying out of Earth, staying in space, and lunar exploration, has accumulated important technological breakthroughs, which help pave the way for the country's Mars exploration and other deep space missions.

While dealing with new problems and new challenges through creative thinking and innovative technologies, the country has opened up new paths to innovations and breakthroughs in such fields as space technology and space science.

Motivated by curiosity and driven by the development needs of humanity, China's magnificent feats of escaping from Earth's gravity and moving toward deep space wouldn't have been realized without its independent innovations.

China has witnessed continuous progress in scientific and technological projects in recent years, making heartening breakthroughs and record-breaking achievements in a considerable number of major projects.

Remarkable achievements of the country in recent years in-

clude scientific and technological innovations in the Tianwen-1 Mars exploration mission, Chang'e-5 lunar mission's success in retrieving moon samples, the successful maiden flight of China's new large carrier rocket Long March-5B, which was launched for the country's space station program, new deep-sea manned submersible Fendouzhe, or Striver, setting a national diving record of 10,909 meters, and quantum computer prototype Jiuzhang helping China realizing a computational advantage, also known as "quantum supremacy".

All these fruits have proven that as long as China maintains its determination and courage to make innovations and unswervingly march forward along its own path of independent innovation with Chinese characteristics, the country is bound to master core technologies in key fields and underpin high-quality development with scientific and technological strength.



Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA)'s Chief Executive Officer, Doreen Sinnare, speaks at an event for announcing the MultiChoice Group's initiative aiming at financially supporting Tanzania's film producers' productions, which took place in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

M-Net opens doors for Tanzania's film makers

By Guardian Reporter

THE M-Net, a content division of the MultiChoice Group, which brought audiences the very best in video entertainment for over 30 years, has recently announced an opportunity for Tanzanian film makers as it has started soliciting proposals from local producers.

The division is receiving proposals from local film producers in the country to fund the production of those films that will be later on be aired by M-Net through its dedicated local channel known as Maisha Magic Bongo available on DStv channel 160.

Speaking to reporters in Dar es Salaam on the funding, MultiChoice Tanzania Marketing Head Ronald Shelukindo said that M-Net will, from now until March 15 2021, be receiving proposals from local film producers and will eventually review the proposals that and finally choose the films that will receive the same funding.

The government, through the Tanzania Film Board, has commended M-Net's decision and urged Tanzanian producers to seize the opportunity and ensure that they submit high quality proposals as this is an important step in promoting and expanding the market for our Tanzanian films.

Tanzania Film Board Executive Secretary, Kiagho Kilonzo, said: "This is a great opportunity and the Board is committed to provide in collaboration with all film federations in the country to ensure that our producers make good use of this opportunity and ensure that their rights and interests and our artists are respected."

For a long time now M-net has been using Tanzanian films and as you remember four years ago M-Net launched a channel specifically for Tanzanian content, known as 'Maisha Magic Bongo'.

"It has now come up with a bigger plan specifically aimed at getting more Tanzanian films and now our

producers need to take advantage of this great opportunity as you know, M-Net channels broadcast via DStv are seen in various countries around the world", he disclosed.

MultiChoice Tanzania's Head of Marketing noted; "M-Net has decided to sponsor real Tanzanian films that reflect Tanzanian traditions and customs while carrying a variety of content including daily life, love, relationships and so on as long as they reflect the realities and culture of Tanzania."

He said the film should be in Kiswahili or English. For Kiswahili, it should have an English translation (subtitle). The story should be exciting and make the viewer eager and eager to wait for the next phase.

Recommended requirements include targeting audiences between the ages of 20 and 45, time- 90 minutes and either in Kiswahili or English.

The producer must also submit the film guide, the artists who will be performing, the full names of the organizers' team, the preliminary budget, a sample of any previous work done by the applicant and also the contract document, stating the full company names, directors, stakeholders, registration illustrations of the company, registration documents TRA Revenue Authority and full address.

