



National Pg 5
150 SMEs benefit from SIDO loans



National Pg 6
Collaboration to promote businesses



National Pg 7
TALGWU exposes funds theft




Ebola spreading in western DRC

GENEVA

EBOLA is spreading in western parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, with nearly 50 known cases across a large region bordering the Republic of Congo and Central African Republic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared.

Since Congolese medical authorities announced the outbreak on June 1, 48 cases have been confirmed in Congo's Equateur province, with a further three probable cases and a total of 20 deaths, WHO's top emergencies expert Mike Ryan (pictured) said.

"This is still a very active outbreak, and I would say it is still a great concern," Ryan told a news briefing.

The province includes part of the River Congo, he said, adding that it was a large geographical area where communities were linked and people travelled long distances.

"I would caution everyone that while the numbers in this event are low, again in the era of COVID-19 it is very important that we do not take our eyes off these other emerging diseases and we saw in North Korea and other previous outbreaks of

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Nomination: CCM's new faces mobbing veterans



Zanzibar Trade, Industries and Investment minister Amina Salum Ali (R) pictured on Monday presenting a special award to the main sponsor of the 44th edition (July 1 to 13) of the annual Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair - NBC Bank, here represented by managing director Theobald Sabi. It was all part of the fair's climax and closing ceremony. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Arusha Urban has about 30 CCM aspirants

By Guardian Reporters

WITH three months before polling day, a multitude of cadres from the ruling CCM straddling all walks of life yesterday came out to collect forms for parliamentary seats, whereby new faces showed interest to vie for the posts.

In Arusha Region, the number of aspirants vying for the Arusha Urban parliamentary seat on the CCM ticket veers towards 30, as the window to take forms was opened just yesterday.

As anticipated, notable ones include former Regional Commissioner Mrisho Gambo, current city mayor Kalist Lazaro; prominent lawyer Alberto Msando and big grain trader Philemon Mollel (Monaban) have all decided to wade into the political waves by taking and filling the forms.

Of some surprise though was Pamela Mollel, who writes for 'Majira' newspaper, apart from Anna Mwambapa, as the only female aspirants so far.

Through his twitter account, the current MP Godbless Lema who is seeking reelection in his Chadema ticket, dismissed the CCM aspirants as 'lightweight.' He said he would defeat them even if they run together, united against himself.

In Monduli, the son of former prime minister Edward Lowassa, Freddy also picked up forms to vie for the Monduli

TURN TO PAGE 2

SHARE FACTS ABOUT COVID-19

Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.

Fear and anxiety about COVID-19 can cause people to avoid or reject others even though they are not at risk for spreading the virus.

FACT 2 For most people, the immediate risk of becoming seriously ill from the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low.

Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19.

FACT 3 Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.



03/15/2020

FACT 4 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

FACT 5 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

cdc.gov/COVID-19

France applauds Tanzania ties on National Day fete

By Guardian Reporter

FRANCE yesterday promised to continue supporting Tanzania in its development endeavours, which include bolstering strategies to enable the nation to improve further and remain in the club of middle income countries.

Speaking during the commemoration of the French National Day (Bastille Day) held in Dar es Salaam, French

Ambassador Frederic Clavier said his government will continue supporting Tanzania in various fields as diverse as energy, transportation, water and sanitation, agriculture and environment.

"France is delighted that Tanzania achieved middle income status on July 1. It is the consecration of choices made by President John Magufuli. I have said it since the beginning of my mission

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MSD drugs take two into police dragnet

RPC praises JPM for completing NEC, congress business before midnight

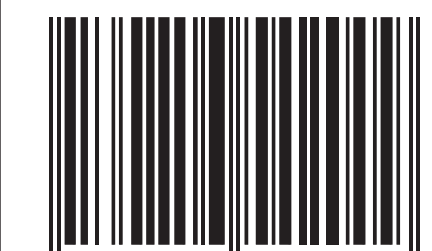
By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

POLICE in Dodoma Region are holding two people for allegedly being

in possession of a consignment of various kinds of hospital drugs.

Regional Police Commander Gilles Muroto told reporters here yesterday that the drugs have Medical Stores Department (MSD) marks on them but intended for sale in private pharmacies.

"On July 9 last week, one Frederick Anaclel Maxmillan (38), a resident of Mbagala in Dar es Salaam, was found with 148 samples of the drugs and during initial interrogation he admitted he was neither a pharmacist nor a doctor. He said he was collaborating



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France applauds Tanzania ties on National Day fete

FROM PAGE 1

two and half years ago: France will do everything to help Tanzania attain and maintain the status," Clavier said.

He said that France has kept its word by mobilizing, as never in the past, a remarkable amount of commitments to the tune of \$200m in 2019.

"We have initiated together new projects like the one in the agro-ecology sector, benefiting 8,000 small farmers, in order to strengthen Tanzanian agriculture facing environmental challenges. 2020 will be, like wine vintage, a great year for France in Tanzania," he asserted.

Clavier further said that the President of the French Republic decided to demonstrate, once again, France's political solidarity with Tanzania and the friendship of the French people to the Tanzanian people.

"Today, France celebrates its national day. This date means a lot to my compatriots gathered today, here and all over the world, as the date was chosen after the 1789 Revolution and celebrates the end of the 'Ancien Régime,' the end of the monarchy and feudalism," he stated.

Indeed peace, stability and cohesion have to be present to foster the development of any country, he specified, noting further that this is why France believes that Tanzania can be a role model in the region but also for European countries facing a rise of extremism and increased tensions between communities.

"Half a century of political stability as well as social and religious cohesion has allowed this country to build itself, step by step and under different leaderships, as a strong nation state," the envoy declared.

"France, like the European Union, has shown solidarity with Tanzania during this crisis, in its health and economic aspects. In April, the President of the French Republic announced a 1.2bn euros initiative for Africa, including 30m euros for Tanzania, to fight the pandemic. President Macron has also taken the initiative within the G20 to propose and defend a moratorium on the debt of vulnerable countries. I have informed President Magufuli of this initiative and we are currently studying with the government the terms for our bilateral debt."

The French Development Agency has also mobilized to make a significant contribution to the health response in Tanzania. AFD recently signed a donation pact for 300,000 euros for the creation of an Infection Disease Unit in partnership with the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam.

"It is also the solidarity of French companies mobilized by the President of the Franco-Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce, to offer protective equipment to healthcare workers in their fight against the pandemic. Solidarity and commitment to your country are the priorities of France and the European Union," he declared.

He remarked that there is room for more joint ventures and investments as this country has a unique potential to become a regional hub, provided the business environment becomes more conducive and appealing in the near future.

"Some contracts have already been signed in sectors like transport, energy, agriculture; others are being negotiated by Tanzanian and French partners. We are currently preparing together with the Minister of Investments a business mission to France in the coming months, of a delegation of Tanzanian businessmen. What we need to keep in mind at all times is the need for a balanced relationship, to build together a win-win partnership," the envoy underlined.

France will of course continue its efforts to promote the French language in Tanzania, by supporting schools teaching it and teachers in need of additional training and qualifications. In addition, together with the Minister for Education, we will launch the official opening of the new campus of our French primary school.

"This new campus is one of the best campuses in Africa! The pupils will enjoy the brand-new campus with its 25 meters swimming pool, its multisport court, its fully equipped physical education space and its modern library. I am proud to say that 30 percent of the pupils are Tanzanians and I wish this number to increase in the coming months! With 40 nationalities and more than 300 pupils, the French School Arthur Rimbaud represents a unique multicultural environment for students willing to develop strong language skills in French and English," the envoy intoned.

"France shares the view of President Magufuli that Swahili, your national language, is a key language for the region and the continent. It needs to be promoted, including in France as it is already the case through INALCO. In our globalized world, the added value of being multilingual is clear in terms of self-development but even more so in terms of employability. Tanzania has several French speaking neighbouring countries and French is therefore key to ensure student mobility, regional and continental trade, business opportunities within EAC and beyond, including France and Europe," he specified.

For his part, the Minister of State in the Vice President's Office (Union Affairs and Environment) Mussa Azzan Zungu commended the envoy for marking the important day, saying: "France has always been and continues to be an important partner to Tanzania. Over the years, our two countries have maintained cooperation in various sectors - political, economic and cultural with the aim of eradicating poverty and improving our people's livelihoods." Notable areas for cooperation include energy, education, agriculture, forestry, tourism, water and sanitation, he said.

Tanzania is committed towards reinforcing relations between the two countries for mutual benefit of the people of the two countries, the minister added.



National Electoral Commission director Dr Wilson Mahera (L) has an audience in Dodoma city yesterday with the commission's workers who have recently shifted to the new headquarters in the national capital's Njedengwa suburb. Photo courtesy of NEC

MSD drugs take two into police dragnet

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with a pharmacist who is a government employee (name withheld) in Tabora Region," he said.

Investigations were still in progress and all those involved or collaborated with the suspect will be tracked and taken to court, he vowed.

RPC Muroto noted that ruling party meetings held from July 9 to 12 were concluded safely, congratulating President John Magufuli for conducting the sittings in a short time. In the past such meetings would end well past midnight, he declared.

"I also congratulate the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Simon Sirro for his trust on me for the work done. During the entire period there was no delegate or visitor who was harmed in criminal activity," he asserted.

He also expressed gratitude towards Regional Commissioner Dr Binlith Mahenge as chairman of the regional defense and security committee, for managing various contributing organs to implement their duties with probity, thereby making Dodoma safe all the time.

Dodoma City residents and especially traders were remarkable their zeal and service to the community and the hospitality displayed to the visitors," the RPC added.



Alban Kihula (L), the Weights and Measures Agency manager for Coast Region, briefs industry and Trade ministry permanent secretary Prof Riziki Shemdoe (3rd-R) yesterday on the inspection of trucks ferrying fuel. The PS was on a tour of WMA's Misogusugu centre yesterday. Left is the agency's CEO, Dr Ludovick Manega. Photo: Correspondent Joseph Mwendapole

Ebola spreading in western DRC

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Ebola that these can get out of control very easily," he said. Ryan was referring to a separate outbreak of Ebola in

Ituri and North Kivu provinces of eastern Congo that was declared over last month. That epidemic, the second largest on record, saw 3,463 confirmed and probable cases and 2,277 deaths over two years.

Kenyatta hospital tightens visitation rules

NAIROBI

The Health ministry announced 497 new Covid-19 cases, the biggest daily rise so far, taking the nationwide tally to 10,791.

Speaking in Nairobi yesterday during the daily briefing on the Covid-19 situation in Kenya, Health Chief Administrative Secretary Mercy Mwangangi also announced that five more people succumbed to the virus in the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of fatalities in Kenya to 202. At the same time, the number of recoveries rose to 3,017 after 71 more patients were discharged.

In a circular dated July 10 signed by KNH chief executive Dr Evanson Kamuri, the largest referral facility in East and Central Africa has now closed its doors to people visiting patients in groups.

Meanwhile, the management of Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) has tightened restrictions on visitors accessing the facility in a bid to protect its staff and patients

from coronavirus.

In a circular dated July 10 signed by KNH chief executive Dr Evanson Kamuri, the largest referral facility in East and Central Africa has now closed its doors to people visiting patients in groups. Patients will only be allowed to have one visitor each. In addition, the visitors will only be permitted to see patients after being contacted by the hospital first.

"Only one relative per patient will be allowed access to facilitate the purpose of addressing specific patient request such as blood or organ donation, payment of bills or discharge from the hospital," said Dr Kamuri.

He added that all visitors to the hospital will be required to sanitise their hands, practice basic hygiene, wear a mask and observe social distancing rules.

In the new rules, visitors to the facility will no longer be allowed to see patients if they are not family members.

Further, visitors will only be allowed into the wards with the aim of receiving and fulfilling specific requests by the patients.

Nomination: CCM's new faces mobbing veterans

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constituency, which his father vacated in 2015 to enter a grueling run for the presidency.

In Longido, those who picked forms include Steven Lemono, Justine Logotu and Ntasikoi ole Senteu, Francis ole Ikayo, Lee Pamphil Olduka. Others are Lairumbe Laizer, Nicholas Senteu, Martha Ntoipo, and former MP Onesmo ole Nangole, and former chairman of the Longido District Council Sabore ole Moloimet, while Rose Sarwatt picked forms for Karatu parliamentary seat.

In Kilimanjaro Region, a lady reporter with Independent Television (ITV), Idda Mushi picked up forms for Moshi Rural constituency through CCM.

Another interesting aspirant was Dr Charles Kimei, a veteran CRDB Bank managing director, who collected forms for Vunjo constituency.

Former Tabora RC and former MP Aggrey Mwanri, advocate Tumsifu Kweka, former NEC member Mejo Laizer, Dr Godwin Maimu, Wilhelm Nkini and Evance Mushi, Leonard Massawe, Ephata Kaale, Eng Betson Maimu, Eunice Mmari, David Bakari, Goodluck Nnko, Gadiel Massawe, Godson Ngomuo and Godbless Mwandry picked forms for Siha constituency.

In Dar es Salaam Region, former MCL managing director Francis Nanai, Bishop Josephat Gwajima, former Butiama DED Magori Alphonse all picked forms for Kawe parliamentary seat.

Those who collected forms for Kinondoni constituency include former Young Africans SC chairman Tarimba Abbas, Twanga Pepeta director Asha Baraka, radio announcer Zamaradi Mketema, Nawab Mullah, Rajabu Saidi and Kelvin Berege, while Dr Faustine Ndugulile collected forms for Kigamboni constituency.

UDSM lecturer Dr James Jesse picked forms for Segerea constituency while Abbas Mtemvu picked forms for Temeke parliamentary seat.

In Coast Region, Selemani Jafo collected forms for the Kisarawe seat, while journalist Albert Kawogo showed interest to vie for Bagamoyo parliamentary seat.

In Dodoma Region, Happiness Mgonjo and Dr Michael Msindikwa picked forms for Mtera, while Adamu Msendo, diplomat Amos Msanjila, Eliud Mazengo, Robert Mtyani, Josephat Ngomeni, Victor Mkama, Mohamed Mgoi, Vannesa Marika, Nollasco Mlay, Adam Amos, Michael Malecela and Adam Msembo picked forms for Dodoma Urban parliamentary seat.

Others are Robert Mwinje, Gregory Kuzenza, Tadei Mwangi, Jackson Mashine, Masuala Shedrack, Said Mawazo, Julius Liwenga, Rashid Khamis, Mwajuma Mohammed, Dennis Guluse and Frank Supa.

Those who are interested to vie for Kondo Town include Edwin Sanda, Ali Makoa, Fausta Isuya, Dr Ramadhani Mchana, Omary Kimbisa, Naima Chondo, Abdalah Isele, Hamisi Bea, Selemani Abdulrahman, Juma Kangaa and Dr Jacob Lubuva.

Others are Ismail Saidi, Dr Mzamiru Mwinylago, Hassan Misanya, Selemani Sungi, Saidi Kidangi, Halfa Lubuva and Theresia Kibao, Deputy Finance Minister Dr Ashatu Kijaji, Habiba Bowu and Issa Orry.

In Chemba in the same region, there are Emmanuel Taghali, Amasha Ninga, Sona Muslim, Tangerine Nkusa, Dr John Lassa, Mwalimu Dickson Issujah, Juvens Class, Dr Rogath Mhindi, Francis Julius, Hamis Mkotya, Dr Adelini Mtunya and Juma Suru.

In Chamwino those who picked forms include Deogratus Ndejemi, Philip Chiwanga, Mary Lubeleje, Rehema Kayombo, Nyemo Chiwaligo, Joel Mwaka, Amanita Msage, Elisha Mwalimu and Assad Bandi. Others are Jerome Balisidya, Gabnel Masinge, Andrea Nyemba, Daniel Chisaluni, Bill Chidabwa, Theoderist Makuzini, John Chigongo, Emmanuel Chidong'oyi and Nathan Chibehe.

Others are Amos Mmemo, Happiness Mgonjo, Dr. Michael Msindikwa, Amos Hoya, Mwanga Chugabo, Silvesta Ndal, Richard Masimba, John Makota, Jacob Mkonge, Haruna Mlagaza, Baraka Mkunda and current MP Livingstone Lusinde.

In Morogoro Region, about 28 CCM cadres picked forms for Mvomero parliamentary seat, including Mussa Ally, Hamisi Sengulo, Julius Gontako, Mzee Ali Mwinshewe, Mariamu Kambi, Sisty Mkoba, Georgina Roeser, Albert Matemba, Seniorina Muumbi, Moris Momba, Lydia Kabuta Kazwala, Melkiades Telesphory, Brig. Jenerali Emmanuel Maganga, Salvatory Libery, Emilian Chibinda, Alfred Matotola, Christian Tobias, Kudura Mohamed, Paul Mkhumbi, Clarence Nyanga, Stanislaus Charles Kobelo, Samanya Mangachi, Nestoria Mtenga, Dr Alex Fortunatus, Fadhili Saning'o, Tumaini Mwalupwepe, Rev. Oswald Mlay, and Ibrahim Nguya.

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation minister, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi also picked forms for Kilosa parliamentary seat.

Aloyce Tendewa, a former bodyguard for founder president Julius Nyerere and later for former premier Lowassa picked up forms for Kilombero.

In Mwanza Region, 47 aspirants picked forms for Nyamagana parliamentary seat, among them Stanslaus Mabula and former Iringa DED Robert Masunya.

In Kwimba and Sumve constituencies 70 aspirants have collected forms, including Shanif Mansoor, Dr Peter Mugasha, Mary Kalumbete, Mary Sakila, Yusufu Sakila, Dr Laurent Kombe and Shilogela Nganga.

In Sumve those collecting forms are Peter Ngusa, Dr Kusekwa Longino, John Ng'umbi, Moses Bujaga, William Ndila, Zephania Masangu and Prof John Mahugija.

In Mbeya and Songwe regions, current Deputy Speaker Dr Tulia Ackson picked forms for Mbeya Urban parliamentary seat, TSPF executive director Godfrey Simbeye picked up forms for Mbozi seat, David Silinde collected forms for Momba constituency and Agriculture Minister Japhet Hasunga for Vwawa constituency.

In Kigoma Region Finance and Planning Minister Dr Philip Mpango picked up forms for Buhigwe, while Education, Science and Technology minister Prof Joyce Ndalichako picked up forms for Kasulu Urban constituency.

In Kagera Region, the Minister for Industries and Trade, Innocent Bashungwa picked up forms for Karagwe seat while about 36 cadres showed interest to vie for the Bukoba Urban constituency seat.

Miraji Mtaturu (Singida East), Harris Kapiga (Iramba) in Singida Region collected forms as well.

In Shinyanga Region: Kapala Hamisi picked up forms for Kahama, while Hassani Fatihu and Ahmed Salum showed up for Shinyanga Urban.

In Mtwara Region, Mohamed Nassor collected forms for Mtwara Urban while Sebastian Kapufi and former Nsimbo MP Richard Mbogo picked up forms for Mpanda Urban. Anna Lupembe showed interest in Nsimbo parliamentary seat.



Zanzibar Trade, Industries and Investment minister Amina Salum Ali (R), presents an award to Vodacom Tanzania Plc Temeke Zone (Dar es Salaam) sales manager Angetile Martin after the mobile phone service provider's pavilion emerged winner in the Communication and ICT Sector category at the just-ended (July 1 to 13) 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair. Photo: Guardian Correspondent

Invest in ICT, Z'bar minister tells SMEs

By Guardian Reporter

ZANZIBAR Minister for Trade and Industry, Ambassador Amina Salum Ali has called on small and medium entrepreneurs (SMEs) to invest heavily in information and communication technology (ICT) for them to easily win local and international markets.

Ambassador Amina made the call on Monday when wrapping up the 44th edition of the Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF).

She said the availability of reliable information on products and their markets will greatly help SMEs especially farmers who are in need of such information to make decisions based on proper market intelligence.

The minister further called upon Trade Development Authority (TanTrade) to extend its presence even by ensuring it helps SMEs starting from the bottom to help them connect to markets

TanTrade is a statutory organ vested with regulatory, executive, advisory and consultative power of developing and promoting both internal and external trade in Tanzania through development and promotion of goods and services for both local and foreign markets

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Prof Riziki Shemdoe said the Ministry through TanTrade continues to improve the exhibition while praising various institutions including NBC Bank Tanzania which was the main sponsor of the exhibition while playing a great role in mainstreaming the growth of the entrepreneurs in the country.

"The aim is to ensure that the exhibition is held in international quality and fulfills the objectives of its establishment in a special way to help participants meet and exchange trade opportunities and this will be further achieved through the large number of

participants in these exhibitions," he said.

"The aim is to make sure the exhibition improves each year by attracting more participants as per its set goals including that of helping participants meet and exchange business opportunities," he added.

Speaking after receiving the award recognizing NBC Bank's contribution to making the exhibition a success, the bank's managing director, Theobald Sabi said they have been giving the exhibition a boost as it has been bringing SMEs from all parts of the country and thus complied with the bank's priorities. The bank is more focused on providing services that are in line with the needs of SMEs in the country.

"Wherever the SMEs are, it is clear that NBC Bank will also be there to serve their financial needs," he said.

"To further ensure that, our presence at this exhibition is felt we even hosted SMEs in our premises at exhibition grounds through our business club dubbed 'NBC-Club' that networks SMEs and give them access to business trips, free business consultation and preferential freebies in some of the services, an initiative that ensure seamless transition of the sector," he mentioned.

Studies show that SMEs sector contributes to 35% of the GDP employing more than 5.2 people in the country. The sector has been facing challenges like limited access to finance and ineffective use of financial services that is why NBC bank has been investing heavily to improve the business environment by offering reliable and affordable solutions.

Tan Trade Board Chairman, Dr Ng'waza Soko said despite Covid-19 pandemic crisis in Tanzania and globally, this year's trade fair broke the record and registered 57,608 patrons from 53,504 of last year estimated as 4000 more people.

By Guardian Correspondent, Longido

Police confiscate over 15 tonnes of marijuana in Arusha Region

POLICE in Arusha Region has impounded a consignment of over 15 tonnes of marijuana as it was being transported to a neighbouring country. The Arusha Regional Police Commander Salum Hamdun said the illicit drug was seized at Albomba village in Longido district after the police became suspicious of the vehicle's movements and started tailing it.

He said when the police were chasing the vehicle with Reg. T302BXZ that usually plying Arusha-Namanga had a flat tyre and the driver had to abandon it and fled but was arrested

after six hours following a big police hunt.

RPC Hamdun congratulated the police personnel who impounded the illicit drug and the vehicle and promised that they will be rewarded for the good job well done.

RPC Hamdun also congratulated Longido district officials for the cooperation given to the police in the fight against criminal activities in the

area. Earlier, the chairman of the Longido District Defense and Committee Frank Mwaisumbe who is also District Commissioner said the seizure of the marijuana was made possible through cooperation of the people of the area especially those living near the border.

The marijuana consignment was impounded only a few days after

another consignment of the illicit drug was seized in Arumeru District that saw some of district officials being held accountable.

According to the law any vehicle seized transporting illicit drugs is automatically confiscated by the state.

However, it is the first time in Longido district, and also Arusha region for vehicle to be intercepted transporting illicit drugs.



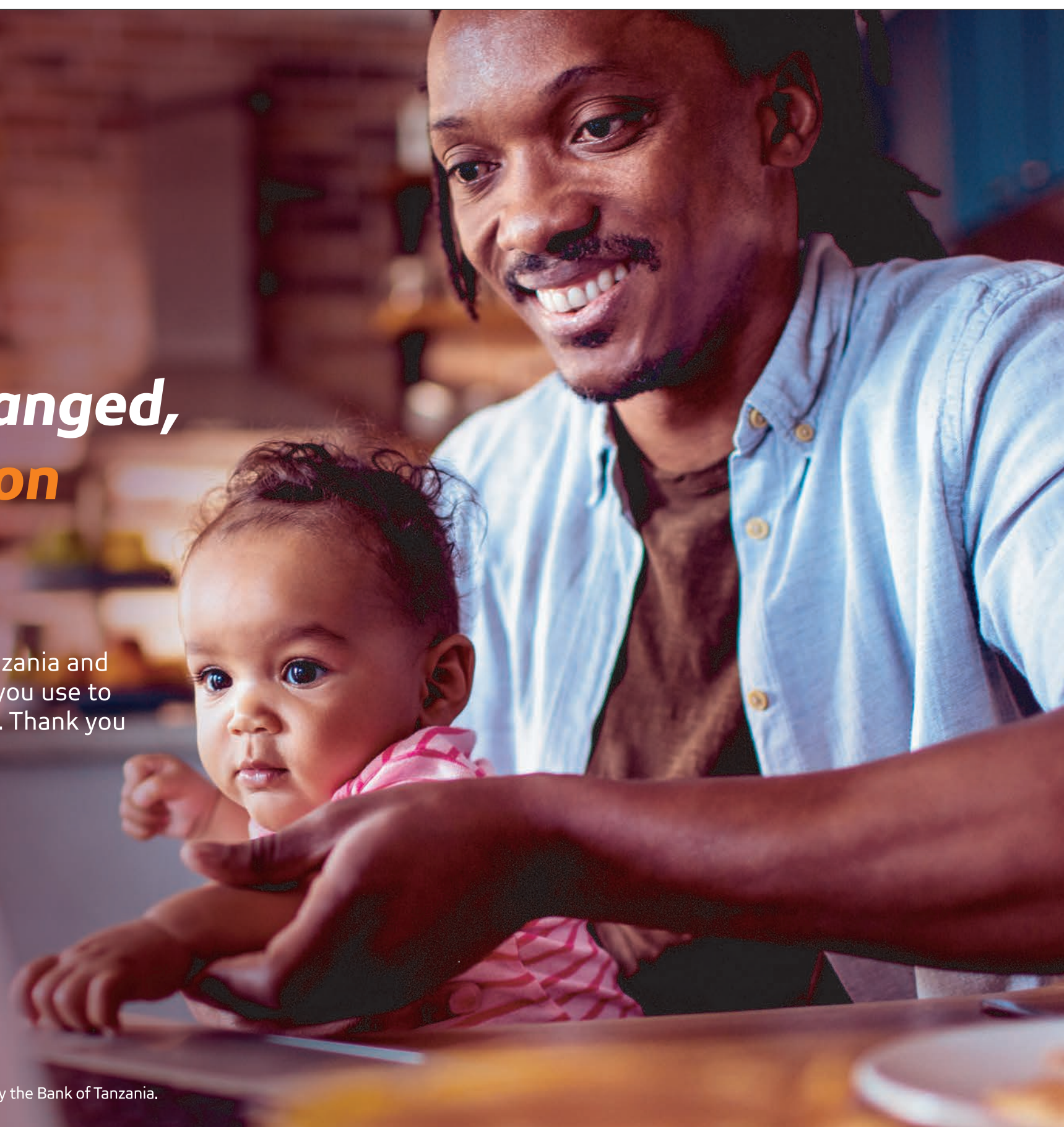
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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY WORK TO SUPPORT THE SECRETARIAT OF WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN MANGROVE NETWORK

BACKGROUND

The Western Indian Ocean Mangrove Network (WIOMN) is a regional forum of scientific experts, managers and practitioners of mangrove conservation and management. The Network was established in October 2011. The countries currently actively represented in the WIOMN are Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Comoros. The Network is anchored at Nairobi Convention, which engenders the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Eastern Africa Region. The Network serves as a regional forum to facilitate: (i) Expertise sharing and capacity development in mangrove research and management practices; (ii) Standardization of methodologies in conducting mangrove assessments and monitoring; (iii) Production of regional publications and policy briefs on mangrove research and management and ensuring dissemination of such outputs; (iv) Raising the profile of mangroves as a critically important ecosystem supporting many livelihoods in the region; (v) Development and delivery of community based training programs on sustainable mangrove management and conservation.

