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President John Magufuli visibly delighted yesterday when inaugurating a 23bn/- project at Kagongwa township under which water from Lake Victoria will reach at least 115,600 Shinyanga Region residents. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Contractors stalling water projects risk blacklisting

By Henry Mwangonde

PRESIDENT John Magufuli yesterday said that the government will blacklist all contractors awarded water projects but failed to implement them within the agreed period.

Speaking when launching a water project for Kagongwa-Isaka in Kahama municipality in Shinyanga Region, Dr Magufuli directed the Water ministry to prioritize local consultants in giving water project tenders.

"This is taxpayers' money. There is no way the government should be spending a lot of money to finance these projects and yet someone tries to interfere with them.

We will take serious actions against anyone who will be found doing this," he said.

He cited an example of punishment on a contractor for the Nyumba ya Mungu Dam water delivery project from Mwangi to Himo in Kilimanjaro Region, now suspended for failure to complete the project since 2017.

In October last year, the president warned the contractor to watch his steps or face the law, issuing a 30 days ultimatum for the contractor to speed up the project, and directing the minister to follow up on the matter.

During the Kahama event, Dr Magufuli instructed the contractor to make sure that

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Nine regional states feature in media freedom support project

FRANKFURT/PARIS

THE World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) has announced a new \$1m partnership with the Danish foreign ministry to support media freedom in nine countries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Under the arrangement, the association which has special interest in fragile states, shall work with print and digital media organisations in the eastern and southern African states of Tanzania, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe to improve the safety of journalists and the security of newsrooms.

The thrust will also be on increasing media-led advocacy around press freedom and gender-related issues, providing high-level business and editorial management support, and offering financial assistance with which to strengthen public interest reporting.

The partnership builds on a previous three-year (2015-2018) strategic

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Expired IDs: PM signals traders' temporary relief

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has directed local authorities to allow hawkers and small-scale traders to operate with expired identity cards as the government prepares the new, improved ones whose issuance begins in April.

The premier issued this directive at mid-week in a meeting with leaders of petty traders from across the country as well as regional administrators, noting that only after the distribution of new IDs will current cards be considered to have expired.

The government is now finalizing procedures to start issuing improved identification cards, expected to enable the group to access various types of credit from financial institutions, he said.



With the new IDs, traders will be trusted by financial institutions including banks and thus access loans to improve their projects

The new IDs will contain essential particulars of a trader including photos, thus improve their recognition in banks and other financial institutions.

He urged regional and district commissioners to ensure that small scale traders carry on with their daily activities smoothly without being harassed on statutory expiry of their current IDs.

The new IDs will contain particulars of the traders, rendering it unusable for another person, while being intended to be used for two to three years instead of one year, he said

The government deliberately set out to issue the hawkers with identity cards to elevate their formal position as trading entities with access to credit

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Ministry labours to curb violent mental disorders

Gender-based domestic violence the main focus

By Guardian Reporter

EXPERTS at the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children have been working on a new plan of action aimed at curbing runaway incidents of domestic violence emanating from mental disorders.

The minister, Dr Dorothy Gwajima (pictured) said in a statement yesterday that the evidence shows that more people are resorting to harming others or



themselves due to lack of psychological support.

Recent incidents that pushed the ministry to act include the case of a husband who was arrested in Dar es Salaam last month following a violent attack on his wife with a sharp object, upon a failed attempt to kill their two children.

There was also a widow who attempted suicide in an inheritance

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MAJALIWA PRAISES TPSF

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DRONE PILOTS

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Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa chairs a consultative meeting attended by leaders of small traders from regions across mainland Tanzania held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday. Right is Jenista Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office (Policy, Parliament, Labour, Youth, Employment and People with Disabilities). Photo: PMO

Ministry labours to curb violent mental disorders

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row and last week's incident in Morogoro where a young girl reportedly attempted to take her own life after her parents interfered in her sentimental relationship.

"These incidents point to increased acts of domestic violence, heightened family conflicts tied to property rows and unresolved psychological contentions," the minister noted.

To mitigate effects of this situation, the minister has directed community development officers in all districts to update their

job descriptions, which will henceforth include attending to people with disputes at family level.

"I direct community development officers at all levels to set aside one day in a week to listen to social challenges including family disputes and relationship issues, and offer counselling," she said.

Each level of district administration must prepare a permanent register capturing details of clients served by community development officers, it said, noting that the officers do not have to wait for

the worst to happen for them to act.

"They must be proactive by working on signs of violence and nipping the same in the bud," the minister elaborated.

Community development officers should refer cases they cannot handle to relevant and more competent authorities for action and follow up their progress, the directive specifies.

Districts should also release to the public the phone numbers of their community development officers for ease of access by anyone interested in reporting a grievance, she stated.

Districts should draft timetables for regular visits by community development officers in areas where it is not easy for clients to access their offices, the minister further observed.

For the plan to succeed, community development officers need to work closely with other state organs in their areas and grassroots-level women and children protection committees, she said.

Where there are no women and children protection committees, the same should be established with immediate effect, the statement added.

Contractors stalling water projects risk blacklisting

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people in surrounding villages benefit from the project because the tanks are located within their localities.

He said that before the project, Kagongwa and Isaka towns faced acute water problems, needing 4.6m litres per day but as the project will produce 9.8m litres per day, this will no longer be the case.

He said the government boosted the project to overcapacity so as to forestall problems in the near future, making the project serve up to 115,660 people.

He expressed satisfaction with the Kahama Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (KUWASA) for efforts to reduce the cost of implementing the project.

The president used the opportunity to direct Water minister Jumaa Aweso to use the remaining 1.6bn/- to ensure people in the surrounding villages get clean water.

The water tanks component costing about 23bn/- is part of the Lake Victoria water project implemented in Igunga, Nzega and Tabora districts, for a total cost of 700bn/-.

The government has implemented 423 water projects across 28 towns in the past five years costing a total of 1.2trn/-, he said.

Availability of clean and safe water in villages is rising, up from 47 percent in 2015 to 70 percent in 2020 while in towns, the increase is from 74 percent in 2015 to 84 percent in 2020, he added.

Expired IDs: PM signals traders' temporary relief

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facilities and contributing to state revenues, the premier affirmed.

"As promised by President John Magufuli, the government recognizes the huge contribution of petty traders in the country's economic growth. And it has continued to improve the business environment for small-scale entrepreneurs such as food vendors, hawkers, motorcycle and tricycle riders to enable them conduct their activities smoothly.

"With the new IDs, traders will be trusted by financial institutions including banks and thus access loans to improve their projects,"

he stated, urging hawkers to form groups and work together to easily access credit facilities.

Late 2018, President Magufuli launched an identity programme for vendors and 'marching guys' by initiating special taxpayer ID cards, explaining the move as meant to widen the tax base.

When handing over the cards to regional commissioners, he charged the leaders to ensure proper distribution of the cards so as to benefit most of the intended section of the population.

The ID cards are renewable for those with a maximum turnover of 4m/- annually.

Nine regional states feature in media freedom support project

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engagement with the Danish ministry and complements WAN-IFRA's existing programme engagements on the African continent.

This is done through long-term collaborations with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the groundbreaking Women In News programme, and the Norwegian Foreign Affairs ministry.

"We are delighted to renew our partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and to start work on this important new project with our colleagues across Africa," WAN-IFRA chief executive officer Vincent Peyrègne said in a media statement.

He elaborated: "The last 12 months have exacerbated an already difficult situation for the media globally, and African newsrooms are no exception.

"Many are struggling to make the transition towards a digital future, innovate for their products to remain appealing to audiences, or strengthen their business and editorial competencies under harsh financial conditions.

"Added to this, the safety of journalists and persistent threats to press freedom make supporting colleagues across the continent an urgent priority."

Peyrègne said that the coming months will see WAN-IFRA identify newsrooms and media partners to be invited to participate in the new initiative.

The association will draw on its Women in News network, its Media Freedom Committees in Africa and a growing membership community, selecting up to 25 organisations to benefit from the resources and opportunities provided by the new programme.

Over the course of the three-year project, WAN-IFRA shall work with media partners in assessing their approach to safety, offering training and direct assistance to strengthen journalists' knowledge and preparedness as well as organisational responses to threats.

The plan includes building or strengthening media-led advocacy networks and campaign on media freedom issues relevant to local journalists, tailoring support to editorial

and business development through training and mentoring, and providing micro-grants to finance public interest reporting.

WAN-IFRA press freedom executive director Andrew Heslop meanwhile said that 2021 is an important year for media freedom in Africa, with the 30th anniversary of UNESCO's pivotal Windhoek Declaration "providing a necessary point of reflection to judge successes and understand the work still required to ensure a strong, independent press can flourish.

"This timely new project strengthens WAN-IFRA's engagement with media across Africa, giving us the opportunity to build on our support to long-term partners who have been on the front lines of defending press freedom for many years, but also crucially the chance to welcome exciting new media voices whose vision for Africa it is essential to include," the director underlined.

The Windhoek Declaration for the Development of a Free, Independent and Pluralistic Press - Windhoek Declaration, for short - is a statement of press freedom principles by African newspaper journalists.

It was prepared and issued at a UNESCO seminar held in the Namibian capital Windhoek from April 29 to May 3, 1991 under the theme: "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press".

The date of the Declaration's adoption - May 3 - has subsequently been declared as World Press Freedom Day.

WAN-IFRA's primary mission is to strengthen and support the independent press, its global engagements being aimed at defending press freedom and promoting sustainable, financially viable media.

These engagements are aligned under three main strategic mandates: advocacy, media development and media sustainability.

The association applies a dual approach to supporting media freedom: addressing political and structural constraints to media freedom through advocacy, and applying development to strengthen the capacity and networks of the media and their representative institutions.

•AGENCIES



Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Academy rector Prof Shadrack Mwakalila (L) pictured in Zanzibar yesterday briefing Zanzibar Second Vice President Hemed Suleiman Abdalla on plans by the academy's Karume Campus authorities - in Zanzibar - to ensure students live and study in a more conducive environment. Photo: ZSVPO

Uganda to borrow Shs100 billion to fight Covid pandemic

By Nobert Atukunda

THE Ugandan cabinet has authorised the Ministry of Finance to borrow \$31.64m (Shs115.8b) from the African Development Fund (ADF) to boost government response in the fight against Covid-19.

The cabinet resolved to boost the country's Covid-19 testing capacity, increase intensive care units (ICU) beds in 14 regional referral hospitals from 143 to 283 beds and provide personal protective equipment (PPE)s for the first responders at the border points and Entebbe airport.

The loan seeks to finance the revenue shortfalls to strengthen Covid-19 outbreak response mechanisms and mitigate the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

"Scale up laboratory testing capacity and diagnosis by at least 5 per cent through provision of testing kits, consumables and accessories. Strengthen and increase current ICU capacity with at least an additional 140 ICU beds equally distributed in 14 regional referral hospitals," Ssubi Kiwanuka, the public relations officer of International Relations,

said in a statement.

This is not the first time government is earmarking funds to fight Covid-19 pandemic.

Last month, a report by Ministry of Finance budget monitoring and accountability unit, which Ministry of Health tasked the Finance ministry to clarify or withdraw, detailed that the overall budget for government's multi-sectoral Covid-19 response between March and end of June was Shs2.2 trillion, out of which Shs766.7b was received and committed towards Covid-19 prevention and response interventions.

The Ministry of Health last month, however, told Daily Monitor that by end of June it had received only Shs119b supplementary budget, complemented with off-budget commitments and expenditures by development partners.

Finance Minister Matia Kasajja is expected to table the loan request to Parliament for approval.

Another Shs215b was detailed as "in pipeline", including Shs89b from government, Shs69b from Global Fund, and Shs56b pooled by both government

and the World Bank's Uganda Covid-19 Response and Emergency Preparedness Project.

Some of the outputs the Health ministry undertook included procurement of 38 ambulances at Shs11b through M/s City Ambulance Limited, among others.

According to Ministry of Health Covid-19 update to Cabinet, a vaccine request for nine million people costing \$164m (at more than Shs600b) has been submitted and all conditions for receiving the vaccine have been fulfilled.

"The vaccines are expected in the country by April to May 2021. That persons at highest risk of severe disease and deaths like older person of 50 years plus (3,348,500) and persons with underlying health conditions would be prioritised among the first citizens to be vaccinated against Covid-19," the statement reads in part.

The minister of Health, Dr Ruth Aceng, said they are still negotiating with the manufacturers for the government to buy vaccines directly and thus the price might change. She added that the allocation for vaccines will be in phases.



George Lugata (L), Vodacom Tanzania Plc's head of sales and distribution, briefs journalists at yesterday's launch in Dar es Salaam of Tecno RC6 (Tecno Babukwba) and IteI AC13 (IteI Kitonga) cell phones with a one-year special offer of 60GB and 48GB offers, respectively. He is with IteI PR manager Fernando Wolle. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

'Lack of funds major factor delaying Mara hospital completion'

By Guardian Reporter

CONSTRUCTION of the Mara regional referral hospital is said to be partly hindered by delayed funds disbursement from the government, it has been revealed.

The situation has prompted project implementing agency, the National Housing Cooperation (NHC), to request for additional six months to complete the project which was supposed to be handed over to the government in August last year.

Mara regional administrative secretary Catherine Mthapura said this yesterday when briefing Deputy Minister for Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development, Dr Angelina Mabula who toured the region to inspect implementation of development projects.

Mthapura said that at first the project was progressing well, but the contractor was forced to stop the job over delayed funds from the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children.

She said that NHC had once used its own funds to complete construction of some sections of the building such as the mother and child department. She said the contractor then stopped executing the project since June 2020.

The project's Engineer, Leonard Kazoba, told the Deputy Minister that they are facing financial challenges caused by delayed disbursement of funds. He said despite approval of more than 3.5bn/-, the contractor has yet received any money from the authorities.

"The government approved 3,591,565,635.35/- in November last year which was to be paid within 28 days, but nothing has

been deposited in our bank accounts," said the engineer.

Kazoba said that NHC has purchased generators and other equipment to facilitate implementation of the project.

In her response, the Deputy Minister underscored the need for timely disbursement of funds to enable NHC implement the projects accordingly.

She added that delayed funds disbursement affects the corporation's efficiency in implementing various projects countrywide.

Dr Mabula said that NHC is required to complete the Mara regional referral hospital project at a cost of 15,082,481,832.82/- whereas until January this year it had only received 8,469,851,800.34/-.

She said the government has to disburse the remainder 6,612,630,032.48/-, of which some 3,591,565,635.35/- is from the region's internal revenue collections.

"The management of HNC should make follow-up on all its tenants to ensure they pay their rents on time. This will enable it collect enough money for implementation of its projects," she said.

Acting Regional Medical Officer, Dr Lazaro Mwikabe said that completion of the remained hospital buildings will result in improved health care services in the region.

He said plans are underway for the hospital to purchase the CT scan machine with financial support from the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

The contractor—the government's company established to undertake an array of businesses in real estate started to implement the project in September 2019.

Tanzanian firms secure deals to export tilapia

By Guardian Reporter

EIGHT Tanzanian companies have secured permits to export Lake Victoria's Nile Perch to Saudi Arabia, thanks to the online Business to Business (B2B) meetings organized by the Tanzania Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) late last year.

This is according to Tanzania's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ali Mwadini who has said that the permits have been issued by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) after the companies completed all the required procedures.

Mwadini was speaking with Tanzania manufacturers and traders dealing with agricultural,

livestock and fisheries products in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He asserted that the embassy is currently working to secure a permit which will allow Tanzanian traders to export honey to Saudi Arabia. He urged traders interested to export honey to submit their company profiles at TanTrade for completion of the procedures.

AmbMwadini noted that meat exporters must first obtain a Certificate of Australian Halal Development and Accreditation Association and present proof of a certified butchery to be able to export meat to Saudi Arabia.

He added that the private sector in Saudi Arabia is looking for potential partners from Tanzania so that they

can establish livestock farms and slaughterhouses with the capacity to slaughter 4,000 cattle and goat per day.

He said that Saudi Arabia depends on imported food as well as opportunities for enhancing economic growth whereas in the past two years, the country imported more than 203,000 tonnes of live animals and 800,000 tonnes of meat and fish products.

Saudi Arabia imported 160,000tonnes of dairy products including milk, and 600,000tonnes of honey.

Other commodities that Saudi Arabia imported from various countries include horticultural products—flowers and vegetables (1,200,000tonnes), fruits

2,000,000 tonnes), coffee and spices (300,000 tonnes) and cereals such as rice, maize and wheat (16,000,000tonnes).

The envoy challenged Tanzanian traders to improve the quality of manufactured goods and ensure proper packaging to be able to penetrate into international markets.

He thanked TanTrade for organizing the B2B online business conferences which link Tanzanian traders with their counterparts around the world.

Data shows that Tanzania can export commodities worth \$ 23 million to Saudi Arabia. The leading Tanzania goods sold to the country are coffee, fish and minerals.

Majaliwa commends TPSF for imparting skills to the youth

By Guardian Reporter

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa has praised Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) for imparting skills, especially to the youth who have been able to employ themselves in various areas in the country.

The PM gave the remarks in Dar es Salaam during his meeting with TPSF officials, ministers and other government officials.

He said the private sector was the engine for development, hence the government will continue to cement cooperation with the Foundation because, he said, it very much depends on it to ensure the country's progress.

Majaliwa said the government will continue to make improvements in policy, laws and guidelines to enable the sector to implement its responsibilities as intended aimed to attain a strong economy.

"Let's continue to work hard and produce quality products that can enable us compete internationally to attain high level economy. I also thank TPSF for creating many jobs in the country," he said.

Minister of State in the PM

Office (Policy, Parliament, employment and People with Disabilities) Jenista Mhagama said the government has listened to all issues raised and that it will work on them and respond on them to ensure the private sector implements its responsibilities.

For his part, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Investment) Prof Kitila Mkumbo said as for now the government continues to review the law on investment and should expect to have a much better legislation.

Earlier, TPSF chairman Angelina Ngalula said their institution was ready to work together with the government and that it will ensure it makes a big revolution in the country's business sector.

She called on the government to prepare a special policy for the private sector development that would be able to deal with issues relating to the sector.

She also said that the involvement of the private sector in the implementation of huge projects has been negligible and requested the government to make an appraisal of the issue to enable the private sector fully participate in the projects.



Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority acting director general Daniel Malanga (R) pictured in Dar es Salaam yesterday presenting a certificate to Adnani Myungi, one of 21 first-batch drone training graduates of the Civil Aviation Training Centre. The training was conducted in the city collaboration with Pro Wings Training of South Africa. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

East African businesses adopt digital solutions amid covid-19

By Guardian Reporter, Arusha

BUSINESS Membership Organizations (BMOs) in the East African region are adopting Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software technologies so as to improve service provision amid impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

This follows a two-day training by the East African Business Council (EABC) in partnership with GIZ- Business Scouts for Development and the Federation of German Industries (BDI) on using a CRM software set to improve the capacity of BMOs in processing data and communicating effectively with

members of the business community.

Speaking here yesterday during the opening session of the training, EABC chief executive officer Dr Peter Mathuki urged East African companies to adopt digital business models to improve business resilience and continuity amid the pandemic. "COVID-19 has brought forth opportunities in e-commerce, which have significantly scaled down the cost of doing business by automating manual office operations and reducing human interaction hence increasing productivity and efficiency," he said.

Dr Mathuki also noted that the pandemic demands BMOs to be more proactive in giving

feedback and analyzing data from members to inform policy advocacy initiatives such as the elimination of COVID-19 related Non-Tariff Barriers, among others.

Hamad Hamad, Executive Director of Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) said, "It is critical for businesses to adopt digital tools to improve efficiency and maximize on returns. EAC Partner States Governments also need to adopt e-government solutions to give value to citizens."

He noted that this happens as the African Development Bank projects that the region is set to recover to 3.7 percent in the baseline

scenario and 2.8 percent in the worst-case scenario, under the assumption that COVID-19 would be contained in the short-to-medium term (AfDB East Africa Economic Outlook, 2020).

The pandemic has disrupted the global supply chain impacting trade in goods and services in the EAC.

EABC in partnership with the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and GIZ- Business Scouts for Development is committed to take lead in managing the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software to support BMOs in the EAC region to improve communication with their members and stakeholders.

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

APPLICATION FOR TANZANIAN CITIZENSHIP

BHERMAN SINGH NANDHRA

Whose photograph is shown, a Kichangani wards resident in Morogoro region, applying to the minister for the home affairs for Tanzania citizenship. His nationality is Indian, country of origin is INDIA. Occupation: Contractor in Morogoro region. Any person who knows why citizenship should not be granted to the applicant should send a written and signed statement to the commissioner general for immigration services, P.O.BOX 1181, Dodoma.

Farmers reap benefits of customary title deeds

By Guardian Reporter, Mbarali

SMALL-SCALE farmers in Mbarali District, Mbeya Region have benefited from a total of 18.09bn/- in loans issued by various financial institutions after they formalized their farms and obtained customary title deeds.

The loans were issued to the farmers between 2014/2015 and 2019/20 financial years.

Daniel Ole Njoolay, chairman of the leadership committee of the Property and Business Formalization Programme (Mkurabita) said here yesterday that the land formalization exercise has been fruitful to majority of needy people.

He said the objective of Mkurabita is to empower the marginalised majority in the informal sector so that they can make better use of their property and business assets to transform their activities and thus find their pathways out of poverty.

"So in the past five years, small scale farmers have reaped big by only using their customary title deeds, financial institutions have also increased their trust to the farmers just because they have the title deeds," he said.

According to him, land formalization has given a new lease of life to farmers and pastoralists, adding that it has enabled families to increase productivity, eliminate land disputes as well send their children to school.

Amb Njoolay said that the government has been striving to ensure that the macroeconomic benefits are maintained and penetrate downwards to the grassroots through implementation of a number of reform programmes.

Dr Seraphia Mgembe, Mkurabita coordinator said the Mbarali District Council has set a good example in promoting the concept of land formalization, calling on others to emulate it.

Dr Mgembe asked financial

institutions to continue supporting the government's efforts meant at improving social services and by ensuring that they give part of their benefits back to the community.

"The move will stimulate development in the land sector, especially in the area of land formalization and construction of infrastructure, including village registers to keep customary land titles. It will also encourage villagers to join the financial institutions and start saving and apply for loans," he added.

Land Officer for Mbarali District Geoffrey Mwaijombe said they have succeeded to survey a total of 2,953 farms in various villages and issued 2,720 customary titled deeds.

He said that villages which have proper land use planning have increased from 16 in 2009/2010 to 36 in 2020/2021.

Launched in October 2004, Mkurabita seeks to establish an integrated system of property rights and business rules as a basis for transition of the urban, peri-urban and rural areas into a market that enables Tanzanians to have equal opportunities in using their assets to access credit services.

Mkurabita targets property and business owners in the informal sector, whose entry into the formal market economy is assumed to enhance their opportunities by using their assets to access capital and thus improve national economic growth and reduce individual household poverty.

"So in the past five years, small scale farmers have reaped big by only using their customary title deeds, financial institutions have also increased their trust to the farmers just because they have the title deeds"



Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority deputy commissioner speaks at a three-day workshop held in Arusha city yesterday for people engaged in bushmeat butchery business. Photo: Godfrey Mushi

By Guardian Correspondent,

Morogoro

TRADITIONAL healers have been urged to use research findings conducted by the Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) and other institutions to improve quality of their services.

The call was made yesterday by the University's Deputy Vice Chancellor (Finance and Administration) Prof Amandus Muhairwa during a symposium which brought together traditional healers under the Green Resources Innovations for Livelihood Improvement (GRILI) project funded by the Danish government.

Prof Muhairwa said the idea was important especially at this time when the world is struggling

Use science in improving services, herbalists urged

to find effective vaccinations and other remedies for Covid-19 with herbs reportedly performing better in some places.

"Scientists and traditional healers are not enemies because we all work dependably; we scientists conduct research on some of the herbs which you use to get more details. Let's work together to help the society," he said.

He said traditional medicines face various challenges including production, harvesting, manufacturing, storage, distribution and sustainable availability, adding that to

overcome these issues, there is need for more research aimed at improving their qualities and standards.

He said the university will always work with traditional healers to facilitate the use of technology to help growth of the sector hence promote national development.

Earlier, the Director for Post Graduate studies, research and publication at SUA Prof Japhet Kashaigiri said the university has been holding such for a to improve plant-based businesses, livestock keeping and plant research in collaboration with

other stakeholders.

Prof Kashaigiri said universities globally are sources of research development and that is why SUA decided to use the opportunity to collaborate with the traditional healers who are key stakeholders in the health sector in the country.

Speaking on the project, the lead researcher for the project Dr Faith Mabiki said implementation of the project which started in 2018 is aimed at increasing the quality of plant products to improve lives of conservationists hence contribute to national economy.



Constitutional and Legal Affairs deputy minister Geoffrey Pinda opens an East and Horn of Africa Paralegals Network meeting in Dar es Salaam yesterday. The focus was expected to be on ways to help paralegals do more and better on the rights promotion and delivery score. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

PwD urged to go for interest-free loans

By Guardian Reporter

THE Deputy Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for people with disabilities, Umyy Nderinanga has challenged Persons with Disabilities, (PWDs) in the country to take advantage of the two per cent of revenues set aside for them by district councils as interests-free loan to set up income generating projects.

The Deputy Minister said that all district councils are required by the law to allocate 10 per cent of their internal revenues for issuance of loans to special groups—PWDs (2 per cent), Women (4 per cent) and youth (4 per cent).

She made the remarks in Mara Region recently during

her meeting with regional authorities and leaders of PWDs associations. She urged them to take advantage of the loans to improve their welfare because they will repay the monies without interest.