Producers who submit their preferences should submit them by email where the deadline for receipt of proposals is 15 March 2021.

Upon receipt and scrutiny, the nominees will be reviewed by a panel and a panel of judges nominated by the channel heads who will evaluate the criteria that meet the criteria and then select the winning nominations.

For the winning proposals, producers will receive full funding (ie of all production costs) from M-Net and in such agreements, the technical and editorial standards required by M-Net will form part of the agreement.

M-Net will also be responsible for final editing and creative controls based on the film's prospects.

Simba SC all out to overcome Prisons

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

VODACOM Premier League's Simba SC will be seeking to keep on pushing for the top flight's top spot as the outfit confronts Prisons in Dar es Salaam today.

The game is expected to be highly competitive on the pitch after the first phase game between the two squads, which took place in Rukwa, ended with Prisons edging Simba 1-0.

Prisons, as a result, handed Simba SC which was then under head coach Sven Vandebroek the first loss.

Simba today host Prisons at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium with both teams in need of three points.

Simba have been positioned second in the domestic top flight standing with 45 points after playing a total of

19 matches.

Prisons have been positioned 10th with 27 points after playing a total of 21 matches.

Salum Kimenya, Prisons' midfielder, stated that they need three points to achieve the goals they have set for themselves.

He added: "The key to all our matches that we will take part in is to notch three points as everyone needs to achieve the goals the squad has set."

"The bottom line is that every side is strong and needs to win. It's up to us and our fans to support us. Everything will be fine," he said.

As for Simba, their fullback Shomari Kapombe has said that they will continue to fight to achieve the squad's goals and they believe that the second round is very competitive.

Yanga still within reach VPL trophy, says Madadi

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

THE Tanzania Football Federation (TFF)'s Competitions Director, Salum Madadi, has said there is still a chance for this season's Vodacom Premier League trophy to be won by Yanga.

Yanga, the Premier League leaders, are under pressure to notch good results and stay in the title race, whilst age-old rivals, Simba, are as well seeking to defend the top flight's top honour.

Simba, placed second with 45 points, need victory in two matches, including Wednesday's match against Prisons, to stay at the helm of the Premier League.

The league defending champions lately have four more matches in hand, while Yanga have collected 50 points.

Yanga's management has already announced the departure of their head coach Cedrick Kaze and offloading the entire technical bench due to the team's performance.

Coastal Union recently edged Yanga 2-1 in Tanga to hand the Premier League leaders their first defeat in the league.

The Premier League leaders thereafter were held to 1-1 draw by Polisi Tanzania in Arusha.

"Kaze has not yet had a bad run in the league," the TFF official, who was the former Simba head coach, stated.

He said with Yanga parting ways with coach Kaze, the gaffer's successor should know how strong his team are in the championship race.

"They still have a chance, no team has secured the title, Yanga still have that opportunity if they will prepare adequately," he said.

He said the only thing left for Kaze's replacement is to realize his



Salum Madadi

team's ability, to prepare as a team so that they could have different tactics depending on fixtures.

He pointed out: "You can't rely on running and playing long balls to emerge victorious in fixtures and ultimately lift the top flight's top honour."

He said Yanga need to

build a more competent team on the field rather than relying on fans' support.

He disclosed: "I'm not sure if they did proper scouting during their registration that would give them an answer for the type of players they brought in, what have they come to do, who do they work with and what is the

club's philosophy."

"Yanga players need to be prepared to play as a team due to our league. They should also know what Yanga's target is," he said.

Yanga have lost the Premier League title for three successive seasons, with Simba winning it in three seasons.

Rage counsels Simba SC on Al Merreikh players

By Correspondent Ismail Tano



Ismail Rage

FORMER Simba SC's chairman, Ismail Rage, has said that if the allegations against Sudan's Al Merreikh players, who are reported to have faced ban from playing for six months, are true then the former have a duty to closely monitor the allegations.