Through WWF Tanzania Country Office (WWF-TCO), the Network has received support from the 'Save our Mangrove Now!' (SOMN) initiative, which is a joint effort by the Germany Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), WWF, IUCN and Wetlands International, to facilitate the process of Institutionalization of the Network. WWF TCO is therefore seeking for a consultant to be based at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS) – Zanzibar. The candidate will support WIO mangrove secretariat to be registered officially and become legally recognized as a professional association.

The Network key partners, collaborators and supporters: UNEP-Nairobi Convention and its various strategic projects, WIOMSA (Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association), WWF country offices in the WIO region and WWF Germany, IUCN, Wetlands International – East Africa Regional Office, BMZ, USAID, US Forest Service, Institutional Affiliations of all Country Representatives.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The consultant will be contracted by WWF TCO and work with the WIOMN Regional Secretariat and Country Representatives to carry out the institutionalization process of the Network to enable it to have the contractual mandates through:

- Institutional set up and registration
- Strengthening the Secretariat operations
- Establishment of country chapters

Specifically the consultant will:

- Handle the process and paper work for registration of the Network as a regional professional network/society following the legal requirements of the Government of Zanzibar.
- Handle the process of finalization of the Network Constitution in consultation with the Regional Secretary and Country Representatives.
- Collate, develop and update the membership database in consultation with WIOMN Country Representatives
- Finalize/ update and maintain Network websites [www.wiomn.org and www.wiomtrfn.org] with advisory support from WWF Germany. This entails inter alia:
 - Collect country specific information – plans, events and activities, publications (reports and papers) for website documentation.
 - Establish and upload onto the website a comprehensive list of members from each represented country and develop an active mailing list for effective communication.
- Ensure effective communication and information exchange between WIOMN Country Representatives and partners and stakeholders as appropriate in availing national priorities on mangrove conservation congruent to regional and international agenda.
- Maintain correspondence to strengthen partnerships between the Network and partners/collaborators – Nairobi Convention, WIOMSA, WWF, IUCN, WI, Mangrove Action Project and donors such as UNEP and USAID etc.

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Internal: In consultation with the WIOMN Regional Secretary, interact regularly with WIOMN Country Representatives and WWF Marine Programme Coordinator and WWF Mangrove Project Executant
External: The consultant will be working with Partners and Supporters of the Network in WIO states and other interested actors from the global mangrove community.

QUALIFICATIONS/ REQUIREMENT

A suitable individual for this assignment should possess the following qualifications:

- Must possess a minimum of a Bachelor degree relevant to marine sciences, marine and coastal natural resource management and conservation.
- Working experience with government systems (preferably of Zanzibar) would be added advantage.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills (especially within multi-stakeholder contexts), good communication and team management spirit;
- Computer literacy on software packages including substantial experience with MS Office for word-processing, databases, spreadsheets and internet. Knowledge on website development and management would be added advantage;
- Ability to follow deadlines, accuracy and attention to details;
- Ability to work autonomously/independently and in a team
- Competence in the use of English and Swahili language. Knowledge of French and Portuguese would be added advantage.
- Working experience with government systems (preferably of Zanzibar) would be added advantage.
- Excellent interpersonal and networking skills (especially within multi-stakeholder contexts), good communication and team management spirit;
- Computer literacy on software packages including substantial experience with MS Office for word-processing, databases, spreadsheets and internet. Knowledge on website development and management would be added advantage;
- Ability to follow deadlines, accuracy and attention to details;
- Ability to work autonomously/independently and in a team
- Competence in the use of English and Swahili language. Knowledge of French and Portuguese would be added advantage.

TENURE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

- The consultant will be based at the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS), Zanzibar, and therefore living in Zanzibar is an added advantage.
- The consultant will be hired for a period of six month (1st August -30th Dec 2020) and the contract may be extended for another six month based on the performance.

REPORTING SCHEDULE

Inception report 1st week of August 2020
First draft technical reports by 30th October, 2020
Final technical reports on 30th December 2020
Final expenditure report by 30th December 2020
Monthly reports not more than 1.5 pages (August, September, October, November and December 2020)

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT

Description	Payable
40% of total professional fee	Upon signing of contract, Inception reports and approved request/invoice
25% of total professional fee	Upon submission and approval of first draft
35% of total professional fee	Upon submission of final Technical and Financial Report as per TORs

8. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

Proposals from interested consultant(s) should be fully signed and must include:

- Cover letter highlighting applicant's company profile, current contact information including how the consultant previous experience matches the consultancy objectives (not longer than two pages);
- Technical proposal (2 pages) and financial proposal (2 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae detailing consultant professional on the subject matter

Interested Consultant/Bidder should submit his/her full proposal to the Secretary, Procurement Committee, through email address below

Secretary: Procurement Committee
World Wide Fund- Tanzania Country Office
Off Mwai Kibaki Road, Kiko Street Mikochoeni
P.O.Box 63117
Dar Es salaam, Tanzania.
Email: tz.procurement@wwf.panda.org

All applications will be received not later than 17.00pm, Friday 26th July, 2020, East African Time.

Only successful applicant will be contacted.

Register your products by deadline, urges TBS

By Correspondent Felix Andrew

ENTREPRENEURS for food, cosmetics and production have been urged to register their products before the three months deadline so as to avoid unnecessary inconveniences.

The three months deadline was issued by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards.

Speaking at the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair yesterday, the TBS principal public relations officer Rhoida Andusamile, said that they have been participating at the Trade Fair to educate various stakeholders on procedures required to certify goods and identify the substandard ones.

She said that in this year's exhibition they sensitized SMEs so that they register their products and cosmetics as required by the law.

Finance Act No 8 of 2019, gave TBS permission to register food products and cosmetics, the obligation that was once under the former Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority (TFDA).

"We are using the annual exhibition

to encourage manufacturers to use TBS services that are free of charge to enhance the competitiveness of their products in the domestic, regional and international markets," she added.

She said producing goods that meet quality standards is important also for the health of the consumers, and help the war against substandard and fake products in the local market.

"There has been a wrong notion among people, particularly from

entrepreneurs that TBS works with big industries like beer and cement factories and not small and medium enterprises (SMEs)," she said.

She said the standards watchdog was established to ensure all products in the Tanzanian market meet the required standards, and thus entrepreneurs in the district and other parts should make effective use of the knowledge provided.

According to her, entrepreneurs' products will fetch high value within and outside the market only if they meet the TBS quality standards.

"Entrepreneurs who will ignore our knowledge on quality standards are set to incur losses in their businesses," she added.

TBS awareness campaigns carried countrywide to entrepreneurs and the public have been a relevant initiative that contributed to the country's promotion into middle income economy status before 2025.

Such campaigns have been carried in schools, colleges, bus stands and other local exhibitions.



Entrepreneurs who will ignore our knowledge on quality standards are set to incur losses in their businesses



An assortment of bead-based and other handmade items displayed for sale, mainly targeting tourists, at Maasai handicraft and souvenir market in Arusha city yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Woinde Shizza

Doctor calls for improved visitation

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

CHIEF Medical Officer (CMO) Prof Abel Makubi has instructed officials of Dodoma Region Referral Hospital to improve medical services to the people who visit it for treatment

Prof Makubi issued the directives here yesterday after making an announced visit at the hospital and witnessed several failings including delay in prompt treatment of patients, doctors not seeing patients in mandatory times and delay in the diagnostic services.

He said it is imperative for the hospital leadership to attend to these failings to enable the people receive better medical services.

"There are good things that you do

and congratulate you for those, but you must look at the other side where people need, for the inadequacies we have witnessed we would like to see this hospital to be an example for all regional referral hospitals to emulate" he said.

Prof Makubi said the hospital should show a good example starting from better medical services to patients, shortening of the time for a patient to consult a doctor, the availability of nurses and specialists when needed and cleanliness in the wards. Many people visit this hospital before being referred to bigger hospital like Benjamin Mkapa Hospital," he added.

The CMO also directed the hospital leadership and staff to understand

their responsibilities by showing that they care for all the people and called on them to put up procedures that do not inconvenience patients.

Prof Makubi dismayed when he found some patients in the wards who have not been visited by doctors for more than three days, nurses making rounds without doctors while interns working alone without supervision.

"Some patients were sleeping on the floor while some beds were vacant, the wards environment were wanting as to the proper arrangement of medical and other equipment, you must understand where you are," he said.

He called upon doctors at the hospital to work together with the nursing staff when treating patients.

KAMPALA

UGANDA joined the rest of the world yesterday July 14 to celebrate the World Chimpanzee Day, with the aim of protecting the endangered species, whose habitat is continually threatened. This year's theme is; 'celebrating our closest cousin in the animal kingdom', and Uganda is to celebrate it from Hoima District.

Uganda's chimpanzees lives are continuously threatened by the habitat loss, diseases, wildlife trafficking and poaching among others.

The goals of World Chimpanzee Day include among others; to celebrate closest living relative in the animal kingdom, share understanding and inspire action by educating global audiences about their uniqueness, importance, and similarities to humans; raise awareness about threats the chimpanzees face in the wild and promote their proper care.

This provides the ideal opportunity for Chimpanzee Trust to highlight its commitment to reduce conflicts between chimpanzees and humans

'Uganda has lost over 1000 chimps in last five years'

as part of its mission to promote chimpanzee conservation and environmental management for sustainable development.

"We estimate to have between 5000 and 6000 chimpanzees in Uganda and we estimate to have lost about 1000-1500 chimps in the last five years. It's quite tricky to balance the needs of the population and wildlife. We are promoting conservation farming where people are able to reuse their land and avoid invading forests for fresh soils thus affecting wildlife," Dr Joshua Rukundo, the Executive Director Ngamba Chimpanzee sanctuary said on Monday.

He said that habitat loss for the chimps is the biggest threat right now in Uganda.

"About 20000-40000 hectares of tropical forest is lost every year, it's the typical habitat for chimpanzees. Also

due to hunting their numbers have reduced, from 2 million chimpanzees in Africa to less than 100,000. We are battling for Bugoma central forest reserve which is a home to over 650 chimpanzees and many other wildlife and tropical species, it's under threat," Dr Rukundo said.

He added that even protected areas are no longer safe as people keep invading them for selfish short term gains forgetting about preservation for the future generation.

Other than habitat restoration in Hoima district, Chimpanzee Trust through its education program has embraced the production of radio drama as an efficient and effective means of increasing public awareness about the importance of the wildlife and the environment in which they live.

AGENCIES



Efforts to reinforce the Ng'ombe River bed and banks as part of a strategy to mitigate the impact of flooding are making steady progress, as witnessed close to a stretch of Dar es Salaam's Shekilango Road yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

Over 150 SMEs in Dodoma benefited from Sido loans in 2019/20 - official

By Polycarp Machira, Dodoma

THE Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO) in Dodoma region has disbursed 281,500,000/- in empowerment fund to some 156 people in the region in the 2019/2020, it has been revealed.

At least some eight small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have also benefited from the funds released as loans to help youth, women and the disabled among others.

Interviewed by this paper here yesterday, SIDO regional loan officer, Justine Kahemela noted that the beneficiaries were those who already had small and medium industries, engaged in agricultural activities, livestock keeping and other enterprises. He said at least 21 youth and women entrepreneurs received a total of 25,500,000/-.

He called on various SMEs in the region to tap the opportunity aimed at increasing industrial process in the region as outlined in the governments initiatives through the nationwide industrialisation plan.

"There are new opportunities for SMEs empowerment that the government has started, I therefore call upon those in Dodoma region to tap this and help move forward," he said.

He explained that the government recently launched SMEs lending project dubbed, the "SANVN Viwanda Scheme" through which at least 1,385 direct employment opportunities will be employed.

Kahemela noted that operational manual for financing the SMEs in the industrial sector was launched late last week.

The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) is the project sponsor and other

stakeholders are Azania Bank, SIDO and the Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) under the coordination of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

According to Kahemela, provision of the loan is in line with President John Magufuli's promise to steer the country towards industrial economy so as to help create jobs and bring development to people.

Speaking on the same, SIDO Dodoma regional Business Development Officer, Crispin Kapinga also called on entrepreneurs in the region to closely work with SIDO, noting there are a lot of opportunities such as trainings and others offered there.

"I appeal to SMEs in Dodoma to tap the opportunities brought by SIDO and other stakeholders because they are aimed at strengthening regional economy," he said.

SIDO Regional Manager, Sempeho Manongi on his part said his office will continue cooperating with regional residents to help them identify available opportunities that can enable them benefit both local and international markets.



I appeal to SMEs in Dodoma to tap the opportunities brought by SIDO and other stakeholders because they are aimed at strengthening regional economy

Govt announces indicative fees for livestock vaccines

By Guardian Correspondent, Singida

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has announced indicative charges for various kinds of livestock vaccines that have to be adhered to by all livestock stakeholders.

Announcing the charges at the launching of the national vaccination campaign against anthrax, the Director of Livestock Services in the ministry Hezron Nonga said the indicative vaccination charges were announced since May 13 this year hence it was the responsibility of all livestock stakeholders to adhere to.

He said the charge for anthrax is 500/-, blackleg 800/- rinderpest 600/- and east Coast Fever 700/-.

Other charges are Anaplasmosis 17,000/- rabies 500/-, foot and mouth disease 3,000/- and Tecoblox 500/-.

Nonga stressed that many livestock diseases are infectious and if there are no effective vaccinations, the diseases can spread fast.

He said strong prevention against 13 priority livestock diseases including CBPPP, CCPP, FMD, LSD, Brucellosis, rinderpest, anthrax, PPR, rabies and Rift Valley Fever is through vaccinations. "Vaccination is a sure way of protecting

the livestock health as it controls some incurable diseases especially those coming through eruption," he stressed.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Luhaga Mpina directed Tanzania Meat Board and the private sector desk committees that by December this year a chicken meat processing factory should be built in Singida Region.

He said the fifth phase government has built much bigger factories than the one to be built in Singida Region hence the Singida factory can be completed within the given time.

"We have seen a big chicken

production in Singida Region that has reached 2.6 million birds hence it is a good opportunity for the factory construction," Mpina added.

Mkalama District Livestock Development Officer Elias Mbwambo said the District is home to 130,239 cattle, 87,986 goats, 44,673, sheep, 3,606 sheep, 10,529 donkeys, 10,028 dogs and 308,188 chicken.

The registrar of Tanzania Meat Board Imani Sihalwe said the presence of many livestock is not a great advantage, the only important issue is their improvement and looking for foreign markets for them.

'Lake Victoria water levels are falling back to normal'

By Special Correspondent, Kampala

LAKE Victoria water levels has started falling back to normal after hitting a historic record high of 13.42 metres in decades - Eskom Uganda Limited has said.

The hydropower company tweeted on Friday that the water level has tremendously reduced to 13.24M, noting that the water spilling process had been authorized by the Directorate of Water Resources Management to curb the high water volume surge.

The company said the water spilling will continue at Nalubaale and Kiira Power Plants until the lake levels normalize. The spilling for both hydropower stations started in March at 1000 cubic meters per second and rose to 2,400 cubic meters per second in May.

The surge posed a threat to hydropower generation in Uganda as it was feared the water levels could cause dislodgement of papyrus mats the to hydropower infrastructures.

Populations and businesses along the shores of the lake in both Uganda and Kenya suffered great losses with farms submerged within the contour buffer in Kenya.

Lake Victoria is a resource shared by the three East African countries: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and supports a livelihood of millions of people living around it.

Until recently, Lake Victoria water level had been receding at an alarming

rate and perhaps most threatening prompting environmental experts to investigate climatic contribution to the declining Lake Victoria water level observed over a period of about 30 years.

A study by Joseph L. Awange: Falling Lake Victoria water levels: Is climate a contributing factor, demonstrated that the lake levels fluctuate annually and seasonally with significant drops during drought seasons and rapid rise during periods of above average rainfall in the region.

The study suggests that Lake Victoria water levels are very sensitive to climatic factors and as such, any long-term analysis should incorporate climate parameters.

Perhaps, the strong relationship between climatic indicators of drought and rainfall on one-hand and lake levels on the other hand signifies the need to incorporate climate information in predicting, monitoring and managing lake level changes.



The spilling for both hydropower stations started in March at 1000 cubic meters per second and rose to 2,400 cubic meters per second in May



Ally Simba (R), Secretary of CCM's Youth Wing for Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni District, presents nomination forms to Wilbard Mtenga yesterday. The latter is aspiring for nomination as the ruling party's candidacy for Dar es Salaam Region's Kawe parliamentary seat in the General Election slated for late October. Photo: Correspondent Miraji Msala

WHO warns that coronavirus crisis may get 'worse and worse and worse'

GENEVA

THE new coronavirus pandemic raging around the globe will worsen if countries fail to adhere to strict healthcare precautions, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Monday.

"Let me be blunt, too many countries are headed in the wrong direction,

the virus remains public enemy number one," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual briefing from the U.N. agency's headquarters in Geneva.

"If basics are not followed, the only way this pandemic is going to go - it is going to get worse and worse and worse."

Global infections stand at 13 million,

according to a Reuters tally, with more than half a million deaths.

Tedros, whose leadership has been criticised by U.S. President Donald Trump, said that of 230,000 new cases on Sunday, 80% were from 10 nations, and 50% from just two countries.

The United States and Brazil have been worst hit.

WHO emergencies head Mike

Ryan said some places in the Americas may need "limited or geographically focused lockdowns that suppress transmission in specific areas where transmission is frankly out of control".

He urged countries not to make schools into a political football, saying schools could safely reopen once the virus had been suppressed.

Tedros said the WHO had still not received formal notification of the U.S. pullout announced by Trump. The U.S. president says the WHO pandered to China, where the COVID-19 disease was first detected, at the start of the crisis.

Trump, who at the weekend wore a protective face mask in public for the first time, has himself been accused

by political opponents of not taking the coronavirus seriously enough, something he denies.

A two-member WHO advance team in China to investigate the origins of the coronavirus, first discovered in the city of Wuhan, is in quarantine, as per standard procedure, before beginning work with Chinese scientists, Ryan said.

Minister issues alert to inheritance supervisors against grabbing assets

By Guardian Correspondent, Dodoma

JENISTA Mhagama, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, (Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled), has warned administrators of inheritance and assets of the deceased persons against using them for their own benefit while the families concerned live in hardship.

Mhagama gave the warning here at the weekend when speaking to a meeting of youths living with HIV/Aids under the National Council of People Living with HIV (NACOPHA) with sponsorship from Tanzania Commission for Aids (TACAIDS).

Mhagama said there are some mistrustful people who have been using assets of the deceased persons as their own instead of the intended beneficiaries.

She said this habit has been denying the deceased's descendants their basic rights in inheriting the said assets, including failure to send their children to school.

"This is a very big problem that has to be fought against, the government and stakeholders should work together and stand by the descendants, the children in particular to get their rightful benefits after their parents pass away," she said.

She added: "We can see a big percentage of these children being denied their rightful basic rights including education and the main reason for this are the unscrupulous administrators of inheritance, we cannot close our eyes on them."

She also called upon the youths through their various groups to grab opportunities that prop up including access to loans that will help them in their economic wellbeing.

The chairperson of the group Pudensiana Mbwiliza issued a request

for the Prime Minister Kassim Majaliva to be their patron.

She said they recognise the respect and achievements she holds nationally including as Ambassador of the "Furaha Yangu Campaign" mobilising men to test for HIV.

She also said they were in difficult times after their parents passed away as they lost valuable assets that were taken away by relatives and people picked to administer inheritance of the deceased's assets.

She mentioned the assets as including houses, plots of land, farms and businesses that made many of them poor.

She said because of that many girls entered the sex trade and drugs use that contribute to many of them being infected with HIV.



We can see a big percentage of these children being denied their rightful basic rights including education and the main reason for this are the unscrupulous administrators of inheritance, we cannot close our eyes on them



Idd Mkolamasa (in black jacket) of the Arusha branch of the Cereals and Other Produce Board of Tanzania presents foodstuffs to children with disabilities cared for at Kwa Mama Kevina centre located in Same District yesterday. Photo: Correspondent Cynthia Mwilolezi

By Guardian Correspondent, Rungwe

THE government has provided more than 18bn/- for completion of various water projects in Rungwe District, Mbeya Region to ensure the people have reliable water supply.

This was revealed here yesterday by the Rungwe District Commissioner Julius Chalya at a meeting of the district's water consumers and experts from the Rural Water and Sanitation Authority (RUWASA).

Chalya said as for now the district's water supply stands at 73 percent

Govt pays out 18bn/- to complete water projects in Rungwe District

and that after all water projects are finalised they will have attained the government's target of 85 percent in the rural areas.

He said the 18bn/- has been channelled to various areas including Mwakaleli that received 6bn/-, Masoko 5bn/- as well as other areas such as Isonje, and Ikuti and added that after

these projects are completed, the persisting water scarcity would be past history.

The DC also said some water consumers have not been paying their bills while some water was being stolen by unscrupulous people who vandalise the infrastructures thereof making many water projects fail to reach

recipients.

He called on RUWASA to deal with these problems.

RUWASA manager for Mbeya Region Mathayo Athumani said any organ that manage water supply services must be registered as such in accordance with the laws and added that the registration exercise has reached 74 percent.



Dr Denis Tippe (L), a millet development researcher with the Uyole (Mbeya Region) centre of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, shows farmers yesterday one of the new millet seed varieties the centre is working on. Photo: Correspondent Grace Mwakalinga

TARI-Uyole grows new finger millet seeds for crop's revival

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

THE Uyole centre of Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI-Uyole) in Mbeya has developed three types of finger millet seeds - the U-15, TariFMI and P224 that will be distributed to farmers in various areas of the country, the exercise that will go simultaneously with the revival of the crop.

This was disclosed here on Monday by TARI-Uyole director Dr Tulole

Bucheyeki when inspecting finger millet farms at the centre.

Dr Bucheyeki said finger millet is beneficial to people's health as it has many minerals that revitalise the body and delays the process of ageing.

He said the crop is cultivated in virtually all regions in the country and the new seeds can yield from 13 to 40 bags per acre while old traditional seeds produce only six bags per acre.

He said they will employ various strategies to distribute the seeds to

reach farmers easily including social networks, brochures and fliers and the media.

Senior researcher of finger millet crop at TARI-Uyole Dr Denis Tippe said as for now their main task is to revive the crop which has been abandoned by many farmers.

He said they are reviving the crop in order to strengthen the health of the people as well as increasing the farmers' incomes and they will ensure it will be among priority crops.

"Our task is to tell farmers that the crop should be cultivated just like maize and beans because the cultivation does not need forest clearing, the most important thing is the use of fertiliser and abide by the planting rules," Dr Tippe said.

He added that finger millet withstands plant diseases and all kinds of weather conditions and can be well stored as it can stay very long periods of time after harvest - more than five years on average.

Pakistan, Russia and Egypt embassies seek collaboration to promote business relations

By Correspondent Crispin Gerald

AMBASSADORS from Pakistan, Russia and Egypt are in the country to initiate collaboration with the government and private sector in order to boost business among the nations.

The envoys who received the reception from the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA), expressed their willingness to open trade with Tanzania in the main potential sectors of the economy including agriculture, mining and tourism.

Addressing the media in a press conference, over the weekend in Dar es Salaam, the president of the TCCIA, Paul Koyi said the collaboration sought to introduce and develop bilateral agreement among nations in order to make sure that both nations benefit from each other.

He also shared the recent reforms and development that the government embarked on to ease the business environment whereby a strong relationship introduced by the government with the private sector to make sure that challenges in the business are addressed effectively.

The president, while speaking during the just ended 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF), gave the envoys an opportunity to visit the pavilions in the DITF, to learn how traders and local investors operate their businesses in the country.

Koyi insisted that the delegations will open rooms and opportunities to the private sector and business community in the country through the exchange of goods and experience among the nations.

"I urge and encourage the private sector in the country to be ready to tap the opportunities by making sure every barrier to business is addressed immediately," he said.

For his part, director for trade promotion trade at Tantrade Boniface Michael welcomed the envoys and told them that the government has implemented many reforms in the

sector to enhance easiness of doing business.

He said the government has improved the process for business registration and licensing by introducing an online registration system under the Business Registration and Licensing Agency (BRELA), where they can register businesses and companies online in a few minutes.

"But also, the government has waved many nuisance taxes which hindered effective operation of the business," he said.

"We welcome you to invest and operate business in the country, and to establish processing industries for food and export in order to increase government income," the director insisted.

"You can trade with Tanzania in mining, tourism, agriculture, and other potential and leading sectors to support the national economy," he explained.



I urge and encourage the private sector in the country to be ready to tap the opportunities by making sure every barrier to business is addressed immediately

Talgwu exposes thefts of money by former union 'bank' officials

By Henry Mwangonde

THE Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (Talgwu) has said that it has managed to uncover massive fund embezzlement by the former officials of its Microfinance Company.

An audit conducted into the company led into the suspension and later firing of all those implicated.

TALGWU Secretary General Rashid Mtima told journalists that despite the removal of the officials, further investigations are also underway by state security agencies.

"In 2018 TALGWU administration found out that there were challenges in the management of our microfinance company and we directed the board to take actions including conducting an audit," he said.

He elaborated further saying since 2016 they have managed to oversee 130 court cases, 52 have been ruled where the union won 47 and 31 are still in various courts across the country.

The Secretary General said in 2018 the union oversaw the issue of government workers who were fired for having standard 7 education and were reinstated.

He added that since the current TALGWU leadership entered into power, in 2016 it found the construction of a commercial building which is now underway.

According to Mtima the union in collaboration with Trade Union Congress of Tanzania (TUCTA) fought for the scrap of new rules for pension which was issued by the government.

In 2018, the Capital Markets and Securities Regulatory Authority (CMSA) said it has approved an application by Tanzania Local Government Workers Union (Talgwu) Microfinance to raise capital through Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Talgwu which is the trade union for local government workers in Tanzania targeted to sell six million shares at 1,000/- per share in order to raise 6bn/- for its newly established microfinance institution.