"As leaders of the associations of persons with disabilities, you are supposed to encourage your members to form groups so that they easily access the loans for establishment of business projects," she said.

Nderinanga commended authorities in Mara Region for prioritizing issuance of loans to PWDs whereas they have so far provided 115,226,660/- which has been given to different groups.

She said the government is determined to empower PWDs through various initiatives

including issuance of loans. She said the government attained the middle-income status and is striving to further enhance economic growth through construction of industries.

"You can use the loans to establish small processing industries," said the Deputy Minister adding that PWDs are capable of doing various projects that can be done by normal persons. She called upon community social welfare development officers to assist PWDs in preparing business plans as well as how to apply the loans.

She said the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) election manifesto also insists of economic empowerment to persons with disabilities, and that they should be given priority in various

development matters.

She urged regional and district authorities to include issues of PWDs in the Consultative Councils to be able to know their challenges and provide them with quality social services.

Deputy Minister Nderinanga called upon the community to stop hiding PWDs instead provide them with necessary requirements including education.

Mara Regional Administrative Secretary, Catherine Mthapula, said they have been sensitizing PWDs to apply for the loans.

Chairman of the association of PWDs in Mara Region, Iddy Mtani said: "We commend the government for supporting us because we are now able of running our own businesses."

Drone pilots plead for more training facilities

By Correspondent Theresia Victor

GRADUATES of a drone pilot course at the Tanzania Civil Aviation Training Centre (TCATC) have called on the institution to increase the number of teaching equipment so as to ease learning.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues during graduation ceremony yesterday, Ephraim Danford who works with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as Geographical Information System (GIS) data Specialist said one of the challenges they faced was scramble for few learning materials.

"For instance, all drone pilot trainees need to have their own drone so that they can be able to practice adequately and get the required knowledge," he said.

Apart from that, he said TCATC needs to work on categorizing courses so as to provide wider choices to learners with varying areas of specialization such as drone maintenance which is currently in huge demand.

He further pointed out that TCATC also needs to categorize drone trainees according to their areas of professional competence such as agriculture, camera operation.

"We thank institution for their generous support which aimed at helping become the best drone pilots. The training has been well received," he said.

TCATC Principal Aristid Kanje said the training centre is working in collaboration with Pro-Wings training from South Africa to make sure that the courses they offer are recognized worldwide.

He said through the training, the center managed to graduate the first batch with two different categories: one being drones

piloting and the second was approach control procedure with the latter aimed at building capacity in air traffic management trainees.

"The third batch is expected to start on 15th February to 13th March and the training will take place in Arusha at Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology," he said.

TCAA Economic Regulation Director Daniel Malanga urged all drone owners to make sure they register for training so that they can gain license on drone piloting.

He further noted that being a drone pilot is just like being a normal pilot hence operators need to know issues surrounding the environment such as study of weather, human factor, navigation, operation procedures, flight plan and procedures as well as law and regulations.

He added that the training was aimed at giving insights and knowhow on aircraft operations so as to avoid accidents.

For his part, Ian Melamed who is Manager at Pro-Wings said that the training is not only important but a must for safe flying.



We thank institution for their generous support which aimed at helping become the best drone pilots. The training has been well received

Temesa: We have increased internal income collection

By Guardian Reporter

THE Tanzania Electrical, Mechanical and Electronics Services Agency (TEMESA) has increased its internal income collection from 4bn/- in 2006/2007 financial year to 54bn/- in 2019/2020.

This was disclosed yesterday in Dodoma by TEMESA chief executive officer Japhet Masele when presenting his report on the agency's activities to the Parliamentary Infrastructure Committee.

Masele said the increase has allowed TEMESA reduce dependency on the government in its operations, as well as being able to contribute to the Consolidated Fund every year.

"For instances in the 2018/2019 financial year we contributed 1.13bn/- to the Consolidated Fund while in the 2019/2020 we contributed 1.22bn/-," said Masele.

He explained that the revenue increase has enabled TEMESA to increase the number of ferries it operates from 13 in 2005 to 33 in 2020 including two ferries whose construction was completed to serve Chato-Nkome in Geita Region and Mafia-Nyamisati in the Coast region.

Masele told the Committee that apart from these projects TEMESA was involved in other projects including installation of electric and security systems in various strategic projects, including the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP), Mkulazi Sugar Industry, Mtumba capital project at Dodoma and the wall around Mirerani Tanzanite Mining area.

In regard to building workshops in every district, he said the Agency has purchased mobile workshops for those workshops outside urban areas and refurbished those in poor conditions.

"What we ask from the

government is to get funds in time in order to improve infrastructures in our workshops to be more efficient in vehicle repairs," stressed Masele.

The Committee's Chairman, Suleiman Kakoso said in order for the Agency to support itself commercially, the government is supposed to provide funds to the Agency.

He instructed the parent ministry through TEMESA and Tanzania Building Agency (TBA) to submit statements of debts owed by all government institutions to help pushing up the government to pay the debts.

He also called on the Institute of Construction of Tanzania (ICoT) to continue providing education at lower cadres in order to get experts including technicians who, he said were currently in short supply.



For instances in the 2018/2019 financial year we contributed 1.13bn/- to the Consolidated Fund while in the 2019/2020 we contributed 1.22bn/-



Lands, Housing and Human Settlement Development deputy minister Dr Angelina Mabula (R) exchanges greetings with women attending a clinic at Mara General Hospital on Thursday. Photo: Correspondent Munir Shemweta

By Guardian Reporter

THE chief Executive Officer of the Universal Communications Service Access Fund (UCSAF), Justina Mashiba, has said the fund has begun implementing various projects for spreading communications services in the country's border areas aimed to ensure people in those areas get the essential service, but more important to ensure the country's security.

Mashiba issued the remarks during the signing ceremony of three agreements between UCSAF and mobile phone service providers - Vodacom, Airtel and Tigo which send communication services in 173 villages in 61 wards, Airtel Tanzania sends communication services to 73 villages in 25 wards for 2.7bn

UCSAF begins spreading communication services to border regions across Tanzania

subsidy, while Vodacom sends communication services to 63 villages for 2.6bn/- subsidy and Tigo sends to 31 villages in 13 wards for 1.5bn/- subsidy.

The signing event was witnessed by the Communication and Technology Minister, Dr Faustine Mabula who was the official guest accompanied by his Deputy Andrea Kundo, Permanent Secretary Zainab Chaula and her Deputy Jim Yohazi including other ministry officials.

Dr Ndagulile praised UCSAF saying the signing of the contract was testimony of good relationship between the government and

private firms.

He also called on UCSAF, in collaboration with telcom firms to widen communication service coverage.

Dr Ndagulile also cautioned telcom firms some of whose staff have been leaking details of customers without following procedures and instructed TCRA to make follow ups of the firms whose staff do so for legal steps to be taken.

Deputy Minister Andrea Kundo said needs for communication services have been increasing and in order to meet that requirement, investment in research on technology that could be applied

appropriately as communication was now becoming a main way for economic growth.

Permanent Secretary Zainab Chaula stressed for the timely completion of the projects and called on stakeholders to abide by the agreements reached.

The three agreements are implemented in Arusha, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Mbeya, Morogoro, Mtwara, Mwanza, Pwani and Simiyu regions.

Other regions are Singida, Tabora, Kagera, Lindi, Geita, Mara and Njombe.

Upon completion more than 700,000 Tanzanians will benefit from communication service.



Christian Mission Fellowship Bishop Dr Mgululu Kilimba (2nd-L) presents wheelchairs yesterday to Tanga regional commissioner Martin Shigella, who receives them on behalf of people with disabilities. Photo: Correspondent Boniface Gideon

Burundian president moves to mend ties with the press

BUJUMBURA

BURUNDIAN President Évariste Ndayishimiye has ordered its media regulator to resolve differences with sanctioned news outlets. It's a rare sign of outreach by the government of Burundi.

The East African nation is ranked amongst the worst countries in the world for press freedom. Burundi has blacklisted several local and foreign news organizations. It has also coerced independent journalists into exile since a major political crisis in 2015.

"What I am telling you, what I promise you, is that all the differences we have had in the past must be resolved. There are media that have been sanctioned. I am asking the National Communication Council to sit down with these media and find solutions to these disputes so that we can put an end to them once and for all. Let these media and the CNC sit around the same table and decide to work together for the development of the country.

We are all aware that the media contribute a lot to the daily life of citizens," Ndayishimiye said.

In 2019, the British public broadcaster, the BBC has its operating licence taking away. The Voice of America in the United States was barred from broadcasting in the local language.

Burundi's independent media outlets were among the most flourishing in the region until the 2015 crisis when former leader Pierre Nkurunziza sought a fiercely-contested third term in office, sparking violence that claimed at least 1,200 lives.

Several radio and television stations were destroyed and about 100 journalists forced to flee the country.

Bob Rugurika is the head of African Public Radio (RPA), an independent broadcaster that was set ablaze during the 2015 violence. He welcomes the announcement, but hopes the move isn't a stunt to fool the European Union into lifting sanctions imposed on the country.

Cyclone shatters Mozambique's dream of recovering from 2019 storms

MAPUTO

NEARLY two years after it was hit by devastating cyclones, debt-ridden Mozambique's recovery effort is backsliding as it is battered by another powerful tropical storm.

More than 250,000 people are estimated to have been affected by cyclone Eloise, which made landfall on 23 January in the central Sofala province, according to the UN.

At least 18,000 people have been internally displaced and the number of affected people

continues to rise amid ongoing floods. Dozens of health facilities and more than 320 classrooms have been damaged and 142,000 hectares of crops have flooded, according to the Red Cross.

This is the second tropical storm to hit central Mozambique in less than a month, after tropical storm Chalane made landfall in December. With the risk of Covid-19 infections spreading through rescue shelters, the Red Cross has launched an international appeal for funds.

"It's a catastrophe," Hastings Kandaya, operation support

manager for the Red Cross in Mozambique, told Climate Home News. Displaced people are living in crowded conditions in rescue centres where they are unable to keep distance to avoid exposure to Covid-19, he said.

Humanitarian and development agencies have worked to rebuild this central region from the devastation caused by cyclone Ildai two years ago. The tropical storm killed over 1,000 people and destroyed more than 100,000 homes when it swept through Mozambique in March 2019.

Nearly 100,000 people were

still waiting to be resettled when cyclone Eloise struck, according to the Red Cross.

Food vouchers and financial support to buy farming equipment and fishing nets were still being delivered to help thousands of people rebuild their livelihoods.

"With the coming of Eloise, most of that has been destroyed again. The effort for recovery has backtracked," said Kandaya.

Climate projections in the region point to an increase in the intensity of heavy rainfall across the country. Jennifer Fitchett, from the University

of the Witwatersrand in South Africa, told Climate Home that the South Indian Ocean had seen an increase in high intensity storms - a trend, she said, linked to climate change. "And climate change is likely to continue to heighten the probability of higher intensity tropical storms," she added.

But "people here are not prepared for more frequent intense storms," said Jan Wiesenmüller, country manager for the Austrian development agency Horizont3000 in Mozambique.

Speaking to Climate Home from

the low-lying coastal city of Beira, Wiesenmüller said much of the damage to public infrastructure had not been repaired after cyclone Ildai. "The energy supply has never been the same," he said.

Many people who were displaced by the storms nearly two years ago are still living in makeshift camps on the outskirts of Beira, he added.

Since cyclone Eloise made landfall, "a big part of the city is still under water without electricity," he said, adding that in the poorest quarters of the city, there is no clean water.

TBS sensitises students on need to value quality

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

A TOTAL of 12,071 people mostly students from three districts in Southern Highlands regions have participated in a one-week standards awareness campaign conducted by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS).

TBS conducted the campaign in collaboration with Mbinga District business officers in Ruvuma Region. Similar campaigns have been conducted in Masasi District, Mtwara Region as well as Ruangwa District in Lindi Region.

Speaking on the initiative yesterday, TBS Principal Public Relations Officer Roida Andusamile said the exercise aimed at increasing people's awareness on the standards of various products in both urban and rural areas.

She said in Mbinga District, the officials conducted standards awareness campaigns to students of Mbinga primary and secondary schools on the importance of using TBS certified goods as well as on how to differentiate between fake and genuine products.

Andusamile added that fish traders at the Mbinga market were sensitized on the importance of proper packaging to attract customers from within and outside the country.

"Fish and sardines from Mbinga are so tasty that they can be sold not only locally but in foreign markets too. This could only be possible if traders pack them well and make sure they are certified by TBS," she noted.

In Masasi District, she said a similar campaign was conducted to students of Nyasa and Mkuti primary schools as well as Anna Abdalla and Masasi Day secondary schools.

"We educated students, pupils and traders on the importance of using certified products to avoid

health risks associated by the use of products which have not been tested and approved by the bureau," she said.

In Ruangwa District, beneficiaries of the awareness campaign included students from Rukangara and Ruangwa primary schools as well as Kassim Majaliwa and Ruangwa secondary schools.

TBS Marketing Officer, Musa Luhomboro, said once the bureau conducts such awareness to students, it reaches a big number of people since the students are expected to share the knowledge with their family members back home.

"We expect students to be good ambassadors of TBS; we want them to educate others on the importance of using certified products," he said.

According to him, a similar public awareness campaign would be conducted later to small scale traders and the general public in Bagamoyo District, Coast Region, Kilosa in Morogoro Region and Mkinga District in Tanga Region.

The education that is given to the general public is aimed at increasing awareness on TBS services.

It also aims at sensitizing final consumers on the importance and benefits of using quality products and to stimulate Micro, Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (MSMEs) and other manufacturers in the country to see the need of producing quality products.

TBS officials also sensitized the public on the new changes in the 2019 Finance Act which gave the organization new roles which were earlier carried out by the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

The bureau assumed the roles of quality assurance on food and cosmetics which were earlier under TFDA



Deogratius Ndejemi (L), Deputy Minister in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), pictured in Morogoro municipality yesterday advising civil servants occupying Watumishi Housing Project houses to communicate with him in case of any challenges. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

EWURA withdraws water tariffs due to have taken effect this month

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

WATER Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) has announced withdrawal new water tariffs that were to take effect in January this year in order to make in-depth appraisal following widespread complaints from consumers.

The tariffs rescinded were those approved by the Authority for 2020/21 and for now the tariffs introduced in 2018/19 will continue to apply.

Addressing reporters here on Wednesday, EWURA Acting

Managing Director Godfrey Chibulunje said recently there have been many such complaints in energy, oil and natural gas sectors, with 60 per cent of the complaints stem from the water sector.

"75 per cent of complaints from water consumers stem from inflated water bills from the country's various water authorities," he said.

He explained that other complaints, at 13 per cent stem from water connection services.

"EWURA approved water tariffs for the last three years—2018/19,

2019/20 and 2020/21 hence many water authorities anticipated to use new tariffs as from January this year, but since these have been withdrawn they will have to use those approved since 2018/19," he said.

He said a total of 117 water authorities countrywide had applied for approval to increase tariffs, the requests that have now been rescinded.

"We protect consumers' interests especially those at the lower income brackets well giving consideration to operation costs in regard to

other water authorities in the country, Chibulunje added.

He also said EWURA will continue implementing the directives of the Water Minister, Jumaa Aweso calling for consumers to be involved in meter reading.

EWURA's Director of water and Environmental Cleanliness Eng Exaud Maro said water tariffs differ among water authorities due to cost in transporting water from water sources to consumers' premises.

He said these costs take from 45 to 50 per cent of operation costs.



Suspected illegal immigrants from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique wait for their turn to appear at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam yesterday in connection with their status. Photo: Correspondent Jumanne Juma

By Correspondent James Kandoya

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to continue working closely with local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for the country's sustainable development.

Deputy Minister for Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children Dr Godwin Mollel said this on Wednesday in Dar es Salaam at a joint meeting between the government and NGOs.

"The government recognises the contribution of NGOs in the country's development. I therefore assure you that the government is ready to continue collaborating with you, including providing closer support in the implementation of various projects," he said.

Dr Mollel said all the recommendations submitted to the government will be implemented to ensure that the public gets access to services offered by NGOs in

NGOs play laudable role, declares deputy minister

various areas.

Focus Magwesela, a representative from the National Council of Non-Government Organizations (NaCoNGO) said up to January 17 this year, a total of 11,089 NGOs had been registered.

Magwesela said that out of those, 326 are international and 8,622 are local NGOs while 672 were registered at regional and 1,099 at district levels.

"NGOs also recommend that their performance and appraisal role be shifted to welfare offices instead of the Tanzania Regional and Local Government Authority (PO-RALG) to make things easier," he said.

According to him, PO-RALG is mandated to issue permits to NGOs but

the situation seems to hinder the general performance of NGOs.

Francis Kiwanga, Executive Director of the Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) said the meeting brought together a total of 350 NGOs from Tanzania and outside the country for two days to discuss way forward, including how to enhance effectiveness of programmes and projects implemented by NGOs.

"We have agreed with the government to have meetings every year so as to review regulations and laws governing NGOs," he added.

Kiwanga urged the government to establish a digital system to enable NGOs submit their performance reports online to reduce cost of doing so physically.

SADC to help member states have upgraded infrastructure

By Guardian Reporter

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) through Project Preparation Development Facility (SADC-PPDF) has announced support for member states in developing technically, economically and financially viable infrastructure across the bloc.

A statement released yesterday by SADC said the project is expected to result in the identification and preparation of regional economic infrastructure projects and development of human capacity within the region for the identification, project preparation, evaluation and marketing of economic infrastructure projects, as well as preparation of investment proposals.

"The SADC-PPDF aims to strengthen regional infrastructure connectivity by providing grants for project preparation and development for cross-border regional infrastructure projects in energy, transport, information communication technologies (ICT) and trans-boundary water," reads the statement.

It was created as an initial window for establishing the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF).

The PPDF is currently funded by the European Union (EU) to the tune of Euro 11.5 million, and by Germany's KfW Development Bank to a tune of Euro 10.1 million. The funds are administered, managed and disbursed by the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) on behalf of the SADC Secretariat.

The PPDF directly supports the SADC region's integration and industrialisation efforts as well as trade in goods and services and helps to improve the quality of lives of its people by improving access to infrastructure services.

In addition, PPDF supports SADC countries to undertake feasibility, technical and engineering designs, environmental and social impact assessment studies, as well as preparation of tender documents and transaction advisory services to make projects bankable for financing and implementation.

According to a report by the SADC Executive Secretary for the financial year 2019/2020, by 2019, PPDF had approved a total of Euro 20 million for the preparation

of 13 regional projects covering energy, transport and water which are expected to generate \$4.8 billion in infrastructure investment. This has the huge potential of unlocking business opportunities across the infrastructure value chain, not just in advisory services, but also financing, construction, equipment supply, technology and skills as well as operations and maintenance.

The 13 regional projects are the Mozambique-Zimbabwe-South Africa (MOZISA) interconnectivity project; the Second Alaska-Sherwood 400kV transmission line (Zimbabwe), Kasomeno-Mwenda Toll Road linking the DRC and Zambia, rehabilitation and upgrading of the North South Rail Corridor linking South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, DRC and Botswana, Luapula Hydro Power Development shared by DRC and Zambia, Angola-Namibia Transmission Interconnector and the MulemboLelya Hydro Electric Power shared by DRC and Zambia.

Other projects are the Africa Green Company (all SADC Member States), Development of Guidelines and Standards for Renewable Energy Projects and a funding and incentive strategy project in Mauritius, Angola-Namibia Transmission Interconnector, wastewater pumping station and wastewater treatment plant in Mauritius, Lomahasha-Namaacha cross border water supply between Eswatini and Mozambique and Kazungula Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Zambia.

Currently processes are on-going to operationalise the SADC Regional Development Fund, whereby the agreement to operationalise the fund has been finalised and nine Member States—Angola, DRC, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe—have signed the agreement.

The 39th SADC summit in August 2019 approved August 2021 as the targeted date for the fund to become operational.

The Sustainable Financing of Regional Infrastructure and Industrial Projects in SADC (an African Development Bank Project) is providing support to deepen regional integration in the region including the operationalisation of the fund.

Mlimba District gets support for maternal healthcare initiative

By Correspondent James Kandoya

MILIMBA District Council in Morogoro Region has received a donation of medical equipment worth 20mn/- from Plan International Tanzania to facilitate C-section surgeries in a bid to reduce maternal and child mortality rates.

Speaking at the handing over ceremony last weekend, Mlimba District Executive Director, Stephanie Kaliwa, thanked Plan International Tanzania for the support.

He said the organization has been a good partner in supporting different development programmes in the district, including education, environment and health sectors. He said the organization has been supporting the district's outreach programme dubbed 'Mkoba'.

Kaliwa noted that Plan International Tanzania donated 16 motorbikes and vehicles to ease transport to healthcare workers providing services to expectant mothers and children less than five years.

"Last year, the district council constructed three dispensaries. We have already received 500mn/- from the central government for construction of a district hospital," said the DED adding that they are expecting to receive 1bn/- in the fiscal year ending June 2021 for completion of the hospital project.

Mlimba District Medical Officer, Dr Christina Guveti, said that Mgeta health centre was established in 2004 but has not been able to conduct surgeries for mothers.

She said pregnant mothers who needed surgery had to be

referred to other health facilities located some 75 kilometres from the village. She added that most of them were taken to St. Francis Referral Hospital in Kilombero district.

"The government released 700mn/- for construction and procurement of medical equipment for Mgeta health centre so as to reduce maternal and child mortality rate. It is our hope that medical equipment will improve healthcare services," she said.

Health Project Coordinator from Plan International Tanzania, Esteria Kisoka, said the donation was in response to the council's request to the organization to support the government's efforts towards improvement of health services.

Kisoka said the organization in collaboration with the council also supported other programmes aimed at reaching key targeted groups especially those residing far from health facilities.

"We will continue to support the government in its endeavours aimed at ensuring quality health services. We also aim to ensure that health services reach all Tanzanians including those living in rural areas," she added.

"The government released 700mn/- for construction and procurement of medical equipment for Mgeta health centre so as to reduce maternal and child mortality rate. It is our hope that medical equipment will improve healthcare services"



Resident Magistrate Moses Ndelwa (R), who doubles as mobile courts coordinator, pictured in Dodoma city yesterday briefing Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister Prof Palamagamba Kabudi (L) at the Tanzania High Court pavilion at an ongoing exhibition held to mark the court's 100th anniversary. Photo: Correspondent Ibrahim Joseph

'Input of NGOs must complement govt programmes'

By Correspondent Wilhelm Mulinda,

Mwanza

MWANZA Regional Administrative Secretary, Emmanuel Tutuba, yesterday challenged boards and managements of Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to ensure the institutions work to compliment government efforts in bringing development.

In remarks read on his behalf by Isaac Ndassa at the opening of training for board members of

various NGOs in the Lake Zone, Tutuba noted that 80 per cent of the boards are not properly managing their institutions.

The capacity building training was organized by Plan International Tanzania. The board members were from NGOs that work in collaboration with Plan International in identifying, implementing and managing different community projects.

Boards are required to manage NGO funds and human resources so that they continue growing and contribute to the government's

endeavours towards improving well-being of the people, he said.

Tutuba thanked Plan International Tanzania for organizing the training which he said would strengthen board members' capacity in managing resources as well as projects implemented by the institutions.

He said the initiative is good since it gears to help improve the institutions' performance in their daily operations.

Plan International Tanzania Manager in Mwanza Region, Majani Rwambali said the training

was aimed at building capacity for NGO board members to manage their institutions properly and create an environment for them to closely work with Plan International Tanzania as development partners.

The Organization's Director of Programmes, Peter Mwakabwale, said they also provided similar training to youth under the Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO).

He said the youth trainings are meant to equip them with skills to enable them employ themselves.



Flaviana Matata Foundation founder Flaviana Matata symbolically presents a consignment of sanitary pads to Dar es Salaam regional education officer Abdul Maulidi (R) on Wednesday shortly after launching the sponsorship of the items to 1,000 students. Photo: Correspondent Sabato Kasika

Mixed feelings as S. Africa awaits Covid-19 vaccine rollout

JOHANNESBURG

THERE are mixed feelings in Soweto as South Africa awaits rollout of covid-19 vaccination across the country. The Southern African nation is expecting its first batch of the jabs by the end of this month.

Josephine Hlomuka is a peanut seller. The 82-year old said trust for the vaccine is simply not there.

"I'm afraid, because always when a person gets an injection, they just go. So we don't trust it", she said.

Tshegofatso Mdluli has been

unemployed for a year. The 22-year old who used to work in the retail industry is adopting the "wait and see" approach.

"When one of the parliament people injects, and something like that, or a sick person injects, and he becomes okay, I'll be sure, and then I'll be good with it, and I'll also vaccinate", he said.

The transmissible nature of the coronavirus variants is leading South Africa to grapple with unprecedented resurgence.

The country is the hardest hit on the continent with 1.4 million cases. There are 41,000 fatalities

till date.

Meanwhile, the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) on Wednesday approved the "controlled" use of anti-parasitic agent ivermectin on humans. This reverses a decision to ban the drug last month over unproven claims that it can treat Covid-19.

Ivermectin is one of a string of generic medications tested as a potential cure for the virus since beginning of the pandemic. The prophylaxis is mainly used to kill parasites such as head lice on both animals and people. It has

been widely distributed in sub-Saharan Africa since the 1990s to treat river blindness.

Scientists say there is not yet enough evidence to promote the drug as a remedy for coronavirus, leaving governments undecided over whether or not to limit its consumption amid surging demand.