Al Merreikh took on Simba in CAF Champions League's Group A clash in Khartoum last weekend, which ended in 0-0 draw.

The Sudan soccer club is reported to have fielded several performers allegedly facing ban in the match.

According to sources, it is possible for Simba to get points if they are determined that the said Al Merreikh players played whilst they are serving ban.

It has been reported that Al Merreikh included three players who had been banned from playing football for six months because they signed contracts with two different teams, namely Al Merreikh and Al Hilal.

The players are Mohamed Al Rashed, Ramadhan Agab and Baljit Khamis.

If Simba, coached by Didier Gomes, are given three points, they will collect nine points and keep on leading the Group A.

Rage said that should Simba get three points, the team must carefully monitor the issue, including scrutinizing the players' permits and contracts.

He noted: "Simba have to be careful, they should find out if the players have been licenses to play continental matches as stated and that could give them a glimpse of what they have to do."

"If they know about the licenses they should also follow up on knowing that those players may be registered to play in continental games and whether their names have been listed for the fixtures," he said.

Billionaire Motsepe named CAF president after FIFA deal

RABAT

SOUTH African billionaire mining magnate Patrice Motsepe will be crowned the new head of African football later this week in a tame end to tumultuous weeks of campaigning.

The 59-year-old Motsepe, ranked by Forbes among the richest men on the continent, has been anointed as the new Confederation of African Football (CAF) president after a deal brokered by FIFA president Gianni Infantino.

The last impediment to his coronation, which will come at the CAF Congress in Rabat on Friday, was removed on Monday when the Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld a ban on CAF President Ahmad Ahmad for corruption, although reducing his suspension from five to two years.

Ahmad was initially banned in November, opening the field for new leaders, with Motsepe proving a surprise candidate.

Owner of the successful South African club Mamelodi Sundowns, who won the African Champions League in 2016, he has not previously held office in football administration, enjoying rather an enigmatic profile similar to those of oligarchs investing in top European clubs.

He was pitted against Jacques Anouma of the Ivory Coast, Augustin Senghor from Senegal and Mauritania Football Federation president Ahmed Yahya but the prospect of an intriguing contest ended in a deal that will see Motsepe take the presidency and Senghor and Yahya appointed vice-presidents.

Anouma will become a special advisor.

Infantino, who spent two weeks in Africa last month, had denied any part in the succession when questioned by reporters on Friday but one day later, at a ceremony in Mauritania to seal the accord between the quartet, the FIFA president acknowledged that world soccer's governing body had played a part.

"I am delighted that FIFA has been able to contribute, even if just a little, to this crucial moment for football on this great continent," he said.

Motsepe, who is the brother-in-law of South Africa's president Cyril Ramaphosa, has promised to use his business connections to improve CAF's commercial deals and income from television and marketing rights as well as making the Cairo-based organisation more professional.

(Agencies)

Remontada repeat unlikely but Barca can regain dignity against PSG

BARCELONA

"LET'S go to Paris and see if we can pull off a comeback," shouted Joan Laporta, the cheers rebounding around the room as he and his team celebrated his election on Sunday as Barcelona's new president.

It was almost midnight and the result was not yet official, but victory was clear and already Laporta was imagining the kind of result in Paris on Wednesday that an incoming club president could only dream of.

Barca will carry a 4-1 deficit into the second leg and not only that but memories fresh of a hiding at Camp Nou, a 45-minute whirlwind when Kylian Mbappe ran and ran, and Paris Saint-Germain ran riot.

The gulf in class, not just the score, meant nobody was talking up a repeat of the famous 'remontada' of 2017 in the return game, least of all Barcelona's coach and players.

"I don't know, there is one leg left. It will be very difficult, we all know that," said Frenkie de Jong moments after full-time, barely able to find the energy to speak. "There is always another match," said coach Ronald Koeman. "But after a 1-4 at home I'm not going to lie to you, there is very little chance."