The aim of establishing the microfinance was to offer financial services to the trade union's members, who mostly are working at district, municipal and city councils.



In 2018 TALGWU administration found out that there were challenges in the management of our microfinance company and we directed the board to take actions including conducting an audit

Dodoma records progress in health service delivery

By Correspondent Oscar Mirindo, Dodoma

DODOMA Region has recorded improved availability of drugs and health services, thanks to the improved Community Health Fund (CHF), the authority has disclosed.

Regional CHF coordinator, Francis Lutalala said the government has increased health funding leading to availability of equipment, improved facilities like dispensaries, health centres and hospitals.

"The government has also employed more health workers and experts, improved provision of health services and public health," he said adding that construction of new hospitals and other facilities is a good gesture.

Lutalala said the improved community health fund has helped reduce the burden on treatment to the residents, most of whom can hardly afford cash payment when seeking health services.

He said since introduction of CHF and later improved CHF, the public contribution on health services has increased greatly from just getting services only in village health facilities where they registered to getting services at any facility in the region.

He added that the aim of the fund was to help save residents from travelling too far to seek treatment. The region is geared to achieve 100 percent availability of essential medicine, thanks to the regional Prime Vendor System (PVS) which has seen the services improve in the last three years, the regional authority has observed.

The system is a unique public private partnership (PPP) with the objective to supplement medicines supplies of Medical Store Department (MSD) with supplies from a single vendor in a pooled regional approach.

Availability of drugs and medical equipment in the region has increased from 73.8 percent in 2017, 85.3 percent in 2017 and 90.4 percent in 2018, making it one of the leading regions in the country.

Through the contract, health facilities order missed items from the vendor through councils and there are ten standards operating procedures governing the system.

The system is coordinated by regional coordination office which is responsible to ensure that the system delivers the intended objectives.

The move aims at ensuring availability and equitable access to health commodities at health facilities throughout the region by bridging the medicine and medical supplies gap.

As opposed to multiple suppliers system where public health facilities purchase their requirements when they are out of stock or insufficiently supplied by the Medical Stores Department (MSD), now they get from contracted vendor.

The system initiated in October 2014 offering a two year contract to a selected vendor in a scheme that compliments MSD and does not replace the national organisation has shown positive results.



RFQ Number	07-20-0002
Requested Quotation	Consumables and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
Issuing office and Tender Submission Address	Abt Associates Inc , VectorLink Project, Tanzania Capri Point, Station Road, Plot No. 73 Nyamagana, P.O. Box 1212 Mwanza, Tanzania
RFQ Issuance Date	15th July 2020
RFQ closing Date	27th July 2020
USAID Prime Contract Number	AID-OAA-I-17-00008

Background

The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) VectorLink Project, Tanzania is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Project is implemented by Abt Associates in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania and has the overall goal of reducing the burden of Malaria. The VectorLink project is implemented in Kagera, Mwanza, Geita, and Kigoma regions, and Zanzibar.

Abt Associates Inc. is hereby inviting interested bidders to submit quotations in an open tender procedure for the above-mentioned supply of Consumables and Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) as listed in the table below.

Bidding Instructions:

- All responses must include:
- The owner's name / business name, physical address and phone number;
 - Copy of company's business License, TIN Certificate and/or VRN Number;
 - A written statement indicating that the service will be delivered prior to payment.
 - Financial offer must clearly indicate the Price and VAT quoted separately for each lot in Tanzania Shillings
 - All submissions must be stamped or presented in company letter head.
 - Interested local professional supply companies or individuals are requested to submit their responses via the email Vectorlinktanzania@gmail.com

General RFQ Information:

- All interested bidders are advised to carefully read the details in the table before quoting.
- Abt Associates Inc. shall make payment to the vendor within 10 days of receiving, in good condition, all goods and services specified in the Purchase Order and a full and complete vendor invoice.
- Abt Associates general terms and conditions as well as USAID Prime Contract flow downs are applicable and a copy of each can be sent to you via email.
- Respondents may elect to provide pricing for one Lot, several, or all of the Lot listed in the Financial Offer section; however, only those vendors who are able to meet the selection criteria will be considered.
- If applicable, indicate the shipping/offloading cost to our warehouse at Kiseke, Plot no. 1538, Block M Mwanza warehouse
- This RFQ shall not be misconstrued to be a commitment on the part of Abt Associates to award any form of contract to any respondent nor shall it entitle any organization or individual to be reimbursed for the costs preparing or delivering their response to Abt Associates.

List of Items:

Quoted items must be compliant with manufacturer recommendation and warranty terms and conditions. Vendors bears full responsibility for non-compliance.

Item #	Description of items	Specifications	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price
Lot 1 - Equipment of the sites and store and consumables						
1	Basin 80 litres	Plastic -Calibrated measuring basin (any color)	Pc	384		
2	Barrel for liquid waste 100ltrs	Plastic calibrated measuring with lid any color	Pc	477		
3	Plastic Buckets 20 litres	Plastic -Calibrated measuring basin (any color)	Pc	387		
4	Plastic Apron Pvc and re-usable	Yellow/white in color	Pc	17		
5	Thermometer (mercury)	Mercury high temp thermometer 100degree Celsius	Pc	27		
6	Digital thermal scanner	Time response: 0.7 - 2seconds Measuring range: 0.5 - 2 m Weight : 130g Size : (120 x 37 x 23)mm Power supply: cell	Pc	6		
7	Calibrated jug 2 lts	Plastic materials, transparent and with metric measures in mls	Pc	50		
8	Emergency solar lights for IRS sight	Rechargeable	Pc	13		
9	Torches for Spray Operators, Team Leader and Security Guards	Metallic/Plastic light in weight, bright in lighting, Material Craft grade Aluminum	Pc	2935		
10	Batteries for watchmen and team leaders and Spray Operators torches	ABC Brand and size D	Pc	14230		
11	Tooth Brush (for cleaning nozzles)	Hard adult tooth brush (White dent or other with hard bristles)	Pc	616		
12	Color coded vest yellow size M, L and XL	Cotton materials with nylon reflector line	Pc	386		
13	Color coded vest orange size M, L and XL	Cotton materials with nylon reflector line	Pc	122		
14	Washing brush	Plastic hard treated fibers brush for Cloth/household washing 17mls-High performance-5Min Rapid/fast setting epoxy-adhesive	Pair	70		
15	Alladite Glue		Pc	148		
16	Toilet Paper	Color-White plain soft tissue Layer - 2-ply Sheet size - 95x100mm	Roll	2224		
17	Lubricant oil (1L bottles)	Engine oil SAE 40- Packed in Plastic bottle	Litre	150		
18	Powder soap bags of 15kgs each	FOMA brand with a pack of 15kg TBS authorized	P/15kgs	186		
19	Sanitary napkins/pads	HQ or FC (Human Femi care Pads Aerobic Lavender Series- free size for female Spray Operators-8 per pack	Packet	1842		
20	Surgical gloves	PK/100 single use gloves	Packet	5393		
21	Goggles safety glass	Durable and easy to clean with side shields	Pc	128		
22	Wipes for Spray operators	Ant-bacterial wipes with 75% -80 pack	Packet	2597		

Lot 2 Environmental compliance, mitigation devices and other equipment for spray operators					
1	Whistle for security	Security whistles- metallic silver	Pc	26	
2	Red plastic bucket for SOP vehicle (10L)		Pc	27	
3	Locks (Padlocks)	WDHU Top safe lock, lock premium quality size 30mm	Pc	177	
4	Handkerchiefs (for sieving water)	100% cotton (white standard size)	Pc	2509	
5	Water proof Rain coats size XL to 4XL	Dark blue in colour	Pc	2268	
6	Socks	Long, 100% cotton - black in color	Pair	2575	
7	Small towel	Small towel, 100% cotton (no color preference)-size 30 x 40 cm	Pc	2699	
8	Plastic cup (0.5L)	0.5 L plastic cup	Each	633	
9	Bags for packing IRS materials (sandulus)	3-4 Ft. Width	Pc	650	
10	Hand washing soap (5L)		bottle	107	
11	Hand washing bucket 100L		Pc	107	
12	Bar soap (Bars)	JAMAA brand each bar contain 6 Pcs	Bar	12,746	
13	Fire Extinguishers	Co and Dry Powder type kg 9	Each	19	
14	First aid water for face wash	1L bottle	Bottle 1l	642	
15	Vitamin E Jelly	Petroleum Jelly Vitamin E 50ml	Pc	639	
16	Slashers	Glass slashes 27" wooden handle	Each	5	
17	Rakes	Full size and complete models garden rake	Each	9	
18	Shovel	Pointed wooden handle shovel	Each	19	
19	Hoe	Agriculture hand hoe	Each	4	

Lot 3 Stationeries for M & E and Sites uses					
1	Stationery - Box Files for Data Management Unit and sites	Standard box file RADO ALBA large- A4 size	Each	782	
2	Stationery - Attendance Register	Normal	Each	100	
3	Stationery - Document folders	Heavy transparent- any color- A4 size	Each	1754	
4	Stationery - Notebook for training & M&E	Normal for Trainings and other uses-5" x 8" -60 gm,60 sheets	Each	5,179	
5	Stationery - Store Ledger Book	Standard Ledger book-pre printed-2 Quire	Book	184	
6	Stationery - Marker Pens for sites and SOP	Permanent markers- which are water resistant (Xylene & Toluene free)	Each	2540	
7	Heavy duty tape	Heavy duty tape 50mm x 50M,black	Each	30	
8	Stationery - Pens for M&E	Obama blue (1327) and red (115)mixed	Pc	100	
9	Stationery - Stapler Machine	Standard size -Pin size 24/6 to 26/6	Each	36	
10	Stationery - Stapler Pins	Size 24/6 (box of 20 packets)	Box of 20 packets	100	
11	Rubber band	"Yellow 3.8cm/1.5" diameter standard rubber	Packet/50 Opcs	129	
12	Ruler for Data Centre	30cm plastic ruler	Each	14	
13	Chalk (Packet of 100)	White-Soft and dust free	Each	1629	
14	Counter book for Data Centre	2 Quire	Each	11	
15	Pens	Brand :Obama blue and black	Each	3810	
16	White marker pens	White marker	pc	300	
17	Red pens	Brand :Obama red	Each	200	
18	Flip chart	A1 flip chart-80 gsm	Each	257	
19	Marker pen	Permanent-8/pack	Each	160	
20	Masking tape for Training and site uses	Standard size roll	Each	465	
21	Calculator	Casio MJ 12G5T/MJ 12D Desktop Basic calculator	Each	84	
22	ID Card holders	Plastic materials with cotton hanging rope	Each	3,272	
23	Paper punch	Kangaroo paper punch-DP-600	Each	41	
24	Glue stick	8g glue stick	Each	134	

Lot 4 Other Equipment for operators and PPE Equipment					
1	Overall for spray operators (XL, 2XL,3XL,4XL	100% cotton materials and dark blue in color	Pc	1183	
2	Gumboots size 8-12	Black in color, Chemical resistant, temperature resistance up to 120 cel degrees	Pair	1872	
5	Yellow Hazard Bags	14'x15" Biological hazard	Pc	114	
6	Dust bin	40Lts plastic swing dust bin, red in color, high impact resistance, long lasting finish and sturdiness.	Pc	16	
7	Sisal rope - cylinder roll, 80m length, 2mm diameter	cylinder roll, 80 m length, 2 mm diameter (Kamba za kudu)	Pc	158	
8	Water Tank	PVC/Plastic water storage tank 1000L (black color)	Pc	18	
9	Barrel for solid waste (210 litre)	PVC/Plastic tank 210L (black color) with lid	Pc	103	
10	Extension cables	Tronic 6 way, surge stabilizer with a neon indicator, wall mounting	Pc	2	

Evaluation Criteria:

Award will be made to the most advantageous offer, the following factors considered:

- Compliance to technical specifications and RFQ instructions
- Price and Price related factors.
- Lead time.
- Quality of samples submitted including production standard.
- Payment terms
- Past performance of similar nature of activities

FORM OF INTEGRITY UNDERTAKING BY SERVICE PROVIDER ON ANTI - BRIBERY POLICY / CODE OF CONDUCT AND COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME

We, [insert name of the service provider], place importance on competitive tendering taking place on a basis that is free, fair, competitive and not open to abuse. We are pleased to confirm that we will not offer or facilitate, directly or indirectly, any improper inducement or reward to any public officer, their relations or business associates, in connection with this quotation, or in the subsequent performance of the contract if it is successful.

We have an Anti-Bribery Policy/ Code of Conduct and a Compliance Program which includes all reasonable steps necessary to assure that the No-bribery commitment given in this statement will be complied with by our management and employees as well as by all third parties working with us on the public sector projects or contract including agents, consultants, consortium partners, sub-contractors and service providers. Copies of our Anti- Bribery Policy/Code of Conduct and Compliance Program are attached.

(Name of the Authorized Person)

Signature

Date

Company stamp/seal

Our youth matter, so celebrating World Youth Skills Day matters

THIS year's World Youth Skills Day July 15 will take place in an especially challenging context. The COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown measures have led to the worldwide closure of technical and vocational education and training institutions, threatening the continuity of skills development.

It is estimated that nearly 70 per cent of the world's learners are affected by school closures across education levels currently. Respondents to a survey of the institutions, jointly collected by UNESCO, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the World Bank, reported that distance training has become the most common way of imparting skills, with considerable difficulties regarding, among others, curricula adaptation, trainee and trainer preparedness, connectivity, or assessment and certification processes.

Prior to the current crisis, young people aged 15-24 were three times more likely than adults to be unemployed and often faced a prolonged school-to-work transition period. In post-COVID-19 societies, as young people are called upon to contribute to the recovery effort, they will need to be equipped with the skills to successfully manage evolving challenges and the resilience to adapt to future disruptions.

The importance of developing skilled youth is at the core of this year's message for World Youth Skills Day. Several virtual events focused on the theme of "Skills for a Resilient Youth" are expected to take place.

Rising youth unemployment is one of the most significant problems facing economies and societies in today's world, for developed and developing countries alike. The latest Global Employment Trends for Youth 2020: Technology and the future of jobs shows that since 2017, there has been an upward trend in the number of youth not in employment, education or training.

Designated by the General assembly in 2014, the World Youth Skills Day

is an opportunity for young people, technical and vocational education and training institutions, and public and private sector stakeholders to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

Education and training are central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The vision of the Incheon Declaration: Education 2030 is fully captured by Sustainable Development Goal 4 "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". Education 2030 devotes considerable attention to technical and vocational skills development, specifically regarding access to affordable quality Technical and Vocational Education and Training; the acquisition of technical and vocational skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship; the elimination of gender disparity and ensuring access for the vulnerable. In this context, we should address the multiple demands of an economic, social and environmental nature by helping youth and adults develop the skills they need for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, promoting equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and supporting transitions to green economies and environmental sustainability.

We can equip youth with the skills required to access the world of work, including skills for self-employment, we can also improve responsiveness to changing skill-demands by companies and communities, increase productivity and increase wage levels. Also globally we can reduce access barriers to the world of work, for example through work-based learning, and ensuring that skills gained are recognised and certified. We can also offer skills development opportunities for low-skilled people who are under- or unemployed, out of school youth and individuals not in education, employment and training.

SADC must revive the integration vision, wage a joint war on money laundering

TREASURY officials were this week coordinating virtual meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors for member states of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). A major theme that emerged from the meeting was the need for member states to team up in tackling money laundering and funding of terrorist groups as these activities threaten SADC economies. Treasury Permanent Secretary Doto James said in leading remarks to the virtual gathering that tackling the two challenges is of utmost importance as there are global sanctions related to the ills. This could damage our economies.

Figuring out how to make the campaign a success started several years earlier, with heads of police forces in the region - including members of IGAD, a sister intergovernmental organization of the Horn of Africa - met for laying out strategies to combat money laundering. The ministers' discussions would thus be a follow-up of what was achieved from those strategies, on the basis of the need to demonstrate progress in that area especially before global institutions. It was said that some SADC countries risk sanctions over failure to meet conditions provided by the Paris-based global Financial Action Task Force.

It is an inter-governmental organization set up in 1989 to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism, but it is evident that it has only obtained modest success in cutting links and tentacles of terrorist organizations, not to put an end to their activities. In countries with remarkable depression of law and order, terror organizations run swathes of territory, and can do what they please in those areas, in contempt of whatever domestic or international law provides.

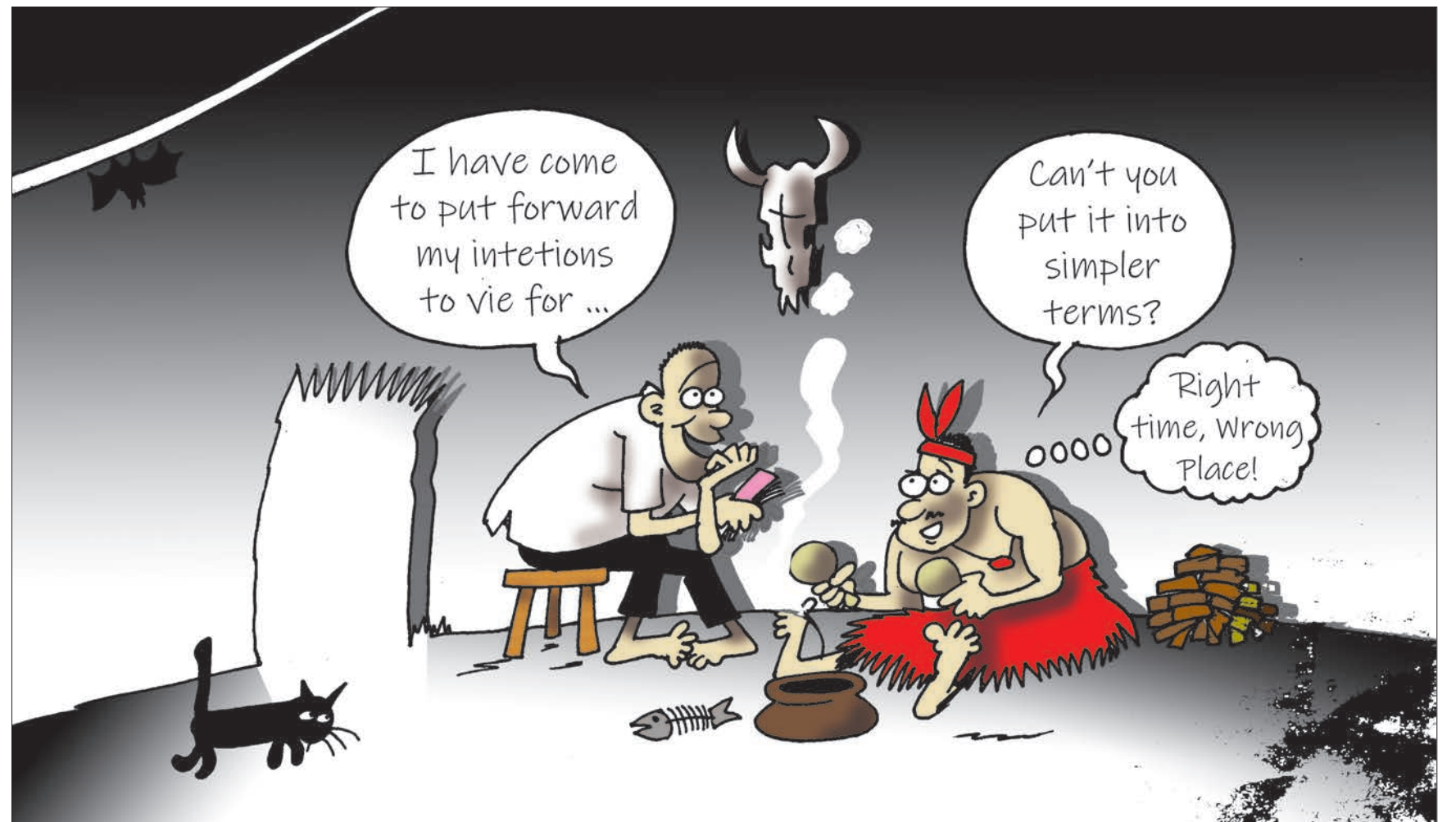
That is why it is vital to fight budding cells of financing terrorism; otherwise they grow to become a cancer, making a country totally ungovernable.

There are other risks that are tied to money laundering, though these tend to be mixed, as money laundering isn't just the traffic of drugs and 'washing' illicit earnings to bank the proceeds. It is also an aspect of tax evasion, where the standards differ from one country to another, and even from one social system to another. There are major economies around the world whose conditions for opening bank accounts and placing deposits are not different from offshore tax havens, where there is little or no tax.

In that case there are also auxiliary fears with attracting foreign investments if a country isn't making sufficient progress in that regard, but let it be admitted that plenty in what goes as foreign investment is but form of money laundering. Thus depending on ethical governance level in each country, as well as its socioeconomic orientation, there are differing yardsticks as to what foreign investment is and what is money laundering. We have seen the fifth phase government taking extensive measures to weed out elements or signs of money laundering in operations of foreign exchange bureaus, but by other criteria that would be plausible flow of foreign exchange. As it is usual with sin, the fight is with oneself first.

What was rather surprising about the meeting was that it was also examining where SADC has reached with the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan. It was launched in a 2003 Vision for attaining a SADC Free Trade Area by 2008, SADC Customs Union by 2010, SADC Common Market by 2015, SADC Monetary Union by 2016 and regional currency by 2018. Where therefore did we get lost?

The Guardian Limited Key Contacts	Newsdesk	Advertising
Managing Editor: WALLACE MAUGGO Circulation Manager: EMMANUEL LYIMO	News Editor: LUSEKELO PHILEMON 0757154767 General line: 0745700710 E-mail: guardian@guardian.co.tz	Mobile: 0782253676 E-mails: advertise@guardian.co.tz Website: www.ippmedia.com epaper.ippmedia.com



Government partnerships make sense in delivery of education

By Contributing Writer

LIKE in 2016 when the government of Liberia designed a public-private partnership (now the Liberia Education Advancement Program - LEAP) with BridgeLiberia, U-Movement, Street Child and Rising Academies and other non-state providers to run public schools, disagreements, and criticisms from some legislators and civil society have continued to this day. Recently, an education coalition and the National Teachers Association of Liberia (NTAL) renewed the usual critiques after some furloughed employees (as a result of Covid-19) had complained about the process, despite partners such as Bridge living up to the Ministry of Labor's mandate per the COVID guidelines for the organization to pay non-essential staff half of their salaries, when not working.

NTAL has called many times loudly for Bridge to stop operating in Liberia, and waved placards. They are less active and vocal about making sure that Liberian teachers have their rights and are getting paid. The thousands of 'volunteer teachers' in government schools, wait in hope for the day that they will be put on the government payroll and paid for their work educating the country's youth. NTAL is strangely quiet about this situation. Even more odd is that they campaign against organisations who are paying teachers while they wait to be put on the government payroll - making sure they can feed their families. I have

not heard their raised voices offer any other practical ideas, better or worse.

Now, NTAL are working with two former employees in the LEAP programme who were dismissed for breach of contract; to help them in their campaign with a spree of unfounded and made-up allegations against the education provider, Bridge. NTAL is happy to continue their campaign, teachers who are working hard and getting support, are not. While many mainstream media entities have seen through the allegations of angry ex-employees, a few others have continued to peddle the false claims with complete disregard for the facts which have been outlined. Others will think twice about working in Liberia and bringing funding into the economy if they have to work in an environment where truth and facts are unimportant.

It has become messy, again. Ironic when the aim is to get from MESS to BEST. Despite the unfounded critique from these quarters, former Education Minister George Werner recently weighed in on the debate, expressing optimism that "public-private partnership is the future for education in Liberia."

Speaking on the popular OK Conversation on OK FM 99.5, Mr. Werner argued that it was a false sense of dichotomy from NTAL that private actors should not get involved in the provision of education, as the private sector is the original, historic provider of education. He noted that it is a win-win situation for the government and the public as entities

like Bridge are providing better quality education with digital capability at a lower cost every year so far. When asked about NTAL's recent comments he says it is not new and began when he built the programme originally. However, he notes it is things like this that stops Liberia progressing well. According to him, Bridge and other providers deserve commendation from the Union for paying government teachers (mostly volunteers) who were otherwise not being paid before the entities took over the running of the schools. Getting government teachers on the government payroll has been a long running challenge for all administrations.

The former Education Minister backed up findings from a three year study conducted by two American independent research bodies, that showed the Liberian Education Advancement Program - has increased learning outcomes significantly. Other countries are now adopting the model, thanks to its success in Liberia - as attested to by local educational officials, parents and guardians, even from the remote parts of the country.

Now with COVID, the programme in partnership with the MoE's Emergency in Education continues to benefit Liberian students in all counties using radio, digital study materials and SMS - all remote parts of the country are still learning. In schools, teams are helping distribute food and teaching about hygiene as well as supporting all remote learning efforts.

Mr Werner believes Bridge is

mostly being criticised once again because it is the lightning rod for the education program. LEAP's success raises challenges for the development sector as a whole when it has seen the advances made by private providers in government systems. People are worried, not only about the success of the programme but the success of a big organisation in public education; even if it's as a government partner. Bridge presides over the highest number of schools, and the expectations are high both in terms of learning and team performance.

That is right and it is what we should expect from all institutions if we are serious about growth and prosperity. Mr Werner in fact expressed support for this approach "If somebody is not up to the mark on the job, it is not like our public sector where they would go to someone to beg. In the private sector we have a company to run, you can't go there and expect to become a politician, pushing allegations to undermine the institution, damaging the chances of our youth, you should get pushed out."

LEAP is a programmatic success for the country. It has a proud legacy for Mr. Werner even more so because it is championed quietly by the current Ministry of Education. The government should claim it loudly; instead the worry now is that other countries who visited Liberia in several years have replicated the programme and will steal the acclaim. Liberia as the first will be forgotten and we will have ourselves to blame.

By Ludger Schadomsky

Ethiopia on the brink of failure?

DELAYED elections and ethnic tensions are undermining Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's reform agenda. But the postponed polls could also be a chance for Ethiopia, says DW's Ludger Schadomsky. People making an international calls to Ethiopia last week got a big surprise. Not because of the bad telephone connection -- they got used to that a long time ago.

Rather, it was because before they were connected, they heard the voice of none other than Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed promoting the country's plan to plant 20 billion seedlings by 2024 -- an ambitious reforestation project that again highlights Ethiopia's reputation as Africa's poster child.

It might have been a great PR stunt for the international community -- but it didn't sit well with many Ethiopians at home who mockingly asked if Abiy didn't have other, slightly more pressing, issues to address than the planting trees.