South Africa, where ivermectin is usually registered for veterinary use but not forbidden for humans, saw its national health products authority block imports of the anti-parasitic in December over "lack of clinical evidence".

United Nations Forum on Forests confirms global Covid-19 impact

By Alison Kentish

THE COVID-19 Pandemic has affected every sector of society and a global assessment by the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) confirms that its shocks have extended to forests on every region on earth.

Impact severity varies across the Regions; Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and other states, North America, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia-Pacific, but they range from an increase in illegal harvesting of forest products to loss of critical funding for forest protection agencies.

"The UN Forum on Forests was among the first intergovernmental processes to take steps to assess the impact of COVID-19 on forests," Alexander Trepelkov, Officer-in-Charge of the UN Forum's Secretariat told IPS. "This is a critical step in determining how investing in forests can help countries to recover better from the pandemic towards an equitable and sustainable future," he added.

Forests cover about one-third of the earth's land area and provide livelihoods for millions of people, including members of rural communities and indigenous tribes. The assessment warns that the pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities of those communities.

According to the assessment, African forests are among the hardest hit by COVID-19 and efforts to curb its spread. The report from that region stated that forest management activities have been either postponed or cancelled, illegal harvesting has increased and eco-tourism, particularly in the East and South of the continent, has 'grounded to a halt due to movement restriction measures.'

The Asia-Pacific region, which focused on Thailand and

Nepal, reported a slowdown in major areas of forestry sector operations, including reforestation.

The report on Canada and the US spoke of disrupted forest management and research that resulted in mill closures and halts in production that impacted livelihoods.

In the Western Europe region, researchers noted that hospitality agencies that offer forest-based recreational events were severely impacted by global travel restrictions, adding that women make up the majority of employees in this area and have been disproportionately impacted by the ensuing unemployment.

Eastern European states reported delays in sustainable management programmes.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, closed forest-based tourist attractions meant a significant loss of revenue for some countries.

Jamaica's Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation World Heritage Site was one of the sites which closed temporarily, early in the pandemic.

"The national park has places that we encourage people to visit. We initially had shut down our sites, but later on, as there was greater understanding of how the disease spreads and realising that protocols could be put in place, we followed the UN and the Health and Tourism Ministries' guidelines," Dr. Susan Otuokon, Executive Director of Jamaica's Conservation and Development Trust, told IPS. Like conservation bodies the world over, the Trust, which manages the site, has been trying to fulfil its mandate amid challenges that include reduced funding and the need for distancing when many projects demand physical meet-ups.

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Port construction cooperation fine example of Diaspora ties

ZANZIBAR President Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi has hit the ground running in his first term of office, with noticeable achievements under his belt barely 60 days following his inauguration.

One such success is reaching an agreement with the Sultanate of Oman on the putting up of multi-terminal port facilities in Zanzibar. This quest is part of determination to build a blue economy thrust in policy, maximising the use of sea resources, ports, etc.

While there is definitely a need for more accessible port facilities within the traditional economy in the two islands, there is also a visible opportunity to make Zanzibar a trading hub for eastern African coastal neighbourhood and hinterland.

Doing so would require an enabling environment from tax authorities, so that goods or services in Zanzibar are attractive to potential users far inland. Much of this is still on the drawing board and may require frank discussion and 'difficult decisions' in due course to make blue economy tick.

By the time the port building pact was being signed, the database for Omani-Zanzibari cooperation was altered somewhat, with the partial collapse of Beit el-Ajaib (House of Wonders).

The 'icon' holds pride of place in Stone Town tourism. But now it lies almost in ruins, making the task of rebuilding it in particular and rehabilitating Stone Town r generally all the more urgent than would otherwise be admitted.

That may attract other stakeholders, all right, but Diaspora relations also constitute a proper platform at present.

The Diaspora ties involved in the port building accord relate to country-to-country relationships as the whole idea has resonance

with a civic Diaspora in Oman - and reflects social realities in Zanzibar.

One can't just wish away traditional Omani presence in the Isles, nor indeed fail to notice that present-day links can be enhanced at the civic level to help make a difference in Zanzibar economic endeavours.

This also has to do with local compromises, for instance Oman feeling more at ease cooperating with the Isles authorities when there is a government of national unity, not as a precondition but as reflecting a positive mood.

Even within the ambit of blue economy projections, plenty needs to either change or be improved in relation to how far a market resonant regulatory environment is in place, whether it is for opening this or that business venture, or reaching out to distant markets.

One sits in an office in Zanzibar and talks with clients in the region or a bit more distant, knowing that business decisions that make sense in Zanzibar will not be disputed once the selected agent is no longer within Isles territorial waters.

It is, differently, to seek a sort of free trade zone with Zanzibar where taxes are largely harmonised, to ease transit trade.

We have a common tariff for member states of the East African Community, while much the same is being applied to member states of the Southern Africa Development Community.

And at the start of this year, the Continental African Free Trade Area pact came into effect after 33 countries ratified the accord, signed by all African Union member states except Eritrea. As we are now part of this pact, let us use it in relation to transit trade and the blue economy. By all accounts, though, the just-endorsed port construction pact between Zanzibar and Oman provides invaluable lessons.

Herders' invasion of Ihefu basin is case meriting careful handling

EFFORTS by Mbarali District authorities appear to be taking a psychological toll on herders who have invaded Ihefu basin after having been moved out in 2006.

Rapid arithmetic would suggest that the grazing land problem is likely to be worse than obtained then. One reason for this appears to be that there are more herders and therefore us more animals to feed than was the case previously.

Traditional cattle grazers' districts like Loliondo, Ngorongoro, Tarime and Simanjiro offer scant respite in that regard.

In fact, the ecological situation in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area is approaching crisis proportions, on the basis of what authorities there have been saying over the past two months in particular.

The herders are becoming more and more numerous, and efforts to let go of some unused portions of game conservation areas lead to disruptions of ecosystem linkages vital to survival logistics of various species. It also invites exposure of local populations to wildlife rampages.

As noticed even during the 2006 evictions and subsequent reinvasion of Ihefu basin by herders, and why the sky seems to be caving in for many of them when cattle are impounded for trespass on government conserved area, the herders too have a problem living with this situation.

That kind of contention for land use is creeping up in a more gradual and virtually painless manner relative to what other countries are experiencing. Cattle rustling in the past decade or two

shifted from spears to firearms, igniting civil wars.

The level of violence that the contention for land use has seen in Tanzania is farmers battling herders and the latter often grazing animals on planted land.

However, with population expansion and land use patterns remaining the same, chances of courting worse trouble are far too high for anyone to ignore. Policy-wise, we relish big herds for skins and hides industries, not fewer head of cattle. It is a safe bet that policy projection in that respect has been a challenge, first because there is nothing inherently wrong with having many cows, and secondly because it is difficult to legislate on such a matter.

Policy has taken the middle path, of demarcating areas for herding and for farming. In an instance in Mbarali last month, a herder pointed out that the district did not set out areas for grazing - implying that only farming and conservation have a hearing. The land demarcation policy appears to suppose that land so demarcated is adequate for both farming and grazing, and thus no one should trespass into conserved areas, or invade farms for grazing purposes.

Yet experience shows that this is not the case, and consequently a communal approach to grazing land will not solve the problem.

Only an individualised approach to landholding, where possibly the best option is for herders to form cooperatives to help them obtain loans to bring water to reservoirs and thus improve breeds so that the cattle numbers fit given areas. There is thus plenty of work for the authorities to take up.

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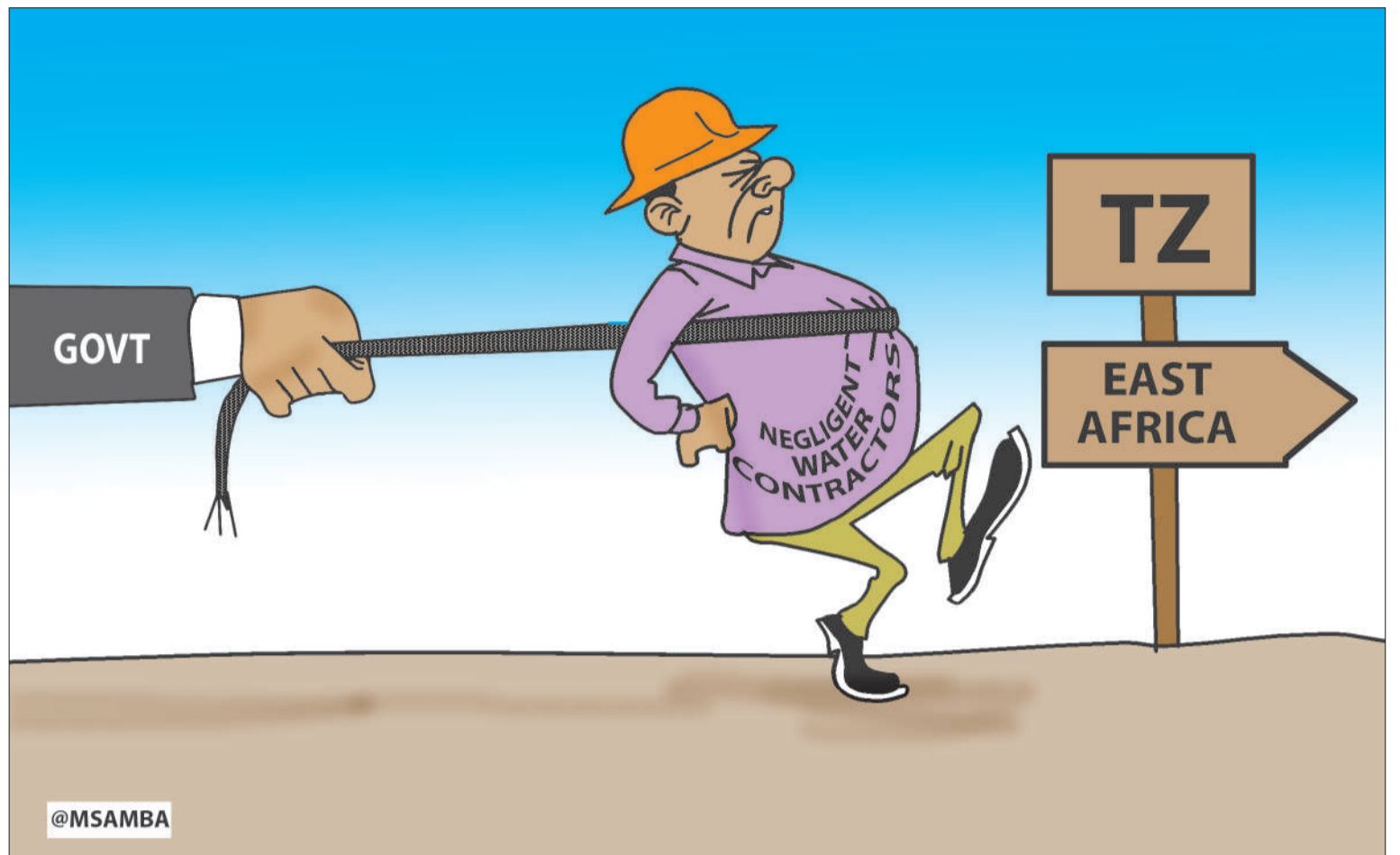
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COVID-19 crisis was always coming, but the world was far from prepared

By António Guterres

I wish you all a happy and healthy start to the year. My message today for 2021 is a message of hope and determination.

Hope, as I believe it is possible to change gear and put the world on the right track. Determination, as we must all do everything we can to make it happen.

We have just lived through the most difficult year of my lifetime. Our world was rocked on its axis in 2020.

The Covid-19 virus set off a global crisis that is still unfolding. This week, we passed the grim milestone of 100 million confirmed cases worldwide.

More than two million people have died. Behind those figures lies immeasurable loss and grief. Some 500 million jobs have gone; trillions of dollars have been wiped from global balance sheets.

This human tragedy will reverberate for decades to come. Families, communities and countries are in mourning. With some 600 thousand new cases every day, the future is still full of uncertainty.

But we must chart a course ahead. In this spirit, earlier today I shared my ten priorities for 2021 with the UN General Assembly.

This must be the year when we put our world back on track towards peace, stability and opportunity for all. This is because it is clear that we have lost our way.

Those whose life chances were already reduced by inequality and injustice based on income, race, gender and other forms of discrimination are suffering most from the impact of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, this week's report by Oxfam found that the money accrued by the world's ten richest billionaires during the crisis would be more than enough to prevent anyone from falling into poverty as a result of the pandemic. It could also pay for Covid-19 vaccinations for everyone, everywhere - with change to spare.

If we fail to reverse these inequality trends, we are sowing dangerous seeds of discord, disunity and division for the future. The red flags have been apparent for some time. I, and others, have issued a series of global warnings and alerts.

While the world has made enormous progress on poverty, hunger, health, education and gender equality over the past two



United Nations Secretary General António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres

decades, it has neglected critical global commons and global public goods: a healthy planet; a stable climate; universal health coverage; cyber security; effective global governance.

The impact of that neglect is now starting to overwhelm and undermine the hard-won progress that we have made. Hunger and poverty are rising for the first time in decades. Women's rights are going into reverse.

Hundreds of millions of children are missing out on education. Human rights are under assault. Inequality is at obscene levels.

The global crisis triggered by Covid-19 is not some kind of Black Swan event - that is an unpredictable and extremely rare event that is beyond what is normally expected of a situation and has potentially severe consequences.

To the contrary, the crisis was predictable - and predicted. It is a symptom of neglect. A crisis was always coming - but the world was not prepared.

Crisis provokes change. Our challenge during this pivotal year is to make sure that the change goes deep enough. We must prioritise inequality, geopolitical divisions, widespread violations of human rights, the misuse of technology and the stagnation of the nuclear non-proliferation regime for urgent, coordinated global action.

We need enhanced diplomacy for peace - and increased efforts

for conflict prevention and resolution.

Among the challenges we face, there are three global emergencies that demand immediate attention. First, the distribution of vaccines for Covid-19. More than 70 million doses have been administered. Less than twenty thousand of these were on the African continent.

A global immunity gap puts everyone at risk. If the virus continues to circulate in the Global South, it will inevitably mutate. New variants - and we are already seeing it - could be more deadly and more transmissible and threaten the effectiveness of current vaccines and diagnostics, prolonging or risking to prolong the pandemic significantly.

Vaccine nationalism is an economic as well as a moral failure. The latest research by the International Chamber of Commerce shows that without support to the developing world, this crisis could cost the global economy up to US\$9.2 trillion - including in the wealthiest countries.

That figure is 340 times more than the \$27 billion funding gap that we have now in the ACT-Accelerator - our best tool to make vaccines available to everyone, everywhere and speed up a global recovery.

While every country has the right - and the duty - to protect its own people, no country can afford to neglect the rest of the

world.

I thank the states and organisations that are supporting COVAX (the global initiative to ensure rapid and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines for all countries, regardless of income level) and the ACT-Accelerator and welcome the United States' announcement that it will join them.

We must close the funding gap; ramp up vaccine production by making licences widely available and sharing technology; and get doses into the arms of all who need them - starting with health workers and those most at risk around the world. We need a global vaccination campaign to deal with a global pandemic.

The second area for urgent action is financial support for all countries that need it. In today's world, self-interest cannot be separated from solidarity.

The global economy is made up of an intricate web of transactions between developed and developing countries. While the pandemic continues to disrupt supply chains, developed economies will not make a full recovery.

The implications are clear. For a fast and full recovery, the developed world should not only share vaccines equitably; it should support developing economies by ensuring continued liquidity, including through the issuance of Special Drawing Rights, and expanding debt relief to all developing countries and middle-income countries in need of it.

We need a quantum leap in financing from all sources, including private creditors to developing countries in the world. This is not an act of charity. It is economic common sense.

The third global emergency is the climate crisis. The recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic must embrace renewable energy and green and resilient infrastructure.

We have an opportunity to end our senseless war on nature and start the healing process. At five minutes to midnight, governments are finally starting to listen to scientists, businesses, cities, academia and in particular, the young people who have been global leaders on this issue.

United Nations Secretary General António Manuel de Oliveira Guterres made these remarks to the media following an informal briefing to UN Member States in New York on Thursday.

Business Insider did nothing when the Covid-19 pandemic hit. It worked...

By Lukas I. Alpert

IN the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, Business Insider co-founder Henry Blodget spoke with the website's owner to discuss a collapse in advertising revenue that had hit the news industry.

Across American corporations, leaders were responding to the Covid-19 crisis with a flurry of activity and strategy shifts. Blodget persuaded the company's owner, German media conglomerate Axel Springer, to do nothing and let the storm pass. It worked.

Blodget reported that Insider Inc., the parent of Business Insider and related properties, roared back in the second half of the year, posting 30 per cent revenue growth for 2020 while turning a profit. A person familiar with the matter meanwhile said the company generated over \$150 million in revenue.

Business Insider, which blends business news and popular culture coverage, benefited from the combination of a burgeoning subscription business and its reliance on a form of automated advertising that held up relatively well in the pandemic, but which many peers have drifted away from.

Insider Inc. was able to continue a hiring spree despite the turmoil. The company engaged 200 more employees in 2020 - 130 of them in the newsroom - and now employs just over 500 people in all.

"We feel extremely fortunate to have come through it the way we have," Blodget said in an interview.

Across the online publishing world, advertising sales improved somewhat over the course of last year, but not enough to avoid cuts.

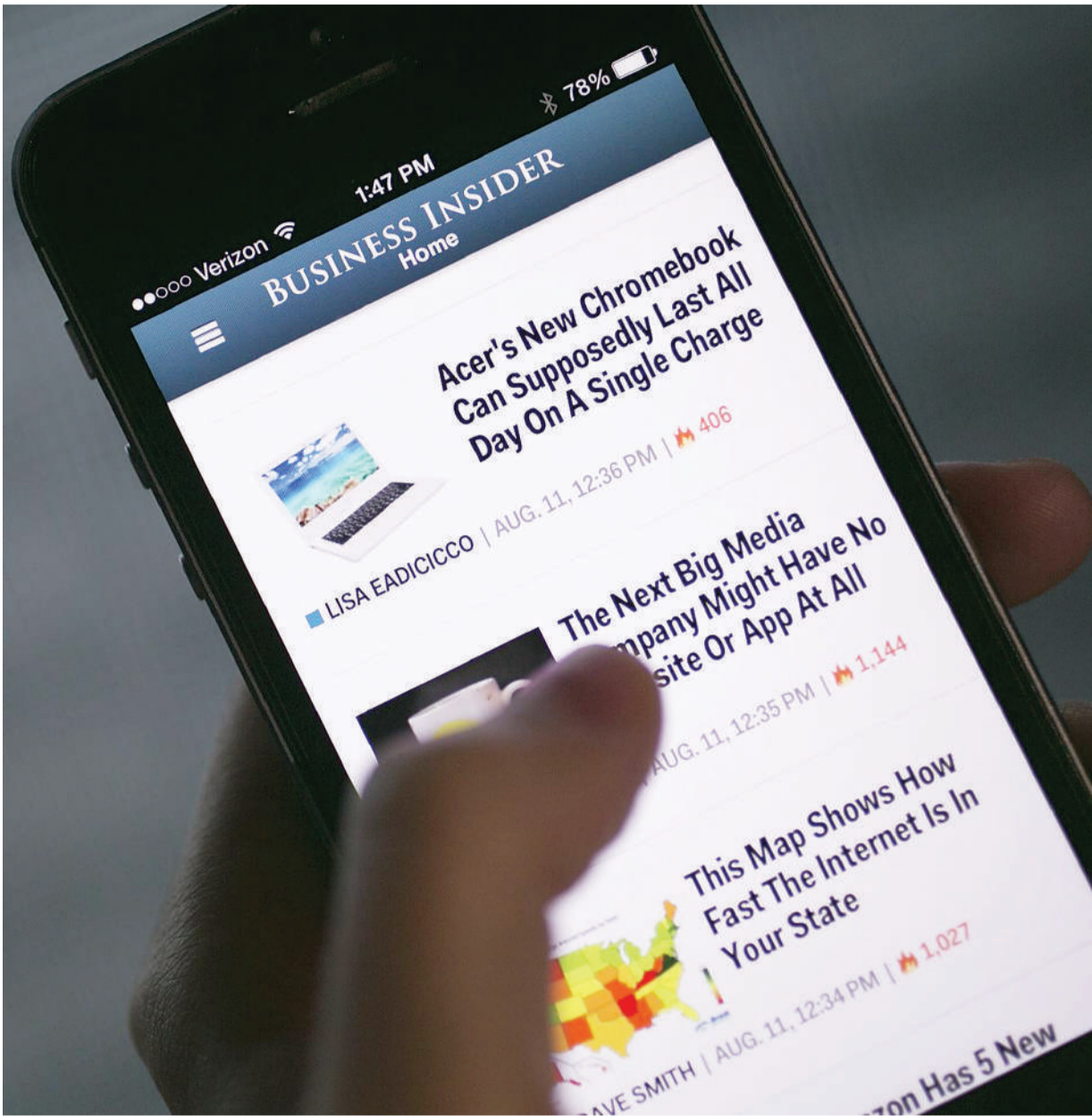
BuzzFeed Inc. laid off at least 50 people, Vox Media Inc. cut 72 jobs and Vice Media slashed over 150. At Atlantic Media, backed by multibillionaire owner Laurene Powell Jobs, more than 70 people were let go. Mergers have been afoot in the industry as companies bet on consolidation to put their businesses on stronger footing.

Blodget, a former stock analyst, launched Business Insider in 2007. Axel Springer acquired it in a 2015 deal that valued the company at \$390 million. At the time, Business Insider generated around \$50 million in annual revenue, a person familiar with the matter said.

Advertising is the company's dominant source of revenue. The past few years have seen publishers begin to shift away from relying on "programmatic ads" - those advertisements sold in real time through computerised exchanges - to higher-priced direct-sold ones.

Industry watchers say Business Insider didn't make that shift as fully and had an advantage at the start of the pandemic: direct-sold ads dried up, while marketers looking for the best price continued to buy programmatic ads.

Meanwhile, a push at Business Insider to develop a subscription business flourished in 2020, with the number of subscribers doubling to just north of 100,000, according to people familiar with the matter. They said the site charges



\$12.95 a month for a subscription, though it offers significant introductory discounts.

Continuing that momentum will be challenging in that all major publishers chase subscribers. Among rival business-focused publications, Bloomberg LP has around 250,000 subscribers to its website and business news site Quartz has

around 25,000. The Wall Street Journal had 2.35 million digital subscribers as of July-September 2020 quarter.

Most of Insider Inc.'s recent editorial hiring has been aimed at developing content that people will pay for. The newsroom has made additions in its investigations, corporate, finance and technology teams and cre-

ated a ten-person Washington, DC, bureau.

Insider's global editor in chief, Nicholas Carlson, said the company is ramping up hiring after the business has gained a firmer footing.

"We had always been a place that has hired carefully and slowly," he said Nicholas Carlson, adding: "But now that we

have a lot of the business in place, we decided to ramp hiring up."

The growing staff has also shifted the culture of a newsroom built in Business Insider's early years around rapid-fire posts and headlines aimed at generating traction on social media.

Staffers say now a kind of split newsroom has emerged: reporters who focus on popular culture and general news continue to dominate the company's traffic measurements, while business reporters strategise on stories to help propel the subscription business.

For example, the company has put more resources into reporting executive moves and other insider corporate announcements. "People at Cisco want to know who the rising stars at Salesforce are," Carlson said.

Over the course of 2020, traffic across all of Insider's sites, which also includes the general news-focused Insider.com, averaged 114 million unique US visitors a month, according to Comscore Inc.

Axel Springer says it views Insider Inc. as central to its international growth plans. In 2019, private-equity firm KKR acquired a 45 per cent stake in the German company for about \$3.2 billion. Axel Springer became a private company last year.

"Insider is our core investment in the United States. We see a lot of opportunities to build it into a much bigger brand," said Jan Bayer, president of Axel Springer's news media division.

In October, Insider acquired a majority stake in Morning Brew in a deal that valued the popular daily business newsletter at \$75 million.

Carlson said Axel Springer's commitment to investing and its belief in the business has been key to Insider's success. "They believe that journalism is important and can be a good business," he noted.

Related Video

When the coronavirus tore through industry, commerce and society in March 2020, the US economy came to a screeching halt. Top executives relive the tough decisions they made as they scrambled to weather the storm.

wsj

Gannett on why national brands going big in local markets

By Allison Schiff

GANNETT chief revenue officer (CRO) Kevin Gentzel kicks off nearly every morning by checking in virtually with one of the local sales teams that represent the hundreds of local media properties in the USA Today Network, from Indianapolis to the Treasure Coast of Florida.

And he often ends his day on his Peloton bike for a joint ride with one client followed by a Zoom cocktail with another.

In between, you might find him examining the client pipeline in a local market, talking to Gannett's chief product or strategy officer, working with the executive team on developing Gannett's 2021-2025 action plan, "geeking out" on - or enthused in - revenue analytics and mentoring a junior employee over the phone.

"It's just a day in the life of a CRO during the pandemic," Gentzel said, as interviewed by AdExchanger.

AdExchanger: What are your top priorities for 2021 and beyond?

Gentzel: "We're continuing our evolution into a subscription-led company, both on the consumer side with digital subscriptions, but also on the B2B (business-to-business) side. The relationship we have with clients who partner with us for digital marketing services is a recurring, subscriber-like relationship. The products we build help us retain them.

"For example, we go to market with a digital marketing and advertising service called LOCALiQ that provides free tools that help our clients grade their website and their marketing to see how they're doing against the competition.

That's bundled into a hub where local businesses and SMBs can also get access to their campaign data and other tools and technologies that come out of our product team."