Koeman had taken off Gerard Pique with 12 minutes left, not because the defender was injured but because he wanted to preserve his fragile knee for games to come. "There was no need to take risks," he said.

When Barcelona drew at home to Cadiz the following weekend, Koeman said he was more disappointed with that result than the loss to PSG.

"Maybe I'm just more realistic than other people," said Koeman.

- New system -

Since then Barca have won four in a row, scoring 10 goals and conceding none. They have moved to within two points of Atletico Madrid in the league and reached the Copa del Rey final, coming back from losing a first leg 2-0 against Sevilla to win 3-2 on aggregate.

Koeman has shifted to a new system, with three central defenders, two wing-backs and two up front. It could give them more protection against Mbappe and Neymar, who is expected to be fit this time.

Good form, though, against less impressive opponents in the league and cup proved a poor gauge of Barcelona's chances in the first leg. Unlike in 2017, they will not have a lethal front three to instigate fear, nor will there be 99,000 fans at Camp Nou, or any at all, to ignite momentum.

AFP

Messi to Paris: Barcelona's nightmare, and PSG's unattainable dream?

PARIS

AS Lionel Messi comes to Paris this week with Barcelona in the Champions League, the inevitable temptation is to think ahead to next season and wonder if the Argentine might be a regular fixture in the French capital.

That remains the nightmare scenario for Barcelona fans, even if their new president Joan Laporta announced following his election victory on Sunday that he was "convinced he wants to stay".

Barcelona, like Real Madrid, fear the threat to their status at the top of the European game posed by Qatar-owned PSG and Abu Dhabi-owned Manchester City.

On the evidence of the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie, PSG have bypassed Barca. Their 4-1 win at the Camp Nou means it would take a stunning turnaround in Wednesday's return to stop them reaching the quarter-finals.

A move to one of Spain's giants was long seen as the pinnacle for any player, but times have changed, as proven by Neymar's transfer



Lionel Messi

to Paris for a world record 222 million euros (\$264m at the time) in 2017.

PSG and City are probably the only likely destinations for Messi should he leave. But could a switch to Paris really happen?

- "Reserved a seat just in case" -

"Great players like Messi will always be on PSG's list," insisted

the French champions' sporting director Leonardo in a January interview with France Football magazine.

"We are sat at the big table with all those who are keeping a close eye on it. Well, we are not sat down yet, but we have reserved a seat just in case."

Neymar would be delighted to team up with the Argentine again. "It's

what I most want," he told ESPN in December.

PSG would not need to pay a transfer fee, and Messi -- who turns 34 in June -- would be joining a club surely better placed in the short term to win the Champions League.

He would also be teaming up with a coach in Mauricio Pochettino who is a fellow Argentine.

Indeed, Pochettino

was born in Murphy in the province of Santa Fe, just 150 kilometres from Messi's home city, Rosario. Both started playing at Newell's Old Boys.

"I have to be careful not to talk about players who are at other clubs," Pochettino said of Messi in an interview with AFP last week.

"In any case it is an easy answer. Great players can play for any team."

Yet Messi does not represent the future. Kylian Mbappe, scorer of a hat-trick in the first leg, does. He is 22, the age Messi was when he won his first Ballon d'Or.

- New contracts for Mbappe and Neymar? -

PSG's energy and finances need to be focused on the future of Mbappe and the 29-year-old Neymar.

Both are out of contract at the end of next season. Leonardo recently said a new deal for the Brazilian was "on the right track".

Meanwhile Mbappe has admitted he is still mulling over what to do next.

"I am very happy here. I have always been very happy," he declared recently. "But I want to think about what I want to do in the coming years, where I want to

be."

According to documents released in 2018 by Football Leaks, Neymar's existing after-tax salary is 30 million euros (\$35.8m) a year while Mbappe's was due to rise to 11 million euros this year. It is safe to assume neither will be taking a wage reduction to stay.