For example, the coronavirus pandemic that the country of 100

million people and a severely underfunded health system is still battling. Or Ethiopia's reconciliation project that launched with Abiy's appointment as a young reformist prime minister in 2018 but is now threatening to crash land.

After all, polls originally scheduled for August have now been stalled indefinitely because of the COVID-19 outbreak. The government's mandate set to end in October has also been extended.

Before the announcement of the election delay, Ethiopia already faced growing interethnic violence and more than a dozen small ethnic groups were calling for greater regional autonomy. Nationalists in the regions of Oromia, Tigray and Amhara, who can rely on legions of unemployed, disillusioned young people, have been busy mobilizing support for a while now.

Who would have thought that two years after Abiy -- a hope bearer and the winner of the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize -- took power, militias manning roadblocks would be part of Ethiopia's everyday life?

Abiy, who is still celebrated abroad,

is no longer a favorite at home. For example, his former ally Jawar Mohammed, a media mogul and social media influencer, has moved over to the opposition camp.

In a culture used to distrusting the authorities, conspiracy theories are shooting up like weeds. One of the most popular is that Abiy is using the coronavirus pandemic to consolidate his power beyond the constitutional deadline.

Meanwhile, Abiy's political opponents are plotting revenge. The Tigray minority, who traditionally were among the ruling elite before Abiy came to power, are marketing themselves as victims of his reforms. In an affront to Abiy's leadership, they've said they'll go ahead and hold the elections in August anyway.

The election delays are now causing an imminent showdown that could tear apart the multi-ethnic country with its 80 diverse groups.

At the same time, Ethiopia's respectful culture of debate -- developed over three millennia and of which Ethiopians are rightly proud -- is crumbling. Leading politicians are now

insulting each other on social media with unprecedented malice.

And that once influential religious leaders are now unable to calm the waters shows the extent of the political divide.

But the election delay and the extension of the government's mandate should also be seen as an opportunity for reconciliation -- perhaps the government's last chance if the time gained up to 2021 could be used for a genuine National Dialogue that involves the entire region, including neighboring Eritrea.

This, however, would require all leaders to display a modicum of humility and a willingness to compromise, something that isn't evident at the moment.

If the rifts between the ethnic groups deepen further, then boycotts of the 2021 election and marauding militias could see the country dissolve into violence.

The coronavirus, of all things, could in the end help reconciliation in Ethiopia. That is if Ethiopians from all ethnicities and political beliefs come together to tackle the virus, thereby practicing national building in a very practical way.

Maritime security can help resolve Mozambique insurgency

BY TIMOTHY WALKER

OVER recent months the bloody insurgency in the northern Mozambique province of Cabo Delgado has taken an unprecedented maritime turn. If it worsens, it could have profound socio-economic and security implications for Southern Africa.

The Islamic State-inspired Ahlu-Sunnah Wal Jama'at (Al-Sunnah) has been attacking Cabo Delgado inhabitants since 2017, killing over 1 000 people to date. Al-Sunnah has launched frequent attacks on coastal villages, and used coordinated landward and amphibious attacks when it recaptured the coastal town of Mocimboa da Praia in June. This showed the insurgents that attacking from the sea was a viable option, as the risk of being intercepted by Mozambique's maritime security actors is low.

Just as worrying as the capacity to carry out attacks from the sea is the group's propensity to launch attacks against people who have fled to islands. This development reinforces recent Institute for Security Studies research that suggests Al-Sunnah is changing its strategy as it grows in capacity and confidence.

The group is shifting from destructive raids and the temporary occupation of towns to behaviour aimed at taking more permanent control over territory and communities. This points to a looming escalation in fighting.

The UN Refugee Agency estimates that there are now about 200 000 internally displaced people. Many of these have fled from Al-Sunnah by boat to coastal towns elsewhere in Mozambique or over the border into Tanzania. Their plight is not yet over however, with the insurgency taking place against the backdrop of the widespread damage Cyclone Kenneth inflicted in 2019, and COVID-19 in 2020.

Attacks from the sea have proved viable, with low risk of being stopped by maritime security actors. Access and mobility via overland routes has also become harder as recent torrential rains have washed away bridges. Most of the province's dirt roads have been turned into impassable quagmires. The only feasible way to supply the increasing number of internally displaced people with aid, while keeping open the best available means of transport, is via coastal shipping.

If Al-Sunnah wants more permanent control over captured territory, it might turn its attention to the numerous land-



ing sites and shipping routes used by smugglers and traffickers involved in the lucrative illicit economy in the region. This would provide it with increased revenue, resources and possibly intelligence on the movement of vessels out to sea.

Under such conditions, some have warned that northern Mozambique would become a platform for launching assaults and furthering the aims of criminal networks across the region - including piracy. They could also adopt asymmetrical tactics that render the nearby seas dangerous. This poses a significant risk. Shipping is key to helping internally displaced people, and the government is increasingly dependent on revenue from gas exports from its huge offshore deposits.

Energy companies are questioning whether Mozambique can provide enough security for them to continue their operations. US company Exxon Mobil has postponed taking the final investment decision about constructing a US\$30 billion liquefied natural gas processing facility on the Afungi Peninsula near Palma until at least 2021.

Neither of the private military contractors in northern Mozambique focus on maritime security. A consortium led by the French energy company Total SA is cautiously resuming operations. Italy's Eni is gambling that it can secure its operations by placing its floating liquefied natural gas vessel the Coral Sul far from Cabo Delgado's coastline. Meanwhile actors from countries who haven't been visible in the region, such as Japan, are investing in gas development - raising the number of stakeholders who will need to cooperate in an insecure space.

Swift action could prevent the attacks escalating into an alarming and complex regional maritime problem. File photo

Mozambican armed forces have struggled to combat the insurgency and rely on private military contractors such as the Wagner Group and the Dyck Advisory Group - neither of whom focus on maritime security. Recent shifts in the government's attitude to externalising the fight against Al-Sunnah must be viewed against this backdrop of military and fiscal insecurities and constraints.

Mozambique's formal request for Southern African Development Corporation (SADC) support was discussed at a special summit in May, but an overarching strategy hasn't yet been produced. SADC must urgently take action. First, it must convene a meeting of its Standing Maritime Committee to review available naval capacity and funding, and provide options to guide decision making.

Second, it must draft a SADC maritime operational strategy. This could be done by reviewing both its 2011 strategy for countering piracy in the Western Indian Ocean and its 2015 regional counter-terrorism strategy to see what they can contribute. The process must accompany the adoption of its Integrated Maritime Strategy.

An amphibious capability could deny Al-Sunnah further revenue and intelligence opportunities.

An outcome of the Standing Maritime Committee must be a greater appreciation of the role the maritime domain can play in resolving the conflict. Decision makers need to see how an overarching strategy with a strong maritime component could help disrupt Al-Sunnah - provided they act promptly.

The strategy could include deploying naval vessels to protect internally dis-

placed people from further amphibious attacks, and protecting coastal shipping delivering humanitarian aid. An amphibious capability allows for operations that deny Al-Sunnah further revenue and intelligence opportunities. SADC's maritime security efforts depend on South Africa's response. South Africa faces a dilemma because of Al-Sunnah's threats to attack it. There is also the awkward political challenge posed by joining the land fight alongside groups Pretoria considers mercenaries. However South Africa (and Mozambique and SADC) have an advantage - the 2012 trilateral maritime security memorandum of understanding signed by Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania.

The provisions of the memorandum were designed to protect the integrity of the territorial waters of the state parties against any illegal activities that undermine their security and economic development. The agreement permits combined maritime operations in territorial waters to combat such activities.

Various elements of the South African National Defence Force have been deployed to Cabo Delgado as part of Operation Copper since 2011, with a major emphasis on counter-piracy patrols. These patrols should have generated intelligence and experience that can inform SADC counter-insurgency and maritime security strategy and operations.

While maritime security in itself can't guarantee victory on land against Al-Sunnah, it can provide an anchor to ensure that security initiatives remain firmly in government and SADC hands.

Agencies

Eco-friendly rural tourism helps lift villagers in Central China out of abject poverty

By Zhao Yongping

BY developing rural tourism in recent years, a village in Central China's Henan Province, has been lifted out of poverty.

Located in Luanchuan county, Henan Province, Cangfang village boasts lush mountains and lucid waters, yet the villagers were stricken by poverty for a long time for failing to make use of the natural advantages.

The average per capita earnings of the villagers were around 2,000 yuan (about \$285.6) in 2013 and 112 out of the 185 households in the village suffered from poverty, according to Wang Qingxian, head of the villagers' committee.

"Due to the limited and infertile farmland in the mountain village, the locals couldn't make money by farming," Li Yinsheng, a resident in Cangfang, told the People's Daily, adding that his family of six had only about 3,330 square meters of land.

For a time, the villagers tried to cut down trees and grow crops on the hills. However, they still couldn't make much profit this way, according to Li.

As a result, many young villagers left their hometown for the cities, including Li, who left the village when he was 20.

However, with little education and skills, he wasn't able to make ends meet, given the expensive cost of living in the city. After years of struggling, he had to return home to take care of his aged parents.

Chongdu village, located on the other side of the mountain, is developing prosperously with similar natural conditions as Cangfang.

By promoting rural tourism, the villagers in Chongdu have embraced a better-off life. As of the end of 2013, the per capita income of the villagers reached 30,000 yuan, and houses and cars were affordable for almost every household.

How Chongdu village, which was less developed than Cangfang, turned out to be prosperous, became a dinner conversation for Cangfang villagers. After discussion, they agreed that rural tourism and transportation were the keys to Chongdu's success.

Li believed that what Cangfang village needed were not only roads, but also a way of poverty alleviation enabling the village to generate revenue out of its lush mountains and lucid waters, just as Chongdu village did.

As expected by the villagers in Cangfang, a highway from Luoyang, Henan, to Luanchuan county, opened to public at the beginning of 2013, with part of its section passing Cangfang village.

Under the government's policy of targeted poverty alleviation, a wildlife park was built in the village, making its rugged mountains and lush bamboo groves a great resort for tourists.

By transferring the land-use right of the wildlife park, the villagers could gain both rent and dividends, and even get paid working in the park.

Data suggest that the project has brought an annual income of over 6,000 yuan for each household in the village, plus three million yuan for villagers working in the park.

"The wildlife park has attracted many tourists, some

of whom even had difficulty finding a parking space during the peak season," Li noted, who then sensed a new opportunity to develop agritainment business.

With the help of poverty alleviation officials, Li has become quite familiar with the related policies. The government will provide an interest-free microfinance loan of 100,000 yuan for entrepreneurs in poor areas, an interest-free special loan of 30,000 yuan that requires other poor households as a guarantee, a subsidy of 3,000 yuan for poor families applying for poverty alleviation projects, and a maximum subsidy of 60,000 yuan for poor families that aim to develop rural tourism.

By taking out loans and raising funds himself, together with over 100,000 funds from the government, Li renovated his house and turned it into a bed and breakfast (B&B), which was put into operation at the end of 2015.

Li and his wife took the free courses provided by the local government, learning about cooking, reception etiquette and hotel housekeeping. Li also proactively learnt from the experience of the B&B facilities in Chongdu.

"The business is gradually booming and the rooms are even all booked up during the holidays," said Li.

By running the B&B, Li earns about 70,000 to 80,000 yuan every year, and his entire family shook off poverty in 2016.

More and more villagers have become better off by protecting the environment and developing rural tourism, and Cangfang village has made a rule to prohibit reclaiming the wasteland and cutting down trees to grow crops.

Forty-two B&B facilities have opened in the village, generating an average annual income of about 30,000 yuan for each one of them, said Wang, adding that all poverty-stricken households in the village had been lifted out of poverty by the end of 2019, either by selling local products or securing a job in the village.

However, the thriving tourism in Chongdu has caused serious pollution in recent years, as 8,000 tons of wastewater has been discharged every day, Li pointed out.

Under the guidance of the government, an administrative committee of the Chongdu scenic area was established, where Chongdu village and surrounding eight villages work together to upgrade the B&B hotels by reducing the number of beds and improving the quality of service.

Meanwhile, visitors that stay at the B&B in surrounding villages will receive ticket discounts and infrastructure concerning sewage treatment is enhanced.

While protecting the environment, more villages in Luanchuan county have developed rural tourism. The county has established 23 ecological parks and 1,442 B&B facilities, lifting 13,000 people out of poverty through rural tourism.

Now, Li is planning to make some of his B&B rooms bamboo-themed. "I'm more convinced that protecting the environment and developing rural tourism will bring more sustainable development to the village," he said.

People's Daily

Tanzanian businesses eye digital transformation to help boost customer experience

By Carolyn Lyimo

WITH the telecommunication infrastructure roll-out in Tanzania continuing to lag and Internet penetration remaining relatively, an increasing number of businesses in the country are experimenting with digital communication channels.

This is largely done in an effort to bolster the businesses' digital transformation efforts so as, ultimately, to deliver an improved customer experience (CX) to their end-user customers.

The country's internet penetration rate doubled between 2013 and last year, but it is currently only at 46 per cent. Moreover, out of the 42 million mobile voice subscriptions registered in 2018 only about half of the devices were used to access the Internet, indicating the relatively high reliance on feature phones.

Traditionally, local businesses largely engaged with their customer bases via traditional channels such as face-to-face, voice and SMS. However, as telecoms service providers continue to ramp up their infrastructure, more options are opening up - and, as a result, organisations are exploring channels such as mobile apps, WhatsApp and Instagram.

Despite this, though, the large-scale adoption of enterprise online communication channels such as WhatsApp Business and Facebook Messenger as well as chatbot technologies remains relatively constrained. This is due to the low penetration of smartphone and Internet access.

However, current 3G and 4G deployments by mobile operators in the country bode well for smartphone growth. In turn, the infrastructure roll-out will no doubt accelerate the rate of digital transformation that will enable Tanzania's businesses to enhance

their CX by delivering an omnichannel experience that is tailored and personalised for their customers.

Disruptive new players

Organisations are increasingly becoming aware that customers have easy access to a range of homogenous products and services and that industries are constantly evolving and becoming saturated by disruptive new players, with new business models that redefine the way sustainable revenue streams are structured.

A well-executed CX is thus a crucial driver for managing customer attention, without which organisations cannot build strong and sustainable brand loyalty among their customer bases and can even risk losing out on sustainable revenue growth.

Therefore, it is crucial that enterprises tap into technology advancements that enable business performance improvements and enhanced CX through improved accessibility to services and faster query resolution.

Digital transformation is paving the way for more convenient self-service products, which in turn are positively impacting CX. The uptake of omnichannel platforms is particularly pronounced among service industries, as they enable customer service departments to manage multi-channel interaction over a single interface across a customer preferred channel.

At the same time, businesses across various service verticals appreciate the benefits of a digital and scalable omnichannel, such as a cloud-based Contact Centre as a Service (CCaaS) solution that can be deployed without incurring capital expenditure (CAPEX).

Customer trends

Many organisations are sensitive about capex and investing in cloud-



based solutions means that they do not have to buy physical infrastructure or have in-house IT resources. Additionally, most businesses have

cyclical demands, so a CCaaS solution enables them to better plan for spikes in customer demand and manage these seasonal volume demands based on customer trends.

Omnichannel communication platforms offer a host of other benefits, including a unified workspace for organisations' CX teams, the ability to manage conversations in single platform, as well as building a conversation history to ensure that customers do not have to repeat their queries.

By deploying omnichannel solutions, businesses can ensure better customer engagement by being able to differentiate themselves from their competitors and establishing positive and long-lasting customer relationships.

These days, customers dictate the terms of business communications through channels of their choice. Millennials are the customers of today and have a strong preference for digital platforms. Communicating with them via traditional channels will not elicit their full attention.

With a better CX, organisations are able to give their customers better support and thus retain them, and businesses are increasingly learning that customer acquisition is far more expensive than retention.

Carolyn Lyimo (pictured) is Country Manager at Infobip Tanzania. This opinion piece was e-mailed to The Guardian for publication.

Covid-19: The minute we make any decision, we begin to justify the wisdom of that choice

By Elliot Aronson and Carol Tavris

MEMBERS of Heaven's Gate, a religious cult, believed that as the Hale-Bopp comet passed by Earth in 1997, a spaceship would be travelling in its wake - ready to take true believers aboard.

Several members of the group bought an expensive, high-powered telescope so that they might get a clearer view of the comet. They quickly brought it back and asked for a refund.

When the manager asked why, they complained that the telescope was defective, that it didn't show the spaceship following the comet. A short time later, believing that they would be rescued once they had shed their "earthly containers" (their bodies), all 39 members killed themselves.

Heaven's Gate followers had a tragically misguided conviction, but it is an example, albeit extreme, of cognitive dissonance, the motivational mechanism that underlies the reluctance to admit mistakes or accept scientific findings - even when those findings can save our lives.

This dynamic is playing out during the Covid-19 pandemic among the many people who refuse to wear masks or practise social distancing.

Human beings are deeply unwilling to change their minds. And when the facts clash with their pre-existing convictions, some people would sooner jeopardise their health and everyone else's than accept new information or admit to being wrong.

Cognitive dissonance, which was coined by Leon Festinger in the 1950s, describes the discomfort that people feel when two cognitions - or a cognition and a behavior - contradict each other.

'I smoke' is dissonant with the knowledge that smoking can kill me. To reduce that dissonance, the smoker must either quit - or justify smoking ("It keeps me thin, and being overweight is a health risk too, you know"). At its core, Festinger's theory is about how people strive to make sense out of contradictory ideas and lead lives that are, at least in their own minds, consistent and meaningful.

One of us (Aronson), who was a protégé of Festinger in the mid-1950s, advanced cognitive-dissonance theory by demonstrating the powerful, yet non-obvious, role it plays when the concept of self is involved.

Dissonance can be very painful

Dissonance is most painful when evidence strikes at the heart of how we see ourselves - when it threatens our belief



that we are kind, ethical, competent, or smart.

The minute we make any decision - I'll buy this car; I will vote for this candidate; I think Covid-19 is serious; no, I'm sure it is a hoax - we will begin to justify the wisdom of our choice and find reasons to dismiss the alternative.

Before long, any ambivalence we might have felt at the time of the original decision will have morphed into certainty. As people justify each step taken after the original decision, they will find it harder to admit that they were wrong at the outset. This is especially so when the end result proves self-defeating, wrong-headed, or harmful.

The theory inspired more than 3,000 experiments that have transformed psychologists' understanding of how the human mind works.

One of Aronson's most famous experiments showed that people who had to go through an unpleasant, embarrassing process in order to be admitted to a discussion group (designed to consist of boring, pompous participants) later reported liking that group far better than those who were allowed to join after putting in little or no effort.

Going through hell and high water to attain something that turns out to be boring, vexatious, or a waste of time creates

dissonance: I'm smart, so how did I end up in this stupid group?

To reduce that dissonance, participants unconsciously focused on whatever might be good or interesting about the group and blinded themselves to its prominent negatives.

The people who did not work hard to get into the group could more easily see the truth - how boring it was. Because they had very little investment in joining, they had very little dissonance to reduce.

Motivational power, reducing discomfort

The term 'cognitive dissonance' has since escaped the laboratory and is found everywhere - from op-eds and movie reviews to humour columns. But few people fully appreciate the mechanism's enormous motivational power - and the lengths people go to in order to reduce its discomfort.

For example, when people feel a strong connection to a political party, leader, ideology or belief, they are more likely to let that allegiance do their thinking for them and distort or ignore the evidence that challenges those loyalties.

Social psychologist Lee Ross, in laboratory experiments designed to find ways to reduce the bitter conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, took peace pro-

posals created by Israeli negotiators, labelled them as Palestinian proposals, and asked Israeli citizens to judge them.

"The Israelis liked the Palestinian proposal attributed to Israel more than they liked the Israeli proposal attributed to the Palestinians," he said.

"If your own proposal isn't going to be attractive to you when it comes from the other side, what chance is there that the other side's proposal is going to be attractive when it actually comes from the other side?" he asked, rhetorically.

Because of the intense polarisation in the US, a great many Americans now see the life-and-death decisions of the coronavirus pandemic as political choices rather than medical ones.

In the absence of a unifying narrative and competent national leadership, Americans have to choose who to believe as they make decisions about how to live: the scientists and the public-health experts, whose advice will necessarily change as they learn more about the virus, treatment, and risks? Or President Donald Trump and his acolytes, who suggest that masks and social distancing are unnecessary or "optional"?

The cognition I want to go back to work or I want to go to my favourite bar to hang out with my friends is dissonant with any information that suggests that these actions might be dangerous - if not to individuals themselves, then to others with whom they interact.

Just how to resolve dissonance...

How to resolve this dissonance? People could avoid the crowds, parties, and bars and wear a mask. Or they could jump back into their former ways.

But to preserve their belief that they are smart and competent and would never do anything foolish to risk their lives, they will need some self-justifications: claim that masks impair their breathing, deny that the pandemic is serious, or protest that

their "freedom" to do what they want is paramount.

"You're removing our freedoms and stomping on our constitutional rights by these Communist-dictatorship orders," a woman at a Palm Beach County commissioners' hearing said. "Masks are literally killing people," said another.

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem, referring to masks and any other government interventions, said: "More freedom, not more government, is the answer." Vice President Mike Pence meanwhile added his own justification for encouraging people to gather in unsafe crowds for a Trump rally: "The right to peacefully assemble is enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution."

Today, as we confront the many unknowns of the coronavirus pandemic, all of us are facing desperately difficult decisions. When is it safe to get back to work? When can I reopen my business? When can I see friends and co-workers, start a new love affair, travel? What level of risk am I prepared to tolerate?

The way we answer these questions has momentous implications for our health as individuals and for the health of our communities.

Even more important, and far less obvious, is that because of the unconscious motivation to reduce dissonance, the way we answer these questions has repercussions for how we behave after making our initial decision. Will we be flexible, or will we keep reducing dissonance by insisting that our earliest decisions were right?

Changing our minds is not impossible

Although it's difficult, changing our minds is not impossible. The challenge is to find a way to live with uncertainty, make the most informed decisions we can, and modify them when scientific evidence so dictates - as our leading researchers are already doing.

Admitting that we were wrong requires some self-reflection - which involves living with the dissonance for a while rather than jumping immediately to a self-justification.

Understanding how dissonance operates reveals a few practical lessons for overcoming it, starting by examining the two dissonant cognitions and keeping them separate.

We call this the "Shimon Peres solution". Peres, Israel's former prime minister, was angered by the disastrous official visit by his friend (US President) Ronald Reagan to a cemetery in Bitburg, Germany, where members of the Waffen SS were buried.

When asked how he felt about Reagan's decision to go there, Peres could have reduced dissonance in one of the two most common ways: thrown out the friendship or minimised the seriousness of the friend's action. He did neither.

"When a friend makes a mistake," he said, "the friend remains a friend, and the mistake remains a mistake."

Peres's message conveys the importance of staying with the dissonance, avoiding easy knee-jerk responses, and asking ourselves: Why am I believing this? Why am I behaving this way? Have I thought it through or am I simply taking a short cut, following the party line, or justifying the effort I put in to join the group?

Dissonance theory also teaches us why changing your brother-in-law's political opinions is so hard, if not impossible - especially if he has thrown time, money, effort, and his vote at them. (He can't change yours either, can he?)

But if you want to try, don't say the equivalent of "What are you thinking by not wearing a mask?" That message implies "How could you be so stupid?" and will immediately create dissonance (I'm smart versus You say I'm doing something stupid), making him almost certainly respond with defensiveness and a hardening of the belief (I was thinking how smart I am, that's what, and masks are useless anyway).

• *A syndicated piece by The Atlantic.*

COVID-19 case counts have been spiking for weeks, but deaths are not. Know why?

By Markham Heid

AFTER slowly gathering momentum during the first quarter of the year, the number of US Covid-19 cases and deaths surged in early April. By the middle of that month, more than 30,000 Americans were testing positive for the novel coronavirus every day, and roughly 2,500 were dying, according to figures from the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

But then, for a time, that initial wave seemed to be breaking. Daily case counts declined as spring turned into summer. Deaths fell steadily. But these encouraging trends didn't last. A second wave of cases - or maybe just a resurgence of the initial wave - began around the middle of last month. Case counts have since increased sharply and show no sign of slowing.

On July 9, there were nearly 65,000 new daily cases of Covid-19 - roughly double the late-April average. But deaths have not followed suit. While the last week has witnessed an uptick in deaths from the June all-time low, line graphs of deaths are no longer mirroring the line graphs of new cases.

That may change any day. There is usually a one- or two-week lag between a rise in cases and an associated rise in deaths, says Stephen Morse, a professor of epidemiology and infectious disease at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health. And in some of the newly hard-hit states, including Texas and Arizona, deaths have begun to increase.

But given the mid-June timing of the caseload spike, we're now well beyond the one-to-two-week lag period that

Morse described.

And, according to a news report from the American Medical Association, the virus's springtime peak saw roughly 2,500 deaths for every 30,000 new diagnoses. The most recent figures reveal a much more encouraging ratio - one on the order of 1,000 deaths per 60,000 new diagnoses.

So what explains the apparent disconnect between cases and deaths? Expanded testing capacity may be one contributing factor, although alone it can't account for the size of the discrepancy. Experts say a handful of variables may be at play.

Shifting demographics - and maybe an evolving virus

Morse says that recordkeeping related to Covid-19 is "flawed" in several ways and that these flaws make it hard to decipher the truths behind the numbers.

"Some states or localities restrict testing mostly to people with symptoms that look like Covid-19 while other states will test anyone who asks for it," he explains.

At the same time, he explains, some states may be counting as "cases" only those who actually test positive for SARS-CoV-2 while other states may include people that a clinician diagnoses based on symptoms. "So we don't even know what the actual baselines are," he says.

Despite those cautions, Morse says that there are reasons to think that the cases-deaths gap is legitimate. For one thing, he says that young people - those under 35 - seem to make up a higher proportion of the recent Covid-19 cases.

"There's a preponderance of infection among younger people as they're the ones going out and are perhaps a bit blasé," he says, adding that "the older and more vulnerable" may now be more likely to stay home and play it safe.

If true, this could explain why death counts are down. Age is an established risk factor for death due to Covid-19. According to a new, large-scale study published on July 8 in *Nature*, adults in their eighties are at least 20 times more likely to die of Covid-19 than adults in their fifties and hundreds of times more likely to die than someone under the age of 40.

If younger people make up the bulk of the new Covid-19 cases, it follows that fewer of them would die from the disease.

Improvements in clinical care may also explain the lower rates of death. "We know a lot more about how to treat it than we did in March," says John Swartzberg, MD, clinical professor emeritus of infectious diseases and vaccinology at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health.

For example, Swartzberg says that putting some patients in the prone position - lying on their stomachs - seems to improve the amount of oxygen they take in whether they are breathing on their own or via a ventilator.