Has the pandemic had a positive impact on consumer subscriptions?

"We had 172 million uniques in March 2020 across the USA Today Network, according to Comscore. (Comscore is an American media measurement and analytics company providing marketing data and analytics to enterprises; media and advertising agencies; and publishers.) That translates into 260 community media sites that reach roughly 80 per cent of the addressable market for adults in the US.

"We're seeing significant increases in the amount of time readers are spending with us, which helped us cross the 1 million mark for digital subscriptions in 2020.

"Our job has always been to keep the members of these communities informed, entertained and educated. But our role has now evolved into also keeping them safe.

Even though the pandemic is global, it's very local in nature. Our coverage reflects that. We also covered the



civil unrest that took place this summer across the US from a local perspective in the many markets in our footprint."

How has the print business been going?

"Print continues to be an important part of our business, both for readers and for advertisers. National brands are buying into local newspapers to reach local audiences. In 2020, we had Google, Facebook, Bank of America, Subway, McDonald's, Netflix, Dell, Geico and T-Mobile, just to name a few, who worked with us in local markets. They did this not just on digital but also in print.

We're ten months in. Have your advertisers changed their buying behaviour since the onset of the pandemic?

"It really is all about local. There was a double, even a triple, disaster in 2020 with Covid-19, the civil rights protests and the election. Together, they drove national brands to place even more emphasis on reaching people in local communities, in the environments they

trust. "National brands will keep investing in local markets, and we see our community-based journalism and ability to work with local businesses as a big part of our growth opportunity in 2021."

What are some other creative ways for publishers to generate revenue during these uncertain times? Forgive me for using that phrase.

"One way is to shift live events into virtual experiences, which our events team had to do a lot of in 2020 and pretty much on the fly. The USA Today High School Sports Awards, for example, was phenomenal.

"In terms of the sponsorships we had, the attendance and the participants, including Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes and New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick.

"We realised that virtual events can be engaging and that we have the potential to build a virtual business to live alongside our live business when it returns, whenever that is.

"We also spent 2020 experimenting with new advertising and marketing technologies, like a new beta prod-

uct we're tentatively calling "Cross Media" that helps local businesses figure out the best channel and the optimal time to acquire customers and make their dollars as effective as possible. This is in beta right now in certain markets in Florida."

Are you going to do more with first-party data going forward?

"As you might imagine, we're spending a significant amount of time thinking about our first-party and zero-party data segments. We view the cookieless future as a big opportunity for publishers like us, whether that's through subscriptions or registrations or by taking our audience segments to our clients. We're the one with the first-party relationship and we need to reclaim it."

adexchanger

Ten top celebrities' deaths that shook the world

By Yorkfeed Staff

DEATH is inevitable, of that we are very certain; but when it comes and how it comes is the mystery we will never be able to unravel.

Many have lost friends and family members and the sting of death is one pain which loved ones find so very hard to get over.

One very saddening reality too is the fact that oftentimes, our most beloved ones die too young, some while they have gotten into the lamplight while others when they still trying to cut their teeth.

This much is also true about the celebs that we love, some of them die too soon before we are able to come to a full comprehension of their person.

Others die at a ripe old age, yet it is still a pain, because of the lives they have touched, the millions of souls they have reached out to with their works.

That said, the world has witnessed the passing away of some of the greatest stars that ever walked this path, their deaths had a very devastating effect on the people, many we cannot still believe are gone, so we make room for them in our memory, and have them live on forever.

There are some whose death remains a mystery to the world, and some people are still believing that they have gone into hiding, hoping that very soon they will return and take back the stage where their space still has not been occupied.

Below are ten stars who have gone to the great beyond, some of their deaths came too sudden, others came with so much pain, either ways their deaths still shook the world to its foundations.

We begin in no particular order of preference. Without a doubt if rap had a god in flesh, then **Tupac Shakur** was probably the human body which the god of rap occupies.

This American rapper and actor was the voice of the street in the early 1990s, with great hits that the world is yet to forget.

Tupac has been rated, listed and ranked as one of the greatest artists of all time, his influence on the rap world and beyond is beyond the ordinary.

His songs revolved around the violence and hardship in inner cities, racism and other social problems that thrived in his time and still thrive these days in America and around the world.

In 1996, Tupac was reportedly shot dead, after he attended the Bruce Seldon versus Mike Tyson boxing match with Suge Knight at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

It is reported that while at a red light at the intersection of Flamingo Road and Koval Lane in front of the Maxim Hotel, a white, four-door, late-model Cadillac with an unknown number of occupants pulled up to the right-side of a sedan in which Pac was, a window was rolled down and rapid fire of gunshots were aimed at Shakur. He died of internal bleeding and his ashes were cremated.

There are gods and there are kings, some kings wielding the powers of gods; Biggie was the king of rap.

Like Tupac in his days, B.I.G had a very great influence and still does on the music of many till now.



Tupac Shakur



BIG



Aaliyah

Little wonder then that the two rap geniuses had the fabled rift which many claim is what led to their untimely deaths.

Born Christopher George Latore Wallace, Biggie was commercial hit - one of the greatest of all times. This made the East Coast a force to reckon with in hip pop at a time when the West Coast was ruling the mainstream.

Notorious was highly involved in the feud between East coast and West Coast, and in March 1997, BIG was killed by an unknown assailant in a drive-by shooting which took place in Los Angeles.

Just 16 days after his death, his double-disc album *Life After Death*, was released. The album rose to No. 1 on the US album charts. In 2000, it was certified Diamond by the Recording Industry Association of America.

Aaliyah. Diva with a voice of gold. Aaliyah's career began when she was just 10; and it went on to bloom to getting her numerous awards after awards, even as her first Album "Age Ain't Nothing but a Number" sold double platinum. The songstress and actress went on to many other projects, among the most notable being the movie "Romeo must die" in which she added to the soundtrack "Try again" which became a hit.

The world was thrown into shock after it was announced in August 2001 that Aaliyah was aboard an ill-fated flight which left Marsh Harbour Airport in Abaco Islands, the Bahamas, to travel



Princess Diana

to the Opa-locka Airport in Florida.

It is said that the plane crashed shortly after take-off, about 200 feet from the end of the runway and exploded. It is a loss which the world still has not recovered from.

Princess Diana. This princess was not just royalty to the Welsh; she was indeed princess of the world at the time. A worthy ambassador of the Queen of England, Diana was a beacon to a world that was shrouded in darkness.

She was so loved and had such great influence that her wedding to the Prince of Wales, reached a global television audience of well over 750 million people. The wedding was held at St Paul's Cathedral on July 29, 1981.

She was known and loved for her works of charity and her goodwill. Diana did a lot of works in helping those fighting HIV/AIDS and cancer.

It was not surprising that after she was fatally injured in a car crash in the Pont de l'Alma road tunnel in Paris, "the funeral saw the British television audience peak at 32.10 million". It was one of the United Kingdom's highest viewing figures ever, while millions more watched the event around the world.

Paul Walker. Paul Walker practically broke our hearts, shattering it to pieces that cannot be pieced back again.

Walker, who was just 40 at the time of his death, was the star of the "Fast & Furious" movie franchise.

For one who was star of

a movie in which the cars moved so fast, it was most ironical that he was killed when the Porsche he was a passenger in smashed into a light pole and tree, then exploded into flames.

The world was waiting for his next appearance and could not believe that the man who had made them fall head over heels with the "Fast and Furious" will no more be a part of the project, forever.

Songs were dedicated to him, people cried their hearts out, wishing this cat had one more life to spare.

Robin Williams. He gave the world endless smiles as a comedian and yet stole it from the people's faces at his death. The 63-year-old actor was found dead of an apparent suicide at his residence in Tiburon, California.

Reports suggest that at the time prior to his death, the comedian was losing his mind. It was said that he took his own life and many were left devastated, as they wondered why someone who seemed so happy would commit suicide.

Michael Jackson. People would kill to touch him, many would die to come into his presence; without a doubt, he was a god in his own right.

The King of Pop, as he was crowned, had magic in his voice and his looks were reason enough for many to go bunkers.

One can only then imagine what happened, when in June 2009, at the age of 50, the king died from a fatal combination of prescription drugs that shut down his already weak heart.



Paul Walker

The world wept and tears flowed like a welling river, many people refusing to be consoled and still unable to believe that he is no more.

Amy Winehouse. This 27-year-old mega songster and crooner of "Rehab" surely needed rehabilitation to fight her addiction issues. The multi-award-winning musician was found dead in her bed at her London home from accidental alcohol poisoning.

One would have sworn that she had it all as, at a tender age, she had achieved what many who have been in the industry for years could never achieve. She left the stage too early, and the music can never fade, not from our hearts.

Prince. Popularly known as the archrival of Michael Jackson, Prince was a bundle of talents in one, possessing skills that only a few in the industry could boast of.

Like many before him, the pop music legend was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis. It is said that his death was drug-induced.

He left his purple rain stream down our eyes and the rain has not stopped since his departure in 2016.

Whitney Houston

Some people have powerful voices that angels cannot match, their voices resonating into heaven so powerfully that the angels cannot help but bow in admiration. One of such powerful voices was that of Whitney.

So powerful a musician she was that she won the Grammys six times. Sometimes life knows how to

make a mockery of all that we have achieved, and so was this amazing songstress's case.

In 2012, while just 48, she was found dead in the bathtub of her Beverly Hilton hotel room.

Her death came on the

eve of the Grammy Awards, from accidental drowning, cocaine overdose and coronary artery disease.

We can only wish that we get a second chance, and if we do, we hope that we use it to the fullest.

• Source: Wikipedia



Whitney Houston



Robin Williams



Michael Jackson

Participation, education, digital access and climate change are key concerns for children and young people in Africa, Europe - report

ADDIS ABABA/BRUSSELS/
NEW YORK

PARTICIPATION in decision-making, quality education, internet access and the climate crisis are among the main concerns for children and young people in Africa and Europe, according to U-Report polling data released yesterday by UNICEF, the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU).

Almost half of all young people polled feel excluded from political decision-making

processes that affect their lives, the poll findings show. While an overwhelming majority of the polled young people (91%) would like to have more say in the political decisions that shape their lives, 48% feel completely left out. The main obstacle they cite (59%) is lack of access to policymakers.

The findings are included in the report #YourVoiceYourFuture, a joint effort between the AU, EU and UNICEF that brings together results and recommendations from four U-Report polls across

Africa and Europe. Altogether, 450,000 young people between 14 and 35 years old voiced their views on key topics that affect their future and are relevant to the partnership between Africa and Europe.

"Young people have a rightful seat at the decision-making table. They are the agents of change who with us build today a better tomorrow. We need to hear from them, but that is not all we must do. We must engage and empower youth to be involved in decisions affecting their lives,"

said Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships.

Young people may feel let down by traditional politics, but they are finding alternative ways to engage with and mobilise their peers.

A large majority (88%) say they feel responsible for tackling climate change, while 71% actually want to play a role in the green transition. Some 65% of respondents say they are active within a youth network or organisation in their community.

"In the midst of all the chal-

lenges being faced in the advent of the 'new normal', few things have remained constant - the unwavering resilience, energy and ingenuity of young people across the world. Now more than ever, it is clear that young people are integral to the recovery, progress and sustainability of this world," said H.E Prof. Sarah Anyang Agbor, AU Commissioner for Human Resources, Sciences and Technology.

Children and young people have a right to be heard on the issues that affect their

lives, whether education or climate change. With the #YourVoiceYourFuture campaign and the four U-Report polls, the European Union and the African Union joined forces to explore new ways to engage with young people, to inform policy making, create interest around youth issues, and bring young people and decision makers closer together on both continents. The results of the campaign will inform the agenda of the Africa-Europe Youth Summit 2021, and will ultimately feed into the next AU-EU Summit

of Heads of States and Governments.

"When children and young people speak, the world should listen," said Charlotte Petri Gornitzka, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director. "Whether their countries are rich or poor, at war or in peace, their demands are the same: A better say in decisions affecting them, a healthier planet, and better opportunities. At a time when so many hopes have been dashed due to a raging pandemic and rising poverty, this is not too much to ask."

Project helps communities to manage their own forest resources, enhances rural development

By Gerald Kitabu

A couple of years ago, consumers of retail forest products at Mtanzamsona village in Rufiji district Coastal region were living a deluxe life. All process and procedures of harvesting timbers and logs that were illegally sourced from unmanaged forests favoured them.

In fact they were protected while constantly assuring them lucrative business at local and sometimes international markets. The unscrupulous logs and timber traders colluded with some unfaithful government officials at village and district level to facilitate these ill-gains. Their main target was mainly on Mkuruti, one of the expensive and valuable tree species in the coastal region, a situation which put the tree species under pressure.

According to Prof Rodgers Malimbwi of the department of Forest Assessment and Management, College of Forestry, Wildlife and Tourism, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) Mkuruti are useful tree plants and plays key role in the ecological functions.

He said in the past Mkuruti tree was used by some communities as medicinal plant and for firewood but with disappearance of other strong trees such as Mninga, Mkongo, and Mvule that were used for timber harvesting, Mkuruti has now emerged as the choice for logs and timber purpose. He cautioned that deliberate measures need to be taken to protect Mkuruti and the entire ecosystem.

According to the former Mtanzamsona village Chairman Adiona Ali Milandu, the village had no any means to stop the illegal logs and timber harvesters because it was difficult to arrest them. He cited lack of motivation and patrolling facilities like what is happening today with Community Based Forest Management (CBFM).

He said at one point of time, the village impounded more than 470 logs that were harvested illegally and ready to be transported to Dar e salaam via Kisarawe road. "We found that the businessmen had invaded village land forest reserves and harvested more logs than allowable size and number. After arresting them, we ferried the logs to the village office and auctioned them at 42m/-," he said.

"In the past when they were given harvesting permits, they would go into the forest without proper supervision, as a result, they would harvest whatever tree species they wanted. This caused loss of smaller trees and limited regeneration. They would transport in the night through panya roads via Kisarawe and Kibiti as their main routes to Dar e Salaam," he said.

"There were no monitoring mechanisms, as a result, the traders were not only cutting down big trees, but also uproot young ones which are not allowed," he added.

Lack of proper supervision and monitoring mechanisms of the permits caused some unfaithful traders to use the loophole to cross over from the open land into the village land forest reserve.

Former Secretary of Mtanzamsona village natural resource and environment committee, Hamza Mushi Nduli echoes his village chairman. He said in the past, the district harvesting committee was not involving the villagers. The selection exercise and appointment of businessmen who would be harvesters in a particular village alienated the villagers.

"The villagers were never involved, instead, only village chairman and the village executive Officer were invited to only witness the process without any say or making decision," he said.

"We would only get the names of the logs harvesters who have been approved to harvest for that particular harvesting season, he explained.

Introduction of community based forest management (CBFM) in 2016 changed forest conservation in the village in all walks of life. CBFM has also increased revenues from 10m/- per year to more than 100m/- per year.

In an interview with the Guardian during a tour of the village by journalists, the village Chairman Ismail Lusongo said that the CBFM has helped them much manage forests.

The tour was funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) through TFCGA, and TNRF, the village natural resource committees working alongside the village Assembly have managed to arrest acts of deforestation and turned the youth who used to conduct or collude illegal timber harvesters into security guards.

Because of several benefits accrued from CBFM, also the villagers who used to collect firewoods, cut down trees and harvest building poles are now playing a role as both managers and forest owners. Management of the forests is exercised through village institutions elected by all community members. The role of the districts is to support and assist the communities to manage their own forests sustainably.

"Since 2016 the village has raised enough money for different projects. Foreexample, last year we bought a tractor at 35m/- and contributed money to different project in the village," he said.

This harvesting season 2020/21, the village plans to increase revenues and according to Lusongo, the



Journalists and officials from TFCG, TNRF admire a tractor purchased by Mtanzamsona village one of the many benefit of CBFM offers. Photo by Gerald Kitabu

money will be used to buy canoes and later on the village will purchase a good Boat to ferry the villagers conducting agriculture on the other side of the Rufiji River. The village has also purchased forty five desks and another set of forty five chairs worth 2.4m/- for the students at ward secondary school. The village is also providing the district council 20 percent of the revenues accrued from CBFM.

"We have achieved a lot from CBFM and as I am speaking to you now, the village is planning to construct the new village office. The rest of the money will be invested in other development projects," he said.

The village called on Rufiji district council and the Coastal region at large to make sure that CBFM is duplicated to other villages saying the program has created many employments especially for the youth during harvesting season. It has also increased household income and reduced forest destructive activities such as illegal timber and logs harvesting. Illegal charcoal production has also decreased compared to the past. Citing an example, they said any villager who wants to obtain firewood or harvest pole and charcoal has to get permit first from the village government.

They said from experience, CBFM approach when integrated with forest-based enterprises, provide in-

centives for communities to manage the forests on the village land sustainably and at the same time enhance rural development. The community rights to manage their forests should be protected, including deciding on forest harvesting, as set out in the Forest Act and Village Land Act.

Rufiji district Executive Director Rashid Salum said the district is benefiting a lot from the forest resource. In recent years, forest conservation has attracted many stakeholders ranging from the government institutions to the private sector. Some stakeholders include Mpingo conservation and Development Initiative (MCDI), WWF, Mjumita and TFCG. The stakeholders are promoting CBFM which is a new and more sustainable approach which improves forest management while enabling the local communities to benefit directly from their own resource.

Citing an example of Mtanzamsona, Salum said CBFM has transformed completely local utilization of forest resource.

"CBFM has provided enough education and created awareness on the importance of forest resource. The local communities are now aware of the benefits and are committed and determined to protect and manage their forest than ever before," he said.

Nutrition crisis looms as more than 39 billion in-school meals missed since outbreak of COVID-19

By Guardian Reporter

AT LEAST 370 million children worldwide, many of whom rely on school meals as a key source of their daily nutrition have missed 40 per cent of in-school meals, on average, since COVID-19 restrictions shuttered classrooms.

This is according to a new report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Office of Research and the World Food Programme (WFP). It says More than 39 billion in-school meals have been missed globally since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic due to school closures.

UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore said that despite clear evidence that schools are not primary drivers of COVID-19 infections, millions of children are facing school closures around the world.

"Children who depend on schools for their daily meals are not only losing out on an education but also on a reliable source of nutrition. As we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and await vaccine distribution, we must prioritize the reopening of schools and take action to make them as safe as possible, including through renewed investments in proven infection prevention measures like clean water and soap in every school around the world," said Fore.

WFP Executive Director, David Beasley

said: "Missing out on nutritious school meals is jeopardizing the futures of millions of the world's poorest children. We risk losing a whole generation."

Beasley underscored the need to support governments to safely reopen schools and start feeding the children again.

He added: "For many, the nutritious meal they get in school is the only food they will receive all day."

Latest estimates show that 24 million schoolchildren are at risk of dropping out of school due to the pandemic - reversing progress made in school enrolment in recent decades.

School feeding programmes can provide incentives for the most vulnerable children to return to school.

During the pandemic, there has been a 30 per cent overall reduction in the coverage of essential nutrition services including school feeding, micronutrient supplementation, and nutrition promotion programmes in low- and middle-income countries, as well as programmes for the treatment of severe malnutrition in children.

During nationwide lockdowns in some countries, all school feeding programmes were cancelled.

Pre-pandemic survey data from 68 countries show that, before COVID-19 hit, around 50 per cent of children aged 13 to 17 years-



old reported feelings of hunger.

Further data from 17 countries showed that, in some countries, up to two thirds of adolescents aged 15-19 were underweight, and more than half of adolescent girls in South Asia were anaemic.

Schools meals are not only vital in ensuring children's nutrition, growth and develop-

ment, they also provide a strong incentive for children - especially girls and those from the poorest and most marginalized communities - to return to school once restrictions are lifted.

The longer children are out of school, the greater the risk that they will drop out of education altogether. Girls face the added risk

of forced transactional sex or early marriage. WFP has been supporting governments to adapt their school meals programmes during school closures.

The report notes that more than 70 countries have delivered take-home rations, cash transfers or food vouchers, providing a valuable, interim solution for millions of children.

In the first 9 months of 2020, more than 13 million schoolchildren received WFP school-based support as compared to 17.3 million the previous year.

Since the start of the pandemic, UNICEF has supported national governments to maintain the continuity of nutrition services for school-age children and adolescents. In 2020, nearly 25 million school-age children and adolescents benefitted from programmes for the prevention of anaemia.

UNICEF and WFP are urging governments to prioritise schools for reopening while making sure that the health, food and nutritional needs of children are met through comprehensive, high-quality school feeding programmes.

Hints for adding value, meaning to interviews with experts

By Damian Radcliffe

As journalists we all need to talk to experts, but are we getting the best out of these conversations?

After talking to experts in academia and think-tanks, and reflecting on my own experiences as an interviewee, I have identified a number of key ways that some journalists can improve their interviews with experts.

The most common complaint I heard during these conversations was that “journalists already know the story they want to write; they’re just asking us to fill in the gaps”. This may not necessarily be true, but that’s often the conclusion our interviewees arrive at.

In an example, my colleague Hadil Abuhmaid said recently about an experience she’d had: “The journalist basically directed what they wanted me to say.” She refused to play ball, taking issue with the approach - and conclusions - that they felt the journalist had already come to.

Others complained that journalists oversimplify or neglect nuance (tone). Given that reporters are seldom as steeped in a subject as their interviewees, it may not be an unreasonable complaint. Nonetheless, this is a perception that journalists want to guard against.

Here are six suggestions to better manage relationships with expert sources, and to ensure that the interview goes more smoothly.

One: Do your homework. This should go without saying but, unfortunately, it’s not always the case. Always research your subject beforehand. Look at their social media profiles. Identify and find points of commonality or something interesting that they have recently produced. Where possible, you can reference this as part of the small talk at the start of your conversation.

In my experience, you get a much better interview when your interviewee sees that you have done your homework. And as an



interviewee, I am much more inclined to go the extra yard and to be helpful when I know the journalist has come prepared.

Two: Explain your purpose from the outset. Before even sitting down with an interviewee, explain what the piece is all about and what you are looking for. If your publication is not a household name, then tell them a little bit more about the audience and their interests.

Busy people are not going to say “yes” to every (interviewing) opportunity that comes their way, so you have to pitch the interviewee just as much as you do your editor. And when you do, please, please, please give a deadline. When do you need the interviewee to get back to you?

A deadline helps your sources understand if they have time to prepare and can also help them to get a sense of the level of depth you want to go into.

When I’m being asked for

an interview and the request has to be turned around in a couple of hours, then I can make an educated guess that you’re essentially looking for a soundbite rather than a deep dive. However, I can’t do any of this if there’s no detail about the deadline - or the purpose of the interview - in your initial approach.

Three: Unpack the journalistic process. Most material from an interview ends up on the cutting room floor.

A 30-minute interview will typically end with a 4,500-5,000-word transcript, but only a fraction of that is going to end up in an 800-1,000-word article or two-minute package. If you’re not a journalist or an experienced interviewee, you wouldn’t know that.

You need to prepare your interviewee before the interview. Journalists should, as standard, manage the expectations of their interviewees.

I once gave a 15-minute in-

terview to Marketplace Morning Report, an eight-minute programme aired on National Public Radio. They used around seven seconds of the interview. If I had not understood the length of the show and the likelihood that most of what I said would end up being cut, then I might have been rather surprised - if not upset - when the sequence was broadcast.

The same can be said of print interviews lasting 45 minutes for a single quote or two, or a 30-minute TV interview resulting in two to three soundbites. That’s the name of the game, but don’t assume that your interviewees know the rules. Be sure to explain it to them.

Four: Cultivate sources for future stories. Journalists want reliable sources. But these aren’t just credible interviewees with a good grasp of the facts and arguments. They are also people that will give us good quotes,

often in a time crunch. These types of sources can be worth their weight in gold, although reporters should avoid the tendency to be over-reliant on them.

At the same time, many journalists can do a better job tapping into these sources for idea generation. Reporters do this in the field all the time, often ending interviews by asking “who else should I talk to?” or “What stories don’t you see anyone covering?”

Asking these questions in an authentic manner can result in great leads for future stories, as well as being a means to develop relationships with your sources. This is a great way to diversify your Rolodex as well as steal a march on potential stories to cover in the future.

Five: If you can, verify material with sources ahead of publication. A lot of experts, particularly those who are new to talking to the media, might ask to see a sto-

ry before it is published. In most cases, that’s a journalistic no-no.

However, there’s nothing to stop you from fact-checking and double-checking the quotes that you have attributed to someone. This is particularly important when it comes to sensitive subjects or topics outside your field of expertise.

My colleague, Amanda Cote, has been talking to a number of journalists about problems related to sexism in the gaming industry. That’s exactly the kind of subject where you want to make sure you get your quotes and facts right.

In those circumstances, if you can, it’s well worth checking with your interviewee once more before you file.

Six: Say thank you. With trust in journalism at a low, it’s incumbent on all journalists to act as ambassadors for the wider profession. If a source sets aside time for an interview, acknowledge their time and be appreciative of it.

One simple way of doing this is to ensure that you always send interviewees a link to the story that they contributed to.

Doing that will only take a few minutes. You can even have an email template sitting in your drafts folder ready to go.

Being notified by a journalist when a piece you contributed to has gone live is better than discovering the feature through a Google Alert, an online search or when

somebody else passes it on to you.

None of this is especially groundbreaking, yet often forgotten or overlooked, especially when on deadline. Journalists are under more time pressure than ever, but that doesn’t mean that the media shouldn’t seek to treat expert sources better.