Meanwhile, in January El Mundo published details of Messi's current contract, which it said is worth up to 555 million euros over four years.

PSG are rich but are far from immune to the economic crisis hitting football due to the pandemic and also the collapse of France's domestic television deal.

The latest Deloitte Football Money League put their revenue last season at 540.6 million euros, a drop of almost 100 million on the previous season. According to L'Equipe, PSG expect to lose 204 million euros this season.

Money may have once proven no obstacle for PSG, but the current climate means signing Messi could be beyond even them.

A place in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, at Messi's expense, should not be.

AFP

Liverpool seek solace in Europe but Leipzig loom

LONDON

LIVERPOOL have a rich history of turning on the style in Europe to make up for disappointing domestic form, but even a 2-0 first-leg lead over RB Leipzig in their Champions League last-16 tie looks precarious.

Jurgen Klopp's stumbling English champions will approach Wednesday's second leg with trepidation -- knowing they will not even be at Anfield for the "home" match.

Liverpool's dramatic exploits in European competition over the years have been fuelled by the colour, noise and energy provided by fans packed into their famous old stadium.

In 2005, Rafael Benitez's league also-rans were inspired to thrilling wins over Juventus and Chelsea before producing the greatest comeback in Champions League final history in Istanbul against AC Milan.

Klopp's first season in charge, in 2015/16, ended with Liverpool a lowly eighth in the league, but they were roared on as they battled back from 3-1 down to beat Borussia Dortmund 4-3 in the second leg of their Europa League last-eight tie on their way to the final.

Arguably the greatest night Anfield has ever seen came against Barcelona in May 2019.

The Spanish giants were demolished 4-0 in the second leg of the Champions League semi-final, 24 hours after Manchester City landed a vital blow in a titanic title race with Klopp's men.

Liverpool went on to beat Tottenham in the final to be crowned Eu-



Jurgen Klopp

ropean champions for a sixth time.

- Fear factor -

But after a year of largely empty stadiums as a result of the coronavirus, Anfield's fear factor has vanished.

Klopp's men had been unbeaten in 68 Premier League games at home until January, but they have now lost a club-record six in a row.

Liverpool's "home" match against Leipzig will be played in the Puskas Arena in Budapest as a result of Covid-19 travel restrictions, the same stadium that hosted the first leg.

European football's governing body UEFA

is determined that the show must go on -- fearful of taking another

sharp economic hit. But the unusual circumstances of this year's

Champions League have robbed the competition of much of its sparkle, with various teams forced to travel to neutral venues for home matches while the public remains locked down in many countries.

Without their fans at Anfield, Liverpool's Premier League title defence has collapsed.

Sunday's 1-0 defeat by relegation-threatened Fulham left them eighth in the table.

Injuries have played a major role in their dramatic decline, which has left them struggling just to qualify for next season's Champions League.

Former Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher labelled the current squad "mentality mid-gets" -- in sharp contrast to the "mentality monsters" moniker previously used by Klopp to describe his team.

Klopp has pointed to the unavailability through injury of captain Jordan Henderson and Virgil van Dijk as reasons for a loss of leadership.

"We obviously have a lot of players who stand for mentality not on the pitch in the moment,"

said the Liverpool boss.

But questions are beginning to be asked about his ability to summon a response from his players now the malaise has set in.

"The next game is in a different competition where we didn't do too bad so far," said the German. "If we can go through, which is not guaranteed, then that could give confidence."

Klopp's lack of faith that his men can defend a 2-0 lead is revealing, with Leipzig smelling blood.