Along with these sorts of care insights, doctors have found that certain drugs improve outcomes. Research has shown that the antiviral drug remdesivir can reduce the risk of death in some patients, and Swartzberg says that corticosteroids are another class of drug that has proven to be benefi-



cial.

"We've also learned that a lot of people are dying from abnormal clotting, and we're now able to prevent some of those deaths with protocols for anticoagulation treatments," he says.

It may also be the case - though this is far from certain - that the virus itself is weakening. "This is speculative, but another explanation could be that the circulating strains of the virus have changed," says Lee Riley, MD, a professor and division head of infectious diseases and vaccinology at UC Berkeley.

Riley says that, over time, infectious pathogens mutate. While these mutations may make a virus more transmissible - something that could explain escalating case counts - they also frequently render viruses less pathogenic, meaning the resulting disease is less severe, he says.

Why does this happen? If a pathogen kills too prodigiously, it runs out of hosts. Just last week, a new study in the journal *Cell* found that, yes, the novel coronavirus seems to be mutating. A new and dominant "variant" of the virus has emerged, the authors of that study told CNN, and it appears to be more infectious (that is, easier to spread) than its predecessor.

Columbia's Morse mentions this new research. Like Riley, he says that if the virus is mutating, it may also be growing milder. "That's usually what happens," he adds. But the new *Cell* study did not find that the virus is weakening. And, across the board, experts say that there's not yet any hard evidence that the virus or its associated disease is growing milder.

They also say that the apparent decline in the lethality of Covid-19 is no reason for the public to let down its guard or abandon any of the lifesaving, virus-confronting safety measures that health authorities have been recommending for

months - measures like wearing masks or social distancing.

"We know how to control this," Swartzberg says. "People just aren't doing it." Also, doctors warn that in some cases, the disease may cause lasting harm in those who survive.

"It's a false narrative to take comfort in a lower rate of death," said Anthony Fauci, MD, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, during a conversation last week with Senator Doug Jones of Alabama. There are too many unknowns - and too many established risks - to take any chances with the coronavirus. "Don't get into false complacency," Fauci added.

• *A piece first published in Elemental, a new Medium publication about health and wellness. Markham Heid is a health and science writer.*

Seaweed farmers creating value for Zanzibar's poor

By Guardian Reporter

HUNDREDS of women seaweed farmers in Zanzibar are set to benefit with the pilot programme that will help them to adopt best practices for increased productivity and environmental performance.

The pilot programme which will work with farmers in Pemba and Unguja Islands in the Zanzibar archipelago in the Indian Ocean is implemented through a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and Cargill.

The programme will be supported by a local partner—C-Weed Corporation and conducted in collaboration with the government of Zanzibar. C-Weed Corporation is the major buyer of seaweed in Tanzania, supporting around 2,500 seaweed farmers.

International buyers predict increased demand for seaweed since it is a raw material used in a wide range of increasingly popular products as diverse as confectionary, yogurts, and cosmetics.

When done sustainably, seaweed aquaculture also provides co-benefits to the planet, including improved water quality and conservation of wildlife habitats.

But warming oceans due to climate change, impacts of coastal development, limited aquaculture knowledge and poor seed stocks make it harder for farmers to sustainably and cost effectively keep up their yields and maintain their livelihoods through seaweed farming.

This drives them to use inappropriate farming practices that amplify negative impacts to the fragile marine environments that their businesses need to thrive, which have already been under threat by a broad suite of human activities.

Seaweed farming is one of Zanzibar's largest export businesses, employing more than 25,000 people, 80 percent of whom are women.

A seaweed farmer from Tumbe village, Sada Himidi Selemani, said: "I am happy to participate in the new training program. Local women seaweed farmers are excited to gain insight into how to improve our seaweed production, so we can earn more for our families but also look after our environment."

Tumbe is one of the three villages in northern Pemba where the program will be piloted. The program will first work together with farmers to co-develop a locally appropriate set of voluntary industry best practices.



In the first year of the project, The Nature Conservancy will train more than 100 farmers on how best to site, design, and manage their farms and to increase yields while also reducing farming impacts such as impacts to sea grass, mangrove areas, and marine debris on beaches and waterways.

Working with seaweed farming communities, it will identify, train and mentor individuals to be 'village implementers' to mentor other farmers, build much-needed local capacity, and ensure farmers involved will have a local specialist to consult throughout the process.

Deputy Principle Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Livestock and Fisheries in Zanzibar Dr Omar Ali Amir said that seaweed farming is a major contributor to the economy. He said the industry has become increasingly important by bringing foreign revenue into Zanzibar.

"This new project support to improve seaweed farming is timely. We envision it will help address some of the key challenges facing our seaweed sector, and hope it will among others boost local incomes, improve food security,

and help conserve the health of our marine environments sustainably," he noted.

Collaborators will work with local research and government partners to identify specific scientific research needs to maintain healthy seaweed stock such as improved seaweed strains that thrive in a changing climate, and potential seaweed policy improvements, that could benefit both seaweed and the environment.

The Nature Conservancy Global Lead for Aquaculture, Robert Jones said: "Our research shows that when farmed well, seaweed has the unique ability to improve ocean health by providing benefits to water quality and providing habitat for wild fish, in addition to providing a low impact form of jobs in rural coastal communities. And we've determined that the marine areas in which seaweed farming is most established in Tanzania are among the highest priority locations to protect anywhere in Africa."

Jones added that protecting the areas, educating and partnering with women seaweed farmers is a new and

important focus of the organization conservation work in Tanzania and its work with the aquaculture sector globally.

"Through improved seaweed farming practices that better long-term farming yields and incomes, we aim to help coastal communities become more resilient to environmental change and economic shocks, such as impacts from Covid-19, which is affecting the local tourism sector," he stated.

The program will help to ensure that volumes of sustainably farmed seaweed continue to grow for the industry and is traceable through the supply chain to assure end producers of the social and environmental responsibility of seaweed production.

The program is aimed at ensuring sustainable food and agricultural production for future generations.

With 30 years of experience in the seaweed business, Hamil Soud, General Manager of C-Weed Corporation said: "Sustainability is going far beyond just supplying seaweed to our customers. For us, sustainability also means ensuring long term partnerships with our seaweed farmers and providing them adequate support and access to the right infrastructures so they can improve efficiency while delivering high quality seaweed."

He added: "To facilitate cultivation and harvesting process, we equip our farmers with boats, inputs such as ropes and technical guidance so they can perform better in their farms. We are proud to collaborate with The Nature Conservancy, Cargill and the government in a project that will drive significant changes and improve considerably livelihoods of seaweed farmers on the long term."

Sebastien Jan, Seaweed Sourcing and Sustainability Project Manager at Cargill said "The Red Seaweed Promise" was launched a year ago with the ambition to enable seaweed producers and their communities to achieve better incomes and living standards in a way that will accelerate progress towards a sustainable and transparent global seaweed supply chain.

"This new partnership with The Nature Conservancy is one among various initiatives we are excited to announce, it will focus on empowering seaweed producers, improving production and harvesting practices, community support and strengthening partnerships, our four impact areas to deliver on our promise," he said.

To help ensure a long-term sustainable red seaweed supply chain, in 2019 Cargill launched its Red Seaweed Promise. The program is designed to address sustainability challenges of harvesting and cultivating red seaweed, while enhancing producers' livelihoods, supporting local communities, and conserving the marine environment.

Gold mining firm driving socio-economic development in Geita

By Guardian Reporter

RESIDENTS of Geita Region were until 2000 not seeing much benefits from the mining sector, despite that their region is one of the most endowed regions in terms of minerals in Tanzania.

The industry was not contributing much in social sectors such as healthcare, education, road infrastructure and entrepreneurship. Enter Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) sustainable social investment pillar which amplifies the Africa Mining Vision (AMV) to support local communities and the fortunes of Geita changed for the better.

AMV, Africa's own response to tackling the paradox of great mineral wealth existing side by side with pervasive poverty, was coined by Heads of State at the February 2009 African Union (AU) summit. This means GGML started implementing the AMV long before it was incepted by the AU.

Since its inception in 2000, Geita Gold Mining Limited adopted an approach of ensuring that the communities around the operation are better off for the Company being there.

The AMV's strategic goal of thinking outside the "mining box" by integrating mining into development policies at local, national and regional levels, which came later was a timely catalyst. This has seen the company leverage on strategic partnerships with local government authorities and other stakeholders to drive inclusive socio-economic development in Geita.

However, it is the ensuing Covid-19 pandemic that has actually exposed how GGML is championing AMV goal to eradicate poverty through strategic investments. As a unique and responsible business entity, Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) has rolled out a series of interventions to stop the spread of Covid-19 within and beyond its area of operation.

The interventions are aimed at minimizing the impact on public health and to limit disruptions to economies and lives of Tanzanians.

"GGML has already donated Tsh1.1 billion to national level interventions through the Covid-19 Emergency Fund set up under the Prime Minister's Office," confirms Simon Shayo, Vice President - Sustainability at GGML.

"The remaining 500 million/- will be used to support regional and community interventions in Geita, including the provision of key medical supplies and equipment such as PPE, ventilators and oxygen masks," Shayo added.

GGML has donated 37 hand washing facilities with the capacity of 1000 liters each for public hand washing in various parts of Geita town, and chlorine which has replaced liquid soap at the facilities. These facilities are designed to serve everyone, including those with special needs, such as children and people with disabilities.

While receiving the donations, Geita Town Public Health Officer, Japheth Masesa thanked GGML for the support.

"I encourage everyone to not take this opportunity for granted. We must demonstrate that we appreciate the efforts our partners in development are putting in ensuring that we all remain safe during, and even after this pandemic. Let us all make good use of this service," said Masesa.

He also committed that Geita Town Council would designate one officer to manage the project and ensure that at all times the tanks are replenished with water and also chlorinated. Sr. Adelberru Mukure, the Director of Moyo wa Huruma Orphanage center was also very happy to receive one of the facilities.

She recounted how the orphanage centre with 168 children was struggling to ensure that all residents have access to hand washing facilities that suit their demography. "We have installed a few 20-liter hand washing buckets as you can see, but they are not enough. The 20-liter containers are just too small to cater for them.



A nurse at work at Iklwa clinic built by GGML in partnership with the Geita District Council.

A tank with 1000 liters is a relief to us. GGML's support cements the adage that a friend in need is the friend indeed," said Sr. Mukure.

The company is in the process of procuring various medical equipment that will be donated to the Geita Regional Commissioner's office for use in various parts of the region and facilities designated for testing and isolation.

GGML's Senior Manager responsible for occupational health, Dr. Kiva Mvungi said that GGML has formed a partnership with Rubondo FM to create awareness on Covid-19. Rubondo FM, a local radio station which is owned by Geita District Council was established with funding from GGML's CSR programme.

In addition, two of the company's senior staff have been appointed by the Regional Commissioner to be members of the special committee appointed to combat the pandemic in Geita. "Our representatives ensure our plans to fight the disease are aligned with government," said Shayo.

He added that GGML has taken steps to ensure the health and safety of their employees is their first priority.

GGML's strategic economic investment and support to local communities in Geita has not been without notice of the government. While on a short tour in Geita town, Minister for Minerals, Dotto Biteko commended Geita Gold Mining Limited (GGML) for the various projects being implemented in collaboration with the local authorities.

The Minister highlighted that the government's intention is to see areas with mineral resources, including Geita transforming lives and the economy of the surrounding communities.

"I have been impressed. We have already achieved our target of 400bn/- of revenue collection from the mining sector. Most of Geita region's contribution in the revenue comes from Geita Gold Mining Limited. It is very encouraging now that the sector contributes more than five percent in the GDP of our economy,"

said Biteko.

Some of the projects that GGML is partnering with the government is the Special Economic Investment zone which will be managed by the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) and the Geita Town Council.

Other strategic projects include the educational and health facilities construction, Geita Central and Katundu Market Frames, and the Agro-processing project that aims at improving the quality and quantity of agricultural output for farmers in Geita district, focusing on rice and sunflower.

As a responsible corporate citizen, GGML spends about 9.2bn/- annually on community projects in Geita region. GGML Vice President for Sustainability, Simon Shayo said that the execution of these projects is part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility program which has been practiced since the GGML started its business in Tanzania.

"One of our Company's core values is to ensure that the communities receive tangible benefits for hosting our business. That is why we have been investing in social and economic development since 2000 when the operation started. The Company has achieved a significant mileage in

terms of Corporate social responsibility initiatives thanks to support and guidance provided by the government.

The execution of the CSR projects and similar other initiatives is a clear testimony that partnership formed by the company, the government, and the host communities can work together to improve livelihoods through investing in priority socio-economic infrastructure and services," said Shayo.

Targeted development projects in Geita

In 2018, GGML supported the installation of solar-powered street lights along the main roads in Geita town, construction of the state-of-the-art tower at the Geita Town roundabout, and a sunflower processing factory.

The company also funded the construction of a modern market facility for Geita town, and the completion and roofing of more than 600 health and education infrastructures.

"In 2018, GGML was the first mining company in Tanzania to develop and implement a credible CSR plan in line with section 105 of Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) No. 7 of 2017 which amends the Mining Act

No. 14 of 2010," said Shayo.

In 2018, the company invested Tsh9.2 billion to fund socio-economic development projects, and a similar amount is being invested annually for the purpose since then. We intend to create a legacy and support the government's initiatives to create a sustainable economy which can outlive the mining activities in Geita.

While supporting the economic development GGML will also continue working with various stakeholders to improve education and health infrastructures and all other areas that are deemed a priority by the government.

Areas that have so far benefitted from the CSR funding include the purchase of medical and surgical equipment for Bukoli and Katoro health centers, funding for cleft lip operations for children and adults, construction of 34 out-patient centers and five housing units for healthcare workers, fully-equipping of the outpatient department of a health center, equipping Kasota health center and purchase of malaria diagnostic equipment. Other projects include the construction of a healthcare facilities in prisons and to streamline healthcare services delivery for prisoners in Geita.

As more go hungry and malnutrition persists, achieving zero hunger by 2030 unlikely

GENEVA

MORE people are going hungry, an annual study by the United Nations has found. Tens of millions have joined the ranks of the chronically undernourished over the past five years, and countries around the world continue to struggle with multiple forms of malnutrition.

The latest edition of the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, published today, estimates that almost 690 million people went hungry in 2019 - up by 10 million from 2018, and by nearly 60 million in five years. High costs and low affordability also mean billions cannot eat healthily or nutritiously. The hungry are most numerous in Asia, but expanding fastest in Africa. Across the planet, the report forecasts, the COVID-19 pandemic could tip over 130 million more people into chronic hunger by the end of 2020. (Flare-ups of acute hunger in the pandemic context may see this number escalate further at times.)

The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World is the most authoritative global study tracking progress towards ending hunger and malnutrition. It is produced jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Writing in the Foreword, the heads of the five agencies warn that "five years after the world committed to end hunger, food insecurity and all forms of malnutrition, we are still off track to achieve this objective by 2030."

The hunger numbers explained

In this edition, critical data updates for China and other populous countries have led to a substantial cut in estimates of the global number of hungry people, to the current 690 million. Nevertheless, there has been no change in the trend. Revising the entire hunger series back to the year 2000 yields the same conclusion: after steadily diminishing for decades,



chronic hunger slowly began to rise in 2014 and continues to do so.

Asia remains home to the greatest number of undernourished (381 million). Africa is second (250 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (48 million). The global prevalence of undernourishment - or overall percentage of hungry people - has changed little at 8.9 percent, but the absolute numbers have been rising since 2014. This means that over the last five years, hunger has grown in step with the global population.

This, in turn, hides great regional disparities: in percentage terms, Africa is the hardest hit region and becoming more so, with 19.1 percent of its people undernourished. This is more than

double the rate in Asia (8.3 percent) and in Latin America and the Caribbean (7.4 percent). On current trends, by 2030, Africa will be home to more than half of the world's chronically hungry.

The pandemic's toll

As progress in fighting hunger stalls, the COVID-19 pandemic is intensifying the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems - understood as all the activities and processes affecting the production, distribution and consumption of food. While it is too soon to assess the full impact of the lockdowns and other containment measures, the report estimates that at a minimum, another 83 million people,

and possibly as many as 132 million, may go hungry in 2020 as a result of the economic recession triggered by COVID-19. iii The setback throws into further doubt the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (Zero Hunger).

Unhealthy diets, food insecurity and malnutrition

Overcoming hunger and malnutrition in all its forms (including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, overweight and obesity) is about more than securing enough food to survive: what people eat - and especially what children eat - must also be nutritious. Yet a key obstacle is the high cost of nutritious foods and the low afford-

ability of healthy diets for vast numbers of families.

The report presents evidence that a healthy diet costs far more than US\$ 1.90/day, the international poverty threshold. It puts the price of even the least expensive healthy diet at five times the price of filling stomachs with starch only. Nutrient-rich dairy, fruits, vegetables and protein-rich foods (plant and animal-sourced) are the most expensive food groups globally.

The latest estimates are that a staggering 3 billion people or more cannot afford a healthy diet. In sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia, this is the case for 57 percent of the population - though no region, including North America and Europe, is spared. Partly

as a result, the race to end malnutrition appears compromised. According to the report, in 2019, between a quarter and a third of children under five (191 million) were stunted or wasted - too short or too thin. Another 38 million under-fives were overweight. Among adults, meanwhile, obesity has become a global pandemic in its own right.

A call to action

The report argues that once sustainability considerations are factored in, a global switch to healthy diets would help check the backslide into hunger while delivering enormous savings. It calculates that such a shift would allow the health costs associated with unhealthy diets, estimated to reach US\$ 1.3 trillion a year in 2030, to be almost entirely offset; while the diet-related social cost of greenhouse gas emissions, estimated at US\$ 1.7 trillion, could be cut by up to three-quarters.iv

The report urges a transformation of food systems to reduce the cost of nutritious foods and increase the affordability of healthy diets. While the specific solutions will differ from country to country, and even within them, the overall answers lie with interventions along the entire food supply chain, in the food environment, and in the political economy that shapes trade, public expenditure and investment policies. The study calls on governments to mainstream nutrition in their approaches to agriculture; work to cut cost-escalating factors in the production, storage, transport, distribution and marketing of food - including by reducing inefficiencies and food loss and waste; support local small-scale producers to grow and sell more nutritious foods, and secure their access to markets; prioritize children's nutrition as the category in greatest need; foster behaviour change through education and communication; and embed nutrition in national social protection systems and investment strategies.

The heads of the five UN agencies behind the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World declare their commitment to support this momentous shift, ensuring that it unfolds "in a sustainable way, for people and the planet."

Agencies

Modified risk tobacco product: Historic FDA decision and lessons for Africa

By Sebastien Satigui

FOLLOWING 43 months of evaluation, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on July 7 authorized the marketing of IQOS in the country, Philip Morris International's (PMI) electrically heated tobacco system, as a modified risk tobacco product (MRTP).

This decision by the US FDA marks the first time the agency has granted MRTP marketing orders for an electronic alternative to cigarettes. It found IQOS to be "appropriate to promote the public health and is expected to benefit the health of the popula-

tion as a whole."

While the FDA does not endorse IQOS, its decision followed a scientific review of more than one million pages of evidence submitted by PMI and took into account independent studies. The federal agency concluded that noncombustible tobacco products such as IQOS differ from cigarettes in reducing the body's exposure to harmful or potentially harmful chemicals.

This is consistent with earlier conclusions of regulatory and scientific bodies, including in the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands, which have found that the product emits lower levels of harmful tox-

cants than lit cigarettes.

The finding recognizes the harm-reduction effects of the "heat-not-burn" technology, which provides smokers with nicotine, while substantially reducing the risks associated with the combustion of conventional cigarettes.

Considering that cigarette smoking kills more than seven million people worldwide each year, the USDA decision opens a public health opportunity in the fight against the global tobacco epidemic. Encouraging the rapid shift from smoking cigarettes to alternatives such as IQOS - for adult smokers who have been unable or un-



IQOS, Philip Morris International's (PMI) electrically heated tobacco system.

willing to quit - could save many lives.

Cigarette smoking is rapidly growing in Africa and deaths are rising. While rates of smoking have decreased in wealthy countries, they have grown in poorer nations. In sub-Saharan Africa, cigarette consumption increased by over 50 percent between 1980 and 2016. Of deaths among African adults caused by second-hand smoke, over 60 percent are among women who live and work with smokers.

Six lessons can be learned from the decision by the USFDA and similar regulatory bodies in Europe.

1. A dogmatic approach to tobacco control, which condemns all tobacco products as equally injurious to public health, has little chance of reducing the harm of cigarettes in today's world;

2. Evidence-based regulation that recognizes new harm-reduction technologies could help shape effective public policies to curb the dangers of smoking;

3. The tobacco industry must move expeditiously towards ceasing to manufacture and to sell conventional cigarettes;

4. It should lower the cost of reduced risk products and make them available to adult smokers in Africa;

5. Countries should move to include harm reduction in their arsenal of tobacco-control measures and engage the tobacco industry to find the best ways to make the new products widely available to adult smokers unable or unwilling to

quit, possibly including raising taxes on conventional cigarettes, while significantly lowering them on reduced risk products;

6. Across Africa, where the median age is under 25, very strict measures must be put in place to protect under-age youth from gaining access to the new products, considering that they have been shown to be only better alternatives but are not risk free.

In an ideal world, humans would avoid all unnecessary substances that have negative effects on their health. Unfortunately, that is not the case and will likely never be. It will require courage and political will, but it is a public health imperative to adopt measures to reduce risks to the more than one billion smokers worldwide.

THE GUARDIAN SIMPLE WORD FIT // THE GUARDIAN CROSSWORD --00 107 00--

WORD-FIT

3 letters: EVE, ZEN, TUG,
4 letters: AFAR, MENU, MEAT,
5 letters: FRESH, STAGE, TUBER, ADOWA,
VOICE, BELOW, ELOPE
6 letters: FRANCE, ARDENT, ENDURE, RAYGUN
EATERY, ENAMEL,
7 letters: MEGABIT
8 letters: OSSIFIED
9 letters: RINGOUZEL, HONEY MOON

CROSSWORD

1 Tanzania's current President
2 a wild white or yellow flower, especially a daisy
3 burned materials to produce heat
4 make less powerful
5 lowest in rank
6 geogaw
7 the place where one lives
8 a mischievous child
9 Bamako is her Capital city
10 grumble
11 two sides of a leaf of a book
12 the time from noon to evening

SOLUTIONS

3 letters: EVE, ZEN, TUG
4 letters: AFAR, MENU, MEAT
5 letters: FRESH, STAGE, TUBER, ADOWA, VOICE, BELOW, ELOPE
6 letters: FRANCE, ARDENT, ENDURE, RAYGUN, EATERY, ENAMEL
7 letters: MEGABIT
8 letters: OSSIFIED
9 letters: RINGOUZEL, HONEY MOON

CLUES: Across

1 Tanzania's current President
2 a wild white or yellow flower, especially a daisy
3 burned materials to produce heat
4 make less powerful
5 lowest in rank
6 geogaw
7 the place where one lives
8 a mischievous child
9 Bamako is her Capital city
10 grumble
11 two sides of a leaf of a book
12 the time from noon to evening

CLUES: Down

1 a king or queen
2 a wild white or yellow flower, especially a daisy
3 burned materials to produce heat
4 make less powerful
5 lowest in rank
6 geogaw
7 the place where one lives
8 a mischievous child
9 Bamako is her Capital city
10 grumble
11 two sides of a leaf of a book
12 the time from noon to evening

PROGRESSIVE

TOSCI moving to build capacity for seed production

By Correspondent Valentine Oforo, Morogoro

THE Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute (TOSCI) has embarked on a strategy aimed at building capacity to ensure that the country produces its own hybrid seeds for improved agriculture production.

TOSCI Director General, Patrick Ngwediagi said the institute plans to mobilise more private investors to join hybrid seed production to curb massive importation as is the case currently. Ngwediagi said TOSCI also will encourage existing modern seed producers to increase production to meet growing local

demand for the commodity.

He said in Morogoro earlier this week that currently there are 586 plant varieties of at least 33 different crops registered by the institute. "To improve the situation, the institute is also working closely with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) which has a mandate on seed varieties development as well as other private breeders to register new seed varieties with TOSCI," he said.

The TOSCI chief further added that among the registered hybrid seeds include maize with 160 varieties, rice (20), wheat (25), sorghum (15), beans (30), cowpea (5), pigeon pea (6), sesame (4), sweet potato



Tanzania Official Seed Certification Institute director general Patrick Ngwediagi.

(15), cassava (15) and sunflower (7) varieties.

Others are vegetables (210), coffee (15), cashew nut (40), sugar cane (7), tea (7), and round potato 7 varieties. Ngwediagi expressed dissatisfaction that the country still relies heavily on seeds imports because of growing demand as farmers move to modernise productivity.

"In 2019, we imported 9,267 metric tons of maize seeds, 152 tons of sunflower, four tons of paddy rice, 970 tons of round potatoes and 482 tons of vegetables varieties," he revealed while observing that in recent years, the amount of locally produced seeds has been on the increase.

According to him, to speed up local hybrid seed production, TOSCI is also training stakeholders on quality and rapid seed production techniques to plug the deficit which is costing Treasury billions of shillings in hard currency.

Headquartered in Morogoro, the institute has received a boost with accreditation to International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Seed Certification Schemes which means that locally produced seeds which are certified by TOSCI can be exported globally.

TOSCI is responsible for field and seed inspection, sampling, seed testing, variety evaluation and verification through National Performance Trials (NPT). Tanzania is also a member of the International Union for Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), since 2015.

IMPRESSIVE

Record numbers visit 44th DITF, defying Covid-19 outbreak

By Francis Kajubi

DESPITE presence of the novel coronavirus in the country, the number of visitors to the 44th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair increased from 53,456 last year to 57,608, organizers have said.

Tanzania Trade Development Authority's Board Chairman, Dr Ng'wanza Soko said in Dar es Salaam on Monday evening during the closing ceremony that at the begin, there were doubts if it was possible to hold the trade fair.

"Due to the virus' threat, time for preparations was very limited but we managed to mobilize well all resources needed for the trade fair to be hosted," Dr Soko said adding that the number of foreign exhibitors, however was lower compared to last year.

He commended local fair goers for responding positively and attending the fair in such large numbers with no reported Covid-19 cases so far.

TanTrade's Head of Communications, Theresia Chilambo however failed to disclose how much was generated in entrance and parking fees plus exhibitors pavilions saying such details are with the Treasury.

Meanwhile, Business to Business (B2B) meetings between local producers of horticulture and foreign manu-

facturers held during the fair helped local farmers to secure foreign markets for their commodities.

Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Trade and Industry, Professor Rziki Shemdoe said during the closing ceremony that local spices and fruits secured deals to export to France and Netherlands starting December this year.

Prof Shemdoe said B2B meetings brought together 246 local businessmen to discuss market opportunities with food processors in France and Netherlands who agreed to buy 100 metric tons of cardamom, 20 tons of curry powder and 10 tons of avocado peas.