Putting yourself in their shoes can help. I’ve found that sitting on both sides of the fence has really helped me, I believe, to be both a better interviewer and a better interviewee. Ask yourself: how would you like to be treated if a journalist interviewed you?

Resolving to do better by our sources, may be one New Year’s resolution that we can all hope to keep.

A dispatch by *International Journalists’ Network (IJNet)*, a project of the *Washington-based International Centre for Journalists*. **Damian Radcliffe is the Carolyn S. Chambers Professor in Journalism at the University of Oregon, a fellow of the Tow Centre for Digital Journalism at Columbia University, an honorary research fellow at Cardiff University’s School of Journalism, Media and Culture Studies, and a fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). He also hosts the Demystifying Media podcast, in which he interviews leading journalists and media scholars about their work.**

OPEC Fund marks 45 years of driving development

VIENNA

THE OPEC Fund for International Development (the OPEC Fund) marked its 45th anniversary yesterday. Since inception, the multilateral development finance institution has approved more than US\$25 billion in essential financing for 135 partner countries.

The Fund was established in 1976 with a distinct mandate to drive development, strengthen communities and empower people. Its member countries are: Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

While the organisation works directly with partner countries, it also collaborates with other development finance institutions, regional development banks and the specialised agencies of the United Nations to maximise its development impact.

This anniversary coincides with a demonstration of steadfast support from the organisation’s member countries. The Fund’s governing board recently endorsed a second tranche of US\$400 million to be contributed by member countries over the next four years.

The Fund’s ministerial council approved a US\$1 billion Fourth Replenishment of the Fund’s resources in 2001, of which this second tranche is a part. The first tranche of US\$600 million was contributed over the past eight years.

Abdulwahab A Al-Bader, Chairman of the Fund’s governing board, said: “The organisation’s development operations are self-sustaining, due to prudent management and a long history of positive operational income.”

“This second tranche of contributions signifies determination by member countries to strengthen the Fund’s ability to meet development challenges that have become even more urgent as a result of Covid-19.”

Mohammed Al-Jadaan, Saudi Arabia’s Finance minister and a member of the Fund ministerial council, outlined the unique role the organisation plays in international development.



He said: “The OPEC Fund has been playing a distinguished role in promoting global development, and it is the only globally mandated development institution that provides financing from member countries to non-member countries only. All developing countries, with the exception of its own members, are eligible for assistance.”

Indonesian Finance minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, also a member of the Fund’s ministerial council member, meanwhile noted: “A new strategy introduced in 2019 and backed by member countries means that the organisation has become more agile and can respond without delay to the

changing needs of partner countries.

“We can now move quickly and effectively to ensure finance reaches those who need it most, as low-income communities around the world attempt to recover from the (Covid-19) pandemic.”

OPEC Fund Director General Dr Abdulhamid Alkhalifa said: “Thanks to the foresight and dedication of our member countries, the Fund continues to demonstrate solidarity and play its part in reducing global inequality.”

“During the year ahead, we will focus on delivering in line with our clear and ambitious Strategic Framework to further expand our development impact and secure

our future for many years to come.”

Until now, the Fund’s public sector operations have supported the development of 15 gigawatts of electricity generation capacity, contributed to the construction and development of 11,360 km of roads and railways, and provided 11.5 million households with access to water and sanitation.

Since launching in 1998 and 2006, the organisation’s private sector and trade finance operations have directly supported over 350,000 micro, small and medium enterprises; helped generate 15 million tonnes of annual handling capacity in ports; and contributed to the development of 750 megawatts of renewable capacity

generation.

The OPEC Fund works in cooperation with developing country partners and the international development community to stimulate economic growth and social progress in low- and middle-income countries around the world.

Its work is people-centred, focusing on financing projects that meet essential needs, such as food, energy, infrastructure, employment - particularly relating to MS-MEs, clean water and sanitation, as well as healthcare and education. Its vision is a world where sustainable development is a reality for all.

• Agencies

INSANITY

Wealthy Kenyans rush for cosmetic surgery during Covid lockdown

NAIROBI

PLASTIC and reconstructive doctors are seeing a rising demand for elective and cosmetic surgery in Covid-19 times, as wealthy Kenyans opt for laser eye correction, chin and breast augmentation, Botox injections, and dental fixtures.

Reason? Working from home has given people plenty of time to do cosmetic surgery and heal without asking for time off the office, while others are rethinking their images as seen on Zoom and Skype video calls.

Dr Michael Rebeiro who has a clinic at MP Shah Hospital in Nairobi says, in the thick of the coronavirus pandemic, one of his patients – a 75-year-old Caucasian woman – frantically said, “I’m scaring people during Zoom meetings. They think I’m gonna die on them. Please make me look like I can do my job.”

The doctor who trained at the College of Plastic Surgeons of South Africa says medical technology has now allowed people to slow down the aging process and shave a few years off their bodies. “She came in and left feeling and looking youthful,” he says.

The same was happening at Dr Angela Muoki’s private clinic in Nairobi. Pre-Covid, Dr Muoki could do two cosmetic surgeries a week. “With a slowdown on activities, people had more time to reinvent themselves,” she says. The 32-year-old fell in love with plastic and reconstructive surgery during her internship at Meru Hospital, where she dealt with many cases of cuts, burns, and congenital deformities.

A decrease in emergency, non-cosmetic cases during the pandemic meant that she had more time to do aesthetic surgery. Her weekly cosmetic surgery customers grew from two to eight. The most requested procedures were liposuction, breast lifts,

and tummy tucks, in that order.

Besides having the time to scrutinise their appearance, patients had more expendable income, time to recover, and privacy. “There’s no need to ask for time off to go to a hospital and no one will know,” Dr Muoki says, explaining why the Covid-19 period presents a perfect time to check into a hospital for cosmetic surgery.

19 surgeons

Over the years, the market for elective surgery and cosmetic procedures has grown, even in harsh economic times when luxury spending was expected to be low. The number of doctors has also increased. Ten years ago, there were only 10 registered cosmetic surgeons in Kenya. Only one was female.

Now, Dr Muoki is among the 19 registered cosmetic surgeons, seeing customers in need of liposuction, breast and chin lifts, gluteal enhancements, vulva enhancement, nose reshaping, labiaplasty, lip fillers, hair transplants, among others.

The doctors attribute the high numbers of clients to better technology which was not available in Kenya previously, forcing people to seek such surgeries abroad, social acceptability, and growth in disposable incomes.

“There is also the patients’ desire for good aesthetic looks to boost their self-image,” says Dr Nangole Ferdinand, a senior lecturer in the Department of Surgery at the University of Nairobi, and a consultant plastic and reconstructive surgeon.

Social media has played a major role in cosmetic surgery. It has increased awareness of the possibilities of aesthetic surgery and many enter the consultation rooms with an idea of what they want to be done.

Do they come with a photograph of what their goal looks like? I inquire. “Yes they do,” says Dr Muoki. Kim Kardashian’s look, an American socialite,

Dr Angela Muoki, one of the three registered plastic and reconstructive surgeons in Kenya.

is the biggest conversation starter as the doctors seek to know what is driving a client’s decision for surgery, their goals, and their willingness to stay the course. This is important because cosmetic surgery is not a walk in the park depending on the extent of work to be done. A lot may need to be done before. “For example, I ask some patients to lose weight before the surgery,” Dr Rebeiro explains. Then there is the recovery period, the minimum of which can be six months for some procedures. With over 14 years of experience, Dr Rebeiro believes that “a well done cosmetic surgery should have longevity.”

Latest trends

Most clients who visit Nairobi’s cosmetic surgery clinics are older, professional women. However, the doctors say men are increasingly joining the band wagon as technology improves. The latest trend, high definition liposuction, has become popular with men as it creates a toned and naturally defined physique. Other new technologies are fat transfers for skin rejuvenation resulting in wrinkle-free skin, and for skin reconstruction for scars and wounds. Costs range between Sh250,000 to Sh800,000.

“Research has found that adipose tissue-derived stem cells have a capacity for self-renewal leading to better skin,” says Dr Muoki. The choice to go the aes-

thetic surgery route is very personal and most clients prefer not to tell their significant others – spouses or otherwise.

According to Dr Muoki, this is notable in women, especially when their spouses are not paying for the procedures. To avoid judgment, they opt to have their mothers, sisters, or close friends accompany them to the clinic. “However, patients whose spouses are involved in procedures report better outcomes due to smoother healing processes and in case of a complication, spouse support is essential,” she says.

For the same reasons, Dr Rebeiro encourages spouse involvement. “When they both come for the initial consultation, they make better decisions,” he says, adding that it is an opportunity for the spouse to hear what the process involves, and ask questions.

His patients’ numbers doubled from two to four per week during the pandemic.

About 60 percent were Kenyans, 30 percent Indians, and 10 percent Caucasian. Conducting surgeries during Covid-19 has its risks but precautions are taken. “Initially, we were hesitant especially because there were no test kits. Nonetheless, we developed a system,” Dr Muoki says.

This involved performing a surgery a week after the final visit. “We discouraged social interactions and when the

clients came in, we’d check their temperature. If it was within the normal range, we proceeded,” she adds.

Is there a right age to be nipped and tucked?

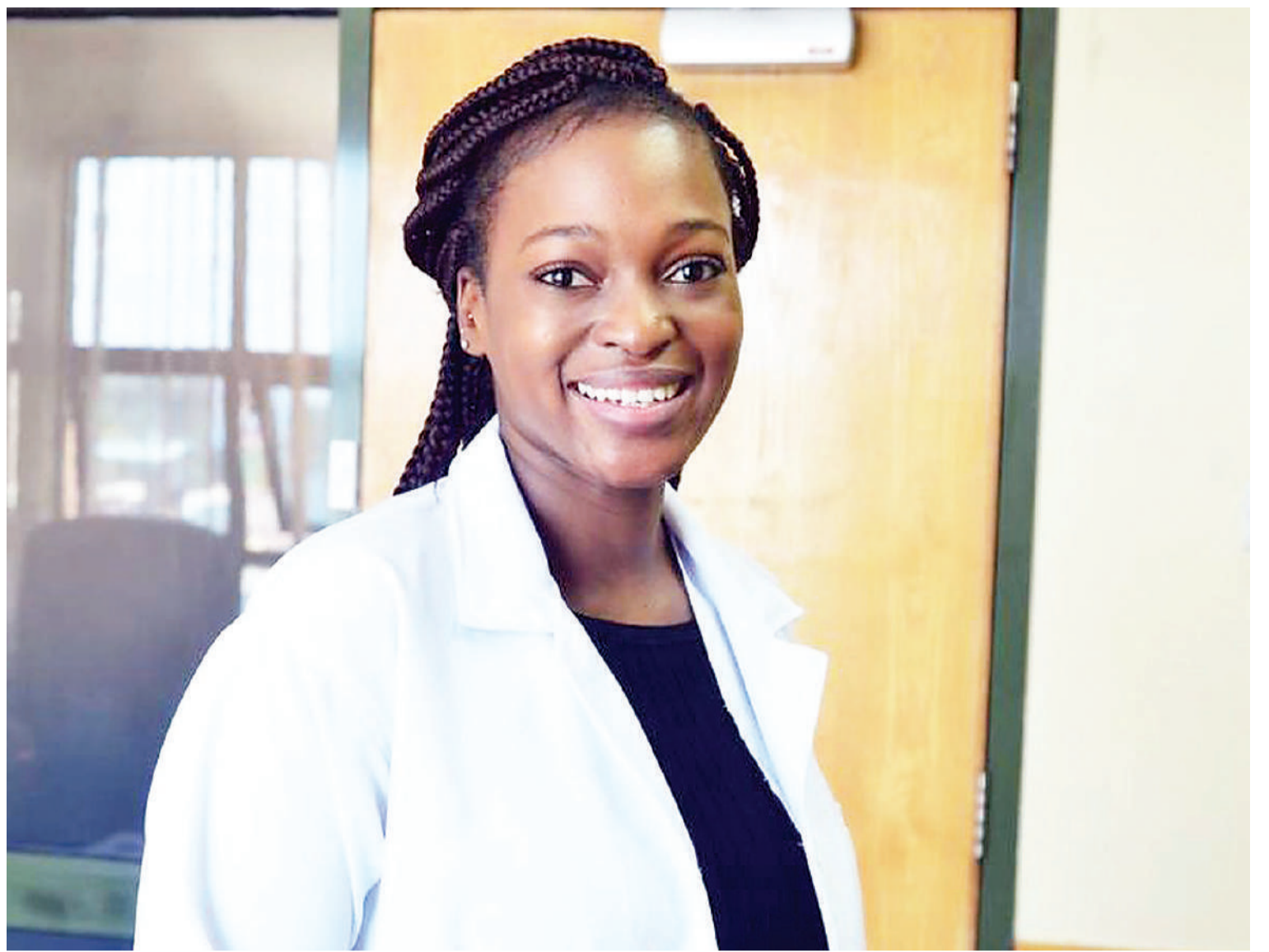
“Do it when something bothers you,” Dr Rebeiro says. Non-surgical options are more effective for younger clients. As one gets older, they become more of surgical candidates. Even so, he is careful when handling patients. Some patients have unrealistic expectations. These, he will diplomatically turn down or “refer up.”

Others may be suffering from Body Dysmorphic Disorder (a mental health disorder in which one cannot stop thinking about one or more perceived defects or flaws in appearance). Hence, counselling is required before surgery, he says. Dr Rebeiro who is married would not mind if his wife opted for cosmetic surgery.

“Most of my clients are average mothers who want to project the best version of themselves. We (men) can’t give birth even if we wanted. Is it fair for women to carry the baggage of our babies for the rest of their lives?” he says, showing photos of two anonymous women, ‘before’ and ‘after’ surgery who have consented for their images to be used for educational/reference purposes. The changes are impressive.

Dr Muoki is keen on having a “mummy makeover surgery when the time comes.” A mummy makeover, done after pregnancy and breastfeeding, to lift or reduce the breasts, tuck in the tummy, is one of the most common procedures done in Kenya.

Plastic and reconstructive surgery is not just about manipulating skin, fat tissues, and bones for aesthetic purposes. These doctors also improve the quality of life of patients who come in with cuts, burns, and deformities like cleft lip and cleft palate.



Dr Angela Muoki, one of the three registered plastic and reconstructive surgeons in Kenya.

HUMANE

How Jill Biden and Kamala Harris are subverting the stepmother stereotype

WASHINGTON DC

WITH First Lady Jill Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris in the West Wing, the world is witnessing two stepmums taking centre stage in American politics.

While Biden succeeds another stepmum, Melania Trump, it’s all a far cry from the nuclear dynasties, such as the Bushes and Kennedys. Biden and Harris are also repositioning stepmothers as the cornerstone of the modern American family (think less Parent Trap, Cinderella and Snow White, and more Maria Von Trapp).

President Biden says the first lady, his second wife, “put us back together”, when he was left widowed with two sons. Harris’s twenty-something stepchildren, Cole and Ella, meanwhile, have affectionately dubbed her “Momala,” with Ella describing her as the “rock” of their “big, blended family.” If stepmothers were in need of a rebrand from the scheming villains oft portrayed in fairy tales and films, it seems there are no better women for the job.

The stepmother stereotype

Dr Saliha Afridi, a clinical psychologist and managing director of wellness centre The Light-House Arabia, says: “Our worldview is very much shaped by media and popular culture. Narratives such as the ‘evil stepmother’ create constructs in our mind about what to expect from such a relationship. And if one does not consciously create their own storyline, then it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

“When we think of a stepmother, we get images in our minds that typically are not positive,” she

adds. “So, there can be anxiety and shame associated with it.” Dr Lisa Doodson, a psychologist in the UK specialising in stepfamily dynamics, concurs.

“The stereotype of the wicked stepmother still affects women. Stepfamily members have been shown to experience significantly more anxiety than biological mothers due to managing the perceived intrusion of the biological mother; understanding how to discipline or interact with stepchildren and understanding their own role in the family. This confusion means stepmums are often desperately trying to find their place in the new family unit.”

Lack of support for step-parents

Doodson, who runs Happysteps, a website that coaches stepfamilies, first began researching the role of stepmums when she became one herself and couldn’t find any advice on how to define the relationship. “The role is very ambiguous and little understood. We know what a mum is, but people generally have very different views of what a stepmum should be. There are no rules and, as such, it’s very much open to interpretation.”

“There is very little support for stepfamilies despite them being the fastest-growing family type,” Doodson adds. “There is no longer a ‘normal’ family, and it’s important that we recognise and support all types of parentage.”

The reality is that blended set-ups now constitute about a third of all families in the US – something reflected in the world of celebrity. Kate Hudson refers to her beloved stepfather Kurt Russell as “Pa”; Jada Pinkett Smith calls her stepson Trey Smith (Will Smith’s son with his first wife, Sheree

Fletcher) her “bonus son and friend”; while supermodel Gisele Bündchen calls her stepson John a “little angel” and “the best big brother” to her biological children with Tom Brady.

Meanwhile, polygamy laws in Islam mean the concept of more than one wife and children add an extra, often complicated, dimension to the family model. Dr Sarah Rasmi, a psychologist, and founder and managing director of Thrive Wellbeing Centre in Dubai, says it’s important not to downplay the complexity of blended family dynamics.

“It’s challenging for everybody in that situation, from the biological parent to the stepparent to the children. The stepparent is often trying to transition from being a stranger to being a parental figure.”

Different strokes

Sophia Rantzau, author of *When Families End and Blend*, knows only too well how challenging such families can be. A stepmum to Sophie, Christian and Joachim, now, 22, 25 and 29, her relationship with her children was turbulent when she met them when they were 8, 11 and 15. It was only after training as a counsellor specialising in families that she was able to heal the relationship with her estranged stepson.

“As a stepparent, I am very aware of how the challenging times can engulf you as a person,” Rantzau says. “It is key to remember you are not in competition with anyone else other than yourself when it comes to being a good role model. We have this wonderful opportunity to provide an additional support system and to introduce our stepchildren into our way of seeing the world that



Kamala Harris and her stepdaughter, Ella Emhoff.

they may never have experienced.

“It was recently my birthday and my stepson left an amazing message telling me I was the best stepmum in the world. So often, we fail to give ourselves grace,” she says. Jude Clarke, a journalist from the UK, has been stepmum to Rachel, 40, Rebecca, 36, and Alice, 32, for 28 years.

“I think of my three stepdaughters as somewhere between daughters, sisters and best friends. From when I first met them, I tried very hard not to impinge on their relationship with their mum, so I developed my own bond with each of them. As they are four years apart in age, this was quite different with each: I was like a big sister to Rachel, then 12; a kind of fun auntie to Rebecca, then 8; and a bit more maternal to Alice, who was just 4 when we met.” Paula Burns, a pharmacist from Northern Ireland, became stepmum to Nayana, 17, and Neva, 15, a decade ago.

Burns admits it took her a while to figure out her role in the girls’ lives. “It has been challenging at different stages of their growing up, trying to find my place in their lives and gain their trust. Initially, we bonded over girly things, like make-up and clothes. I was more like an aunt or a friend, but as time went on, we had two daughters who have cemented us all together as a family – they love their baby sisters!”

If you are to make a smooth transition to step-parent, you’ll need a Teflon-strong bond with your partner, says Rasmi, along with a solid parenting plan. “That strong bond will help you weather the storms you are going to encounter, while it can also be useful to have some sort of discussion as to what the family values are, what the parenting objectives are and what discipline looks like.”

SURVIVOR

19-year-old graphic artist on his passion for pen art

KIGALI

WALKING into his house that doubles as a workspace, Delice Dushimimana Sugira seems carried away in his drawing. His attention is drawn to what he is doing, which he later calls 'communicating with his art,' in a language that he alone can understand.

The way he gently sketches with his black pen, yet assuredly, is unexplainable. He was indeed born for this. In an interview with the 19-year-old graphic artist, he explains how his father's support inspired him to draw.

At a tender age, Sugira loved drawing anything nice that his eyes fell across—from flowers, cars, to human-beings in action. While in primary two, he often attended art competi-

tions. For him, there was never a dull moment with a pencil, paper, and surrounded by nature.

In 2018, he gave pen art a shot, although this was a bit challenging for him, because in case of any mistakes, he couldn't erase, but repeated the whole drawing. True to the common adage, "practice makes perfect", he is now past making errors as he has perfected his craft with time.

When asked why he focused on pen art, the youngster responded that it is because he values long-term products, unlike the pencil art that can be erased or lose its quality with time. In his view, he notes, clients value pen art more compared to pencil art.

His drawing skills, he also mentions, were also made better by an



Delice Dushimimana Sugira.

art course that he pursued at Ecole d'art de Nyundo, where he graduated in 2019. Sugira's graphic art comprises drawings, computer-aided designing, painting, and so forth. With drawing, he bases on creativity and uniqueness in his style as he is bored by the obvious.

The only challenge he says he has, is that his work is so real that people are not easily convinced that he uses his real hands to draw. Some argue that he uses phone applications, not until he shows them the videos of him drawing. The pen artist adds that on average, he spends about five hours to complete a picture on an A3 paper, and three hours on an A4 paper.

Earlier this year, he decided to turn his talent into business to earn a living. So far, the support from the public is fair as he has started getting clients. His prices range from Rwf15, 000 for A4, to Rwf25, 000 for A3. However, prices can increase, depending on the client's order.

"My talent has given me more opportunities and I have been appreciated by international stars like Ykee Benda, Eddy Kenzo, Brain Jotter and Rwandan celebrities such as Tom Close, Clapton, Arthur Nkusi, Paty Cope, Axel Rugangura, among others. "The gratitude often comes in form of money, encouraging messages and sharing my artwork on social media, thus gaining publicity and new clients—this warms my heart," Sugira says.

He, however, urges parents to support their children whenever they discover something unique about them. Whether, music, art, drama, or sports because if such talents are not groomed, they might be wasted, saying that if his father didn't bring to light his talent, maybe he wouldn't be where he is now.

Inspiration and future goals

Dushimimana is inspired by German artist, Mike Dargas, who won numerous awards and divisions on the tattoo scene and attracted attention worldwide. Through his quick distribution of his works through social media, he eagerly shared his enthusiasm for perfecting painting techniques.

He looks up to Dargas because he started making paintings with oil paint from a very young age, and since he got a chance to study art subjects with enormous intensity, he gave each painted portrait an intense and intimate closeness.

According to Dushimimana, Dargas' art is unique in a way that it focuses on understanding the nature of humanity and in turn, questions one's own emotional perception. The youngster is looking forward to offering a course in architecture at university as his dream is to express his art as an architect.

That way, he believes he will be able to make more money as 'ordinary art doesn't pay very well' compared to architecture. Architecture is considered an art form that reflects how we present ourselves across the earth's landscape, and, like other expressive mediums, it changes with styles, technologies, and cultural adaptations.

To him, focusing on architecture will enable him stay focused and not lose what he loves doing most, as he has no doubt that he will earn from it. He is, however, disappointed that young potential artists have even given up on drawing and painting as they lack financial support.

SUGGESTION

Africa needs 'affirmative action' to defeat counterfeit goods trade

RIYADH

A continent-wide free trade agreement could help to revive its economy and investment appeal but illicit trade can diminish prospects, AfCFTA secretary general says

Africa needs to take aggressive measures to protect businesses from losing billions of dollars' in revenue due to illicit trade of counterfeit goods as it eases trade restrictions among 54 African nations.

"We have to take affirmative action, counter measures, to make sure that we prevent and mitigate this risk," Wamkele Mene, secretary general of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), said on Thursday.

A continent-wide free trade agreement is currently being implemented with a view to reviving Africa's economy and its appeal among global investors. However, the risk of illicit trade of counterfeit goods, including pharmaceutical prod-

ucts amid a global pandemic, may dampen the flow of foreign funds, Mr Mene said at the fourth edition of the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh.

The implementation of AfCFTA, due on July 1, has been delayed due to the pandemic, as African nations that lack the financial muscle to roll-out economic stimulus packages to support their economies are struggling to control the spread of the virus. AfCFTA, the biggest free trade agreement in the world, aims to bring about 1.3 billion people into a single market.

However, its success could be marred by the proliferation of illicit trade. Currently, about 50 per cent of pharmaceutical products sold across the continent are either counterfeit or are substandard, Mr Mene said, citing World Health Organisation data.

"We know that ... [with] liberalising trade on the African continent, there will be a heightened risk of



Wamkele Mene, secretary general of AfCFTA

counterfeit goods' illicit trade that will proliferate and transit through borders," he said. On Thursday, a preliminary agreement was signed between AfCFTA members, the FII Institute and Swiss technology company OriginAll, an anti-counterfeiting platform that helps determine the origins of goods.

The partnership will allow African nations to leverage technology and deploy digital platforms, enabling the continent to be "the model of how you can put up a fight against and defeat counterfeiting", Mr Mene said.

Hans Schwab, chief executive of OriginAll, said counterfeiting is among

the most overlooked economic problems and costs the world about \$4.2 trillion a year. "That's in between [the] gross domestic products of Japan and Germany, the third and fourth largest economies in the world," he said. The FII institute also signed a preliminary agreement with Saudi Arabia's Tadawul stock exchange, the Arab world's biggest bourse, to cooperate on creating awareness on environmental, social and governance standards, publishing joint research and hosting events with key stakeholders to advance the ESG agenda in the kingdom.

Khalid Abdullah Al Hussain, chief executive of Tadawul, said that in the absence of unified global ESG standards, the bourse is helping Saudi corporates to understand how do "they meet the ESG requirements to be reported within their evaluations."

SANITY



Actress Lerato Marabe plays the role of Pretty whose extreme attempts to lose weight land her in hospital.