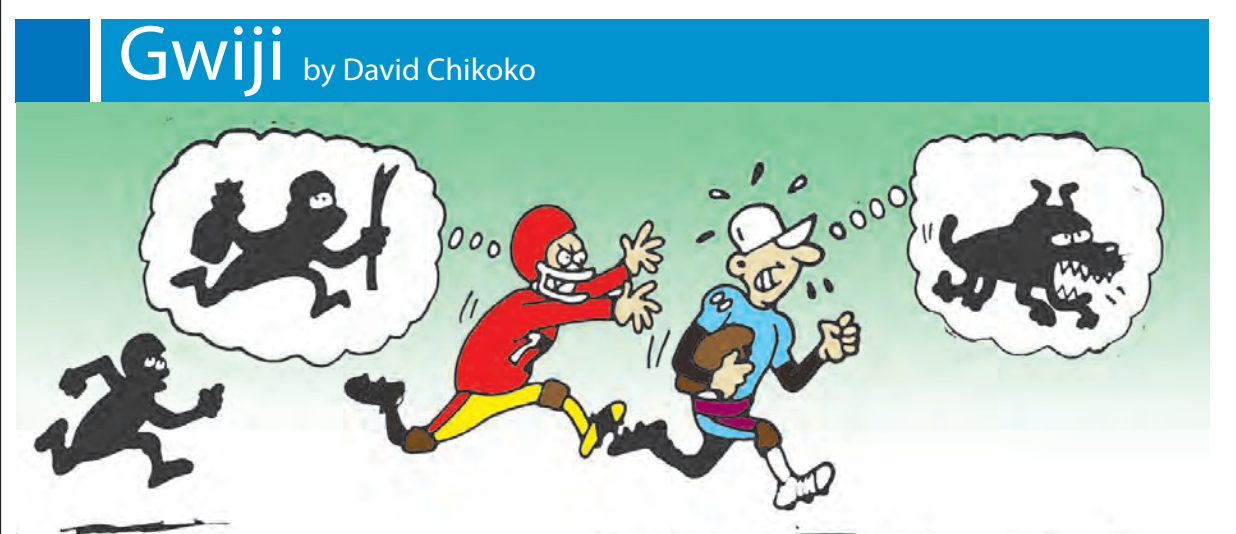
Julian Nagelsmann's men are flying on the back of six straight Bundesliga wins, threatening Bayern Munich's stranglehold on German football.

Leipzig dumped Tottenham out at this stage of the competition last year and Manchester United in the group stage this season.

Liverpool's scalp would be the biggest given their record in the Champions League under Klopp.

But as this season has clearly shown, the spluttering Reds are no longer the formidable force they were just a year ago.

AFP



SPORT

Messi to Paris: Barcelona's nightmare, and PSG's unattainable dream?

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Serengeti Boys miss out as CAF cancels 2021 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations



Serengeti Boys

By Correspondent Michael Mwebe

THE Confederation of African Football (CAF) has cancelled the 2021 U-17 Africa Cup of Nations tournament which was to be hosted by Morocco from March 13-31 2021.

The development comes after a decision by the CAF Emergency Committee that sat on Monday to discuss developments regarding stringent travel protocols the Morocco government has imposed on several countries in fear of COVID-19.

Last week Morocco suspended all flights to and from several countries as part of efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19. Some of the countries

that Morocco imposed a ban include Italy and Belgium.

All flights between Morocco and Denmark, Brazil, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, Turkey, Austria, Portugal, Sweden, the Czech Republic, and Ukraine

were also suspended.

The CAF committee noted that taking into account the cancellation by FIFA of the Under-17 World Cup for which the U-17 Africa Cup of Nations tournament was no longer qualifying, it was also important that the event is cancelled because of the

resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased restrictions on international travel and uncertainty about the evolution of the situation.

"The Committee was made aware of the constraints faced by some of the participating member associations as well as the host country, including the fact that the coronavirus pandemic continues to present significant challenges for the organisation of international sporting events," a CAF statement noted.

The Tanzania's national U-17 team, Serengeti Boys, who qualified to represent the CECAFA zone, had already camped in Morocco for the tournament preparations.