"B2B meetings held within the 12 days of the exhibitions through Zoom attracted new markets for our agricultural products. This is just the beginning, hopefully in next year's exhibitions, we will get more markets in European countries," he added.

With the theme 'Industrial economy for employment and sustainable business' the 44th DITF focused on stimulation of productivity in the agriculture sector. This year's fair attracted 2,880 exhibitors out of which 2,837 were local and 43 foreign coming mainly from Syria, Turkey, India, Egypt, Ghana and China.



Record numbers of Dar residents visited the 44th DITF defying the Covid-19 threat.

DEVELOPMENT

GSMA launches mobile money interoperability test platform

JOHANNESBURG

INTEROPERABILITY can help the mobile money industry shift to a higher gear, where customers can pay merchants and transfer money without having to consider which mobile money provider they are using.

More so, end-to-end interoperability may provide more people with access to financial services and enable new services to address the needs of the most under-served user groups. This is according to the GSM Association (GSMA), which underlines the role its Mobile Money Interoperability Test Platform (ITP) (launched in March 2020) plays in testing to help instil reliability and trust within financial services.

The organisation says to achieve scale, it is necessary to have a high degree of reliability between all systems involved in enabling those trans-

actions, leading eventually to consumer trust in the financial system. Especially amongst under-served groups, reliability and trust in the financial system are critical for success and adoption.

According to the GSMA, for over a decade, mobile money has been driving financial inclusion, opening access to digital transactions and giving people the tools to better manage their financial lives.

"Today, there are more than a billion registered mobile money accounts globally, spread across 290 mobile money deployments that are live in 95 countries.

In Africa over 50.7 million new registered mobile money accounts were opened in 2019-20 alone, taking the total number of registered accounts in the region to 481 million. The total transaction volume and value for mobile money accounts during this period was

24 billion and \$461 billion (up by 20% and 27%) respectively," the organisation stated.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has accelerated the need for mobile and digital technology on the African continent. This has created a platform for innovation. New companies are emerging with service offerings aligned to a new way of transacting, further unlocking employment opportunities but also highlighting a need for skills development as the world digitally transforms.

The GSMA's Director of Inclusive Fintech for Mobile Money, Bart-Jan Pors, said: "The platform empowers both Third-Party Service Providers and Digital Financial Service Providers to test their software implementation in an end-to-end ecosystem.

It solves complex testing scenarios through the simulation of the different ecosystem



GSMA's Director of Inclusive Fintech for Mobile Money, Bart-Jan Pors.

entities, the different APIs and different use cases."

The GSMA Inclusive Tech Lab is guided by a global Advisory Group which comprises GoPay, IDEMIA, KaiOS, MTN, Telenor, the University of Washington, VEON, Vodafone, and The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The role of this advisory group is to assess, prioritise and contribute towards potential project ideas that drive financial and digital inclusion for the under-served, including the openness and interoperability of payment systems, service accessibility for women and vulnerable user populations, digital identities for unregistered people.

Under their guidance, it was found that this rapid rise in the need for digitisation has been accompanied by an increasing emphasis on the need for mobile money accounts to be able to work together across different networks, also known as account-to-account interoperability.

"We are pleased to support the Interoperability Test Platform, as a shared industry resource to accelerate the design of digital payment systems that benefit the poor, including the 1.7 billion people, globally, who do not have access to formal financial services," said Kosta Peric, Deputy Director, Financial Services for the Poor, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

OPTIMISM

Zimbabwe gold mines lure offshore investor though economy is ruins

HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S biggest gold mines are being snapped up by Mauritius-based Sotic International as the price of bullion soars to the highest in more than eight years.

Landela Mining Ventures, which is controlled by Sotic, bought two of Zimbabwe's gold mines this year. The newcomer is targeting six more mines, including four idled state-owned operations, said Sotic chief executive officer David Brown. That expanding mining portfolio has strategic importance as gold is the biggest source of dollars in a nation facing foreign-currency shortages.

"Gold is a commodity with potential positive impacts," Brown said in a phone interview from Johannesburg. "We want to grow the resource base to provide upside for both company and country." Brown said Sotic is backed by Cayman Islands-registered Almas Global Opportunity Fund, but he declined to name other investors. Last year, Sotic acquired control of Bindura Nickel Corp, Zimbabwe biggest nickel operation.

Zimbabwe is struggling with food and fuel shortages, soaring inflation and an imploding currency. President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who came to power after his predecessor Robert Mugabe was removed by the military in November 2017, has failed to revive the economy and is increasingly reliant on security forces to quell mounting discontent.

Landela is ramping up output at Freda Rebecca, an operation formerly owned by Asa Resources, and last month concluded a deal to buy the mothballed Shamva gold mine from indebted Metallon Corp., once Zimbabwe's biggest gold miner. While the coronavirus pandemic delayed the acquisition of two more Metallon mines – Mazoe and Redwing – the transaction should be concluded shortly, according to Brown.

Landela is also favoured to buy four of state-owned Zimbabwe Mining Development Corp's gold mines, that were mothballed due to lack of capital, said Brown, a former CEO of Impala Platinum Holdings. "We want to become a significant player in the gold industry in Zimbabwe," said Brown, who is also chairman of a Russian investor-backed company developing one of Zimbabwe's biggest platinum mines. "We have significant amount of resources that are available to grow the asset base and become a significant producer. We want to become bigger."

SAVING

Corona travel ban costs civil servants Sh30bn in perks

NAIROBI

WORLD Bank report says Kenya will save up to Sh2.5 billion monthly from reduced local and foreign trips by employees of national government, counties and parastatals.

Civil servants are missing out on Sh2.5 billion in travel benefits and subsistence allowances monthly after restrictions imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus suspended meetings and out of town assignments.

The World Bank in its latest review of Kenya's expenditure says the country will save up to Sh30 billion in the year to June 2021 or Sh2.5 billion monthly from civil servants reduced local and foreign trips – which often involve lavish travel allowances.

The pause in meetings has denied employees of the national government, the county governments, and parastatals opportunities to boost their wages through perks such as mileage, sitting and subsistence allowances earned from local and foreign travels. The untaxed allowances have the effect of more than doubling an employee's pay, making the civil service the preferred employer for many Kenyans.

"With continued limitation of daily subsistence allowance (DSA) and travel-related costs, the government could save up to Sh30 billion in the second half of FY2019 and first half of FY2020 as a result of restrictions imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19 on domestic and foreign travel, training and workshops," said Felipe Jaramillo, the country director for Kenya, in the report.

The civil service looks set to save additional billions of shillings following the work-from-home directive given that hospitality and training cost taxpayers Sh15.1 billion in the year to last June or an average of Sh1.25 billion monthly.

Employers have pushed their staff to work from home in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has drastically changed the way business is conducted. Kenya suspended international passenger travel, closed schools and clubs, imposed a daily dusk-to-dawn curfew and banned public gatherings to curb the spread of the virus that has infected 10,294 people and killed 197 locally.

President Uhuru Kenyatta last Monday announced a phased reopening of the country from



World Bank's country director for Kenya, Felipe Jaramillo.

the Covid-19 lockdown, lifting restrictions on travel in and out of the Nairobi Metropolitan Area, Mombasa and Manderu and allowing air travel to resume.

But the Treasury says that restrictions on meetings, travel and trainings for civil servants will remain in the coming months, denying public servants fat perks. The World Bank reckons that public servants use the travel perks to enlarge their

salaries.

"While daily subsistence allowances (DSA) paid in connection with domestic and international travel fall under 'other goods and services' rather than the wage bill, DSA appears, at times and in part, to be used to supplement formal remuneration," Mr Jaramillo said.

The highest-ranking public servant is entitled to Sh22,000 for a day's stay in Naivasha, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nairobi, Kil-

ifi, Lamu and Kwale – explaining why these towns have become popular with government retreats. The lowest-cadre worker travelling to these towns is entitled to a Sh4,200 allowance per day.

Senior civil servants earn Sh18,000 per day for retreats held in Nyeri, Eldoret, Kericho, Kakamega, Kilifi, Embu, Nanyuki, Nakuru, Lodwar and Garissa. The lowest-ranking officials earn Sh3,500. The deal gets rosier for civil servants travelling abroad who receive an average of Sh50,000 per day in allowances.

The allowances structure shows that the payouts are higher for visits to the more frequented places like Arusha in neighbouring Tanzania and Addis, the African Union headquarters (ranging between Sh60,930 and Sh21,150), while rarely visited places like war-ravaged Afghanistan attract the lowest stipends of between Sh51,750 and Sh16,110 per day.

The Treasury singled out overseas trips – which often involve hefty travel allowances and huge entourage – and hospitality or entertainment spend by government departments – as examples of wasteful spending. Spending on foreign and local trips setback taxpayers Sh12.5

billion in the year to June 2019, up from Sh3 billion five years ago, reflecting a rise of 18.7 percent.

Central government hospitality spending has tripled from Sh3.9 billion in the year to June 2014 to Sh9.8 billion last year. Counties spend undisclosed billions on entertainment like to conferences and training. Parliament suspended all foreign travel effective March 13 and directed that all conferences, retreats and workshops be held within precincts of Parliament in Nairobi in the wake of the virus outbreak.

Committee meetings have also been curbed, save for those that touch on budget and health that a critical in allocating cash and shaping policy decisions in the fight against coronavirus. This has stopped the allowances gravy train given the perks have the effect of doubling the MPs basic salary, which stands at Sh580,000 monthly.

The total take-home for Kenyan MPs rose to Sh1.1 million per month when perks from mileage, sitting and responsibility allowances are factored in. Foreign and local trips cost taxpayers Sh33.4 billion in the year to June 2019, up from Sh20.3 billion five years ago.

COVID-19

Ramaphosa now imposes curfew, bans booze sales once again

PRETORIA

PRESIDENT Cyril Ramaphosa read the riot act to those violating rules aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus and announced new measures, including reintroducing a ban on alcohol sales, to enforce them as the disease nears a peak.

Many South Africans are failing to wear face masks in crowded spaces, attending large gatherings and having "drinking sprees," ignoring government regulations, Ramaphosa said on Sunday in a televised address.

"It is concerning that many are downplaying the seriousness of this virus," he said. "We are in the midst of a deadly pandemic and we must act accordingly. We must all be responsible. The truth is we are not helpless in the face of this storm." The blanket ban on alcohol sales is intended to reduce trauma cases and ease pressure on hospitals. He also reinstated a night-time curfew and said the wearing of face masks will be strictly enforced.

Coronavirus infections in South Africa have surged since lockdown restrictions were eased last month to allow millions of people to return to work, with 276 242 cases and 4 079 deaths confirmed by Sunday, a quarter of them in the past week. The government expects the disease to peak by the end of September and intensive-care units in all nine provinces to run out of beds.

Hospitals in some provinces hardest hit by the pandemic are already under tremendous pressure, and it is estimated that the country faces a shortage of more than 12 000 health-care personnel, Ramaphosa said.

South Africa's first coronavirus case was reported on 5 March and the country went into lockdown 22 days later, with only essential services allowed to keep operating. While the rules were eased on 1 May to allow some industries to reopen, people were ordered to remain home at night.

The curfew was abolished on 1 June and sales of alcohol for home consumption were allowed to resume four days a week. The easing, which also saw millions more people return to work, coincided with a surge in alcohol-related

INVESTMENT

LSF partners TADB to build the capacity of cotton coops

By Guardian Reporter

COTTON farmers through their cooperative societies will receive capacity building from a partnership formed by Legal Services Facility and Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank.

The LSF and TADB initiative also targets to train agriculture marketing and cooperative societies (AMCOS). The training comes after a recent survey in the Lake Zone found that management of six cooperative societies were facing serious management challenges.

"Due to that fact, LSF and TADB decided to come together to train them on those areas in order to build their capacity to generate profits for the benefit of member farmers," said TADB's Managing Director, Japhet Justine.

Justin named the six cooperatives which will benefit from the initiative as Nyanza, Kaku, Manawa, Kacu and Mbogwe. "Most of those cooperative societies have been managed poorly such that they cannot get loans from

financial institutions to expand their business. Our concentration will be on good governance, financial management, human resource management and rules and regulations which govern cooperative societies in the country," he added.

The TADB chief further added that as the cotton season approaches, the training will start immediately so that farmers can benefit from their crop this year. "We believe that after training them, they will be able to manage their activities professionally and make profits," Justin added.

LSF's Education Manager, Bryson Munuo said building capacity of various associations for them to operate independently and profitably, is one of the fund's duties. Munuo stated that over 200 institutions are being supported by LSF to build their capacity in the country currently.

"That's the reason that pushed us to work with TADB to train cotton farmers' cooperative societies and AMCOS



TADB managing director Japhet Justine.

to help change the way that they operate by cultivating a culture of good governance and financial management," he added.

He said such capacity building projects will also provide an opportunity

to attract big private investment in the agriculture sector which is one of the main economic backbones of the country. "Immediately after the training, we will start another program for the farmers to get to know their rights and

benefits which they are entitled to get from the cooperatives," he hinted. The LSF and TADB partnership will benefit an estimated over 152,000 smallholder farmers through 679 cooperatives and AMCOS in the Lake Zone.

RESTRICTION

Egyptian authorities crack down on Cairo kite flying and trade

CAIRO

EGYPTIAN authorities say they are cracking down on kite flyers, makers and sellers in Cairo for safety and security reasons. Security officials did not detail how many people had died while flying kites, which has grown hugely in popularity since the coronavirus outbreak, but said children were among them.

The crackdown in Cairo was launched at the weekend. Police detained 16 people who had 70 kites in their possession, the officials said. Born out of boredom during months of social isolation, the pastime has taken Cairo by storm, with thousands of the colorful kites crowding the city's evening skies every day. Kite flying is not new to Cairo but never in living memory have there been so many above the city, home to more than 20 million people.

The hobby has widely spread, with kites been flown from densely populated neighbourhoods, Nile bridges, highways, busy streets and the rooftops of apartment high rises. It is the latest pastime among Cairo's working and middle classes, surpassing fishing in the Nile or raising and breeding pigeons on rooftops.

It has drawn youths and men from all ages and backgrounds, and outlived the coronavirus lockdown that was almost completely lifted in June 27. A politician



A boy flies a kite on a bridge over Nile River in Cairo on June 30, 2020.

has called for a ban on kites because they could pose a security risk if fitted with tiny cameras to spy on sensitive installa-

tions. He said as many as 18 children had fallen to their deaths from rooftops while fly-

ing kites but the claim was not confirmed by the police. Kite flying has become so popular in the coastal city of Alexandria

that the local governor banned them altogether last week for safety reasons. Offenders are fined up to 1,000 pounds.

GROWTH

Google to invest \$10bn in India to accelerate digital economy

NEW YORK

GOOGLE will invest \$10 billion in India to help the South Asian country accelerate the development of its digital economy, the company's chief executive Sundar Pichai said on Monday.

The Google for India Digitisation Fund will see the Alphabet-owned company invest the sum over the next five to seven years. "This is a reflection of our confidence in the future of India and its digital economy," Mr Pichai said. "Today, people in India no longer have to wait for technology ... a whole new generation of technologies are happening in India first."

The California-based company said the investment will be made through a mix of equity investments and partnerships, as well as operational, infrastructure and ecosystem upgrades. It will focus on four areas crucial to India's digitisation journey.

These include enabling affordable access and information for every Indian in their own local language, building new products and services relevant to local needs, empowering businesses and leveraging technology and artificial intelligence in areas for social good such as health, education and agriculture. Mr Pichai, who was born and educated in India, said there is a huge scope for digital growth in India, which is home to more than 1.3 billion population.

"Just four years ago, only one-third of all small businesses had an online presence ... today, 26 million SMBs are now discoverable on Search and Maps, driving connections with more than 150 million users every month."

LOCKDOWN

Coffee drinking to fall for first time in nine years as people work from home

LONDON

IN a work-from-home world, hitting the local cafe for a daily caffeine fix has become a ritual of the now-forgotten past. And no matter how much kitchen brewing consumers take up, that just can't seem to make up for the demand blow.

Global coffee consumption is set to fall this year for the first time since 2011, the US Department of Agriculture predicts. That's even with a huge surge in bean buying at the grocery store amid pantry loading. Shutdowns for cafes and restaurants - which typically account for about 25 per cent of demand - were overwhelming, and it could be a while before things pick up again.

The disappearance of cafe culture is happening in every major region. Researcher Marex Spectron estimates globally more than

95 per cent of the out-of-home market was closed at some point during the pandemic. It's the latest cruel twist of the coronavirus, which has ripped so much away from people that not even the simple pleasure of lingering over a latte is safe.

For Notes, a coffee-shop chain in London, restrictions are easing in the city, but most of its 10 cafes that cater to office workers remain closed. "It will be a slow and staggered comeback for us as a lot of the offices in London are not coming back on until after summer, and some may even open only next year," said co-founder Robert Robinson.

Consumers have shown they're hesitant to dine out in droves again as economies reopen. Coffee shops, which often depend on morning commuters and afternoon breakers, have been especially hard hit. Dunkin' Brands

Group has lost much of its break-fast crowd during the coronavirus pandemic, while Starbucks is retooling its model, rolling out a "pickup" store format that doesn't have any of the tables and chairs that traditionally made its cafes a popular hang-out spot. "If you feel like having a cappuccino, ordering it online doesn't really work as coffee is all about the social aspect," said Mr Robinson.

A hobbled recovery for coffee demand could be devastating for the roughly 125 million globally that depend on the crop for their livelihood. Growers were already struggling through financial crisis after years of bumper harvests sparked a prolonged bear market. Citigroup predicts that futures for arabica beans could drop roughly 10 per cent in the second half of the year to about 90 US cents per pound (40.8 cents per kilogram), hovering near break-even costs.



A customer wearing a face mask takes out a drink from a Starbucks coffee shop in Seattle.

Meanwhile the International Coffee Organisation has warned of the dangers of child labour in producing regions as poverty increases for farmers.

Brazil's Suplicy Cafes Especiais, one of the country's largest cafe chains, was forced to postpone payments to farmers for cargoes

that had already been delivered. Meanwhile, orders for new supplies will resume only gradually, chief executive Felipe Braga said in a telephone interview.

Suplicy operates 25 stores, the vast majority of which have been closed by Covid-19 restrictions since mid-March. A hand-

ful reopened recently amid easing lockdown restrictions, but then they were shuttered once again because not enough customers were coming in.

"Some of our franchising partners already warned us that they will close" permanently, Mr Braga said. Still, some shop operators are taking steps to change their business model, which could help spark some rebound.

Max Crowley's two Bandid coffee shops in New York's Midtown and Chelsea neighbourhoods remain "on pause", hobbled by the closure of local offices. Meanwhile, he's just opened up a new Hampton's location in the town of Southampton, an enclave where many New York City

dweller fled to at the peak of the pandemic and where well-to-do residents spend summers.

"Manhattan traffic is still very light. The Hamptons is very busy. It makes sense for us. It's where many of our customers go," Mr Crowley said. There's also some optimism the worst is over. In Asia, the fastest-growing market for coffee, consumption at restaurants and cafes is expected to recover in the second half of the year as many countries emerge from lockdowns, according to Tan Heng Hong, APAC food and drink analyst at market research company Mintel. And the USDA also predicts a rebound in global demand next year.

RECOVERY



A worker guides the loading of a shipping container at a container port in Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong Province.

Beijing reports unexpected rise in June exports as economies around the world reopen

BEIJING

CHINA'S exports unexpectedly rose in June as overseas economies reopened after lockdowns, while imports grew for the first time this year, reinforcing views the recovery from the pandemic is gaining traction in the world's second-largest economy.

Exports in June edged up 0.5 per cent from a year earlier, customs data showed on Tuesday, beating analysts' expectations for a 1.5 per cent drop and compared with 3.3 per cent decline in May. Imports also rose 2.7 per cent, confounding market expectations for a 10 per cent drop. They had fallen 16.7 per cent the previous month.

"The reopening of major western economies and elevated overseas demand for PPEs [personal protective equipment] and masks supported Chinese exports in June," said Boyang Xue, a China analyst at Ducker Frontier. "In addition, production disruptions in China's trade competitors also helped to shift some orders to Chinese exporters."

China's economy is gradually emerging from a sharp 6.8 per cent contraction in the first quarter, but the recovery remains fragile as global demand falters from social curbs and still rising coronavirus cases. Chinese consumption is also subdued amid job losses and concerns about a resurgence in infections.

The country's export performance, however, has not been as severely affected by the global slowdown as some analysts had feared, though weak overseas or-

ders may weigh on its manufacturers in the coming quarters.

External risks such as worsening US-China relations, shrinking global demand and disruptions in supply chains are likely to pressure China's trade outlook in the long term, Institute of Advanced Research at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics said in a report on Saturday.

"In the second half, export and import growth are highly likely to extend declines seen in the first half." But Mr Xue looked to positives in Tuesday's trade figures as a sign the economy had turned a corner.

"The significant improvement in China's imports is an indication of the country's accelerating economic recovery, which has been mainly driven by substantial increases in investments in sectors such as real estate and infrastructure." Iron ore imports jumped in June, the trade data showed, fuelled by rising shipments from miners and robust demand in China. Crude oil imports also hit a record.

US President Donald Trump said on Friday he was not thinking about negotiating a "Phase 2" trade deal with China as relations between Washington and Beijing have been "severely damaged" due to the coronavirus pandemic and other issues.

China's trade surplus with the US widened to \$29.41 billion in June from \$27.89bn in May. The country's trade surplus for June stood at \$46.42bn, compared with an expected \$58.6bn surplus forecast in the poll and a surplus of \$62.93bn in May.



ISIDINGO MONDAY - FRIDAY STARTING 7:30 PM

ITV PGM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 11 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
- 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang
- 19:00 Jungu Kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Art and lifestyle
- 21:30 ITV TOP 10
- 22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:45 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 12 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Love & power
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 ITV Top 10
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:20 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:05 Bongo Movie: Wrong hope
- 00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

MONDAY 13 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 ITV Top 10 rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera News
- 12:30 Mtego rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Mjue Zaidi
- 13:45 Art and Lifestyle rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:10 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Albu yako rpt
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:45 Kesho leo
- 19:00 Afya ya Jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Dakika 45

TUESDAY 14 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Jungu Kuu rpt
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 The Base rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Afya ya jamii rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Kipindi maalum: TMDA na Jamii
- 13:30 Shika Bamba rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:10 Yu wapi
- 18:15 Mapishi rpt
- 18:30 Uchumi na biashara
- 19:00 Jarida la wanawake
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Tanzania yetu
- 21:30 Chetu ni chetu
- 22:15 Telenovela: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

WEDNESDAY 15 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habari za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 09:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:55 Uchumi na biashara
- 11:00 The Base rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Jarida la wanawake rpt
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Dakika 45
- 13:45 Kipindi Maalum rpt:
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 14:55 Habari za saa
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama rpt: The great queen Seonduk
- 19:00 Ijue Sheria
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Kipindi Maalum: Tanesco
- 21:30 Kipindi Maalum: Watumishi housing
- 21:45 Kipindi Maalum: Ripoti Maalum
- 22:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 Al Jazeera
- 2:00 DWTW

THURSDAY 16 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habariz za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto
- 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 The Base rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Tanzania yetu
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Watumishi housing rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

FRIDAY 17 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:30 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:00 The Base
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima Joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

SATURDAY 18 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
- 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang

THURSDAY 16 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:55 Habariz za saa
- 9:00 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 9:55 Habari za saa
- 10:00 Watoto
- 10:30 Shamba lulu rpt
- 10:55 Habari za saa
- 11:00 The Base rpt
- 11:55 Habari za saa
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Ijue Sheria
- 12:55 Habari za saa
- 13:00 Tanzania yetu
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 13:55 Habari za saa
- 14:00 Watumishi housing rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Jagina
- 19:00 Usafiri wako
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Malumbano ya hoja
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

FRIDAY 17 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:30 HABARI
- 8:00 Kumekucha Michezo
- 8:30 Kumekucha Kishindo
- 9:30 Isidingo
- 10:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:30 Usafiri wako rpt
- 11:00 The Base
- 12:00 Al Jazeera
- 12:30 Kipindi Maalum rpt: Tanesco
- 13:00 Jagina rpt
- 13:30 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 14:15 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 15:00 Meza huru
- 16:30 Watoto Wetu
- 17:00 The Base
- 17:30 Ibada ya kiislamu
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mizengwe rpt
- 18:30 Shamba lulu
- 19:00 Kipindi Maalum: TMDA na jamii
- 19:30 Isidingo
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Kipima Joto
- 23:00 Habari
- 23:30 The Base
- 00:30 DWTW

SATURDAY 18 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 9:00 Watoto wetu
- 10:00 Shika Bamba 5
- 10:30 Mjue Zaidi rpt
- 11:15 Chetu ni chetu rpt
- 12:15 The Great Queen Seonduk
- 13:00 Korean drama rpt: Hwarang
- 13:45 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost
- 16:00 Igizo rpt: Mizengwe
- 16:20 Igizo: Mtego
- 17:00 Shamsam za Pwani
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Korean drama: Hwarang

THURSDAY 16 July

- 19:00 Jungu Kuu
- 19:30 Shika Bamba
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:00 Art and lifestyle
- 21:30 ITV TOP 10
- 22:10 Hawavumi lakini wamo
- 22:45 Isidingo rpt
- 01:30 DWTW

SUNDAY 19 July

- 5:30 Uwanja wa Mazoezi
- 6:00 HABARI
- 6:40 Kumekucha
- 7:00 Habari
- 8:00 Al Jazeera
- 09:00 Watoto Wetu
- 10:00 Isidingo
- 11:40 Igizo: Mizengwe rpt
- 12:00 Bongo Movie rpt: Wrong hope
- 14:00 Tamasha la Michezo
- 15:00 Mwangaza
- 16:00 The Great queen Seonduk
- 16:45 ITV Top 10
- 17:30 Kipindi cha kikristo
- 18:00 Jiji Letu
- 18:15 Mapishi
- 18:30 Matukio ya wiki
- 19:30 Igizo: Mtego
- 20:00 Habari
- 21:05 Mizengwe
- 21:20 Mjue Zaidi
- 22:05 Bongo Movie: Sijapotea
- 00:05 Telenovela rpt: Elena's Ghost

CAPITAL

Sat 27 June

- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 Drive It rpt
- 09:30 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 10:00 Culinary delight rpt
- 10:30 Innovation rpt
- 11:00 Out n' about rpt
- 11:30 Sports Gazette rpt
- 12:00 Usafiri wako rpt
- 12:30 Eco@Africa rpt
- 13:00 Business edition rpt
- 13:30 Korean Drama rpt: Kimchi Family
- 14:30 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 17:15 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:45 Bundesliga kick off
- 18:15 Capchat rpt
- 19:15 Mizengwe
- 19:30 The Decor
- 20:00 Korean Drama: Beating Again
- 21:00 Out n' About
- 21:30 Movie: Hammerlock
- 23:00 Series rpt: No regrets
- 01:00 Al Jazeera

Sun 28 June

- 08:00 CNN International
- 09:00 In good shape
- 10:00 Capchat rpt
- 11:00 Sports Gazette rpt
- 11:30 Korean Drama rpt: Beating again
- 12:00 Jagina rpt
- 12:30 Bundesliga Kick Off rpt
- 13:00 In good shape rpt
- 13:30 Series rpt: Ithohan
- 15:15 Albu yako
- 15:30 Drive it rpt
- 16:00 Dakika 45 rpt
- 16:45 Mizengwe rpt
- 17:00 The Decor
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Turning the Spotlight rpt
- 19:30 Cookery pgm: Culinary Delights
- 20:00 Korean Drama: Beating again
- 21:00 Shift
- 21:15 Capchat live
- 22:15 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Mon 29 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
- 16:30 The Monday Agenda rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Drive it
- 19:30 Eco@Africa
- 20:00 Albu Yako
- 20:15 Local Pgm: Business Edition
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny

THURSDAY 16 July

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
- 16:30 Tanzania Yetu rpt
- 17:00 Eco@Africa rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 The Décor rpt
- 19:30 Shamba lulu
- 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
- 20:45 The Monday Agenda
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Kipima Joto
- 00:00 Al Jazeera

Tues 30 June

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
- 16:30 Capchat rpt
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Innovation
- 19:30 Jagina rpt
- 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime
- 22:00 Turning the spotlight rpt
- 22:30 Eco@Africa
- 23:00 Al Jazeera

Wed 01 July

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
- 16:30 Culinary delight rpt
- 17:00 Innovation rpt
- 17:30 Meza Huru
- 19:00 Sports Gazette
- 19:30 Chetu ni chetu
- 19:30 Jagina rpt
- 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Dakika 45:
- 22:45 The Décor
- 23:15 Al Jazeera

Thurs 02 July

- 06:00 Al Jazeera
- 07:00 Morning Jam (Via Capital Radio)
- 09:00 Lete Raha (Via Capital Radio)
- 13:00 Telenovela rpt: (Destino) Destiny
- 14:00 Club 101 (via Capital Radio)
- 16:00 Series rpt: Grapes of vine
- 16:30 Business edition rpt
- 17:00 In good shape
- 17:30 Meza huru
- 19:00 Turning the spotlight
- 19:30 Tanzania yetu
- 20:00 Series: Grapes of vine
- 20:45 Telenovela: (Destino) Destiny
- 21:30 Capital Prime News
- 22:00 Capchat rpt
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WORLD

Beijing tames new infections of COVID-19 in less than one month

BEIJING

BEIJING has effectively controlled its recent outbreak of COVID-19 infections related to a major wholesale market as the city reported no new confirmed cases for the eighth consecutive day on Monday.