Lerato Marabe: Love the skin you're in - and expert weight loss advice

JOHANNESBURG

TOO fat, too thin, too tall, too short, too many flaws. Body issues have got to be one of the hottest topics of the day. Many of us are so unhappy with what we see in the mirror that we'll even risk our health to change it. This real-life drama is reflected in the storyline of SABC's Skeem Saam's character Pretty, and it's causing quite a stir.

Actress Lerato Marabe, who plays the role of the student who falls ill from attempting a quick-fix weight loss attempt, tells Drum she had body issues of her own as a child. And that is one of the reasons she's proud to play the role.

For those who missed it - University student Pretty auditioned for a swimsuit advert and was told she had to lose weight in just a few days. First, she took weight loss drops that didn't work. Then, when her mother realised what she was doing and forced her daughter to eat, Pretty went behind her back and vomited it all up after every meal. As a result, she collapsed and was rushed to hospital.

"Pretty is going through what a lot of women go through," Lerato says. "Weight is a struggle for a lot of people, and I am glad to be able to portray such a reality. "This is also an opportunity for parents to learn and have insight into what their children go through. Some of these products are unauthorised and don't clearly stipulate the side effects. This means not all products are safe, so people must be careful."

This is a scenario many ordinary South Africans can relate to, including Lerato. The actress says she was very thin when she was growing up and she wasn't comfortable with her body. Her shape changed in high school and she learnt to love the new body she was in.

"What I'd like to see people take away from this storyline is that we should all strive for comfort and loving the skin we are in. I'm not saying people shouldn't try to work on themselves and improve their appearances, but I think they should do that for themselves and not to try to fit in. Our bodies are unique, so trying to change that can make us lose our authenticity."

ANGELS

Chefs who turn 'waste food' into 1.3 million meals for the hungry

JOHANNESBURG

A GROUP of local chefs have turned food that would have gone to waste into more than 1.3 million meals for people battling through the Covid-19 pandemic. The volunteer organisation Chefs with Compassion have "rescued" more than 470 tons of food and served 1 382 632 meals.

With new sponsorship from Compass Insure, they can now also afford to keep paying the overheads for the "sharehouse" they had to move to when the initiative took off.

"The sponsorship comes at a pivotal time for Chefs with Compassion and for the country, as the ravages of the second wave of Covid-19 are felt across South Africa," they announced.

Initially operating from the HTA School of Culinary Art for the first five months of lockdown, Chefs with Compassion relied on partners and donations, most notably the South African Chefs' Association. Since moving into the "sharehouse" near the Johan-

nesburg Fresh Produce Market in City Deep, overhead costs such as rent, utilities, logistics, reimbursement for volunteer transport costs, and a "sharehouse" manager, have increased.

"The partnership with Compass Insure enables the sustainability of the operation, allowing us to continue our mission of rescuing food and feeding those most in need.

We are deeply grateful to Compass Insure for the confidence they have placed in our relatively young organisation," said Arnold Tanzer, chairperson of the board of Chefs with Compassion. Chefs with Compassion explained that over 10 million tons of food is wasted every year, while more than 16 million people go hungry each day.

They work with Nosh Food Rescue to collect fit-for-consumption surplus produce that would end up in landfills, or incinerated. The raw ingredients are cooked and distributed to the needy through the Chefs with Compassion volunteer network.



Arnold Tanzer (left) and Ismail Ismail (C) with their colleague.

PLEA

African edtech startup uLesson lands a \$7.5 million Series A

LAGOS

ULESSON, an edtech startup based in Nigeria that sells digital curriculum to students through SD cards, has raised \$7.5 million in Series A funding. The round is led by Owl Ventures, which closed over half a billion in new fund money just months ago. Other participants include LocalGlobe and existing investors, including TLcom Capital and Founder Collective.

The financing comes a little over

a year since uLesson closed its \$3.1 million seed round in November 2019.

The startup's biggest difference between now and then isn't simply the millions it has in the bank, it's the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on its entire value proposition.

uLesson launched into the market just weeks before the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic.

The startup, which uses SD cards as a low-bandwidth way to deliver content, saw a wave of smart devices enter homes across Africa as students adapted to remote education.

"The ground became wet in a way we didn't see before," founder and CEO Sim Shagaya said. "It opens up the world for us to do all kinds of really amazing things we've wanted to do in the world of edtech that you can't do in a strictly offline sense," the founder added.

CLARIFICATION

Scientists dismiss rumours about Covid-19 vaccines affecting fertility

LONDON

DOCTORS dismissed rumours spreading online that suggest having a Covid-19 vaccine could affect fertility as nonsense. The false claims are widely seen by experts as the latest round of misinformation from anti-vaxxers, who believe unfounded suggestions that vaccinations cause harm.

Despite being untrue, such rumours are blamed in part for "vaccine hesitancy" - a reluctance to be vaccinated - which could hamper efforts to control the pandemic. Prof Paul Hunter, an infectious diseases specialist and professor of medicine at the University of East Anglia in the UK, said "somebody is putting out a lie" suggesting vaccination reduces fertility.

"I cannot see how it would feasibly do that, knowing how these vaccines work," he said. "If people are going to make these statements, they have to

produce hard evidence, otherwise we have to take them as made up. "It's anti-vaxxers spreading more lies and misinformation ... it's nonsense and it should be treated as nonsense."

Writing in The New York Times this week, Prof Akiko Iwasa, a professor of immunobiology at Yale School of Medicine, and one of her postgraduate students, Alice Lu-Culligan, branded a claim that the vaccine generates antibodies that affect a protein in the placenta as "completely false".

One suggestion, they said, is that the protein in question, syncytin-1, is similar to the coronavirus spike protein, leading to the idea that antibodies produced by vaccination could harm a developing child.

But in laboratory tests the researchers found no reaction between antibodies collected from women with Covid-19 and syncytin-1, nor did they identify any significant similarities between this protein and the coronavirus spike protein. They also pointed out that there had been no reports of infertility in women who have recovered after being infected with the coronavirus.

Dr Andrew Freedman, an infectious diseases specialist at Cardiff University in the UK, said there were "so many false rumours around", and dismissed suggestions that vaccination harmed fertility. "There's no evidence and there's no conceivable mechanism I can think of why that would be the case," he said.



Cicely Tyson poses with her Emmy statuette at the annual Emmy Awards presentation in Los Angeles, Ca., May 28, 1974.

"I presume it comes from anti-vaxxers with no evidence at all." Similarly, there is no evidence that vaccination causes male infertility, and a study being conducted by the University of Miami that analyses the effect of an mRNA

Covid-19 vaccine is expected to confirm this. Researchers behind that study have, however, found that the virus can harm sperm production and that it can linger inside the testes, raising the prospect - as yet unconfirmed -

that infection could potentially affect male fertility. While there is no evidence Covid-19 vaccines harm fertility, there is caution about giving the jabs to pregnant women because - as is normal practice - they were not included in clinical trials.

Typically, it is recommended that pregnant women are not given vaccines made from live attenuated pathogens (which can replicate but not lead to disease), because there are concerns the pathogen could multiply in the foetus. However, none of the Covid-19 vaccines being administered contain live attenuated pathogens, so the risk of harm from vaccination during pregnancy is thought to be very low. Tests on animals during pregnancy have not highlighted potential problems with coronavirus vaccines - another indication that there are unlikely to be issues if pregnant women are vaccinated.

OBITUARY

Cicely Tyson, Emmy and Tony winner, dies age 96

LOS ANGELES

ACTRESS Cicely Tyson, who specialised in portraying strong Black women caught up in life's struggles during a 60-year career that earned her three Emmys and a Tony Award, died on Thursday age 96, her manager said in a statement.

No cause of death was given. Tyson had recently completed a memoir, *Just As I Am*, which was released just this week. Tyson's most-lauded performances came in historical works such as the 1972 movie *Souther* in which she played a Louisiana sharecropper's wife. That film earned Tyson her only Academy Award nomination, but she received an honorary Oscar in November 2018.

Oscar-nominated, Emmy awarded and Tony winner She also won two Emmys for *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* - one for best actress in a mini-series or movie, and one for actress of the year. The 1974 movie covered a woman's life from slavery to the 1960s.

Tyson picked up another Emmy 20 years later for *Oldest Living Confederate Widow Tells All*. Her nine other Emmy nominations included playing Binta, the mother of Kunta Kinte in the groundbreaking 1977 mini-series *Roots*, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr's wife, Coretta, in *King*, and the inspirational educator in *The Marva Collins Story*.

Her manager, Larry Thompson, said in a statement that Tyson "thought of her new memoir as a Christmas tree decorated with all the ornaments of her personal and professional life." "Today she placed the last ornament, a star, on top of the tree," he added.

Tyson's career boomed even in her 80s. In 2011, she was part of the ensemble of the much-praised film *The Help* and in 2013, at age 88, she won a Tony for a Broadway revival of *The Trip to Bountiful*, the story of a woman returning to her small hometown. It was her first time on Broadway in 30 years.

Even after turning 90, Tyson was busy. In 2015, she starred with frequent collaborator James Earl Jones in a Broadway revival of the two-person play *The Gin Game*.

The New York Times said Tyson and Jones, who had last appeared on Broadway almost 50 years earlier, proved "that great talent is ageless and ever-reward-



Cicely Tyson poses with her Emmy statuette at the annual Emmy Awards presentation in Los Angeles, Ca., May 28, 1974.

ing." In February 2019 at age 94, Tyson was on the cover of *Time* magazine's "The Art of Optimism" edition and an interviewer asked if she had considered retiring. "And do what?" was her response.

"Still we hold on"

Tyson said she used her career to take on issues important to her, such as race and gender. "I realised very early on when I was asked certain questions or treated in a certain way that I needed to use my career to address those issues," she said in a *People* magazine interview in 2015. Tyson told CBS she saw the Hollywood hierarchy as a ladder with white men at the top, followed by white women and Black men. Black women were at the bottom.

"And we're holding on to the last rung," she said. "And those fists are being trampled on by all those three above and still we hold on." Actress Viola Davis said she was "devastated" by news of the death of Tyson, who played the mother of Davis' character on the TV legal drama *How to Get Away with Murder* from 2015 to 2020.

"You were everything to me!" Davis wrote on Instagram. "You made me feel loved and seen and valued in a world where there is still a cloak of invisibility for us dark chocolate girls." LeVar Burton, who portrayed Kunta Kinte in *Roots*, praised his "first screen Mom." "Elegance, warmth, beauty, wisdom, style and abundant grace," Burton wrote on Twitter. "She was as regal as they come."

Tyson was born in December 1924 in New York and grew up in the city's Harlem neighbourhood, the daughter of immigrants from the West Indies. S

he was a secretary and model before taking acting jobs in the 1950s. In the early 1960s, she became one of the first Black actresses to appear regularly on U.S. television, playing George C. Scott's secretary on the series *East Side, West Side*.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV

ITV PGM SCHEDULE	20:00 Habari	23:00 Habari	7:00 Habari	15:15 Aibu yako
SATURDAY 30 Jan	21:05 Dakika 45	23:30 The Base	8:00 Al Jazeera	15:30 Rev rpt
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	22:00 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	00:30 Al Jazeera	9:00 Watoto wetu	16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
6:00 HABARI	23:00 Habari	02:00 DWTV	10:00 Shika Bamba 5	16:45 Mizengwe rpt
6:40 Kumekucha	23:30 The Base	THURSDAY 4 Feb	10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	17:00 The Decor rpt
7:00 Habari	00:30 Al Jazeera	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	17:30 Meza huru
8:00 Al Jazeera	02:00 DWTV	6:00 HABARI	12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
9:00 Watoto wetu	TUESDAY 2 Feb	6:40 Kumekucha	13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
10:00 Shika Bamba 5	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	7:30 HABARI	16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	20:00 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter
10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt	6:00 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	16:20 Igizo: Mtego	21:00 Shift
11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt	6:40 Kumekucha	9:55 Habari za saa	17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	21:15 Capchat live
12:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	7:30 HABARI	10:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	18:00 Jiji Letu	22:15 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
13:45 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	9:30 Isidingo	18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang	00:00 Al Jazeera
16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe	8:55 Habari za saa	9:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Jungu Kuu	Mon 01 Feb
16:20 Igizo: Mtego	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	10:00 Watoto	19:30 Shika Bamba	06:00 Al Jazeera
17:00 Shamsam za Pwani	9:30 Isidingo	10:30 Shamba lulu rpt	20:00 Habari	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
18:00 Jiji Letu	9:55 Habari za saa	10:55 Habari za saa	21:00 Art and lifestyle	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang	10:00 Watoto wetu rpt	11:00 The Base rpt	21:30 ITV TOP 10	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
19:00 Jungu Kuu	10:30 Jungu kuu rpt	11:55 Habari za saa	22:10 Isidingo rpt	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
19:30 Shika Bamba	10:55 Habari za saa	12:00 Al Jazeera	00:30 DWTV	16:00 Series rpt: Itohan
20:00 Habari	11:00 The Base rpt	12:30 Ijue sheria rpt	SUNDAY 7 Feb	16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
21:00 Art and lifestyle	11:55 Habari za saa	12:55 Habari za saa	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
21:30 ITV TOP 10	12:00 Al Jazeera	13:00 Ripoti Maalum rpt	6:00 HABARI	17:30 Meza huru
22:10 Isidingo rpt	12:30 Afa ya jamii	13:30 Tanzania yetu	6:40 Kumekucha	19:00 The Décor rpt
00:30 DWTV	12:55 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	7:00 Habari	19:30 Shamba lulu
SUNDAY 31 Jan	13:00 DWTV: Kesho leo rpt	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	8:00 Al Jazeera	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	13:30 Shika Bamba rpt	14:55 Habari za saa	09:00 Watoto Wetu	20:45 The Monday Agenda
6:00 HABARI	13:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	10:00 Isidingo	21:30 Capital Prime News
6:40 Kumekucha	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	15:30 Watoto Wetu	11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	22:00 Kipima Joto
7:00 Habari	14:55 Habari za saa	17:00 The Base	12:00 Movie rpt: Kivuli	00:00 Al Jazeera
8:00 Al Jazeera	15:00 Meza huru	18:00 Jiji Letu	14:00 Tamasha la Michezo	Tues 02 Feb
09:00 Watoto Wetu	16:30 Watoto wetu	18:15 Mapishi rpt	15:30 Mwangaza	06:00 Al Jazeera
10:00 Isidingo rpt	17:00 The Base	18:30 Jagina	16:30 ITV Top 10	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
11:40 Mjue zaidi	18:00 Jiji Letu	19:00 Usafiri wako	17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
12:35 Movie: Wajanja wa Mjini rpt	18:10 Yu wapi	19:30 Isidingo	18:00 Jiji Letu	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:00 Tamasha la michezo	18:15 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt	20:00 Habari	18:15 Mapishi	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
15:30 Mwangaza	18:30 Uchumi na biashara	21:00 Malumbano ya hoja	18:30 Matukio ya wiki	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
16:30 ITV Top 10	19:00 Jarida la wanawake	23:00 Habari	19:30 Igizo: Mtego	16:30 Capchat rpt
17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo	19:30 Isidingo	23:30 The Base	20:00 Habari	17:30 Meza huru
18:00 Jiji Letu	20:00 Habari	00:30 Al Jazeera	21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko	19:00 Innovation
18:15 Mapishi	21:00 Tanzania yetu	02:00 DWTV	21:05 Mizengwe	19:30 Jagina rpt
18:30 Matukio ya wiki	21:30 Chetu ni chetu	FRIDAY 5 Feb	21:30 Mjue Zaidi	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
19:30 Igizo: Mtego	22:15 Telenovela: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	22:14 Bongo Movie: Pumba	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
20:00 Habari	WEDNESDAY 3 Feb	6:00 HABARI	00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	21:30 Capital Prime
21:00 Kipindi maalum: Biko	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:40 Kumekucha	CAPITAL	22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
21:05 Mizengwe	6:00 HABARI	7:00 HABARI	Sat 30 Jan	23:00 Eco@Africa
21:30 Mjue Zaidi	6:40 Kumekucha	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	08:00 Al Jazeera	23:00 Al Jazeera
22:14 Bongo Movie: Kivuli	7:30 HABARI	9:55 Habari za saa	09:00 Rev rpt	Wed 03 Feb
00:05 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	8:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt	09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt	06:00 Al Jazeera
MONDAY 1 Feb	9:30 Isidingo	10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt	09:30 Culinary delight rpt	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	10:00 Habari	11:00 The Base	10:00 Innovation rpt	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
6:00 HABARI	10:30 Habari za saa	11:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Out n'about rpt	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
6:40 Kumekucha	11:00 The Base	12:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Sports Gazette rpt	14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
7:30 HABARI	11:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	12:00 Shamba Lulu rpt	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	12:00 Al Jazeera	12:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Eco@Africa rpt	16:30 Culinary delight rpt
8:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	13:00 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco	13:00 Business edition rpt	17:00 Innovation rpt
9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	12:55 Habari za saa	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	17:30 Meza huru
9:30 Isidingo	13:00 Habari za saa	13:55 Habari za saa	14:30 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death	19:00 Sports Gazette
9:55 Habari za saa	13:30 Dakika 45 rpt	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt	19:30 Chetu ni chetu
10:00 Watoto wetu	13:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza Huru	17:45 Bundesliga kick off	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
10:55 Habari za saa	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	16:30 Watoto Wetu	18:15 Capchat rpt	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt	14:55 Habari za saa	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)	19:15 Mizengwe	21:30 Capital Prime News
11:55 Habari za saa	15:00 Meza huru	17:30 Kislam	20:00 The Decor	22:00 Dakika 45:
12:00 Al Jazeera News	16:30 Watoto Wetu	18:00 Jiji Letu	20:30 Korean Drama: The Slave hunter	23:15 Al Jazeera
12:30 Mtego rpt	17:00 The Base	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt	21:00 Out n'About	Thurs 04 Feb
12:55 Habari za saa	17:30 Habari za saa	19:00 Shamba lulu	21:30 Movie: Eden	06:00 Al Jazeera
13:00 Mjue Zaidi	18:00 Habari	19:30 Isidingo	23:00 Series rpt: Itohan	07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt	20:00 Habari	01:00 Al Jazeera	09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
13:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Shamba lulu	21:05 Kipima Joto	Sun 31Jan	13:00 Telenovela rpt: Lover her to death
14:10 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	19:30 Isidingo	23:00 Habari	08:00 Aljazeera	16:00 Series rpt: Beats of Love
14:55 Habari za saa	20:00 Habari	23:30 The Base	09:00 In good shape	17:00 In good shape
15:00 Meza huru	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	00:30 Al Jazeera	10:00 Capchat rpt	17:30 Meza huru
16:30 Watoto Wetu	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum	6:40 Kumekucha	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt	19:00 Turning the spotlight
17:00 The Base	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	SATURDAY 6 Feb	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	19:30 Tanzania yetu
18:00 Jiji Letu	MONDAY 1 Feb	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	12:00 Jagina rpt	20:00 Series: Beats of Love
18:10 Aibu yako rpt	5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi	6:00 HABARI	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt	20:45 Telenovela: Lover her to death
18:15 Mapishi	6:00 HABARI	6:40 Kumekucha	13:00 In good shape rpt	21:30 Capital Prime News
18:45 Kesho leo	6:40 Kumekucha	7:30 HABARI	13:30 Series rpt: Itohan	22:00 Capchat rpt
19:00 Afa ya Jamii	7:00 HABARI	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	Sun 31Jan	23:00 Al Jazeera
19:00 Afa ya Jamii	7:30 HABARI	9:55 Habari za saa	08:00 Aljazeera	
19:30 Isidingo	8:00 Kumekucha Michezo	10:00 Watoto Wetu	09:00 In good shape	
	8:55 Habari za saa	11:00 The Base	10:00 Capchat rpt	
	9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo	11:55 Habari za saa	11:00 Sports Gazette rpt	
	9:30 Isidingo	12:00 Al Jazeera	11:30 Korean Drama rpt: The slave hunter	
	9:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	12:00 Jagina rpt	
	10:00 Watoto Wetu rpt	12:55 Habari za saa	12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt	
	10:30 Uchumi na biashara rpt	13:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco	13:00 In good shape rpt	
	10:55 Habari za saa	13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt	13:30 Series rpt: Itohan	
	11:00 The Base rpt	13:55 Habari za saa		
	11:55 Habari za saa	14:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin		
	12:00 Al Jazeera	15:00 Meza Huru		
	12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt	16:30 Watoto Wetu		
	12:55 Habari za saa	17:00 The Base (DJ Show)		
	13:00 Dakika 45 rpt	17:30 Kislam		
	13:55 Habari za saa	18:00 Jiji Letu		
	14:00 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin	18:15 Mjue Zaidi rpt		
	14:55 Habari za saa	19:00 Shamba lulu		
	15:00 Meza huru	19:30 Isidingo		
	16:30 Watoto Wetu	20:00 Habari		
	17:00 The Base	21:05 Kipima Joto		
	18:00 Jiji Letu	23:00 Habari		
	18:15 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang	23:30 The Base		
	19:00 Jue Sheria	00:30 Al Jazeera		
	19:30 Isidingo	02:00 DWTV		
	20:00 Habari			
	21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco			
	21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum			
	22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Piel Salvaje) Wild Skin			

WORLD

Unlike Trump, Biden cannot lean on conservative Supreme Court to keep agenda alive

WASHINGTON

THE first major lawsuit hit President Joe Biden's administration two days after he took office, providing an early test not only of how much conservative legal opposition his policies will draw but also of his strategy in fending off such challenges.

Unlike his Republican predecessor Donald Trump, whose administration sought to rush cases to a U.S. Supreme Court it considered friendly territory, Biden's team may not be able to count on a sympathetic audience among the conservative justices who hold sway on the nation's top judicial body.

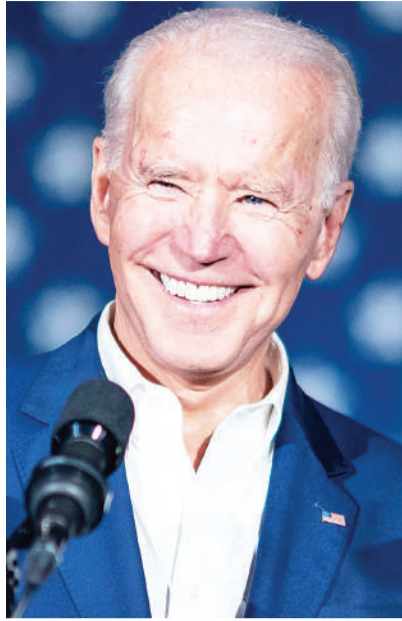
The Jan. 22 lawsuit was filed by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, a staunch Republican ally of Trump, challenging Biden's 100-day moratorium on deportation of many immigrants. The judge

in the case on Tuesday temporarily blocked Biden's action while the litigation continues, with the potential that the matter could end up at the Supreme Court.

The high court's 6-3 conservative majority includes three Trump appointees. Trump's administration took a particularly aggressive stance when judges blocked his policies by quickly and repeatedly turning to the high court - sometimes bypassing intermediate federal appeals courts - in a way that broke norms.

Legal experts said Biden's team is unlikely to use the same playbook given a Supreme Court ideological makeup that signals skepticism toward liberal policy approaches.

The Justice Department's Office of the Solicitor General, which handles the federal government's cases at Supreme



President Joe Biden

Court, will play a key role.

Biden has not yet chosen his nominee for solicitor general, but Washington lawyers Nicole Saharsky, David Frederick and Andrew Pincus are among those being considered, according to two sources familiar with the process. Washington lawyer Elizabeth Prelogar, a veteran of the office, is serving as acting solicitor general. Biden has nominated federal appellate judge Merrick Garland as attorney general.

'MORE FAVORABLE FORUM'

The new solicitor general's office must decide whether it can attract

the support of a majority of the Supreme Court's justices in a given case or whether it would be a "futile effort" even to try, said Ilana Eisenstein, a Philadelphia lawyer who worked in the office under Trump and his predecessor Barack Obama.

"Where there is a perception that the Supreme Court is the more favorable forum, whether for emergency relief or relief on the merits, there may be a rush to get there," Eisenstein said. "And where there is a perception that appeals courts are more favorable, there may be an effort to keep the matter in those lower courts."

In the past, a solicitor general typically sought the Supreme Court's attention only after lower courts had ruled. But Noel Francisco, solicitor general for most of Trump's presidency, repeatedly pushed the justices - often on an emergency basis - to hear cases or block unfavorable lower court rulings to keep contested policies alive.

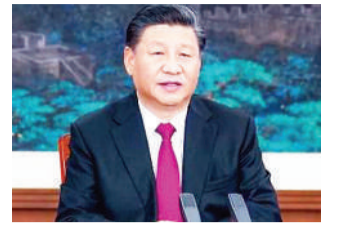
Trump's administration asked the justices to block lower court rulings 41 times, according to University of Texas School of Law professor Stephen Vladeck, with the administration winning at least in part in 28 of those requests. In the 16 years prior, the Obama and George W. Bush administrations sought such relief eight times combined.

Vladeck said the numbers reflect a conservative Trump administration capitalizing on a reliably conservative court.

Agencies

Xi stresses new development philosophy in next five years

BEIJING



Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, has stressed full and accurate implementation of the new development philosophy to ensure a good start for China's development during the 14th Five-Year Plan period (2021-2025).

Xi (pictured) made the remarks on Thursday when addressing a group study session of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. The new development philosophy is a systematic theoretical system, which answers a series of theoretical and practical questions about the purpose, motivation, mode and path of development, Xi said.

It also clarifies major political issues including the Party's political stand, value orientation and the mode and path for development, Xi noted.