Serengeti Boys had been put in Group B that also consisted of Nigeria, Algeria and Congo-Brazzaville while Group A had Morocco, Ivory Coast and Zambia.

Defending champions Cameroon who were crowned in Tanzania in 2019, were set to meet South Africa, Mali and Senegal in Group C in the 12-team tournament.

The next U-17 Africa Cup of Nations tournament is scheduled for April 2023.

The best four nations from that tournament will represent Africa at the 2023 FIFA World Cup in Peru.

5
EATV
WEDNESDAY

TONIGHT
@ 7:00



EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELECT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

eastafrika
RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Simba SC seeks clarification on Al Merreikh players

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

SIMBA SC has lodged a complaint to the continental soccer governing body seeking clarification on two players Sudanese giants Al Merreikh feature in the last week's CAF Champions League's Group A clash pitting Al Merreikh against Simba.

Simba took on Al Merreikh in the competition's fixture in Khartoum, which ended in a goalless draw.

It is alleged that the Sudanese side featured the two players Ramadhan Agab and Bakhiet Khamis who were suspended for six months due to contracts disputes.

In a yesterday press release on Simba's social media page, the information purported to have been written by Simba SC and signed by the side's Chief Executive Officer Barbara Gonzalez said they have reported the matter to CAF for their clarification on the matter.

Simba stated: "This is to inform the general public that we have lodged a complaint to Confederation of African Football (CAF) on the two players who were suspended by Sudan Football Federation for a period of six months starting from January 21."

"The players in question are Ramadan Ajab and Bakhiet Khamis."

The Guardian could not independently verify whether the press release was released by Simba, as the outfit's officials could not pick their phones to issue comments after several attempts.

However, the news of Al Merreikh featuring the two players started making rounds on Monday evening.

In a monitored radio interview, football commentators noted if it will be proved that the Sudanese side featured the two players Simba will be awarded three points and two goals.

However, some commentators warned Simba not to be occupied with the issue as it may distract them from preparing for the competition's game against Al Merreikh, which will take place at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam on March 16.

Simba are leading Group A with seven points from three games. They need four points to reach the quarterfinals.

Prisons eager to stun Simba SC in VPL



Prisons

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

TANZANIA Prisons say they are well prepared for today's Vodacom Premier League encounter against the top flight defending champions Simba SC at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es salaam.

The Rukwa-based side is already in Dar es Salaam ready for the match.

Salum Mayanga, Prisons' head coach, stated his charges will approach the game carefully as they are seeking to register positive results.

He said he is treating the game very carefully as he is aware that the hosts will come into the game with the aim

of winning.

Mayanga, who is one of the respectable and experienced local coaches, pointed out he appreciates that Simba have good, experienced and talented players who can rise to the occasion but he was adamant he has prepared his charges for the assignment.

"The boys are ready for tomorrow (today) game, we know it will not be an easy match, our opponents are one of the best teams on the land, but we will take on them as our aim is to collect the desired results," he said.

The two sides last met in the domestic top flight at Nelson Mandela

Stadium in Rukwa and Prisons won 1-0.

Simba SC assistant coach Suleiman Matola said his players know the importance of winning today's game.

The top flight defending champions have 45 points from 19 games, five points behind the competition's leaders Yanga.

Matola said for his side to close the gap with leaders Yanga they need to win today's game.

"It will be a tough encounter as our opponents will come with the aim of frustrating us, but we are well prepared for the game," he said.

Simba and Prisons are coming into

today's game with almost similar results.

The Premier League defending champions registered a goalless draw away to Al Merreikh of Sudan in the CAF Champions League last weekend.

Prisons came from behind to draw 1-1 with Mbeya City FC in a top flight's game.

Simba SC head coach, Didier Gomes, is expected to feature the same team which played against Al Merreikh, with only a few changes.

He is expected to feature wingers, Perfect Chikwende, Bernard Morrison, Ibrahim Ajibu, and midfielder Jonas Mkude, among other players.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