From June 11 to Monday, the Chinese capital city reported 335 confirmed domestically transmitted cases, of whom 205 remain hospitalized and 130 were discharged from Beijing Ditan Hospital after recovery.

After the city saw a resurgence in locally transmitted COVID-19 cases, mostly related to the large Xinfadi farm produce market in Fengtai District, the municipal government adopted swift and targeted measures to curb the spread of the virus. Here is a look at how Beijing has brought the new infections under control in less than one month.

TIMELY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Beijing reported a new confirmed locally transmitted COVID-19 case on June 11 after the city had seen 57 days with no such cases.

An epidemiological investigation was carried out immediately, which

traced 38 close contacts. All places that the patient had visited and may have been potentially exposed to the virus, including Xinfadi, were identified.

On June 12, environmental samples tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Xinfadi.

At the same time, more epidemiological investigations were carried out as several new confirmed cases were reported.

To control the new infections, the disease control and prevention centers at the city and district levels organized more than 500 epidemiological investigators, who can be immediately dispatched to conduct investigations if any new cases are reported.

"We usually have three people in a group, two go into the quarantine area, and the third is responsible for support and disinfection," 33-year-old epidemiological investigator Li Ruoxi said.

He explained they communicated with the patient and his or her family about the patient's recent activities and contact history over the 14 days before hospitalization.

Thanks to timely and effective epidemiological investigations, Xinfadi was targeted as a high-risk location within 22 hours of the new outbreak. Beijing immediately suspended the market,

closed down nearby residential communities and conducted concentrated medical observation of traders from Xinfadi.

TARGETED LOCKDOWNS

To cope with the rebound in locally transmitted COVID-19 cases, Beijing deployed targeted lockdowns instead of confining everyone to their homes that risked reversing the gains made after the resumption of work.

Precise control measures have been taken by designating subdistricts and townships as low-, medium- or high-risk areas according to their epidemic situation. In this way, the lives of people in low-risk areas would be minimally affected.

With health QR codes showing their digital travel records, deliverymen and other service providers are allowed to enter residential communities, and residents can access certain public venues and travel in the city freely. Conversely, some key areas, apartment blocks and housing compounds in medium- and high-risk areas were put under closed-off management.

To prevent the spread of the virus, the city tightened the control of the flow of personnel to other places. For example, those from medium- and high-risk areas and relevant people from the Xinfadi market were not allowed to leave Beijing.

Previously, a negative nucleic acid test certificate issued within the past seven days was also a must for those who intended to leave the city.

The certificates were no longer required for people from Beijing's low-risk areas starting from July 4 as the epidemic situation improved.

Huaxiang Township in Fengtai District, the only remain-

ing high-risk area in the city, has been downgraded to a medium-risk area after fewer than 10 local confirmed cases had been reported for 14 consecutive days, said Liu Xiaofeng, deputy director of the Beijing Center for Disease Control and Prevention, at a press conference on Monday.

After the adjustment, Beijing was cleared of high-risk areas for the disease, and it now has a total of seven medium-risk areas, according to Liu.

MASS TESTING

To contain the spread of the disease, Beijing launched a citywide campaign to trace people who had visited the Xinfadi market since May 30 via door-to-door inquiries, calls, social media platforms and other methods.

People working in the related farm produce markets, residents of nearby communities and people who visited the facilities have been identified to undergo nucleic acid tests.

The city has also prioritized testing for people living in medium- and high-risk areas, medical staff and frontline personnel, and employees of banks, grocery stores, restaurants, courier enterprises, food delivery platforms and hair and beauty salons. More than 11 million people in Beijing, about half of the capital's



Medical personnel show a thumbs up gesture at a lab of China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Beijing, capital of China, July 3, 2020. (Xinhua)

Lavrov, Pompeo discuss Afghanistan

WASHINGTON / MOSCOW

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo discussed the situation in Afghanistan with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday, the US State Department said, following media reports Russia offered money to militants to kill Americans in Afghanistan.

The Trump administration has downplayed the reports, saying US agencies have not corroborated intelligence that Russia may have paid the Taliban to kill US troops. Russia has denied the allegations.

After being briefed by US intelligence officials earlier this month, House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Washington should impose sanctions on Russia's intelligence and defense sectors.

In his phone conversation with Lavrov, Pompeo also raised the issue of election security, the department said in a statement, as the United States readies for nationwide voting on Nov 3.

US officials have raised concerns that Russia could interfere in this year's election after an investigation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller disclosed a campaign of hacking and propaganda by Russia during the 2016 US presidential race.

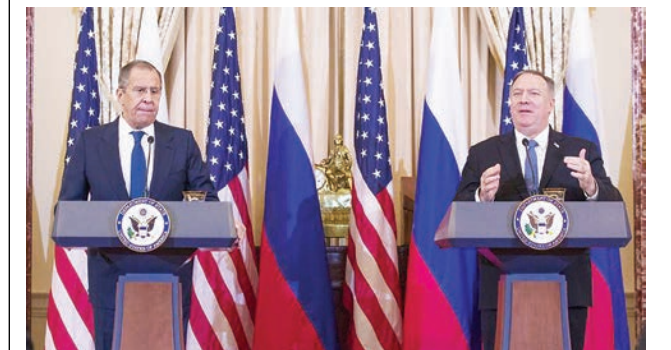
According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, Lavrov and Pompeo also discussed the preparations for a summit among the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

"The two top diplomats discussed in detail preparations for a Russia-initiated meeting of the leaders of the UNSC permanent member countries. The sides exchanged views on maintaining strategic stability in the context of the upcoming meetings of Russian-U.S. working groups on military-political issues," the ministry said in a statement.

In addition, Lavrov and Pompeo discussed issues of the settlement of conflicts in certain regions of the world, including Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria, it said.

Some other pressing issues of the international agenda and problems of bilateral relations were also touched upon, it added.

Agencies



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, listens as Secretary of State Mike Pompeo speaks during a media availability, after their meeting at the State Department, Dec 10, 2019, in Washington. (File photo)

No return to 'old normal' for foreseeable future - WHO chief

GENEVA

THERE will be no return to the "old normal" for the foreseeable future as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and too many countries are still headed in the wrong direction, the chief of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on Monday.

"The virus remains public enemy number one, but the actions of many governments and people do not reflect this," said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a regular briefing on Monday.

He noted that mixed messages from leaders are undermining trust, which is the most critical ingredient of any response, while the only aim of the virus is to find people to infect.

Things are going to "get worse and worse and worse," he warned, unless governments communicate clearly with their citizens and roll out a comprehensive strategy focused on suppressing transmission and saving lives, while populations follow the basic public health principles of physical distancing, hand washing, wearing masks, coughing etiquette and staying home when sick.

COVID-19 has been gaining its momentum lately. According to the WHO chief, Sunday saw a record of 230,000 cases reported to WHO, of which almost 80 percent were from just 10 countries and about half from just two countries.

"But it does not have to be this way," Dr. Tedros implored, asking every single leader, government and individual "to do their bit to break the chains of COVID-19 transmission and end the collective suffering."

To control the disease and get on with people's lives, Dr. Tedros said, three things are required. The first is to focus on reducing mortality and suppressing transmission; the second is to focus on an empowered, engaged community that takes individual behavior measures in the interest of each other.

Xinhua



US accusation on South China Sea issue 'completely unjustified' - Chinese embassy

WASHINGTON

THE U.S. accusation against China on the South China Sea issue is "completely unjustified," and the Chinese side is "firmly opposed to it," a spokesperson of the Chinese embassy in the United States said on Monday.

The statement that the U.S. Department of State issued earlier in the day disregards the efforts of China and ASEAN countries for peace and stability in the South China Sea, deliberately distorts the

facts and international law including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), exaggerates the situation in the region and attempts to sow discord between China and other littoral countries, the spokesperson said. "China's position on the South China Sea issue has been consistent and clear-cut.

While firmly safeguarding its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, China has been committed to resolving disputes through negotiation and

consultation with countries directly involved, managing differences through rules and mechanisms, and achieving win-win results through mutually beneficial cooperation," said the spokesperson.

The spokesperson noted that the situation of the South China Sea has remained peaceful and stable and is still improving. China and other littoral countries have maintained dialogue and communication through consultation mechanisms on maritime affairs, and worked to promote cooperation over the South China Sea.

Within the framework of fully and effectively implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, China and ASEAN countries are advancing the consultation on a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea and are making visible progress, the spokesperson said.

"The United States is not a country directly involved in the disputes. However, it has kept interfering in the issue," the spokesperson said, adding that under the

pretext of preserving stability, it is flexing muscles, stirring up tension and inciting confrontation in the region.

"Under the pretext of endorsing rules, it is using UNCLOS to attack China while refusing to ratify the Convention itself. Under the pretext of upholding freedom of navigation and overflight, it is recklessly infringing on other countries' territorial sea and airspace and throwing its weight around in every sea of the world," the spokesperson added.

Xinhua

EU freedom of movement ends under new UK immigration rules

LONDON

THE biggest change for a generation in Britain's immigration system will see the end of freedom of movement for millions of European Union nationals, British Home Secretary Priti Patel announced on Monday.

From Jan 1, 2021, when the new rules come into effect, residents of the EU's 27 member states will be treated equally like other arrivals from the rest of the world.

But EU citizens who started living in Britain by Dec 31, 2020 will still be able to apply to settle in Britain under the EU settlement scheme until 30 June 2021. More than 3.7 million EU citizens have so far made applications to settle in Britain.

Patel (pictured) unveiled a 130-

page document outlining new immigration rules following the country's departure from the EU after almost 50 years of membership. It will be centered around a points system to determine who will be allowed into Britain, and who will be refused access.

A "NEW FAIRER" SYSTEM

In its immigration document, the Home Office said the new points-based system will be a fair system, treating people from every part of the world equally.

"The British people voted to take back control of our borders and introduce a new points-based immigration system. Now we have left the EU, we are free to unleash this country's full potential and implement the changes we need to restore trust in the immigration



system and deliver a new fairer, firmer, skills-led system from 1 January 2021," Patel said.

People applying to work in Britain will also need a level of English language to support integration, ensuring migrants can live and be part of the wider community in Britain.

In a written statement to the

House of Commons, Patel said: "At a time where an increased number of people across the UK are looking for work, the new points-based system will encourage employers to invest in the domestic UK workforce, rather than simply relying on labor from abroad."

"We are also making necessary changes, so it is simpler for employers to attract the best and brightest from around the world to come to the UK to complement the skills we already have."

A new graduate route will allow international students to stay in Britain once they have completed their studies for two years for students gaining a masters' degree, and three years for students who have completed a PhD degree.

A global talent scheme will also allow scientists and researchers to

head to Britain without a job offer.

CARE WORKERS EXCLUDED

Controversially, the new rules will exclude thousands of low-pay care workers who traditionally head to Britain to form the backbone of staff looking after the elderly and disabled. Instead the government wants care staff to be recruited from among the British population.

Under the new system Britain's frontiers will be closed to non-skilled workers, posing fears that Britain's care system could find it hard to recruit staff.

Currently thousands of low-paid care workers from around the world are employed in homes caring for disabled and elderly people.

Agencies

China's continued economic recovery injects confidence into world

WHILE interpreting the latest World Economic Outlook update of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), international media generally delivered an encouraging message that China is the only major economy expected to achieve positive growth in 2020.

Against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the severe recession of the world economy, China's continued economic recovery has injected strong confidence into the global economic recovery.

China has withstood the "stress test" of the pandemic and set an example

for other countries to coordinate pandemic prevention and control and economic and social development.

The economic data recently released by China also confirmed the IMF's optimistic forecast. The added value of enterprises above designated size has risen for two consecutive months, and the total profits made by industrial enterprises and the index of services production began to increase. Besides, the growth of industrial electricity consumption accelerated, and power consumption of the service sector and rail-cargo volume

was also on a rise.

Data also showed the preliminary results achieved from China's work and production resumption and the recovery of the Chinese economy. The country's manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index for June stood at 50.9 percent, keeping above the 50-point mark, which indicates economic expansion for four consecutive months. It indicated that China's economic recovery continued to gain momentum with constantly enhanced stability of industrial chains, laying the foundation for a stable start in the second

half of the year.

The growth of China's postal and express delivery against headwinds is also a vivid testimony to the recovery of the Chinese market. According to statistics from the State Post Bureau, China's express delivery volume achieved positive growth in February from a low level in January and surged over 40 percent year-on-year in May, the highest since February 2018.

As facts have indicated, China has withstood the test of the pandemic and taken targeted measures to promote a steady and stable economic

recovery in coordinating pandemic prevention and control and economic and social development.

By orderly facilitating resumption of work and production, China has generated a strong impetus for the recovery of the global industrial and supply chains.

In contrast, the pandemic continues to bring shocks to the global economy. The World Bank predicted that the global economy would shrink 5.2 percent this year, the worst recession since World War II.

The Organization for Economic

Cooperation and Development said COVID-19 has triggered the most severe recession in nearly a century. Although countries are gradually relaxing pandemic prevention and control measures, the global recovery still faces uncertainties.

Against this backdrop, China has always attempted to stabilize the overall performance of foreign trade, maintain the stability of the global industrial and supply chains and foster new growth drivers in developing new models of trade.

People's Daily

The
Guardian

SPORT



Pop Smoke

4 charged in Los Angeles death of rising rapper Pop Smoke

LOS ANGELES

TWO men and two teens have been charged in the death of rising rapper Pop Smoke, who was killed during a Los Angeles home-invasion robbery in February, the district attorney's office said Monday.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey said in a statement that Corey Walker and Keandre Rodgers were charged with murder that occurred during the commission of a robbery and burglary. The two boys, 15 and 17 years old, were also charged with murder and robbery while in juvenile court. Their names were not released due to their age.

The 20-year-old New York rapper, whose legal name is Bashar Barakah Jackson, was killed Feb. 19 at a home in the Hollywood Hills. A 911 call from a friend of someone in the house reported armed intruders inside the home, police previously said.

Walker, 19, and Rodgers, 18, could face the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole if convicted. The arraignment for both men has been postponed until Tuesday.

Jaquan Murphy, 21, was also arrested in connection with the incident last week. The complaint includes gang and gun allegations.

Capt. Jonathan Tippet, who oversees the Los Angeles Police Department's elite Robbery-Homicide Division, said three men and two teenage boys likely went to the home because they knew Pop Smoke was there from social media posts. They stole items from the home, though Tippet said he could not divulge what was taken.

All five are believed to be members of a South Los Angeles gang, which Tippet would not name, and at least some of them are

believed to be linked to a 2019 homicide when a fight escalated into a shooting outside the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

Authorities did not initially believe the rapper's death was related to a robbery. The home where the shooting occurred is owned by Edwin Arroyave and his wife Teddi Mellencamp, a star of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" and the daughter of Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famer John Mellencamp.

Teddi Mellencamp previously said on Instagram that the couple had been notified of the shooting at their rental property but knew no more than what they had seen in media reports.

Pop Smoke arrived on the rap scene in 2018 and broke out with "Welcome to the Party" a gangsta anthem with boasts about shootings, killings and drugs that became a huge sensation, and prompted Nicki Minaj to drop a verse on a remix.

Earlier this year, Pop Smoke released the mixtape "Meet the Woo 2," which debuted at No. 7 on the Billboard Top 200 albums chart. It was the follow up to his first official release, "Meet the Woo." The rapper also had the popular hit "Gatti" with Travis Scott and Jackboys and "Dior."

His major label debut album, "Shoot for the Stars Aim for the Moon," which was executive produced by 50 Cent, recently topped the Billboard Top 200 albums charts. It was released posthumously July 3 to mostly positive reviews and features appearances from popular artists including Future, DaBaby and Quavo.

Pop Smoke had been scheduled to start a U.S. tour in Washington, D.C., on March 2.

AP

Tiger back, Miguel for the ages, Morikawa power: golf talking points

HONG KONG

A COUPLE of comebacks and the continued emergence of a bright young star feature in AFP Sport's golf talking points for this week.

- Woods in top company -

When Tiger Woods returns to competitive golf for the first time in five months at Jack Nicklaus's Memorial Tournament on Thursday, he will do so in exalted company.

Woods will tee off alongside world number one Rory McIlroy and Brooks Koepka in an eye-catching threeball for the first two rounds at Muirfield Village in Ohio.

Woods needs a sixth victory at the event he last won in 2012 to become the most successful golfer in PGA Tour history, having tied Sam Snead's record 82 wins at October's Zozo Championship in Japan. The 15-time major winner last played competitively at the Genesis Invitational in February, finishing 68th.

Without Woods since the tour's return from COVID-19 lockdown, the buzz has been all about Bryson DeChambeau and Collin Morikawa, winners of the last two events, and they will go out together alongside defending champion Patrick Cantlay on Thursday.

Big-hitting DeChambeau, the 2018 Memorial champion, is favourite with the bookmakers at 10-1. Woods is priced at a tempting-looking 25-1.

The bookies should note that the last time Woods returned from an enforced layoff, at the Zozo after a 10-week break for arthroscopic knee surgery, he won.

017 Hong Kong Open.

Jimenez has already set the record for the oldest winner on the European Tour three times and he threatened it again at the Diamond Country Club near Vienna, an event won by Scotland's Marc Warren.

Jimenez won the 2012 Hong Kong Open at the age of 48 years, 307 days, before successfully defending it a year later when 49 years and 337 days old. Not content with that, he won the 2014 Open de Espana for his 21st title at 50 years, 133 days.

The European Tour remains in Austria this week before moving to Britain for the first of six full-field events starting with the British Masters in Newcastle.

- Collin's a cut above -

Collin Morikawa only turned pro 13 months ago, but he won for the first time on the US PGA Tour at the Barracuda Championship just eight weeks later and has been so consistent that he now has more wins than missed cuts.

His second tournament victory came at the Workday Charity Open at Muirfield on Sunday where he won a nail-biting playoff against Justin Thomas on the third extra hole.

His reward is a huge jump in the world rankings from 29th to 13th, one place above Tiger Woods, and he is firmly in the Ryder Cup picture for the next edition at Whistling Straits, now shifted to September 2021.

Morikawa's only missed cut came two weeks earlier at the Travelers Championship, and a fortnight before that he had the crushing disappointment of seeing a two-foot putt lip out to lose a playoff to Daniel Berger at the Charles Schwab Challenge.

AFP

Paralympic sports need a shot in the arm

By Correspondent Lloyd Elipokea

FOR those of us who have been intensely passionate enthusiasts of sports for many a year now, the realm of sports in this present age of COVID-19 is an extremely strange animal indeed.

Just for starters, all manner of sports which have resumed hostilities across vast swathes of the world have done so with the conspicuous absence of supporters.

Indeed, the fact that in many countries, supporters are not present at the stadiums to behold the usually exciting goings-on in their favorite sports is a dramatic change of telling significance because it is a drastic development that has arguably never before been seen in the modern era of organized sports.

Nevertheless, despite this novel experience for all those denizens of this planet who are ga-ga about sports, I dare say that legions and legions of us are still on the whole chuffed that we can feast our eyes on live sports again after a nightmarish hiatus occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Still, opining about matters sports, let us now train our gaze on the domestic scene where the Tanzania Tennis Association (TTA) recently received a number of wheelchairs from the International Tennis Federation (ITF) for wheelchair-bound Tanzanian players to use and play tennis with.

The development, which was reported in the local press, brought home to me the troubles which people with disabilities (PWA) who are sporting inclined face in their pursuit to fulfill their lifelong dream,



Dar es Salaam's junior amputee football players battle it out in a recent clash at the city's Jakaya Kikwete Youth Park. PHOTO: COURTESY OF JMK YOUTH PARK

which is namely: to engage and excel in sports.

Indeed, it is truly significant that as we try our utmost to come to terms with the damaging toll that COVID-19 is exacting on us as a society, there has been precious little mention made of how to lend support to our sportsmen and sportswomen, who unfortunately, will have to grapple with some form of disability for the rest of their lives.

To be fair, though, there has admittedly been scarcely any mention too on the global scene of how the international sports fraternity can proffer support to paralympians during this especially fraught spell for humanity (Please note: Sportsmen with disabilities are termed as Paralympians in sporting jargon).

Nonetheless, that is still no excuse

on our part. So, plentiful kudos should fittingly be dished out to both the TTA and the ITF for this measure to support our wheelchair-bound Tanzanians, who are particularly adept at the enchanting sport of tennis.

From that heartwarming development for our sportsmen with disabilities, let us now fix our sights on the challenging terrain of African women's football, which recently received some long-overdue heart-stirring news.

Indeed, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) revealed lately that it will soon establish a continental champions league for African women's club football.

Doubtlessly, the fact that Africa has NOT had a continent-wide pre-eminent club championship for African women's football for seemingly ages is a fact that

has irked, disquieted and frustrated supporters of women's soccer in Africa for an especially lengthy period of time.

To put it bluntly, the bald truth of the matter is that continental women's football has deserved infinitely more investment than it has been receiving from the governing body for African football.

Thus, hopefully, CAF's laudable move on this matter will NOT be an end in itself but will merely be one of many such steps aimed at improving women's football in Africa.

Rockets' Westbrook has virus, as NBA bubble faces first test

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.

HOUSTON'S Russell Westbrook hasn't made it to the NBA restart yet.

The coronavirus did - but health protocols seemed to work as the league and its players hoped they would.

On a day of troubling news for the league - Westbrook revealing that he has tested positive for the virus and two other players facing 10-day quarantines for leaving the league campus perimeter at Walt Disney World - it was also announced that two players tested positive for the virus after arriving in Central Florida last week.

But neither of those positive players ever made it out of quarantine, so neither entered the so-called bubble and could mingle freely with other players, coaches and staff. The NBA said both players, neither of whom were identified, "have since left the Campus to isolate at home or in isolation housing." They could rejoin their teams later.

"Our protocols are unbelievable," said Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, one of the players who helped craft the restart rules. "I think our protocols and our health and safety measures have been top-notch. I think this thing will work perfectly. ... We're doing everything that we can possibly do to make sure that we're healthy, we're safe and we're in an environment where we can be successful and do our jobs at a high level."

It's unclear when Westbrook will arrive. As recently as Sunday, the Rockets believed that Westbrook, NBA scoring leader James Harden and newly re-acquired Luc Mbah a Moute - none of the three traveled with the team to Walt Disney World near Orlando last week - would be with the team in the next few days.

In Westbrook's case, that now seems most unlikely.

"I tested positive for covid-19 prior to my team's departure to Orlando," Westbrook wrote on his social media channels. "I'm currently feeling well, quarantined, and looking forward to rejoining my teammates when I am cleared."

The arrival dates for Harden and Mbah a Moute are murky as well. Neither player has revealed why they aren't at Disney, and Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni would only say that "these are things that people



Houston Rockets guard Russell Westbrook (0) drives to the basket during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks in New York, Monday, March 2, 2020. (AP Photo)

are dealing with."

D'Antoni said Westbrook had taken part in individual workouts when they were permitted back in Houston, but declined to elaborate further on the guard's condition. He also isn't sure when the missing Rockets will arrive. "I did have one year of pre-med," D'Antoni said. "But I don't know when it's going to happen. As soon as protocols get out of the way ... they're all anxious to get here and they're doing what they need to do to stay in shape."

"This is not going to set us back. We're not going to let it set us back, and we're going to be ready to roll here in the next two, three weeks."

Westbrook is averaging 27.5 points, eight rebounds and seven assists per game for the Rockets this season. Houston has clinched a playoff spot and resumes its season with the first of eight seeding games on July 31 against Dallas.

"I'm praying for his safety and the same for his family," Phoenix guard Devin Booker said. "Hopefully he can get healthy and get down here as soon as possible."

The league also said Monday that 19 players newly tested positive since July 1 during in-market testing, meaning tests done before teams began arriving at Disney on July 7. Upon arrival at Disney, 322 players were tested with the two positives.

"All we can do is try to stay optimistic about it and positive, and hopefully we can finish this season," said Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, the reigning NBA Finals MVP.