The year 2021 marks the start of the 14th Five-Year Plan and also the centenary of the CPC.

It is of vital importance for China to ensure sound economic and social development this year at the beginning of the 14th Five-Year Plan period, Xi said.

Xi coordinated actions of the Party and the country as a whole for implementing the new development philosophy in a holistic manner, requiring efforts to pursue innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development.

Having entered a new stage of development, China must pay greater attention to the pursuit of common prosperity, as required for the comprehensive implementation of the new development philosophy, Xi said.

Xi demanded further steps to address the regional gap, the gap between urban and rural areas and the income gap, improve people's well-being, meet the needs of rural areas, primary organizations, underdeveloped areas and disadvantaged groups, and promote social fairness and justice.

Xi stressed that deepening reform in every field shall be guided by the new development philosophy and institutional guarantees must be provided for the full and accurate implementation of the philosophy via reform.

Highlighting strengthened forward-looking thinking, overall and strategic planning, and holistic development, Xi emphasized the need to uphold a systematic approach in implementing the new development philosophy, calling for efforts to coordinate internal and international imperatives, as well as the five-sphere integrated plan and the four-pronged comprehensive strategy. Xi also called for balancing COVID-19 containment and social and economic development to prevent any sizable importation or resurgence of the epidemic.

Stressing the need to ensure both development and security, Xi also urged contingency planning for "black swan" and "gray rhino" events to boost the security of China's development. The comprehensive implementation of the new development philosophy is both a prerequisite for China's economic and social development and a political requirement of great significance, said Xi.

It is imperative for officials at all levels, especially those in senior positions, to constantly improve their political judgment, understanding and execution and to act in accordance with the guiding principles of the CPC Central Committee in formulating and implementing major policies. **Xinhua**

Embracing inclusiveness for a multilateral world

BEIJING

WHEN Chinese President Xi Jinping expounded his understanding of multilateralism and China's advocacy of it at the World Economic Forum (WEF) virtual event of the Davos Agenda, inclusiveness stood out as a key word in his special address.

The human race is facing a raft of rare challenges and crises, as the coronavirus pandemic ravages the world, which is undergoing profound changes, racked with unilateralism and protectionism. Against this backdrop, upholding multilateralism turns out to be a solution to global problems, in the practice of which the spirit of inclusiveness is an indispensable ele-

ment and bears global significance.

To build an inclusive world, the global community has to embrace the diversity of histories, cultures, social systems and paths of development. Differences in these aspects have existed since the dawn of human history, and are an integral part of human civilization. Such diversity defines the colorful world as people know it, a world which hosts various countries and regions, thousands of ethnic groups and multiple religions.

An inclusive mindset for diversity is a driver of progress in human society, and this also rings true in the pandemic era. Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the WEF, noted in the publication

"COVID-19: The Great Reset" that inclusivity, together with the core values of solidarity and trust, are "strong determining elements and important contributors to success in containing an epidemic."

Unfortunately, the world has been witnessing actions that run counter to the spirit of inclusiveness, which have wreaked havoc on world peace and global development.

Prejudice, bigotry and hatred have led to antagonism and confrontation in forms of cold war, military war, trade war or tech war, harming the shared interests of the international community.

Actors on the global arena should, with respect for oth-

ers' diversified development paths and cultures, abandon the outdated Cold War and zero-sum mentality and advocate discussion, mutual learning and win-win cooperation, so as to safeguard all countries' equal rights to development and strive for common development.

An inclusive world also means that no one is discriminated against, excluded or left behind in the process of pursuing global growth and sustainable development.

Countries around the world need to join forces and work together to make development more balanced and let people have equal access to opportunities, so that the benefits of

global growth can be reaped in every corner of the world.

To be more specific, the international community should make joint efforts to narrow the gaps between the rich and the poor, provide necessary assistance to developing and less developed countries and protect their legitimate rights and interests of development.

Meanwhile, the principle of equality should also be firmly adhered to in international relations.

All countries, big or small, rich or poor, must be treated equally on the world stage. In his speech, Xi urged the international community to stay committed to openness and inclusiveness instead of closeness and exclusion. **Xinhua**

Washington issues national terrorism alert as violence feared

NEW YORK

THE Department of Homeland Security, or DHS, issued a national terrorism alert on Wednesday, saying the Jan 6 riot at the US Capitol may embolden extremists and set the stage for additional attacks in the coming weeks.

The department said it does not have evidence of a specific plot and it did not mention any ideological or political affiliation, but said violent extremists opposed to the government and the presidential transition "could continue to mobilize".

"Information suggests that some ideologically-motivated violent extremists with objections to the exercise of governmental authority and the presidential transition, as well as other perceived grievances fueled by false narratives, could continue to mobilize to incite or commit violence," the bulletin issued through the DHS National Ter-



Supporters of US President Donald Trump try to break through a police barrier, outside the US Capitol in Washington, DC, on Jan 6, 2021. File photo

rorist Advisory System said.

The DHS said it is "concerned these same drivers to violence will remain through early 2021 and some (domestic violent extremists) may be emboldened" by the breach of the Capitol "to target elected officials and government facilities".

The alert comes after the riot at the Capitol by supporters of

then-president Donald Trump who were seeking to overturn the presidential election. The DHS also noted violent riots in "recent days", an apparent reference to events in Portland, Oregon, linked to anarchist groups.

For months, demonstrations were held nightly in Oregon's largest city following the killing of George Floyd

in Minneapolis in May. Many ended with clouds of tear gas and clashes with police or federal officers.

Most recently, following the inauguration of President Joe Biden on Jan 20, more than 150 people gathered outside the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement building in Portland's South Waterfront.

Unlawful assembly

Portland police said protesters threw rocks and eggs, vandalizing the building. Six people were arrested as officers declared it an unlawful assembly.

The demonstration was one of several that took place that day. Earlier, far-left protesters smashed windows at the Democratic Party of Oregon building in northeast Portland. Eight people were arrested there.

The DHS alert is the department's first in about a year.

The last such bulletin came in January 2020 when the DHS issued one over potential retaliation by Iran for the US killing of Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani in Iraq.

A year before that, the DHS issued a bulletin through the same system to highlight the threat from foreign terrorist groups like ISIS or al-Qaida.

The DHS did not issue an alert ahead of the Jan 6 rally in Washington that devolved into a mob assault at the Capitol, despite public warnings online that extremists planned to do so.

Wednesday's public warning echoes what intelligence bulletins sent privately to law enforcement officials in recent weeks have said, underscoring continued threats of violence-prone individuals who still believe Biden's election was illegitimate. **Agencies**

Countries should take responsible actions to drive global economic recovery

The world is paying close attention to whether the global economy can shake off recession in 2021.

Whether the world economy will secure a robust rebound or drag itself uphill toward recovery depends on the results of global control of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries' determination and capabilities to coordinate virus control and economic and social development, as well as their concrete actions to seize the opportunity of innovation-driven development and open cooperation.

As COVID-19 vaccines have been gradually launched, the international community is full of expectations for the global economic recovery

this year.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted that the global growth will rebound to 5.2 percent in 2021, while the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) forecast that the world economy will grow 4.2 percent this year.

However, it should be noted that the economic recovery will be uneven across the world and face uncertainties. World Bank Group President David Malpass said it would take two to three years for global output to return to pre-pandemic levels.

To effectively contain the COVID-19 pandemic is the key to global

economic recovery. Faced with a second wave of infections, some countries have to press the "pause" button on many aspects of economic and social development.

The longer the pandemic and corresponding lockdown measures last, the deeper the economic recession, and the harder it is for recovery, observed Martin Wolf, chief economics commentator of the Financial Times, expressing his worries.

Just as the world economy has been caught in recession because of the outbreak, it will surely resume growth when the disease is gradually brought under control.

In this sense, ensuring the ac-

cessibility and affordability of COVID-19 vaccines in all countries is essential for securing a balanced global recovery and the inclusive growth of the global economy in the post-epidemic era.

Looking back at 2020, people may find it reassuring that countries and regions that reached good results in pandemic control could quickly climb out of recession and steer their economy back to the track of recovery.

In particular, China has achieved strategic achievements in balancing epidemic prevention and control and economic and social development, and become the only major economy worldwide to secure posi-

tive growth amid the outbreak. This fully proves that timely and effective control of the epidemic is crucial for economic recovery.

It is expected that the international community will forge greater determination to defeat COVID-19 with solidarity and put in stronger efforts to coordinate pandemic control and social and economic development in 2021.

Innovation-driven development is believed to be an important means for countries to foster new opportunities in crises and create new prospects in the face of changing circumstances.

New technologies, business forms and platforms have thrived amid

the pandemic, and are expected to continue to empower traditional industries and bring more changes in the forms of economic activity.

German media pointed out that the year 2020 was an impressive testament to the potential of science and technology, while a report released by the World Trade Organization (WTO) said the world economy is shifting toward digitalization and informatization.

Undoubtedly, generating new development drivers through scientific and technological innovation and digital transformation will be an important measure for countries to adapt to changes and turn crisis into opportunity. **People's Daily**

Italy's Renzi could back new government to avoid elections

BY BLOOMBERG

ITALY'S former premier Matteo Renzi, who triggered the collapse of Italy's government, said he wants a new cabinet soon to avoid new elections.

Renzi (pictured) prompted Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's resignation by pulling his tiny Italy Alive party out of the ruling coalition, but he left the door ajar for Conte to return after meeting with President Sergio Mattarella, who's responsible for choosing a new premier-designate.

"Going to elections in this phase would be an error for Italy and for Italians," Renzi told reporters at the presidential palace in Rome. "We need a government quickly."

Renzi added that during the meeting with the president he did not mention Conte, telling reporters that his priority was talking about issues rather than "who should be in the driver's seat."

Conte will have to defuse what's become a toxic rivalry with Renzi if he's to have any chance of being asked to forge his third cabinet. While he has the backing of the Five Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party, he'll need broader support to ensure a majority, especially in the Senate.

Agencies



Ex-Obama aide Malley 'named Biden's top envoy on Iran'

WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has named Robert Malley as special US envoy for Iran, a senior official said on Thursday, giving the veteran diplomat a leading role in one of most daunting and politically divisive foreign policy challenges facing the new administration.

Malley (pictured) was a key member of former President Barack Obama's team that negotiated the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran and world powers, an agreement that former president Donald Trump abandoned in 2018 despite strong opposition from Washington's European allies.

"Secretary Blinken is building a dedicated team, drawing from clear-eyed experts with a diversity of views. Leading that brings to the position a track record of success negotiating constraints on Iran's nuclear program," the State Department official said.

"The Secretary is confident he and his team will be able to do that once again," the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said, referring to Biden's Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

When Malley's name first surfaced in news reports as a leading candidate for the post, he drew criticism from some Republican lawmakers and pro-Israel groups that expressed concern that he would be soft on Iran and tough on Israel. But a number of foreign policy veterans rushed to his defense, praising him as a respected, even-handed diplomat.

The post would make Malley the point person in Biden's efforts to deal with Iran after years of worsening relations under Trump, who, after pulling out of the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran, reimposed crippling economic sanctions.

The Diplomatic news website was first to report on Malley's expected appointment.

He held numerous senior positions in the Democratic administrations of Obama and former President Bill Clinton with a focus on Middle East and Gulf policymaking and informally advised Biden's team during the 2020 campaign.

Most recently, he was the president of the International Crisis Group, a non-profit organization focused on global conflict.

Malley's expected appointment comes as Biden and his foreign policy aides move to craft their approach to Iran. Malley is expected to report directly to Blinken, a source familiar with the matter said. **Agencies**



Andrew Yang back on trail in race for top NYC post

NEW YORK

ANDREW Yang returned to the campaign trail on Wednesday to continue his bid to become New York City mayor after ending a self-imposed 10-day quarantine because an aide tested positive for coronavirus.

Yang, 46, toured businesses in hard-hit Chinatown in Lower Manhattan where there has been a dramatic reduction in foot traffic due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"We need to let folks know that restaurants are open for business and we should support them," Yang said.

Born in upstate Schenectady, a few hours from New York City, Yang moved to Manhattan when he was 21.

Yang recalled fond memories of being taken to Chinatown by his parents, who came to the US in the 1960s from Taiwan.

Yang spoke alongside Democratic New York City Council member Margaret Chin, who endorsed him for mayor because "every New Yorker will benefit".

Gigi Li, a candidate for Chin's City Council seat, was also in attendance and got Yang's endorsement.

Chin said she wants to see a funding boost for the Department of Aging and senior centers. Yang said as mayor he would support that. **Agencies**



China's remarkable economic performance bolsters global efforts against pandemic, recession

WASHINGTON

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday projected that China's economy will grow by 8.1 percent in 2021, amid a partial and uneven global recovery, according to the latest update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO).

China returned to the pre-pandemic projected level in the fourth quarter of 2020, "well ahead of" other major economies, IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath said at a virtual press conference, noting that the strength of the projected recovery varies significantly across countries.

The multilateral lender projected that the global economy, which saw a 3.5-percent contraction in 2020, will grow by 5.5 percent in 2021, while cautioning "tremendous uncertainty."

Much now depends on the outcome of this "race" between a mutating virus and vaccines to end the pandemic, and on the ability of policies to provide effective support until that happens, Gopinath said.

KEY FACTORS FOR CHINA'S ROBUST REBOUND

China's National Bureau of Statistics recently reported that the country's gross domestic product registered a year-on-year growth rate of 2.3 percent in 2020, becoming the only major economy with positive growth in the pandemic-ravaged year.

China has also become the top destination for foreign direct investment (FDI). FDI flows to China rose by 4 percent to 163 billion U.S. dollars, making the country the world's largest recipient in 2020, followed by the United States, according to the latest report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

"China has been very successful in containing the pandemic and that has played a very important role to bring back activity much more quickly," Gopinath said in response to a question from Xinhua at the virtual press conference.

"There's been effective policy support provided both in terms of fiscal policy and monetary policy," she continued, adding that China's exports have also gone up in this environment.

Echoing Gopinath's remarks, Malhar Nabar, division chief at the IMF's Research Department, told reporters that China's policy support has been "a big driver" of its "impressive rebound" in 2020.

"The public infrastructure spending support, and also the support that was extended to affected households and to firms, reinforced by aggressive actions by the People's Bank of China to provide liquidity support and ensure that credit provision remains strong," Nabar said.

"Going forward, we see a gradual handoff to private sector activity, starting out with a pickup in private investment activity," he said. "That's in fact already been seen in the second half of last year, and we expect that to continue."

Nabar added that in order to secure the recovery path, it is "vitaly important" for China to ensure that rebalancing towards private consumption continues and "perhaps even is accelerated to an extent, with efforts to strengthen the social safety net."



IMF Chief Economist Gita Gopinath

In 2022, China's economy is projected to grow by 5.6 percent, according to the WEO update. Global economy, meanwhile, is projected to grow 4.2 percent in the same year.

Noting that China is "the engine of growth" for the global economy for a while, Petya Koeva Brooks, deputy director of the IMF's Research Department, told Xinhua in a video interview Tuesday that she believes China has a very important role to play in the global recovery going forward.

"I think the fact that China is one of the producers of the vaccine and has been active and willing to also help others is an important thing," Brooks said, highlighting the significance for China to be one of the champions of global multilateral cooperation on the vaccine front.

China also plays a critical role in strengthening global supply chains, addressing climate change and resolving debt issues, said the IMF official.

"China can do a lot in terms of being again the catalyst or the champion for change at the global level," she added.

"We want to be a part of China's global growth. We think that we can contribute to China's global growth, make it more balanced, employ a lot of people, (and) bring good products," U.S.-China Business Council President Craig Allen told Xinhua in a recent video interview.

According to media reports, Joerg Wuttke, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, also emphasized that it is important for companies to participate in the Chinese market

as the Chinese economy contributes 30 percent of global growth every year.

TREMENDOUS UNCERTAINTY IN GLOBAL RECOVERY

The projected global recovery this year follows a severe collapse in 2020, Gopinath said. Even though the estimated contraction of 3.5 percent in 2020 is somewhat less dire than the previously projected 4.4 percent contraction, it remains the worst peacetime global contraction since the Great Depression, she said.

Because of the partial nature of the rebound, over 150 economies are expected to have per-capita incomes below their 2019 levels in 2021, and the number will decline only modestly to around 110 economies in 2022, according to the IMF.

"At 22 trillion dollars, the projected cumulative output loss over 2020-2025 relative to the pre-pandemic projected levels remains substantial," Gopinath said, adding that the strength of the projected recovery varies significantly across countries.

The Chinese economy has already reached the level of output that it had prior to the pandemic, while the United States and Japan are expected to reach the pre-pandemic level of output this year, Brooks said.

While the euro area as well as many emerging markets and developing countries will not reach this level until 2022, with some low-income countries even beyond that, said the IMF official.

The multilateral lender also urged governments to work together to accel-

erate access to vaccines for all countries, ensure universal distribution of COVID-19 vaccines at affordable prices and boost support especially for poorer nations.

"Having universal access to vaccines for all countries is something that is going to benefit everyone. This is where multilateral cooperation would be particularly important," Brooks said.

Faster progress on ending the health crisis will raise global income cumulatively by 9 trillion U.S. dollars over 2020-2025, according to the IMF estimation.

"There remains tremendous uncertainty and prospects vary greatly across countries," said Gopinath, who made the remarks on the same day as global COVID-19 cases topped 100 million, breaking another grim record.

Greater success with vaccinations and therapeutics as well as additional policy support could improve outcomes, while slow vaccine rollout, virus mutations and premature withdrawal of policy support can worsen outcomes, she said.

If downside risks were to materialize, a tightening of financial conditions could amplify the downturn at a time when public and corporate debt are at record highs worldwide, she said.

The IMF chief economist added that targeted economic lifelines to households and firms should be maintained where the virus is surging, and if policy space permits, resources freed up can be reallocated to education, digitalization and green investment to support the recovery.

Xinhua

Kenya vows to spearhead regional peace initiatives despite spat with Somalia

NAIROBI

KENYA said on Thursday it will continue championing regional peace initiatives and will not meddle in the internal affairs of any country despite the accusations by Somalia.

Cyrus Oguna, government spokesman, said as a key player in the search for peace in the region, Kenya remains committed to the maintenance of peace and stability that would promote development in the region.

"We will however continue to advocate for peace and stability in the region, and thus call for total cessation of hostilities in Somalia in order to give peace a chance," Oguna told journalists

in Nairobi. He said the government has been observing the military skirmishes that have recently been unfolding in Somalia between the army forces and those from the federal territory of Jubaland in the Gedo region which is near the Kenyan border.

"It is of great concern to us that the recurrent confrontations between these forces not only cause fear and panic amongst our people at the border town of Mandera, but also do lead to the displacement of civilians from the Gedo region in Somalia," said Ogu-



na.

He said the displaced families are often forced to flee into Kenya for safety and asylum, further overstressing the capacity of the country's facilities.

"It is clear that the events being witnessed around Mandera have their genesis on domestic political activities in Somalia, with every effort being made to give them an external angle," he added.

Oguna called on Somali leadership to desist from dragging Kenya into their domestic issues and urged all leaders in Somalia to create an environment that will facilitate the resolution of the conflict through dialogue.

This, he said, is critical in fostering

a united front in countering militants who have, for a long time, destabilized peace and security in Somalia and the region.

The official said the allegations by Somalia that Kenya is sponsoring and harboring militia with the objective of destabilizing Somalia are not based on any merit.

"Due to this, it is here that most Somalis run to whenever violence breaks out in their country. They still do cross over into Kenya to seek certain services," he said, noting that it would therefore be counter-productive for Kenya to want to destabilize the very people it offers a refuge.

Xinhua

Vocational education gives a leg up to China's poverty alleviation efforts

CHINA'S vocational education reaped fruitful results during the past 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), and one of the highlights was its important role played in the country's poverty alleviation efforts.

Featuring low entrance requirements, low cost and abundant job opportunities, vocational education not only lighted the dreams of students from impoverished families, but also intercepted the inheritance of poverty, turning around the destinies of impoverished households.

In recent years, vocational education has opened its door wider, enrolling more impoverished students and helping them to secure stable jobs.

"I never thought that I would settle down in Chengdu one day and become a regular employee of a hospital," said Tashi Drolma, an impoverished student from Liangshan Yi autonomous prefecture, Sichuan province who secured a job in a hospital in the province's capital.

Growing up in an impoverished family, Tashi Drolma came close to dropping out when she was in middle school. Thanks to a policy rolled out by Sichuan province that offers three years of free vocational education, her life has com-



Students from Tibetan-inhabited areas attend a class at a vocational high school in Dazhou, southwest China's Sichuan province, Dec. 14, 2020. File Photo

pletely changed. According to statistics, nearly 80,000 families from ethnic-minority areas have benefited from the policy.

The lack of vocational skills is an important reason for the insufficient motivation for development of some impoverished households. To arm them with expertise through vocational education can better help them get rid of poverty.

China's poverty alleviation practices fully prove that vocational education

is one of the most effective and sustainable methods to eradicate poverty. For instance, Dongxiang autonomous county in Gansu province has offered training courses on lamian, or Chinese hand-pulled noodles for residents.

The three-month training effectively helped the trainees improve their income and secure stable jobs. Ma Jinlong, who did odd jobs at a lamian restaurant and earned only 2,000 yuan per month, is now making lamian at a Beijing res-

taurant after receiving the training, tripling his income.

Vocational skills are a source of confidence to bid farewell to poverty. In recent years, from expanding scholarships and the range of free education, to vocational schools' enrollment increase in extreme impoverished regions, and from enhancing east-west collaboration of vocational education to sending vocational teachers to rural areas, more and more students from impoverished families are offered with opportunities to receive education at low cost.

Vocational education, through its practical results, is revitalizing the confidence and morale of impoverished residents, and motivating them to pursue a better life with knowledge and skills.

A vocational skills competition was recently held, joined by over 2,500 competitors from various industries. Their expertise showcased in the games passed on an energy that inspires people to make bigger accomplishments with skills.

By promoting high-quality development of vocational education and fostering numerous skillful laborers, China will witness more splendid life-changing stories and write more chapters of social and economic development.

People's Daily

SPORT



Peter Muduhwa

Simba's new defender eyes first team spot

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

ZIMBABWEAN defender, Peter Muduhwa, has said he wants to be part of Tanzania's Simba's first team in this season's CAF Champions League matches.

The defender, who has signed a six-month deal, will battle for a place in the first team with Joash Onyango, Ibrahim Ame, Paschal Wawa and Kennedy Juma.

Simba, coached by Didier Gomes, notched 4-1 win over Sudan's Al Hilal in Simba Super Cup tournament's clash, which took place in Dar es Salaam mid this week.

It was the new head coach's first competitive game.

In the game played at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, Muduhwa was neither part of Simba's first team nor among those who were on the bench.

The defender noted: "I know that Simba

are a great team and have strong defenders but I will fight to get numbers in the CAF Champions League matches.

"It will not be an easy task but it is possible by fighting and adding effort to practice. I believe I will get a place in the first team and I will do my job seriously," he said.

Muduhwa has joined Simba SC from Zimbabwe's Highlanders FC.

The defender has joined Simba from Cameroon where he was one of players making Zimbabwe national team which took part in this year's African Nations Championship (CHAN).

In Cameroon, the Zimbabwe national team have played a total of three matches and have not claimed a victory in Group A.

They have lost all three of their matches and conceded a total of five goals while their attacking line-up has scored one goal.

Leading Group A was Mali with seven points, followed by hosts Cameroon with five points.

Da Rosa seeks to help Simba clinch silverware

By Correspondent Ismail Tano

SIMBA SC's head coach, Didier Gomes Da Rosa, has revealed that he wants to see his team win trophies in all competitions they participate in, and he will, to start with, be out to contest for the Simba Super Cup tournament's trophy.

Simba got off to a good start in their Simba Super Cup competition campaign after beating Sudan's Al Hilal 4-1 in the opening game of the tournament in Dar es Salaam mid this week.

The competition gears towards seeing to it the participating teams prepare for this season's CAF Champions League group stage.

Gomez was officially announced as Simba head coach last Sunday, replacing Belgian Sven Vandebroek, who resigned on January 7, and the new coach has already overseen his squad for four consecutive days.

The Simba Super Cup tournament which started on 27 January, has brought together three teams, Al Hilal, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s TP Mazembe and hosts Simba.

Commenting on Simba's goals in the tournament, Gomez said: "For me, I consider every game as a final so we have to fight to make sure we win this trophy."

"This will build our confidence and desire to win other trophies in the championships we are participating in," he said.

Gomez has already overseen his side's training for three days in a row in preparation for the

Simba Super Cup which started mid this week.

While in the gym Da Rosa seemed to focus more on the teaching of short passes and exercises.

Commenting on his plans, Gomez said: "I am happy to be here, I have learned so many things in such a short time, my young people seem to be very enthusiastic and very active in the gym."

"Our goal is to do well in every tournament we participate in, but we continue to invest a lot of energy in making sure we have a strong squad that can compete against big teams like TP Mazembe and Al Ahly in the CAF Champions League.

"Simba are one of the 16 best clubs in Africa and they are highly regarded in front of their opponents so we must make sure we are really true competitors against our opponents," he said.

He first led Simba in their Simba Super Cup encounter with Al Hilal.

The duel saw Simba win 4-1 against the Sudan outfit at Benjamin Mkapa Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Zambian Larry Bwalya netted one of the hosts' goals, he in the end got the best player of the clash's prize amounting to 500,000/-.

Midfielder Perfect Chikwende who played his first match for Simba after joining the team from Zimbabwe's FC Platinum, also scored one goal, winger Bernard Morrison netted two goals.

SPORTS

France out to boost Tanzania's culture promotion



Bahati Female Music Band's singers perform at the 6th Edition Night of Ideas festival 2021 held in Dar es Salaam on Thursday night. PHOTO: FRANCIS KAJUBI

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

FRANCE is determined at supporting and promoting the growth of Tanzanian culture and arts by strengthening the cultural ties between the two countries and facilitating exposure of their culture among their people.

In line with achieving such ambition, the France Embassy in Tanzania on Thursday evening celebrated the 6th Edition Night of Ideas festival 2021 that brought together traditional artists, painters, dancers, rappers and designers to showcase their works.

Cecile Frobert, Head of Development Cooperation and Cultural Affairs at the French Embassy, said that civilization is as big as the culture of the people of a

certain country.

She said the two nations need to spur cultural development by sharing and exchanging experiences.

"In strengthening the culture and arts of our people we need to work together by coming up with a common approach that we can apply altogether in creating more space for Tanzanian artists to penetrate their artistic work to France and other European countries and vice versa", Cecille noted.

The 6th Edition Night of Ideas festival 2021 was meant to shed light on Tanzanian culture's uniqueness through a debate on how to live together in a multicultural reality.

"About 300 higher learners from different universities in Dar es Salaam were invited to take part in the festival to learn and explore their artistic work," she disclosed.

"Promoting culture is also aiming at promoting social inclusion and supporting job creation for the young people living in the urban areas."

"That is why the French Embassy is committed to continuing and to increase the support to the upcoming artists and to collaborate with cultural institutions in Tanzania as National Arts Council (BASATA), Nafasi Arts Space, Muda Africa or the Dhow Countries Music Academy (DCMA) in Zanzibar," Clavier noted.

Every year on the last Thursday of January, all French embassies, Alliance Francaises, French institutions around the world celebrate culture and the free movement of ideas.

Neema Suri, a violinist from DCMA, said that traditional music is popular to foreigners, compared to Tanzanians, calling for the mainstream's support of their works.

FC Platinum signs former Azam FC forward

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

AFTER Zimbabwe's soccer big guns, FC Platinum, had lost their gifted midfielder, Perfect Chikwende, and performance analyst Culvin Mavhunga to Tanzania's Simba SC, the former have reinforced their squad by roping in forward Donald Ngoma.

Reports from Zimbabwe said FC Platinum have re-signed Ngoma to strengthen their squad for this season's CAF Confederation Cup tournament.

Ngoma has made a return to FC Platinum after spending the last five years in Tanzania where he had successful spells at Yanga and Azam FC.

The forward re-signs with FC Platinum after leaving the club in 2015/16 season to join Yanga, he went on to lift multiple trophies with the club.

The top honours include three Premier League titles and a Federation Cup with Azam FC, he is now getting back to his former club where the outfit hopes he will bring more heat in front of opposing teams' goal.

Ngoma has been out without a club since June last year whereby he left Azam FC via mutual agreement after his contract with the outfit expired. He signed for the outfit in 2018 after turning out for Yanga.

Until the end of his contract with Azam FC, Ngoma managed to play a total of 42 matches in all competitions, participating in 20 goals, after scoring 16 and providing four assists.

The FC Platinum were relegated to this season's CAF Confederation Cup competition after suffering 4-1 aggregate loss to Simba in the first round of this season's CAF Champions League.

Apart from Ngoma, FC Platinum who will play their CAF Confederation Cup's play off against ASC Diaraf of Senegal on February 14, have also signed the former Dynamos defender,



Donald Ngoma

Blessing Moyo.

The team, who recently re-signed their former captain Rodwell Chinyengere from South African side, Baroka FC, announced the capture of their two seasoned players on Wednesday.

Apart from Chikwende and Mavhunga, who was hired on Wednesday by Simba as the club's performance analyst, the Msimbazi Street-based team have also recruited the service of another Zimbabwean

defender, Peter Muduhwa.

The central defender from Zimbabwe top flight league side, Highlanders, has joined Simba on a six-month loan deal and will only appear in CAF Champions League.

However his compatriot Chikwende is yet to acquire international clearance from Zimbabwe Football Association (ZIFA) as there is an ownership battle between FC Platinum and Bulawayo Chiefs.

Man City threaten to turn Premier League race into procession

LONDON

THIS season's Premier League race has been touted as one of the most open in years but Manchester City have quietly moved through the gears and are threatening to pull away from the pack.

Pep Guardiola's men, who have won their past seven league games, host Manchester United's midweek conquerors Sheffield United on Saturday, hoping lightning cannot strike twice.

United, their closest challengers, face a tricky trip away to rejuvenated Arsenal while Liverpool travel to high-flying West Ham.

AFP Sport looks at some of the main talking points ahead of the weekend action in the English top-flight.

United seek away-day comforts Manchester United hoped to be travelling to the Emirates as Premier League leaders before their shock defeat to bottom side Sheffield United at Old Trafford.

The 2-1 reverse on Wednesday, which ended a 13-game unbeaten run in the Premier League, was their fourth home defeat of the season.

In sharp contrast, they have won eight out of their 10 league games on the road and are unbeaten away from home in the Premier League for more than a year.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will hope this week's limp showing was a one-off but the Emirates will not be an easy place for United to rediscover their form.

Mikel Arteta has turned Arsenal's fortunes around, winning five out of six Premier League matches to move to within striking distance of the top four.

He will hope to make a statement that the Gunners are back in business by completing the double over United this season.

Striker-less City purring City are heavy favourites to land a third Premier League crown in four years, even though Sergio Aguero has no league goals this season and Gabriel Jesus has just two.

Aguero, City's all-time record goalscorer, has been unavailable for most of the campaign as a result of injury and the coronavirus while Jesus, who also suffered from Covid, has been a bit-part player in recent weeks.

In their absence Ilkay Gundogan, Raheem Sterling, Phil Foden and Riyad Mahrez have chipped in with plenty of goals, backed by a rock-solid defence.

City have won their past seven

league games, scoring 18 goals in the process and conceding just one.

Manager Pep Guardiola believes Aguero could still play a key role in the second half of the season but will be delighted his squad have stepped up as they chase glory on four fronts.

Last chance for Bruce?

Frank Lampard this week became the second managerial casualty of the Premier League season when he was jettisoned by Chelsea, but Steve Bruce could soon be next.

Newcastle have collected just two points out of a possible 27 in the Premier League and the manager's future looks bleak.

Some fans mounted a protest at St James's Park after last week's 2-0 defeat at Aston Villa, displaying a banner aimed at owner Mike Ashley that bore the message "Act late, seal your fate".

In a sign of the pressure he is under, Bruce refused to take questions from written media at his press conference before this week's match against Leeds, which ended in a 2-1 defeat.

He still believes he is the right man to turn things around but must know time is running out.

Tuchel's homework

New Chelsea boss Thomas Tuchel admitted after his side's dull 0-0 draw against Wolves this week that he had not had time to properly assess his squad.

Midfielder Mason Mount, one of the standout players at Stamford Bridge this season, and Christian Pulisic were left kicking their heels on the bench.

Chelsea dominated possession but looked short of ideas until Mount and Pulisic were introduced in the late stages of the game.

England international Mount in particular looked dangerous and will be disappointed if he does not make the teamsheet against Burnley.

Fixtures (all times GMT)

Today (1500 unless stated)
Everton v Newcastle (1230), Crystal Palace v Wolves, Manchester City v Sheffield United, West Brom v Fulham, Arsenal v Manchester United (1730), Southampton v Aston Villa (2000)

Tomorrow

Chelsea v Burnley (1200), Leicester v Leeds (1400), West Ham v Liverpool (1630), Brighton v Tottenham (1915)

AFP

Odegaard and Puig symptomatic of Real Madrid and Barca's struggle to change

MADRID

Riqui Puig scored his first goal for Barcelona against Elche last weekend after being circled as one of the world's most exciting talents almost a decade ago.

In 2014, the Barcelona newspaper Mundo Deportivo revelled in the 14-year-old born in Catalonia, who knew Xavi Hernandez personally and might even one day play like him.

"He's a great little footballer," the Catalan newspaper wrote. "He plays between the lines and he's got fantastic talent. Just as fantastic as his personality."

In the same year, Martin Odegaard, only a year older than Puig, was already representing Norway and being shown around Real Madrid's training ground, not because he had joined them but because they were trying to persuade him to.

"Martin Odegaard is 15 years old and already tired," wrote Marca. "Of hearing offers from all the big clubs in Europe."

And yet seven years later, Puig was being substituted on Wednesday by Ronald Koeman with Barca 1-0 down to Rayo Vallecano in the Copa del Rey.

Odegaard was being shown around another training ground this week, this time in Hertfordshire in England, where he joined Arsenal on loan.

"Martin has been playing at the top level for a while," read Arsenal's statement.

Puig, now 21, is staying to fight for his place while Odegaard, 22, has opted for a fresh start but both have been sidelined by their coaches, despite hopes they would be key as their clubs look to the future.

The disappointment has created tension, with Koeman increasingly agitated by what he sees as too hard a push for Puig to be in his team.

"It's as if I have a problem with him and that is not the case," said Koeman. "It's not good for me or for Riqui."

Zidane's future is in doubt, in part because he refuses to embrace the club's vision for the future, which has Odegaard at its heart.

"You have to prove yourself with the competition there is here, which is fierce," said Zidane. "You have to show it."

Which begs the question, have they shown enough? And have they been given the chance to?

After a decade of dominance in Europe, Barcelona and Real Madrid are at the end of an cycle, both facing up to a need to change while also unsure how to implement it.

Zidane was brought back to clear up the mess in 2019 while Koeman was perceived as someone able to begin the transition.

AFP

Brilliant Bruno: Man United star's first year draws Cantona comparisons

By Sid Lowe, ESPN Spain writer

IT was after Bruno Fernandes' third game for Manchester United that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer knew he had made the right decision in bringing the midfielder to Old Trafford.

While the rest of the squad were largely satisfied with a 1-1 draw against Club Brugge in the last-32 of the 2019-20 Europa League knowing there was another leg to come, Fernandes was not. It was the type of reaction Solskjaer had seen before in the United teams he played in, and the Norwegian was quietly pleased to see his new signing from Sporting CP throw his shirt down in the corner of the dressing room.

Solskjaer is also of the opinion that draws, even ones that can be rectified a week later, are never good enough. After only playing the final nine minutes in Belgium, Fernandes asked Solskjaer to start the return leg in Manchester. He scored, and United won 5-0.

As he approaches his first anniversary at the club, it remains one of only four times Fernandes has played at Old Trafford in front of fans. Since making his debut on Feb. 1, 2020, the Portugal international has been one of United's most transformative signings. He has been so influential to even draw comparisons with Eric Cantona, whose arrival in November 1992 triggered a run of four top-flight titles in five seasons after a 26-year run without one.

Fernandes still has a long way to go to match Cantona's trophy haul, but it's worth noting that United finished second the season before the Frenchman was signed. When Fernandes pulled on a United shirt for the first time, they were fifth in the table, 36 points behind leaders



Fernandes has energized a United side in need of a playmaker, though his leadership skills are doing as much to elevate the squad. (Agencies)

Liverpool. A year on, they are one point off the top.

His numbers speak for themselves. By winning the Premier League's player of the month award for December, he became the first player to collect the trophy four times in a calendar year, having also won it in February, June and November.

Given his broad impact, it is remarkable that in the summer of 2019, United appeared happy for Fernandes to join Tottenham Hotspur. Having grown weary of talks with Sporting that were going nowhere and with nagging reservations about how Fernandes might adapt to the Premier League, they were prepared to let him move to north London, particularly after learning Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy had been quoted a much lower price. But the deal never materialised, and when United's Portuguese scouts urged the recruitment department to take another look, Solskjaer and assistant Mike Phelan went to watch Sporting themselves, seeing a player they believed had improved markedly since the end of the previous season.

Desperate to improve his team's attacking output, Solskjaer asked executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward and chief negotiator Matt Judge to enquire about Jack Grealish, but after that was knocked back by Aston Villa, United ploughed ahead with talks for Fernandes. The deal, completed on Jan. 30, 2020, could end up costing £67.6 million if certain performance indicators are met, but if Fernandes continues on the same trajectory, Woodward can consider it the best value for money signing since he took over from David Gill in 2013.

In just 12 months, Fernandes has established himself as the focal point of the club. There is already talk of a new contract to reflect his status despite already having a deal

until 2025 plus the option of another year. His shirt is the best seller in the Megastore, and when it comes time for international broadcasters to submit interview requests before and after games, his name is usually top of the list. When Amad Diallo has trained with the first team following his move from Atalanta, Fernandes has been keen to offer the 18-year-old winger advice and encouragement during training.

One of the things that had impressed Solskjaer most during the background checks on the 26-year-old was how well he had captained Sporting. Having decided the squad lacked leaders when he took over from Jose Mourinho in December 2018, it was one of the reasons Solskjaer has also tracked Grealish, captain of Aston Villa. Fernandes was made United captain for the first time for the Champions League group game with Paris Saint-Germain in October. He was sitting in the pre-match news conference with Solskjaer when his manager announced the news. Caught by surprise, the midfielder was worried the cameras had filmed him looking confused, and so keen to project the right image, he asked club officials to pull the video before being assured everything was fine.

On the pitch, Fernandes has been just as carefully managed. Solskjaer has admitted to "pulling my hair out" at how often Fernandes is prone to losing the ball – even for an attacker attempting risky passes – but it was something he was made aware of by the analysts before Fernandes joined, and the United boss has told his players, who can sometimes become frustrated in training and games, to let him keep trying.

"He's expected to create goals, score goals and sometimes the margins are against him," Solskjaer said of Fernandes earlier this season. "He's always on the verge of creating something, even when he loses the ball, and that's the position I want him in and that's what he's been told to do. I want him to play the passes he sees."

Solskjaer has said privately that Fernandes is allowed to give the ball away, particularly given the amount of running he does to get it back. Members of the coaching staff have tried to encourage him to become more thoughtful in the way he uses his energy, but have since learned he is happier charging around, desperate to get on the ball and relentlessly pressing opponents. He is the same in training, and staff have repeatedly had to order him inside for fear he would stay out on the Carrington pitches all night if there was no one there to tell him to go home.

Following his appointment two years ago, Solskjaer realised very quickly that the team needed to change off the pitch if they wanted to win on it. New players have been key to his mission at Old Trafford, and none more important than Fernandes. A year on from his arrival, the decision to sign him has already been vindicated.

Barcelona have no money for transfers so how can youth help them out of crisis?

BARCELONA

BARCELONA are in the midst of a crisis. With reports of €1.2 billion debt (€730m owed short-term); no president, sporting director or even a board to take decisions; star player Lionel Messi's future still unresolved despite his contract running out in the summer; and sitting 10 points behind La Liga leaders Atletico Madrid, it's been a chaotic 12 months for the Catalans. Yet among the doom and gloom, there's a feeling that the tide is slowly turning on the pitch.

While the league title already seems out of reach, there is some cause for optimism. Barca sit third in La Liga despite a run of poor results and are still in the Copa del Rey and Champions League, which compares well to their supposedly crisis-free arch-rivals Real Madrid, who are only three points ahead of them in second place and who suffered an embarrassing defeat to third-tier Alcoyano in the Copa.

While the 3-0 home defeat at the hands of Juventus in the final Champions League group match didn't instill any great confidence for the forthcoming last-16 games against Paris Saint-Germain, the signs are that manager Ronald Koeman – a rather unpopular appointment – has begun to steady the ship.

The Dutchman deserves a lot of credit for the way he's conducted himself and emerged as the leading presence during a traumatic period for the club, especially as few believed that he would succeed. He's stood firm, justified his decisions logically and never tried to blame a defeat on the club's wider predicament. But how does he continue to take the club forward amid such financial uncertainty?

Transfer troubles

While many coaches would find excuses in the lack of new signings, Koeman accepted there was no chance of a game-changing new addition in January once the presidential elections were delayed until March; instead, he set to work on making the most of what he's got.

He's managed to kickstart faltering stars such as Antoine Griezmann and Ousmane Dembele (and, to a certain extent, Frenkie de Jong, though the midfielder is still only 23), while main-



Pedri and Ansu Fati have made a great impression for Barcelona. (Agencies)

taining an open demeanour in news conferences.

"My position is known: we lack people, but the economic situation of the club is an influence," he said last week. "I think we all think the same. If no one arrives, I accept it and we continue the same, but if we want more we must sign."

If money were no object, Koeman would surely be happy with reported €100m moves for Borussia Dortmund striker Erling Haaland or Inter Milan's Lautaro Martinez, but it is an object. In their current financial predicament, it's free transfers or loans only, with sources telling ESPN that Liverpool midfielder Georginio

Wijnaldum is high on Koeman's wishlist, while he has been continually linked with a move for Lyon winger Memphis Depay too.

The Dutch pair are available for nothing in the summer, while sources said the club also have a long-standing interest in Manchester City defender Eric Garcia, who began his career at Camp Nou and is refusing to sign a new contract before it expires in 2021. But Garcia, as a natural replacement for veteran centre-back Gerard Pique is perhaps the only one needed.

The club have faced criticism over recent years for producing fewer new talents from their famed La Ma-

sia academy, and though such a golden age as that which produced Messi, Andres Iniesta, Xavi and Sergio Busquets is hard to maintain, many feel that they've sacrificed bringing through promising youngsters in favour of buying in big names. With over €980m spent in the four years from 2016-2020 on such players as Philippe Coutinho (€145m), Griezmann (€120m), Dembele (€105m) and Malcom (€40m), Barca are turning back to youth, with encouraging results.

Youth making a mark on the first team

Since arriving in the job, Koeman has launched a fleet of exciting youngsters who are in the process of establishing themselves in the first team. Though not being La Masia products, Ronald Araujo and Pedri have stood out as two emerging stars.

Araujo arrived from Uruguayan side Boston River in 2018 and the 21-year-old's progress as a central defender – despite still not being Pique-esque in possession – has been encouraging. He has won an impressive 80%+ of defensive and aerial challenges since his promotion from the B team this year. Meanwhile, 18-year-old winger Pedri, who signed from Las Palmas for €5m over the summer, has seamlessly adjusted to life at Camp Nou to the point where he's now a first-team regular.

Oscar Mingueza, 21, another young centre-back (and proper La Masia product), has also enjoyed a recent run in the first team, while Ricard "Riqui" Puig – a much-heralded 21-year-old from the academy – scored his first senior league goal for Barcelona at the weekend.

Gwiji by David Chikoko



SPORT

Brilliant Bruno: Man United star's first year draws Cantona comparisons

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 18



Former Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s president, Anthony Mtaka.

Kiganja, Mtaka disqualified from AT election

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

ANTHONY Mtaka and Mohamed Kiganja are among eight candidates who have been eliminated from the Athletics Tanzania (AT)'s election.

Kiganja and Mtaka were among the five candidates for the position of AT's president in the election to be held in Dar es Salaam today.

Although the AT election committee has not stated the reasons for the dismissal of the candidates, the body's statement issued at 8.20am yesterday stated that the position now has three candidates, namely Juma Ikangaa, Silas Isangi and Rahim Kalyango.

The statement signed by the committee's chairman, Jonas Tiboroha, also noted that the AT's vice-president, William Kalaghe, who was defending his seat, has also been disqualified from running for office with the association's former accountant.

The AT's vice-president (Technical), Hamad Ndee, has resigned from the race, leaving only two candidates, John Bayo and Jackson Ndweka.

National Sports Council (NSC) Information Officer, Najaha Bakari, said the disqualified candidates have a chance to appeal against their dismissal.

"If there is someone who feels has the qualities, he should to go to the registrar's office, he will be given reasons for his disqualification and if he wants to appeal the cost is 300, 000/-," she said.

However, she did not say whether the decision to appeal against the candidates would be made before tomorrow's (today) election.

She nevertheless disclosed for those who were cleared for the election but have objections placed on them, the objections would be heard after the election.

Other candidates for the post are Inyasi Mgambi, Zakaria Barie, Jambau Madai, Gabriel Liginyan and Jackline Elias.

New amendments to the AT's new draft constitution were approved during the last meeting held on December 30 last year, they will be used in this year's AT election.

But also other proposals in the draft touched on the level of education, in which they have recommended people with at least diploma education to run for the association's president and vice-president.

The age limit for people running for the post is 70 years for each term.

It will be recalled that last year, while the Constitutional Review Committee of the AT was handing over the draft constitution to former Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Harrison Mwakyembe, proposed to reduce the number of members representing regions at the AT general assembly.

Each region lately has three members, who were all voting in the association's election, so the committee recommended one member for each region to be a voter.

The composition of the AT Executive Committee will see the committee consist of a president, one vice-president instead of two, a secretary general and treasurer appointed by six Executive Committee's members.

“

If there is someone who feels has the qualities, he should to go to the registrar's office, he will be given reasons for his disqualification and if he wants to appeal the cost is 300, 000/-

Yanga's new defender vows to improve performance

By Correspondent Nassir Nchimbi

NEW Yanga central defender Dickson Job has said that he believes he will put scintillating performance in the squad coached by Cedric Kaze.

Job joined Yanga from Morogoro's Mtibwa Sugar Club and the defender has signed a two-year deal to serve the former, who are the Mainland Premier League leaders.

The young defender, who has been the first-choice defender at Mtibwa Sugar based in Turiani, is now an employee at the Jangwani Street side.

Yanga lead the domestic top flight after playing a total of 18 matches and the team have collected a total of 44 points, whilst not conceding loss.

His life at Mtibwa Sugar in the 2020/21 season was outstanding and he was sure to make his way into the first team.

In 18 matches Mtibwa Sugar took part in, he played 17 and all of them had the playing taking part in 90 minutes. Job missed one game against Mbeya City FC.

He has already started a new life in Yanga while disclosing he is fulfilling his long-held dream as he was thinking of playing in the squad.

He disclosed: "I am happy that Yanga. I believe I will do good things. It was my dream to join Yanga and now it has come true."

"Following the technical bench instructions is the key, I will also cooperate with my teammates as well as work diligently," the defender noted.

His presence has seen Yanga's defense constitute five central defenders. Others are Ghanaian Lamine Moro, Bakari Mwamnyeto, Said Juma and Abdallah Shaibu.

Job was promoted from the Mtibwa Sugar youth setup team and he has greatly helped the team perform well.

He was one of key players in the outfit's achievement in the previous season's Mapinduzi Cup, which had the squad lifting the top honour with victory over Simba.

The 20-year old player has turned out for the national youth teams in all ranks, which are, among others, the national U-20 team.

The defender has reunited with former Mtibwa Sugar fullback, Kibwana Shomari, who moved to Yanga last season.

Shomari was also a member of the national youth team, playing alongside Job.

Job received his first senior national team call-up last year and he this season got his second call-up.

The defender is under the management of his brother, namely George Job.



Dickson Job

Patel Brotherhood cricketers now face Lions Castilla Club's test in DC Cup cricket tournament



Lions Castilla's cricketers pictured prior to taking on Sandy's Super Strikers in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML) Division C T20 showpiece's last four, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Lions Castilla will confront Patel Brotherhood team in this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Cup T20 tournament tie slated for tomorrow. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LIONS CRICKET CLUB

By Guardian Reporter

PATEL Brotherhood cricketers will be eager to enjoy an impressive run in Division B of this season's Dar es Salaam Cricket (DC) Cup T20 tournament when they confront Lions Castilla in the city tomorrow.

The regional cricket governing body, DC, has hosted the tournament, under the auspices of Tanzania Cricket Association (TCA), aiming at stepping up promotion of the sport in the country.

In today's only duel of the tournament, TCA Academy will lock horns with Annadil Seifee at the same venue.

Patel Brotherhood had opened the tournament in grand fashion after notching 54-run victory over Caravans Club in a clash, played last weekend.

In the last weekend duel, held at Annadil Burhani oval, Patel Brotherhood had opportunity to start batting, notching 170 runs for four wickets in 20 overs.

The team's top order batsmen played a pivotal in their ability to gain

an upper hand in the innings and ultimately amass a good score.

They had a good start in their innings, with opening batsman Dilipkumar Dinubhai Patel posting 52 runs which included seven fours.

Kamlesh Kara, batting at number three, equally had meaningful contribution given he scored 45 runs which consisted of seven fours.

Satya Sirdi Sekharmantri improved his team's pursuit of a convincing score, registering 24 runs which included three boundaries.

Mauleshkumar Patel that opened the innings with Dilipkumar scored 13 runs which included two fours.

Despite chasing an achievable score, Caravans found the going tough and ultimately lost steam given they ended with 116 runs all out in 15.2 overs.

Krishna Kumar was so far the performer with meaningful contribution in the fruitless chase, posting 29 runs which included five fours.

Jobin Joseph and Vivek Goyal attempted to make up for the team's frustrating start in the innings, which saw opening batsmen Dhaneesh Dharmajan and Vinod Vijayan facing an early exit.

Goyal notched 11 runs whereas Joseph posted 18 runs. Sobin Joseph and Rahul Nair registered 15 runs and 10 runs respectively as the squad vainly sought to see to it their efforts come to fruition.

Patel Brotherhood's Kara had most wickets, given he posted three wickets and gave away 15 runs in 2.2 overs.

Nishit Katakia was too impressive, taking two wickets and giving away 32 runs in four overs.

Tomorrow's tie will be Lions Castilla's first fixture in the tournament.

The outfit, a second string squad of Lions Cricket Club, is in this case, not expected to turn into pushovers.

Tomorrow will moreover see Lions Youths confront Upanga Sports Club in the tournament's tie at the same venue.

Flexibles by David Chikoko