Inside the NBA bubble, however, there was optimism that the rules established by the league and the players will work - even though some Disney parks reopened to visitors over the weekend and the MLS restart, also at the campus, has seen two teams leave after a spate of positive tests.

"It's a condition, a virus, that does not discriminate," Phoenix coach Monty Williams said. "And we're trying to do everything we can to keep our guys safe."

Those protocols that Lowry spoke of were designed to be taken seriously, and at least two players inside the NBA bubble have already paid a steep price for violating quarantine upon their teams' respective arrivals last week.

Sacramento's Richaun Holmes revealed Monday that he "briefly and accidentally" crossed the NBA campus line to pick up a food delivery. Under the NBA's rules of the restart, he now has to spend 10 days in quarantine.

Holmes said he had eight days left in quarantine.

"I apologize for my actions and look forward to rejoining my teammates for our

playoff push," Holmes wrote. Also Monday, a person with knowledge of the situation said that Houston's Bruno Caboclo was also serving a 10-day quarantine for crossing the campus line. Like Holmes, Caboclo also had eight days remaining Monday, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Rockets have not announced the sanction.

Monday's developments came on a day where more than 12,000 new cases were confirmed in Florida, now perhaps the hottest of virus hotspots in the U.S. And officials in Houston also called for that city to lock back down as area hospitals strain to accommodate patients sick with COVID-19.

Westbrook also offered a word of caution. "Please take this virus seriously," Westbrook wrote. "Be safe. Mask up!"

AP

Analysis: Man City court win after flawed UEFA prosecution

LONDON

IN a season that could end with four trophies, Manchester City's biggest victory hasn't been secured by Kevin De Bruyne or Raheem Sterling.

City fans are celebrating a squad of lawyers outsmarting UEFA's judicial machinery in extra time and saving the club from a devastating two-year Champions League ban.

"Absolutely vindicated," supporter Dante Friend said outside City's stadium on Monday shortly after the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled largely in the club's favor in the Financial Fair Play case. "We can prove where the money has come from over the years."

Money coming from companies such as Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi-owned carrier that took on the stadium naming rights after a member of the emirate's ruling family bought the club in 2008.

The wealth of Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan transformed City from merely existing in the English Premier League – after dropping into the third tier at the end of the millennium – into a team that overhauled brush all-conquering neighbor Manchester United.

But the spending power that produced four Premier League titles in the last decade – their first English titles since 1968 – had to remain within UEFA's limits. No owner, not even one backed with the wealth of a nation, could spend freely on players. The revenue had to be generated from fans, broadcasters and sponsors. And City managed to attract an array of Abu Dhabi companies – from the airline to financial and communications firms – to sponsor this Abu Dhabi-owned team.

UEFA's judiciary did find sponsorship revenue was inflated from companies linked to the ownership. The new investigation was only launched after the club's internal correspondence was obtained by German outlet Der Spiegel through means that enraged City. But the CAS media release on Monday proclaimed: "Manchester

City FC did not disguise equity funding as sponsorship contributions."

It was just the headline City wanted, apart from the second part of the CAS announcement which showed the club was not completely exonerated: "But did fail to cooperate with the UEFA authorities."

It is short of obstruction of justice but still led to a hefty fine of 10 million euros (\$11 million), albeit reduced from the initial 30 million euros sanction imposed by UEFA's judicial branch. It is still the biggest sanction for an English club since City was fined 30 million euros in the original 2014 FFP case for overspending.

Doubts will persist over whether City escaped the Champions League ban on technicalities. CAS arbitrators concluded some allegations were "either not established or time-barred."

Only the publication of the written reasons by CAS will help to explain how they reached the verdict and perhaps why UEFA launched the case when its own regulations place a five-year limit on prosecuting any rule breaches. Coming after high-profile court defeats on FFP, including over Qatar-owned Paris Saint-Germain's finances, UEFA's ability to prosecute cases is now under the microscope.

UEFA has only said it notes the verdict while maintaining it still backs the principles of Financial Fair Play. The regulation was introduced a decade ago by then-president Michel Platini during the global financial crisis to prevent clubs racking up big losses and going out of business.

"I think there will be a lot of dismay on the part of the other clubs," said William Gaillard, who was an adviser to Platini at UEFA. "When you have an owner who basically is in football because he wants to make a legitimate profit, to be faced with a competitor with the deepest pockets in the world and endless money is incredibly discouraging. If I were a legitimate investor, I would divest from football. You can't compete."

AP

What next for Manchester City after Champions League reprieve?

LONDON

MANCHESTER City can breathe easy after avoiding the painful consequences of a two-season ban from European competition as a result of their successful appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The club can now look forward to the return of this season's Champions League in August safe in the knowledge that it is not the final chance for Pep Guardiola and a cast of stellar players to win European football's biggest prize.

Preparations will also begin in earnest for next season's Premier League campaign, with City intent on wresting back the title from Liverpool and now given more room for manoeuvre in the transfer market.

AFP Sport looks at what comes next for City's Abu Dhabi project, which has already reaped 11 major trophies since Sheikh Mansour's takeover 12 years ago.

Win the Champions League

The one trophy missing from City's collection over the past decade is the one they most desire – the Champions League.

Despite failing to win European football's biggest prize in three years at Bayern Munich, Guardiola's arrival at the Etihad was part of City's plan to conquer Europe.

The Catalan coach has produced one of the finest teams English football has ever seen – winning two Premier League titles with the two highest points tallies ever seen in the English top flight as well as three League Cups and one FA Cup.

City have never made it beyond the quarter-finals of the Champions League in Guardiola's previous three seasons in charge, but he believes their time could come in August when the competition resumes.

Since English football's restart last month, City have been in scintillating form, scoring four or more goals in four of their past six league games, including a 4-0 humbling of newly crowned champions Liverpool.

"I feel the motivation and I think the team is there. I have the feeling that for my players in the club, and the organisation that we have, the next four weeks is something that is not coming back again," said Guardiola ahead of Saturday's 5-0 defeat of Brighton. "I think the big clubs don't miss these chances."

City's route to glory will not be an easy one. They



Manchester City's two-season ban from European competitions was overturned on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (AFP Photo)

restart with the second leg of their last-16 tie against Real Madrid behind closed doors in Manchester, leading 2-1 from the first leg.

Should they progress to the final eight, to be held in neutral venues in Lisbon, Juventus could be their opponents in the quarter-finals before a potential reunion for Guardiola with Barcelona or Bayern Munich in the last four.

Rebuild and replace legends

Liverpool's thrashing at the Etihad came after the Reds had already sealed the Premier League title with a record seven games to spare.

City are still 21 points behind Jurgen Klopp's men at the top of the table and the manner in which their title defence collapsed shows a rebuild is necessary.

That will be much easier to do thanks to the financial boost and lure for players of Champions League football next season.

Just as importantly, there should now be no desire from players such as Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling to leave during the peak years of their career.

A knee ligament injury to Aymeric Laporte early in the season hit City where they most lacked cover, in central defence, after failing to replace departed captain Vincent Kompany. A centre-back is a priority in the transfer market, as is cover at left-back.

Another legend of the City project over the past decade will depart when David Silva leaves at the end of the season, but Phil Foden's emergence offers cover in an area of the field City are already strong.

At 32, the club's all-time top scorer Sergio Agüero is also nearing the end of a glorious spell in Manchester and his goals will not be easy or cheap to replace.

Keep Guardiola

Guardiola's contract expires at the

end of the 2020/21 campaign. Should he oversee a fifth season, it will be the longest he has coached any club after admitting to being drained by four years at Barcelona and three with Bayern.

City's success is also rooted in the structure of the club off the field. CEO Ferran Soriano and director of football Txiki Begiristain are responsible for the club's recruitment strategy.

However, the hiring of Soriano and Begiristain, who both previously worked with Guardiola at Barcelona, in 2012 was made with an eye to luring Guardiola to Manchester.

City won two Premier League titles prior to Guardiola's arrival and have the financial power to compete after he has gone. But the surest way to keep winning trophies is to keep him at the club for as long as possible.

AFP

Court ruling, late goal hurt Man U's Champions League hopes

MANCHESTER, England

A RULING in a Swiss court and the concession of a late, late goal ensured the Champions League qualification places remain tantalizingly out of reach for Manchester United in the English Premier League.

United missed a chance to climb back into the top four of the league for the first time since September when Southampton substitute Michael Obafemi scored in the sixth minute of stoppage time to secure a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford on Monday.

It was the latest twist in a turbulent race for Champions League qualification, coming on the day second-placed Manchester City overturned its two-year ban from European competition at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

That means a finish in the top four is required to get into next season's Champion League, rather than in the top five.

Obafemi's dramatic close-range strike at a corner kept United in fifth place, behind Leicester only on goal difference with three games remaining. Chelsea is one point ahead of them in third place.

Those three teams are realistically fighting for two Champions League qualification spots behind Liverpool, the champion, and City. On the final day of the season, Leicester hosts United at King Power Stadium in what could be a highly lucrative, winner-takes-all match.

"You just have to be strong and take it," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjær said of the gut-punch that denied his team a fifth straight victory. "Because we have won so many games like that ourselves."

"We probably didn't deserve three points today."

United was slightly unfortunate, however.

The match went so deep into added-on time only following a facial injury to substitute Brandon Williams, which left United with 10 men for the

final three minutes because Solskjær had used all five of his replacements.

Southampton won a corner soon after, and Jan Bednarek flicked the ball on at the near post to allow Obafemi to glance home from barely a yard (meter) out.

United had enough chances to win a game in which it fell behind in the 12th minute, when Stuart Armstrong scored after Paul Pogba was dispossessed outside United's penalty area.

Two goals from United in a three-minute span turned things around, with Anthony Martial setting up Marcus Rashford's low strike into the corner for the 20th-minute equalizer before scoring himself by cutting inside from the left and firing home a rising shot for his 50th Premier League goal.

With former manager Alex Ferguson watching in the virtually empty stands at Old Trafford, United was made to work hard by a Southampton side sitting in mid-table and with little to play for in the final weeks of the season.

Luke Shaw hobbled off with a right ankle injury for United, leading to Williams' introduction in the 75th, and Pogba was also taken off - for football reasons as opposed to injury.

The France international struggled at times, twice getting dispossessed while dawdling on the ball as Southampton targeted him with its high-energy pressing game. He was substituted after 63 minutes.

Still, United could easily have won, with Rashford and Martial wasting good chances that they created themselves.

"We were not at our best," United captain Harry Maguire said. "There are loads of areas we could improve on but we did enough to win the game."

Solskjær fielded the same starting lineup for the fifth straight game and may decide to freshen things up for the next match in this gruelling end to the season, at Crystal Palace on Thursday.

It's clear UEFA has no power over clubs like City

By Leander Schaeferlaeckens

WHEN a cataclysm happens in a courtroom, it can be hard to fully and immediately appreciate the impact of it. But the overturning of Manchester City's two-season UEFA Champions League ban for violations of Financial Fair Play regulations by the Court of Arbitration in Sport on Monday is very much that, a cataclysm.

Because in one fell swoop, CAS has relegated the most stringent financial limitations the European governing body could conjure to a glorified kangaroo court, incapable of levying anything more than a stiff fine on the uber-rich. City's 30 million euro fine was reduced to 10 million euros, a veritable rounding error for its bottomless-pocketed ownership.

After all, if not even City could be convicted for what UEFA believed to be a straightforward case, with the verdict actually sticking upon appeal to CAS (a kind of supreme court for sports-related cases), the whole thing is beyond saving.

There isn't a club in the world that has benefited from outside investment as much as City has. After all, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain were already domestic powers in their respective leagues before their moneyed takeovers. City, meanwhile, was converted from a club bouncing between the Premier League and the second-tier Championship into a global power as a branding play for the government of Abu Dhabi.

Manchester City was exactly the sort of club the FFP rules were written for, on the shaky premise that outside investment destabilizes soccer and that teams should be compelled to live within the means they generate themselves – never mind that curbing financial injections also unfairly ossifies the status quo. And if City cannot be held to account for allegedly misrepresenting direct investment through another Abu Dhabi-owned company, Etihad Airways, as sponsorship income, the entire exercise is pointless.

CAS found that UEFA's Club Financial Control Bodies findings on City's allegedly misrepresented income were either "not established" or "time-barred" – meaning the evidence was either insufficient or that the five-year statute of limitations had already elapsed when charges were brought.

The court did agree with the CFCB's adjudicatory chamber that City had obstructed the investigation, which is why it preserved some of the fine. But the central component to the punishment, the draconian two-year ostracizing from European competition, was overturned entirely because the central premise of the charges was overturned.

The verdict may, without intending to do so, have positive implications for a sport ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. The coronavirus cost clubs and leagues hundreds of millions in missed income, if not billions. The FFP regulations are already being loos-



Pep Guardiola and Manchester City will play in the Champions League after all. UEFA's power to rule them ineligible, meanwhile, is all but extinguished. (Agencies)

ened for a year to help soccer recover. But now that FFP has been undermined long-term, that could speed up the restoration of some clubs to their pre-pandemic financial outlook and allow for new powers to rise.

But whatever the case, it is now evident that UEFA's sway over its biggest and richest clubs is severely diminished. Manchester City's FFP fight, along with similar cases brought against Qatari-backed Paris Saint-Germain, served as a proxy for a power struggle between the governing body and its most marketable teams. If UEFA's grasp

was tenuous before, it may now have lost control altogether. It's starting to feel like the big clubs play in UEFA's signature competitions at their own pleasure, rather than UEFA's.

If UEFA cannot enforce its own rules in cases where it believes it has overwhelming evidence, with an independent adjudicator overturning punishments, the power UEFA holds is illusory. In a practical sense, UEFA is an organizer of tournaments now, a kind of event-management company that gets a generous cut of the proceeds from the revenue driven by others.

Soccer's biggest clubs have long suspected that if they really wanted to, they could simply band together and break away to form their own European circuit – much like Premier League clubs did back in the early 1990s, unshackling themselves from a Football League they deemed too constricting. That Europe's juggernauts have never bothered to is partly because the whole process would be expensive and unwieldy and because UEFA has shown a willingness to compromise.

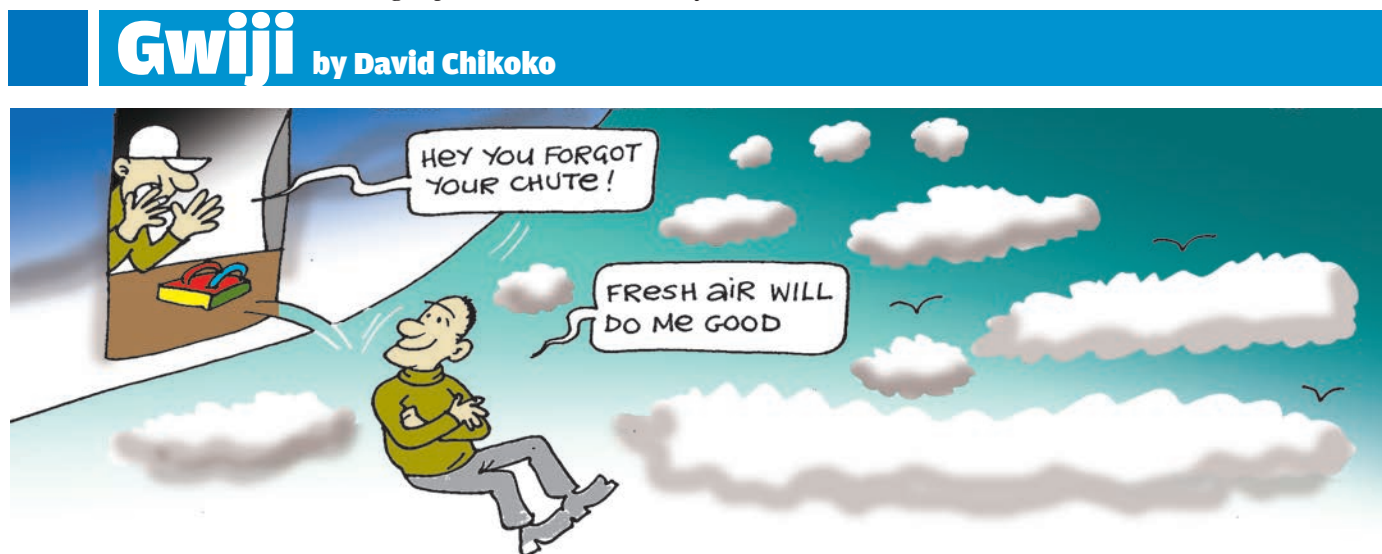
Now that City has exposed Financial Fair Play to be essentially toothless, clubs will feel empowered to disregard it altogether. How UEFA reacts will dictate how relevant it remains going forward.

And in the meantime, City has saved its own project of conquering Europe. If it had been barred from continental competition for a season or two, it's likely that a slew of stars would have left, others would have become reluctant to replace them and superstar manager Pep Guardiola would have been hard to retain.

With four Premier League titles in this decade, the Champions League is the final frontier for City. And now that it can keep trying in the coming seasons, its momentum will not be thwarted.

Meanwhile, UEFA's attempt to regulate the finances of European clubs, admirable in its ideation but clumsy in its application, now seems to be dead in the water.

Leander Schaeferlaeckens is a Yahoo Sports soccer columnist and a sports communication lecturer at Marist College. Follow him on Twitter @LeanderAlphabet.



Simba SC set to unveil 2020/21 kits at ASFC final

SPORT

What next for Manchester City after Champions League reprieve?

COMPREHENSIVE REPORT, PAGE 19

Tarimba to contest for parliamentary seat

By Guardian Reporter

FORMER Yanga chairman, Abbas Tarimba, is expected to contest for Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni Constituency's parliamentary seat in this year's general elections, slated for October.

Contestants for parliamentary seats across Tanzania started taking forms for the post yesterday.

Tarimba arrived at the ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)'s Mkwajuni Branch yesterday at 8pm to take the forms and then returned the forms at 9pm.

Speaking after returning the forms, Tarimba said he believes it is time for him to serve Kinondoni District residents after having assessed himself and opted to contest for the seat.

Tarimba disclosed he has planned to serve the residents well by seeing to it they achieve success when they give him chance to be the constituency's Member of Parliament.

He disclosed he is aware of all challenges the district faces, given he had earlier served as Hananasifu Ward Councilor in Kinondoni for 10 years.

He said: "I have what it takes to serve Kinondoni District residents, given I know many challenges the constituency has, therefore I'm sure I have all the qualities needed for contesting for the seat."

"I'm not a stranger in Kinondoni, I have been living here for a long time, for that matter, I know what the district's residents want, the most important thing is I promise them they should expect a lot," Tarimba, who currently serves as SportPesa Tanzania's Director of Administration and Compliance, noted.



Abbas Tarimba speaks to journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday after submitting forms for contesting for Kinondoni Constituency's parliamentary seat. PHOTO: CORRESPONDENT

By Correspondent Joseph Mchekadona

VODACOM Premier League giants, Simba SC, are set to unveil their next season's jerseys during the final of the 2020 Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) against Namungo FC at Nelson Mandela Stadium in Rukwa next month.

Simba SC information officer Haji Manara said this is a departure from their tradition of unveiling a new jersey at the club's event, dubbed 'Simba Day.'

Manara, who stopped short of issuing details on the new jerseys, said there will be home and away kits of high quality, matching their champions' status.

"We will play the final of the ASFC against Namungo FC on



Simba SC players participate in training at Bunju in Dar es Salaam recently to shape up for Vodacom Premier League and Azam Sports Federation Cup (ASFC) duels. PHOTO: COURTESY OF SIMBA SC

August 2 and traditionally we host Simba Day on August 8 where we among other things unveil our new jerseys, this year we will unveil our jerseys on the day we will play the final at Nelson Mandela Stadium, Sumbawanga in Rukwa," he said.

He also disclosed that this year's Simba Day celebrations will be held early September to pave way for his club to prepare well for the ASFC final and the event.

"This year's Simba Day celebrations will be held early September, we have chosen the date because we want to have good preparations for the day, everything will be done as it is, we will have a week where many activities including charity will be conducted,"

he said.

At last year's Simba Day celebrations, the Premier League giants played against Ghanaian soccer giants Asante Kotoko at the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam.

Commenting on the ASFC final against Namungo FC, Manara said his team is looking forward to winning the encounter.

He, however, conceded that it will not be easy as Namungo FC will come out flat with the aim of winning the trophy this year.

Manara's comments come after some section of soccer followers had alleged that the final will be a mere rubber stamp to both Simba and Namungo FC.

The two squads have qualified for the CAF

Champions League and CAF Confederation Cup respectively.

"It's a final and our aim is to lift the trophy, our players want the ASFC medals, you know Simba is a club addicted to winning any encounter and this one won't be exceptional," he disclosed.

"We want our supporters to enjoy, we respect Namungo FC as one of the best teams, but we will not give them any chance to win

the ASFC trophy," he said.

This will be the first time that the two teams are meeting in the ASF final.

However they have met two times in the Vodacom Premier League this season, with Simba winning one encounter and the second ended in 0-0 draw.

To reach the finals, Simba beat their age old rivals, Yanga, 4-1 in the semi-final while Namungo FC edged Sahare All Stars of Tanga 1-0 in the semi-final.

Strikers A cricketers bounce back in 2020 Nasser Memorial League

By Guardian Reporter

STRIKERS A have bounced back in the 2020 Kazim Nasser Memorial League (KNML)'s Division A, cruising to a 14-run win over highly fancied Aga Khan SC in Dar es Salaam last Sunday.

The eventual winners were coming into the clash as underdogs, given they got their campaign in the tournament off to a wobbly start, losing to Gymkhana by 10 runs at the end of last month.

In the Sunday match, Strikers A gave their all in their innings and, thereafter, showcased impressive displays with the ball to put Aga Khan SC in check, gallantly defending their modest total.

Strikers A were put in to bat first after Aga Khan SC had won the toss. Strikers A went on to record 168 runs all out in 49 overs of the 50-over match.

They had to owe it to gritty showing by their top order batsmen, Kishen Kamania, Vikram Rathore and Jatin Darji. Opener Kamania posted 21 runs, which included a boundary, in a spell which saw him face 64 balls.

After an early dismissal of fellow opener Riken Patel, Rathore stepped on the crease to score 40 runs which consisted of two boundaries and a six.

They were again dealt a blow, given Suraj Pala made an early return to the pavilion after five knocks.

Darji to some extent restored determination with his 28 runs which consisted of a boundary and a six.

Mukul Kumar chipped in with 11 runs which included a four after two other batsmen, skipper Ashish Kamania and Zahir Patel, had faced early dismissal.



Saint Gobain Strikers' batsman, Kishen Kamania, in action against Aces Club in the last year's Caravans T20 Cup final, which took place in Dar es Salaam. Aces Club won the match by one run to lift the trophy. PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKHIL PUJARA

Aga Khan SC's youthfull all-rounder Sadick Iddi had the best bowling figure, in which he took three wickets and leaked 22 runs in six overs.

Harsheed Chohan was as well impressive with the ball, ending with two wickets and leaking 24 runs in seven overs.

Aga Khan SC conceded 47 extras during bowling, which was the highest total of extras they have conceded lately.

Chasing a modest target of 169 runs could have been seen as an easy task for Aga Khan SC, given they are among few crickets outfits in the country that boast of depth in batting.

Aga Khan SC though failed to withstand Strikers A's onslaught, given the former were bowled out for 154 runs

in 48.1 overs.

They had a rather good start to the chase, given opener Issa Kikasi posted 49 runs which included a four and a six.

Fellow opener Arslaan Premji had a short spell at the crease, managing 19 runs.

After an early dismissal of all-rounder Khalil Rehemtullah, who was run out by Strikers A's Kamania from Jatin Darji's delivery, Riziki Kiseto boosted Aga Khan SC chase, notching 32 runs which included two fours and a six.

They were again pegged back with an early dismissal of Aahil Jassani that was bowled by Kamania, leaving them register 127 runs with 14.5 overs remaining.

Chohan chipped in with 11 runs, which included a boundary, leaving Aga Khan SC needing 29 runs to mount a successful chase.

Aga Khan SC's efforts to realize the chase hit snag, given they later experienced batting collapse, with the remaining batsmen failing to record double-digit figures.

Strikers A's Darji had an impressive spell with the ball, in which he ruthlessly ripped Aga Khan SC's batting order apart to end his spell with four wickets and leak 28 runs in 9.1 overs.

He was ably assisted by skipper Kamania who ended his spell with two wickets and leaked 22 runs in 10 overs.

The loss has left Aga Khan SC placed thid in the six-team division's table with two points, having recorded one win and one loss.

Dar model now launches health campaign for girls

By Guardian Reporter

PROMINENT Tanzanian model, Flaviana Matata, has launched a new campaign for supporting female students, dubbed 'Break the Silence for Girls', by introducing sanitary pads, known as Lacy.

Flaviana (pictured), who resides in USA, graced the event which took place at a hotel in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

She said apart from putting the product on sale, her foundation will every month present free sanitary pads to 100 girls.

The model pointed out her initiative aims at seeing to it female students keep on attending studies during menstruation, as they will be accessing the pads.

"Much as we will be doing business, we have as well targeted offering support to female students particularly in rural areas that can not manage to buy sanitary pads in an effort to seeing to it they keep on studying," she noted.

"We must remember not all parents can purchase sanitary pads, therefore our campaign will help girls get the product," she said.

Flaviana further pointed out most of the girls in the country do not access sanitary pads during menstruation and they, as a result, miss classes for five to seven days.

The model stated 10 per cent of the product's sales will be used in seeing to it girls that are in need of sanitary pads attend studies.

She said apart from helping girls get the product, men can buy the sanitary pads for their spouses.

"A woman should break silence when she is in menstruation. She should not feel shy to send a man to a shop to buy sanitary pads for her," she insisted.



TONIGHT @ 7:00

EATV SAA 1

WEDNESDAY

11:00 DADAZ LIVE
12:00 Weekend Movie (r)
13:30 Kali Za Wana
14:00 Planet Bongo (r)
14:30 Bongo Hits
15:00 Funguka
15:30 Nirvana (r)
16:00 Skonga (r)
16:30 #HASHTAG
17:00 SSELEKT
17:55 Kurasa
18:00 eNewz
18:30 Music/Soap
19:00 EATV SAA 1
19:45 MJADALA
20:00 DADAZ (r)
21:00 Kiblashara Zaidi

EATV SAA 1
Coverage of the days current events accompanied by Interviews with prominent people on diverse topics ranging from national to social interests.

eastafrika RADIO

06:00 Supa Breakfast
10:00 MAMAMIA
12:00 Kipenga Xtra
13:00 Planet Bongo
16:00 EA Drive
20:00 Kipenga
21:00 The Cruise

88.1FM
DAR ES SALAAM

Flexibles by David Chikoko

